

Reporter

Volume 55, No.9

Sunday, February 27th, 2022

Price: \$1.00

Ex Central Bank Governor doesn't see local banks working with cannabis industry

By Javam Flowers

"The challenge I can see that local banks may encounter is restrictions from their correspondent banks to do business with people who are in the cannabis industry," former Central Bank Governor Glen Ysaguirre told *The Reporter* this week.

Following Cabinet's approval to introduce the Cannabis Control and Licensing Bill 2022, The Reporter sought the opinion of figures in the banking sector.

Ysaguirre explained that even though dispensaries in the United States



Pg. 3

Local drug runners operating out of Orange Walk and Carmelita



Pg. 4

The narco-jets assumed to have been carrying approximately 2,000 lbs of cocaine

By Michelle Sutherland

Following the latest drug plane landing, which is believed to have landed with close to 2,000 lbs of suspected cocaine, local law enforcement authorities say that they have reason to believe that a ring of local narco-traffickers are operating out of the Orange Walk and Carmelita area.

In fact, the Commissioner of Police Chester

Williams even ventured as far as to say that he knows who they are and that his officers are actively seeking the group of men in connection to the latest occurrence. Williams revealed that after being briefed about the plane landing, he instructed the officer to go in and raid several homes in Carmelita and Orange Walk, in an effort to detain the individuals in question, but interestingly when the officers arrived at the

\$1.5 Million Paid to CWU for Stevedores



Pg. 21

CWU President Mose Hyde

Intl. oil prices jump 5% as Russia launches invasion of Ukraine



Pg. 3



Belize is the smallest country of Central America if we are referring to population. But when it comes to murder and mayhem we rank higher than most other countries with much bigger populations.

Small countries have an easier time controlling crime and violence, but Belize, a land of only 8,867 square miles and a population of approximately 430,000 (according to the SIB's Mid-year estimates), appears to be heading for notoriety.

Last year, 125 murders were committed in Belize. That is 1 death among every 3,400 persons. Considering that children and teenagers make up more than half of our population, the average works out at one violent death among 1500 adults. It is the 4th highest murder rate of the Americas.

Ours is more than double the murder rate of Costa Rica, a country which has about 12 times as many people. In Haiti, the poorest country of the Americas, the murder rate is down to 6.6 persons per 100,000.

Our Belize has become a violent country. After Venezuela, Honduras and Mexico, Belize is the most violent of all the countries of the Americas.

This is affecting the way we live, the way we relate to one another, and the way people see us.

It appears that we have learned to live with violence and crime, and even regard it as normal, when in fact it is a serious degeneration of our society and is emphatically not normal.

The violence in our country should be of concern to all, because it defines us as a people. It will affect our tourism efforts. It will burden our government with expenses - money we can use to educate our children. It will cause distress and suffering among our people.

No one really benefits from it, and all of us suffer from its deadly consequences.

Violence is not a matter merely for the police and our judicial and law enforcement systems. It is not a problem that the government can resolve. This problem is a disease among the people. It calls for community action from men and women and young people of good will,

Our youth must reject the gangs that practice violence and bring about a change of attitude and improvement of character.



Kaelynne Archer
6 Bahamas Street
Belmopan City

Mr. Harry Lawrence
Publisher, **The Reporter**
147 Allenby/ West Street
Belize City

Dear Citizens of Belize

I am a 14-year old student of OLOGHS and I am tired of my people of Belize voting in the wrong quality of politicians to govern us. According to my teachers and parents, when regular people like us apply for a job, employers will look at our curriculum vitae and see if we have relevant working experience or background to find out if we are even worth being called for a job interview.

I think the same should be true with the people we are voting for. Remember that being a Prime Minister or minister is also a job. But this time it is us who will act as employers and we need to find out if the person we are voting for is fit to become Prime Minister or minister of our nation. Does he have enough experience? What has he done so far? We should be thinking about the personal background of each candidate.

Do we ever ask if these politicians are honest? I am tired of hearing of vote-buying and all those cheating. We need honest leaders. Do we check to find out if they were in corrupt activities before offering themselves as a candidate? Did they go to jail in another country before running for election in Belize?

We need to know that our beloved country will not be humiliated when these dishonest leaders go out of Belize.

My citizens of Belize, I think it is very important that a Prime Minister or minister can represent our nation to other world leaders. We need a leader who knows how to talk intelligently and can close deals with foreign investors. We need a leader who can carry himself well and can stand up by saying "I am Belizean and proud" when facing Presidents Biden (of USA) and Putin (of Russia). We need politicians of high integrity who can represent Belize to other countries.

No matter how honest a Prime Minister or Minister is, it will all go to waste when he can easily be told what to do by people close to him. We see a lot of these things happening in all the districts of Belize.

Politicians are controlled by people who finance their elections. So, my citizens of Belize, vote for someone who can stand up for his own decisions.

Very often we see politicians who visit the bars and parties but don't go to church a lot. If a Prime Minister and Minister believes in God, he or she will have a high morale. A politician should know that his powers are God-given through the power of the ballot. He needs to know that he is not invincible and that there is a greater power up there.

The Prime Minister and Ministers should know that they are there to serve not by making promises in words, but to do what they promised us in action. Leaders are there to make better living conditions for us Belizeans and to do what is best for us. So, my citizens of Belize vote for persons who have been serving already before he or she has even begun his political career.

My citizens, we need strong politicians who can reduce the crimes happening in Belmopan and the rest of the country. Politicians who can continue the peace between Guatemala and us. Politicians who will put up a good fight so we win the case against Guatemala. We need a Prime Minister who can unite our country as one. Stop the quarreling between PUP and UDP in the National Assembly.

As I look on the television, I see that many countries are more developed than Belize. Many countries have already prospered and left us behind but I'm not losing hope that Belize can catch up. We should vote for a Prime Minister and Ministers who have a strong desire to improve our nation in areas of education, infrastructure, poverty, employment, military, tourism, business, economy, science, technology, health care and even sports. I would love to see Belize get a gold in the next Olympics and win the FIFA World Cup.

Kaelynne Archer
Student of 2 Anne
OLOGHS



P.A.X.

Dear Editor,

Some weeks ago, recovering from two surgeries, I had lost twenty pounds of body weight. One night, falling into a deep sleep, my family thought that I was on the journey to eternity. However, regaining consciousness, Sonja, my life's partner, rejoiced that my time had not yet come. Soon my focus became an effort to repair old associations, for my conviction became stronger that my life would be a barren wasteland if I did nothing to show that what we do here and now is meaningless if it has not created a ladder to reach the sky as Jacob had experienced.

I wish I were a poet to express in ode or sonnet how I feel at age eighty four (84), hopefully grasping blessings with more spiritual vigor. The great apostle, my namesake, had said we must believe in the Resurrection and live by its meaning or be the most pitiable of creatures. Another great Christian of the fourth century, St. Augustine of Hippo, expanded Paul's insight asserting: You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until we rest in You!

What I am talking about is without sense, unless you subscribe to the first article of the Preamble of our Belize Constitution and are willing to witness to the afterlife, as did our Sister Carolee Chanona, who dedicated her whole adult life to proclaim the Resurrection. Indeed, may she rise to glory!

Our mortal life continues, and anxious minds and hearts are worried that we may become plunged into the horrors of World War II when exaggerated nationalism was expressed in awful slaughter not only on battlefields but also in cities and towns. I was one year and seven months when Nazi Germany invaded Poland on 1 September, 1939. Millions perished! The monster and the innocent both paid the price of human stupidity and cruelty.

Please, Mr. Putin, and all you leaders of mighty nations, spare us from the nightmare of a NUCLEAR HOLOCAUST! Human beings must be free. We are not, if we cannot freely choose what our governance shall be like. Where there are no truly free elections, there is no liberty and freedom. Man, woman, must be FREE! Oligarchs who control the awesome assets of nations must look sincerely upwards and imitate WHO is almighty but respects our choices!

Our political leaders need the wisdom of two of the worlds remarkable athletes.

Lionel Messi, perhaps the greatest footballer has been teaching us the lesson of humility. Whenever he scores a goal, he looks up to the sky, and points his finger to Heaven!

Tom Brady the GOAT, the great quarterback, upon his retirement has described his career like this: we have been on a journey with no final destination. This is why we strive for perfection!

The above are not his exact words, and so I look forward to hard copy for an exact quotation.

Sincerely: Paul Rodriguez

THE REPORTER

Phones: 501- 227-2503 / 227-1767

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

e-mail: reporternewspaper@gmail.com

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

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

General Manager Lisbeth Ayuso
Lithographer Rodolfo Castro
Journalists Michelle Sutherland
Javan Flowers

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

Ex Central Bank Governor doesn't see local banks working with cannabis industry

Cont'd from pg. 1 that supply recreational or medical marijuana may be licensed and operating under the confines of state law, federal law still classifies marijuana as a Schedule 1 drug and considers "marijuana businesses" illegal; therefore, the banking system is bound by federal law not to conduct business of any form with any entity associated with the trade.

Ysaguirre explained that even if the banks do choose to participate, they risk incurring charges of aiding and abetting a federal crime or money laundering.

It is within this context that Ysaguirre made clear that "I'm not sure what type of assurances [if any] the ministry would be able to give the correspondent banks as the Government of Belize cannot indemnify any correspondent bank of federal violation in their jurisdiction." Furthermore, Ysaguirre pointed out that "if the Federal Reserve or federal regulators haven't given permission to bank people in the cannabis industry [within the US], I don't see them making an exemption for Belize."

