

Reporter

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FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY!!

HRC: 'UDP had right to protest and authorities should have respected it'

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Despite being denied a permit, the United Democratic Party stage a procession against high cost of living and corruption on Tuesday.

UDP's Ethics Committee silent on 'Sista B' House absences

The United Democratic Party (UDP)'s Central Executive Committee and its Ethics and Integrity Committee should take steps to correct

the practice of their members who are consistently absent from the House of Representatives," Belize People's Front (BPF) Leader Nancy Marin told

The Reporter Wednesday.

Following Wednesday's Sitting of the House of Representatives, where only two of five UDP

parliamentarians were present, Marin reminded that all political parties, including the UDP, have internal structures to help uphold party discipline.

The BPF leader, citing the UDP's Constitution, highlighted that they have a provision that says if a member has "acted contrary to the interests of the Party, Program, Policies and Principles" there is a process that can be triggered to bring the member in line.

In recent weeks,

House Speaker Condemns 'Sista B' for Absences

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Hon. Denise "Sista B" Barrow

INSIDE BOX:
Former Auditor General returning to lead Supreme Audit Institution

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Only 2 Opposition members were present at Wednesday's sitting.



Omega

Just as Belize was becoming comfortable about finding a solution to our debt problems, we were presented this week with a new challenge from an old claim.

The claim is from the Ashcroft Alliance. It has reached a negotiated settlement with the Government of Belize over compensation, and now the alliance is demanding payment of US\$38.25 million.

The claim has been simmering for years, ever since the Barrow Government nationalized the International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize (IMMARBE) along with the Companies Registry and took control of them in 2013.

Twenty years earlier the shipping registry IMMARBE was formed. It was started by Mr. Michael Ashcroft in association with some friends in Panama - a privately-owned company with an international merchant marine registry flying the Belize Flag. It was a brilliant concept, and with willing help from the PUP it quickly became very profitable.

Prime Minister Barrow was of the view, however, that after 20 years of this free-loading, it was time for this registry to be in GOB hands since it relied so heavily on the goodwill and international status of Belize.

GOB's decision to take over the companies was met with fierce resistance from the Ashcroft Alliance, which demanded compensation to the tune of US \$90 million.

The Caribbean Court of Justice later ordered the compensation, leaving the quantum to be determined by the Supreme Court. The dispute dragged on until November 2020, when national elections swept the Barrow government aside in favor of the PUP led by Mr. John Briceño.

After some intense negotiations, the Briceño government reached a negotiated settlement with the Ashcroft Alliance to pay a lump sum of \$38.25 million to settle the claim. That by itself was quite an accomplishment, but now the burden is on the Government of Belize to find the money.

As the prime minister explained in the House of Representatives, the government is seeking to move expeditiously to clear the debt by paying the full agreed-upon amount, which is described as a sharp "discount," in one payment. This led to the tabling of the supplementary appropriation Bill for the BZ\$76 million at this week's sitting of the House of Representatives.

We at this newspaper are of the view that this settlement with the Ashcroft Alliance is another remarkable negotiating feat for the Briceño team.

This was a business problem, and it was handled in a businesslike way. We feel relief that this has been accomplished.

Dear Sir:

A yer we neyba di burn churches! Is this the price they are paying for a trans-Atlantic-pacific canal?

The economy of Uncle Sam is still SIX TIMES that of the PRC and while they try to scare Taiwan with missiles and planes and blocking their fishing folk... and those of Japan, South Korea, Indonesia, and others the US has sent the super carrier Ford displaying real dominance with prudence.

Take note, Mr. Victor Gao, Ambassador of Red Scare Tactics, your neighbors keep on singing: who is afraid of the big bad wolf and will send high ranking officials to back up Mrs. Pelosi!

I am definitely not a party of the song and dance of war, violence and unbelief. Though I do not claim any certainty of when we shall see it yet know that it will be spectacular with the Almighty...but...Merciful giving everyone - EVERYONE- a last chance to renounce unbelief and humbly embrace redemption. When the Red Dragon is fingering the triggers of NUCLEAR ANNIHILATION a most calming display of universal eternal brilliance will be visible in the skies everywhere east and west at the same time: Behold I am here. Descending from the CROSS HE WILL assure everyone - it is the end; this is your LAST CHANCE to say MY

LORD and MY GOD!

But... I claim no gift of prophecy but trusting in GOD's word know that one of these days it will happen.

Therefore, I continue the saving work of trying to convince Belize that we should all...ALL OF US...revise our CONSTITUTION, leaving intact the great Judeo-Christian Preamble amplifying it with DIVERSITY and TOLERANCE. These are natural principles proceeding from "the principles which acknowledge the supremacy of God, faith in human rights and the fundamental freedoms..."

The revised CONSTITUTION with DIVERSITY and TOLERANCE will clearly indicate respect for all manner of human behavior whose expression does not deprive OTHERS of their RIGHT to say "fine for you but not for me and my children."

FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE shall be declared to be the ONLY ABSOLUTE right.

THERE shall be NO POLITICALLY CORRECT LAW, for no law, or provision, will provide shelter against the violation of freedom of conscience.

God help BELIZE to carry out this work of revision in peace and good will to all manner of citizens!

Signed Paul Rodriguez OBE

HRCB : 'We won't fight for seat on People's Constitution Commission'

By Michelle Sutherland

Following up on our previous article concerning the Human Rights Commission of Belize's (HRCB) absence on the People's Constitution Commission (PCC), Vice President Cynthia Pitts confirmed that they were not invited to be a part of the process.

Following an internal meeting to discuss the situation among its members and to chart a way forward on how they would be addressing the issue, Pitts told our newsroom that despite not being invited as a body to engage in the process, they will not attempt to push themselves onto the PCC.

Pitts further indicated that it is their understanding that every group that is not on the PCC will still have a chance

to submit their positions. "We will certainly submit our recommendations in writing as that is our responsibility as the Human Rights Commission," ended Pitts.

Last week, Minister of Public Service, Constitutional and Political Reform Henry Charles Usher confirmed that while 21 groups were seated on the commission the HRCB was not one of them.

He also said that it was his personal view that too much emphasis was being placed on who would be present around the table. "Remember, this is the People's Constitution Commission. The views of the Belizean people are paramount, and the Commission's mandate is to consult and incorporate those views. Everyone and every group will have an opportunity

to present their views at the end of the day."

Usher also pointed out that similar to the 1999 rewrite of the Constitution whereby the HRCB was not listed as a member they had ended up playing a major part in the process.

The People's Constitution Commission Bill provides for representatives from

political groups, members of the business community, representatives from non-governmental organizations, unions, village councils, ethnic groups, the legal community, churches, the education sector, the health sector, the media, and the LGBTQ+ community.

THE REPORTER

Phones: 501- 227-2503 / 227-1767

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

e-mail: reporternewspaper@gmail.com

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

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

General Manager Lisbeth Ayuso
Lithographer Rodolfo Castro
Journalists Michelle Sutherland

Desktop Publisher/
Graphic Designer Jackie Fuller
Accounts/ Advertising Rodolfo Castro
Chief Printer Leroy Bood
Office Assistant Misael Muñoz

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY!!

HRC: 'UDP had right to protest and authorities should have respected it'

The decision by the authorities to deny the United Democratic Party (UDP) the permit to protest this week was a violation of their right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association, Vice President of the Human Rights Commission of Belize (HRC) Cynthia Pitts told The Reporter this week.

"Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association." These are the words of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights ("The Declaration")'s article 20, Pitts reminded. She highlighted the fact that these principles are echoed in several other international conventions and Belize's Constitution.

Along with other rights such as freedom of association and expression, the freedom of assembly forms the bedrock of person's right and freedom to peacefully protest.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) states that everyone "has the right to the freedom of peaceful assembly." The OHCHR adds that the "right of peaceful assembly includes the right to hold meetings, sit-ins, strikes, rallies, events or protests, both offline and online."

Pitts explained that, in the HRC's view, the Police Department failed to provide a sufficiently reasonable and objective ground for denying the permit for a peaceful procession, as governed by section 13 of Belize's Constitution

and under the Control of Public Meetings and Public Processions Act ("the Act").

Section 13 of the Constitution, like international conventions, states that a "person shall not be hindered in his freedom of assembly and association." For its part, the conventions, the Constitution, and the Act do provide some reasonable limitations on the exercise of this right, but Pitts underscored that, in the Commission's view, none of those reasonable limitations formed the basis for the Police Department's response to the Opposition.

