

Reporter

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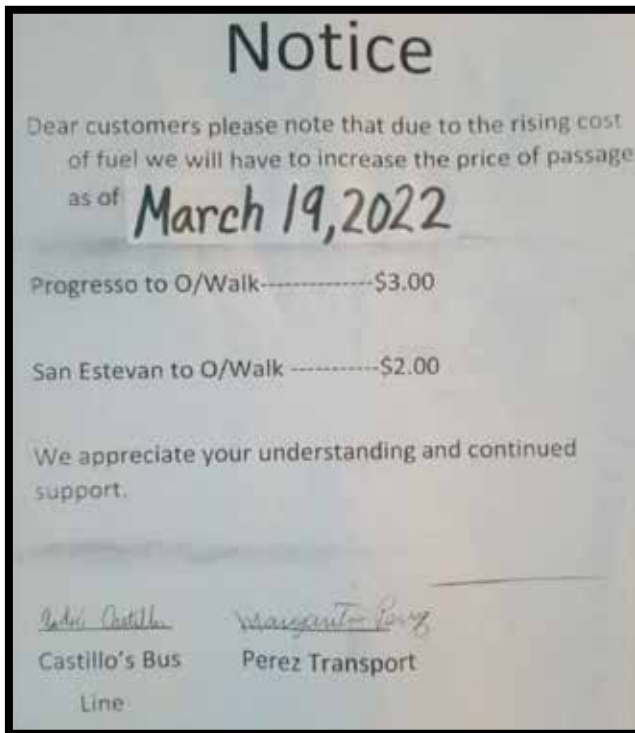
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Bus Companies Jumping the Gun in Implementing Price Increase?

By Michelle Sutherland

Over the weekend *the Reporter* received several reports that bus companies, mainly in the north of the country, have been hiking up bus fares, ahead of the scheduled increase, which has still not been approved.

One of the memos that we received noted, "Dear customers please note that due to the rising cost of fuel we will have to increase the passage as of March 19th, 2022. We appreciate your understanding and support." It then



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Belize Bus Association (BBA)'s Secretary Ewart Metzgen

Increase in the Price of Chicken Expected to Take Effect by the End of the Week

Pg. 2



By Michelle Sutherland

The rippling effects of increased fuel prices across the world are once more being blamed for another price hike in essential goods, this time in the price of chicken, which is expected to increase by 9 cents, by the end of this week.

While Armando Cowo, manager of the

Belize Poultry Association, could not tell us the duration of this latest increase, due to the fluid situation as it relates to the ever-changing price of fuel around the world, he says that the association is not foreseeing any additional increase in the next couple of months. Cowo is also estimating that if the war in Ukraine ends

soon as is being anticipated, then the local economy and even fuel prices will revert back to normal by May of next year.

Cowo explained to our newsroom, "prices will go up, we are currently rolling out a price adjustment, these changes as we all know is due to several factors and not just one. Fuel is one of them but our

19 Years Later Crime Stoppers Belize Still Instrumental in Reducing Crime

By Michelle Sutherland

With an escalating crime problem, ranging from petty crimes, rapes, robberies, murders, and even human trafficking cases, over the years Crime Stoppers Belize (CSB) has been working behind the scenes to get criminals from off the streets and ensure that families get the justice that they deserve.

To get an insight into the program we contacted its founder and chair Lauren Smith who told us that the program was launched in 2003, as part of a wider program for Rotary International in commemora

Royals Wrap Up Royal Tour in Belize



Duke and Duchess visit Hopkins in southern Belize.

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Last week the Alcalde of Indian Church Village and a few others in league with him vented their rancor by refusing to welcome Prince Edward, the son of the late Princess Diana, and his charming wife Kate, Duchess of Cambridge, to their village.

The protest, by a handful of peacock leaders, who prefer to strut their feathers rather than do the hard work of solving problems, came as a surprise. A surprise not only to the rest of the country which was preparing to welcome the royal couple, but to the villagers themselves, who were not told about what their leaders were planning to do and were genuinely distressed at the group's morose attitude towards the royals.

In spite of this bit of unpleasantness, Prince Edward and his wife had a thoroughly enjoyable time in Belize, shuttling from their island base in San Pedro on la Isla Bonita to the mainland for various fun events organized in their honor.

They were captivated by the charm and variety and the history of Belize and the genuine friendliness of her people. They promised to come back, and this time around, to bring their children! The visit was a stunning success for Belize as well. Belize lives by her tourism, which today is our leading industry. To have a visit from these distinguished royals was better than any public relations campaign we could think of. It has worked wonders to improve our status as a tourist destination.

None of Belize's tourism success ignores the needs of the people of Indian Creek, or any other village for that matter. Tourism is a tool which we use to improve our economic condition and many villages in Toledo can attest to tourism's effectiveness to improve lives.

The trouble with Indian Creek is that the village has run out of land for growth and expansion. There are plenty of lands next door, which some in the village regarded as Indian ancestral lands, but which is owned by a British conservation trust called Flora and Fauna International. Prince Edward happens to be the patron of this conservation trust. Hence the "bad face" by Alcalde Mateo Chub and those who support him.

When the people of San Pedro Palmar faced a similar problem in Orange Walk many years ago they did not resort to idiotic platitudes. They asked the government of the day to negotiate with the owners of neighboring Louisiana Farm so that the villagers could have the land they needed for growth and expansion.

Bus Companies Jumping the Gun...

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went on to list the new prices and was signed by Castillos Bus Line and Perez Transport.

When we got in contact with BBA's Secretary Ewart Metzgen, to inquire about whether these bus companies have been jumping the gun he indicated, "We at the BBA have asked our member's not to ap-

ply new prices as they don't know what those prices will be. Those that we know who are increasing prices are not members of the BBA. Yes, they are going against the law because bus fares are regulated by the government. We waited for over thirty years for this. What's a couple of days more?"

Metzgen additionally noted that while

they had gotten positive feedback from the Prime Minister last week about a possible price increase that has still not been endorsed since it has to be tabled by Cabinet before it can be approved and rolled out. Metzgen was still unable to say how much the increase will be but noted that it will be implemented on April 15th, 2022, so as means of giving the

public ample time to prepare.

We also reached out to the BBA President Thomas Shaw for comment on the situation and he told us that he has already reached out to the bus companies who have implemented the increase and instructed them to "hold off on doing so" until they are furnished with the valid price struc-

Increase in the Price of Chicken Expected to Take Effect by the End of the Week

Cont'd from pg. 1

industry is very energy-intensive we consume a lot of energy in different forms and in different stages of the processing stages. We consume a lot of diesel for our trucks, we also buy a lot of our corn, and soybeans from the grain industry here in Belize, and that price is being passed on to us. We also have the situation of the fluctuating prices on

the world market in regards to fuel. Currently, it is well over 100\$ for a barrel, two weeks ago it was at \$139 US a barrel for oil. All of this has a huge impact on the industry."

Cowo also referred to the increased price for plastic that the various processing plant utilizes to ensure utmost food safety. He also claimed that there has been an increase in the price of fertilizers,

all of which are considered to be petroleum-based products.

Despite the increase on their end, Cowo is warning food vendors to refrain from engaging in price gouging. He noted, "It's going up cents per pound, I don't see why food vendors would want to add a dollar to it. I mean if the people in the food business want to raise their prices, let them do so and justify it but don't do that solely on

using the price adjustment from the industry, because we are just doing it by cents. They are not even paying 25 cents and for them to be charging an extra dollar for a plate of food when they are not giving consumers a lbs of chicken on the plate."

Cowo is asking consumers to be vigilant and to report any price gouging to the Association or the Belize Bureau of Standards.

19 Years Later Crime Stoppers Belize Still Instrumental in Reducing Crime

Cont'd from pg. 1

tion of their centennial. Smith explained that it was designed to reduce crime by partnering with the community, the media and the local police, and other law enforcement agencies. This is done through the media reporting the crime, the community identifying the criminal and passing on that information to CSB.

Smith said that back when the project was launch there were between 8 to 10 murders a year, but that the pattern had warned of an expected increase over the years. It was therefore agreed that a program such as CSB was needed to provide a venue by which Belizeans could have the opportunity to report crime without the fear of being targeted, either by the criminals or even law enforcement authorities.

19 years later CSB has been dubbed a success and has aided in solving crimes, getting firearms and drugs from off of the street, and even making payouts to successful tips, that have resulted in arrest.

Smith indicated, "Its

not been easy because we have a tendency for natural mistrust of the system and the Police Department. We would usually receive about 40 to 60 tips a month. Sometimes like if there is a lot of things that is happening we receive more tips. If things are quiet the tips drop down to sometimes 10 tips for the month. It not like a huge amount but it is a steady flow."

But while the initial aim of the program was to provide witness with incentive such as cash payouts for any tips that lead to an arrest or the seizure of firearms and drugs from off the street, Smith said that the most interesting part about that is that majority of the callers are not interested in payouts. Rather they are more interested in seeing justice being served. She noted that while there have been payouts in the past she classified them as being "very minimal" and not even worthy of mentioning.

"What is important is that the criminals are not allowed to roam free without justice," she said.

When asked about

how the program works, she explained to us that persons can call the toll free line at 922 or even submit an online tip. The call is answered by international operators, who takes the information and pass it on to the relevant authorities. Each caller is given a code number so that their identity can remain unknown. They are instructed to call back to check on the outcome of their tip. If the information result in an arrest and charge then the caller is eligible for a cash reward.

"Its more like a tip, its

not like an entire supply of evidence. Unless its a picture showing that person committing the crime or something like that. its normally a guide to send the investigators in that direction and then the investigators take it from there," explained Smith.

She also added that CSB would usually follow up with the relevant authorities to get an update on the case. That is then used as part of the CSB statistics. The program is funded through corporate sponsors, donations and fund raising.

THE REPORTER

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Royals Wrap Up Royal Tour in Belize

By Michelle Sutherland

The Duke and Duchesses' weekend visit to Belize which took them chocolate making, to punta, and even to witness the deep blue of the Caribbean sea and the ancient Maya Ruins, officially concluded on Tuesday morning, with their early departure to Jamaica.

The Royal Couple, Prince William and Kate Middleton were treated to a special reception at the Cahal Pech Maya Ruin, that without a doubt was fitting for royals. The reception which was hosted by the Queen's representative in Belize Governor-General Dame Froyla Tzalam, showcased traditional cultural foods, Maya women in traditional wears, Mayan princess, Mayan warriors and even a live marimba band playing on top of one of the Maya ruins.

While the music, spectacular lighting effect, and food were something to marvel

over the Dutchess shimmering pink metallic gown and her husband's jaw-dropping speech to the gathering completely stole the show.

In conveying greetings from his grandmother the Queen of England, whom he says speaks very fondly of Belize, the Prince opened up by describing his tour earlier that day to the Caracol Maya Ruin. A climb that he described as "good exercise" and a "testament to Belize's long and pride history of culture."

The Duke commended the Belizean Government and its people on the exceptional job that they have been doing in climate change and conservation efforts. Something which he says that he and his wife have been fortunate enough to witness and appreciate on their short visit to the jewel.

"We have been lucky enough to witness some of the biodiversity that you so lovingly nurture here



Chocolate making experience in the south

in your jungles and your reefs. You take your responsibility as custodians of nature very seriously and your world leaders are protecting your natural heritage for future generations. The fact that nearly 40% of Belize is in protected status is a testament to that."

Prince William also shared his awe of the tranquil heaven we

call home, one which is made up of multiple ethnic group, that live in unity and pride." Belize may be small but your rich blend of ethnic groups contributes to the harmonious tapestry of life," said the prince as he shared his experience of a tour of a chocolate farm in the south and his encounter with the Garifuna people of Hopkins.

Part of the planned visit to the south of the country on Sunday took the Cambridges to the beautiful seaside village of Hopkins where they were welcomed by school children



The Duke and Duchess Admiring the Cahal Pech Archeological Reserve

from the villages school. They were welcomed by locals, who treated them to Garifuna drumming and food.

Afterwards the Royals took a walk on the beachside, greeting tourist and residents as they walked along. Under as nearby shade they met up with representatives and government officials from various environmental groups for

a short discussion. After that concluded the Royals were taken out to witness firsthand the beauty of Belize's Barrier Reef near South Water Caye where they swam side by side with sharks.

The Royals departed Belize on Tuesday morning, after sharing their gratitude for the warm welcome and hospitality that the Belizean people showed them.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Lost Registration Application: The original Certificate No. BPA-A40348 of year 2020 and Registration Number BZ-0833 for a green & white with green stripe black trim 25ft. fiberglass boat, vessel name **Lady Jeanie** belonging to **Thomas Ernesto Ack of St. Margaret Village, Stann Creek District** have been lost. A new registration certificate has been required under Part III of Harbours & Merchants Shipping Act, Chapter 234 of the Consolidated Laws of Belize (Revised Edition 2000) has been requested.

