

Reporter

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Arrest warrant issued for Leader of the Opposition



Dr. Shanikka Arnold alleges that Hon. Faber assaulted her.



Leader of the Opposition Hon. Patrick Faber

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By Michelle Sutherland

The Police have issued an arrest warrant for Leader of the Opposition (LOO) Hon. Patrick Faber.

According to Commissioner of Police Chester

Williams, the warrant was issued in relation to allegations of harm against his fiancée Dr. Shanikka Arnold and for damage to property.

While being cautious not to venture into details of the case,

Williams told the media, "Yesterday, Ms. Arnold did visit the Domestic Violence Unit in Belize City, and she made a complaint against the leader of the Opposition Hon. Patrick Faber. ...The report is one of a

domestic nature where she is alleging that Mr. Faber had caused damage to her laptop and had also assaulted her as she was about to leave their home in the Lords Bank Area. Police have since issued a warrant in

the first instance for the arrest of Mr. Faber and at this time he is currently being sought by the Police so that he can be charged and taken before the court."

Responding to the media's questions,

Williams confirmed that the complainant had reported that Faber had allegedly clubbed her on her hands with a hammer, causing her injuries, which a doctor later classified as harm. Additionally, Williams

Dr. 'Manza' offered senior post at MOHW

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Dr. Marvin Manzanero

Border Reopening Still Set for February 1st

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The land border has been closed since March 2020 due to the COVID restrictions.



Arrest Warrant issued for Leader of the Opposition

In September last year the Government of Belize announced that it had struck a deal with some influential friends abroad to purchase, redeem and cancel the Super Bond, now renamed the Blue Bond, which has been dragging the Belize economy down into a pit of debt.

The Government did not give any indication of what the legal charges would be for this giant undertaking. Late last year we learned that the closing charges, as revealed in a supplementary budget, amounted to \$15 million, and that this amount has been paid to the law firm involved in master-minding the transaction.

Earlier this year, former Attorney General Mike Peyrefitte asked in a formal note for the Prime Minister to reveal the name(s) of the law firms which benefitted from this transaction. This appears to be information that the Briceño government is unwilling to reveal.

It is not clear at this time whether the opposition can legally force the Prime Minister to give out this information. The only way to do so would be to allege that something unconstitutional has taken place through a legal challenge

It really doesn't matter who received the money, unless in doing so the participating law firm(s) had conflicts of interest. The Constitution of Belize states at Ch. 121 that certain senior officers "shall conduct themselves in such a way as not to place themselves in positions in which they have or could have a conflict of interest, or compromise the fair exercise of their public or official functions and duties. It specifically forbids "the use of their office for private gain".

Subsection (d) warns against demeaning their office or position.

Subsection (e) cautions against allowing their integrity to be called into question, and subsection (f) states that these senior officials must not do anything "to endanger or diminish respect for, or confidence in the integrity of the government".

If there is evidence of any hanky-panky, such persons can be disqualified from holding public office.

It is, therefore, fair and in the public interest to ask who got the money, and whether the receiving party (or parties) paid the fair share of tax on this income.

Because of the grave nature of this constitutional requirement, we are of the view that the Prime Minister should give an answer to these questions for the sake of the constitution and for the sake of his government.

It really doesn't matter who received the money. Law firms follow an established formula for their billing charges, depending on the amount of money involved in the Blue Bond transaction. So that no matter which law firm was chosen for this work, the closing charges would be substantially the same.

Cont'd from pg. 1

said that Arnold also had notable bruises to her face and claimed that she had sustained them when she crashed into a door that Faber had also pushed as she attempted to escape from him.

Regarding reports that Faber had slashed Arnold's vehicle tire, Williams could not confirm those reports but said, "Yes, she did use his vehicle to go to the station to make reports, and so I guess that was the best available vehicle that she was able to use to escape and go to the police station."

Police Looking for Faber

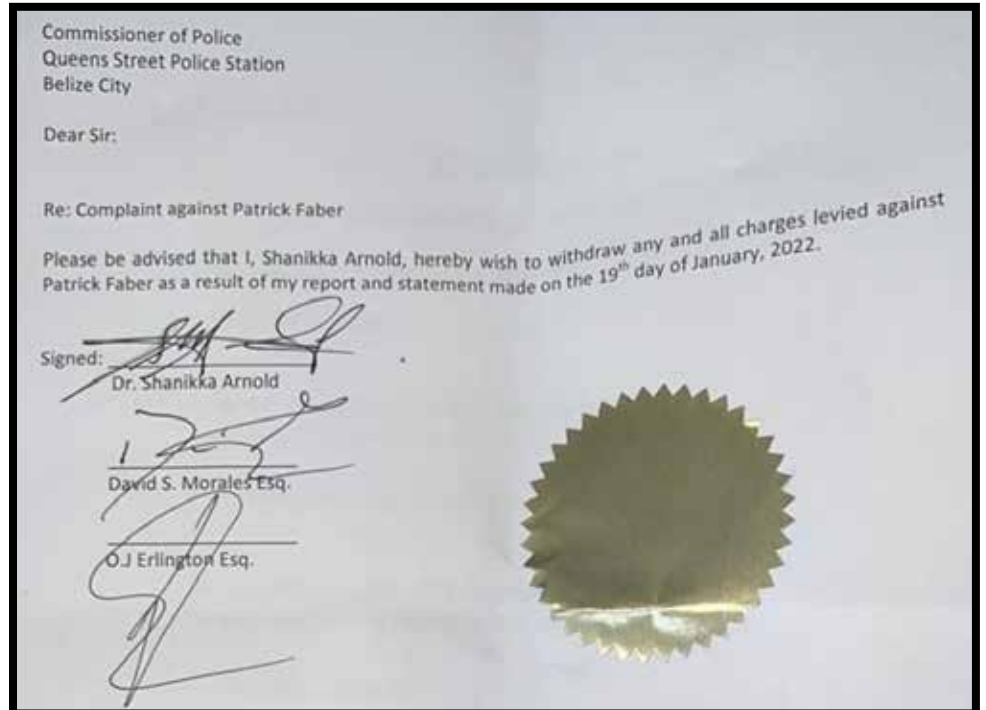
Williams explained that the Police continue to look for Faber. He confirmed that officers had visited Faber's home in Lords Banks, Ladyville, as well as several other areas where he is believed to be hiding; however, so far, those have been fruitless.

Williams also confirmed that officers at the airports and points of entry have also been notified to be on the lookout for Faber, who remains on the run up to 5:00 p.m on Thursday.

Faber has since secured the services of attorney Richard Dickie Bradley, who intervened by calling the Commissioner of Police on Thursday and informing him that he would be escorting his client to the police station to face the charges against him. However, Williams said that up to the time of his media interview, he has seen neither Bradley nor his client.

Earlier Compliant

The Commissioner further confirmed that Arnold had also visited the police station on Monday of this week to report another case of domestic violence against Faber; however, she had requested that she did not wish to pursue any court action but was lodging the report for future reference. Arnold, however, had to return for a second



time on Wednesday, where she lodged an official police complaint and this time requested court action.

Interference

Since the news of the dispute emerged, there have been reports that a very senior female official of the United Democratic Party (UDP) had attempted to intervene in the case by allegedly trying to get Arnold to drop the charges against Faber. When asked about this, Williams responded that that was an offense. "I know for a fact that all day yesterday and today, she has been under extreme pressure from many different quarters trying to convince her not to pursue the matter. She has, so far, stood her grounds that she is going to pursue the matter, and so we hope that she will do so."

Change of Heart?

However, just hours after the Commissioner briefed the media, it seems that Arnold might no longer be holding her ground. The Reporter received a letter purportedly written by her and sent to the Commissioner which requested that all charges against Faber be dropped.

Specifically, the letter reads: "Please be advised that I, Shanikka Arnold, hereby wish to withdraw any and all charges levied against Patrick Faber as a result of my report and statement made on the

19th day of January, 2022."

While sources claim that the letter has reached the Compol's desk, he maintains that the police department will be proceeding with the charges despite this latest development.

In his previous interview, Williams had indicated that if Arnold had a change of mind, she would not be able to withdraw those charges at the Police Department. She would only be able to do so before the courts.

In a post on his personal Facebook Page, Faber described the situation as a "misunderstanding" and claimed that the "rumors are inaccurate" and that he and his fiancée will refrain from disclosing any more of their personal information in order to protect Arnold from public scrutiny.

"My number one priority at this time is my fiancée's wellbeing and the wellbeing of my entire family," wrote Faber.

It is noteworthy that Arnold likewise posted a similar statement on her personal social media page as well. She wrote:

"Firstly, We begin by saying that the situation is a misunderstanding, one that really is a matter that we have been dealing with privately. It is our intent to do whatever it takes to keep our family together. While we can assure the public that the rumors are inaccurate, we are at this time unwilling to disclose further private information in an attempt to protect me from any further public scrutiny. I appreciate that Patrick's number one priority at this time is my well being and the well being of our entire family."

THE REPORTER

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Dr. 'Manza'

offered senior post at MOHW

By Michelle Sutherland

The worst might be over for the embattled, Former Director of Health Service (DHS), Dr. Marvin Manzanero, who has reportedly been given the option of taking on a senior post within the Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW) as Director of International Cooperation.

Minister of Health and Wellness Hon. Kevin Bernard said that he had a sat down with Manzanero on Monday and offered him the post. It was also agreed at that meeting that Manzanero would be returning for a follow-up session before the end of the week to confirm his interest in the new post. As of late Wednesday evening, Minister Bernard told our newsroom that he has still not gotten a response from Manzanero but that he remains optimistic that he will be getting a positive one because his discussions with Manzanero on Monday seemed to have been a fruitful one where amends were made.

Bernard stated, "Yes actually, you're the first one that I am saying this to, but I have approached Dr. Manzanero, and I have offered if he might be willing to take up the post of Director of International Cooperation and not solely to deal with COMISCA, but also to deal with all the linkages in terms of PAHO and all these other groups. There is a lot of work that we do with these other agencies, such as communications through the various embassies. So I think that he can play a vital role in that position. ... I personally feel that he can definitely work in this capacity, and these are discussions that I am having with him, and hopefully, we can agree on that."

According to Bernard, while he understood the need for abolishing the DHS post and separating it into two other posts, he is cognizant that it was done for the wellbeing of the Ministry even as it traverses through a pandemic. However, Bernard said that one of the first things that he felt that he needed to do when he took over the ministry last week was to meet with the embattled doctor and make amends instead of continuing what he termed as more "bloodletting."

When we reached out to Dr. Manzanero for a comment, he refused to go into any details of the discussion but confirmed that there was a meeting between himself and the Minister where he was offered the option of considering staying on with the Ministry. Manzanero, however, said that he would be reviewing the final offer before making a decision before the end of this week.

Border Reopening Still Set for February 1st

By Michelle Sutherland

Even with the increased number of cases and the whopping daily positivity rate fluctuating closer to 30% in this past week alone, it seems that Cabinet is moving full steam ahead with the scheduled border reopening set for February 1st.

Minister of Health and Wellness Kevin Bernard said, "Well, the reopening of the borders is something that the Cabinet has already made that decision that borders will reopen on February 1st. However, next week we will be taking our paper to Cabinet to look at what will be the necessary measures that we have

to put in place that will work in tandem with the border reopening."

Bernard added, "We are meeting with the Ministry of Tourism, and we are consulting with the Ministry of Immigration, but it is our Ministry here that will be able to make that decision in terms of what regulations will be put in place in terms of how the border will open."

While the minister confirmed that the epidemiological data is suggesting that the country is currently witnessing the peak of its fourth wave, it is expected that infections will start to decrease by the end of this month. According to Bernard, in the interim,

the Ministry will be paying keen attention to those numbers in order to make the right decision.

Prime Minister John Briceño, in an interview with Channel 7 News, also indicated that while the staggering spike in cases is worrying to his Government, they have also been keeping track of what is happening. He, however, stressed that Cabinet feels that the borders need to reopen sooner rather than later since it's going on two years that it has been closed.

This, according to the PM, is causing a nuisance to persons who want to travel and do trade. He also explained the motive

behind putting the break on the proposed January 1st reopening was since Cabinet saw it necessary to first focus on the reopening of schools, but now that that is already underway, it is time to move forward with other areas, such as the land borders.

While Bernard said that he is aware that the public might still be uneasy about reopening land borders, he assured that it will be done safely. He claimed that he and the COVID-19 Medical Response Team have already started to look at some of the measures that need to be put in place and will be fine-tuning those in the upcoming days.

WTO report looks into steps taken to boost LDCs' participation in international trade

By WTO

A new WTO publication launched on 19 January highlights that further support will be needed from the international community in the next decade to strengthen least-developed countries' (LDC) participation in world trade. While LDCs have benefited over the past ten years from greater market access opportunities, flexibilities in implementing WTO

rules and trade-related technical assistance, the COVID-19 pandemic has led to even greater challenges for these countries, hitting their exports hard.

"Boosting trade opportunities for least-developed countries" reviews the progress made over the past decade to help LDCs further integrate into the global trading system. The volatility of commodity prices over

the past ten years and the onset of the COVID-19 crisis caused LDCs' share of global exports to shrink to 0.91 per cent in 2020, compared with 0.95 per cent in 2011. The global goal of the United Nations aimed at doubling the LDC export share by 2020 is yet to be met.

"Increasing LDC participation in global trade is a shared objective of the international community. The WTO offers LDCs a unique opportunity to help shape global trade rules that respond to their trade interests. This report has illustrated the tangible benefits that LDCs working closely with WTO members have achieved over the past ten years. It is important to build on what we have achieved so far and make sure that trade continues to boost economic growth in LDCs and worldwide in the next decade and beyond," said Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala.

The report notes that LDCs' participation in global trade can be strengthened by enhancing preferential market access for LDC exports of goods and services. It also highlights the importance of longer timeframes for LDCs to

implement WTO rules, including for trade-related aspects of intellectual property. Support from development partners will also be crucial to sustain the development efforts of economies graduating from LDC status.

"The least developed countries continue to face considerable challenges in integrating into global trading systems. The United Nations will continue to support these efforts through building ambitious partnerships in the context of the Doha Programme of Action, which will be adopted at the Fifth UN Conference on LDCs (LDC5)", said Ms. Heidi Schroderus-Fox, Acting United Nations High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.

This report is the WTO's contribution to the LDC5 Conference originally scheduled for 23-27 January 2022 but postponed due to recent COVID-19 developments. One of the main objectives of the rescheduled LDC5 Conference is to adopt a Programme of Action for LDCs for the decade 2022-2031.