For context, the letter, signed by Assistant Commissioner of Police Howell Gillett, and dated August 18, 2022, states to UDP Chairman Michael Peyrefitte, "Your application to protest was duly considered. However, due to the State of Emergency in certain parts of the Southside of Belize City and other operational priorities, we will be unable to provide adequate security for the event. Therefore, we are unable to accede to your request at this time."

Pitts shared that from a human rights perspective, the State of Emergencies (SOEs) themselves are measures used to suspend certain fundamental rights of individuals. Therefore, to use such a tool as the foundation and rationale for denying another fundamental right is not based on "good and sound" reasoning. "The sensible thing would have been to simply approve the procession, as consistent with rights enshrined in international law and

the Constitution of Belize," Pitts affirmed.

The HRC's vice president shared that even if there were concerns on the police's ability to "provide adequate security" in the areas under the SOE, nothing prevented the authorities from having written a letter recommending an area outside of the SOE on the Southside. This would have, at minimum, demonstrated their willingness to uphold the citizens' rights while maintaining their concern on the SOE.

The Act's section 8(2) does allow the "appropriate officer" to set out the route that the procession is to follow, as well the time when it could be held.

Additionally, in the case of holding a meeting, section 4(2) of the Act says the appropriate officer "shall, unless he is of the opinion that the holding of such meeting is likely to cause any obstruction to traffic or to cause inconvenience to the public or to cause a breach of the peace, issue a permit in writing for such meeting." The letter also did not make any reference to this provision.

The Act does provide aggrieved parties recourse via the magistrate courts, but HRC questions why the authorities would force residents into that position at all, if it is that the protesters are committed to maintaining the peace. Pitts concluded that democratic governments should be very wary of curtailing citizen's rights, and should be cautious as it pertains to entertaining such violations for ostensibly political purposes.

UDP's Ethics Committee silent on 'Sista B'House absences

Cont'd from pg. 1

the UDP's internal disciplinary apparatus has suspended a member and — whether appropriately or otherwise — suspended a member from the Central Executive Council (CEC) for allegedly breaching parts of the UDP's Constitution. The party was quick to move in those

instances, but has ostensibly accepted the practice by certain members shirking their Parliamentary duties, an act that should be deemed as being contrary to the UDP's principles.

Queen Square Representative Hon. Denise "Sistah B" Barrow has been the UDP parliamentarian that has offended this principle most frequently, leading

to PUP's Cayo South Area Representative Hon. Julius Espat making it a point to raise the issue in House Sittings.

At Wednesday's Special Sitting of the House of Representatives Barrow was absent again, prompting Acting Speaker of the House Hon. Jorge Espat to make note of her absence, suggesting that she

was not taking the responsibility of representing the people of Queen Square, who elected her, seriously.

Barrow's consistent absence from National Assembly meetings, as pointed out by Albert division Area Representative, Tracy Taegar Pantan, has gone unpunished, since the UDP became the opposition back in 2020, because, thus far, she has not breached the Standing Orders of the House.

But where the Standing Orders are insufficient, the Article 3(1) of the UDP's Constitution states, "The best interests of the Belizean people must at all times be paramount."

Barrow's conduct could also be seen as a violation of Section 3(5) which prescribes that aspirants to political office must be dedicated to "selfless service to

country and people," and dedicated to "responsible behaviour and accountability." Furthermore, Article 5(c) of the Party's own rules says members must "set a positive example in their political activity and personal life."

Interestingly, Article 5(c) was also among the provisions cited when the UDP's chairman wrote to inform Hon. Patrick Faber of his removal from the Central Executive Committee.

Disciplinary action to be taken against a party member of the UDP can be found in the Party's Constitution's Article 11(2)(h). This section, among other things, establishes The Ethics and Integrity Committee.

Section 2 (h) (ii) says that wherever the Central Executive Committee or a Party Constituency Committee notices that a member of

the Party may have acted contrary to the interests of the Party, its Platform, Programs, Policies or Principles, "the Central Executive Committee may, at its discretion, cause an investigation to be made."

Following the investigation, if the committee is satisfied that the member has a charge to answer to, the committee shall forward to the member a statement of the charge together with particulars of the allegation upon which the charge is based.

In this regard, the continued complaints by parliamentarians and the Speaker of the House regarding Barrow's absence could be viewed, among other things, as actions that are "contrary to the interests of the Party." It is yet to be seen if the CEC or the relevant constituency committee shall take action to arrest the member's absences

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Former Auditor General returning to lead Supreme Audit Institution

Retired Auditor General Dorothy Bradley will be returning to the post under a two-year contract, according to a motion tabled at the sitting of the House of Representatives this week.

The motion was made in accordance with section 109 (2) of the Constitution of Belize, which states that if the post of the Auditor General is vacant or the holder of the post cannot carry out the function, the Governor General may appoint a person on the recommendation of both houses of parliament.

The Government of Belize noted that the post has been vacant since Bradley's retirement became official on December 7th, 2021.

The Public Service Union (PSU) has been a major critic of Bradley's tenure as Auditor General, going as far as suggesting that she be removed while she still held the post. On Tuesday, the PSU told the media that the union would oppose any decision by the government to return Bradley to the post, noting that she is neither certified as an auditor nor as public accountant, which is a requirement to hold the post.

PSU President Dean Flowers said that Bradley does not enjoy the support of the majority of the staff at the department, pointing to the sick-out staged by staffers back in 2017. One of the major points of contention regarding Bradley's leadership was the fact that during

the Senate Special Select Committee hearings, which ran from 2016-2017, Bradley testified twice but prevented junior officers within the department from doing so.

Bradley, the country's first-ever female Auditor General, assumed the role in 2011 and conducted the Special Audit Report of the Immigration and Nationality Report (2011-2013) which revealed major irregularities within the department.

She has held several notable posts within the public service, including the Accountant General, and Chief Elections Officer. Bradley was also awarded the Anti-Corruption champions award by the United States Department of State.

Tracy Panton to government, 'A lot could have been done with \$76 million'

Prime Minister John Briceño said this week that the "discounted" \$76 million payout to Belize International Services Limited was a win for Belize, but Albert division Area Representative Tracy Taegar Panton said that the country had more urgent matters.

At the meeting of the House of Representatives, Panton raised major issues with the settlement, first pointing out that the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) had ordered that the Supreme Court of Belize to prepare the assessment report on the BISL settlement, but instead, the Government of Belize contracted "expert evaluators" to do the job.

She also queried the transparency of the evaluation process and noted the lack of documentation to ensure accountability on the government's part.

"We have no idea

who these expert evaluators are," Panton said. "Where is the assessment report? We get all sorts of documents, so where is the report that directs that the US\$38 million is a fair settlement?"

Panton took the government to task on a number of national issues that require urgent attention and resource allocation that was not treated with the urgency given to the BISL settlement including the high cost of fuel, the fact that the government requested a delay on the marijuana legalization referendum because it cost an estimated \$5 million, and the fact that many Belizeans are not benefitting from the "grocery bag" programme due to a lack of funding. She also took umbrage with the decision to pay out the \$76 million in a single payment.

"Couldn't we have negotiated a payment plan over a reasonable amount of time, so that we give the economy a time to catch up?"



Hon. Tracy Panton

Panton asked. "We're borrowing from ourselves the Prime Minister said, to save us the extra 3.5 percent interest rate so that we can meet the debt obligation that this country owes to BISL, but we are not prepared to take those same measures to deal with urgent national concerns in this country."

Panton said that she agrees in principle that the debt is owed and needs to be paid, a sentiment mirrored by Leader of the Opposition Moses "Shyne" Barrow, but she opined that government has both its priorities and the process wrong when going about paying the debt.

House Speaker Condemns 'Sista B' for Absences

Acting Speaker of the House of Representatives Hon. Jorge Espat condemned the repeated absences of United Democratic Party (UDP) Parliamentarian Hon. Denise "Sista B" Barrow, who was also notably absent at Wednesday's sitting.

Barrow, the area representative for Queen Square, has become notorious for not coming to House meetings, a point for which the People's United Party (PUP)'s area representatives such as Cayo South's Hon. Julius Espat have criticised the Opposition on several occasions.

"That is something that you were elected to represent. There are people who gave us that trust," Cayo West Area Representative Jorge Espat said. "We have a right to represent our people in each constituency, so please let us take [seriously] that responsibility that the people have vested upon us."