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The Reporter

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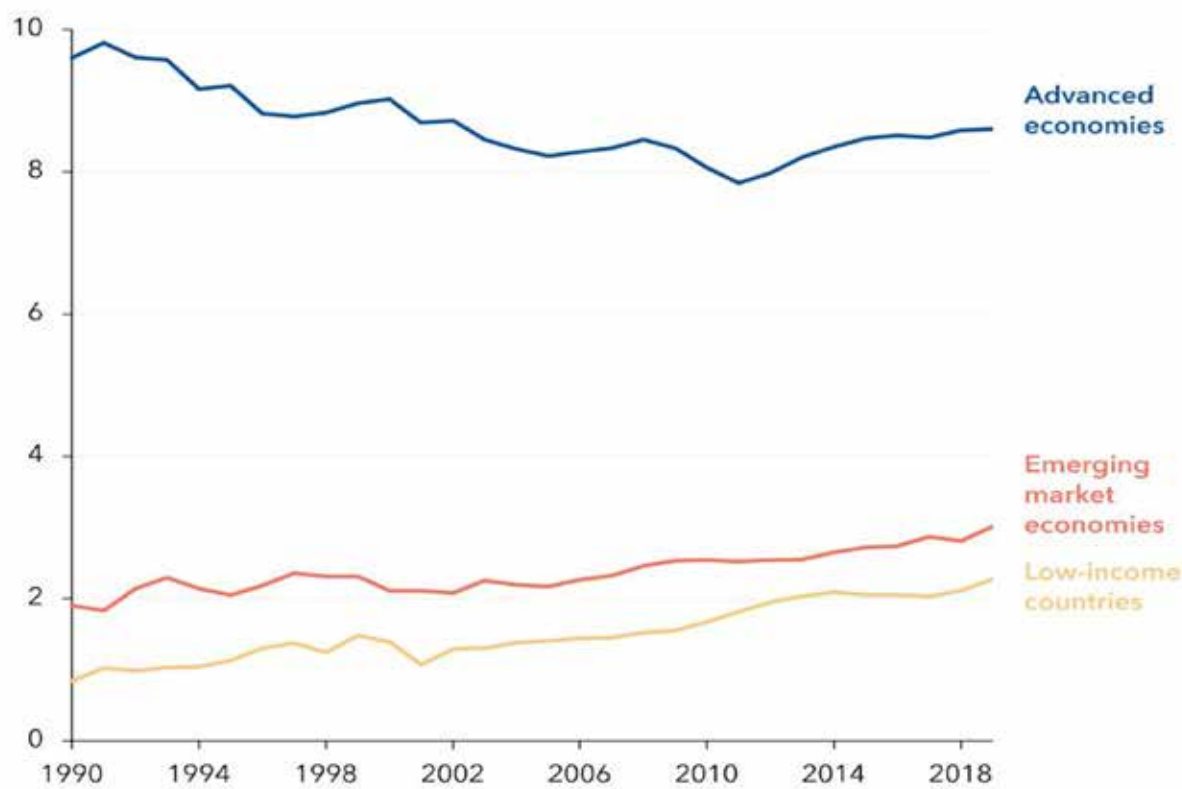
Personal Income Tax Has Untapped Potential in Poorer Countries

By Dora Benedek, Juan Carlos Benítez, and Charles Vellutini

Steady rise

Personal income tax revenue has been increasing in low-income and emerging market economies in recent decades.

(personal income tax revenue, percent of GDP)



Source: IMF staff calculations.

IMF

also extends to other taxes. Moreover, the accelerated shift into digitalized services because of the pandemic can pave the way for better income tax design and enforcement.

What about the redistributive impact of the income tax in developing countries? To explore this, we separate the effects of policy design from the size of the population covered by the tax. Interestingly, the design of this tax in low-income countries is typically progressive; it is instead the narrow coverage that makes the overall contribution to redistribution very small compared to that seen in advanced economies. In emerging markets, however, it's not progressive. It would seem, then, that there is significant potential to improve inclusion in this latter group of countries (several of which have a flat income tax).

Is there scope to increase personal income

tax revenue in the post-pandemic recovery?

To answer this question, we look at how additional revenue is raised from alternative sources. Here again, there is a large difference between advanced economies, where additional revenue is predominantly sourced from the income tax, and low-income countries, where it plays a much more modest role. Other taxes will likely have to play a significant role, therefore, in raising revenue over the medium term, with the value-added tax and other indirect taxes remaining the main contributors.

But income taxes can still be important for inclusive growth if properly designed and revenues well spent. Our research—together with the history of the tax in advanced economies—shows that the personal income tax should evolve into a more significant source of revenue as countries develop.

Many governments aiming to achieve a durable economic recovery from the pandemic must raise significant amounts of revenue in the fairest way possible. The personal income tax—levied on wages, salaries, and other income—is a suitable instrument for this challenge. In new research, we examine the scope for making greater use of this fiscal tool in developing countries, where many people earn a living at low incomes.

Still in its infancy, but growing

The personal income tax had become the predominant tax by the eve of World War II in many advanced economies, where it now raises approximately 9 percent of gross domestic product. In addition to bringing in revenue, it is progressive—imposing steeper rates on those with a higher income—and reduces inequality measurably.

In most emerging market and low-income countries, on the other hand, such taxes are still in their infancy. Revenue from this source averages only 2.5 percent of GDP in these countries, in part because of their narrow tax base, and it does little

to lessen inequality.

But gradual changes have been taking place. In the two decades preceding the pandemic, income tax revenue more than doubled in low-income countries, rising from the equivalent of 1 percent of GDP to 2.1 percent, while emerging markets saw an increase from 2.1 percent to 3.1 percent. These were also reflected in share of the tax in overall tax intake, which went from 5 percent to 8 percent of total tax revenue in low-income countries and from 9 percent to 11 percent in emerging markets.

Our research on this progress focuses on three questions: what drives personal income tax growth, how increases affect total revenue performance, and how these levies influence income redistribution. Our findings hold important lessons for developing countries, particularly as they grapple with the post-pandemic challenge of building the capacity to raise more tax revenue.

What drives revenue growth?

In examining the progress of the personal income tax in developing countries, we distinguish between observable tax policy changes and broader economic

changes. Policy changes have targeted top and bottom statutory rates as well as the level of exempt income. Remarkably, we find that this hasn't contributed much to the increase in revenue in low-income countries.

And in emerging market economies, this shift has sometimes actually reduced revenue. This is the case in part because many emerging markets have introduced flat tax systems with low rates and those with progressive schedules have reduced rates over the last two decades.

Economic variables, on the other hand, played a very important role. We looked at increases in per capita incomes and the size of the public-sector wage bill and the reduction in the size of the informal sector, as measured by the share of self-employed workers in the labor force and the share of agriculture in the economy. These developments have clearly been the driving force behind the growth in personal income tax revenues. As economies develop, we can expect this tax to take on greater importance.

Improvements in tax administration also potentially play a role in boosting revenues, though that

TENDER



Streetlight Maintenance 2022-2024

BEL invites tenders for Streetlight Maintenance for the period 2022 to 2024 at the following location:

- Punta Gorda

The bidding documents, which outline all the duties and responsibilities of the contract, are available on BEL's website at www.bel.com.bz/Tenders.aspx

Bidders are encouraged to attend a virtual pre-bid meeting on **Monday, April 11, 2022**. Submissions of interest to attend the meeting can be sent to bidboxrequest@bel.com.bz no later than **3:00 p.m. Friday, April 8, 2022**.

An email submission must be received at bidsubmittal@bel.com.bz no later than **3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 13, 2022**.

Proposals will be accepted by email only and should include the subject **BID # 2022-442 Streetlight Maintenance: Punta Gorda**

For more information or queries, send email to bidboxrequest@bel.com.bz

Cost incurred for preparation of the tender document is the sole responsibility of the bidder. The lowest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted.

Women Footballers win University scholarships

Belmopan, March 21st, 2022

Three female football players of the Belize senior women's team, the Lady Jaguars, have won scholarships to universities in the United States, the Football Federation of Belize announced this week.

Sabrina Eiley, of the Sagitun Girlz in Independence Village, is a graduate of the University of Belize and will now be pursuing her Masters at Corban University in Salem, Oregon. She will also be playing soccer for the university in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics. Sabrina's football pedigree is impeccable, having won consecutive National Secondary Schools Sports Association (NSSSA) championships playing with the I.H.S Invaders while she attended Independence High School. She completed her Associate's Degree in Business Management w/concentration

in Tourism at Independence Junior College, where she won consecutive national sub-championships in the Association of Tertiary Level Institutions of Belize (ATLIB) tournaments with the I.J.C Predators. Continuing her studies at the University of Belize, she won consecutive ATLIB national championships with the U.B Jaguars in 2018 and 2019.

Top U-20 striker Kaite Jones, of the Bay City Football Club of Corozal has signed a Letter of Intent from the National Junior College Athletic Association to play with the Mavericks of Northern Oklahoma College -Tonkawa!

A scholarship opportunity has also opened for midfielder Ashley Rodriguez, of Rumberas FC of Buena Vista, who has committed to playing for Benedictine University in Mesa, Arizona.

These scholarships



Three of the Lady Jaguars team members have won scholarships to US Universities.

are part of the FFB's ongoing program to find opportunities for our players to prepare themselves for the game and for the future.

Sabrina has also been enjoying success on the field scoring a goal in the Lady Jaguars' 3-0 win over El Estor in Morales, Izabal province, Guatemala last Thursday, March 17, and she scored again in the Lady Jaguars' 3-0 win

over a Chetumal Selection at the "10th of April" Stadium in Chetumal on Tuesday, March 22. Katie and Ashley have also been a part of this success,

as the Lady Jaguars have been playing these practice matches in preparation for their next FIFA Women's World Cup qualifier, when they host Aruba

at the FFB Stadium in Belmopan on April 6, then travel to the Dominican Republic to take on Barbados in Santo Domingo on April 12th.

Fuel Price Update

Belmopan, March 24th, 2022. 2:00 p.m.

The Ministry of Finance announces that effective today, March 24, 2022, the regulated pump price of regular gasoline is now prescribed at \$13.50, representing an increase of 66 cents compared to the last shipment Belize received.

Not only is this increase entirely attributable to the acquisition costs of the product but in order for the price to be kept at this level, the Government reduced all levies on regular fuel by 29 cents.

As Hon. John Briceño, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, has explained in recent public statements, the Government is in the

process of establishing a Fuel Stabilization Mechanism which is expected to provide some level of price predictability while protecting fiscal targets in the national budget.

The ministry is also actively engaged with various stakeholders in the pursuit of certain burden sharing initiatives that can contribute to price stabilization, and eventually, price reduction. In this regard, the Government has been emphatic with Belize's principal fuel importer, Puma Belize Ltd., about the imperative of competitive acquisition and pricing.

Recently, in the case of diesel fuel, the Government reduced

the tax component by \$1.17 in order to keep the price of that product at \$13.41. This tax reduction alone represents, on an annualized basis, a loss of \$17 million of anticipated budget revenues.

Countries over the world are enduring fuel price surges as a direct consequence of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Though future prices are impossible to predict, the Government of Belize continues to examine all viable policy options for minimizing the fuel price shock, balancing as best as possible between the twin demands of affordable pump prices and budgetary steadiness.

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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-2022-05-R
Closing date: April 1st, 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.

GOB begins Coastal Marine Project Finance initiative

By William Ysaguirre

The Government will begin the design of a Coastal and Marine Project Finance for Permanence (PFP) initiative, Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño, announced Thursday morning, March 24.

The project follows up on a Memorandum of Understanding which the Government of Belize officially signed with World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) at the Conference of Parties (COP26) on the United

Nations' Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Edinburgh last year.

The initiative will help Belize to secure long-lasting protection of its unique and globally significant biodiversity, foster long-term economic viability and sustainable livelihoods, and strengthen the resilience of coastal communities to the impacts of climate change.

A Project will enable sustainable financing for Belize's marine protected areas and broader coastal

ecosystems over the long term, and is a key part of ensuring the effective management of Belize's marine resources. The project borrows from private sector practices for organizing and financing complex, resource-intensive, and well-defined projects. The initiative aims to address the issue of insufficient funding for the management of conservation areas.

"Belize's marine and coastal natural assets are central to its national development and economic recovery, while meeting



GOB signed MOU with World Wildlife Fund and the Nature Conservancy

its climate ambitions and conservation goals," Briceño said. "This PFP will allow us to build on our success with the Blue Bond as global innovators in securing the funding required to maintaining the functional integrity of these very important resources and their continued role in livelihood security and climate resiliency."

"This announcement signals the commitment of the Government of Belize to work with World Wildlife Fund, The Nature Conservancy and others to build durable long-term mechanisms to protect and manage Belize's unique marine and coastal ecosystems, said WWF president and

chief executive officer Carter Roberts. "The ocean and its bounty play a significant role in Belizean life, and this initiative will support Belizean livelihoods and position Belize as a global leader for sustainable economic recovery. WWF is honored to work with the Government of Belize on this important effort."

"With security on the line for hundreds of thousands of people living within Belize's coastal zone, the PFP provides an opportunity to appropriately conserve coastal natural resources in perpetuity for the benefit of people and nature, affirmed TNC's chief executive officer

Jennifer Morris. "Belize is in an ideal position to leverage this innovative financial approach to protect coastal and marine ecosystems. This is an important step in reaching global climate and biodiversity targets for a nature-positive future."

Climate change and human activities are increasingly impacting marine and coastal habitats. The accelerated degradation of critical coastal ecosystems is jeopardizing the resilience, adaptive capacity, and biodiversity of these systems that communities also depend upon for coastal protection, food, recreation, and carbon sequestration.

OAS opens Ta'Amay Training Center for Peace



Training center promoting peace in Arenal, Cayo, opened.

By William Ysaguirre

The Organization of American States' peace mission in the Adjacency Zone between Belize and Guatemala officially inaugurated two Ta'Amay Training Centers for Promotion of Peace in the villages of Arenal, Cayo district, and Melchor de Mencos, Guatemala on Tuesday, March 22.

The centers will offer vocational and employment skills training for women to help them earn an income. They will be offered courses in cosmetology, carpentry and

woodwork, and English as a Second Language (ESL). Senator Collet Montejo represented the Government of Belize at the ribbon cutting ceremony. Mayor Luis Amado Yanes of Melchor de Mencos welcomed the Project, which will benefit some 500 persons of both communities. Construction on the project began on November 2, 2021.

Representatives of Belize's friends in the peace process also attended the opening ceremony, including Mexico's Ambassador to Belize, H.E. Mar-

tha Ofelia Zamarripas Rivas and Taiwan's Ambassador to Belize. H.E. David Kuan Chou Chien, along with Guatemala's Ambassador to Belize H.E. Mr. Erwin R. Achila Falla. Ambassador Agustín Espinosa, the OAS Secretary General's special representative for Guatemala-Belize Affairs also attended the opening along with the Director - Juan Carlos Amador and administrative and financial officer Sergio López Vivanco of the OAS Office in the Adjacency Zone.

Notice of Dissolution

PALISADE GLOBAL INVESTMENTS LTD.

("The Company")

Notice is hereby given that **PALISADE GLOBAL INVESTMENTS LTD.**, a company formed pursuant to the International Business Companies Act has commenced dissolution on **18th January 2022.**

Michael Kanevsky, of 157 East, 45th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V5W 1W8, Canada is the Liquidator of the company.