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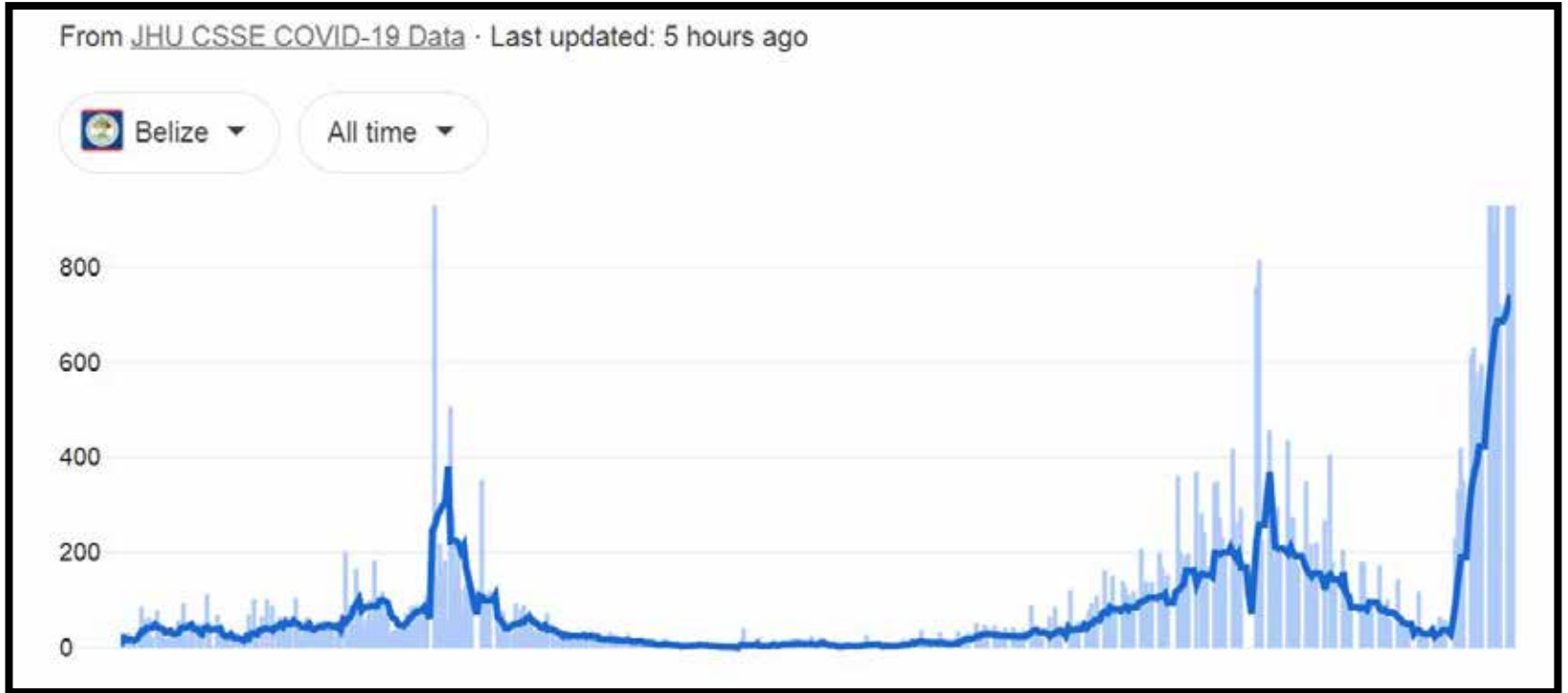
Fourth Wave in Midst of its Peak, Expected to Flatten Soon

By Michelle Sutherland

Encouraging data emerging out of the Ministry of Health and Wellness this week suggests that the Omicron wave will likely peak in the next couple of days before returning to a manageable level and hopefully signaling the end of the country's fourth wave.

When we spoke to the new Minister of Health and Wellness Hon Kevin Bernard this week, he indicated, "I have some positive news in terms of the trend and the data that we are looking at. While, yes, we are seeing a spike in cases, we believe that that spike will end somewhere between now and the 24th of January, and then gradually by the close of this month, you shall see the numbers starting to fall to pre-Omicron levels. So I think that we will be able to go back to manageable levels pretty soon."

Also weighing in on the situation was Central Health Region's Dr. Melissa Dias Musa who also confirms that data collected by the



Epidemiology Unit is indicating that the country is currently in the middle of its peak. According to Musa, that trend will continue through the latter part of this week and is expected to plateau before experiencing a rapid decrease in cases. Musa said that it is forecasted that those will occur before the beginning of February and that the situation will return to pre-Omicron level before the middle of the month.

Both Musa and Bernard, however, reiterated the need for more persons to become vaccinated,

and for those eligible for boosters to get theirs. They are also encouraging the need for the public to keep adhering to the public health measures.

One such measure that we asked Bernard about was the over-exhausted curfew and whether it is still needed at this point.

"Well, as you know, the current S.I. continues for another month in terms of the curfew and so we will definitely be revisiting that," Bernard explained. "I can tell you that Cabinet is seriously looking at that but we have to be guided by

the medical people. ... Currently they feel that the curfew must continue for the next month and then we will revisit thereafter."

While that remains to be seen, Bernard confirmed that the results of gene sequencing done

locally in Belize have also confirmed the presence of the Omicron variant in the country.

He revealed that the results of samples taken from across the country have indicated 83% was of the Omicron variant. Bernard, however,

stresses that while that was confirmed locally, the MOHW is still awaiting the official results of samples sent to Baylor College for official confirmation. Those results are expected to return in the next couple of days.

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CLASSIFIED ADS

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that **Juan and Rosario Sanchez** of #27 Western Street, San Ignacio, Cayo District, is applying for a renewal for a **Malt & Cider Liquor License** to be operated at **Kontiki Service Station** situated at **Benque Viejo Road, San Ignacio, Cayo District, for the year 2022.** Under the Intoxication Liquors Act (Revised Edition) of 2000.

Lost or Destroyed Debenture & Share Certificates

January 18, 2022

Notice is hereby given of the loss of the following Debenture and Share Certificates:

Name	Debenture Certificate No.
Philip C Freytag and/or Suzanne M Cooper	0247-0250

Name	Share Certificate No.
Gordon/Roberta Weil	1612, 1747, 3339
Orton Clarke	349
Benito Palacio	1133

It is proposed to cancel the above Debenture and Share Certificates after the expiration of twenty-one (21) days from the appearance of this notice.

Any of the above mentioned certificates are therefore required to be returned to:

Securities Officer
Finance Department
Belize Electricity Limited
2 ½ Miles Philip S. W. Goldson Highway

Phone: 501.227.0954 Ext: 1512 | Email: debentures@bel.com.bz

NOTICE**GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE TREASURY BILLS**
ISSUE NUMBER 2/2022

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

The Bills will be issued in electronic form only evidenced by an electronic book entry in the Central Securities Depository of the Central Bank of Belize in multiples of \$200 and will be repayable at par 91 days after issue. They will be issued on Tuesday, 25 January 2022 and will be redeemed on Tuesday, 26 April 2022.

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

Members of the public who wish to participate in the auction must submit their bid to the Central Bank of Belize electronically or at the designated drop off box no later than 12:00 noon on Friday, 21 January 2022.

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

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

Bank: Central Bank of Belize
Account: GL1CORP0402627

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

CENTRAL BANK OF BELIZE

Notices are placed on Central Bank of Belize Website (www.centralbank.org.bz)

BELIZE CITY,

Estate of SARITA SYLVIA TILLET, deceased

STATUTORY NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Pursuant to Section 36 of the Administration of Estates Act, Chapter 197 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2011, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all creditors and other persons having any claims or demands upon or against the Estate of SARITA SYLVIA TILLET, late of #69 West Collect Canal Street, Belize City, Belize District, Belize, are required to send particulars in writing of their claims or demands to the Executors of the said estate **LASCELLE HENRY TILLET and PHILIP MARION BALDERAMOS C/o Mr. PHILIP ZUNIGA, S.C., Attorney-at-Law, of 7 Cor. Saint Peter & Third Streets, King's Park, Belize City, Belize District, Belize**, and to send such particulars not later than the 18th day of April, 2022, AND NOTICE IS HEREBY ALSO GIVEN that at the expiration of the last mentioned date, the Executors will proceed to distribute the assets of the said SARITA SYLVIA TILLET, deceased, amongst the parties entitled thereto having regard only to the claims or demands of which particulars have been delivered and the Executors will not be liable for the assets of the deceased or any part thereof so distributed to any person or persons of whose claims or demands they shall not then have had notice.

DATED this 18th day of January, 2022.


PHILIP ZUNIGA, S.C.

Attorney-at-Law for the Executors

Magistrates Courts renovated and expand into new space



Attorney General Magali Marin-Young

By William Ysaguirre

The physical distancing requirements of the COVID-19 pandemic have made the Judiciary acutely aware of how cramped some of their court rooms are, a situation that will soon change, Attorney General Magali Marin-Young promised at the annual, ceremonial opening of the Supreme Court held online on Monday, January 17.

The Attorney General had no crystal ball to say when the pandemic will end, but Magistrates Courts will soon have more space as they will be moving into new quarters, she promised. With the Vital Statistics Unit and the Income Tax Unit both relocating to the new Eleanor Hall Building, the Family Court will be moving into more spacious accommodations at

the Charles Bartlett Hyde Building in Belize City, which will also afford them more parking space. The Court of Appeal has also taken up temporarily lodging at a building on Regent Street, while its old location is being repaired.

These renovations also extend to the districts where a new Magistrates Court will be built in the Orange Walk District, and the Belmopan Magistrates Court will be repaired. The Magistrate Court buildings in Dangriga and Independence Village are also currently being repaired, in spite of the Government's tight budget for 2021. She said this was because the buildings had been "woefully neglected and in serious disrepair with mold-infested walls, the ceiling giving in, and bathroom in unhygienic conditions, unfit for human use."

"In the long term, the government fully intends to commence the construction of the judicial complex to provide adequate spatial area for the entire court system to operate with larger court rooms all having state of the art technology," Marin-Young promised. The works will begin as soon as the economy recovers fully, and Belize securely overcomes the fiscal crisis. The requisite proof of vaccination to enter a Court building will remain.

Bar Association President Iliana Swift applauded the reforms the Attorney General has implemented, "The Bar has been encouraged by steps taken by the Attorney General to breathe life back into the legal system, with the recruitment of judges and implementation of new laws, and e-governance that improves services at the registries."

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

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

Position Name: Maintenance Mechanic (Generator Mechanic)

Vacancy Number: Belmopan-2022-02

Closing Date: January 28th, 2022

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

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

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

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

UN chief: 'Global solidarity is missing in action'

By Frank Dejongh

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, for the second year in a row, the Forum scrapped its annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland, for a series of online plenaries and discussions over the year ahead, under the banner of The Davos Agenda.

Speaking from New York, Mr. Guterres said that this year's event takes place "in the shadow of an enormously difficult period for economies, people and our planet."

According to the UN's flagship economic forecast released last week, the world is emerging from the depths of a paralyzing economic crisis, but recovery remains fragile and uneven.

With persistent labour market challenges, supply-chain disruptions, rising inflation and looming debt traps, the recovery is now slowing down drastically.

"The last two years have demonstrated a simple but brutal truth - if we leave anyone behind, we leave everyone behind", the UN chief said.

Vaccine equity

The Secretary-General then urged all participants in the Forum to focus on three urgent areas.

The first one, he explained, is to confront the pandemic with equity and fairness.

Reminding of the World Health Organization (WHO) goal to vaccinate 40 per cent of people in all countries by the end of last year, and 70 per cent by the middle of this year, Mr. Guterres said the world was nowhere even close.

In fact, he added, vaccination rates in high-income countries are "shamefully" seven times higher than in African countries.

Besides a focus on vaccine equity, he argued that the world must prepare for the next pandemic with investments in monitoring, early detection and rapid response plans in every country.

WHO's authority should also be strengthened, he said.

Global financial overhaul

The second area in need of urgent action is the global financial system.

"We need to reform the global financial system, so it works for all countries", Mr Guterres explained. "At this critical moment, we are setting in stone a lopsided recovery."

With more than eight out of ten recovery dollars being spent in developed countries, the UN chief believes low-income countries are at a huge disadvantage.

"They're experiencing their slowest growth in a generation - and trying to dig themselves out with woefully insufficient national budgets", he said.

Mr. Guterres pointed to record inflation, shrinking fiscal space, high interest rates and soaring energy and food prices, saying that they are hitting every corner of the world, especially low and middle-income countries.

For him, "the global financial system has failed them when they need it most."

Fit for purpose

He believes these nations are "shackled by mounting debt and extortionate interest rates" and ineligible for debt relief, despite surging poverty, unemployment and development losses.

Stressing the need for a system that is fit for purpose, the UN chief asked for urgent debt restructuring, reforms of the long-term debt architecture, and an expansion of the Common Framework for Debt Treatment to middle-income countries.

Mr. Guterres also asked governments and institutions to go beyond Gross Domestic Product to measure for investment risks, to address corruption and illicit financial flows, and to ensure that tax systems are "fair and designed in a way that truly reduces inequalities."

Real climate action

The third, and last, area highlighted by the Secretary-General was climate action in developing countries.

Even if all developed countries keep their promises to drastically reduce emissions by 2030, global emissions will still be too high to keep the 1.5 degree goal within reach.

According to UN-backed research, the world needs a 45 per cent reduction in global emissions this decade, but they are set to increase by 14 per cent by 2030.

Mr. Guterres argued that 1.2 degrees of warming has "already brought devastating consequences and soaring price tags measured in dollars and despair."

Over the last two decades, the economic toll from climate-related disasters skyrocketed by 82 per cent. Just last year, extreme weather caused \$120 billion in insured losses, and killed 10,000 people.

In 2020, climate shocks forced 30 million people to flee their homes, three times more than those displaced by war and violence. And one billion children are at an extremely high risk of suffering the impacts of climate change.

"Turning this ship around will take immense willpower and ingenuity from governments

and businesses alike, in every major-emitting nation", Mr. Guterres said.

Priorities

For the Secretary-General, the first priority must be a targeted phase-out of coal. No new coal plants should be built.

The Governments of Indonesia and Vietnam just announced their intention to get out of coal and transition to renewable energy. South Africa now has in place a just energy transition partnership to move beyond coal.

Last week, the UN chief took part in a meeting of the Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero, a group that has mobilized more than \$130 trillion around the net-zero goal.

For him, the alliance "has set the gold standard", and "the entire the financial system should follow their lead."

Across all three of these areas, Mr. Guterres argued, the international community needs the support, ideas, financing and voice of the global business community.

According to him, the world "cannot afford to replicate the inequalities and injustices that continue condemning tens of millions of people to lives of want, poverty and poor health."

"We cannot continue building walls between the haves and have-nots", he concluded.



MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING



NOTICE

Haulover Bridge Replacement Project

January 2022

The Ministry of Infrastructure Development & Housing through its construction contractor for the Haulover Bridge Replacement Project, M&M Engineering Consultants Ltd., informs the general public that two permanent mid-river foundation piers will be constructed in the Belize River at a location just downstream of the existing bridge.

Multiple heavy lifting barges will be used as platforms for heavy equipment used in the driving of piles and the construction of the reinforced concrete piers. Commencing Monday 24th January 2022 the barges will be in the river executing the works. The barges will be mostly stationary but at times there may be movement while ferrying materials, equipment and personnel.

No wake signs will be erected to caution boaters to go slow when approaching the Haulover Bridge in both directions of the river.

We would like to thank the general public for their kind cooperation in respecting, abiding by these safety precautions and by exercising due attention and care when navigating through the worksite.