In response to the acting Speaker's remarks, Area Representative for the

Albert Division Hon. Tracy Taegar Panton reminded that the Substantive Speaker of the House Valerie Woods has already addressed the matter. Woods had noted that, according to the Standing Orders, Barrow has not violated rules and thus should not have been subject to a scolding by a substitute speaker.

"The provisions of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives were being adhered to," Panton said.

She also said that several committees were formed to establish codes of conduct for the upper and lower houses of parliament as well as update the Standing Orders. Panton said that the Standing Orders do need to be updated to address a number of practical issues that extend beyond Barrow's absences.

House Speaker Woods has also voiced her concerns that the Standing Orders are in need of review.

Section 84 (1) of the standing orders requires any member of the house who will be absent for a meeting

to explain the reason for the absence to the Clerk of the National Assembly. Barrow has been successful in avoiding reprimand on account of the wording of Section 84 (2) of the Standing orders, which details how many sessions a member can be absent for without consequence.

The Section reads, "If, without the leave of the Speaker obtained in writing before the end of the last of the sittings referred to in this paragraph, any member absent from the House for more than six consecutive sittings occurring during the same Session, and within a period of not longer than three calendar months, such Member shall vacate his seat in the House under section 59(2) (a) of the Belize Constitution Act, 1981, as amended."

Currently, the House or Representatives does not with sufficient frequency within a three-month period to effectively trigger the provision. This essentially allows for Barrow's repeated absence to go unaddressed.

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The Mess of the People's Constitutional Commission

By Fr. Scott Giuliani,
SOLT

To be fair the People's Constitutional Commission (PCC) has not begun so we cannot call it a mess. This article is not meant to be a judgement on any political person or party but rather to share a consideration for those making the decisions.

It is difficult not to notice we are off to a bumpy start with the PCC and if we do not identify the root causes of discordant voices the PCC will be a mess. Since the announcement of the People's Constitutional Committee we have had a flurry of opinions as different organizations and persons make claims why some persons are worthier than others to sit on the PCC. The attention from Belizeans is justified, and even encouraging, given the enormous ramification this process can have on the country.

Anyone who loves Belize should be

invested in this process since an adjustment to the constitution can have consequences that may alter the country's direction, identity and the just relations between fellow citizens.

The constitution is based on principles of western civilization which have protected the sovereignty of Belize from the impositions of larger more populated and wealthier countries and limited harmful actions of potential unscrupulous politicians. Everyone who desires to contribute to the PCC process should have their voice heard but if the universal principles of the constitution are not clearly identified the PCC will be a mess. People will speak but will lack the ability to find reconciliation. There will be an appearance of a democratic process only to have maneuvering and pressure happen behind the scenes to influence the conclusion of the process.

A great concern

is that the logic of intersectionality and identity politics seems to be influencing some media outlets in the evaluation of the membership of the PCC. This logic will, in the end, lead to discord. A cross section of perspectives and experiences is

A great concern is that the logic of intersectionality and identity politics seems to be influencing some media outlets in the evaluation of the membership of the PCC. This logic will, in the end, lead to discord.

encouraged and will be necessary for a thorough investigation of the constitution but to attempt to think we can have every recognized group to have a seat on the PCC is an illusion of justice. It is a similar mistake of the attempted unprecedented move to favor 19 characteristics in the rejected and internationally-funded "Equal Opportunity Bill."

The entire proposal would have led to a mess, that is, grave

injustices. If justice dismisses human nature and is determined only by identity politics or intersectionality there will be no justice. In such a framework, an illusion of justice results that feeds entitlement among citizens and creates an impossible

situation to foster unity.

This work on the constitution is not about balancing the diverse options in particular situations; but rather, determining and protecting the vision of the leaders of the country while applying the universal principles of human dignity, the common good, subsidiarity and solidarity to the new experiences of this generation. By its nature, the evaluation of the constitution is not

a political, democratic process where the majority rules; neither is it a work of civil prudence as we would see in politics. In civil decisions, reasonable persons can disagree on the way to address a series of different challenges in society. Mature politicians know this and are able to maintain civility in disagreement since they share the same universal principles founded in the constitution.

Those clamoring to have representation on the PCC are treating evaluating the constitution as a political undertaking or they lack trust in the system. If universal principles already existing in the constitution are not clearly identified then there is good reason for mistrust. The constitution involves politicians but its evaluation is an evaluation of universal principles determined by sound reason, human nature, the context in history and lived experience. Principles

in a just society are not determined by advocacy or ideology. To make the process about identity politics reveals a grave error in the understanding of what is the role of the PCC.

Although all must be heard, wise men and women need to be chosen, regardless of their intersectionality, who are able to identify of the universal principles in the constitution and interpret the concerns of the people of this generation in the light of those principles. Advocates for an interest or religious groups should not have a seat on the PCC because of that reason alone. To do so, may be good politics but it is bad governance. Members of the PCC should be chosen for their wisdom, virtue and experience, not because they are or are not part of a group.

To move forward with the PCC without knowing and agreeing on the universal principles enshrined in the Belize constitution will lead to a mess.



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



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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>

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Russia is offering to discount its oil by as much as 30% for Asian buyers as the G7 pushes its price cap



Russian President Vladimir Putin

Minister of Public Service Says His Ministry is Investigating HR Issues at Audit Department

By Michelle Sutherland

Minister of Public Service, Constitutional and Religious Reform Henry Charles Usher, told The Reporter that his Ministry is investigating claims made by the Public Service Union (PSU) surrounding allegations of poor management

Ushers' comments stem from our queries into reports posed by PSU President Dean Flowers during an interview with the press on Tuesday. Flowers alleged that there was uneasiness within the audit department following reports that Bradley was being considered once more

who did not enjoy the confidence and respect of the majority of the audit staff. Bringing her back would create an environment of hostility and poor productivity as far as I am concerned."

Flowers further claimed that several complaints were documented by staff who alleged that they were being repeatedly being treated unfairly. Flowers said that at one point the staff even staged a sick out to seek intervention from the government, but to no avail. While Flowers went on to list several other allegations, he said that the staff was upset about several recent appointments within the audit department.

Flowers's appearance in front of the media comes on the heels of a letter, penned to the CEO of the Ministry of Public Service, which was signed by eight public officers within that ministry. The contents of the letter expressed what the group claimed was "poor, insensitive and inefficient administration of their office," along with the fact that senior staff was being overlooked for recent promotions.

In a short conversation with the Reporter, Bradley told us that while she did not listen to the interviews, she "simply look forward to continuing the important work of the office on behalf of the people of this country," and would rather not respond to Flowers allegations.



Minister Henry Charles Usher

and administration of personnel within the Audit General's Office.

On Wednesday, Usher told The Reporter, "We acknowledge the concerns of the PSU and are working with them to address the HR issues at the Auditor General's Office.

The previous UDP administration failed to do succession planning so in a lot of instances we need to bring back the outgoing officer to hold the post and carry out all the functions including properly training his/her successor. Mrs. Dorothy Bradley is a nonsense professional who gets the job done. She has carried out her duties without showing fear or favor to any side."

for the post despite poor management and administration of personnel under her previous appointment. All of which, Flowers claims, have been documented and brought to the attention of both the former and present administrations, but nothing was ever done to address it.

"When the PM stated that they were contemplating bringing back the former auditor general, this was one of the reasons why we objected. This is one of the reasons why we said, you should make an effort to fix the many wrongs that exist within that department," cautioned Flowers. "Those include that you had somebody there

By Phil Rosen

Russia is in talks with several Asian nations for potential long-term oil contracts with steep discounts, a Western official told Bloomberg Wednesday.

According to the report, the discounts could be as much as 30%, and may signify that Moscow is looking to counter ongoing discussions by the US and Group of Seven nations regarding a price cap on Russian crude.

Additionally, Russia's talks with Asian buyers may also reflect a push to secure more buyers as Europe shuns its supplies.

Russia offered to sell oil to Indonesia that is "30% lower

than international market price," Indonesia's minister of tourism, Sandiaga Uno, said in comments on Instagram. He noted, however, that concerns remain over looming potential sanctions from the US.

The European Union's ban on seaborne Russian oil imports is set to begin December 5. But concerns that it could send prices soaring and drive profits up for Russia have led to calls for an exception to the ban that would keep oil flowing but cap the price.

So far, few Asian countries have explicitly voiced support for it, and sources told Bloomberg that India remains

hesitant to join the price-cap scheme as it may cause Russia to sell cheap crude to other buyers instead.

Meanwhile, Rystad Energy predicted that Russia's crude output will soon fall by over a million barrels a day, stemming from lower demand in Asia and the impending EU ban.