Domestic banks need correspondent banking relationships (CBRs) to conduct business transactions and being "de-risked" due to undertaking any marijuana-related venture would spell disaster for the banking sector.

In a recent interview with The Reporter, Managing Director of Heritage Bank Steven Duncan also highlighted that during 2015 – 2016 local banks lost numerous CBRs, all of which came without any direct justification. Since then, the sector has been "chasing ghosts" to ensure that whatever it is that they did wrong is corrected.

A report issued by United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) explained that this withdrawal of correspondent banking services caused, among other things, an increased cost of using banking services and adverse effects on initiatives aimed at alleviation of poverty and inequality.

Asked as to why Belize cannot utilize non-USA banks, Duncan explained, "Two of the three private-sector banks in Belize use the

same bank as correspondent bank out of the United Kingdom. Because the US is our country's largest trading partner, that bank in the UK must have relations with an American clearing bank to complete transactions. They cannot complete it on their own."

Along with the risk domestic banks won't take to avoid being "de-risked," dispensary proprietors will now operate a cash-only business and lose crucial access to banking services such as lending opportunities, payroll, checking, and credit accounts, among other benefits.

Similarly, restaurant proprietors who wish to apply for the "restaurant lounge license" could potentially lose their established banking relationship with whichever local bank

they have been doing business with.

Duncan explained that in this scenario, it would be easier for the bank to end the relationship given that it would be difficult for the bank, and the proprietor, to distinguish which funds were generated from food-related items and which were generated from cannabis-infused items. "It's easier for me not to have the client than to have the client and run afoul of the international community ... who will then decide not to do business with you any longer."

Coupled with losing the services that financial institutions provide, operating a cash-only business is likely to motivate an increase in the number of robberies.

Intl. oil prices jump 5% as Russia launches invasion of Ukraine

Oil prices have jumped by more than five percent following reports of Russia's attack against Ukraine last night, thereby, pushing the Brent futures beyond \$100 per barrel.

The price hike—which is also reflected in the US-benchmark West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude's increase to \$99 a barrel from the previous closing of about \$94—was accompanied by global condemnation of the Russian government, which launched its attack while the United Nations Security Council was in session to call on Moscow to deescalate the situation in Eastern Europe.

The Government of Belize is among the countries that have voiced its condemnation against Russian aggression. Via a press release, GOB said, "Belize roundly condemns Russia's unjustified and unprovoked attack on Ukraine. Russia's invasion of Ukraine is a blatant breach of international law and of its obligations under the United Nations Charter. It also constitutes an unacceptable violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity."

Analysts have been predicting for weeks that escalation in the region would push up prices. Recently, in a February 3rd, 2022, Reporter interview with Ambassador Daniel

Gutierrez, an energy-industry contributor, he warned, "If Russia invades Ukraine, we [Belizeans] are going to feel the pinch."

Gutierrez had explained that if Russian energy—which accounts for eleven percent of global supply—is taken off the world market, oil and gas would see an enormous price increase. By extension, all their derivatives, which include Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), diesel, jet fuel, kerosene, and others, can likewise be impacted.

He further explained that since Belize imports approximately half of the country's electricity from Mexico through Comisión Federal de Electricidad (CFE) and their manufacturing process requires fossil fuels, Belizeans can expect the cost of electricity to go up.

Other industries that could be affected include the agricultural sector, as fertilizer requires natural gas, specifically methane, to complete its manufacturing process. He also noted that the increase in the price of diesel, which is used in machinery to harvest crops, could become more costly.

Russia, according to the US Energy Information Administration (EIA), is the world's third-largest oil producer, accounting for eleven percent of global supply.

FOR SALE
\$11,900 OR BEST OFFER

This 3 ton FORD diesel truck completely overhauled with new glow plugs, new harness and brand new fuel pump

YEAR 2004- AUTOMATIC TRANS.
 Runs and Pulls like a TRACTOR
CALL: 672-4454

In Memoriam
 In loving memory of our beloved parents.

Rudy Eusebio Castro
 Sunrise: June 9th, 1934
 Sunset: Feb. 28th, 1988

Alma Carmita Castro
 Nee Gregorio
 Sunrise: March 5th, 1946
 Sunset: Feb. 3rd, 2003

*Now both of you have gone,
 And once again reunited in Heaven.
 Earth has lost, but heaven gained.
 It's hard to accept that you're both gone,
 But our memories linger on.
 In our hearts they are precious kept,
 And will never be forgotten.
 All that left to answer,
 Is a picture in a frame.
 God broke our hearts to prove to us,
 He only takes the best.*

Sadly missed by children, grandchildren, family & friends.
May they rest in peace & rise in glory

Local drug runners operating out of Orange Walk and Carmelita

Cont'd from pg. 1

residence none of the men could be located.

“So that again says something that they could be involved and are still out in the field dealing with the cargo. Certainly, the local people are the ones who know our terrain; they know the ins and outs of those areas. The Mexican cartel who would normally come would not be acquainted with our terrain or acquainted with how to maneuver the jungles so they do rely on our local people who are from the particular areas to help them in that regard.”

While the Compol alluded to previous instances where some of these individuals were suspected of clearing down makeshift runways to facilitate plane landings, he said that now they are suspected of being involved in the movement of these drugs through the country. While he also admitted that in some instances police officers might also be in cahoots with the carters, he said that there is no evidence to suggest that they were involved in the landing of the latest aircraft.

On Tuesday, February 22nd, locals living in the vicinity reported hearing low flying aircraft over their home just after 3 am. Police say that they were tracking the aircraft but that at the last minute it disappeared off the radar, leaving the team in the dark. When the track reappeared, the plane had already crash landed in Fireburn Village behind Carmelita. While Williams said that the team of officers immediately tried to get to the location, they were delayed by metal spikes that were placed across the road, thus preventing them from going any further.

Williams said that he suspect that during that time the drug traffickers were already unloading the drugs, and three hours later when the team eventually managed to reach the location the cargo and the cartels had already been long gone. He said that he suspect that the cargo was moved by way of a nearby river that runs all the way to Botes, Mexico. Despite that suspicion, Williams had dispatched a team to the area to carry out operations in search of the drugs, however, that also came up empty-handed.



VACANCY



NOTICE

Operations Manager

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

Reports to: Chief Executive Officer

Summary of Responsibilities: Lead the Operations Department to achieve the best possible level of service to our Customers, at the lowest possible cost, whilst ensuring zero harm. Inspire and motivate all Supervisors, Clerks and Operators and other Operations Staff to continuously improve safety standards and productivity, through the application of lean processes, complimented by the relevant application of technology. Lead change initiatives to achieve these macro-level goals. Establish and maintain excellent working relationships with all other heads of department, collaborating within the leadership team to ensure the optimal holistic contribution to the continued success of the company.

Job Responsibilities:

- Attract, develop, grow and retain the best talents and fill the leadership pipeline.
- Organize, balance and schedule workloads within the department.
- Prioritize, delegate, and set performance objective, and develop visual management systems.
- Follow-up on performance, provide quality feedback, and objectively appraise differentiated performance levels.
- Empower and inspire to achieve high levels of motivation and employee engagement.
- Ensure zero harm, improve safe working processes within the full Operational area of the facility.
- Provide timely reports for all accidents and disciplinary incidents.
- Understand Customer requirements and drive the department to achieve these on a consistent basis.
- Track and manage variable expenditure to avoid all cost waste and reduce costs to the bare minimum.
- Continuously lean, streamline, and improve processes.
- Leverage relevant technology to automate processes.
- Collaborate with the Technical department to ensure that the optimal quantity of equipment is available for deployment.
- Work closely with the Accounting department to ensure that all services are precisely and expeditiously billed to the Customers.
- Coordinate just-in-time berthing of all vessels with the Marine department.
- Maintain high levels of data quality for Operational information and reports provided to other functions.
- Represent the company towards Unions, Customers, Regulators and Authorities.
- Provide inputs into budgetary processes.
- Take ownership in ambiguous situations.

Job Qualifications/Requirement:

- Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Supply Chain Management, Port Management or other related field (Master's degree would be an asset)
- 3-5 years' exemplary leadership experience of diverse teams
- Minimum 3-5 years' experience in supervising or managing logistics operations or other similar fields

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

- Emotional intelligence
- Innovative and creative
- Complex problem-solving
- Critical and analytical thinking
- High cognitive ability
- Technology cognizance
- Persistence, resilience, stress tolerance, flexibility and adaptability
- Assertive and decisive
- Visionary and inspiring
- Coaching and mentoring
- High integrity

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

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

Email to:

jobapplications@portofbelize.com

Closing date for receipt of applications is Friday, March 04, 2022.

PUBLIC AUCTION SALE: PROPERTY

La Milpa Area, Ladyville, Belize District

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees, Messrs. St. John's Credit Union Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the below described property. Sale currently running and will expire on Wednesday 9th March 2022 at 10:00 am: Lot No. 88 La Milpa Area, Ladyville Village, Belize District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Ladyville/Lord's Bank	16	5981

(Being a concrete bungalow dwelling house [735 sq. ft.] containing 3 bedrooms + 2 bathrooms + living/dining/kitchen situate in La Milpa Area, Ladyville, Belize District, the freehold property of Ms. Lorna Oyerinde)

TERMS: STRICTLY CASH
KEVIN A. CASTILLO
TELEPHONE 223-4488

Website: belizepropertyauctions.com

E-mail: kevinacas@yahoo.com

Facebook: [Belize Auctions](https://www.facebook.com/BelizeAuctions)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

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

Position Name: Engineering Technician (Building Automated System)
Vacancy number: Belmopan-2022-04
Closing date: March 18th, 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.