ENDS

2021 joins top 7 warmest years on record: WMO

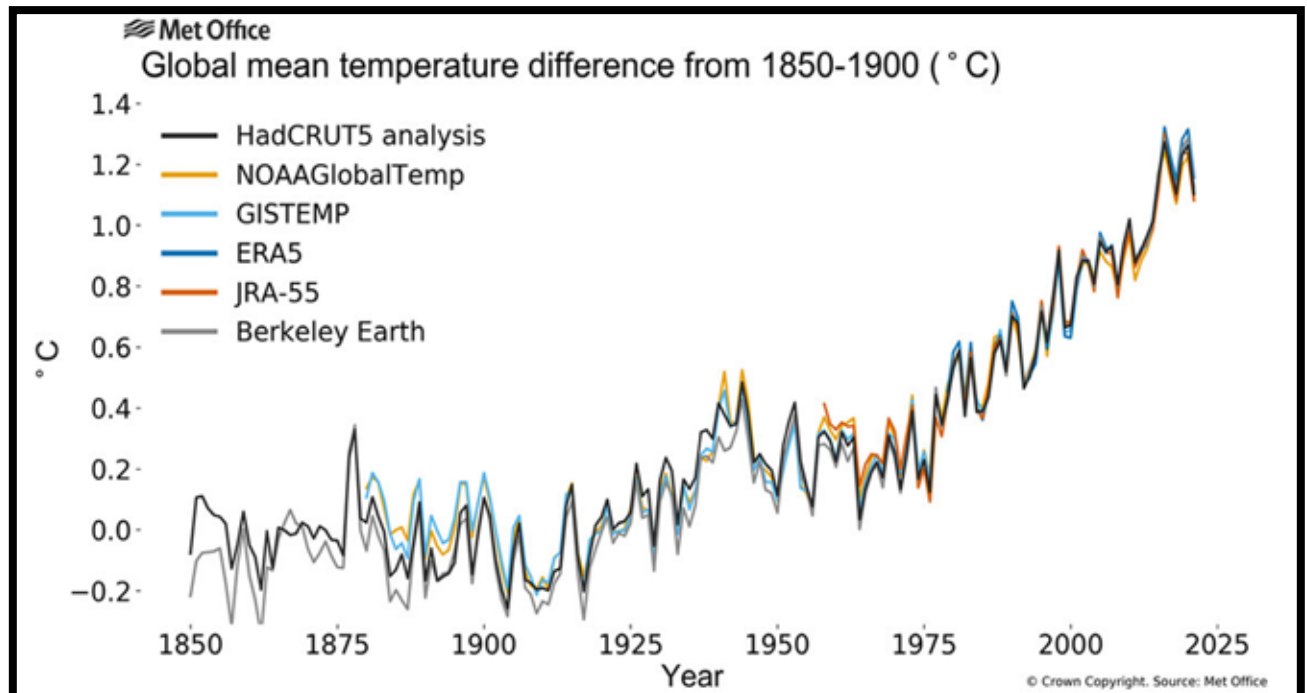
By Paul Strauss

Last year joined the list of the seven warmest years on record, the UN weather agency said on Wednesday, and was also the seventh consecutive year when the global temperature has been more than 1°C above pre-industrial levels; edging closer to the limit laid out under the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

Although average global temperatures were temporarily cooled by the 2020-2022 La Niña events, 2021 was still one of the seven warmest years on record, according to six leading international datasets consolidated by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

Global warming and other long-term climate change trends are expected to continue as a result of record levels of heat-trapping greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, the agency said.

The average global temperature in 2021 was about 1.11 (± 0.13) °C above the pre-industrial era levels. The Paris Agreement calls for all countries to strive towards a limit of 1.5°C of global warming through concerted climate action and realistic Nationally Determined



Contributions – the individual country plans that need to become a reality to slow down the rate of heating.

WMO said that it uses six international datasets “to ensure the most comprehensive, authoritative temperature assessment”, and the same data are used in its authoritative

annual State of the Climate reports.

Since the 1980s, each decade has been warmer than the previous one, said WMO and “this is expected to continue.”

The warmest seven years have all been since 2015; the top three being 2016, 2019 and 2020. An exceptionally strong El Niño event occurred in 2016, which contributed to record global average warming.

“Back-to-back La Niña events mean that 2021 warming was relatively less pronounced compared to recent years. Even so, 2021 was still warmer than previous years influenced by La Niña”, said WMO Secretary-General, Prof. Petteri Taalas.

Undeniable Trend

“The overall long-term warming as a result of greenhouse gas increases is now far larger than the year-to-year variability in global average temperatures caused by naturally occurring climate drivers”.

“The year 2021 will be remembered for a record-shattering temperature of nearly 50°C in Canada, comparable to the values reported in the hot Saharan Desert of Algeria, exceptional rainfall, and deadly flooding in Asia and Europe as well as drought in parts of Africa and South America”, the WMO chief added.

“Climate change impacts and weather-related hazards had life-changing and devastating impacts on communities on every single continent”, Mr. Taalas underscored.

Others key indicators of global heating include greenhouse gas concentrations, ocean heat content, ocean pH levels (levels of acidity), global mean sea level, glacial mass and the extent of sea ice.

WMO uses datasets – which are based on monthly climatological data from observing sites and ships and buoys in global marine networks - developed and maintained by the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), NASA’s Goddard Institute for Space Studies (NASA GISS), the United Kingdom’s Met Office Hadley Centre, and the University of East Anglia’s Climatic Research Unit (HadCRUT); and the Berkeley Earth group.

WMO also uses reanalysis datasets from the European Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasts and its Copernicus Climate Change Service, and the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA).

WMO said that the temperature figures will be incorporated into its final report on the State of the Climate in 2021, which will be issued in April this year.

This will reference all key climate indicators and selected climate impacts, and updates a provisional report issued in October 2021 ahead of the COP26 climate conference in Glasgow, Scotland.



VACANCY: JOB OPPORTUNITY

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to fill the following post in the IT Department. In the Port’s continued effort to promote diversity, both females/males, are encouraged to apply for the available post.

IT SUPPORT TECHNICIAN

Reports to: IT Supervisor

Summary of Responsibilities: The IT Service Desk is the central point of contact for all IT related incidents and service requests. The role of the IT Support Technician is to provide second line support for all team members Port of Belize Limited. An IT Support Technician is responsible for resolving complex support requests with computer hardware, software, and network systems, as well as meeting customer satisfaction and continuous service delivery demands. Provides research and support for new technologies to be used within our environment. IT Support staff work in a dynamic, fast-paced environment which provides services over the phone, through e-mail, phone, and in person.

Job Responsibilities:

1. Diagnose and resolve software and hardware incidents, including operating system and across a range of software applications.
2. Assist all users with any logged IT related incident when called upon.
3. Manage IT Department Inventory and Provide Monthly report.
4. Upgrade Windows Operating systems and Microsoft office applications.
5. Active Directory Management - Create and Manage Domain User accounts.
6. Administrate TOS (Terminal Operating System) OCTOPI and CMMS.
7. Coordinate with Software Vendors regarding application issues and new features, roll outs, etc.
8. Supervised daily backups and test weekly/monthly backup integrity.
9. Manage and control the implementation of new IT systems, and the ongoing refinement of existing systems.
10. Ensuring that systems and applications are optimized and effective, and that necessary support skills are in place.
11. Able to manage and troubleshoot VLANS Networking issues (Local Network, Surveillance Network, and VOIP network)
12. Able to run and create queries in SQL and produce reports when needed undertaking other duties not specially stated which from time to time are necessary without altering the nature or level of responsibility.
13. You are required to assist the IT support functions at other Waterloo Investment Holdings Ltd. entities from time to time any other duties that may be assigned of a related nature.

Job qualifications/Requirements:

- Associates Degree or equivalent Technical Certificates
- Minimum 3-5 years’ experience in (VOIP, VLANS, Network, Protocols, Virtual Environment-SQL/VB, MS Server environment, Windows Operating System)
- Knowledgeable in SQL/VB or equivalent (3-5 years) database/application development & manipulation

Skills/Competencies:

- Ability to work independently
- Able to work flexible hours
- Strong analytical skills

Supreme Court hearings cutting edge and cost-cutting

By William Ysaguirre

The health restrictions for prevention of COVID-19 and its new Omicron variant have forced the Supreme Court to use cutting edge technology to conduct trial hearings virtually, and so it was with the annual, ceremonial opening of the Supreme Court on Monday, January 17.

It's a "stretch-mi-guts, gimme-thank you" situation where the Judiciary has had to do more with less, as Acting Chief Justice Michelle Arana lamented in her keynote address. The Government's budget cuts reduced the Courts' allocation to \$7,981,654 for the fiscal year, which she said "is woefully inadequate" and even less than the previous year of 2020 when the pandemic began.

She noted that the judges are fully aware of the need to reduce public spending as the economy has been hard hit by the pandemic. But "the effective and efficient administration of justice" cannot come from a judiciary that is "overburdened, under-resourced" and hamstrung by a lack of funding. The Judiciary's daily exposure to the COVID pandemic was very high, as the Court, by its very nature, is a public place that provides citizens with service. Arana's appointment has yet to be confirmed, she remains the Acting Chief Justice.

The Supreme Court workers are 100 percent vaccinated, Deputy Registrar Patricia Arana noted, but virtual court hearings will continue for the foreseeable future to prevent the transmission of the virus and its new variants. The Courts were rewired to improve Internet access and to accommodate for virtual courtrooms

and the facilities at the Kolbe Foundation are now being expanded to accommodate several virtual hearings simultaneously. The quality of service remains the same, even if the personal touch is absent.

The Court of Appeal has completely adapted to the virtual environment, successfully holding two virtual hearings in October 2020 and October 2021, as Deputy Registrar Melissa Rowley noted happily, and these new practices will continue until further notice.

The challenges of following all anti-COVID protocols in child protection and custody cases, where social officers are required to conduct home visits to complete social inquiry reports, as resulted in case delays, and the back log continues to mount, Family Court Director Dale Cayetano noted. The Family Court adapted rapidly to telephone and video hearing through Microsoft TEAMS software to speed up cases and address the backlog. It was hard enough for the litigants and lawyers to fit into a small, cramped court room, but the COVID protocols has now forced them to sit apart for social distancing.

The Court workers have embraced the new ICT technology to work safely and efficiently, minimizing in person contact, by using cell phones and laptop computers, which were previously strictly prohibited to journalists in the court room before COVID. Now everyone has gone digital. Case files and all supporting documents are now filed digitally using the APEX suite of court software.

In the case of persons charged with trafficking, curfew violations and other COVID-19 related matters, the accused can plead guilty by



Acting Chief Justice Michelle Arana

mail, and then check with the Court about their fines at a later date, Chief Magistrate Sharon Frazer explained.

The Bar Association has welcomed the new efficiency achieved with ICT changes which became necessary during the pandemic, and wants these new procedures to continue even when the pandemic is over.

The Judiciary pre-recorded the entire virtual ceremony with the help of the Government Press Office and Apex Justice.



VACANCY: JOB OPPORTUNITY

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to fill the following post in the Marine Department. In the Port's continued effort to promote diversity both males/females, able/ differently abled are encouraged to apply for the available post.

BOAT CAPTAIN

Reports to: Marine Manager

Summary of Responsibilities: The primary duty of the Boat Captain is to safely navigate the vessel of which he has in command. The captain has absolute authority relating to the safe conduct of his voyage and he alone shall make determinations regarding the safety of his vessel, crew and passengers, including when put to the sea. This post is fun and challenging, come prepared for a new venture.

Job Responsibilities:

- Operate and navigate all Port of Belize Limited vessels under command in a safe and efficient manner.
- Ensure that the Pilots Launches are always in a state of readiness to perform its function. Be thoroughly familiar with the duties of a Captain/Engineer as contained in Belize Port Authority Mariner's Handbook.
- Provide proper accounting for all fuel and lubricants and for spare parts used in repairs and maintenance including a log Book for each vessel.
- Ensure the safe handling of hazardous material in compliance with current safety precautions and environmental protection laws and regulations in the procurement, stowage and disposal of such materials.
- Ensure that the Pilots & Stevedores embarking and disembarking from ship are done in a safe and efficient manner.
- Follow proper and comprehensive preventative maintenance program for the Pilot Launches as provided and assist to effect repairs to engines of the Pilot Launch.
- In time of emergency or danger, when in command, give proper and clear instructions.
- Inspect Vessels, check fuel levels, major shipboard systems, navigational lights and sound devices.
- Ensure all safety devices are onboard and in good working order.
- Complete Pre & Post voyage check list.
- Any other duties of a related nature assigned from time to time.

Job Qualifications/Requirement:

- Minimum High School Diploma.
- 5 years' boat handling experience preferred (minimum Class B).
- Possess a valid Boat Captain License Class C.
- Knowledge of maritime laws and regulations

Required Skills, Knowledge and Characteristics: To be selected applicants must possess the following important characteristics:

- Firm Knowledge of marine craft communication and problem-solving skills.
- Must have the ability to adapt to changing conditions and respond to emergency situations.
- Able to easily multi-task and work independently.
- Team Oriented, Punctual, and Ethical

Compensation Package: Will be commensurate (in accordance with the Company's Salary Structure).

To apply: Provide updated resume, cover letter (addressed to Human Resource Manager), copy of valid social security card, valid police report, name and phone number of two(2) previous employers.

Email to:

jobapplications@portofbelize.com

Closing date for receipt of applications is Monday, January 31st, 2022.

CABEI funds \$1.25 million scholarships for Belize

By William Ysaguirre

The Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) has awarded Belize a \$1,250,000 grant to fund 225 new high school scholarships for children as part of its five-year Bicentennial Scholarship Program.

CABEI Executive President Dr. Dante Ariel Mossi Reyes and Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño signed the grant agreement for financial cooperation at the Laing Building in Belize City on Wednesday, January 19. Dr. Mossi also announced that the Bank will be opening an office in Belize next year.

The scholarship program is aimed to improve access to secondary education for low-income students, thereby enhancing their social welfare in the bank's beneficiary member countries of Belize, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras,

Nicaragua, and Panama. The scholarships will be awarded to adolescents who meet the criteria established in the CABEI program. A Selection Committee will choose the scholarship recipients in accordance with the provisions established by CABEI; the committee will include representatives of the CABEI-ASF Fund and Regional Projects Office (PROREG) and the CABEI's Sovereign Public Sector Manager or a designate, and members designated by the coordinating agency.

Minister of State for Education Hon. Louis Zabaneh, Culture, Science, Technology and E-Governance; Chief Executive Officer Dian Castillo-Maheia, CEO in the ministry; and Chief Education Officer Yolanda Gongora attended the signing of the scholarship agreement.

Dr. Mossi led a CABEI delegation for a week-long working mission to Belize, which arrived on Monday, January



PM Briceño and Dr. Mossi sign scholarship agreement

17. They first met with the Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Hon. Christopher Coye, CEO Narda Garcia, CEO Osmond Martinez, Financial Secretary Joseph Waight, and Director Carlos Pol of the Climate Finance Unit and Technical Focal Point to CABEI.