"Russia has so far demonstrated high resilience to the unprecedented pressure imposed by Europe and the US – but the worst is yet to come," the research firm said Tuesday. "Domestic consumption has helped fill the gap during the peak demand season, but overseas demand for Russian blends has dipped, spelling trouble further ahead."

Weh Wi Ga Fi Seh

Kip op yu helt! Stay pahn di lukowt!

Geh redi ... Bileez Soon 41

Evribadi ga bertday, ahn wi priti priti konchri Bileez ga bertday tu! Eena 1981, mee mi dehdeh wen di Yoonyan Jak mi loawa fi di last taim, ahn di Bileez flag mi rayz op fi di fos taim. Da-mi bai Koathows Waaf, Ah tink. Laad ... mi skin geh koalseed wen Ah tink how free mi haat mi feel.

Now, noh geh mi rang ... Ah noa seh wi stil noh free fahn lat a ting. Laik free fahn moni woriz. Er free fahn siknis. Ahn nobadi free fahn wayk op ded ... er pay taks tu govament if yu di werk! Bot, fi bi wahn free konchri, di mek op wi oan main bowt how fi ron wi konchri ... man! Dat da sohnting!

Sohn sentens fahn di Kriol-Inglish dikshineri wid 'bertday'

baabikyoo v. barbecue. **Mi ma wahn baabikyoo ribz fi mi bertday.** My mom will barbecue ribs for my birthday. — n. 1) chicken prepared over coals. **Evri Satideh yu loan si plipl di sel baabikyoo owt a tong.** Every Saturday you see a whole lot of people selling barbecue downtown. 2) a platform used by woodcutters to stand higher than the buttress or spur.

bertday n. birthday. **Neks mont Ah wahn selibrayt mi bertday.** Next month I'll celebrate my birthday.

paati v. party. **Az soon az di bwai geh bak hoahn, ih staat tu paati.** As soon as the boy got back home, he began to party. *See: bleech, spree.* — n. party. **Ah mi ga wahn sopraiz bertday paati fi mi daata.** I had a surprise birthday party for my daughter. *See: bashment, bram.*

ten num. ten. **Mi lee daata bloa owt di hoal ten kyandl pan ih bertday kayk.** My little daughter blew out all ten candles on her birthday cake.



INVITATION TO QUOTE – GOODS

Institution: Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing
Country: Belize
Project: Additional Financing for George Price Highway Rehabilitation Project
Sector: Transport
Abstract: Equipment for the Program Management Unit, Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing
Loan No.: Loan 4616/OC-BL
Deadline: 2:00 p.m. (Belize Local Time) on September 1st, 2022

1. The Government of Belize has received loan financing from the Inter-American Development Bank toward the cost of the Additional Financing for George Price Highway Rehabilitation Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this financing to payments under the Contract for the Supply of Laptops, Laptop Briefcases, UPS Systems, USB-C Docking Stations, and Laser Printers under the Additional Financing for the George Price Highway Rehabilitation Project.
2. The Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing now invites sealed quotation from eligible and qualified suppliers for the supply of the following item: Laptops, Laptop Briefcases, UPS Systems, USB-C Docking Stations, and Laser Printers.
3. Bidding will be conducted through Shopping procedures specified in the Inter-American Development Bank's Policies for the Procurement of Works and Goods financed by the Inter-American Development Bank.
4. Interested eligible suppliers may obtain the full Invitation to Quote for the required Laptops, Laptop Briefcases, UPS Systems, USB-C Docking Stations, and Laser Printers from the Program Management Unit, Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing, located on the First Floor of the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing Soils Lab Building, Power Lane, Belmopan by emailing pmupcmow@gmail.com, gphrp.3344@midh.gov.bz AND procurement.officer.midh@gmail.com.
5. Quotation must utilize forms provided in the invitation to quote. One (1) Original and two (2) copies are to be submitted in sealed labelled envelopes to the address indicated below. Quotations by email **WILL NOT** be accepted.
6. Suppliers are informed that they can only quote for the type of Laptops, Laptop Briefcases, UPS Systems, USB-C Docking Stations, and Laser Printers specified, and quote for all items in this Invitation. Price quotations will be evaluated for all the items. Price quotations should be Inclusive of General Sales Tax.
7. Your quotation(s) should be submitted as per the following instructions and in accordance with the Terms and Conditions of supply in the attached Quote Submission Sheet.
 - (i) **VALIDITY OF THE OFFER:** Your quotation(s) should be valid for a period of **90 days** from the date of receipt for quotation(s).
 - (ii) **SUBMISSION OF OFFERS:** Offers will be submitted on the Quote Submission Sheet including a description of specifications offered, Price Schedule for Goods and Related Services. These templates are annexed in the full Invitation to Quote. All documents must be completed without any alterations in format, and no substitutes shall be accepted. All blank spaces shall be filled in with the information requested.
8. The Purchaser shall award the Contract to the offer which complies substantially with the technical specifications and other requirements in these documents and represents the lowest price.
9. Quotation must be delivered to the address below at or before **2:00 pm (Local Belize Time) on September 1st, 2022**. Electronic quote **will not** be permitted. Late quote will be rejected. Your quotation should be in the **English** language in the required format or other similar, acceptable format should be addressed and submitted to:

Attention of (Name): Mr. Rolando Chan, Program Coordinator
Address: Program Management Unit
 Program Management Unit
 First Floor – Soils Lab
 Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing
 Power Lane, Belmopan
 Cayo District, Belize
Phone #: 822-1942/822-0100
Email: pmupcmow@gmail.com,
gphrp.3344@midh.gov.bz AND

UDP Protest High Gas Price and High Cost of Living



UDP organized protest against high cost of living

By Michelle Sutherland

The United Democratic Party (UDP) and their supporters took to the streets of Belize City on Tuesday to protest the high cost of living as well as the ever-rising gas prices across the country.

Despite not being able to get approval to host a demonstration, the gathering of 200 supporters and senior UDP members gathered at their headquarters on Youth for the Future Drive, where they commenced their protest. The gathering made their way down Vernon Street, onto Central American Boulevard where they made a short stop in front of the Shell Gas Station to protest.

Leading his first public protest as Leader of the UDP, Moses "Shyne" Barrow said, "It is time for action. Lower the gas prices; lower the cost of living; bring relief to the people. We are tired of Johnny Briceño going into the House of Representatives

and telling us that he understands and is doing nothing. People are suffering."

Barrow went on to claim that this is probably the highest that the cost of fuel and cost of living has gone up. He added that it is a direct conflict of interest that the Prime Minister owns a gas station and has repeatedly ignored cries from the public for relief.

Joining in his call for immediate relief was former Belmopan area representative John Saldivar who noted that his reason for protesting in the scorching sun was triggered by the excessive cost of fuel.

That, according to Saldivar, has led to the cost of living spiraling out of control. "Gas has been unbearably high for several months now and we have seen the prices come down everywhere else in the world except for Belize. The PM has said that he is trying to recover his revenues but meanwhile the people are suffering,"

indicated Saldivar.

Secretary General of the UDP Juliet Thimbrel also confessed that while the UDP was not able to get a permit to host a demonstration, they do not have to acquire one to express their dissatisfaction with what is happening in the country. In fact, she said that the protest was long overdue.

While the majority of the UDP's senior members were present, former UDP leader Patrick Faber and Albert Area Representative Tracy Panton, who are both known to have an ongoing conflict with Barrow, were both absent. The press took note of this and questioned the party leader. He noted that Faber was out of the country while Panton had prior commitments but had sent her supporters to attend in her absence.

Attendees report that police presence on the ground was minimal and that they did not make any attempts to interact with the protesters.

Read, lets get inspired!

NOTICE OF FINAL DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given to all interested parties that the company

NAVY BUSINESS INC. IBC # 130,080

("the Company") incorporated under the IBC Act of Belize has been dissolved and struck-off the Register of Companies with effect from this 18th August 2022.

ILH TRUST LTD.
 Registered Agent

NPC Ask UDP Members to End Internal Dispute

By Michelle Sutherland

Belize City, Aug. 24, 2022—The United Democratic Party (UDP)’s National Party Council (NPC) met over the weekend with its members to put an end to the internal fighting within the UDP.

UDP Chairman Michael Peyrefitte confirmed with the media that all parties were duly invited and a quorum was present. At the meeting, it was agreed that all decision passed by the NPC during that meeting was to be followed by all members going forward and that they would be bound by it.