MOHW Gives Spanish Lookout Expo the Green light

By Michelle Sutherland

After almost two years of placing a ban on parties, expos, and any major outdoor or sporting events that might attract any sort of audience, the Reporter has learned that the Ministry of Health and Wellness has recently given the green light for the Spanish Lookout community to host their two-day expo, on March 25th and 26th.

Despite an interview at the start of the week with the Minister of Health Hon. Kevin Bernard who said that health officials were still reviewing the health protocols for the event, Victor Reimer, one of the event organizers, confirmed on Wednesday that the event is still on.

For his part, Bernard had said that while the ministry had initially agreed to give the green light, they had pulled back that decision so that they could dispatch a technical team to the venue to assess if it was safe for the congregation of hundreds of

visitors that are known to flock the event every year. Bernard had said that while those spot checks were ongoing one of the regulations would entail that a strict mask mandate must be instituted at the event and if the organizers were against that the event would not be allowed to proceed.

Reimer reported to us on Wednesday that the Ministry of Health team was impressed with the layout of the venue which stretched for approximately 100 acres, allowing visitors and business owners enough space to social distance. Apart from the space, Reimer told us that the venue is neatly organized and offers open-air, with sufficient space so that visitors could maintain their distance from each other.

“We are preparing for all that, because it is a different year, we are in the middle of a pandemic or coming through one and so we have to be ready for what will happen. So hand sanitization will

be available. We will be distributing masks. ... We are in Belize and so the current regulations that are in effect are no different there than it is in San Ignacio, or at the market in Belize City, or on the buses. It's a Ministry of

point the number of attendees, it is known to range in the 100s. He, however, told us that the audience would usually consist of 10% Mennonite and 90% of those from outside the Mennonite community, leading him to believe

that his command team in the western part of the country are in discussion with the Mennonite community to work out a plan on how best they could police the event with a view to ensure that it would not serve as a

vidual and collective responsibility to assist in reducing the spread of the virus.

And while there have been instances in the past where the Mennonite community has refused to abide by the mask mandate, Commissioner Williams said, “Certainly when I go there I make sure that they put on their mask.”

The Reporter also spoke to Norman Dueck, who is also an organizer. Dueck told us that he remains positive that the police presence on the ground will ensure that the protocols will be abided by. Dueck additionally noted that while there will be a host of exhibits ranging from food, furniture, vehicles, construction materials, local products, and many more, no alcohol will be on sale. He further stressed that the event will be different from big events that have been held in the past in confined spaces in Belize City. This one, according to Dueck, will ensure the safety of everyone.



Health protocol and so the same regulations will be placed as far as I am concerned,” Reimer indicated.

While Reimer could not specifically pin-

point that there will not be an issue where mask-wearing is concerned.

On Wednesday when we caught up with the Commissioner of Police, Chester Williams at an event, he con-

super spreader for the COVID-19 virus. While Williams said that he is aware that the Ministry of Health will be easing some of the restrictions, there remains an indi-

Weh Wi Ga Fi Seh

Kip sayf fahn di vairos!
Kip op yu helt.

How fi Seh “Twi”

Wan a di Afrikan Langwij fi Sohn Kriol Wod

Fi di paas too week dehn, wi mi-di shyaa sohn a di Kriol wod dehn weh kohn fahn sohn a di Afrikan langwij dehn. Wi mi shyaa sohn fahn **Yoruba, Ibo (Igbo), Kikoongo (Kikongo), Ewe**, ahn fahn wahn Afrikan langwij nayhn **Twi**. Tudeh wi shyaa sohn moa fahn **Twi**. Wen yu seh “Twi” karek, ih fi song sohnting laik *Chwee*. Yu ku googl how fi seh **Twi** karek. Tudeh, wi kloaz aaf dis seeriz wid sohn Kriol wod weh kohn fahn **Twi**, ahn sohn a dehnya aalso deh eena ada langwij.

Anansi (var: **Anaansi, Hanaasi, Hanansi**) *n.* Anancy; character in Kriol folklore that looks like a spider. **Anansi ahn Bra Taiga da neva reeli fren.** Anansi and Brother Tiger were never really friends. [*<Afr. Twi ‘ananse’ spider*]

bam brigidim buf *ono.* sound of someone falling or colliding, or sudden occurrence of something. (*Each word can be used alone. The addition of ‘buf’ means that whatever has fallen cannot be stood up again.*) **Di fat man faal dong – bam brigidim buf!** The fat man fell down kaboom! [*<Afr. Twi: ‘bam’ sound of striking or falling; ‘biram’ suddenly; Kikoongo: ‘bufa’ to strike with a stick*]

waawa *adj.* cowardly, fearful; weak and spineless. (*Usually refers to males.*) **Da lee bwai oanli waawa; ih frayd fi ih oan shado.** That little boy is really cowardly; he’s afraid of his own shadow. *See: fenkehfenkeh, frayda, kowad, malehle, week.* [*<Misk. ‘wawa’ and/or Afr. Cameroon & Sierra Leone: ‘wowo’ useless, ugly; Twi & Hausa: ‘wawa’ foolish; Kikoongo: ‘wawa’ trembling*]

Yu ku chek sohnting fi free eena di Kriol-English dikshineri da:
<https://www.sil.org/resources/archives/10602>

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

MINISTRY OF HEALTH & WELLNESS VACANCY NOTICE

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to fill the post of **Assistant Procurement Manager, Central Medical Stores, Ministry of Health & Wellness.**

Principal Duties: Ensure assigning and delivery of requisitions within the CMS scheduled delivery to health facilities countrywide. Track stock levels and report none delivery of tender items to Procurement Manager for sourcing ensuring availability.

Salary Pay Scale: 11 of \$19,301 x 890 - \$36,211 per annum

Qualification: Associates Degree in Applied Science
Registered Pharmacist
Minimum 5years Experience in Hospital Pharmacy

Deadline: Deadline is March 14th, 2022
Application with two (2) references on professional experience and copies of qualifications and a Curriculum Vita are to be submitted to: -

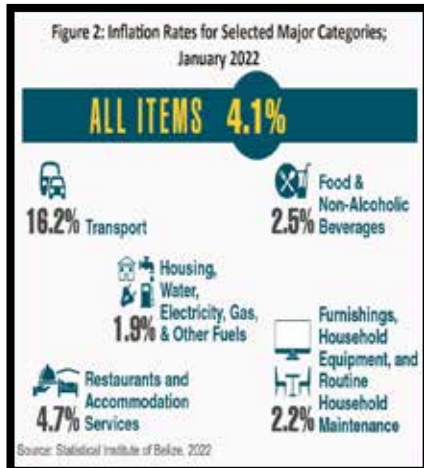
Chief Executive Officer
Ministry of Health & Wellness
Belmopan

ceosecretary@health.gov.bz

Note: Please visit www.health.gov.bz to view the copy of the Terms of Reference for this vacant post.

Record fuel prices drive 4.1% Inflation - SIB

By William Ysaguirre



The record high fuel prices in January have increased consumer prices by 4.1 percent over what they were in January last year, the Statistics Institute of Belize (SIB) reported at a press conference on Wednesday, February 23.

The prices on Belizeans' normal purchases of the fuel, food, drinks, utilities and housing were compiled by SIB into the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which has risen 4.1 percent from 101.3 in January 2020 to 105.4 for January 2022.

Consumers saw their grocery bill go up 2.5 percent over the past year. Pigtales jumped 60 percent to \$6.99 per pound! Vegetable oil went up by 33.7 percent to \$4.57 per liter, and coconut oil by 16.3 percent to \$14.36 per liter.

Butane went up 24.0 percent as the price of a 100lb cylinder increased from \$105.16 to \$130.41, which was somewhat offset by electricity rates dropping 3.5 percent. Construction supplies for housing repairs went up 9.7 percent, rents were fractionally less: 0.8 percent less. The cost of other household items went up 2.2 percent, mainly on prices for cleaning products, laundry soaps, and detergents. If you wanted to treat the family to dinner out or a small vacation, hotel and restaurant costs went up 4.7 percent.

Orange Walk Town remains the most expensive place to live with a 5.9 percent inflation rate; Belize City was second with 4.2 percent inflation Dangriga and Independence tied for third second with 4.1 percent inflation, Punta Gorda saw the lowest inflation rate of 2.2 percent.



CAREER OPPORTUNITY

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

We are looking for a highly motivated, goal oriented, responsible and committed person to join our Company in the role of **Manager, Marketing & Product Innovation** in the **Marketing & Product Innovation Department** of our **Commercial & Retail Services Division** at our Corporate Headquarters in Belize City.

Duties:

- Responsible for the process and the underlying techniques of leading the development, promotion and distribution of BEL's products and services. Paramount is the go-to-market strategy and successful implementation of new energy services solutions such as EV-Charging Systems, Smart Energy Solutions, Solar, Smart Home and Pre-Paid products.
- Responsible for market analyses, brand development, product development and pricing strategy.
- Responsible for positioning the brand, creating market awareness, deepening customer engagement and increasing customer conversion and retention.
- Manage and develop marketing programs and materials such as advertising, event support and online promotions.
- Provide marketing training and training of new product lines for relevant staff.
- Responsible to lead research into BEL's strategic future business opportunities.
- Manage processes and monitor the progress of the various ongoing initiatives related to product development.
- Responsible for building innovative capabilities and transferring them into the corporate culture to affect the broader organization.
- Responsible for allocating resources, setting up teams and shaping long-term capability.