Prime Minister Briceño and Dr. Mossi discussed new initiatives in agriculture, health, transportation, education, business process outsourcing, micro, small and medium enterprises, and

infrastructure, which this administration would like to pursue with CABEI financing. Dr. Mossi pledged to continue to help the people and the Government of Belize, especially during the pandemic. He explained that CABEI has different financial instruments to help Belize, such as the Taiwan Trust Fund and the CABEI/Green Climate Fund. He indicated that CABEI

can also help with public/private investment in infrastructure projects.

The CABEI delegation also held meetings with the ministers and CEOs of the ministries of Health, Education, Infrastructure Development, Home Affairs, National Defence, Agriculture, Youth, Blue Economy, Sustainable Development, Public Utilities and Tourism. They also met

with private-sector organizations such as the Banana Growers Association, Citrus Growers Association, Belize Sugar Industries Ltd, and the Corozal Free Zone management. They also met with Belize Electricity Limited, Digi, and the Development Finance Corporation to get an update on ongoing projects and other projects that the Bank may finance.

The CABEI delegation includes Ken Chang-Keng Chen, Director for the Republic of China (Taiwan), Communication Advisor Salvador Sacasa of the Foreign Affairs Office, Public-Private manager Carlos Gomez Diaz, Social Support Foundation manager Jaejin Lee, Project Executive Kerstin Morales, and Structuring Executive Elan Tabora.

Belize and Costa Rica sign cooperation agreements



Minister Courtenay and Minister Solano Quirós signed joint declarations

By William Ysaguirre

Belize has agreed to cooperate with Costa Rica in generating foreign trade, agriculture, foreign direct investments and to improve human development.

Costa Rica's Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Rodolfo Solano Quirós agreed to these areas of cooperation when he met with Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Immigration Hon. Eamon Courtenay at the Leigh Richardson Building in Belmopan on Wednesday, January 19th.

Minister Courtenay and Minister Solano Quirós signed joint declarations to establish a strategic alliance for comprehensive cooperation and to preserve the oceans and seas. They also signed other agreements to cooperate in tourism and adaptation to Climate Change.

Minister of State Hon. Ramon Cervantes and Chief Executive Officer Amalia Mai accompanied Minister Courtenay, when he and Minister Solano Quirós also discussed Belize's Chairmanship of CARICOM, Belize's participation

in the Central America Integration System (SICA) in areas of tourism, environment and climate change, food and animal health safety and vocational technical training.

Director of International Affairs (Policy) Ayesha Borland, Director of International Affairs (Cooperation) Orla Kantun Coleman and Foreign Service Officer Emil Waight also attended these talks.

Foreign Minister Solano Quirós had also paid a courtesy visit to Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño when he arrived on Tuesday.

2022 Workshops

The Belize Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCCI)

Workshops will be Facilitated by
University of the West Indies, Open Campus Belize (UWI) and
Belize Training & Employment Centre (BTEC)

For more information contact BCCI at
📞 (501) 614-3138
✉️ bcci@belize.org
📞 (501) 223-5330

Effective Remote Working	January 20th	BTEC
Time Management	January 26th	UWI
Advanced Customer Service	February 3rd	BTEC
Roles and Responsibilities of a New Supervisor	February 8th	UWI
Team Building and Work Culture Development – inclusive of teleworking/rotation situations	February 17th	BTEC
Effective Business Communication (considering teleworking and the new digital age)	February 24th	UWI
Marketing and Sales (Inclusive of digitization)	March 2nd	UWI
Digital Records Management	March 17th	UWI
Professional Etiquette	March 23rd	BTEC
Telephone Etiquette	April 6th	BTEC
Marketing and Sales (Inclusive of digitization)	June 7th	UWI
Advanced Customer Service	May 10th	BTEC
Service Recovery Handling Difficult Customers	May 17th	BTEC
Disciplinary Action - The Importance of Documentation	May 25th	BTEC
Strategic Planning & Management	August 24th	UWI
Disciplinary Action - The Importance of Documentation	October 6th	UWI
Advanced Customer Service	November 2nd	BTEC

New Minister of Health Quick to Identify and Address Ministry's Shortfall

By Michelle Sutherland

Having only taken over the Ministry of Health and Wellness last week, Minister Kevin Bernard says that he has observed that the lack of persons filling in key positions within the Ministry is one of the breeding grounds for what has been perceived as the ministry's shortfall.

Speaking to The Reporter on Wednesday, Minister Bernard, whose succession to the post was swift, indicated. "I

feel like because of the lack of many of these positions that are not filled in the ministry that is where we tend to see weaknesses. So I want to make sure that we strengthen the ministry in terms of the human resource capacity that is required to get these units functioning for example the Central Lab. We currently have a lot of people acting in positions instead of having them placed in these substantive positions. We need

to get these things out and done with as fast as possible so that we can start moving in the right direction and so that people can be tasked with what they need to do."

The new minister in highlighting his other priorities for the ministry said that he will be focusing on putting the requisite structures in place within the ministry so that it can be well equipped to continue its fight against the pandemic. He said that one

of his utmost priorities at this point is to reduce the daily infection rate across the country, increase the vaccination rate, and ensure that the services, medication, and supplies at all the facilities country-wide are made available to citizens. To get all this working, Bernard reiterated the need for the requisite structures, as well as the need for a common, and unified goal for the ministry on all fronts, including working along with partner facilities like the KHHM to address their shortfalls and needs such as the lacks of nurses and subvention. Something he claims is already being addressed.

"For me, it is about building structure, and at the same time making sure that the morale of our staff is boosted so that



Health Minister Hon. Kevin Bernard

people can come to work and feel like they want to come to work and to provide efficient service to our citizens."

When asked about his experience so far, Bernard told us that it has been a hectic few days trying to get the ball moving. He, however, charted down his experience as a "smooth transition," and says that he has spent his time doing his rounds with the heads of the various departments,

scheduling meetings and setting a unified vision for one of the country's most important ministries at this point. In closing, Bernard said that he is also assessing the strengths and weaknesses of his staff in an effort to place them where best suited.



Mottley sweeps Barbados general elections for the second time



By Dyllan Lawrence

Barbados PM Mia Mottley

The Barbados Labour Party (BLP) made history on January 20th, 2022, as they became the first party to win a general election since Barbados's transition into a Parliamentary republic.

Prime Minister Mia Mottley, who made history as Barbados's first female prime minister in the previous election, lead the party to another historical accomplishment. The victory of this snap election, which was called 18 months before it was constitutionally due, lead the party to become the second political organization in the Caribbean to sweep all the seats in Parliament in an election on consecutive occasions.

The first to have achieved this political feat is the New National Party of Grenada, lead

by Prime Minister Dr. Keith Mitchell, who won three consecutive elections in a clean sweep of all 15 seats.

The BLP won all 30 seats in the national legislature, according to reports published by local media. The party had previously held 29 seats following its landslide win in 2018.

The BLP's victory was met with criticism by opposition leader for holding the elections in the midst of the pandemic where many infected individuals would not be able to leave their homes and vote. To no prevail, the opposition sought a court injunction to stop the snap elections on the grounds that holding an elections amid the pandemic restrictions violated suffrage rights.

On Tuesday night the high court of Barbados ruled that it

has no jurisdiction to postpone the election. For reference, 6,900 of Barbados's estimated population total of 287,000 are actively infected with Covid-19 and were, therefore, unable to vote due to the pandemic restrictions. Mottley won her seat by 3,216 votes, which is slightly less than half of the total which were unable to take part.

"We stand today on the morning of the 20th of January confident that the people have spoken with one voice - decisively, unanimously and clearly," said Mottley to her cheering supporters at the BLP headquarters.

She further added in her victory remarks made online, "We want to thank each and every one of the people of Barbados for the confidence that they continue to repose in us."

Karl H. Menzies

COMPANY LIMITED

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GENERAL MANAGER- KARL H. MENZIES GROUP

The Karl H. Menzies group is looking for a **General Manager** with minimum 5 years' experience working with e-commerce marketplace sites, experience with transforming retail businesses through e-business, familiar with data driven conversion optimizations, custom-made digital marketplace go-to-market strategies, a vetted set of advertising, marketing, and PR tools, and familiar with all financial targets for the company and the different entities of the group.

The Group Manager must have proven experienced in delivering scalable e-commerce, marketplace, and Omni-channel businesses, building brands, producing new opportunities, optimizing marketing spend, an immediate financial impact to the overall business.

The Group Manager must have the ability to quickly understand market trends, analyze relevant data, build up a position and present business plans in an insightful fashion with the commitment to further own and lead their execution.

Specialties:

- Creating & driving e-commerce, online marketplace, & omni channel sales growth
- Building and executing GTM strategies
- Developing ecommerce e-retail marketplaces:
- WTP & HTP marketplace evaluation and business development
- Leveraging service partners to accelerate growth and consolidate costs
- Brand protection program design, implementation, & enforcement
- eCommerce marketplace platform optimization
- Evaluation of strategic service partners & tools
- Vendor management & contract negotiations
- Customer & partner relationship management
- Managing, training, & mentoring of support staff to build out marketplace teams
- P&L financial analysis, pricing models, ROI reporting
- Forecasting & product life cycle management
- Strategic marketing, PR, product positioning & messaging
- Strategic & critical thinking

All interested applicants should email info@karlmenzies.com by deadline- **January 28th, 2022.**

Coyotes blamed for livestock attack across the country

By Michelle Sutherland

Over the past couple of weeks, farmers in the Orange Walk, Corozal, and even the Belize River Valley area have been waking up to find that several of their livestock, mostly sheep and chickens, have been slaughtered over the course of the night and their carcasses left strewn around their farms.

The occurrence has triggered panic among livestock owners who have recorded these losses almost every night for the past couple of weeks. Pictures sent to us revealed that in the

majority of these cases the livestock are killed and their intestines are ripped out, however, there are no other injuries on their bodies, thereby, leaving farmers baffled.

Following up on these reports, The Reporter contacted Minister of Agriculture Jose Mai who confirmed that the culprits are coyotes, a relative of the canine native of North America and smaller than their close relative, the wolf. Mai explained that it seems that the coyotes have started to migrate from the United States, into Belize, and even as far as Guatemala. While Mai could not

confirm the exact species of coyotes as yet, he said that this is the first time that they have been spotted in Belize.

“Coyotes attack in packs of five or ten and they feed at night. They are extremely clever, they are very cunning, and they are very difficult to be caught. We have had numerous reports coming in that they are attacking much more animals, especially in the villages. A month ago they attacked one farmer, who had hundreds of chickens in August Pine Ridge Village. They went into the foul coop and so it now seems that they are getting more brazen and

bolder. We realize that we need to do something about that because it seems that they are not afraid of humans anymore and they have the potential to attack a small child, so we need to act now.”

Mai told the Reporter that while the coyote's attacks were dubbed as isolated cases, the attacks are becoming more frequent as the week's progress. That has prompted the Ministry of Agriculture to partner with the Forestry Department to work on a plan of action to contain

the situation and ensure the protection of farmers and their livestock as well as the safety of children in rural communities.

Mai said that his director of livestock is currently meeting with the Forestry Department to discuss whether these animals are endangered species and how they might be able to trap them in an effort to reduce the population before they become a bigger issue.

Mai noted that in one instance where farmers from Indian Creek Village have developed a strategy

to trap the coyotes by using a recording of a female coyote howling, in an effort to lure them to a certain area where they are then killed. While that seems to be a good strategy Mai said that the final determination will be left up to the Forestry Department to make. He is advising farmers in the Orange Walk, Corozal, River Valley area, and even the Cayo District to be on high alert to secure their livestock at night and to keep a close eye on young children.

Weh Wi Ga Fi Seh

Kip sayf fahn di vairos!
Kip op yu helt.

Welkohn Migl a Janiweri 2022

Wi don deh da migl mont a Janiweri 2022. Disemba mi en op wid wahn big laas fi wi. Wi preshos Myrna Manzanares gaahn bak tu Faada Gaad. Ih spirit now deh wid Leela Vernon, Mista Peetaz, Mista Percy Reynolds, Aanarabl Philip Goldson, Ruby Marriot Perriot, Rosalie T. Staines (Oapn Paki) ahn aal di ada pipl weh mi help kip op Kriol kolcha joorin dehn taihn pahn Mada Ert. Soh, weh wi ku aal laan wen wi hafu seh gudbai tu wi preshos pipl? Dis da di laif lesn dehn mee di laan moa ahn moa evritaihn Faada Gaad kaal bak hoahn wan a mi pipl dehn:

Fain hapinis eena lee evriday ting.

Ih ku oanli haad haad haad fi du dis sohntain, speshali wid disya jratid koroanavairos. Sohn a wi ga moni ahn helt woriz. Pahn tap, sohn a wi famili ahn faamli di geh sik ahn sohn di wayk op ded. Mee tink seh evribadi noa sohnadi weh don kech di vairos, er noa sohnadi weh di vairos tek weh.

Eet helti ahn moov yu badi.

Mek wi eet moa helti ting. Pahn tap a dat, wi need fi geh lee eksasaiz. Yu ku eevn eksasaiz az yu di kleen! Wi don noa seh dat disya jratid koroanavairos lov atak pipl wid presha ahn shuga. Soh eet gud ahn lee eksasaiz gud fi aal a wi.

Tank Faada Gaad evriday.

Tank Faad Gaad fi si dis day ahn evriday. Nof pipl wi noa di wayk op ded dehnya dayz. Sohn seh dis vairos di tek weh pipl bifo dehn taihn. Bot maybi dis da dehn taihn eniway. Mi layt pa doz ga wahn ting ih doz seh: Eena English da dis: *My days were limited before they existed.* Eena Kriol, mee uda chranslayt dis laik: **Wen Ah fi wayk op ded mi don set bifo Ah mi eevn baan.**

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



Green Climate Fund provides \$3.45 million for Belize climate resilience

By William Ysaguirre

Belize seeks to lower carbon emissions with new development projects that are climate-resilient, for which the newly established Climate Finance Unit (CFU) has accessed two grants of €991,810 (Bze\$2.25 million) and a \$1.2 million from Green Climate Fund for two projects.

The €991,810 euros will fund a project to strengthen the capacity of the community of Belizean organizations which have direct to access climate finance to implement programs and projects to help Belize adapt to Climate Change and to mitigate its impacts. The project will support efforts for the Adaptation Fund (AF) to become coherent with the Green Climate Fund (GCF) through these organizations. The two funding agencies have been promoting direct access as the best way for developing countries to gain ownership of their climate projects

and ensure they remain in the driving seat of climate finance.

The \$1.2 million will help the various conservation organizations involved in the Belize National Protected Areas System (BNPAS) to become accredited to the Fund. It will also help in providing technical support for the Belize Social Investment Fund (BSIF) and Ministry of Economic Development to gain access for up to US\$50 million in grant funding directly from the GCF and other international funding institutions. To do this, the ministry must develop and present a strategic plan, a mechanism for a grant award, a framework to manage finances, and a framework to include the environmental, social and gender components. This will help the ministry access funding for social projects in education, health, water, and sanitation.

The Protected Areas Conservation Trust (PACT) was the first

Belize organization to become accredited for direct access to the GCF and has also been accredited as Belize's national implementing entity for the Adaptation Fund. Other Belize organizations such as the Development Finance Corporation, Belize Social Investment Fund and the Ministry of Economic Development have the potential to become accredited to the GCF. The project will build their capacity to design and develop projects which can access GCF funding. The project will also improve their ability to implement, monitor, and evaluate these projects to promote the country's ownership of the projects with an understanding of our national priorities.