“We all agreed under the constitution of the party that the attacks on each other would stop and that we



UDP Chairman Michael Peyrefitte

would move forward to having a united party. We all agreed that the members of the party will support each other, abide by the constitution and move forward. Hopefully what happened

Saturday is the start of a new journey to see the UDP be back fighting fit and in its best form,” reiterated Peyrefitte.

In a separate release, the NPC said that they were denouncing the repeated public attacks/

criticism of the party and its members by its fellow party member, party official, and an elected member of the House. The NPC reiterated that the repeated attacks were in violation of the party’s constitution

and demanded that all party members, especially elected party officials and elected members of the house, “immediately remove all public attacks/criticism of the party and its members.”

While a quick

scroll on Albert Area Representative’s Facebook page revealed that she had complied with the request, we note that Patrick Faber has still not removed his post or ads from his Facebook page.

When asked about Faber’s clear violation of the NPC ruling, Peyrefitte said that Faber is in clear violation of the NPC’s ruling.

“If people don’t want to comply with the NPC, then I think they have already made their own decision as far as their association with the UDP. Unfortunately, for me, I can’t tell the future but the NPC would decide what it wants to do to anybody who decides that they are bigger than the NPC,” stated Peyrefitte.

Goodin Strikes Agreement with CITCO for Study Leave

By Michelle Sutherland

Despite not being able to effectively garner the support of four of his colleagues to support his request for a paid study leave, councilor Micah Goodin was able to work out a different agreement with the Belize City Council.

“Given that the councilor sent in a letter to the office of the mayor requesting that he be considered to participate in the caucuses via virtual means and so we

looked at it is as a council that the main thing of a councilor, contrary to what people may believe is that it’s a full-time job, it’s not. The only full-time job again is the office of the mayor and so these councilors usually participate or carry out their functions in a type of board of directors or board type function. They are there just to debate and adopt policies,” said Belize City Mayor Bernard Wagner.

Wagner indicated

that while Goodin was only able to sway the support of two of his colleagues, and was not able to meet the prerequisite, the council still supports his educational pursuit and decided that they could work out a short-term agreement with him in the interim. That is until councilor Goodin is able to file his request once more in six months.

Wagner explained that the City Council regulations informs that once a request is

not accepted it cannot be brought back to the caucus until six months have elapsed.

Last week, Thursday Goodin received a farewell party that was hosted by the Peoples United Party Secretariat. This was in advance of his departure to attend his first semester at the University of West Indies, where he will be pursuing a law degree. While Goodin was not able to get his request for a paid study leave, the agreement between



Councilor Micah Goodin

him and the council will allow him to participate in CITCO meetings virtually.

S U D O K U

Medium Puzzle

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

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

Answer to Puzzle

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

The Righters Write

Zero Tolerance for sexual misconduct

Contributed by the Human Rights Commission

Most stories of sexual abuse follow the same basic narrative: someone in a position of power uses that position to perpetrate some sort of sexual abuse or exploitation for purposes of control, manipulation, and or gratification upon someone with little or no power.

It happens all around us and many times, it is perpetrated by someone who people turn to for help. As a human rights organization, the Human

Rights Commission of Belize, HRCB, has zero tolerance to sexual misconduct. It has set in place a policy with the aim of preventing its staff, board members and anyone collaborating with the Commission from perpetrating this heinous act upon those who we aim to serve.

The organisation as a partner to the UNHCR, The Refugee Agency, is also expected to follow strict measures to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse,

SEA, of beneficiaries and members of the community. The UN has received many allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse annually perpetrated by personnel from its agencies all over the world. On March 15th of this year, Secretary-General António Guterres released his annual update on the Organization's efforts to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse. In it he stated that "Despite clear gains, allegations implicating United Nations personnel continue to emerge."

The UN News reported that "According to the report, 445 allegations were received in 2021, representing an increase over the 387 received in 2020, and the highest number recorded since 2016, when 165 allegations were made. Of the 2021 total, 194 reports were received system-wide, with 75 allegations related to peacekeeping, up from 66 in 2020, and above the average recorded over the last 10 years. There were 115 related to UN entities, up from 109 in 2020, and 4 involving

formerly deployed non-UN security forces. In addition, 251 allegations involved non-UN related entities, such as non-governmental organizations, an uptick from 244 in 2020 and 174 in 2019".

The UN takes a victims' rights approach in dealing with alleged misconduct of its personnel. UN News mentioned that the UN in response to continued reports, has implemented enhanced policies and protocols, mandatory trainings, risk assessments, institutionalized action plans and accountability measures. As a partner organization to the UNHCR, the HRCB is subject to these measures and has implemented a strict Code of Conduct and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Policy. The Commission has also commenced mandatory trainings on these policies with its Board of Directors and staff, including volunteers.

It is important for communities being served to also understand these policies and the mechanisms in place to report sexual exploitation and abuse, hence this article. Although we cannot go in dept, the Commission wants the community to know that these are in place to protect beneficiaries and community members and will also ensure to use all available means to educate the community. Sexual exploitation brings harm not only upon the survivor, but also upon the community being served and ultimately the organization, which loses the respect and trust of the people it serves.

For context, UNHCR explains sexual exploitation as any act or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, deferential power or trust for sexual purpose. Vulnerable persons are those "depending on you for survival, food rations, school, books, transport or other services". This is usually done to profit monetarily, socially or politically. Sexual abuse is the "actual or threatened

physical intrusion of a sexual nature whether by force or under unequal or coercive conditions. It includes sexual slavery, pornography, child abuse and sexual assault".

It happens all around us and perpetrators also include humanitarian workers, who interact with vulnerable groups and use their positions to exploit and abuse those they should serve or protect. The Commission has zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse and this also includes sexual harassment.

For clarity, sexual exploitation and abuse victims are beneficiaries and community members of a humanitarian organization. Sexual harassment victims are fellow humanitarian workers within an organization or partner organization. It is important for the community to know that both forms of sexual misconduct are unacceptable by the Commission and all reports are taken seriously and will be fully investigated. If necessary, the Commission will also refer cases to the proper authorities for prosecution.

Sexual exploitation and abuse, SEA, violates fundamental human rights, undermining the effectiveness of humanitarian work and the trust of vulnerable populations we serve. Let's not forget that it also harms survivors physically, emotionally, psychologically and socially. The Commission aims to prevent such nefarious acts and encourages anyone who knows or suspects that this is being perpetrated by someone from the Commission, to report it immediately.

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.



CENTRAL BANK of BELIZE



CAREER OPPORTUNITY

EXAMINER III

The Central Bank invites qualified individuals to join its Supervision Department.

The Examiner III will conduct both off-site surveillance and on-site examinations of banks and financial institutions licensed under the Domestic Banks and Financial Institutions Act (DBFIA), International Banking Act (IBA), and credit unions registered under the Credit Unions Act (CUA).

- Off-Site Surveillance**
 - Ensure that risk assessment is conducted on institutions.
 - Assess license applications for banks, other financial institutions, and credit unions.
 - Prepare monthly information papers and make recommendations to address emerging issues.
 - Coordinate and assess economic and financial data for the processing of large credit applications.
 - Compile quarterly financial performance indicators for banks and credit unions.
 - Keep abreast of economic developments and trends.
 - Respond to enquiries from customers, banks, and credit unions.
 - Monitor compliance with the DBFIA, IBA, CUA, and Money Laundering and Terrorism (Prevention) Act (MLTPA).
- On-Site Examination**
 - Assist in conducting on-site examinations on banks and credit unions, which includes the assessment of risk management, corporate governance, and internal controls.
 - Prepare reports on the financial condition, management, and operations of institutions examined.
 - Ensure compliance with the DBFIA, IBA, and CUA.

The applicants should possess the following:

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

- A minimum of a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting, Banking, Economics, or Finance from a recognized university. Three (3) years relevant work experience would be an asset.

TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE

- Excellent report writing skills; Proficient in the use of the Microsoft Office Suite and web-based computer applications; Ability to analyze qualitative and quantitative financial data; Ability to deal effectively with personnel, officials of financial institutions being examined, regulatory authorities, and the public; Understanding of accounting procedures and financial analysis; Knowledge of the Central Bank Act, DBFIA, IBA, CUA, MLTPA, and their subsidiary laws would be an asset.

COMPETENCIES

- Strong Oral & Writing Skills; Analytical Thinking; Diagnostic Information Gathering; Results Oriented; Thoroughness; Attention to Details; Interpersonal Effectiveness.