MICHAEL KANEVSKY
Liquidator

TENDER



Distribution Line Construction

BEL invites tenders for Distribution Line Construction (Countrywide) for the year 2022 at the following locations:

Corozal	San Ignacio	Belize City and Ladyville
Orange Walk	Dangriga	San Pedro and Caye Caulker
Belmopan	Punta Gorda	Independence and Placencia

The bidding documents, which outline all the duties and responsibilities of the contract are available on BEL's website at www.bel.com.bz/Tenders.aspx

Bids must be submitted via email to bidsubmittal@bel.com.bz no later than **3:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 7, 2022.**

The email subject should include the bid number located on the respective bid form.

For more information or queries, send email to bidboxrequest@bel.com.bz

Cost incurred for preparation of the tender document is the sole responsibility of the bidder. The lowest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted.

New Cattle Trade-Route formed with Mexico

By Javan Flowers

Members of Cabinet attended a cattle export ceremony at Cacabix corral in Shipyard, Orange Walk District, which saw the establishment of a formal trade agreement between Belizean livestock farmers and SuKarne, a Mexican meat company.

Opening the ceremony was keynote speaker Minister of Agriculture Hon. Jose Abelardo Mai, "Today, we exported 266 heads of cattle to Mexico. Those will leave the border today en route to Michoacán. I am told that our animals first



(l-r) Min. Jose Mai, PM John Briceno, Min. Eamon Courtenay and a representative from SuKarne Company in Mexico



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

Institution: *Belize Water Services Limited*

Country: *Belize*

Project: *Seine Bight 500,000 US gallon Water Reservoir and site development*

Sector: *Plant*

Abstract: *The general objective of this publication is to engage eligible construction companies to build a two chamber 500,000 gallon reinforced concrete reservoir in the Seine Bight Village (Stann Creek District) as per design.*

Project Number: *28551191974/ BW-55-1858*

New Deadline: *March 29, 2022*

The construction services ("the Services") include, but are not limited to, construction of a 76ft x 76ft above ground reinforced concrete potable water reservoir:

- supply all construction materials and construct and commission new reinforced concrete ground water reservoir (500,000 US-gallon capacity), including installation of all pipework and fixtures and
- Construct Chemical, Dosing, and Pump rooms above reservoir including Plumbing and Electrical, Site fill, internal road, parking, site lights, drainage and perimeter fencing.

Belize Water Services Limited now invites eligible construction companies ("Bidders") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Companies should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.

Companies must qualify on three (3) major work categories:

- **Civil and ancillary works** including, but not limited to, construction and refurbishment of buildings, construction and refurbishment of roads and streets, major and minor roads chip and seal works, earthworks, fencing, concrete works, facility maintenance, retaining walls, drainage, security huts, shelters and canopies, railings, bins, signage, plastering, painting, etc.
- **Water Supply Systems** including new and renewals of transmission, distribution mains and service connections; installation of pump stations; installation of headworks; water treatment plant works (including mechanical/electrical and civil); and construction and/or restoration of reservoirs.
- **Commercial mechanical and electrical** works including electrical and mechanical installation for buildings and compounds

Financial category of the project:

- **Large** contract estimated more than \$1,000,000.

Financial resources of the company shall be BZ\$200,000 monthly.

Shortlisting of contractors will be based on the [Application pack – Expression of Interest for Seine Bight 500,000 US gallon Water Reservoir and site Development Tendering process](#) and is open to all eligible contractors as defined in the document.

The short list shall comprise of minimum of three (3) and maximum of eight (8) companies.

Companies may associate with other firms in the form of a joint venture or a sub-consultancy to enhance their qualifications.

Interested parties should contact the Engineering procurement representative, via email to obtain Application Package and other information.

Expressions of interest and application package must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by e-mail) by **March 29, 2022**, no later than 3:00 P.M.

*Belize Water Services Limited
Attn: Engineering Procurement
7 Central American Boulevard
Belize City, Belize, C.A.
Tel: +(501) 222-4757, Ext. 1713*

E-mail: engineeringprocurement@bws.com.bz

were slaughtered, and they were distributed on the Mexican market, but I'm also now told that an update to that is that our beef has now seen its way into Canada, which means that we have quality beef, acceptable by Canada."

The Minister explains that the formal trade relationship made between Belizean livestock farmers and Sukrane will see weekly transactions of 800 heads of cattle weekly.

The only caveat mentioned by the Minister is just how much capital investment would be needed monthly, "[Since] it has become a full-time operation, that means that we must have vets employed full-time on the farm. In addition, we must have people inspecting full-time."

"So, it's a substantial expansion from where we began to where we are now. That brings some challenges, first the cash flow. To be selling 800 animals weekly means you have to be buying 800 animals weekly. That's close to a million dollars that you need to be investing weekly."

Mai further detailed that quarantining the cattle for 21 days, having the adequate infrastructure to manage the livestock and the livestock's health, and ensuring other aspects of the ranch are apt to take on the

livestock will require recurring capital investments of up to BZ\$3,000,000, almost monthly, before profits are realized.

Notably, the event was witnessed by Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño; Hon. Eamon Courtenay, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Immigration; Hon. Jose Abelardo Mai, Minister of Agriculture, Food Security and Enterprise; Hon. Christopher Coxe, Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment; and officials from various organizations and government departments including Commissioner of Police Chester Williams; Jeffery Reimer, Chairman of the Belize Livestock Producers Association; and members of the board; Henry Anderson, Chairman of the Development Finance Corporation, and members of the management team; and officials from the Ministry of Agriculture.

In a release issued by the Government of Belize's Press Office, cattle exports to Mexico are expected to regularize weekly throughout the rest of the year as both Belize and Mexico continue to develop favorable agreements that will enable cattle from all over Belize to be exported to Mexico.

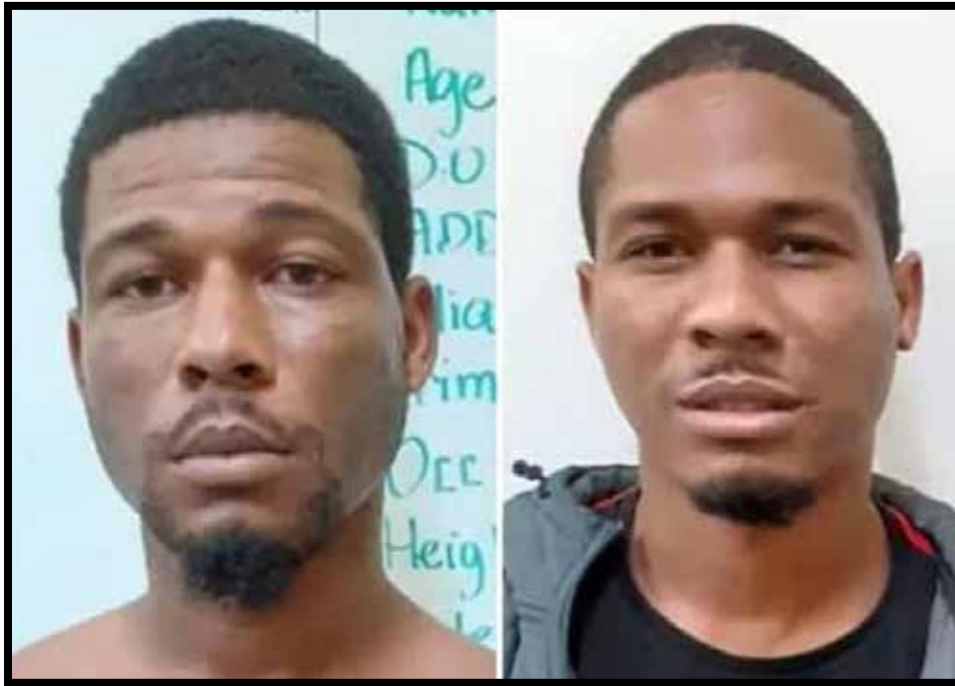
Gang Figures, Caught Fleeing to the US Remanded to Prison

By Michelle Sutherland

Reputed gang members, Tyrone and Ellis Meighan, are spending their first night at the Belize Central Prison after they were detained over the weekend by authorities in Mexico attempting to make a run for the United States.

While we were initially told that they were detained for illegal entry into Mexico, and later handed over to the GI3, prison authorities confirmed that the siblings were remanded to the Belize Central Prison on charges of 'contempt of judicial order' until April 5th, 2022.

Reports are that sus-



Meighan Brothers remanded to prison

picious had been raised after the siblings failed to show up for a court case in which they had

been charged for being a gang member.

On Monday, follow-

ing their court appearance, their attorney Norman Rodriguez told

Channel 7 News. "They have no reason to run away. The brothers believe that they are being treated unfairly because the intention was not to run away. We know the Meighan brothers, the whole country knows the Meighan brothers, maybe we have a perception of them, but in this specific instance I can tell you that I believe these young men that they were not running away from this charge."

Rodriguez in fact claimed that his clients were ambushed by the prosecution who allegedly presented an application to the magistrate requesting that

his clients be remanded to the prison until their trial date.

Rodriguez claimed that that shouldn't have happened, rather that his clients should have been given the opportunity to justify their absence to the magistrate who would, in turn, consider whether or not to remove the bench warrant.

The Meighan brothers, who are well-known gang members, are believed to be part of a larger exodus of alleged gang members who are fleeing Belize City to the United States in search of a better life.

GOB to collaborate with Belize Bank's E-kyash to pilot online payment services



By Javan Flowers

This week, the E-Governance and Digitalization Unit announced that E-kyash, powered by Belize Bank, was selected as the first electronic payment solution to pilot an online payment program.

As detailed in the release, the Government of Belize, through a competitive bidding process under the project Supporting Electronic Payment Solutions, received and evaluated bids from the Belize Bank, National Bank of Belize, Heritage Bank Limited, Speednet (Smart), and Digi.

According to the Government, based on final evaluations, E-kyash was selected as the first electronic payment solution to pilot online payment for processing Temporary Work Permit applications within the Labour Department's Temporary Employment Permit system.

As detailed, this collaboration aims

to provide Belizeans with a safe and secure means of payment that can be rapidly dispersed across multiple channels and provide further efficiencies to investors and local entrepreneurs.

Employers applying for work permits for their staff will now be able to pay online conveniently. It will also allow for a more efficient application process as there will be no need to visit the Treasury Department's offices before applying for the work permit. Instead, payment will be executed on the Labor Department's website, and the process will be completed immediately, avoiding any delays or disruptions.

This initiative is being led by the E-Governance and Digitalization Unit under the Ministry of Public Utilities, Energy, Logistics & E-Governance, the Ministry of Finance, and the Ministry of Rural Transformation, Community Development, Labour, and Local Government, and is expected to go live at the end of April 2022.






Belize Sugar Industries Ltd.
 Invites qualified and self-motivated individuals to submit applications for the post of:
IT Site Support Specialist
 at Tower Hill, Orange Walk

The **IT Site Support Specialist** provides technical and analytical support to users, troubleshoot and resolve technical infrastructure issues that include PC's, printers, network devices, servers and collaboration technologies.

Qualifications and Experience:

- Bachelors of Science Degree in Information Technology or related field
- Minimum of three (3) years work experience in related field
- Fluency in English both written and verbal, ability to speak Spanish will be an asset
- Knowledge of Windows Active Directory architecture and its interaction with the desktop environment
- Knowledge of network topologies, protocols, UTP and Fiber cables
- Experience using remote client management tools
- Experience using Service Now or other Enterprise Service Desk incident and project management reporting tools
- Experience remediating operating system security vulnerabilities and patch implementation methods
- Experience with unattended build processes and imaging utilities
- Knowledge of device encryption and anti-virus software

Skills and Competencies:

- Good interpersonal skills, team oriented
- Strong analytical and research skills
- Self-motivated with exceptional work ethic
- Proactive, organized and dependable
- Good interpersonal skills, team oriented

Roles and Responsibilities:

- Provide technical support for clients at both the local office and remote locations
- Maintain site's IT inventory IN Asset Inventory System
- Work with outside contractors, project teams and internal staff to maintain and repair all IT assets
- Work with the infrastructure team on network device monitoring, maintenance, server patching and troubleshooting LAN/WAN/VPN connectivity issues
- Support annual equipment refresh including switch and server replacement

Letter of application accompanied by a résumé, police record, recent transcript and two letters of reference should be submitted to:



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

Deadline for submission is April 5, 2022.

Jamaicans sing "Reparation Song" as Royals continue their Caribbean Tour



Duke and Duchess of Cambridge at local archaeological site.

By Javan Flowers

"We, therefore, will not participate in your Platinum Jubilee celebration!" these were sentiments shared by the Jamaica-based Advocates Network (Advocates) in an open letter to Prince William and the Duchess of Cambridge on the eve of the Royals arrival to Jamaica.

The letter, penned on behalf of a group of Jamaican business leaders, doctors, and politicians, opens by lamenting on the implications current world crises have already imposed onto their country, "We note with great concern your visit to our country Jamaica, during a period when we are still in the throes of a global pandemic and bracing for the full impact of another global crisis associated with the Russian/Ukraine war."

It adds that "Many Jamaicans are unaware of your visit as they struggle to cope with the horrendous fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, exacerbated by pre-existing social and economic hardships inherited from our colonial past."

The letter further points out that the Royals visit is part of the celebrations to mark the 70th Anniversary (Platinum Jubilee) of the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth 2nd, which also falls on the cusp of the 60th anniversary

of Jamaica's Independence.

"We see no reason to celebrate 70 years of the ascension of your grandmother to the British throne because of her leadership, and that of her predecessors, have perpetuated the greatest human rights tragedy in the history of humankind." Said the Advocates.

They continued by declaring, "We will not participate in your Platinum Jubilee celebration! ... We will, however, celebrate 60 years of freedom from British colonial domination."

Towards the end of the letter, the Advocates urged the Royals to reflect thoroughly on "these 60 reasons you should apologize and begin a process of reparatory justice."