Qualification Requirements:

- Master's Degree in Strategic Marketing and/or Innovation or a Master's Degree with a focus in Innovation with at least two years of experience working in a cutting edge area; OR
- Bachelor's Degree in Marketing and/or Innovation with at least five years of experience working in a cutting edge area such as telecommunications or tourism
- CSME Skilled Certificate or willing to acquire the same

Required Skills and Abilities:

- Proven experience as head of marketing developing client-focused, differentiated and achievable solutions
- Excellent management and organizational skills, drive to make a difference, self-starting, innovative and results oriented
- Charismatic, energetic, passionate and proactive
- Proven ability to articulate the distinct aspects of products and services
- Excellent listening, negotiation and presentation skills
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Creative and resourceful

Salary: in accordance with Company Salary Structure.

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

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

In the email subject, please indicate the position:
Manager, Marketing & Product Innovation

Only electronic applications are being accepted at this time.
For more information or queries, call 227-0954 Ext. 2901 or 2902

Deadline: Friday, March 18, 2022

Task force appointed to carry out redistricting exercise

By Michelle Sutherland

The Government of Belize has reportedly secured the funding and has given the green light to the Elections and Boundaries Commission, to proceed with a long-awaited redistricting exercise, which will seek to remedy the unequal distribution of voters, in the 31 constituencies across the country.

The announcement was made on Tuesday, February 22nd, by Chief Elections Officer Josephine Tamai, who said that she hopes that the process could be completed by the year 2023, ahead of the next General

Elections. Tamai indicated to the press that the exercise will be undertaken by a task force, consisting of several persons with technical expertise in the area of geographical information systems, legal studies, statistical analysis, and electoral management. The group will carry out the exercise by stages and will physically go into the various constituencies, and look at the electoral boundaries, something which Tamai said has not been done since 1998.

“We have to gather information in terms of population. Well right now we’re actually in the process of gathering this in-



Chief Elections Officer Josephine Tamai

formation, so once we actually sit down to review all the information that we have then we also

need to go out and do some fieldwork. You will know that sometimes, you have to physically go in and

visit some of these areas to ensure that whenever the boundaries are redrawn that we don’t have maybe the kitchen in one electoral division and the bedroom in another electoral division ... once the task force is finished with its recommendations they will be submitted to the Elections and Boundaries Commission because we all know that the Elections and Boundaries Commission is the only body that can make recommendations to the National Assembly to change the electoral divisions,” explained Tamai.


While Tamai concurs that it is a gigantic task to undertake, it is also an important one and while she admitted that the Commission might be chastised for taking so long to address the pressing issue she said that the fact is that they are moving full steam ahead to get the process completed.

Once that is completed, Tamai assures that there are several benefits for the Belizean people, but the most impor-

tant of them all is to ensure that every Belizean across the country has equal voting rights and fair representation. According to Tamai, the exercise will target constituencies such as Stann Creek West, which currently has approximately five times the number of voters as Fort George in Belize City. The disadvantage of that is that the constituency is so huge that the area representative for that area might find it grueling to assist each of his constituency members as he would like.

But according to Tamai, it will require a lot from the team. “We need to look at the present composition of the number of electors in each of the electoral divisions. So we have to look at our statistics. We also need to look at the present electoral maps, as it stands, in order for us to determine where the boundaries are and to see the discrepancies in terms of having persons in one specific area as opposed to another division. We also need to get information from the Statistical Institute of Belize in terms of population. We also need to see, for example, where exactly you have growth in different areas because at the end of the day, whenever all this information is being compiled we have to ensure that persons are: one, able to reach their polling stations on Election Day. So yes, we have to look at nearly and maybe an equal number of persons in each electoral division as the constitution states but we also need to look at the whole geographical areas to ensure that transportation is available.”

The last redistricting exercise took place in 1998 and since then the majority of the constituencies across the country have recorded population growth and resulting in the unequal distribution of voters.



Belize Water Services

Public Notice

Belize Water Services Limited (BWSL) hereby serves notice that in accordance with the Water Industry Act, Chapter 222, Revised Edition 2000, Section 15(3), the company has made an application to the PUC for modification to its Authorized Service Areas under the existing license granted to BWSL by the PUC on March 22, 2001.

Modification to Authorized Service Areas

BWS has applied to the PUC to modify the Authorized Service Areas as follows:

- 1. Orange Walk District Service Areas:**
To include: Chan Pine Ridge Village
Reasons for modification:
 - a. The Government of Belize requested that BWSL take over the Chan Pine Ridge Village water system.
 - b. BWS performed infrastructure works including installation of mains to connect to the Orange Walk Town system. This was completed in 2014.
- 2. Belize District Service Areas:**
To include: Gardenia and Biscayne Villages
Reasons for modification:
 - a. With the support of the Government of Belize, the Social Investment Fund (SIF) and BWSL entered into an agreement for the expansion of its water distribution network to the villages of Gardenia and Biscayne along the Philip Goldson Highway in the Belize District.
 - b. The agreement specifies that the systems and expansions constructed will be owned and operated by BWS upon completion of the project. The project was completed in 2015.
- 3. Stann Creek District Service Areas:**
To include: Sarawee Village
Reasons for modification:
 - a. With the support of the Government of Belize, the Social Investment Fund (SIF) and BWSL entered into an agreement for the expansion of its water distribution network to the village of Sarawee in the Stann Creek District.
 - b. The agreement specifies that the systems and expansions constructed will be owned and operated by BWS upon completion of the project. The project was completed in 2020.

License Availability:
The full text of the license granted to Belize Water Services Limited is available for viewing at the Belize Water Services Limited's website <https://bws.bz/media/BWS-License-Authorized-Service-Areas.pdf>

For more information regarding this or any other BWS Release, please contact:
Corporate Communications at Tel: 222-4757 Ext. 1405 or 1408
or via e-mail at pr@bws.com.bz

BWS: Delivering Water and More...

IF YOU SEE NEWS HAPPENING

CALL US AT 227-2503 OR
TEXT AT 628-5052



Belize economy and GDP grew 14.8% - SIB

By William Ysaguirre

Belize's economy is on the path to recovery, with fourth quarter figures for 2021 showing a 14.8% increase, thereby, bring total GDP growth for all of last year closer to 9.8%.

In real terms, Belize's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is shown to be at \$2.679 billion, up from the sharp 2020 contraction of 15.6%.

It is noteworthy, however, that the figures still have not reached their 2019 levels, when GDP was reported at \$2.891 billion in constant prices.

Returning to the last quarter for 2021, economic activity climbed to \$657.9 million. This was \$84.6 million or 14.8 percent more than the \$573.3 million produced in the fourth quarter 2020.

The tertiary sector, which includes wholesale and retail trade, transport and communications, and hotels and restaurants, was largely responsible for this increase. The secondary sector declined, especially in electricity generation. Taxes on Products increased by 29.7 percent, from \$82.1 million in 2020 to \$106.5 million in 2021.

The primary sector such as citrus and bananas, amounted to \$60.5 million late last year, a \$1.7 million increase over the same period in 2020. Citrus production increased 70.1 percent to 5,400 tonnes, and banana production also saw a small increase from 25,000 tonnes in 2020, to 25,000 tonnes last year. A 25 percent increase in cattle exports stimulated a 23 percent increase in production, from 10,400 head to 12,800 head. Local demand encouraged farmers to grow 15 percent more pigs, from 9,700 head to 11,100 head. Poultry production increased from 11 million to 11.03 million pounds from the ending of 2020 to the last quarter of 2021. Fisheries production increased 5.3 percent, from \$9.4 million to \$9.9 million.

The secondary sector fell 19 percent, from \$90 million in 2020 to \$72.9 million in 2021, as electricity generation fell 58.7 percent from 110,400 MWh in 2020 to 45,600 MWh in 2021. Homes and business customers consumed 5.3 percent more water. Increased demand also caused beverage production to increase 21.6 percent overall, with breweries producing 35 percent more, and 4.3 percent more soft drinks were bottled. Demand also drove an increase in flour production up 13.4 percent. Citrus concentrate production increased 78.6 percent from 51,000 gallons in the latter part of 2020 to 92,000 gallons in 2021.

The increase in loans for building and construction reflected the 2.1 percent growth in this industry, from \$20.6 million to \$21 million, as reflected in.

The tertiary sector earned \$418 million in October to December 2021, which was 22.1 percent or \$75.6 million more than the \$342.5 million earned in the latter part of 2020. Wholesale and retail trade grew 31.8 percent, transport and communications grew by 42.3 percent, and the hospitality sector - hotels and restaurants - more than tripled, from \$4.5 million dollars to \$19.4 million dollars. Government services showed a marginal increase of 1.9 percent.



CAREER OPPORTUNITY

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

We are looking for a highly motivated, goal oriented, responsible and committed person to join our Company in the role of **Marketing & Product Innovation Officer** in the Marketing & Product Innovation Department of our Commercial & Retail Services Division in Belize City.