The grant will address the gaps in the governance framework for these direct access organizations and their mechanisms for communication and outreach to the Belizean public.

Commission of Inquiry recommends law reforms

By William Ysaguirre

The report emanating from the Commission of Inquiry (COI) into the sale of government assets has recommended several reforms to Belize's laws.

The report, which was presented to Cabinet last Tuesday, January 11, specifically recommended that the Finance and Audit Reform Act be amended to expand the regulations governing the sale of Government assets.

The report identifies several loopholes in the law, which allows the minister discretion in the sale of assets. The report also questions the way in which the law was interpreted.

The Finance and Audit Reform Act (FARA) requires an open tendering procedure for any sales contract of a value of \$5 million or more and that any disposal of public assets valued \$2 million or more must be approved by the National Assembly, but the Commission was primarily tasked with investigating the sales of 112 government vehicles.

Part IV of the Act provides for an open tendering procedure, a selective tendering procedure and a limited tendering

procedure, but the report notes that there was no tendering procedure followed in the sale of any of the 112 vehicles it investigated. The Act empowers the government to dispose of or sell public assets, but the FARA fails to prescribe the nature of the tendering procedure to be followed.

The Act also requires that any authorization for such a sale must be signed by the minister or Chief Executive Officer, and this authorization must be published in the Gazette. In the case of the vehicle sales, most were authorized by the former Prime Minister Dean Barrow himself, but they were not published in the Gazette.

The sales were effectuated by the head of the Vehicle Care Unit, and were disposed of as 'unserviceable', when in fact the vehicles proved to be quite serviceable.

In most cases, the vehicles were sold to a buyer who had appealed to the Minister of Finance and received his approval, and not because the government had any need to dispose of the vehicle.

The report suggests that the procedures of the Vehicle Car Unit need to be



Commission of Inquiry Chairman Andrew Marshalleck

reformed, so that vehicles are only sold when the Government formally decides to sell an unserviceable vehicle, rather than an occasional request from an interested buyer for a vehicle which is still in working condition. Such sale should also be for the market value of the vehicle.

Chapter 10 of the Financial Orders and Stores Orders presently allows for any contract for works or services up to \$1,000 may be verbal and should be in writing for contracts valued between \$1,000 and \$20,000 with the signed approval of the Minister responsible, but contracts over \$20,000 should be

done by a tendering process with a tendering committee. In the sales of the vehicles investigated, the 'tendering' process was very limited since there was only one buyer considered in each case.

The Financial Orders and Stores Orders remain in effect, except where

they are inconsistent with the Finance and Audit Reform Act which supersedes the orders. The FARA provides for the orders to be amended with new regulations, but such new regulations have never been issued.

The report notes that where the sale of a public asset involves the Government

entering contracts with members of the National Assembly, there were no repercussions on their qualification to continue to sit in the assembly by virtue of relevant provisions of the Belize Constitution and without regard to the obvious heightened need for transparency in transactions approved by the Prime Minister in favor of members of his own Cabinet.

The note was that "the overall result was that the Ministry of Finance routinely sold motor vehicles to favored persons at less than market value and at losses to the Consolidated Revenue Fund. There was simply no regard for any lawful process to secure the best value for assets sold or to identify purchasers in any open or transparent way. The sales all reflected the mismanagement of public resources and clearly involved waste and abuse."

VACANCY

Dr. Lesly Perez has open vacancies for qualified personal in the following fields bellow:

1. Cook
2. Baby sitter

Address: Bougainvillea Street, Orange Walk Town.

For any further information please call # 322-0899.

S U D O K U

Medium Puzzle

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

Answer to Puzzle

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

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.



THE BUSINESS PERSPECTIVE



The high cost of “exclusion”

This week the Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) announced the winner of the \$2500 MSME Inclusivity Grant in the person of Mr. Miguel Vejerano, a visually impaired electronic technician. The grant—funded by the Embassy of the Republic of China (Taiwan) in Belize and with guidance for the Disability Desk in the Ministry of Human Development—was extended towards “entrepreneurs living with a disability.”

The BCCI, the country’s largest and oldest business advocacy organization, when it was invited to participate in last year’s Disability Conference, viewed its involvement as the natural extension of its mandate. As the Chamber’s Vice-President of Services had outlined in her speech at the conference last November, the country’s business environment cannot afford to exclude persons with disabilities.

More specifically, according to the International Labour Organization (ILO, 2010), the cost of excluding persons with disabilities from the workforce is a “social problem” that costs between 3% and 7% “of any given country’s GDP [Gross Domestic Product].” Annually, using Belize’s (nominal) GDP figures for 2019—which was \$3.89 billion according to the Statistical Institute of Belize (SIB)’s revised figures—that places Belize’s potential cost of exclusion somewhere between \$117 million and \$222 million!

Belize’s tax take (revenue) as a percentage of GDP averages just about 27%. That suggests that the public purse could potentially benefit from an additional \$31 million to almost \$60 million each year if persons with disabilities are adequately included. The upper bound (\$60 million) rivals the combined budget for five ministries: The Ministry of Tourism, Sustainable Development, Ministry of Human Development, Ministry of Public Utilities and Logistics, and the Attorney General’s Ministry.

Even accepting the middle point of

\$45 million in “new” tax revenues to the Consolidated Fund, over the next five years one could argue that Belize could gain close to \$200 million that could be used for public-sector initiatives that are targeted towards improving the quality of life of Belizeans.

Of course, those are conservative estimates still. The reality is that statistical analyses have consistently confirmed the positive and statistically significant correlation between disability and poverty. Unfortunately, this “positive” is actually a negative. That is to say, these findings—which are consistent across varying locations, countries, and even various research methodologies—make the point that disabled individuals are likely to be victims of poverty due to the exclusion that they face.

Similarly, there is also a statistically significant and “positive” correlation between unemployment and disability. Investigations into this area show that persons with disabilities have a higher propensity to be unemployed. This latter (unemployment) fact is a major contributing factor to the aforementioned poverty. It’s a vicious cycle.

Poverty pulls down GDP Growth

Of course, it is worth noting that the impact of exclusion extends beyond the direct effects on persons living with disabilities. But let’s take this one step further and talk about how this impacts all of us.

In a fairly recent, March 2021 IMF Working Paper, one would find the following words:

“The empirical evidence shows that poverty is detrimental to long-term economic growth. ... [Researchers] find that a 10 percentage-point increase in the poverty rate reduces the GDP per capita growth rate by 1 percentage point. In particular, an increase in the poverty rate reduces the investment rate for countries with low levels of financial development.”

That’s the truth, and it brings the quote from Nelson Mandela: “As long as poverty, injustice and gross inequality exist in our world, none of us can truly rest.”

Therefore, while the human rights case for ensuring that persons with disabilities persons have healthy “livelihoods” by being included in all areas of society is strong enough on its own (and should indeed be enough), the point here is this: If poverty—which is a common phenomena faced by persons with Disabilities—drags on the overall macroeconomy, then that means that no one is unaffected. Said differently, whether directly or indirectly, let us understand that everyone’s livelihood is on the line here.

The Channels of Exclusion

So, together, as advised by the World Health Organization (WHO), Belize must target those key “life areas” in which “people with disabilities experience widespread exclusion as a result of physical, attitudinal, financial, and policy barriers”. Those life areas are Education, Work and Employment, and Health.

EDUCATION: If the tenets of Inclusive Growth rest on equal access to opportunities, with those opportunities themselves often

being tied to skills, then we cannot afford to exclude persons with disabilities from education. The evidence is indisputable: Better access to quality schooling does lead to increased wages and earning potential for our brothers and sisters with disabilities.

LABOUR AND PRODUCTIVITY: In tallying the economic costs, let’s also talk about the help we can give to caregivers. In an environment where support to caregivers is absent, the reality remains that family members may need—or more accurately, be forced—to exit the workforce or give up work opportunities “to assist family members with disabilities”. There are mothers, brothers, fathers, sisters, and sometimes even friends who have to make the difficult choice between taking care of a loved one or keeping on that career path. What can we do, as a society, to help people simultaneously take care of their loved ones while still being able to contribute to Belize’s growth and development?

Similarly, it is imperative that it is underscored that even when persons with disabilities are employed, we have not yet exited the proverbial “woods” as productivity constraints linger. Hiring someone with a disability without making the necessary “attitudinal, physical and communication” accommodations to the work environment can likewise lower our brothers’ and sisters’ productivity.

At the turn of the century, one researcher (Metts, 2000) estimated that among Lower-Middle Income Countries (LMICs), the productivity losses amounted to approximately “US\$473 to US\$672.2 billion a year.” Nine years later (2009), another empirical study would place the costs from reduced productivity levels brought about by “unaccommodated” barriers at anywhere between 1% and 7% of GDP in Lower-Middle Income Countries.

HEALTH: the bedrock of a quality human life is health. Employment and Education—the earlier referenced “life areas”—both stand on the foundation of health, as one can only participate in education (vocational or otherwise) or participate in the workforce if he or she is healthy. As a result, we have an obligation to ensure that any and every exclusion that still exists as far as access to healthcare is concerned is remedied and remedied quickly.

In the End

Overall, as stated earlier, the Belizean economy and private sector cannot afford the cost of exclusion. The BCCI—as an organization that promotes economic vitality and private-sector development—sees the value in championing the highest levels of inclusion of persons with disabilities. This, inter alia, is key as it pertains to the country achieving its sustainable development goals.

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Oración al Espíritu Santo

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

Gracias Espíritu Santo.

R.M.L.



9 teeth facts you probably didn't know

It's easy to take teeth for granted, but these 9 teeth facts you probably didn't know should cast your pearly whites in a fascinating new light. Because you may know how to floss your teeth properly, but did you know that you spend about 24 hours each year brushing them?

We've compiled these weird and wonderful facts with the help of dentists, who have each contributed their favorite little-known truths about teeth. If you're looking for more practical advice, you might want to head over to our round-up of the best electric toothbrushes, where you'll find our comprehensive ranking of the top brands and models.



change color after certain treatments, such as root canals. Once dentin has changed color, it can show through your tooth's enamel, making

Medical historians believe that dentistry pioneer Pierre Fauchard designed one of the first orthodontic devices in the early 18th century. The 'bandolet' was the precursor to modern-day arch-expansion techniques. The devices were made of silver or gold and were even recommended by Etienne Bourdet, a dentist to the King of France at the time.

"Your third molars are known as 'wisdom teeth'. Most adults have four wisdom teeth," Dr. Lane explained. "But it's normal for people to have 0, 1, 2, 3, or even 6," she added. Depending on how many wisdom teeth you have, they might have trouble finding space in your mouth. Lane told us, "often, wisdom teeth do not erupt alongside your other teeth normally because many people have too small jaws to fit them!"

1. Tooth enamel is the hardest substance in the human body

Dr. David Rice, founder of IgniteDDS, shared his favorite tooth fact with us: The enamel that forms the outer layer of your teeth is the strongest substance that your body makes. However, despite their strong outer layer, teeth are also the only part of your body that cannot self-repair.

2. Your teeth are unique

Dr. Hanna Kinsella explained to us that "teeth are as unique as your fingerprint. No two sets are the same". If you watch crime documentaries, you'll likely know that teeth imprints have been used in some very high-profile cases, including the trial of serial killer Ted Bundy. The technology used to link teeth prints to criminals is considered unreliable by some, but dental records can still play an important role in postmortem identification according to the Dental Research Journal.

3. You spend around a day a year brushing your teeth

Dr. Alina Lee Lane recommends brushing your teeth for four minutes every day. "You should spend two minutes brushing in the morning and the evening," she told Live Science. That means that, based on a standard 365 day year, you'll end up spending just over 24 hours brushing your teeth every year!

4. Your teeth's ability to feel cold determines whether they are alive

"Inside your teeth are blood vessels and nerves, making your teeth 'alive'. A 'dead tooth' is one in which the nerve tissue is damaged and can no longer feel cold," Dr. Lane explained to Live Science. If you feel pain during tests to see if your teeth feel the cold, dentists will ask about the type of pain you're experiencing, and will often perform tests on painful teeth to determine what the issue is.

5. Dentin changes can make teeth appear yellow

When you think of reasons your teeth might be looking yellow, your first thought likely goes to stains. And while teeth can get stained by foods, drinks, and other substances such as tobacco, these stains are not the only reason your teeth might change color. Dentin is the layer of your tooth that sits below the enamel and it can

it appear darker.

6. Your teeth cannot repair themselves

"A tooth is the only part of our bodies that cannot heal itself," Dr. Rice explained. So while your tooth enamel is a very strong part of your body, it is essential to look after it well so your smile can look and feel healthy in the long run. A paper published by the American Family Physician states that common reasons people have to consult a dentist outside of their regular check-ups include pulpal inflammation (often caused by caries), broken teeth, and trauma.

7. Braces were first designed in the 18th



species of bacteria. While not all these bacteria will harm the health of your teeth, one specific strain—Streptococcus mutans—is a prime cause of tooth decay.

9. Plaque can contain over 300 species of bacteria

Plaque can contain 200 to 300 different

BELIZE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

Advanced Customer Service Workshop

February 3rd, 2022

Facilitator: BTEC

VIA ZOOM
Time: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

*Member: \$150.00 *Non-Member: \$250.00
(GST Included)

Course Objectives

This training is for persons wishing to expand their knowledge and skillset to better serve their customers. The workshop covers case studies and examples based on real-life situations involving customer service and creating value for customers.

Topics Covered:

- ✓ The World of Customer Service Excellence
- ✓ Communication Master Class
- ✓ Gaining a greater understanding of your company service delivery
- ✓ Action Planning to Achieve Customer Service Excellence



To register contact the
Belize Chamber of Commerce & Industry
email: mpa@belize.org | tel: 223-5330 |  614-3138



btec
Transforming Belize
Transforming Lives



FUN FACTS!

Why You Shouldn't Eat The "Clean" Part Of Your Moldy Bread

There are two types of people in this world – people who throw out their milk a day before the date stamped on it, not even bothering to give it a sniff and people who will drink it until it smells and/or tastes sour.

If you're the former type, you probably don't need to read this post.

If you're the latter, there's a good chance you also will cut off the moldy bits of bread or cheese and eat the "good" parts that are still left.

Here's why that could be a dangerous choice, my friends.

When it comes to trying to decide whether or not a fungus is safe to eat, there's one major issue: we can only see what's going on on the surface, and that's almost never

the entire story.

There's mold onto of the bread, sure, but there's also fungus making its presence known below the surface.

And it might not only be mold – amoebas can appear much the same, too.

The mold's roots

chance it.

The "bad" types of mold can release mycotoxins, which can be life threatening to certain people, and in certain doses, according to the World Health Organization.

"The effects of some food-borne

effects on health, including the induction of cancers and immune deficiency. Of the several hundred mycotoxins identified so far, about a dozen have gained the most attention due to their severe effects on human health and their occurrences in food."

If you see visible mold on even a corner of one piece of bread, it's likely that the rest of the loaf has also been infected. The mold has reached its reproductive stage, sending spores into the immediate environment – which, when we're talking about an enclosed space like a bag, is extremely favorable.