Of the "60 reasons" for reparation include: "For human trafficking across the Atlantic Ocean in the transatlantic trade

in enslaved people"; and "For causing the high mortality on the floating dungeons you called 'slave ships' because of the inhumane conditions on board," to cite a few.

Notably, a portion of the Royals' tour throughout rural Belize met much opposition from locals. This led to them being forced to cancel their visit to Akte'il Ha cacao farm in Indian Creek village in the foothills of the Maya Mountains, as there is a dispute between village residents and Flora and Fauna International (FFI), a conservation charity William supports as patron.

Similarly, as penned in the open letter to the Prince and Duchess, the Advocate Network plans to stage a demonstration outside the Jamaican British High Commission when the royal couple arrives in the country.



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 debera 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.

MARCH 25TH, 2022

DAY OF THE UNBORN CHILD

"THE GREATEST DESTROYER OF PEACE IS **ABORTION**"

ST. MOTHER TERESA

"By Abortion, the mother does not learn to love, but kills even her own child to solve her problems...."

I feel that the greatest destroyer of peace today is abortion, because it is a war against the child;

a direct killing of the innocent child, murder by the mother herself, And if we accept that a mother can kill even her own child, how can we tell other people not to kill one another?"

LIFE IS SACRED!!



Weh Wi Ga Fi Seh

Vairos di eez dong, bot kip op yu helt.

"Di fosin ahn di faitn ahn di waar mos don"

Wahn papula Kyaribeeyan sang gat een di lain "Di fosin ahn fi faitn ahn di waar mos don." Tudeh day, ih luk laik di minit di vairos mi-di staat eez dong, Roshya staat waar wid Yookrayn. Mi haat bleed fi aal di det ahn vailens. Ahn den poa pregnant laydi, di pikni dehn, di oal peep di dehn weh di sofa er don now ded, aal sayk a wan man da Roshya. Wai, wai, wai, WAI? Tudeh, wi di yooz di lain fahn di sang fi memba seh dat eena wi oan evriday laif, wi ku stap ga wi oan fosin ahn faitn. Wi ku stap di waar op wid wan anada.

Aal a dehnya sentens kohn fahn di Kriol-English dikshineri.

Memba fi chek owt di Kriol-English dikshineri FREE pahnlain da:

<https://www.sil.org/resources/archives/10602>

Di nyooz bowt di waar spread faas.

The news about the war spread fast.

Dehn too famili kyaahn gree ataal; dehn aalwayz di waar wid wan anada.

Those two families can't get along at all; they're always warring with each other.

Di man midi fait gens ih oan fren dehn.

The man was fighting against his own friends.

Wen wi mi smaal, fait doz aalwayz brok owt wen wi goh da fasit fi waata.

When we were small, fights always broke out when we went to the standpipe for water.

Unu di red unu aiy, ahn sayk a dat, unu fait mongz unusef.

You envy, and because of that, you fight among yourselves.

Di lee bwai kohn shub mi fos, ahn dat da how fait staat.

The little boy came and shoved me first, and that's how the fight started

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

UN: “We are sleepwalking to climate catastrophe”

By Javan Flowers

“We are sleepwalking to climate catastrophe.” Cautioned United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres highlighting how Russia’s invasion of Ukraine is poised to be an enormous obstacle for the concerted effort to speed up climate action.

The General’s address pointed to “a cauldron of challenges” such as record inflation, and the fallout from Russia’s war in Ukraine, which risks upending global food and energy markets, “with major implications for the global climate agenda”.

He warned that as G20 economies scramble to replace Russian fossil fuel, short-term arrangements might create long-term fossil fuel dependence and

close the 1.5 degrees window.

“Countries could become so consumed by the immediate fossil fuel supply gap that they neglect or knee-cap policies to cut fossil fuel use,” Mr. Guterres insisted. “This is madness.”

As noted in a previous release by the United Nations, fossil fuel reliance continues to put the global economy and energy security at the mercy of geopolitical shocks and crises – adding that inaction will stop the world from achieving sufficient reduction in carbon emission.

The Secretary-General also stressed that according to present national commitments, global emissions are set to increase by approximately 14% during the rest of the decade. Citing that last year alone, “global



UN Secretary General António Guterres

energy-related CO2 emissions grew by six percent, to their highest levels in history, as coal emissions surged to record highs.”

Guterres continued by stating the fact that while developed G20 economies account for 80% of all global emissions, he underscored that “our planet can’t afford a

climate blame game.”

As he explained, developed countries must not put the onus on developing economies to accelerate their transition nor must developing economies respond by saying that “you exported carbon-intensive heavy industrial activities to us in return for cheaper goods”. Further emphasizing that “We can’t point fingers while the

planet burns.”

Towards the end of his address, he insisted that new simplified eligibility systems and increased adaptation and resilience investment be developed, optimized, and adequately funded.

Guterres reiterated the objectives laid out at COP26 and advocated that developed and emerging economies to cooperate with each other for all countries

to deliver emission reductions.

“Adaptation and mitigation must be pursued with equal force and urgency ... adaptation investments need to be dramatically scaled up to keep pace with accelerating impacts,” emphasized Secretary-General, calling on all donors and technical partners to work with the UN and vulnerable governments.

AstraZeneca “COVID Drug” neutralizes sub-variants of Omicron



By Javan Flowers

An independent lab study on AstraZeneca’s antibody-based COVID19 drug Evusheld found it “neutralized activity” against Omicron coronavirus variants, including the highly contagious BA.2 sub-variant.

The study concluded that “Evusheld retains potent neutralizing activity against the emerging and highly transmissible Omicron SARS-CoV-2 BA.2 subvariant. The data also showed that Evusheld retains activity against Omicron BA.1 and BA.1.1.1.”

Additionally, “live organism” data gathered using mice infected with Omicron BA.1, BA.1.1, and BA.2 depicted that “Evusheld significantly reduced the viral burden and limited inflammation in the lungs for all three subvariants.”

The release further adds that Michael S. Diamond, Ph.D., Washington University, cited that “The findings demonstrate that Evusheld effectively protected against infection in the lungs, a critical disease site for severe COVID-19, across all Omicron subvariants tested.”

John Perez, Senior

Vice President, Head of Late Development, Vaccines & Immune Therapies at AstraZeneca, further pointed out that “These important data show that Evusheld reduced viral burden and limited inflammation caused by Omicron.”

Perez further highlighted that the findings reinforced support for Evusheld as a potential medication that aims to provide better protection for vulnerable patients such as the immunocompromised, who could see dire health implications if they were to become infected with COVID-19.



VACANCY - MARKETING OFFICER FREETOWN BRANCH - BELIZE CITY

Interested applicants must possess the following skills and qualifications:

Education and Experience:

- Bachelor’s Degree in Marketing or Business Administration or other business-related fields with three years experience in Marketing or similar discipline.
- Associate’s Degree in Marketing or Business Administration or other business-related field with five years experience in Marketing or similar discipline.
- Experience in banking would be an asset.

Interpersonal Relations:

- Excellent verbal and written communication skills.
- Contribute positively to team building with the leaders, team members and customers.
- Pleasant manner and tone in communicating on the phone and in person.

Knowledge, Skills, and Competencies:

- Exercise good judgment, ingenuity and creativity.
- Possess ability to build and sustain quality internal and external customer relationships.
- Possess good analytical, time management and organizational skills.
- Function well under pressure and with proven success in handling several projects simultaneously with little supervision.
- Highly dedicated and motivated, while maintaining strict confidentiality.
- Speak fluent English (Spanish would be an asset).

General Responsibilities:

- Prepare, lead and assist in the implementation of marketing plans.
- Oversee design and distribution of marketing materials.
- Recommend new ideas for advertising and promotion of products and services.
- Attend and participate in events to create brand awareness and promote the Bank’s products and services.
- Monitor media coverage, perception and maintain effective media relations.
- Maintain internal communications and assist with training to educate staff about the Bank’s products and services.
- Any other duties assigned.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 2022

Interested applicants may submit application letter, résumé, and two reference letters to:

Chief Human Resources Officer
Human Resources Department
Atlantic Bank Ltd.

Cor. Cleghorn Street / Freetown Road, P.O. Box 481, Belize City, Belize

BY ORDER OF CHARGE **NOTICE OF INTENTION TO SELL**

LAINMACULADA CREDIT UNION LIMITED, a Credit Union duly formed and registered in Belize under the Credit Union Act Chapter 314 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2011 with registered office situated at **No. 5 Park Street, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District, Belize**, hereby gives notice of its intention to exercise its **Power of Sale as Chargee** under the virtue of Charges between those hereinafter named and the said **La Inmaculada Credit Union Ltd.** with said Charge is registered at the Land Registry. The Credit Union will at the expiration of **TWO MONTHS** from the date of the first publication of this notice to sell the properties described in the schedule hereto.

ALL offers to purchase the said property must be made in writing to **LA INMACULADA CREDIT UNION LIMITED**, from whom full particulars and conditions of sale may be obtained.

SCHEDULE

ALL THAT piece or parcel of land being Parcel No.-3217 situated in the **Ann Gabourel** Registration Section, **Orange Walk District**, and held under Land Certificate LRS-201608522 **TOGETHER** with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon, the freehold of **Nery Leonardo Sosa & Josselin Jannethe Alvarado (Jointly)**.

ALL THAT piece or parcel of land being Parcel No.-122 situated in the **Trial Farm** Registration Section, **Orange Walk District**, and held under Land Certificate LRS-201108503 **TOGETHER** with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon, the freehold of **Angelica Leslie**.

ALL THAT piece or parcel of land being Parcel No.-491 situated in the **Trial Farm** Registration Section, **Orange Walk District**, and held under Land Certificate LRS-201108507 **TOGETHER** with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon, the freehold of **Angelica Leslie**.

ALL THAT piece or parcel of land being Parcel No.-1079 situated in the **San Jose Palmar** Registration Section, **Orange Walk District**, and held under Land Certificate # 9845/2004 **TOGETHER** with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon, the freehold of **Angelica Leslie**.

ALL THAT piece or parcel of land being Lot No.-184 attached to Plan No.-2146 Deed of Conveyance LTU-201501474 situated in the **St. Matthews Village, Cayo District**, and registered at the Lands and Surveys Department in Belmopan, as Lot No. 184 on Plan No. 2146 - **TOGETHER** with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon, the Deed of Conveyance of **Miriam Janet Quevedo for Abner Jonathan Quevedo**.

ALL THAT piece or parcel of land being Parcel No.1802- situated in the **Ann Gabourel** Registration Section, **Orange Walk District**, and held under Land Certificate LRS-201910114 **TOGETHER** with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon, the freehold of **Mark Glenford Meighan**.

ALL THAT piece or parcel of land being Parcel No.- 2050 situated in the **Orange Walk Town** Registration Section, **Orange Walk District**, and held under Land Certificate LRS-201810171 **TOGETHER** with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon, the freehold of **Roamir Edwardo Gonzalez**.

ALL THAT piece or parcel of land Parcel No.- 370/1 situated in the **Miller's Bight** Registration Section, **Orange Walk District**, and held under Lease Certificate LRS -201005197 **TOGETHER** with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon, the leasehold of **Carlos Garcia for Julie Linda Garcia**.

ALL THAT piece or parcel of land being Parcel No.-212 situated in the **Guinea Grass** Registration Section, **Orange Walk District**, and held under Land Certificate LRS-201900303 **TOGETHER** with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon, the freehold of **Edison Albert Johnson and Rosita Johnson (Jointly)**.

ALL THAT piece or parcel of land being Parcel No.-672 situated in the **Ann Gabourel** Registration Section, **Orange Walk District**, and held under Land Certificate # 3710/95 **TOGETHER** with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon, the freehold of **Maria Elena Diaz for Leonardo Daniel Diaz**.

ALL THAT piece or parcel of land being Parcel No.-2949 situated in the **San Pedro** Registration Section, **Belize District**, and held under Land Certificate LRS-201511416 **TOGETHER** with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon, the freehold of **Leon Levi Anderson**.

Belize observes World Meteorological Day



Belize Meteorological Service

By Javan Flowers

Belize joins the rest of the world in celebrating World Meteorological Day, observed on March 23rd, under the theme "Early Warning and Early Action."

Speaking, via video presentation, on the importance of Belize's Meteorological (Met) Service is Chief Meteorologist Ronald Gordon, "One of the things to minimize property damage, and of course safeguarding life, is to have an early warning system of any hazardous weather or climate activity that could negatively affect citizens of the country."

As explained by the Met Service and the Government of Belize, this day commemorates the founding of the convention that established the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in 1950.

This year's theme highlights the impor-

tance of having adequate and easily accessible hydrometeorological and climate information to aid in disaster risk reduction and sustainable development.

Deputy Chief Meteorologist Michelle Augustine also further underscored that the frequency and intensity of extreme weather and climatic events have become more prevalent on varying and unprecedented scales across the world due to climate change. Therefore, the Met Service must promptly inform the citizenry of all potential systems that pose a direct threat to life, property, and livelihoods.

A release issued by the GOB's Press Office emphasizes the importance of producing "impact-based forecasts" as simply providing "what the weather will be, will no longer suffice." This evolution of weather forecasting

is to inform the public of what the weather will do, and with that information, the public is expected to respond in an informed manner to safeguard lives and protect property.

Additionally, the release highlights the need to strengthen early warning systems, which are a top priority in most climate change adaptation plans, including improving the coordination between national meteorological and hydrological services, disaster management authorities, and development agencies.

Toward the end of the release, it states that "The National Meteorological Service of Belize in the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management continues to fulfill its mission of providing services and products to protect the Belizean public from extreme weather and climatic events."

Notice of Dissolution

"Notice is hereby given to all interested parties that **TEASTAR HOLDINGS LIMITED** a Company incorporated under the IBC Act of Belize commenced dissolution on **March 17th, 2022**.

And

Paraskevas Zacharoulis with address of **15, Agiou Pavlou, Ledra House, Agios Andreas, 1105, Nicosia, Cyprus** is the Liquidator, and any claims against this Company should be forwarded to the liquidator within 30 days from commencement."