Duties:

- Initiate research to identify consumer needs by leading studies related to marketing developments, provide leadership and support for the design, development, refinement and implementation of products, develop and translate strategy to marketing objectives/marketing plan and present to the leadership team.
- Lead the marketing of new products and services including events like trade shows and town halls.
- Stimulate the development of digital marketing and identify potential strategic channel partners in product development.
- Manage the process and monitor the progress of the various ongoing product development projects.
- Supervise the work and complete appraisals/performance reviews of the staff and contractors and provide training related to new products to relevant staff.
- Prepare work plans and schedules, including the timing of outsourced work tendering, evaluation of bids, negotiation and contracting, delivery of equipment and materials, schedules and testing and commissioning of project components.
- Oversee the preparation of bidding documents for procurement of materials and equipment and coordinate activities for the project team.
- Prepare project implementation progress reports and oversee the preparation of project interim financial reports.
- Collaborate cross-functionally to drive the customer to concept process to bring new products to market.
- Represent BEL on relevant symposia and industry meetings.
- Develop technical literature where needed.

Education and Experience:

- Bachelor's Degree in Marketing, Business Management, Innovation or related field with a concentration in Project Management
- Two years' working experience in a cutting-edge area such as telecommunications or tourism
- Five years' professional experience in Project Management working in a cutting-edge area is desired
- Experience as head of marketing developing client-focused, differentiated and achievable solutions

Required Skills and Abilities:

- Possess strong creative and innovative thinking skills
- Excellent critical thinking and data analytics abilities
- Ability to structure complex information and problem solve
- Proven ability to articulate the distinct aspects of products and services
- Proven ability to position products against competitors
- Strong understanding of customers' needs
- Resourceful, charismatic, energetic, with excellent negotiation skills
- Self-starter with excellent management and organizational skills
- Strong verbal and written communications skills (reports, presentations, proposals)
- Strong interpersonal skills (charismatic, energetic, self-starter)
- Ability to exercise sound judgement while maintaining high work quality
- Ability to work in a fast paced and dynamic environment, focus on deliverables and meet deadlines
- Ability to prioritize tasks and delegate when appropriate
- Action and results oriented with excellent collaborative skills for pursuing shared goals
- General technological proficiency including working knowledge of Microsoft Office and other relevant applications
- Intermediate proficiency in Microsoft Excel (managing spreadsheets with large sets of data, creating charts and using advanced formulas)

Salary: in accordance with Company Salary Structure.

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

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

In the email subject, please indicate the position:
Marketing & Product Innovation Officer

Only electronic applications are being accepted at this time.
For more information or queries, call 227-0954 Ext. 2901 or 2902

Deadline: Friday, March 4, 2022

Changes to Public Health Regulations to Be Announced Soon

By Michelle Sutherland

After almost two years of living under stringent COVID-19 regulations, Belize can finally expect a change in those regulations by March 1st, as the Government is currently reviewing a document that is being presented by the Minister of Health Hon. Kevin Bernard, which seeks to lift the curfew among other things.

In a short session with the media on Monday, Bernard revealed that he will be taking those



Hon. Kevin Bernard

recommendations entitled "Living With Covid," to Cabinet on Tuesday and will announce to the public by Friday of this week what restrictions will be lifted and what will

remain.

"As you look at trends around the world, you'll see where other bigger countries are easing and some of them are even getting rid

of their restrictions completely. I don't personally think we are at that stage yet in Belize where we are going to get rid of our mask and certain things," Bernard explained. "I think the mask mandate must remain for a while and that is the recommendation coming from my medical response team and also from my personal medical advisors that I have. I do support the removal of the curfew completely, I do support that we need to open up for sports;

we need to open up for some events with restrictions, of course, with certain limitations. But at the same time, our people need to go back to some level of normalcy in this country after two years with these regulations."

While the Minister reiterated that the country cannot continue to restrict the free movement of its people, in summary, when the restrictions are lifted it will fall on the onus of each individual to protect themselves and their families as they see fit. Whether that means that persons will continue to wear their masks, abide by social distance, and ensure that they do not congregate in large numbers, Bernard said that it is about time that everyone is held responsible for their own actions.

He also stressed his belief that the lifting of the curfew at this point will not translate into a surge in cases. The Minister, who wasted no time in revealing his support for the lifting of the curfew, pointed to the fact that there have been several surges in cases over the past couple of months even with the curfew in place.

Two weeks ago when the Reporter

had initially broke the story that the Ministry of Health and Wellness was toying with the idea of lifting the curfew and easing the restrictions, Bernard had indicated to us at the time that the Medical Task Force would have been closely monitoring the reopening of the land borders as well as the daily positivity rate and that it would have needed to remain between 10% to 15% before they would be able to make a decision. Well, the good news is that it seems that the country's positivity rate has fallen well below that threshold and on Monday it was at 6.26 % and 7.39% prior to the weekend.

When the press spoke to the Minister this week, he exclaimed, "Thankfully, we are at a stage where we are seeing our numbers taking its deep dive down," and now that that has happened it is now anticipated that Bernard will follow through with his promise to approach Cabinet and make the necessary recommendations as he sees fit. The Reporter will be following up with the Minister to get a closer look at the changes prior to it coming into effect on March 1st, 2022.



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: *285511191974/ BW-55-1858*

Deadline: *March 15, 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 15, 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



Oración al Espíritu Santo

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

Gracias Espíritu Santo.

R.M.L.

GOB acknowledges EU's first allocation of BZ\$38.6 million

By Javan Flowers

Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño and H.E. Marianne Van Steen, the ambassador of the European Union (EU) to Belize, have acknowledged the EU's allocation of the first amount of funds in the amount of BZ\$38.6 million for the "Belize Multi-annual Indicative Programme" (MIP) for the period 2021 to 2027.



H.E. Marianne Van Steen and Hon. John Briceño

The program is designed to advance government's activities in the areas of alleviating rural poverty. It continues by adding that this first allocation may be increased after a mid-term review in 2024.

In a subsequent Facebook post by The Prime Minister, he explained that the new country agreement includes three priority areas: "Green growth and sustainable socio-economic development

is Priority Area 1 to work with our southern districts in areas of sustainable management of natural resources, environmental preservation, rural transformation, income generation and inclusion of indigenous communities into the social fabric."

He continued by detailing the other two areas the program aims to cover. "Priority Area 2 is Regional Integration and Border Management [and]

Priority Area 3 looks at strengthening Belize/EU Relations and working with national civil society agencies across multiple sectors."

The adoption of the MIP by the EU illustrates the long-standing relationship between Belize and the European Union in development cooperation. This allocation will continue to contribute to alleviating rural poverty in Belize significantly.

Governor-General Receives Credentials from New Ambassadors



Governor General meets with newly appointed ambassadors to Belize

By Javan Flowers


Governor-General H.E. Froyla Tzalam, during a virtual ceremony held this week, received the Letters of Credence from four newly appointed ambassadors to Belize.

Presenting their letters of credence were

H.E. Armella Shakaryan, ambassador of the Republic of Armenia; H.E. Carlos Rodríguez Bocanegra, ambassador of the Republic of Colombia; H.E. Odile Roussel, ambassador of France; and H.E. Carlos A. Tomada, ambassador of Argentina.

The Governor-General welcomed the

ambassadors and anticipated meeting in-person post-pandemic. The ambassadors each conveyed, on behalf of their respective countries, the intention of cooperating with Belize in several areas of priority, including climate change, conservation, and the preservation of culture.



Request for Bids (RFB)

Belize

Lot 2D - Raising of the existing pavement on the Western Approach of the Roaring Creek Bridge – GPHW

Loan # 4616/OC-BL

RFB No. 1 of 2022

- The Government of Belize has received a loan from the Inter-American Development Bank toward the cost of Additional Financing for the George Price Highway Rehabilitation Project and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the Contract for Construction of Lot 2D - Raising of the existing pavement on the Western Approach of the Roaring Creek Bridge – GPHW.
- The Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing, Government of Belize now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the Construction of Lot 2D - Raising of the existing pavement on the Western Approach of the Roaring Creek Bridge – GPHW the works are scarification of existing pavement, demolition of sidewalk, kerbs and concrete plinths, raising of U drains, sidewalks and retaining walls, lifting of road base, construction of reinforced concrete pavement, relocation of existing road signs and reinstallation of guard rails and pedestrian railings.
- The RFB will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures specified in the Inter-American Development Bank's Policies for the Procurement of Goods and Works financed by the Inter-American Development Bank GN-2349-15 approved by the Board of Executive Directors of the Bank on 2nd of July 2019 and effective 1st of January 2020 and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the bidding document.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Program Management Unit for the Additional Financing for the George Price Highway Rehabilitation Project pmupcmow@gmail.com AND mow.project4426@gmail.com and inspect the bidding document at the address given below First Floor, Project Execution Unit Building, Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing, #1 Power Lane, Belmopan, Cayo District during working hours of Monday to Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm (Belize time).
- Qualifications requirements include:**
 - Copies of original documents defining the constitution or incorporation, and principal place of business of the Bidder; certificate of Good Standing from the Belize Social Security Board, Belize Tax Services and Company's Registry, written power of attorney of the signatory of the Bid to commit the Bidder, and historical contract non-performance.
 - Total monetary value of construction works performed for EACH of the last three years shall be BZ \$200,000 (cumulative BZ \$600,000).
 - Experience in works of a similar nature and size for each of the last five years, and details of works underway or contractually committed; and clients who may be contacted for further information on those contracts.
 - Listing of major construction equipment proposed to carry out the contract. Bidders must specify the conditions, numbers, type and availability, and ownership of the required equipment.
 - Qualifications and experience of key site management and technical personnel proposed for the Contract.