Submit the following documents by **Wednesday, 7 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: Examiner III- Supervision Department
Email: hr@centralbank.org.bz or online at www.centralbank.org.bz
(All applications will be held in strict confidence.)

Belize students win record 52 Taiwan university scholarships



By William Ysaguirre

Thirteen students receive scholarship to further studies in Taiwan.

Taiwan continues to partner with Belize in our economic development through the award of a new record of 52 university scholarships for Belizeans to study in Taiwan.

Over the past decades the number of scholarships has more than doubled from two in the first year, to 24 - 26 per year by the year 2013, to now 52. Thirty-eight students received scholarships from the International Cooperation for Development Fund (ICDF) to study at institutions where the instruction will be in English; while 14 won scholarships from Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) to study at universities where all instruction is in Mandarin, Taiwan's official language. These students will spend their first year in Taiwan learning Mandarin, before they take up their chosen field of study.

The Governor General H.E. Froyla Tzalam, Minister of Education Hon. Francis Fonseca and Special Envoy Mrs Rossana Briceño were the guests of honor, when Ambassador H.E. David Kuan-Chou Chien presented the students with their scholarship packages during an orientation ceremony at the Best Western Belize Biltmore Plaza Hotel in Belize City on Saturday morning, August 21.

The Governor General congratulated the 52 students, noting that Taiwan is wondrous place to visit, with many marvelous new things to see, and she reminded them that they will all become Belize's ambassadors in Taiwan and to share Belizean culture with their hosts. She noted that anthropological studies have shown that a university education would automatically catapult them into a higher income bracket, and many may be seduced by higher salaries in more developed countries. But she urged the students to stay focused on their mission, to become qualified with new skills and to return to work in Belize and to help grow Belize's economy.

With the COVID pandemic highlighting the need for better health care, Ambassador Chien happily noted that 10 of the scholarship recipients will be studying medicine or the health sciences. Eight will study pre-med

at the School of Medicine for International students at I-Shou University (ISU), one will read for his Doctorate in International Health at National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University, and one will pursue her Masters in Health Care administration at Taipei Medical University.

Education is so important to Belize's economic development that four will pursue Masters programs in Educational leadership at National Chung Cheng University. Two more will pursue postgraduate studies in Human Resource Development at National Taiwan Normal University.

Another three will be pursue their Bachelor's degree, and one will read for his Masters in Tropical Agriculture at the National Pingtung University of Science and Technology, while another will study Agribusiness at National Chung Hsing University. Four more will study for their bachelor's in business administration at National Chengchi University, where three more will pursue their master's in business administration (MBA).

Two more will study mechanical engineering at Kun Shan University, where a third will study for his Masters in Robotics. One MOFA scholar will study Civil engineering at National Taiwan University. Another four will pursue their Bachelor's in Computer Science and Information Engineering at National Dong Hwa University. The student missionaries from National Tsing Hua University have been coming to Belize to teach computer science to Cayo village children for over a decade, and now two Belize students will be studying information technology at Tsing Hua.

Three more will study international business and trade at Ming Chuan University, where a fourth will study for her Bachelors in journalism and mass communications. Another MOFA recipient will pursue graduate studies in International Affairs at Ming Chuan University.

Minister Fonseca reiterated the Governor General's words as he wished the students bon voyage, citing the key roles other Taiwan alumni play in Belize's government; as he

urged them to return upon completing their studies. He thanked the Government and People of Taiwan for their continued investment in Belize's educational development. Each four-year scholarship can be conservatively valued at USD\$60,000; so this year's scholarship awards represent a USD\$3 million investment from Taiwan in Belize's economic development. Over 300 Belizeans have received a university education in Taiwan since the scholarship program began 20 years ago.

Two Taiwan alumni - Chief Executive Officers Gilroy Middleton PhD of the Ministry of Immigration and Kenrick Williams PhD of the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change, and Disaster Risk Management, also shared many helpful insights from their own experiences to help the students adjust to their life in Taiwan. The scholarships provide full tuition, books, living stipend and return air fare to Taiwan, but the CEOs encouraged the students to budget wisely, and not to splurge on the wonderful things they might see.



Oración al Espíritu Santo

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

Gracias Espíritu Santo.

R.M.L.



MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT
AND
HOUSING



PROCUREMENT NOTICE – RE-ADVERTISEMENT OF TENDER

CONSTRUCTION OF ONE (1) BEDROOM MODULAR HOMES

Due to limited submissions in the previous round of tendering, this re-advertisement notice is being issued to capture a wider audience.

The Government of Belize (GOBZ), through the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing (MIDH), wishes to invite interested bidders to tender for the construction of one (1) bedroom modular homes in the Corozal, Orange Walk, Belize, Cayo, Stann Creek and Toledo Districts.

The requirements for this bidding process are as follows:

- (a) Bidders shall be registered with the MIDH.
- (b) Bidders shall demonstrate, by providing documentary evidence, having experience as a contractor or sub-contractor on any type of construction project over the period **January 2020 to July 2022**.
- (c) Bidders shall demonstrate, by providing documentary evidence, having satisfactorily and substantially completed a minimum of three (3) residential construction contracts during the period **January 2017 to July 2022** with the following details:
 - i. having a minimum contract value of **BZ\$45,000.00**;
 - ii having a minimum residential space of 400 square feet; and
 - iii having completed the construction contract within a maximum timeframe of three (3) months.
- (d) Bidders shall demonstrate, by providing documentary evidence, having access to the following equipment:
 - i. One (1) 3/4-horsepower concrete vibrator;
 - (e) Bidders shall present a work plan for the contract.

Bidding documents can be obtained by request at the address below, starting **Monday 29 August 2022**, on weekdays between **8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.** When making requests for bidding documents, bidders shall clearly indicate which of the following location packages are required:

1. **Belmopan, Cayo District**
2. **Belize City, Belize District**
3. **Corozal Town, Corozal District**
4. **Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District**
5. **Dangriga Town, Stann Creek District**
6. **Punta Gorda Town, Toledo District**

Submissions of bidding documents shall be in **English** and shall be received in sealed envelopes, clearly marked **“Tender - Construction of One (1) Bedroom Modular Home, (Insert Location), District”**.

Bidding documents shall be delivered by hand to the address below not later than **Friday 9 September 2022 at 10:00 a.m.**

The MIDH reserves the right to accept or reject late bids or to cancel the bidding process partially or in its entirety. The MIDH will not defray costs incurred by bidders in the preparation and submission of the bidding documents.

Further details about the bidding process can be obtained by contacting:

1. **Attention: Mr. Evondale Moody**
Engineering Coordinator
Project Execution Unit
Ministry of Infrastructure Development & Housing
Power Lane
Belmopan
Cayo District
BELIZE, C. A

Tel: +501-828-5220

Email: peu@midh.gov.bz

cc: colin.escalante@midh.gov.bz



August 25, 2022

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS

Notice is hereby given to all shareholders of Belize Telemedia Limited ('BTL') that:

- a. BTL is currently updating all contact information contained in the BTL Registry of Shareholders and;
- b. Pursuant to Article 135 of the Belize Telemedia Limited Articles of Association, Shareholders who elect to receive dividend payments by bank transfer may forward a completed 'Request for Bank Transfer' form to BTL.

BTL Shareholders are asked to submit their updated contact information including; Residential Address, Mailing Address, Contact Phone Number, and Email Address.

Kindly submit all requests for bank transfer and updated contact details on or before August 30, 2022 via email to prdept@livedigi.com or by post to:

Public Relations Department
Belize Telemedia Limited
Regent Street
P.O. Box 603
Belize City, Belize

Shareholders are asked to fill out the below forms and return to the above-mentioned address or download our complete Shareholders Update Form and Request for Bank Transfer Form at www.livedigi.com.

For further details, contact prdept@livedigi.com



SHAREHOLDERS UPDATE FORM

Shareholder's Name: _____

Full Name of any other holder: _____
(If Applicable)

Residential Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number(s): _____

.....
Signature of Shareholder

REQUEST FOR BANK TRANSFER

I, of, Belize

do solemnly and sincerely declare that I am the true owner of Ordinary shares in Belize Telemedia.

I hereby request that all Belize Telemedia Limited dividend payments are deposited to the following account:

Bank: _____

Name: _____

Account no: _____

And I make this solemn declaration, conscientiously believing the same to be true; and by virtue of the provisions of The Oaths Act, Chapter 130 of the Laws of Belize.

.....
Signature of Shareholder

Declared and subscribed at

This day of 2022

before me,

.....
NOTARY PUBLIC/JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

N.B. Please note that the shareholder's name must match with the name on the bank account.