Interconsult Belize Limited
Registered Agent



STRENGTHENING OF TAX ADMINISTRATION PROJECT

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Consultancy Firm to prepare and implement the Belize Tax Service Department (BTSD) Enforcement Collection Model based on risk criteria

Institution: The Ministry of Finance (MOF)
Country: Belize
Project: Strengthening of Tax Administration (STA)
Abstract: Consulting Services – Consultancy Firm to prepare and implement the Belize Tax Service Department (BTSD) Enforcement Collection Model based on risk criteria
Loan No.: 4839/OC-BL
Deadline: April 8th, 2022, Belize Local Time

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

The authorities’ concerns on the growth of the arrears balance are reflected in the BTSD strategic plan; “The stock of debt has been steadily increasing throughout the years, with the largest increase recorded between 2017 and 2018. The respective annual increases from 2016 to 2018 were 4%, 7% and 23%. There is a need to institute a mechanism to facilitate monitoring and timely enforcement actions to collect and recover revenues.”

The consulting services (“the services”) includes the contracting of a Consultancy Firm for a period of five (5) months. The main activity of the consultancy includes:

1. To assess the current situation of BTSD enforcement collection and review the organization and resources of the collection area as well as their skills
2. To assess the potential sources for information on taxpayer transactions and assets that could be used as arrears payments (Customs, social security, immovable property registration department, Bank accounts, City Council’s Traffic Departments, etc.)
3. Propose a strategy for enforcement collections and prioritization based on risk analysis, define risk parameters and relevant mitigation measures as well as special procedures according to taxpayer segments
4. Establish a system of payment by instalment via Internet, with parameters defined by BTSD with payments through automatic debit in the taxpayer bank account and to freeze delinquent taxpayers’ bank accounts via Internet
5. Establish rules for writing off uncollectable debts and modify ITAS to incorporate them
6. Update the BTSD Enforcement Collection manual defining the procedures to select the debts to be enforced, the task to collect the debt, the identification, and procedures to put a lien on debtors’ properties, the rules, and procedures for agreements for payment by instalment, etc.
7. Propose performance indicators for monitoring the enforcement collection
8. Deliver workshops and train the collection staff in the new procedures
9. Implement the new procedures
10. Conduct Pilot with the designated BTSD staff to plan, execute and report on randomly selected taxpayers.

The Consultancy Firm should have a minimum of five (5) years’ relevant working experience in the following areas:

- Organizational development and design;
- Enforced arrears collections;
- Tax administration training

As well as minimum of five (5) years relevant assistance to tax administrations, particularly in the arrears collection areas. In addition, the Consultant firm should have at least three (3) years of previous experience specifically in conducting programs on arrears collection with the use of risk analysis techniques or similar programs and consultancies between the calendar years 2015 to 2020, as well as experience in Belize, and Caribbean environment.

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

Expression of Interest package should contain:

- (i) Document explaining interest, experience, and competence of the consulting firm.

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

Additional documentation required for National Consultants:

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

The total estimated contract price for this consultancy inclusive of taxes is US \$133,555.00.

A Consulting firm will be selected in accordance with the Quality and Cost - Based Selection (QCBS) procurement method set out in the Inter-American Development Bank: *Policies for the Selection and Contracting of Consultants financed by the Inter-American Development Bank* (GN-2350-15, May 2019 edition) and is open to all eligible consultants as defined in the IDB policies. The selection of the successful firm will be based on a competitive process among short-listed firms that takes into account the quality of the proposal and the cost of the service. Only the short-listed firms will be notified and will be asked to submit a technical and price proposal.

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

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours Monday to Friday 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Expressions of interest must be delivered via direct mail or e-mail at the address indicated below by 4:00 p.m. (Belize local time) on Friday April 8th, 2022.

Interested eligible Consultants are asked to submit their expression of interest via e-mail to Michelle.Longsworth@bts.gov.bz marked **STAP- Consultancy Firm to prepare and implement the Belize Tax Service Department (BTSD) Enforcement Collection Model based on risk criteria** in the subject header, or submit on or before 4:00 p.m. (Belize local time) Friday April 8th, 2022 to the following address:

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

For clarifications kindly contact:

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



STRENGTHENING OF TAX ADMINISTRATION PROJECT

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Consulting Services for Consulting firm to Prepare, Implement and Execute a New Audit Model, making use of the wider range examination and risk-based techniques (to include analytical tools for audit)

Institution: The Ministry of Finance (MOF)

Country: Belize

Project: Strengthening of Tax Administration (STA)

Abstract: Consulting Services for Consulting Firm to Prepare, Implement and Execute a New Audit Model, making use of the wider range examination and risk-based techniques (to include analytical tools for audit).

Loan No.: 4839/OC-BL

Deadline: April 8th, 2022, Belize Local Time

The Government of Belize (GOB) has received financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for the execution of a five-year tax modernization project entitled "Strengthening of Tax Administration" (BL-L1031). The main beneficiaries of the Project are: (a) the Government, which will have more revenues to implement its public policies; (b) taxpayers, who will have more support and a digital environment to fulfil their tax obligations; and (c) the population, from the government policies implemented. Through this project, the Belize Tax Service Department (BTSD) has procured a Modern Integrated Tax Administration System (the Revenue Management System (RMS) and is presently in the implementation process. This new system will be used in the management of the Belize Tax Administration.

The BTSD management has identified the need for a modern audit approach based on risk analysis. The BTSD Strategic Plan states that:

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

The consulting services ("the services") includes the contracting of a consulting firm for a period of ten (10) months to Prepare, Implement and Execute a New Audit Model, making use of the range examination and risk-based techniques (to include analytic tools for audit). The main activities of the consultancy include:

1. To assess the status of BTSD taxpayer audit strategies and operations for all tax type.
2. To review the Audit Division organization and resources, as well as the staff skills.
3. To suggest the strategy for centralization/decentralization of the audit.
4. To propose a new organization area (if required).
5. To propose the staff composition by area and by location.
6. To propose the different audit programs taking into consideration taxpayer segments and different audit locations (central, districts).
7. To propose a system of massive audit based on IT verification of returns against risk factors and third-party information. The selected cases should be resolved very quickly (4 cases a day) as they are based on firm verification.
8. To propose modern analytical tools for tax auditing suitable for Belize's environment by conducting a SWOT analysis to support the audit work.
9. Once the proposal of the modern analytical tools is approved, the consulting firm will procure the Analytical tools software for auditing with 50 licenses with subscription for 3 years, implement, and train auditors in its utilization for adoption.
10. To execute onsite Pilot audit (for at least one month in duration) with the audit team to plan, execute and report on randomly selected taxpayers.
11. To develop training materials and manuals in hard copies and digital copies in Microsoft Word format.

The consulting firm should have a minimum of five (5) years' experience in similar assignment. In addition, the consulting firm should have a minimum of three (3) years specific experience in the following areas (* are must):

- Tax administration taxpayer audit and risk analysis. (*)
- Conducting design of modern taxpayer audit programs. (*)
- Conducting design of risk-based audit programs. (*)
- Training tax administration staff in audit techniques (*)
- Using modern audit analytic tools. (*)
- Developing programs for organizational strengthening for tax administration.
- Developing modern taxpayer audit programs.
- Conducting design of modern information crosschecking programs.
- Business Strategy (supporting business and organization goals).

The firm should prove ability to identify strategic issues, opportunity and risks. As well as have knowledge and experience working in Belize and or the Caribbean environment in a similar assignment.

The Ministry of Finance now invites eligible consulting firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested eligible Consultants must submit an

Expression of Interest providing information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments specifying start and end dates of assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills, etc.). The term "consultant" means a legally-established professional consulting firm or an entity that may provide the services.

Expression of Interest package should contain:

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

Additional documentation required for National Consultants:

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

The total estimated contract price for this consultancy inclusive of taxes is **US\$ 451,328.00.**

Consulting firm will be selected in accordance with the Quality and Cost-Based Selection (QCBS) method set out in the Inter-American Development Bank: Policies for the Selection and Contracting of Consultants financed by the Inter-American Development Bank (GN-2350-15, May 2019 edition) and is open to all eligible consultants as defined in the IDB policies. The selection of the successful firm will be based on a competitive process among short-listed firms that takes into account the quality of the proposal and the cost of the service. Only the short-listed firms will be notified and will be asked to submit a technical and price proposal.

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

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours **Monday to Friday 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** Expressions of interest must be delivered via direct mail or e-mail at the address indicated below by **4:00 p.m. (Belize local time) on Friday, April 8th, 2022.**

Interested consulting firms are asked to submit their expression of interest via e-mail to Michelle.Longsworth@bts.gov.bz marked **STAP- Consulting Firm to Prepare, Implement and Execute a New Audit Model** in the subject header, or submit on or before **4:00 p.m. (Belize local time) on Friday, April 8th, 2022** to the following address:

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

For clarifications kindly contact:

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



Sleeping with a light on may be bad for your heart and blood sugar

One night spent sleeping in a moderately lit room, rather than a dimly lit room, can lead to higher heart rate during the night and insulin resistance the next morning, a small study suggests.

The study included two groups of 10 healthy adults. One group slept in dimly lit rooms for two consecutive nights and the other slept in dimly lit rooms one night and then moderately lit rooms the next, according to the study, published March 14 in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. The moderately lit rooms were illuminated with a 100 lux overhead light, which is about as bright as it would be on an overcast day, according to The Washington Post.

A 100 lux light could also be compared to a lit television screen in a darkened room or a street light shining through a thinly veiled window, New Scientist reported.

All the study participants wore heart monitors to sleep, and on the second night, the group that slept in moderately lit rooms showed a marked increase in heart rate while they slept, as compared to the night before, the researchers observed. The group that slept in dim lighting both nights showed no significant change.

“We showed your heart rate increases when you sleep in a moderately lit room,” Dr. Daniela Grimaldi, a co-first author and research assistant professor of neurology at Northwestern University,

said in a statement. “Even though you are asleep, your autonomic nervous system is activated.” The autonomic nervous system regulates involuntary bodily processes, such as breathing, heart rate, pupil dilation and digestion, as well as the fight-or-flight response.

If the autonomic nervous system is driving up heart rate during the night,

body produces more and more insulin to compensate. Over time, cells become resistant to even these sky-high insulin levels, which causes blood sugar levels to soar.

On the first morning, after they’d slept in dimly lit rooms, both study groups scored about the same on the insulin resistance tests. These tests included the Homeostatic Model Assessment of Insulin Resistance (HOMA-IR), a calculation that takes fasting insulin and blood sugar levels into account, as well as direct tests of how the body responds to glucose, called an oral glucose tolerance test (OGTT) and the Matsuda insulin sensitivity index.

On the second morning, the group that slept in the moderately lit room scored worse on these tests, while the group that slept in dim light scored about the same or better as the day before. “Exposure to a single night of [moderate] room light ... during sleep increased measures of insulin resistance the next morning,” the researchers wrote in their report.

This study is limited in that it only included 20 people and only monitored the participants for two days and nights. People shouldn’t assume that they need to change their sleeping habits unless these results are borne out in a larger trial, Jim Horne, a U.K.-based neuroscientist specializing in the study of sleep, told New Scientist.

- Live Science



“that’s bad,” Grimaldi said. “Usually, your heart rate together with other cardiovascular parameters are lower at night and higher during the day.”

The study authors also ran several tests to estimate the participants’ insulin resistance each morning of the study, after they awoke. The hormone insulin normally helps cells take in glucose, or sugar, from the bloodstream. But when cells are resistant to insulin, they don’t take in glucose as readily, and the

S U D O K U

Medium Puzzle

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

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

Answer to Puzzle

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



FUN FACTS!

Why Do Sharks Bite Underwater Cables?



In the search for new subsea oil fields, geologists use large vessels to tow several heavy-duty cables (called streamer cables) to collect seismic data. Equipped with hydrophones that receive the returned signals initiated from a seismic source, these streamer cables are deployed at about 16 – 65 feet deep, and each streamer is typically 26,247 ft long. As one can imagine, this activity probably attracts numerous animals to

check out what the ruckus is all about. One of these animals are sharks, who are attracted to the magnetic streamer fields and tend to bite through the cables! In some areas of the world, equipment loss due to shark attacks on streamer cables is a serious problem in terms of time delays and economic loss for the operator.

In the search for new subsea oil fields, geologists use large vThis isn't the first time sharks

have caused a headache for undersea cable systems- this problem goes back to 1980's! According to Network World, even Google 0.0%GOOGL has had to wrap their internet cables in Kevlar-like material to prevent damaging shark bites. So why are sharks attracted to undersea data cables? It's not exactly known. Some believe that because sharks can sense electromagnetic fields through jelly-filled pores on

their snouts called ampullae of Lorenzini, perhaps they are attracted by this electrical current and confusing it for food. Alternatively, shark expert Dr. Chris Lowe from California State University suggested they may just be curious about them. "If you had just a piece of plastic out there shaped like a cable, there's a good chance they'd bite that too," said Dr. Lowe, who runs the Shark Lab, in the interview to Wired.



Bread = Dough!

Fresh bread is the most commonly purchased food.



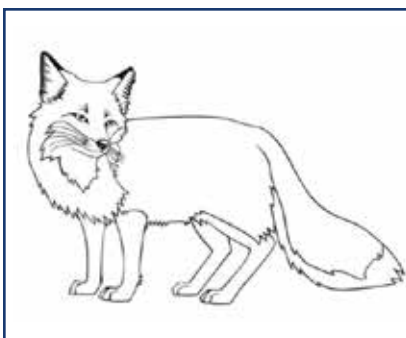
Two Heads Fight!

When snakes are born with two heads, they fight each other for food.



COLOR ME

Foxes are related to dogs. They're medium-sized, weighing anywhere between 2 and 24 pounds, with pointy faces, lithe frames, and bushy tails.



Foxes are solitary. Unlike their relatives, foxes are not pack animals. When raising their young, they live in small families—called a "leash of foxes" or a "skulk of foxes"—in underground burrows. Otherwise, they hunt and sleep alone.