Position	Minimum Qualifications and Experience
Project Manager/Site Engineer	B. Sc. Civil Engineering, Hydraulic Engineering, or related field - Five years' minimum experience in Project Management of Construction Works. - 5 years' minimum experience in providing technical and civil engineering services for programs which include but are not limited to construction of reinforced concrete pavements, double coat chip & seal pavements and/or construction of retaining walls including guard rails. - Registered Engineer with the Association of Professional Engineers in Belize
Survey Technician	Associate degree in Building Construction, Civil Engineering, or related field - Five years' minimum experience in surveying and civil engineering works
Environmental Health and Safety Officer	Associate degree in Environmental Science or related field - Three years' minimum experience in works of a similar nature related to Environmental, Health and Safety compliance
Foreman	Associate degree in Building Construction, Civil Engineering or related field - Three years' minimum experience in site supervision of reinforced concrete pavements, double coat chip & seal pavements and/or construction of retaining walls including guard rails.

 - Independently audited financial statements for the last three years (2018 - 2020);
 - Evidence of working capital for this Contract (access to line(s) of credit and availability of other financial resources): BZ \$200,000 (of which BZ \$75,000 must be in cash from a financial institution)
 - Authorization to seek references from the Bidder's Bankers;
 - Information regarding any litigation, current or during the last three years;
 - Proposals for subcontracting components of the work amounting to more than twenty percent of the contract price. A margin of preference for national contractors/JVCAs shall not be applied.
 - And any other documents or information as stipulated in the Bidding Documents
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be requested by interested bidders on the submission of a written Application to the address below.
- Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 10:00 am (local Belize time) on April 5th, 2022. Electronic bidding shall not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened physically in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person or on-line at the address below at 10:30 am (local Belize time) on April 5th, 2022.
- All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security of forty thousand Belize dollars (BZ \$40,000.00).
- The address referred to above is:

Attention:

Mr. Rolando Chan
Project Manager
Program Management Unit
1st Floor, Project Execution Unit Building
Power Lane, Belmopan
Cayo District, BELIZE
Tel: 501-822-1942
Email: pmupcmow@gmail.com AND
cc: mow.project4426@gmail.com

Marie Sharps Wins Big at Dubai Expo



Marie Sharps products have become a popular household brand.

By Michelle Sutherland

Marie Sharps pepper sauce has once more proven to be the ambassador of Belizean-made products abroad having won another major pepper sauce competition for the Caribbean region at the ongoing 2022 Dubai Expo.

Marie Sharps Fine Food's Chief Marketing and Sales Director Jody Williams explained that Marie Sharps Pure Mango Habanero Pepper Sauce was entered into a competition for the best pepper sauce in the region. While there were pepper sauces from countries such as Barbados, St. Kitts and Nevis, along with three other Caribbean countries, the judges found Marie Sharps worthy to hold the title based on its one-of-a-kind exquisite

taste.

On Tuesday, Williams told the Reporter, "We have always said that we are proud products of Belize; we don't cut corners when it comes to quality and so when Mrs. Sharp started the company in 1981 to now we have remained with the same good quality that everyone in Belize can enjoy. So we are happy to have won this competition because it ties in with the quality and the taste of our products that we make with so much love here in Belize. I think that everyone in Belize is thrilled with this win because it's not only for us at Marie Sharps but for the entire country of Belize."

Williams said that he hopes that the most recent victory for a Belizean product in

such a huge country as Dubai will open additional opportunities and demand for hot sauces and other Belizean products in the Middle East. He says that he hopes that it will transition into bigger deals and major export for the country, which at this time is still reeling from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

When asked to detail how the Mango Habanero Pepper sauce came about, Williams explained that in 2017 the farm had a considerable surplus of mangoes on their farms, which they would usually use to produce local jams and jellies. However, with their storage filled to capacity and overflowing, they realized that it was simply too much and so they decided to experiment with the

mangoes and yellow Habanero peppers. That translated into one of the finest and most fruity flavored pepper sauces that the company now has among its 15 other flavors. He said that the Mango Habanero Pepper Sauce was a quick hit as consumers, who reported it to be delicious on any meals, including white rice and even meats.

"We are proud because you know we are really putting Belize on the map with our products, and we will continue to provide the best products for Belize and the world," concluded Williams.

A delegation from BELTRADE is currently representing Belize at the Dubai Expo where they are showcasing Belizean-made products to the world.

Elections and Boundaries receives funding for redistricting exercise

By Javan Flowers

The Elections and Boundaries Commission informed the public this week, via a press release, that the Government of Belize has provided funding for the redistricting exercise.

As a result, the Commission has appointed a task force to provide a detailed report with recommendations to the Commission on the redivision of electoral boundaries.

The task force held its inaugural meeting this week. The members of the task force possess varying technical expertise in geographical information systems, legal studies, statistical analysis, and electoral management. These members included Chief Elections Officer Josephine Tamaï and Crown Counsel Paula Hender.

According to the statement, the task force is expected to conduct the following:

(1) Review definition, limitations, and legal interpretation of the Belize Constitution and the Representation of the People Act for the purpose of dividing Belize into electoral divisions;

(2) Review geographical and statistical limitations and population density relating to re-divisioning;

(3) Review in accordance with Section 90 of the Constitution

for electoral divisions as presently defined to have as nearly as may be, an equal number of persons eligible to vote;

(4) Keep adjustments to the minimum: transfer adjoining polling areas; or part thereof from the division;

(5) Increase/decrease electoral divisions in areas where necessary; (6) Prepare detailed written description of electoral divisions to be incorporated into the First Schedule of the ROPA in accordance with Section 17 thereof; and (7) make recommendations in respect of impediments and challenges including, but not limited to, adjusting the existing boundaries and adjusting the existing numbers of electoral divisions, among other a myriad of other terms.

The release concludes by explaining that upon receipt of recommendations from the task force, the Commission, as per Section 90 of the Belize Constitution, will make proposals to the National Assembly for boundary redistricting. Elections and Boundaries Commission assured the public that the Commission has placed a high priority on this most critical exercise which is expected to be concluded in the year 2023.



MINISTRY OF FINANCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND INVESTMENT

GAMING CONTROL BOARD NOTICE

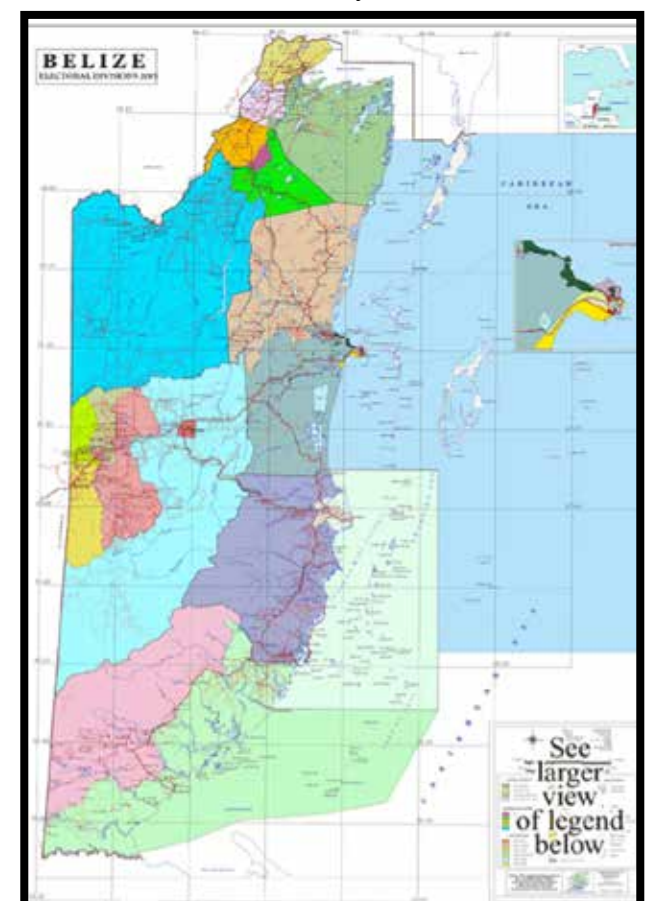
The Gaming Control Board of Belize would like to remind all gaming machine licensees that their licenses will expire on 31st March 2022. Licensees wishing to renew their licenses are asked to submit their original application forms to the Ministry of Investment, situated at No.46 Nanche Street in Belmopan on or before Monday, February 28th, 2022. Application forms are available at the Ministry.

We can be contacted via:

Telephone: (501) 828-6704/ 828-9046

Email: belizeinvestment@invest.gov.bz

Facebook: Investment, Policy & Compliance Unit



Marijuana legislation introduced too soon?

By Javan Flowers

Cabinet's approval to introduce the Cannabis Control and Licensing Bill 2022 may be coming too soon as the United States' Secure, and Fair Enforcement (SAFE) Banking Act is yet to pass before the Senate.

As explained in a February 9th 2022 press release by Congressman Ed Perlmutter, the SAFE Banking Act protects financial institutions from money laundering laws for any proceeds from these "state-legal" marijuana businesses. However, with the fate of this Act yet to be sealed and all the legal implications of investing in the Cannabis



industry that remain for all domestic and international financial institutions, it might be premature to capitalize on the industry's "budding potential."