So be careful, and make good choices.

At least bread isn't too expensive to replace.



can extend deep into the bread, with the hyphae spreading easily through soft foods like bread. Some molds aren't harmful to humans, but others definitely are, and if you're not sure what you're dealing with, it's always better not to

mycotoxins are acute with symptoms of severe illness appearing quickly after consumption of food products contaminated with mycotoxins. Other mycotoxins occurring in food have been linked to long-term

sending spores into the immediate environment – which, when we're talking about an enclosed space like a bag, is extremely favorable.



Key Room!

You can find the keys to Mozart's wine cellar, the Pentagon, Frankenstein's Castle, and Hitler's bunker in Estes Park, CO. The Baldpate Inn's key collection was inspired by the play 'The Seven Keys to the Baldpate Inn', which was written in 1913 about the then-fictional hotel. Now, the Inn is home to the world's largest collection of keys – about 20,000 - from around the world.

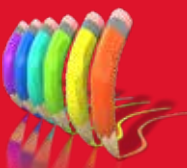


Space Unicorn?

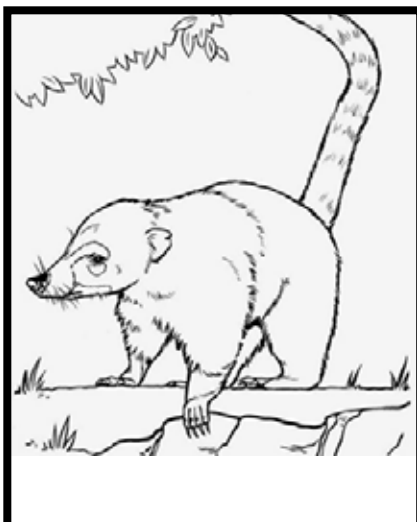
The Trifid Nebula contains a giant gas cloud with a protruding pillar that makes it look like a sparkly space unicorn.



COLOR



ME



Coatis, also known as coatimundis, are diurnal small mammals. The South American white-nosed coati native to Arizona, is a type of coati belonging to the raccoon family.

Coatis or coatimundis of central and south America belong to the class Mammal or Mammalia.

The areas where a coati (Nasua) can be found cover an extensive range, including both the Americas. Some species have escaped to Europe where they have produced for them a breeding zone. In America, the range of coatis extends from South to North, covering almost all the parts of Central America. Coatis are also found in Panama and in the areas that lie to the west of the Andes Mountains in South America. They are also widely available in Colombia.

The habitat of a coati is highly diversified. They can adapt to any kind of environment in which they reside. The most preferable habitat of a coati would be tropical rainforests and woods. Although not impossible but they are found very rarely in areas like savanna grasslands and desert regions. Coatis are also found in elevated mountain woods containing pine and oak plantations. In these places, the fur coat helps them to keep warm.

Coatis are not solitary animals, except adult males. They live in groups called bands, which are of a medium to large size. Each coati group, or band, contains 15-20 individuals. The coati bands mostly contain females and their young. After becoming an adult, males leave their bands and stay alone. They join the females and their young ones in a group again during the mating season.

The lifespan of a coati (Nasua) in the wild can vary between seven to 10 years. When held captive, a coati can live for around 15 years.

Why Jobs are Plentiful While Workers are Scarce

By Carlo Pizzinelli and Ipppei Shibata

Almost two years after the pandemic upended labor markets, job openings are plentiful in many advanced economies, yet workers have not fully returned.

This gap, in which the employment rate is below its pre-COVID level, is playing out in the United States and the United Kingdom. Despite tight labor markets, as reflected in high vacancy-to-unemployment ratios and job quits, the employment recovery remains incomplete and below pre-pandemic levels in both countries. Now with a possible cooling effect on labor markets caused by the Omicron wave, this trend could be longer than expected.

New IMF staff research uses granular data on employment and vacancies in the US and the UK to assess four commonly held explanations:

- The effect of generous income support on willingness to seek and take up jobs.
- A mismatch between the types of jobs that are available and the willingness of people to fill them.
- Mothers of young children exiting the work force amid continued disruptions to school and childcare.

- Older workers withdrawing from the labor force.

We found that lower participation among older workers not returning to work is the common thread, and matters most. Mismatch plays a secondary role. The fall in female participation is unique to the US, but quantitatively important.

If the broader trend of plentiful jobs and not enough workers continues, it can have major implications for growth, inequality, and inflation. A continued sluggish employment recovery amid sustained labor demand could constrain economic growth while fueling wage increases. While higher wages would be good news for workers, they could further

fuel inflation.

Generosity of income support programs

The first possible explanation is that income support programs during the pandemic allowed workers to be picky, slowing job applications,

exceptionally hard, while “teleworkable” jobs fared substantially better. Others, like delivery services, even boomed. Could it be that workers who lost jobs in hard-hit industries and occupations struggled to transition into new opportunities,

cession.”

We estimate that the excess employment contraction for mothers of children younger than 5 years old compared with other women accounted for around 16 percent of the total US employment gap with respect

this may reflect health concerns related to the pandemic. Others may have reconsidered their need to work as housing and financial asset prices grew substantially.

As of September, the rise in inactivity among workers age

after Brexit—accelerated by the pandemic—entailed a progressive fall in the number of those job seekers willing and able to fill open vacancies. Our analysis leaves a potential, albeit mostly residual, role for other factors such as the effect of elevated unemployment benefits and other pandemic-related income support.

If a larger number of older workers permanently retire and a lack of affordable childcare and pre-school opportunities continue to keep some women with young children at home, the pandemic could leave persistent employment scars, notably in the US.

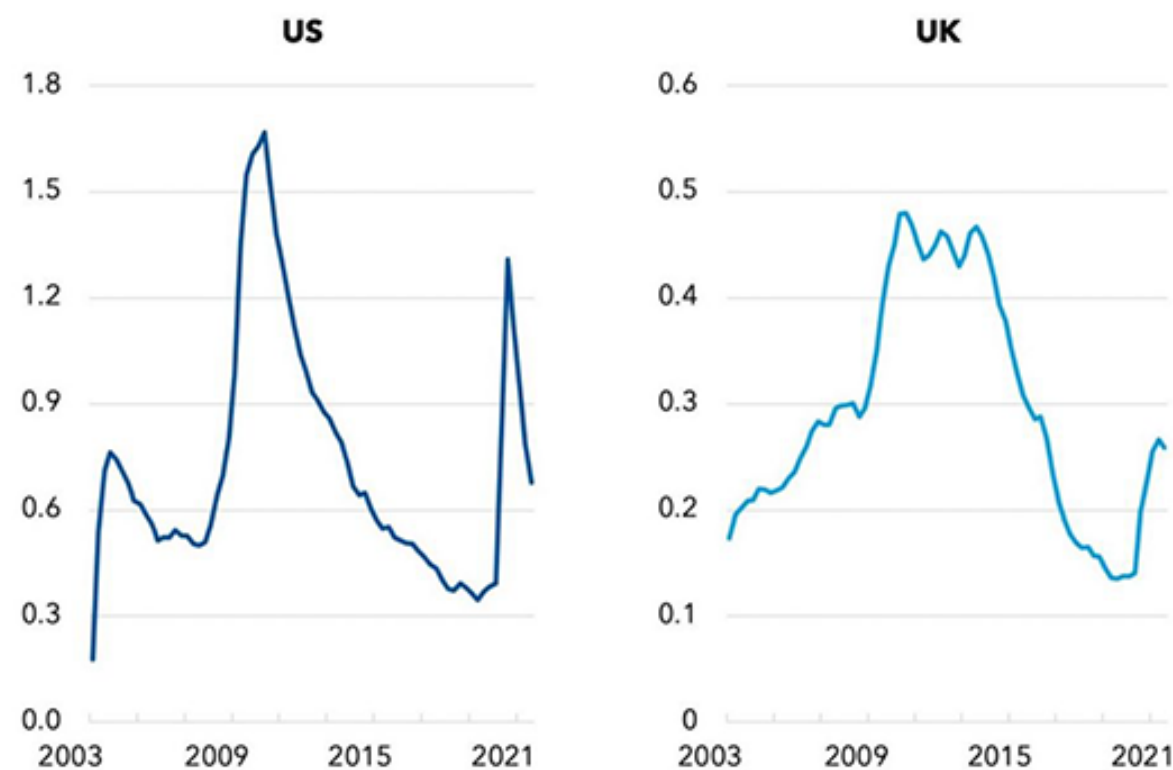
Whether the reason for not returning to work is early retirement or lack of childcare, one common thread exists: US and UK vacancies are highest among low-skill occupations and employment in these jobs remains below pre-2020 levels. The rise in voluntary quits—the so-called “great resignation”—are also greatest for low-skilled jobs. While it remains to be seen how widespread and persistent this phenomenon will be, these facts hint at a possible change in worker preferences triggered by the pandemic.

To minimize the risk of scarring to employment, addressing the pandemic remains key, so workers are fully able to return to the labor market. So are well-designed training programs to reduce risks of mismatch, and—particularly in the US—expanded childcare and pre-school opportunities.

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Mismatch, a modest contribution

Loss of employment due to mismatch between industries where jobs are available and where the jobless are looking was less pronounced than during the Global Financial Crisis. (employment loss, percent)



Sources: US Current Population Survey, US Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey, UK Labour Force Survey, UK Office of National Statistics, and authors’ calculations.
Note: The solid blue lines report the cumulative employment loss due to mismatch as a share of the working-age population (in percentage points) for the US and the UK, respectively.

IMF

acceptances and, ultimately, the employment recovery.

However, preliminary evidence reviewed in our paper, including from the recent phasing out of the US federal unemployment insurance supplement, suggests the early removal of COVID-related unemployment benefits had only a modest and temporary effect on getting people back to work.

Mismatch

A second candidate explanation is an increase in the mismatch between the industries and occupations in which the jobless are searching and those with abundant vacancies. Jobs that require in-person interactions, such as in restaurants, hotels and entertainment, have been hit

leading to mismatch?

The short answer is yes, but this is just one part of the story. We find that the employment loss due to mismatch during the crisis has been modest and, to our surprise, smaller than during the Global Financial Crisis. We estimate that, as of early last fall, mismatch explains only about 18 percent and 11 percent of the outstanding employment gap versus pre-COVID levels in the US and the UK, respectively.

The She-cession

A third explanation seems more potent, at least in the US. The prolonged school closures and scarcity of childcare services put an extra burden on mothers of young children, pushing many to leave the labor force—the so-called “She-

cession” to pre-COVID levels as of October 2021. That was down from 23 percent in early September, thanks partly to the return to in-person schooling later that month. Meanwhile, there was no such She-cession in the UK, where employment fell less for females than for males. A potential explanation is that in the UK nurseries remained open throughout the pandemic, easing the tradeoff between work and childcare for mothers of young children.

Withdrawal of older workers

The final and potentially largest contributor to a lag in employment recovery is an exodus of older workers from the labor force in both countries. For some,

55 and up accounted for around 35 percent of the outstanding employment gap versus pre-pandemic levels in both economies. It’s unclear how many of those who retired or quit may eventually return to the labor force.

Beware of scarring

Taken together, mismatch, the She-cession and older workers’ withdrawal from the labor force may account for roughly 70 percent of the US employment gap compared with pre-COVID levels. In the UK, there has been no She-cession, but about 10 percent of the employment gap can be attributed to mismatch and 35 percent to older workers’ withdrawal from labor force.

Further, the outflow of foreign workers

A New Trust to Help Countries Build Resilience and Sustainability

By Ceyla Pazarbasioglu and Uma Ramakrishnan

Even as countries continue to battle COVID-19, it is crucial not to overlook the longer-term challenge of transforming economies to become more resilient to shocks and achieve sustainable and inclusive growth. The pandemic has taught us that not addressing these long-term challenges in a timely manner can have significant economic consequences, with the potential for future balance of payments problems. Climate change is another long-term challenge that threatens macroeconomic stability and growth in many countries through natural disasters and disruptions to industries, job markets, and trade flows, among others.

These are global public policy challenges, and it is the

shared responsibility of individual countries and the international community to take timely actions. In a previous blog, we explained how the IMF is considering options for channeling some of the \$650 billion SDRs issued in August 2021 from countries with strong external financial positions to vulnerable countries through a Resilience and Sustainability Trust, or RST. The RST's central objective is to provide affordable long-term financing to support countries as they tackle structural challenges.

As we've continued to work toward developing the RST, our current thinking on the key design features—which we outline further below—aim to balance the needs of potential contributors and

borrowing countries. With broad support from the membership and international partners, we hope that the Trust can be approved by the IMF Executive Board before the upcoming Spring Meetings and for it to become fully operational before the year's end.

Key design features: Eligibility

About three quarters of the IMF's membership could be eligible for RST financing. This would include all low-income countries, all developing and vulnerable small states, and all middle-income countries with per capita GNI below 10 times the 2020 IDA operational cutoff, or about \$12,000.

Qualifying reforms

RST support aims to address macro-critical longer-term structural challenges that entail significant

macroeconomic risks to member countries' resilience and sustainability, including climate change, pandemic preparedness, and digitalization. That said, not all long-term structural challenges lend themselves to IMF lending. The ability to support reforms in a particular area would depend on the availability of and access to strong diagnostics, the ability to identify policy priorities, and develop the appropriate reform targets. Country ownership and strong commitment of the authorities to do the necessary reforms will be critical to catalyze the much-needed finance from multilateral development banks and the private sector. It is also critical to work in close coordination with other relevant institutions in order to leverage expertise and knowledge. The IMF and World Bank staff have worked closely to develop a coordination framework on RST operations on climate risks, building on earlier experience in supporting countries with structural reforms. Similar frameworks with relevant institutions will be developed in the coming months in this and other reform areas.

Qualification

To qualify for RST support, an eligible member would need: a package of high-quality policy measures consistent with the RST's purpose; a concurrent financing or non-financing IMF-supported program with appropriate macroeconomic policies to mitigate risks for borrowers and creditors; and sustainable debt and adequate capacity to repay the Fund.

Financing terms

Like the IMF's highly concessional and currently zero interest rate Trust for low-income countries (PRGT), the RST would be established under the IMF's power to administer contributor resources, which allows for more

flexible terms, notably on maturities, than the terms that apply to the IMF's general resources. Consistent with the longer-term nature of balance of payments risks the RST seeks to address, its loans would have much longer maturities than traditional IMF financing. Specifically, staff has proposed a 20-year maturity and a 10-year grace period. A tiered interest structure would differentiate financing terms across country groups, with a high degree of concessionality for lower-income members.

Access to financing

Access to RST financing would be determined case by case, based on the strength of reforms and debt sustainability considerations, and is expected to be capped at 150 percent of IMF quota or SDR 1 billion, whichever is smaller. RST lending would be part of a broader financing strategy members would pursue to address longer-term balance of payments risks, involving a mix of multilateral, bilateral official, and private financing.