Foxes have a lot in common with cats. Like a cat, the fox is most active after the sun goes down. It has vertically oriented pupils so it can see in dim light, and it hunts by stalking and pouncing on its prey. The fox also has sensitive cat-like whiskers and spines on its tongue. It walks on its toes, which accounts for its elegant, feline-like tread. The gray fox even has semi-retractable claws, making it the only member of the dog family that climbs trees. It has been known to sleep

in the branches—just like a cat.

Foxes use the Earth's magnetic field. Like a guided missile, the fox harnesses the Earth's magnetic field to hunt. Other animals, like birds, sharks, and turtles, have this "magnetic sense," but the fox is the first one we've discovered that uses it to catch prey.

According to New Scientist, the fox can see the earth's magnetic field as a "ring of shadow" on its eyes that darkens as it moves toward magnetic north. When the shadow and the sound of prey lines up, it's time to pounce.



STRENGTHENING OF TAX ADMINISTRATION PROJECT

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Consultancy Firm to prepare and implement a Taxpayer Account Model to allow for fast taxpayer centric overview

Institution: The Ministry of Finance (MOF)
Country: Belize
Project: Strengthening of Tax Administration (STA)
Abstract: Consulting Services – Consultancy Firm to prepare and implement a Taxpayer Account Model to allow for fast taxpayer centric overview

Loan No.: 4839/OC-BL
Deadline: April 8th, 2022, Belize Local Time

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

The consulting services (“**the services**”) includes the contracting of a Consultancy Firm for a period of **six (6) months**. The main activity of the consultancy includes:

1. To assess the current situation of BTSD taxpayer account in Integrated Tax Administration System (ITAS).
2. Develop a model for a new taxpayer account in ITAS. The model should specify the entities dealing with the taxpayer account, the information that flows to and from the account, and the transactions that will be allowed with the taxpayer account (e.g., debt from tax returns, debts from refunds, debts from adjustments, debts from audits, debts from payment by instalment agreements, credits from regular payment, credits for adjustments in appeals cases, credit from payments of payment by instalment agreements, etc.). The account will be organized by Taxpayer Identification Numbers (TIN), tax type and period
3. Define the procedures for taxpayer access to his account via Internet
4. Define which transactions taxpayers would be allowed to perform through the Internet
5. Define the changes to be made in ITAS for the introduction of the new model
6. Prepare the taxpayer account manual
7. Implement the new taxpayer centric current account
8. Train BTS staff in the new taxpayer account design and operation

The Consultancy Firm should have a minimum of five (5) years’ relevant working experience in the following areas:

- **Designing modern taxpayer account**
- **Preparing taxpayer account procedures and manuals**
- **Training enforcement agents in taxpayer account;**

As well as minimum of five (5) relevant working experience in enforcement of arrears payment and design of modern taxpayer current account. In addition, the Consulting firm should have at least three (3) years of previous experience conducting consultancies to countries implementing modern taxpayer accounts.

The Ministry of Finance now invites eligible Consultancy Firms (“**Consultants**”) to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested eligible Consultants must submit an Expression of Interest providing information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the services (**description of similar assignments specifying start and end dates of assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills, etc.**).

Expression of Interest package should contain:

- (i) Document explaining interest, experience, and competence of the consulting firm.
- (ii) Firms experience in the assignment of similar consultancy services during the past five years.
Description of similar assignments specifying start and end dates of assignments.
- (iii) Firms evidence of past jobs. (These includes letters from the respective client on the job (s) carried out, or a copy of

contract or agreement with the client including copy of the TOR).

- (iv) Two references
- (v) Proof of nationality: Copy of certificate of incorporation, information of shareholders of company specifying the shares owned by each respective shareholder of the company and a copy of documentation of nationality of the shareholders of the company.

Additional documentation required for National Consultants:

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

The total estimated contract price for this consultancy inclusive of taxes is **US \$133,555.00**.

A Consulting firm will be selected in accordance with the Quality and Cost - Based Selection (QCBS) procurement method set out in the Inter-American Development Bank: ***Policies for the Selection and Contracting of Consultants financed by the Inter-American Development Bank (GN-2350-15, May 2019 edition)*** and is open to all eligible consultants as defined in the IDB policies. The selection of the successful firm will be based on a competitive process among short-listed firms that takes into account the quality of the proposal and the cost of the service. **Only the short-listed firms will be notified and will be asked to submit a technical and price proposal.**

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

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours **Monday to Friday 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** Expressions of interest must be delivered via direct mail or e-mail at the address indicated below by **4:00 p.m. (Belize local time) on Friday April 8th, 2022.**

Interested eligible Consultants are asked to submit their expression of interest via e-mail to Michelle.Longsworth@bts.gov.bz marked **STAP-Consultancy Firm to prepare and implement a Taxpayer Account Model to allow for fast taxpayer centric overview** in the subject header, or submit on or before **4:00 p.m. (Belize local time) on Friday April 8th, 2022** to the following address:

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

For clarifications kindly contact:

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



**Caribbean Community
Climate Change Centre**

TENDER OPPORTUNITY: REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTERESTS

Data Management Officer

Country:	Belize
Donor:	Green Climate Fund (GCF)
Project Name:	National Adaptation Planning for Integrated Water Resource Management in Belize.
Contract Title:	Data Management Officer, Hydrological Data
Contract #:	Contract #22,23,24/2022/GCF/BELIZE/CCCC
Number of Positions:	Three (3)
Type of contract:	Fixed Price - Individual Consultant
Maximum budget	USD 24,000
Estimated Start Date:	April 2022
Contract duration:	Twelve (12) Months - Full Time
Main duty station:	Office of the National Hydrological Service under the Ministry of Natural Resources, Belize
Deadline for Submission:	on or before 2:00pm (GMT-6). Thursday, 7th April 2022

The Centre is an Equal Opportunity Employer

The full Terms of Reference (TOR) for the contract “Data Management Officer, Hydrological Data” can be accessed and downloaded at: <https://wp.me/pa0qC3-3AB>

Requests for Clarification: email: procurement@caribbeanclimate.bz Attention: **Andrea Tillett, Procurement Officer**. Requests for clarification should be received by the Centre no later than: **Wednesday, March 30, 2022**. Consultants are advised that the responses to the requests for clarification will be only posted on the Centre’s Webpage at: <https://www.caribbeanclimate.bz/category/opportunities/>

The Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre reserves the right to accept or reject any submission and to annul the process and reject all submissions at any time prior to the contract signature without thereby incurring any liability.

3rd Floor, David McKoy Business Centre, P.O. Box 563, Bliss Parade, Belmopan, BELIZE
Tel: (501)822-1104 or 1094, Fax: (501)822-1365, Website: www.caribbeanclimate.bz

STATUTORY NOTICE

TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 36 of the Administration of Estates Act Chapter 197 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2011 that all creditors having any claims or demands upon or against the Estate of **EUSEBIA SOSA** deceased of No. 8 Hall’s Layout, Corozal Town, Corozal District, Belize on the 28th day of March, 2020 in whose estate Grant of Administration No. 463/2021 has been granted to **NASIR TRINIDAD SOSA**, of 10th Avenue, Corozal Town, Corozal District, Belize should lodge such claims or demands with the said **NASIR TRINIDAD SOSA**, Administrator, c/o Barrow & Williams LLP, Attorneys-at-Law of No. 84 Albert Street, Belize City, Belize, on or before the expiration of three months from the first publication hereof AND NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at the expiration of the said three months the Executor shall proceed to distribute the assets of the said **EUSEBIA SOSA** deceased, amongst the parties entitled thereto having regard to all the claims and demands of which particulars are lodged and the Administrator shall not be liable for the assets of the deceased or any part thereof so distributed to any person or persons whose claims or demands they shall not then have had notice.

DATED the 14th day of March, 2022

BARROW & WILLIAMS LLP
Attorneys-at-Law
for Nasir Trinidad Sosa



STATISTICAL OFFICER
Belize Crime Observatory

Project: The Evidence Based Information Management for Citizen Security in Central America and the Dominican Republic (INFOSEGURA) Project

A **Statistical Officer** with strong background Statistics, Data Management and/or related fields, is needed to:

- 1) Enhance the collection, collation and management of multivariate crime statistics relevant to Belize, including regional and international statistics for comparative purposes;
- 2) Support interagency partners (principally the Belize Central Prison, the Belize Police Department and the National Forensic Science Service) to improve the capture, collation, management and reporting of crime statistics;
- 3) Contribute reliable and quality statistics and/or indicators to the National Statistical System and the Statistical Institute of Belize;
- 4) Strengthen the knowledge of the BCO and partner agencies on best practices for data and information management, to enhance statistical outputs, both for internal and external users;
- 5) Enhance institutional and interagency capacity for qualitative and quantitative analysis through bridging gaps in knowledge and skills on data and information management, analysis and reporting of crime statistics;

RESPONSIBILITIES/ACTIVITIES INCLUDE

- Monthly compilation of crime statistics, including collation of data from interagency partners;
- Generation of monthly reports and statistical knowledge products (including open data products) for the Belize Crime Observatory;
- Dissemination of up-to-date crime statistics via the BCO’s online portals;
- Generation of in-depth, multivariate, quarterly analysis imprisonment report;

For more information, e-mail bco@nsc.gov.bz

**ACCESS THE DETAILED
TERMS OF REFERENCE**



DEADLINE: 15 April 2022

No Excuses

Dons, Dealers and Dors

Contributed by:
Sedi Elrington

Father Robinson of the Roman Catholic Church is to be commended for the forthright, clear, and public manner in which he laid out the official position of his church on the government's proposal to legalize marijuana use in our country. Like representatives of other denominations who have spoken out on the matter, the Roman Catholic Church unequivocally opposes the legalization of marijuana use in Belize. It is to be hoped that other religious denominations, including Muslims, Hindus, and Jehovah's Witnesses will also share their views on the matter with our public. It would also be helpful to hear the views of our non-governmental organizations, our trade unions, and our medical experts and scientists. The decisions of our parliamentarians on this emotional topic will impact all our lives and our collective future.

The possession, use, and trade of marijuana have long been viewed as a problem internationally. It is, in fact, the subject of international conventions; including the United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic substances of 1988. It is also included in both Schedule I and VI of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, which prohibits its production and possession except for medical and scientific purposes.

Marijuana is a preparation of the cannabis plant used as a psychoactive drug and by some for its therapeutic effects. It is the most

widely produced and consumed illicit drug in the Americas.

Cannabis can grow in any part of the world, outdoor and indoor. While it is produced in nearly every country in the world, Mexico, the U.S., Columbia, Paraguay, and Canada are the largest cannabis producer countries in the Americas. Jamaica and St. Vincent are the largest producers in the Caribbean. Indoor cultivation of marijuana has now increased tremendously. Producers increasingly use sophisticated agronomic cultivation techniques to increase yield, quality, and potency, as well as to breed for other characteristics such as flavor or aroma. Although we in Belize grow marijuana we also import high potency marijuana from Mexico and Guatemala.

While some states in the United States have legalized marijuana possession and use, under the US Federal law both possession and use of marijuana remain unlawful. It is a criminal offense to attempt to export marijuana into the United States. And no Belizean bank that deals with the proceeds of marijuana can have correspondent banking relations with banks in the USA. No Belizean businessman engaging in marijuana cultivation and sale will therefore have access to any of our local banks or credit unions to facilitate their business transactions.

The Government of Belize has had a long history of trying to eradicate marijuana cultivation, trade, and use in our country. It has been partnering for decades with the Drug Enforcement Agency of the United States

in this quest as well as with the Organization of American States. Together they have employed a combination of measures to discourage its cultivation and use, including public education campaigns, spraying marijuana plantations with chemicals, as well as using manual labor to cut down and burn growing plants. The Government has also passed draconian laws to punish those involved in the drug trade. In addition, special units of our security forces have been established for the express purpose of

Unquestionably too the harm that will come to our country and to the vast majority of our poor and powerless citizens especially our children will far outweigh any benefit which may accrue to the purveyors of marijuana in our country.

suppressing the activities of criminal gangs involved in the drug trade.

The vast majority of the countries of the world including Mexico, the UK, Canada, China, India, Australia, Japan, and all those in Africa, North and South America criminalize all dealings in marijuana. No investor in the marijuana industry in Belize therefore can ever expect to export the product to any country abroad. Furthermore, no Belizean investor can ever produce better quality marijuana and a larger and more substantial supply than can the United States and Mexico.

Internationally and locally, the marijuana trade is a lucrative one. Entrepreneurs in the United States and Mexico earn billions of

dollars annually from it. While there exists no official statistics on the annual earning of the trade in Belize, it is believed that it is fairly substantial, ranging in the millions of dollars. And, with the increasing influx of thousands of cruise ships and other tourists into our country annually, it is speculated that the earnings from the sale of marijuana will increase exponentially in our country.

The Marijuana trade impacts the lives of a wide cross-section of Belizeans. These include but are not limited to the drug dons

who finance the cultivation of the plant, the farmer who plants, tends- and reaps it, the vendor who sells it, and the facilitators, including lawyers, politicians, bankers, public servants, and gas station owners who help to launder the proceeds of the sale of the drugs. Despite the limitations of the information available, it is known that the mark-up on illicit drugs is higher than on legal goods.

Available evidence shows that the illicit drug problem has led to the corruption of government officials at various levels. The illegal drugs economy requires protection, bribery, and collusion, as well as omissions, on the part of civil servants, in order to protect its operations and guarantee that its actions go undetected and unpunished. Indeed, worldwide, the consensus is that the illegal drugs economy and organized crime cannot survive without corruption. Both violence and corruption can only thrive in a context of extensive impunity, in which there is no certainty

that the law will be enforced and the state lacks the capacity to identify and try those responsible for breaking the law.

Although there are no available statistics it is fair to say that most Belizeans do not use marijuana or any other drug for that matter. And, the recent decriminalization of possession and use of small quantities of marijuana has not resulted in any perceptible increase in marijuana use by Belizeans. Additionally, relatively few Belizeans seem to develop harmful patterns of use and dependence on marijuana. Most users do so for social or recreational purposes. Few users transition to the use of harder drugs such as cocaine.