Perlmutter is quoted in the release as saying, "The SAFE Banking Act is the best opportunity to enact some type of federal cannabis reform this

year and will serve as the first of many steps to help ensure cannabis businesses are treated the same as any other legal, legitimate business. I'm glad to see it included in the America COMPETES Act and I will keep pushing to ensure it remains in the final package negotiated with the Senate."

As Perlmutter's release explained, the SAFE Banking Act has passed the USA's

House six times already; however, has repeatedly failed at being "taken up by the Senate."

Looking abroad, even though dispensaries in the US that supply recreational or medical marijuana may be licensed and operating under the confines of state law, federal law still classifies marijuana as a Schedule 1 drug and considers "marijuana businesses" illegal. Therefore,

the banking system is bound by federal law not to conduct business of any form with any entity associated with the trade. Banks, therefore, risk incurring charges of aiding and abetting a federal crime or money laundering.

This problem carries more profound ramifications for developing countries and reignites fears of "de-risking."

Domestic banks need correspondent banking relationships (CBRs) to conduct business transactions; however, given the uncertain state of affairs among US banks, legitimate cannabis-related ventures could potentially have a difficult time finding banks willing to work with them.

The US banks' unwillingness to do business with legitimate cannabis-related businesses in the United States had created cash-centric practices, which can motivate increased criminal activities.

Statement by the Government of Belize on the Illegal Russian Invasion of Ukraine



Belmopan. February 24th, 2022. 7:30 a.m.

Belize roundly condemns Russia's unjustified and unprovoked attack on Ukraine.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine is a blatant breach of international law and of its obligations under the United Nations Charter. It also constitutes an unacceptable violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Russia's actions are an assault on the international system itself and cannot be countenanced by any peace-loving state.

Belize calls for an immediate cessation of hostilities, withdrawal of all Russian troops and military hardware from Ukraine and urges all sides to exercise restraint.

Belize regards Russia's recognition of


Luhansk and Donetsk as a violation of international law. Belize does not recognize the so-called Donetsk People's Republic or the so-called Luhansk People's Republic.

We stand in solidarity with Ukraine and its people who are enduring the horrors of war.

Belize is resolute that all states must respect and adhere to

norms and principles of international law which are fundamental to the maintenance of the international system and peace and security, including respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity within internationally recognised borders, non-interference in the internal affairs of another state, and the prohibition on the threat or use of force and peaceful resolution of disputes.





CENTRAL BANK
of BELIZE

www.centralbank.org.bz

PUBLIC NOTICE

22 February 2022

**Belize Bank Corporation Limited Transitions to Belize Bank Limited
in the National Payment System**

The Central Bank of Belize notifies the public that effective 1 March 2022, the Belize Bank Corporation Limited (BBCL) will cease to exist and will no longer operate as a participant bank in the national payment system. Therefore, no BBCL transaction, except for cheques written by individual and business customers prior to 1 March 2022 and drawn on BBCL, will be processed through the Automated Payment Security Settlement System (APSSS). The Belize Bank Limited (BBL) will honour the cheques drawn on BBCL for a period of six months to end on 29 August 2022.

The management of Belize Bank Limited continues to assure the Central Bank that it has been working collaboratively with BBCL and other APSSS participants to ensure that customers, staff, and the public are informed of the changes associated with this transition. Further, BBL has confirmed that it has taken all necessary steps to minimize the inconvenience to former BBCL individual and business customers during the final stages of the technical and data transition process, which is scheduled to start on Friday, 25 February and end on Monday, 28 February 2022.

The Central Bank, as industry regulator, reiterates its continued effective oversight of the Belize financial system and will continue to collaborate with all stakeholders to optimize banking options and services available to the Belizean public and the business community.

- ENDS -

Issued by:
THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR, CENTRAL BANK OF BELIZE

1 Gabourel Lane
Belize City, BELIZE
T: +501 223 6194
E: communications@centralbank.org.bz



CAREER OPPORTUNITY

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

We are looking for a highly motivated, goal oriented, responsible and committed person to join our Company in the role of **GIS Technician II** in the **Distribution System Planning & Engineering Department** of our **Distribution Services Division** in Belize City.

Duties:

- Implement GIS System using present Company acquired software, Microsoft Office, AutoCAD, ESRI ArcGIS Desktop, SQL server and ArcFM.
- Capture GPS data for the GIS System using GIS equipment and train other technicians in the use of the equipment.
- Implement "add on" geographic features to the Company's base system.
- Customize GIS Database for deployment to the various Divisions/Departments within the Company and develop, deploy and maintain GIS Database throughout the Company.
- Make recommendations for additional resources or for resource changes as seen relevant to support the implementation of the GIS System.
- Report on the status of the GIS System as required.
- Prepare progress reports on the use of equipment, material and labor for assigned projects as required.
- Support the Company's safety and environmental initiatives and ensure compliance with national safety and environmental regulations applicable to the area of responsibility.
- Perform on-call duties on a rotational basis.

Education and Experience:

- Associate Degree in Geosciences, Mapping/Surveying or related field
- Three years' working experience as a GIS technician or in related field

Required Skills and Abilities:

- Understanding of Integrated GPS and GIS principles
- Basic computer programming and data analysis skills
- Working knowledge of ArcGIS suite software
- Working knowledge of Microsoft Office with an emphasis in Microsoft Project Management
- Basic knowledge of database management
- Good written and verbal communication skills (reports and presentations)
- Action and results oriented with excellent collaborative skills for pursuing shared goals
- Ability to take initiative, exercise sound judgement while maintaining high work quality
- Ability to meet deadlines in a fast paced and changing environment
- Valid driver's license

Salary: in accordance with Company Salary Structure.

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

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

In the email subject, please indicate the position:
GIS Technician II

Only electronic applications are being accepted at this time.
For more information or queries, call 227-0954 Ext. 2901 or 2902

Deadline: Friday, March 4, 2022

Outdated Health Facilities Converted Into SMART Facilities

By Michelle Sutherland

As more and more countries continue on a path of green transition, in an effort to lessen their carbon footprint, Belize is also following suit and this week announced the launch of one of several health facilities in the country that have been retrofitted to be a SMART Green facility.

On Monday, February 21st, the Ministry of Health and Wellness along with the representatives of the PAHO, and the British High Commission, cut the ribbon at the Cleopatra White Polyclinic in Belize City signaling the successful completion of a US \$3 million investment for an upgrade of the facility's equipment and infrastructure.

Minister of Health and Wellness Hon. Kevin Bernard commented, "I think 18 facilities were really looked at and Belize became one of few countries in the region that benefited from this very important project. A lot of money was invested and moving these facilities into a SMART and green facility makes it much more significant. We need to ensure, that there are cost-saving measures, because any facility that you run, any hospital that you run is very costly when it comes to health. So, being able to utilize solar, making sure that they will have their own water catchment and be able to have our facility upgraded to a standard that our people can feel they are getting the best service ever. So, I really want to feel that it is a great initiative, something that I would love to see across the country."

And across the country is exactly how this latest initiative is being rolled out because according to Bernard the retrofitting of the Cleopatra White Polyclinic is the third of five facilities that have already been retrofitted so far. Works have already been completed at the Palm-View Center, as well as the San Ignacio Community Hospital. Next week the team will be heading down to the Independence Polyclinic and the Isabella Palma Polyclinic to mark the official inauguration of those.

But while the investment in these five facilities have been estimated to be in the millions, and are welcomed, Bernard said that the key factor of the equation is the constant maintenance of these facilities

"You have to maintain our facilities and so it is something that I am also going to be pushing forward saying that we cannot invest if we are not going to maintain it, so the government also has to ensure that when these investments come in there is enough money there for these facilities to be able to keep to the standard it is so that it doesn't run down and then we run back to the same donors to say can you come back and help us, we cannot do that," said Bernard.

Should Monetary Finance Remain Taboo?

By Itai Agur, Damien Capelle, Giovanni Dell'Ariccia, and Damiano Sandri

The severe economic challenges posed by the global financial crisis, and more recently the pandemic, sparked a debate on whether central banks should expand their unconventional monetary policy toolkit to include monetary finance—the financing of government via money creation.

Monetary finance is often associated with Milton Friedman's metaphor of a helicopter dropping money from the sky. Reflecting on the role of monetary policy during the Great Depression, the Nobel laureate argued that a permanent increase in the monetary base could stimulate aggregate demand even in a severe liquidity trap, that is when interest rates are at zero and prices are stagnant or declining. This increase could be transferred to households via tax cuts or other forms of government support.

The 1970s struggle to contain inflation, and the many catastrophic episodes during which monetary policy became hostage to a country's fiscal needs, however, made monetary finance taboo. Central banks' success in lowering inflation was built on asserting their independence from fiscal authorities. The idea of financing fiscal deficits via money creation thus came to be seen as a mortal threat to central bank independence.

Should monetary finance remain taboo? Or are there merits to recent calls for using this tool during times of severe crises? In a recent paper, we review the arguments in favor of and against monetary finance and provide some suggestive empirical evidence about the effects on inflation.

For and against

Proponents of monetary finance argue that it has a stronger effect on aggregate demand than a debt-financed fiscal stimulus. Because there is no increase in public debt, monetary finance does not need to be paid for with future tax hikes, making consumers more likely to spend.

Monetary finance may also prevent self-fulfilling runs on government debt. If investors suddenly lose confidence in debt sustainability, the central bank may avert a default by partially monetizing debt. Importantly, if the central bank commits to this strategy—and does not abuse its power to monetize debt outside of self-fulfilling runs—investors are unlikely to lose confidence in the first place, without requiring the central bank to intervene.