Financial architecture

Like the PRGT, the RST's resources would be mobilized on a voluntary basis from members who wish to channel their SDRs or currencies for the benefit of poorer or vulnerable countries. The financial architecture of the RST is designed to ensure that substantial resources for low-cost long-maturity loans can be mobilized while ensuring the safety and liquidity of contributors' claims on the Trust based on a multilayered risk management framework that maintains the reserve asset nature of channeled SDRs. To meet the projected demand, the RST would need to mobilize initially around \$50 billion in total resources. A smooth functioning SDR trading market would underpin successful

RST operations.

Collaboration essential for success

Mitigating economic risks from long-term structural challenges requires a consistent and deliberate approach, with strong commitment from policymakers to undertake sometimes difficult reforms. And where such commitment is evident, the international community can help with affordable financing, capacity building, and policy advice. The RST will support such a collaborative effort. We will build on our experience of working with the World Bank and other international institutions and regional development banks, complementing their lending to provide the best support to member countries.

The success of the new Trust will depend equally on economically stronger IMF members providing meaningful resources to help countries improve long-term resilience and sustainability; borrowers willing to go the extra mile to achieve the macroeconomic environment and reform framework conducive to improving balance of payments stability; other international financial institutions supporting with their expertise, knowledge, and financing where feasible. These actions would also help mobilize private sector investment.

Faced with a range of long-term structural challenges that require global action, it has never been more important to support all countries tackle these challenges at an early stage and achieve sustainable growth. The RST could help achieve this goal.

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Customer Survey

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JANUARY 12TH TO FEBRUARY 4TH, 2022

Dear Valued Client,

As part of our continued efforts to ensure service excellence, Sagicor will be conducting a customer satisfaction survey during the period of **January 12, 2022** to **February 4, 2022**. Customers will be randomly selected and contacted via telephone or email by a representative from our external vendor, Professional Training and Occupational Services (PTOS).

Please note that this survey will not require you to provide any detailed financial information.

Your feedback is important to us and **Sagicor Life Inc** thanks you for participating.

For more information or if you have any questions, please feel free to email us at SFC_Research@Sagicor.com or call us at **1-800-744-7707**.



SCAN TO
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SURVEY



Wise Financial Thinking for Life

The Righters Write

Human Rights - where did it all start?

Contributed by the Human Rights Commission

The term “human rights” is not new. The first concepts of human rights date thousands of years back and emerged stronger after World War Two. It most certainly is not a list of rights to serve or benefit one particular group of persons. Human rights are for all persons - all humans.

In this column we have been writing a lot about different matters and different human rights matters. Now, we would like to write a little about these rights. So, like we said before, the first concepts of human rights date back to thousands of years back. The United Nations point it back to as far as 539 BC. It was around this time that troops of Cyrus the Great conquered Babylon. History states that Cyrus freed the slaves, declared that all people had the right to choose their own religion and established racial equality. This led to the Magna Carta in 1215, accepted by King John of England, which essentially established principles of equality before the law. Many experts believe this document marked the start of modern democracy.

Many, many years later, the United Nations was born in 1945. After the Second World War, fifty nations decided that it was imperative to “save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind”, as stated in the preamble to the proposed charter. Three years later, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was signed, “acting for the first time as a

recognized and internationally accepted charter whose first article states that ‘All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.’”

Of course, a series of other events took place between these key events in history that have shaped human rights. So what are human rights? They are rights that belong to each human being merely by virtue of being human. “Human rights refer to a wide continuum of values or capabilities thought to enhance human agency or protect human interests and declared to be universal in character, in some sense equally claimed for all human beings, present and future.

It is a common observation that human beings everywhere require the realization of diverse values or capabilities to ensure their individual and collective well-being. It also is a common observation that this requirement—whether conceived or expressed as a moral or a legal demand—is often painfully frustrated by social as well as natural forces, resulting in exploitation, oppression, persecution, and other forms of deprivation. Deeply rooted in these twin observations are the beginnings of what today are called “human rights” and the national and international legal processes associated with them”—Burns H Weston.

The Universal Declaration of

Human Rights has shaped laws globally and since its introduction to the world, human rights have also

Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights 1966, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights 1966,

Rights, Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.

Here we intend to introduce the topic and invite readers to look for our column in the weeks ahead as we look at the thirty human rights articles in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, discuss them and look at how they shape

and affect various aspects of daily life for everyone.

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been declared and supported in other documents including the International

Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political



CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST



Development of an Emergency Plan Template for Tour Operators

The Belize Tourism Board (BTB) is inviting Expressions of Interest (EOI) for a consultant to develop an emergency plan template for tour operators in Belize, and to carry out training on the use of the template with tour operators.

Application

Interested persons should submit a proposal based on the terms of reference (accessible via contact below), complete with:

- Full Curriculum Vitae (with two professional references);
- Proposed work schedule and description of approach/methodology for performing the assignment.
- Demonstrated knowledge of skills in similar activities, and stakeholder participation techniques; as well as strong communication, documentation and presentation skills
- A technical proposal should be submitted to include at minimum the proposed approach to be taken to execute the consultancy, evidence of stakeholder participation, timeline and budget for completion.

Proposals should not exceed 10 pages in length (exclusive of CV and references).

Minimum Qualifications & Experience

- A minimum of five (5) years of experience in Emergency Response/Disaster/Risk Management and Plan Development or related field;
- A minimum of two (2) years of experience in Tourism Related Operations

Submit Electronically to:

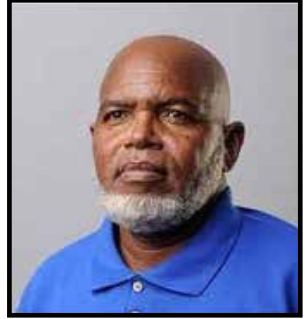
Mrs. Bernadette Ellis
Bernadette.Ellis@belizetourismboard.org
Labeled Re: Emergency plan template

Any questions please submit to
Bernadette.Ellis@belizetourismboard.org

Deadline: January 28th 2022 | 5:00 p.m.

GRASSROOTS

Sports. A Key for National Development



By Hon. Gilroy Usher

“Success is no accident. It is hard work. Perseverance. Learning. Studying. Sacrifice and most of all love of what you are doing or learning to do.” - Pele

People of all ages loves sports and are devoted to it worldwide. In most countries more than 50% of the population enjoys sports by participating in it in some form or by observing sporting events. Whether the population of a country consists of billions, millions, or hundreds of thousands of persons, sports offer the best opportunity to reach the largest portion of the population in a country to promote any message or product.

Aware of the fact companies around the world, including those in Belize, seek to increase the market for their products by sponsoring athletes and buying advertisement in competitive sports. The key word is competitive. Business is business. Few business persons will sponsor athletes and spend money on advertisements just out of love for an individual, a sport, or a country. It doesn't happen.

The importance of sports in the development of a country cannot be overemphasized. Many countries continue to reap tremendous benefits from sports, because they make the best possible funding for the discipline one of the priorities in every budget instead of a few dollars which is peanuts and practically useless.

Some of the major sports in Belize are La Ruta Maya Belize River Challenge, cycling, basketball, football, horserace, softball, and volleyball.

Due to Covid as well as internal conflicts in some sporting organizations, sports declined heavily for thirteen years under the Red. It's in the interest of the sporting organizations, the business community, the National Sports Council (NSC), the government, sporting fans, and the wider population to work together to bring back sports in the country for the tremendous benefits it offers to an entire nation.

With the support of FIFA, football is the best funded sport in the country. The Football Federation of Belize (FFB) receives millions of dollars from FIFA yearly to develop the sport countrywide in close cooperation with the NSC. The modern FFB stadium in Belmopan is testament to what can be achieved when a sporting discipline has a strong organization and puts the best interest of the players, the fans, and their sponsors first at all times.

The La Ruta Maya Belize River Challenge was started less than two decades ago. Nevertheless, with a strong organization as well as proper planning and marketing of the event, the race has attracted a large fan base, scores of local and foreign athletes, massive advertisement from the business community, and is now challenging cycling as the most popular one-day sport in the country.

Cycling is one of the oldest and the most active sports in Belize. The Cross Country on Holy Saturday is the largest one-day sporting event in the Jewel. Cross Country draws huge crowds along its entire route. Due to internal wrangling; however, the sport has

been losing thousands of dollars in revenue by starting and ending major cycling events in the open in front of Leslie's Imports on the George Price Highway or at BTL Park on Princess Margaret Drive. Only those companies benefit in a significant from that huge publicity.

Starting major cycling events in an enclosed area would enable the cycling association to earn tremendous revenue for the improvement of the sport from entrance fees and advertising billboards, as well as the rental of stalls for games of chance and the sale of food among other things.

Lack of proper organization, internal conflicts, and shortage of finance has also hindered the maximum development of most

The importance of sports in the development of a country cannot be overemphasized. Many countries continue to reap tremendous benefits from sports, because they make the best possible funding for the discipline one of the priorities in every budget instead of a few dollars which is peanuts and practically useless.

of the other sports in the country.

There are well-organized and properly administered international bodies for all the major sports in Belize. Those organizations promote the development of their discipline in various counties with finances and training among other things. To benefit from that assistance, the respective sport must meet strict criteria, which is only possible with good organization, proper management and accountability, and continuous solid proof that available resources are being used to develop the sport in the best interest of all the stakeholders.

The forty-six million City Center for basketball and the over \$150 million Marion Jones multipurpose stadium are two of Belize's largest investments in sports. Both were "big time" bloated contracts in Belize City under the previous administration. In both cases the contractors and their cronies walked away with millions of dollars for themselves and left the Belizean taxpayers to repay the huge loans.

To make matters worse after such huge cost, the Marion Jones sporting complex consist of a largely incomplete building, a shell really, and a large field that is still unsuitable for most sports including cycling. Such corruption severely hinders the development of sports in any country.

Apart from basketball and football the only other sport with an adequate headquarters in the nation is softball at Roger's Stadium in Belize City.

The development of sports in Belize experienced its first the great leap forward, when former Prime Minister Said Musa was then Minister of Sports and Education. Musa established the National Sports Council to lead way in the promotion of sports for the benefit of the athletes and the entire country. Before the advent of the NSC there was little progress in sports, and many people looked down on athletes. Such was the sad state of affairs, because the various sporting disciplines could not speak of their needs with one strong voice through the NSC. They were all divided and fighting among themselves which hindered meaningful progress for all the various organizations.

Over the years, a major disservice was done to the development of sports, when some

administrations, especially the previous one, downplayed the importance of the discipline in national development. Instead, they used the NSC as a place to simply reward scores of supporters with well-paid government jobs and directed the NSC to focus on sports at the primary school level instead of on the development of the discipline at all levels.

This new administration understands the importance of sports and the value of the NSC in national development for the benefit the Belizean people. For that reason, the new Minister and Minister of State for Transport, Youth, and Sports are continuing the work of the previous Minister of Sports and E-Governance in changing the perception of the NSC. Every effort is being made to get the NSC to be seen not as a place where persons are paid to basically do nothing, but as a place where plans and programs are designed and implemented in consultation with the relevant sporting organizations to take the different sports to higher levels throughout the country.

The cane farmers were able to make progress in their dispute with ASR/BSI, because they largely spoke with one voice. Unity is strength. In a similar way the various sporting organization will get their concerns addressed quicker, if they support each other's struggle and speak with one voice.

This country spent millions of dollars for a modern basketball stadium and scores of millions of dollars for the incomplete Marion Jones facility.

After the massive spending on those projects with huge bloated contracts, why after over 13 yearly budgets of over \$1.3 Billion, collaboration with the NSC and the administrations of the time has never resulted in the allocation of even \$1 million to make the field and track at the Marion Jones stadium suitable for cycling and the numerous other sporting events for which was built? Simple. Lack of unity among the various sporting disciplines to express their concerns with one strong voice.

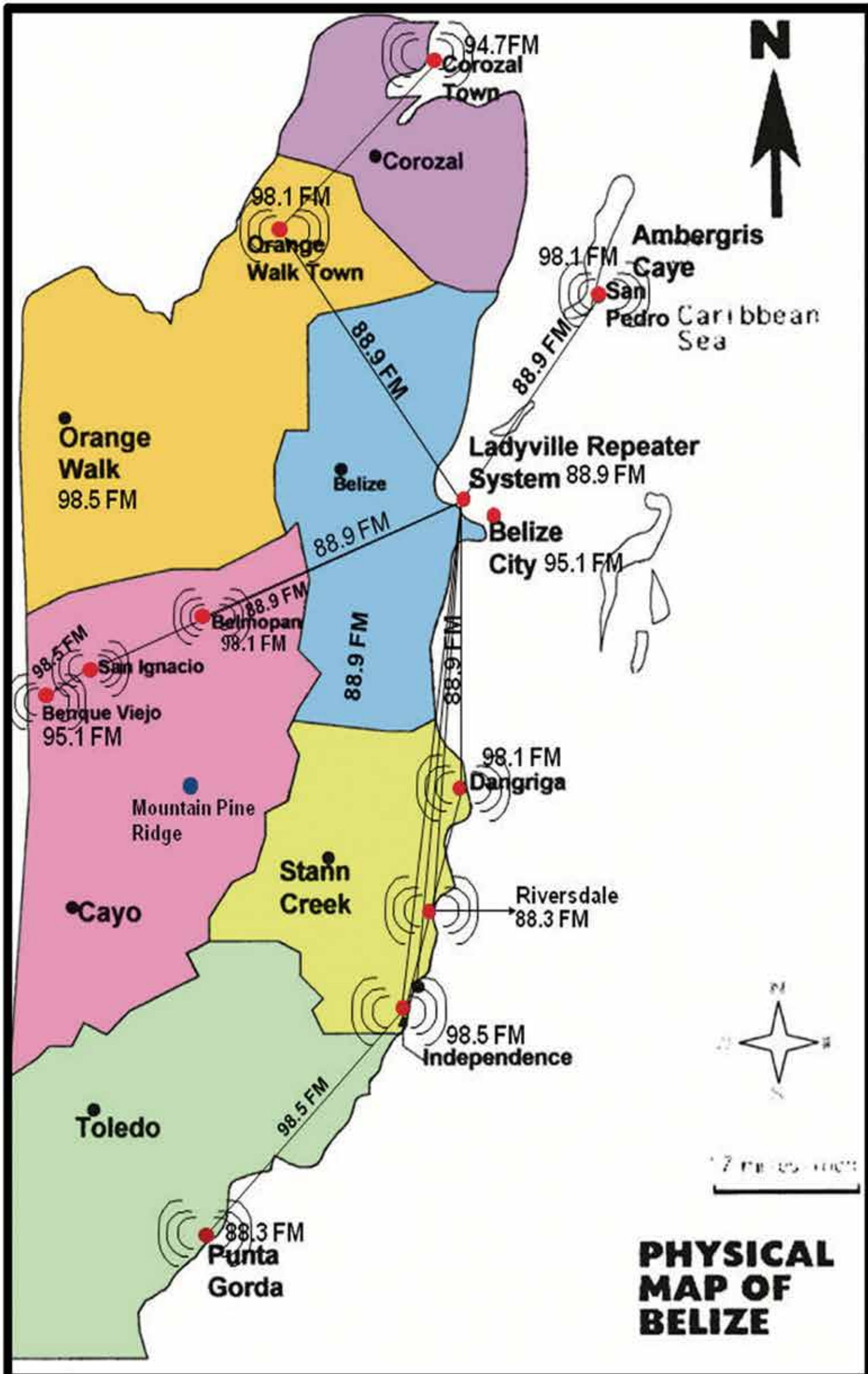
The Belize National Softball team, which won the gold medal in the Central American Games in the 70's, Marion Jones runner, David Dakers boxer, Simone Biles gymnast, Milton Palacio and Clinto "Pulu" Lightburn both basketball players, and Kaya Cattouse cyclist are only a few of the scores of Belizean athletes who have excelled in sports at home, done well abroad, and have been good ambassadors for the country.