The vast majority of Belizeans who are involved in the marijuana trade are youths who have been marginalized and excluded, for one reason or the other, from involvement in legitimate business activities in our country. The historic ignorance, marginalization, and joblessness which they have had to endure, particularly those in urban centers, have conduced to the degradation of characters and the injury of morals among them, and have made them easy prey for drug dealers. It is beyond dispute that the drug industry in our country has been responsible for the epidemic of violence and murders which now characterize our once peaceful, safe nation. Violence and homicides are the collateral damage associated with the cultivation, production, distribution, and sale of drugs and the protection of those criminal activities, and with disputes between rival criminal factions. The drug problem is causing far more deaths, devastation, and pain to our society than the dreaded Covid-19 Pandemic. And it is seriously undermining those of our institutions that are designed to protect and serve

our citizens and to enhance our well-being and prosperity! It is a scourge upon the poor and powerless in our country and in particular upon our youths.

The evidence is irrefutable that the legalization of marijuana does much more harm than good to the poor and the powerless in those societies where it has been legalized! The majority of our population is poor. Some fifty-two percent are living below the poverty line. Too many of them are the victims of violence and domestic abuse. Too many of them are addicted either to alcohol or some other type of drug. Too many are meeting violent deaths at the hands of professional assassins' agents of drug dons who operate with impunity in our country. The dealers, dons, and dors, easily compromise our political and public service elites making it virtually impossible for them to carry out their duties in the best interest of our country.

Unquestionably, the only ones who stand to benefit from the legalization of marijuana in our country at this time are drug dealers and their facilitators. However, while they may produce it and trade in it lawfully locally, they will not be able to travel abroad to enjoy the profits of the trade. Unquestionably too the harm that will come to our country and to the vast majority of our poor and powerless citizens especially our children will far outweigh any benefit which may accrue to the purveyors of marijuana in our country.

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

DIAL
0-800-922-TIPS (8477)

WE PAY CASH FOR INFORMATION ON ANY UNSOLVED CRIMES

CRIME STOPPERS BELIZE

A Community Program Coordinated by the Rotary Club of Belize.

GRASSROOTS

110 Small Businesses in Port Loyola assisted with \$55,000.00 in Supplies



By Hon. Gilroy Usher

"To build a successful business, you must start small and dream big."
Aliko Dangote

In a ceremony at Independence Hall in Belize City on Tuesday Hon. Gilroy Usher Area Representative for Port

Loyola and Minister of State for Youth, Sports, and Transport and the PUP Port Loyola Committee assisted 50 small businesses in the division with a grant of \$500.00 each in the form fully paid purchase orders for supplies for their services.

Among the recipients were mechanics, food

vendors, cabinet makers, electricians, lawn keepers, and woodcarvers.

The event was historic, because it's the largest number of small businesses that have been assisted

It is therefore important that family members work together and do everything possible to promote their business. As a result of that dedication one day the small business of the family can also become a large and successful business with untold benefits for everyone.

in a division at a single time. Since he was elected to parliament Hon. Usher has also assisted over 60 other small businesses in his area with similar grants.

The initiative is being carried out in fulfilment

of a campaign promise of then standard bearer Usher to assist all the small businesses in the division with a grant of \$500.00, if he is given the opportunity to serve as the Area Representative for Port Loyola.

In commenting on the initiative, Hon. Usher, who started Monica's Pawnshop as a very small business, noted that small businesses offer many needed services in a community, create numerous jobs, and give the proprietors a unique opportunity to improve the standard of living of their families.

Hon. Usher also reminded those in attendance that small businesses are also important because they serve as the foundation or start for several of the largest businesses in the country.

In reminding everyone of the importance for self-confidence, perseverance, and sacrifice to succeed in business, businessman and politician Hon. Usher said, "Today, I am the proprietor of Monica's Pawnshop. The business was started very small years ago at the Commercial Center now City Hall on Regent St."

At the time, when I didn't have the funds to pawn items, several persons told me I should close it down.

My family and I, however, did not give up on our dream of owning a successful business and the rest is history.

Always remember, if others can succeed in business you can also do the same."

Some small businesses that have become large establishments in Belize City are Angelus Press and Simon Quan Store on Queen Street, The Stationery House on Slaughter House Rd. and , Rene's Store on Cemetery Rd.

It is therefore important that family members work together and do everything possible to promote their business. As a result of that dedication one day the small business of the family can also become a large and successful business with untold benefits for everyone.

Hon. Usher and his committee chose to donate necessary items that value \$500.00 to each of the small businesses to help ensure that the funds are used for the intended purpose.

The Area Representative for Port Loyola and Minister of State strongly believes in supporting small businesses, because it is better to teach a man to fish than to give him a fish.

In supporting that position the Area Representative for Port Loyola noted that when someone is metaphorically given a fish in the form of a few dollars the gift only last the person for an hour or a day depending on the amount given. On the other hand in assisting small businesses with necessary items, the owners of such businesses are empowered to make money for the business and their families for months and years ahead.

It is therefore in the best interest of all the recipients, that they use the grants they have received to truly develop their businesses as much as possible.

Other speakers at the event on Tuesday included Hon. Charles Usher- Minister of Public Service, Constitutional and Political Reform and Chairman of the People's United Party; Major Lloyd Jones -Chairman, Port Authority of Belize; Belize City Councilor Javier Castellanos, and Norman Usher -Chairman ,PUP Port Loyola Committee.

Best wishes to all the small businesses in the Port Loyola Division.

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REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

Institution: *Belize Water Services Limited*

Country: *Belize*

Project: *Independence to Seine Bight Transmission line*

Sector: *Water*

Abstract: *The general objective of this publication is to engage eligible construction companies to install a new potable water transmission pipeline from Independence Village to Seine Bight Village (Stann Creek District) as per design.*

Project Number: *225511171739/ BWS-55-1618*

New Deadline: *March 29, 2022*

The construction services ("the Services") include, but are not limited to, installation and commissioning of 3 miles of 10" PVC transmission line in the mainland and 3 miles of 10" HDPE transmission line through the lagoon:

- Identification of established Benchmarks and Setting out of new works;
- Excavation of trenches along the route, placement and compaction of embedment, backfill, and road base, and reinstatement of works
- Installation of pipeline and various assemblies, concrete anchors, and other components and
- Commissioning, including final connections, pressure (hydrostatic) testing, flushing, and disinfecting.

Belize Water Services Limited now invites eligible construction companies ("Bidders") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Companies should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.

Companies must qualify on two major work categories:

- Civil and ancillary works** including, but not limited to, construction and refurbishment of buildings, construction and refurbishment of roads and streets, major and minor roads chip and seal works, earthworks, fencing, concrete works, facility maintenance, retaining walls, drainage, security huts, shelters and canopies, railings, bins, signage, plastering, painting, etc.
- Water Supply Systems** including new and renewals of transmission, distribution mains and service connections; installation of pump stations; installation of headworks; water treatment plant works (including mechanical/electrical and civil); and construction and/or restoration of reservoirs.

Financial category of the project:

- Large contract** estimated more than \$1,000,000.

Financial resources of the company shall be BZ\$300,000 monthly.

Shortlisting of contractors will be based on the [Application pack – Expression of Interest for Independence to Seine Bight Transmission Line Tendering process](#) and is open to all eligible contractors as defined in the document.

The short list shall comprise of minimum of three (3) and maximum of eight (8) companies.

Companies may associate with other firms in the form of a joint venture or a sub-consultancy to enhance their qualifications.

Interested parties should contact the Engineering procurement representative, via email to obtain Application Package and other information.

Expressions of interest and application package must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by e-mail) by **March 29, 2022**, no later than 3:00 P.M.

Belize Water Services Limited

Attn: *Engineering procurement*

7 Central American Boulevard

Belize City, Belize, C.A.

Tel: *+(501) 222-4757, Ext. 1713*

E-mail: engineeringprocurement@bws1.com.bz



STRENGTHENING OF TAX ADMINISTRATION PROJECT

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Consultancy Firm to review and update the current Taxpayer Segmentation Model and develop a Risk-based Compliance Management Model

Institution: The Ministry of Finance (MOF)
Country: Belize Project: Strengthening of Tax Administration (STA)
Abstract: Consulting Services – Consultancy Firm to review and update the current Taxpayer Segmentation and develop a Risk-based Compliance Management Model.
Loan No.: 4839/OC-BL
Deadline: April 1st, 2022, Belize Local Time

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

The BTSD Strategic Plan clearly addresses the relevance of taxpayer segmentation and the risk management approach. It indicates that:

“It has become good practice for Tax Administrators across the world to implement Taxpayer Segmentation in revenue management to effectively analyze taxpayer data and to efficaciously implement different and specific surveillance and control mechanisms,” and that; “The deployment of a ‘Risk management approach’ is a modern and pertinent tactic that would aid in compliance. This approach gives a structured basis for strategic planning; focuses on the underlying drivers (not symptoms) of non-compliance; promotes diversity in the way major tax compliance risks are treated, rather than a ‘one size fits all’ approach; realizes better outcomes as it refers to efficiency and effectiveness of programs; coincides with international standards and is a strong basis for evidence-based evaluation.

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

The consulting services (“the services”) includes the contracting of a Consultancy Firm for a period of five (5) months to review and update the current Taxpayer Segmentation and develop a Risk-based compliance management model, including configuration of the model in the ITAS. The main activity of the consultancy includes:

1. To prepare an Action plan for the review and updating of the Taxpayer Segmentation Model and Risk Analysis Strategy
2. To Assess the status of BTSD taxpayer segmentation and the use of risk-based techniques in the BTSD and to analyze the BTSD taxpayer information to identify ways to segment the taxpayer population following different criteria (income, assets, number of employees, economic activities etc.), and other relevant indicators.
3. To review and update the current model for segmentation of BTSD taxpayers (companies and individuals) and to define a strategy for updating taxpayers’ segments and profiles in the ITAS periodically.
4. Profile all BTSD taxpayers following the model once the model is approved by BTSD management.
5. To propose a model for the risk-based compliance model, defining the risk-based indicators, the rules, the risk factors to be utilized, their relative relevance (high, medium, low), the sources of information to utilized, the mitigation measures, and the required operations to use them.
6. To include the information on taxpayer segmentation in the ITAS database, inclusive of defining (setting) the parameters and rules for its then configuration in the ITAS database.
7. To prepare a report on the risks identified as well as the relevant mitigation measures to be introduced.
8. To suggest additional information (internal and external) to improve its risk-based control system.
9. To deliver workshops to BTSD staff on the Taxpayer Segmentation Model and risk analysis strategy to be implemented.

The Consultancy Firm should have a minimum of five (5) years’ relevant working experience in similar assignment, helping tax administrations to implement risk-based taxpayer compliance programs with the application of taxpayer segmentation and information crosschecking. In addition, the Consultant firm should have a minimum five (5) years’ specific experience in the following areas:

- Tax administration,
- Taxpayer compliance control based on taxpayer segmentation, risk analysis and information crosschecking, and
- Training on risk-based taxpayer, taxpayer segmentation and information crosschecking.

As well as a minimum of three (3) years of previous experience in conducting assistance to countries in the areas of taxpayer segmentation, implementing risk-based compliance

controls, and information crosschecking. Furthermore, the Consulting firm should have knowledge and experience working in Belize, and or the Caribbean environment in a similar assignment.

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

Expression of Interest package should contain:

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

Additional documentation required for National Consultants:

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

A Consulting firm will be selected in accordance with the Quality and Cost - Based Selection (QCBS) procurement method set out in the Inter-American Development Bank: *Policies for the Selection and Contracting of Consultants financed by the Inter-American Development Bank* (GN-2350-15, May 2019 edition) and is open to all eligible consultants as defined in the IDB policies. The selection of the successful firm will be based on a competitive process among short-listed firms that takes into account the quality of the proposal and the cost of the service. **Only the short-listed firms will be notified and will be asked to submit a technical and price proposal.**

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

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours **Monday to Friday 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** Expressions of interest must be delivered via direct mail or e-mail at the address indicated below by **3:00 p.m. (Belize local time) on Friday April 1st, 2022.**

Interested consulting firms are asked to submit their expression of interest via e-mail to Michelle.Longsworth@bts.gov.bz marked STAP- Consultancy Firm to review and update the current Taxpayer Segmentation and develop a Risk-based Compliance Management Model in the subject header, or submit on or before **3:00 p.m. (Belize local time) on Friday April 1st, 2022** to the following address:

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

For clarifications kindly contact:

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

NOTICE

**GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE TREASURY BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER 4/2022**

Tenders are invited for an issue of Government of Belize Treasury Bills. The amount of the issue will be \$83,200,000.00.

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 Wednesday, 6 April 2022 and will be redeemed on Wednesday 6 July 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, 1 April 2022.

The Auction in the Central Securities Depository System (CSD) will be opened from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm on Wednesday, 6 April 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)

21 March 2022



Horse Racing in Shuga City

By Leon C. Guild

Competing with the ungulates has been a hosted event since as long as I can remember. On the planet these beasts of burden have long been used for more than just wars and work. They have been a source of entertainment for the dopamine addicts for thousands of years.

The average racehorse can run approximately 40 to 44 mph. A rigidly trained animal can sustain this for less than 20 seconds on average though most

horse are unable to go any faster than 20 to 30mph with a rider on its back. The record for fastest galloping speed is 55mph by American Quarter Horses who can only do it while galloping a distance less than 400 meters.

On March 20th at the People's Stadium in Orange Walk there were a total of six races that held the attention of a crowd of fans hungry for a dose of excitement and they were not disappointed.

In the three-quarter-mile race,

Princess Dawn, with Jockey Eric Martinez, took first place. The horse to watch, however, was Kiss The Rain who fell behind at the get-go but later made an astonishing comeback by closing up an approximately 30 yard gap to take second place away from Seismic Jones in the clash of the three contenders. Enrique Ramirez took first place in the one-mile (eight furlongs) race on his race horse adequately named 'Perfect Gift'.



Six races were held at the People's Stadium on March 20th.

BELIZE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

Employee Engagement & Productivity during Covid-19 Workshop



ZOOM EVENT

March 30th, 2022 at 8:00am to 12pm

*Member: \$84.38 *Non-Member: \$150.00

(GST Included)

Facilitated by:

The Connection Group

Course Description:

This workshop is designed to help the individual understand how to work with ourselves rather than against ourselves to maintain engagement and productivity using the latest brain research. It will also share techniques on how to re-engage when we inevitably get distracted especially when working remotely. Lastly, it will provide tips for employers to take into consideration as well.