For further details, contact prdept@livedigi.com



GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE



INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK STRENGTHENING OF TAX ADMINISTRATION

Terms of Reference Project Support Officer

DUTY STATION: Belize City, Belize

PROJECT NUMBER: BL-L1031

• **BACKGROUND**

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

1.3 The main objective of the Project is to contribute to Strengthening Tax Administration aimed at increasing revenue collection, through the following specific objectives: (a) increasing the effectiveness of the Government to collect taxes and (b) increasing tax administration efficiency. These objectives will be achieved by improving tax administration governance and operational processes, and by modernizing the technological infrastructure.

1.4 The MoF is the Executing Agency responsible for the implementation of the Strengthening of Tax Administration Project. The Project Execution Unit (PEU) of the Ministry of Finance provides the concrete technical, administrative, financial, control and planning, monitoring and evaluation responsibilities for this and all other IDB- funded initiatives implemented by the Ministry.

1.5 In this regard, a vacancy exists for the Project Support for the PEU under a contractual arrangement with the MoF.

• **OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE OF WORK**

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

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

• **RESPONSIBILITIES/ACTIVITIES**

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

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

3.2 **Specific support activities include:**

Financial and Procurement Management

- (a) The PSO shall provide clerical support to the Financial Specialist in carrying out the financial requirements of the Projects. This may include but is not limited to letter writing, minute taking, filing, document collation, preparation of reports (Expense Justification and Request for Advance of Funds, meetings reports, etc.) and support with the payment process such as creation of purchase orders and payment vouchers in SmartStream (in accordance with the payment process and controls specified in the Project Operations Manual.
- (b) Support the Financial Specialist in maintenance of supporting project financial documents for audit and review processes.
- (c) Support in collating information for the updating of Fixed Assets Register.
- (d) Liaise with Ministry's Finance Accounts Unit to assist in the procurement of goods, including raising requisitions, tracking purchase orders, and maintenance of all aspects of receipt of goods.
- (e) The PSO shall provide clerical support to the Procurement Specialist in carrying out the procurement requirements of the Projects in accordance with Government and IDB procurement policies and procedures. This may include but is not limited to letter writing, preparation of request for quotations, requesting quotations, minute taking (meetings and negotiations), filing, document collation, preparation of reports (evaluation reports and meetings reports), updating of contract ledger.

Project Monitoring and Reporting

- (a) The PSO shall support the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Specialist in monitoring the project results indicators, and other aspects of the M&E system for the Projects.
- (b) Assist the Project team for preparation of monthly, quarterly and semester progress reports and annual operation plans for the Projects.
- (c) Support the development and maintenance of information systems to ensure real time tracking and activity management under the Projects.

Coordinate and Liaison

- (a) Organize all project and stakeholder meetings, consultations and events as and when necessary, and maintain records of these meetings. This may include assistance in drafting Agenda, sending and confirming invitations, venue booking, Food and Refreshments, equipment for meetings.
- (b) Record Minutes of Meetings, including Project Steering Committee Meetings, Technical Advisory Committees, other partners and any other meetings as required by the Project Coordinator;
- (c) Support in arranging project-related travel.

Knowledge Management and Innovation

- (a) Provide research support capacity to the PEU;
- (b) Support in developing Project presentations and media documents, in compliance with the external and internal policies of the Projects.

Operational and Logistical Support

- (a) Assist Program Coordinator in monitoring all HR Requirements and related activities;
- (b) Maintain records of projects files and other supporting documents in compliances with external and internal procedures;
- (c) Assist the Project Coordinator in the preparation of project reports, and to ensure compliance with contractual obligation;
- (d) Pro-actively coordinate/liaise with Ministry units on all administrative matters, as delegated by the Project Coordinator;

- (e) Act as a point of contact for outside callers, written and email inquiries, where necessary;
- (f) Coordinate all outgoing and incoming correspondences;
- (g) Collate reports for Project Steering Committees, Technical Advisory Committee, semester reports, and other internal or external stakeholders/audiences
- (h) Collate documents and communicate to and from BTS team and consultants to allow for successful completion of consultancy work.

3.4 The Project Support Officer shall undertake his/her work with the guidance of and coordination with the MoF and the BTS.

• **REPORTS/ DELIVERABLES**

4.1 The Project Support Officer will be responsible for preparing/ updating the following which are considered recurrent deliverables or responsibilities:

- (a) Project files (payment, procurement, etc.)
- (b) Minutes of meetings
- (c) Contract ledger
- (d) Other.

• **QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE**

5.1 **Education:** Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, Public Administration or related fields is an asset. Participation in relevant courses/training in fields of project management, Microsoft Project, time-management, computer skills, Microsoft Office would also be considered an asset.

5.2 **General Experience:** A minimum of two (2) years general working experience since obtaining the first academic degree.

5.3 **Specific Experience:**

- A minimum of two (2) years of work experience in performing administrative support services and/or secretarial duties.
- One (1) year experience working with SmartStream system is considered an asset.
- One (1) year experience working with international or national development agencies is considered an asset.
- One (1) year experience working with Microsoft Project is considered an asset.

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

• **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

6.1 The Project Support Officer reports to the Project Coordinator for BL-L1031. He/she shall work in close coordination with the staff of the MoF, and especially the members of the BTS and the Finance Officer of the Ministry.

• **COMPENSATION**

7.1 The Project Support Officer will be paid a monthly salary to be established during the contracting process.

• **APPLICATIONS**

8.1 CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

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

8.2 APPLICATION PROCEDURES:

Expression of Interest package should contain:

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

Qualified Individual Consultant must submit their expression of interest via e-mail to Michelle.Longsworth@bts.gov.bz no later than **4:00 p.m., Friday September 2nd, 2022**, marked **STAP- Project Support Officer** in the subject header. In addition, applicants may also submit a hardcopy at the following address:

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

For clarifications kindly contact:

**Senior Economist
Ministry of Finance
Sir Edney Cain Building
Belmopan
E-mail: raquel.guerra@mof.gov.bz**

'Paying BISL \$76m now saves Belize from paying a much larger figure later,' says Prime Minister John Briceño

Prime Minister John Briceño said this week that the \$76 million payout to Belize International Services Limited (BISL) as compensation for the nationalization of the international business and ships registries is the best deal negotiators could have gotten.

The Government of Belize announced on August 22 that it had reached a settlement with BISL of US\$38.25 million (BZ\$11.5 million to be paid in Belize Dollars) for nationalization of the International Merchant Marine of Belize (IMMARBE), and the International Business Corporations (IBC) Registry, done under the United Democratic Party (UDP) administration back in 2013.

Briceño, who served as Deputy Prime Minister under the People's United Party administration which sold the registries to

BISL back in 2003, tabled a motion in the House of Representatives on Wednesday, to borrow the money from the Central Bank of Belize.

Briceño explained that, through arduous negotiation, the government managed to reach a settlement that represents a 58 percent discount on the amount to be paid out, and that borrowing the money from the Central Bank's reserves will come at a preferential interest rate.

"Government borrows at 3.5 percent, but the court orders you to pay at six percent. It is a no brainer. It is better we borrow from ourselves and pay three and a half percent and not have the court tell us we have to pay six percent," Briceño said.

Briceño noted settling the debt now was imperative, as continued court battles would open Belize up to settlements exceeding

\$180 million, with interest accumulating at a rate of around \$17,000 per day.

The Ashcroft group of companies along with Panamanian Law firm of Morgan & Morgan and WIHL, a British Virgin Island company, had reportedly controlled the registries as under separate agreements since the early 1990's. In 1993, the People's United Party (PUP) administration issued one 10-year agreement to the parties, for both registries, which had a profit sharing arrangement, with government receiving the lower end. In 2005, then Prime Minister Said Musa extended the agreement to 2020.

When the UDP took office, they argued that the extension of the agreement was unlawful, and proceeded to cancel the agreement and proceed with the nationalization.



Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño



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for

Strengthening of the Medicolegal Death Investigation System in Belize through Stakeholder Engagement and Legislative Reform

Belize National Forensic Science Service

The INDIVIDUAL/LOCAL CONSULTANT will:

1. Conduct a comprehensive review, with stakeholder participation, of Belize's current medicolegal death investigation (MLDI) system, including its structure, processes, procedures, practices, and interface with the justice system, public health system, and civil registration system.
2. Conduct a comprehensive review, with stakeholder participation, of the legal framework that currently pertains to Belize's MLDI system.
3. Make recommendations, with stakeholder input, for enhancing the conduct, integrity, and utility of death investigations and improve the public's confidence in death investigations and in the system.
4. Produce draft primary legislation, with stakeholder input, necessary for strengthening Belize's MLDI system.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS AND DELIVERABLES:

- (1) Conduct 1st Round of Stakeholder Workshops and/or Meetings
- (2) Preliminary Draft MLDI System and Legal Framework Review and Recommendations Report
- (3) Conduct 2nd Round of Stakeholder Workshops and/or Meetings
- (4) Revised Draft MLDI System and Legal Framework Review and Recommendations Report & Presentation of Revised Draft Report
- (5) Preliminary Draft Legislation
- (6) Conduct 3rd Round of Stakeholder Workshops and/or Meetings
- (7) Revised Draft Legislation & Presentation of Revised Draft Legislation
- (8) Final MLDI System and Legal Framework Review and Recommendations Report & Final Draft Legislation

For more information and how to apply, e-mail info@forensics.gov.bz

View the full
Terms of Reference



SCAN ME

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: 2nd September 2022

It's a "NO" for Vulcan

The US Embassy in Belize last week wrote to the Minister of Natural Resources, Petroleum and Mining, Cordel Hyde, requesting that he meets with representatives from Vulcan Materials Company. Hyde did not attend that meeting. Instead, he sent his Chief Executive Officer, Nelda Tulcey and Mining Director.

According to Hyde, who is also the Deputy Prime Minister, the letter from the embassy did not hold weight in this case.

When asked if the embassy's letter was some sort of pressure, the DPM responded, saying that "we are a sovereign and independent nation. We are supposed to be able to make decisions for ourselves or else what else has independence been about."

Hyde says that after forty-one years of independence "we should have the right; we should have the right to say to any company: 'You know what, your money is not good here. You know what, thanks, but it is okay. We do not want that kind of investment. We are concerned about other issues and so you may want to move on to another country.' We have that right."

Nevertheless, Vulcan Materials Company, which has purchased land in the White Ridge Area in the Stann Creek District, insists it wants to mine the undisturbed hills near Gales Point Manatee Village. It seems it's a "no" across the board for Vulcan, a US company which boasts of being the nation's largest producer of construction aggregates.

Villagers in Gales Point have come out in opposition to any development plans that

Vulcan has or wants to do in the area. During a public consultation held this past weekend in the village, residents were resolute in their position. Minister Hyde said that Vulcan should understand the villagers' position. However, Hyde said that "you are dealing with a giant company and multi-nationals that are used to getting their own way."

And the company is pushing forward to gain the villagers' support. On August 24th, Vulcan addressed a letter to the villagers, telling them that the White Ridge Project is viable and beneficial to them. Vulcan also tells villagers that "this week we will begin work that will enable additional studies and fulfil our commitment to being responsible landlords and neighbors. That means that starting this week there will be jobs for men and women in the Gales Point Manatee community."

"For me, this Vulcan situation kind of reminds me of Ashcroft; there are some people who are just too big for this country", said Minister Hyde.

Hyde pointed out what Aquatic Biologist Dr Edward Boles first brought up when he raised the alarm on Vulcan. Hyde said that "the environmental damages that mining in that area will wrought is unthinkable. We are talking about our animals. We are talking about our marine life. We are talking about hicatee, our manatees, our turtles, our fishes, our trees, our mountains that will never be the same. So why should we go down that road? For a few jobs here and few nickels, few dollars there while the rich multinational will exploit our raw materials and ship that abroad?"

Vulcan says that it "will continue to seek input from the village, government leaders, local NGOs, scientists, and regulators throughout this process."

When asked about the matter, Prime Minister John Briceño told reporters, "as a former minister of environment, I don't think it is something that [will be taken] lightly or kindly to say that those beautiful hills should be destroyed. But we cannot stop any company that wants to come and want to invest in Belize. We need to hear them out. You can't just say well don't come. We want them to come but they have to follow our laws, especially our environmental laws because we are known as an eco-friendly country."

Vulcan's White Ridge Project and its ramifications for the environment have caught the attention of The Nature Conservancy (TNC).

Belize Program Director for TNC Julie Robinson explained that in the Conservation Fund Agreement which is part of the Blue Bond, the Government will be required to revise and update the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) regulations. Robinson said that the "EIA regulations have not been revised or strengthened as yet. So this is one of the things that really should take place before any major development projects that will impact the marine and coastal environment were to happen."

Vulcan says that it will do an EIA based on World Bank standards.

The company's mining exploration license expires in November.



AUGUST 18, 2022

Public Notice

FILLING OF ANNUAL RETURNS FOR COMPANIES INCORPORATED UNDER CAP. 250 COMPANIES ACT.

The Belize Companies and Corporate Affairs Registry (BCCAR) would like to notify company shareholders and directors that have a company registered under Cap. 250, Companies Act to have their **annual filings up to date by November 4th, 2022** in order to remain active and have a smooth transition under Belize Companies Act, 2022 (Act 11 of 2022). This transition is anticipated for the end of November 2022 when the migration of all company records will be executed to launch the Online Business Registry System (OBRS). **Companies will be required to re-register via OBRS and will be given a new 9-digit company number and E-certificate.** Further information on the re-registration process and launch date for OBRS will be published beforehand.

Inquiries can be submitted to:
inquiries_bccar@belizefsc.org.bz

www.belizecompaniesregistry.gov.bz

Find us on:



AGOSTO 18, 2022

Aviso público

PRESENTACIÓN DE DECLARACIONES ANUALES PARA EMPRESAS INSCRITAS BAJO EL CAP. 250 DE LA LEY DE COMPAÑÍAS.

El Registro de Empresas y Asuntos Corporativos de Belice (BCCAR por sus siglas en inglés) desea notificar a los accionistas y directores de empresas registradas bajo el Cap. 250, de la Ley de Compañías a **actualizar sus declaraciones anuales antes del 4 de noviembre de 2022** para permanecer vigentes y facilitar la transición a la Ley de Compañías de Belice, 2022 (Ley 11 de 2022). Esta transición se prevé para fines de noviembre de 2022, con el traslado de todos los registros de las empresas, previo al lanzamiento del Sistema de Registro de Empresas en Línea (OBRS por sus siglas en inglés). **Las empresas deberán volver a registrarse con OBRS y recibirán un nuevo número de registro de la empresa consistiendo de 9 dígitos y un certificado electrónico.** Más información sobre el proceso de reinscripción y la fecha de lanzamiento de OBRS será publicada con anticipación.

Envíe sus consultas a:
inquiries_bccar@belizefsc.org.bz

www.belizecompaniesregistry.gov.bz

Encuétranos en:

House approves \$12 million for emergency road works following flooding

By Michelle Sutherland

One of the Supplementary Bill that was passed in this week's sitting of the House of Representatives was an emergency allocation of \$12 million for road works to several portions of highway and primary feeder roads across the country that were destroyed by incessant rains that had passed over the country last week.

While the rains caused by the tropical wave had only lasted overnight, the Briceño Administration later estimated that it had cost \$12 million in damages. During the sitting of the House of Representatives Minister of Infrastructure Development and Housing Julius Espat agreed that while the rains did not last long they highlighted the weakness in the country's infrastructure system.

Espat further indicated



The rains, which did not last for long, highlighted structural weaknesses.

that an assessment carried out across the country also revealed that there was a lack of proper drainage and culverts in the majority of villages. Espat said that that led his ministry to decide to tackle the problem from its root instead of just doing a band-aid fix and so they have made a decision to invest more in better drainage for rural communities. The minister, however, stressed that some communities cannot be properly drained because they are built



The heavy rains flooded several streets and roads throughout the country.

in low-lying areas.

"\$12 million for a hard-working Belizean that is having a difficult time even surviving is a lot of money. ... When you put it in the context of infrastructure is extremely minimal when you are dealing with 3,000 miles of roads that we have responsibility for. So the 12 million wasn't a magic number; it was a number that the Ministry

of Finance alerted us that they had available. We sat with our engineers. We had all the zone engineers and the district supervisors come in with their detailed reports. Of course, all the districts wanted part of this but we made them understand that the emphasis would be on 3 areas that were affected the most," commented Espat.

The press also asked Espat whether the financial report will be released to the media. He confirmed that a detailed financial report consisting of the contractor's names, areas where works will commence as well as a breakdown of the cost of materials will be released to the media as soon as the report is approved by the Contractor General. This, according to Espat, will be done to ensure transparency in the spending of public funds.

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