To reap the tremendous benefits of sports the various sporting organizations, the administration of the day through the NSC, and the general public must work together to make sports competitive and attractive with a large fan base.

As that occurs, the discipline will attract many more sponsorship and advertisements from more businesses. That in turn will make increasing benefits for athletes possible. The end result will be a huge sport market with more national development and less violence for the benefit of all.

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LOVE NEWS AND MUSIC POWER



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Secretary-General's remarks at the Opening of the High-Level Conference on Youth Inclusive Peace Processes [as delivered]

I am very happy to see all of you joining us today, and I want to thank you for your efforts to advance the implementation of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda.

I am grateful to the Governments of Qatar, Finland and Colombia for hosting this event, in collaboration with the United Nations and youth organizations.

Our world is facing profound challenges – the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, rising conflicts, discrimination, the digital divide, the erosion of civic space and declining trust.

And yet [young] people are not only heavily affected by these crises – they are on the frontlines for action and solutions.

I salute young people around the

world for raising their voices – in the streets and online – and standing up for climate action, gender equality, racial and social justice and so much more.

And youth must be at the centre of efforts to address these challenges and build more peaceful, just, and sustainable societies.

That is the spirit of my report on Our Common Agenda: to work with young people, recognizing the pivotal role of youth as designers of your own – as well as our shared – future.

We need to ensure that young people have a seat at the table – forging inclusive solutions that combine peace and security, sustainable development and human rights.

I salute young people for already stepping up and leading by example.

You represent a source of innovation, ideas and solutions.

From monitoring ceasefires to mediation, humanitarian assistance, and post-conflict healing, young people are engaging and mobilizing broader constituencies by using traditional platforms as well as new technologies.

Time and again, young people have been at the forefront of efforts to build and sustain peace, including through activism and peaceful protests.

And many Member States are taking steps to harness that potential as a positive force for building peaceful and tolerant societies.

However, opportunities for meaningful participation remain insufficient. Numerous young peacebuilders –

especially young women – report that their participation is not welcomed by the public or those in positions of power.

The international community must step up its support to young people in these efforts.

The Peacebuilding Commission has provided young peacebuilders a platform to present their work and recommendations.

And the Peacebuilding Fund includes a Youth Promotion Initiative to support the Youth, Peace and Security agenda.

Last year, we provided nearly \$26 million in projects implemented together with civil society partners.

But we need to expand that investment – with additional and more accessible resources to support youth-led efforts.

Reports of threats

and human rights violations against young peacebuilders and human rights defenders are also of grave concern.

We must strengthen human rights protections, safeguard civic space and ensure an environment that enables young people to meaningfully and safely participate in peace and security efforts.

In this regard, the UN will develop a Youth in Politics Index to track the opening of political space in countries around the world that younger generations are so clearly demanding.

Finally, as we strive to recover from the pandemic, we must address the root causes of the exclusion of young people, and deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals. We must invest in providing prospects and opportunities

for young people, especially young women, and including through education.

Young people are not only citizens with equal rights but also powerful agents for change whose voices must be fully heard.

I am pleased that your work ahead of this conference has already produced two important documents: a set of guidelines for Member States to operationalize the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda, and a five-year Strategy on Youth-Inclusive Peace Processes.

I am confident that these resources will make a meaningful difference in advancing the Agenda in every country.

You can count on me. You can count on the United Nations to continue to amplify young people's voices and support your efforts towards a peaceful, sustainable and inclusive future, and I thank you.

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for more details.**

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

“Notice is hereby given to all interested parties that the below companies have been dissolved and struck off the International Business Companies Register.

<u>Company Name</u>	<u>Date of Dissolution</u>
PIPAL LIMITED	31st December 2021
Fintech Capital Inc.	30th December 2021

**Frontier International Business Services Limited.
Registered Agent**

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

“Notice is hereby given to all interested parties that the below companies have been dissolved and struck off the International Business Companies Register.

<u>Company Name</u>	<u>Date of Dissolution</u>
Bosfor Ventures Ltd.	6th November 2021
Giant Business Consulting Limited	11th January 2022

**Alpha Consulting (Belize) Ltd.
Registered Agent**

NOTICE OF COMMENCED DISSOLUTION

BIGMORE OVERSEAS LIMITED (“the Company”)

“Notice is hereby given to all interested parties that **BIGMORE OVERSEAS LIMITED**, a Company incorporated under the IBC Act of Belize has commenced its dissolution on **January 11th, 2022**”.

And

Diego Leindekar with address of Secco Illia 453, Canelones, Uruguay is the liquidator of the company.

**Aleman, Cordero, Galindo & Lee Trust (Belize) Limited
Registered Agent**

Would You Pay A Garbage Fee?



Mayor Bernard Wagner

The Belize City Council is asking city residents if they would voluntarily pay a garbage collection fee.

The idea of charging city residents a garbage collection fee isn't novel. The idea of doing so has been tossed around by previous Belize City mayors. Mayor Bernard Wagner, who in September 2021 spoke on an impasse between CITCO and Belize Waste Control (BWC said, "The long-term solution has to be a garbage fee and we are aggressively pursuing that with the required legislative authority."

The City Council currently pays BWC city \$3 million a year for garbage and is looking to city residents to offset the cost of collecting garbage.

Mayor Wagner told the press earlier this week that city residents are being asked to pay \$0.44 per day as a garbage collection fee to offset the perpetual contract with BWC. "I never made this contract. I found this contract here. I'm just trying to put the next mayor who comes in this seat that he does not have to deal with it again. Anything at this point is helpful," said Mayor Wagner. According to Mayor Wagner, the existing contract is forever binding as both parties would need to consent to terminate the contract.

The proposed garbage collection fee is not mandatory as the Belize City Council would need approval from Central Government, and would require legislative amendments. When asked about it, Prime Minister John Briceño told the media that a proposal to implement a garbage collection fee has not been taken to Central Government.

Briceño said, "It is something that we would have to take a very hard look before we decide whether we would support a garbage tax". Briceño believes the timing to collect a garbage fee is 'not the best of times'.



CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Belize Electricity Limited (BEL) is the primary distributor and the only licensed public provider of electricity in Belize. Our Mission is to deliver safe, reliable and sustainable energy solutions to enhance the quality of life and the productivity of enterprise and to support national development.

We are looking for a highly motivated, goal oriented, responsible and committed person to join our Company in the role of **Supervisor, Financial Reporting & Analysis** in the **Finance & Accounting Department** at our Corporate Headquarters in Belize City.

Duties:

- Analyze business and financial data and create financial models for decision support to organizational leaders.
- Perform financial forecasting, reporting, and operational metrics tracking for regular leadership reviews and evaluate financial performance by comparing and analyzing actual results with plans and forecasts.
- Analyze past results, perform variance analysis, identify trends, and make recommendations for improvements.
- Work closely with the accounting team to ensure accurate financial reporting.
- Provide support to other departments regarding financial and accounting related matters.
- Assist with policy compliance by providing support to External Auditors for quarterly and annual audits and Internal Auditors for procedural audits.
- Provide budget planning support, analysis, and reporting.
- Formulate and implement policies and procedures where necessary.
- Engage, coach and mentor staff while fostering a work environment that is consistent with the Mission, vision and values of the Company.

Education and Experience:

- Bachelor's degree in Accounting or Finance
- Certified Public Accountant (CPA) or Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) certification is desired
- Minimum of three years accounting experience with a focus on financial reporting requirements
- Two years relevant supervisory experience

Required Skills and Abilities:

- Ability to analyze and interpret financial data
- Extensive knowledge of accounting concepts and principles
- Possess exceptional analytical and problem solving skills
- Ability to grasp new concepts quickly, exercise sound judgement and decisiveness while maintaining high work quality
- Excellent organizational skills and attention to detail
- Ability to work under pressure and meet deadlines
- Action and results oriented with excellent collaborative skills for pursuing shared goals
- Strong supervisory, leadership and coaching skills
- Ability to foster continuous learning through research and other forms of learning
- Ability to prioritize tasks and delegate them when appropriate
- Working knowledge of the Windows Environment and Microsoft Office applications
- Intermediate proficiency in Microsoft Excel (managing spreadsheets with large sets of data, creating charts and using advanced formulas)

Salary: in accordance with Company Salary Structure.

Submit application letter along with resume, copy of degrees and certificates and three recent professional letters of recommendation via email to:

Manager, Talent Acquisition & Development
Email: career.opportunity@bel.com.bz

In the email subject, please indicate the position:
Supervisor, Financial Reporting & Analysis

Only electronic applications are being accepted at this time.
For more information or queries, call 227-0954 Ext. 1415 or 1416

Deadline: Friday, January 28, 2022

PUBLIC AUCTION

**BY ORDER OF THE MORTGAGEE, DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CORPORATION,
CERTIFIED AND LICENSED AUCTIONEER MIGUEL A. ELLIS WILL SELL THE
FOLLOWING PROPERTIES**

On Tuesday, 25th January, 2022

At: 9:30AM Zoom Meeting ID: 748 632 4247 Password: ZbhU07

Parcel No. 8261, Block No. 20, Belmopan Registration Section containing 464.612 Square Meters situate in the Maya Mopan Area, City of Belmopan, Cayo District held under a Land Certificate being the freehold interest of DELBERT AMOS RHABURN JR. — **A Two (2) bedroom timber dwelling containing a bath, a living, dining and kitchen combined attached to a front porch.**



Parcel No. 4012, Block No. 24, Society Hall Registration Section containing 795.226 Square Meters situate in the Roaring Creek Village, Cayo District held under a Land Certificate being the freehold interest of RAFAEL ANTONIO SALASAR. — **One two (2) bedroom concrete bungalow dwelling containing a living and dining area combined and kitchen area attached to a porch.**



All that piece or parcel of land containing **0.819 Acres, 25 Acres & 24.95 Acres respectively**, situate in the Frank's Eddy Agricultural Layout, Cayo District and held under 3 Deed of Conveyances together with all buildings, erections and developments standing thereon and being the freehold interests of DEON DALE PASCASCIO. — **Formerly known as PasguHal Eco-Lodge located in Frank's Eddy Village**



Parcel No. 269/1, Block 23, San Ignacio North Registration Section containing 557.41 Square Meters situate in San Ignacio Town, Cayo District held under a Certificate of Lease being the leasehold interest of KENT WILLIAM FLOWERS. — **One three (3) bedroom concrete bungalow dwelling containing 1 bath a combined living, dining and kitchen attached to a front and back porch.**



Parcel No. 1813, Block No. 4, Ann Gabourel Registration Section containing 555.56 Square Yards, held under a Land Certificate being the freehold interest of CHRISTINE SHERRY HAWKINS — **One Three (3) bedroom concrete bungalow dwelling containing 1 bath, 1 kitchen, 1 dining and a living area**



Parcel No. 116/1, Block No. 1 San Jose/San Pablo Registration Section containing 657.6 Square Meters situate in the San Pablo Village, Orange Walk District and held under a Certificate of Lease being the leasehold interest of ORLANDO MONTERO. — **One concrete bungalow residential home**



Parcel No. 603/1, Block 1, San Estevan Registration Section containing 766.4 Square Meters situate in San Estevan Village, Orange Walk District held under a Certificate of Lease being the leasehold interest of HORTENCIA YANELLA CHAN & ROSENDO MELVIN CHAN. — **One wooden bungalow styled dwelling measuring 110' x 75'. Set on a concrete slab containing 2 bedrooms a kitchen, dining, living area and 1 bath attached to a front porch.**



Parcel No. 96/1, Block 4, Chan Pine Ridge Registration Section, containing 907.475 S.M. situate in Chan Pine Ridge Village, Orange Walk District, held under Certificate of Lease being the leasehold interest of DIANELA T. REYNOSO (aka Aurora Dianela Tzul) surety for Esdra Reynoso — **One Concrete bungalow Three (3) Bedroom, 1 Bath, 1 Kitchen, dining and living area.**



All that piece or parcel of land being Lot No. 348 containing 956.733 Square Meters situate in the Maxboro Subdivision, Sandhill Village, Belize District as shown on Entry No. 5146 Register 21 held under a Minister's Fiat Lease being the leasehold interest of SHERLEE FRAZER — **One -three (3) bedroom concrete bungalow dwelling with 1 living, 1 dining and 1 bath. Attached on both sides of the home by two porches.**



Parcel No. 1660, Block No. 45, Port/Loyolaville Registration Section containing 325.953 Square Meters situate on Delarai Sanchez Street, Belize City, Belize held under a Land Certificate being the freehold interest of MARISOL LESLIE surety for GLENN FRANCIS LESLIE and MARISOL LESLIE — **An incomplete two (2) bedroom concrete bungalow dwelling containing 2 bath, 1 kitchen, 1 dining, laundry and a living area.**



All that piece or parcel of land being Lot No. 1 containing 696.48 Square Meters situate along the Northern Highway near Mile 12, Belize District, as shown on Register No. 24 Entry Plan No. 13447, held under a Deed of Conveyance being the freehold interest of CORNELIUS FRIESEN. — **One Unit with two stories - Ground Floor - 1 combined kitchen and dining area, 1 bedroom, 1 bath attached to an open office area (storage and assembly area). Level Upper floor - divided by a concrete partition with two sections that is incomplete.**



Parcel Nos. 8965 & 8964, Block No. 7, San Pedro Registration Section containing 1 Acre respectively situate 3.5 Miles North of San Pedro Town, Ambergris Caye, Belize District held under Land Certificates being the freehold interests of MADHU ODHERMAL BABANI — **Empty plots of land**



Parcel 304, Block 16, Vista Del Mar Registration Section containing 696.54 Square Meters held under a Land Certificate being the freehold interest of KEVIN ENRIQUEZ & ANDREA ENRIQUEZ surety for ANKA LTD.

Parcel 303, Block 16, Vista Del Mar Registration Section containing 696.54 Square Meters held under a Land Certificate being the freehold interest of KEVIN ENRIQUEZ & ANDREA ENRIQUEZ surety for ANKA LTD.

Parcel 302, Block 16, Vista Del Mar Registration Section containing 696.54 Square Meters held under a Land Certificate being the freehold interest of KEVIN ENRIQUEZ & ANDREA ENRIQUEZ surety for ANKA LTD.

A total of 2469.16 Square Yards containing 14 Apartments (10 One bedroom apartments & 4 two bedroom apartments) each with a living, dining, kitchen each attached to a private porch area and a shared laundromat area (22.5' x 40') which is situated at the front of the building.



**Miguel A. Ellis
P.O. Box 118, Belmopan,
Ph: 634-9058
E-Mail: miguel_ellis@hotmail.com
Please contact DFC for financing**



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