Course Objectives:

- A) The Why and How of engagement & productivity
- B) What happens in the brain to increase or decrease engagement
- C) Techniques for increased engagement and productivity



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

The Connection Group

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

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

Position Name: Janitor
Vacancy number: Belmopan-2022-06
Closing date: April 7th, 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.

Notice of Dissolution

Notice is hereby given that the following companies have been dissolved and struck off the International Business Companies Register with effect from the date indicated below:

<u>COMPANY NAME</u>	<u>DISSOLUTION DATE</u>
STRETTON HOLDINGS LIMITED	15-Mar-22
YOO DEVELOPMENT LIMITED	15-Mar-22

**Interconsult Belize Limited
Registered Agent**

The Righters Write

“You have given us back our smile”

Contributed by the Human Rights Commission

Early Wednesday evening, a small group of men sat under the shade of a large tree while some women conversed quietly on the veranda of a shelter. They were unwinding, relaxing in the warmth of the evening heat. It had been a successful day; a long but successful day. Their applications for asylum in Belize had been accepted.

As we approached, they greeted us with wide smiles, got up and welcomed us with warm hugs. They were content to say the least. They could finally breathe easy following the harrowing ordeal they faced for weeks locked up in prison. Two mothers had been separated from their children and would not know anything about them during this time.

This is a group of migrants from Cuba who journeyed in search of a better life elsewhere. They were caught in the Cayo area on February 7th, detained and a couple days later, imprisoned at the Kolbe Foundation for immigration offences. They have never refuted breaching Belize’s immigration laws. As we spoke with them, one of them explained that they were aware of the troubles they could face on their journey as migrants, but none was prepared for what they experienced at the hands of Belizean authorities.

Their story is one that must be told. It highlights the systemic abuses of men, women and children by members of Belizean authorities and government departments. It also brings special attention to the unlawful treatment of migrant persons who are denied their civil and political rights. But put simply, these individuals were stripped of their

voice, their dignity and treated with little humanity. It was as if they were invisible, like they didn’t matter - not them, not their children.

They shared that upon their arrest they were informed of their rights only to be denied these rights immediately after. None was able to make a phone call to their family or to the Cuban Embassy. None was afforded the right to an attorney. They were kept in a cell with no way of contacting their families back home. They slept on the cold floor.

One person tested positive for COVID-19, was isolated to a corner in a cell along with her daughter but not afforded any follow-up medical check-up or medication. The following day, six adults were placed into a van and taken to court. One person recalls feeling fearful for her life and said that the officers would not inform them of where they were headed. The children were left behind, along with the one adult who was COVID-19 positive. However, they too were taken out of prison but given her diagnosis, she was charged outside of court. They were all charged, fined, were to be deported back to Cuba and according to them, Immigration officials also requested they serve three weeks in prison.

Before taking the last adult to prison, we are told that authorities first took a teenage boy to the youth hostel. His mother was never informed of his whereabouts. The younger child, a seven-year-old girl, was removed from her mother and handed over to the Department of Human Services. The mother would not know of her daughter’s whereabouts or wellbeing after that

moment.

But their nightmare was just beginning. They recall asking for their belongings but never received them during their time in prison. They were immediately placed in quarantine for twelve days and had no contact with anyone. Some shared feeling constant desperation and fear being locked up and kept in the same quarters as convicted prisoners, observing and being so close to continuous tensions among these men. It was difficult even to eat, some said. They slept on the floor and had to eat their food without any cutlery. Others were disheartened that no one seemed to be interested in checking up on them. After twelve days, one person from the group was allowed one phone call and it was at that time that they learned that some family members were in Belize looking for them. This was the first time in days they felt hope. It’s important to note too that all seven adults had paid their fine but remained locked up.

Meanwhile, the mothers worried about their children and sought assistance from prison officials. Some said they would investigate, but the mothers never received word of their children. They were only able to speak with them on March 17th, a day before their appearance in court; with support from the Human Rights Commission of Belize. It was their family members who reached out to the Commission. President of the Commission and attorney Leo Bradley stepped in, met with the group and subsequently sued the government for the unlawful detention of the group.

On March 18th, the court ruled in favour of the group

stating that the “applicants’ detention is unlawful because they have been denied the constitutionally protected rights they are entitled to during detention”. Even though the respondents, government, argued that the applicants plead guilty to immigration offences and that “incarceration pending removal is reasonable because the applicants were unwilling to consent to repatriation to Cuba and pose a flight risk”, the court found that the group was processed and incarcerated without the opportunity to consult with an attorney. The court ordered the group’s immediate release, that the children be returned to their parents, and a decision

on damages would be made.

Today, almost one week after, the group is recovering from the ordeal. Their asylum applications have been accepted and they breathe easier. Still, the experience still haunts some of them as they try to recover from the psychological impacts and trauma that remain. The mothers worry still for their children, who are slowly sharing what they faced in the time away from them; and it’s not easy to hear. The teenager has shared that he was locked in a cell and treated using the same routine as the other teens at the youth hostel. Meanwhile, the seven-year-old child was returned to her mother with her hair infested with lice.

Still, they remain grateful through it all. They hope others who have been detained for similar offences receive the same help. As we concluded our chat with them, they recomposed themselves and one of them said (in Spanish) “You have given us back our smile, even though we are left with psychological trauma to overcome. We are very grateful.”

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

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 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
Employee Engagement & Productivity during COVID-19	March 30th	The Connection Group
Telephone Etiquette	April 6th	BTEC
Advanced Customer Service	May 10th	BTEC
Service Recovery Handling Difficult Customers	May 17th	BTEC
Disciplinary Action - The Importance of Documentation	May 25th	BTEC
Marketing and Sales (Inclusive of digitization)	June 7th	UWI
How to Build New Habits and Break Old Ones.	June 16th	The Connection Group
Conflict Resolution: How Conflict Can Empower Healthy Relationships	June 30th	The Connection Group
Balancing Priorities: How to Successfully Manage Healthy Relationships	July 14th	The Connection Group
Crisis Management	July 21st	BTEC
Managing Anxiety and Uncertainty	August 11th	The Connection Group
Strategic Planning & Management	August 24th	UWI
Disciplinary Action - The Importance of Documentation	October 6th	UWI
Brain Management for Stress Management	October 20th	The Connection Group
Planning and Decision Making	October 20th	The Connection Group
Advanced Customer Service	November 2nd	BTEC



Ministry of Finance, Economic Development & Investment
Belmopan
MARCH 22, 2022

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

NAME	OCCUPATION	TAX CENTRE	TAX TYPE	AMOUNT OWED
Matus Medical Supplies	Medical Supplies Importer	Belize	GST and Business Tax	\$271,705.59
DK Limited	Retailer	Belize	GST	\$131,932.93
Darrell Carter	Upholsterer	Belize	GST	\$854,419.47
HLB Belize, LLP /Grant Thorton	Accounting Firm	Belize	GST and Business Tax	\$2,421,576.26
Buttercup Development Co. Ltd	Real Estate	Belize	GST	\$63,703.66
Jose Depaz	Land Surveyor	San Ignacio	GST	\$261,963.06
Mark Neal	Gym	Belize	GST	\$47,561.74
Denvor Fairweather	Producer	Belize	GST	\$17,017.42
Johnny Quan	Retailer	Corozal	GST	\$161,223.14
Zhen Jun Lan	Retailer	Corozal	GST	\$444,111.53
Damaris Berges	Restaurateur	Corozal	GST and Business Tax	\$115,881.53
Caribbean Sunrise Limited	Manufacturer	Belize	GST	\$402,440.99
Quality Water Depot	Manufacturer	Belize	GST	\$226,745.84
Amigos Del Mar	Tour Operator	San Pedro	GST	\$1,822,074.47
Belize Pharma Supplies	Pharmacy	Belize	GST	\$93,049.36
Ivor Company	Real Estate/Marketing	Belize	GST and Business Tax	\$60,410.51
Austin Waight	Marketing	Belize	GST and Business Tax	\$166,304.48
Michelle Rudon	Marketing	Belize	GST and Business Tax	\$52,161.28
Out Island Construction & Development	Construction	Belize	GST	\$408,950.55
Arthur Saldivar	Attorney	Belize	Business Tax	\$57,712.95
Eden Holland	Restaurateur	Belize	GST	\$834,465.22
Mark King	Security Services	Belize	GST	\$398,141.53
Smoky Mermaid	Restaurant	Belize	GST	\$256,017.56
El Secreto	Hotel	San Pedro	GST and Business Tax	\$293,630.87
M&M Engineering	Engineer/Construction	Belize	GST and Business Tax	\$2,784,507.54

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

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



The **Port of Belize Limited** hereby gives notice to all those concerned that all cargo listed below that is not legally removed from the **Port of Belize Limited** by **Friday, March 25th, 2022** shall be sold at a **PUBLIC AUCTION SALE** on **Saturday, March 26th, 2022** at **9:00am sharp** at **Port of Belize Ltd. Facility**.



Vessel	ATA	BL NO	Break Bulk Cargo/ Warehouse Consignee Name	Drno	QTY	UNIT	Description
			IDEFONSI ACOSTA	160308			
			ROY THOMAS	6308019			
			RED CROSS	6874168			
VANQUISH 146	14/03/2020	SMLU6088777A	MAHOGANY BAY MANAGEMENT	1626869		PL	BATH TOWEL/BRUSH/PEN/FISHING LINE/HOOKS/LAMPS
ALEXIA 30	25/02/2014	POMBZ100845	COLSON BAY INVESTMENTS	698853	8	PL	KNOCK DOCK BOXES
CARIBE MARINER 342	7/6/2014	PEVBZ108321	WARREN MUDRY	724543	20	PL	APPLIANCE
CARIBE MARINER 342	7/6/2014	PEVBZ108321	WARREN MUDRY	724555	9	PL	GENERAL GOODS
CARIBE MARINER 506	22/04/2018	PEVBZ149944	BRUCE DAVIDSON	1036970	1	PL	STC KITCHEN CABINETS
CARIBE NAVIGATOR 561	22/02/2020	PEVBZ172921	JUAN CARLOS VASQUEZ	1207841			USED PERSONAL GOODS
CARIBE NAVIGATOR 354	14/09/2015	CBOG298809	JOSHUA BUETTNER	623737	1		PERSONAL EFFECTS
CARIBE NAVIGATOR 359	19/10/2015	CBOG298894	JOSHUA BUETTNER	632614			PERSONAL EFFECTSS
VANQUISH 174	20/09/2021	PEVBZ188929	RAMIREZ AC & ELEC	1343049	2		SOLAR EQUIPMENT
BALTIMAR ZEPHYR 19	2/5/2015	CBOG298352	MELINDA DIAZ	588203	1		PERFUMERY PRODUCTS
CARIBE NAVIGATOR 555	15/12/2019	PEVBZ170775	BUSINESS COMPUTER STYSTEM	1191495			COMPUTER SUPPLIES
CARIBE NAVIGATOR 555	15/12/2019	PEVBZ170775	BUSINESS COMPUTER STYSTEM	1191495			COMPUTER SUPPLIES
CARIBE MARINER 397	18/07/2015	PEVBZ115232	FULTEC SYSTEM	814840			COMPUTER SUPPLIES
CARIBE MARINER 375	30/01/2015	PEVBZ111962	HYDE BELIZE EXPRESS	774016			PERSONAL ITEMS
CARIBE MARINER 562	29/12/2019	PEVBZ171258	RUSSELL LONGSWORTH	1194291	1	CTN	PERSONAL ITEMS
JAN CARIBE 447	18/10/2020	SMLU6326563A	ANDRE MAHLER	1715370	1	CTN	JANITORAL EQUIPMENTS
VANQUISH 159	21/06/2020	MIAJ258088	DENNIS JANTZEN	1229497	1	PL	SAID TO CONTAIN PRIMARY CELL BATTERIES
VANQUISH 156	31/05/2020	PEVBZ175526	CHANNEL BROADCASTING	1228645	1		STC REEL
CARIBE MARINER 564	28/01/2020	PEVBZ172046	FERNANDO GIACOMAN	1197202		CTN	GENERAL STORE MERCHANDISE
VANQUISH 6	14/05/2016		STEPHEN MOTT	A42230		CTN	HOUSEHOLD GOODS
PANJANG 3	8/3/2016	BZE1265	WINGSTOP	12867	4	CTN	PERSONAL EFFECTS
VEGA VIRGO 22	5/3/2013	CBOG296108	CITRUS COMPANY OF BELIZE	401696		BX	AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS
BALTIMAR ZEPHYR 15	31/03/2015	POMBZ10886	BZE BILTMORE PLAZA	791704	2	CTN	LAMP SHADES
			MSL LOGISTICS	936815		BX	
VANTAGE 65	13/01/2019	PEVBZ159036	BELIZE BREW CO. LTD.	1103999	1	PL	DIVERGAN-RS DRUMS
CORONA 19	18/12/2015	PEVBZ120502	BELIZE OCEAN CLUB LTD.	850246		BX	GENERAL GOODS
CARIBE MARINER 455	5/12/2016	CBOU12296405	GUERRA ENGINEERING	6616788	11	PC	HAZMAT
JAN CARIBE 434	12/7/2020	PEVBZ176407	JEFFREY DENNIS PIERCE	1232608	4	BX, PL	FURNITURE
VANTAGE 55	30/09/2018	SMLU5417177A	SUGAR FIX BAKERY	1486032	3	BX, PL	RESTURANT EQ SUPLIES
CRIBE MARINER 585	1/11/2020	PEVBZ179578	IONIE SLUSHER	1264936		BX	CLOTHING TV
JAN CARIBE 450	22/11/2020	PEVBZ180164	KEAGAN MOORE	1266236	11	PL	BELT PRIME
CARIBE MARINER 590	13/12/2020	PEVBZ180694	ROGER GABOUREL	1276472		PL	HOUSEHOLD GOODS