But even advocates of monetary finance will point out that there are very serious risks. The primary concern is that it may pave the way to fiscal dominance whereby monetary policy decisions are made subordinate to the fiscal needs of the government. The resulting loss of confidence in the central bank's ability to keep inflation low and stable could lead to hyperinflation, as happened for example

in the well-known case of Zimbabwe in 2007-08.

Inflation risks

We use two empirical approaches to provide a preliminary assessment of the inflationary risks. First, we analyze the association between the monetary base and inflation across several countries back to the 1950s.

We find that a monetary expansion has modest effects on inflation in countries with strong central bank independence, low initial inflation, and small fiscal deficits. But the effects are much stronger if central bank independence is weak, inflation is high, and fiscal deficits are large. The analysis also detects considerable non-linear effects. While small expansions of the monetary base are associated with modest increases in inflation, large monetary expansions can have much stronger effects on inflation.

Second, we examine whether unconventional monetary policy (UMP) announcements in response to the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 led to an increase in inflation expectations. The sample includes 49 advanced economies and emerging markets and developing economies (EMDEs) during the period between March and December 2020.

Most countries embarked on asset purchases in secondary markets within the framework of quantitative easing (QE) programs. QE increases the monetary base, but unlike monetary finance, it is temporary as the central bank is expected to eventually unwind the assets it purchased.

However, in several EMDEs, UMP programs

included components of direct government financing through the purchase of government bonds in primary markets and the extension of loans and grants to the government, often with the explicit goal of providing fiscal support. These programs resemble forms of monetary finance.

As the chart shows, we do not find evidence of systematic effects of UMP announcements on inflation expectations, even when we focus on direct government financing (DGF) programs in EMDEs. In interpreting these findings, it is important to note that these operations were relatively modest in size and were likely perceived as one-off interventions.

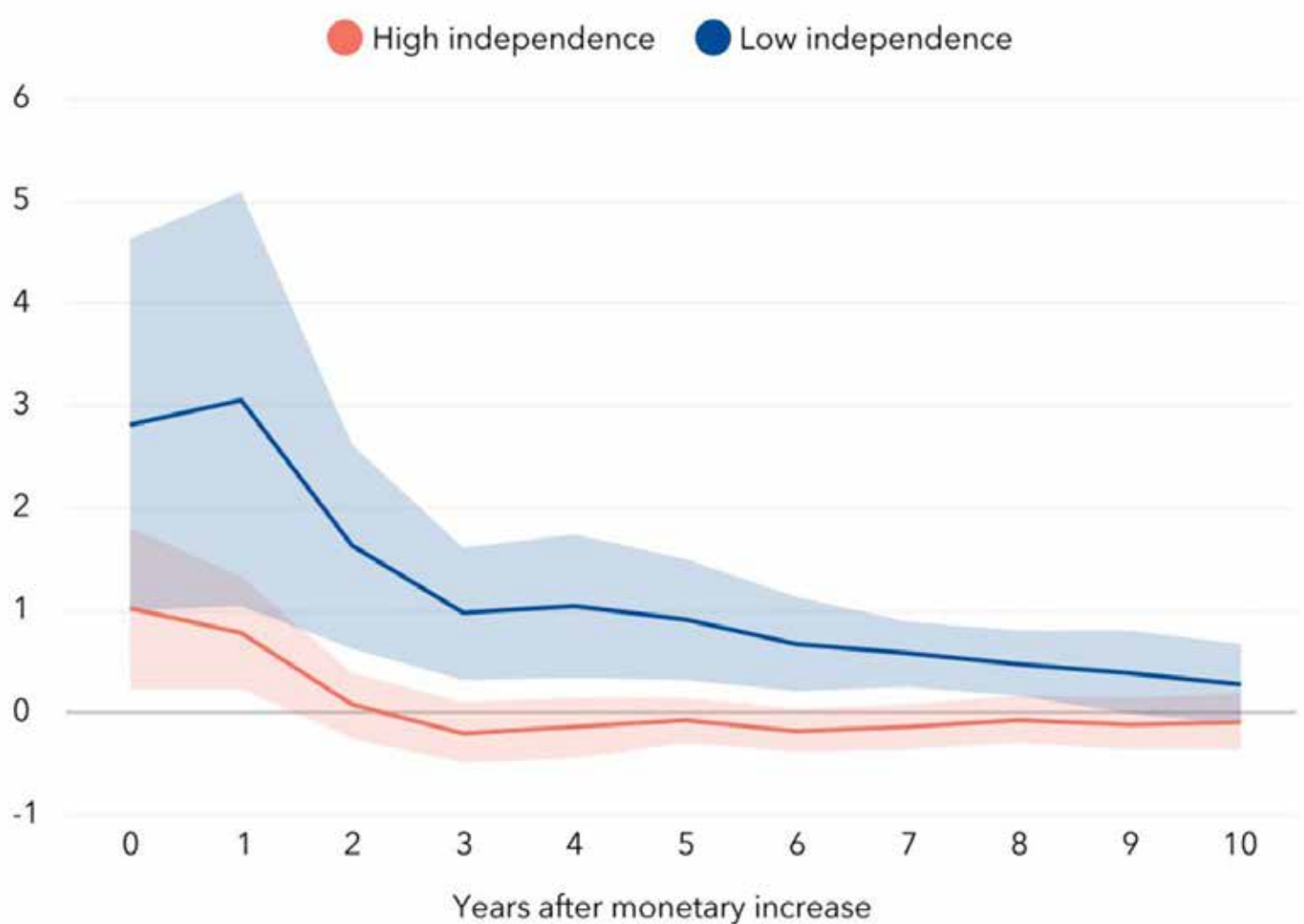
Based on the review of the conceptual arguments in favor of and against monetary finance and considering our empirical findings, we see merit in further exploring the conditions under which monetary finance may or may not be appropriate in exceptional circumstances. However, possible experimentation with this tool should be modest and limited to countries with credible monetary frameworks, low inflation, and sustainable fiscal positions.

Most importantly, possible monetary finance operations should be decided exclusively and independently by central banks with the sole goal of ensuring economic stability. This is admittedly a difficult standard to achieve. A difficulty seen by some as sufficient reason to ban monetary finance altogether. Indeed, in this context, departures from central bank independence can be very dangerous. History abounds with examples where the use of monetary finance under inappropriate circumstances had devastating effects on economies and livelihoods.

Inflation and monetary base expansions

Prices increase much faster in countries with weak central bank independence.

(percentage point change in inflation after a 10 percent increase in the monetary base)



Sources: IMF International Financial Statistics and authors' calculations; Penn World Tables; Garriga (2016); and Mauro et al. (2013). Note: High and low independence correspond respectively to the 75th and 25th percentiles of the central bank independence index from Garriga (2016). Shading shows 90 percent confidence intervals.

IMF

Belize:
February 2022

INSURANCE ACT

CHAPTER 251

LICENSING UNDER PARTS II, III, AND IV

In accordance with Section 175 of the Insurance Act, Chapter 251, Laws of Belize, RE 2011, the General Public is hereby notified that **only the following persons have been provided with an Insurance Licence to carry on insurance business in Belize during the year 2022.** All licensees mentioned herein have been provided with an **Insurance License Certificate**. In addition to the licence certificate, individual insurance intermediaries were issued an Insurance Intermediary Card, which must be produced upon simple demand by any member of the public.

Only Licence Certificates for the Year 2022 are valid. Persons conducting insurance business without a valid insurance license are in contravention of the Insurance Act and should be reported immediately to the **Office of the Supervisor of Insurance and Private Pensions at #2 Toucan Avenue, Belmopan, Belize or at osipp@mof.gov.bz**

A. Insurance Companies licensed under Part II

1. Atlantic Insurance Company Limited
2. Guardian General Insurance Limited
3. Home Protector Insurance Company Limited
4. Holy Redeemer Credit Union (Conditional)
5. Insurance Corporation of Belize
6. RF&G Insurance Company Limited
7. RF&G Life Insurance Company Limited
8. Sagicor Life Incorporated
9. Scotia Insurance Caribbean Limited
10. Massy United Insurance Company Limited

B. Association of Underwriters under Part III

1. Lloyds

C. Corporate Insurance Agents licensed under Part IV

1. Atlantic Bank Limited
2. Belize Bank Limited
3. Belize Bank Corporation Limited
4. Belize Credit Union League
5. Belize Estate Company Limited
6. Belize Insurance Center (Insurance Agent) Ltd.
7. La Inmaculada Credit Union Limited
8. Santiago Castillo Limited
9. Simpson's Insurance Agency Limited
10. Westrac Limited

D. Individual Insurance Agents and Sub-agents licensed under Part IV

ATLANTIC INSURANCE COMPANY

Anna Dyck	Esteban Cano	Westrac Limited
Marisa Azueta	Guadalupe Matus	Atlantic Bank Limited
Phillip Gallaty Jr.	Santiago Castillo Limited	Belize Estate Company Limited

GUARDIAN GENERAL INSURANCE

Amy Forte	Candice Meighan	Carol Panton
Dawn Henry	Derick Perera	Iris Sosa
Karen Gill	Olga Herrera	Saira Manzanero
Tessa Usher	Vikky Murga	Simpson's Insurance Agency Ltd.

HOME PROTECTOR INSURANCE

Aesha Bradley	Guillermo Medina	Melonie Woodye
Amareli Patt	Harry Moreno	Miriam Hoy
Dean Dennis Flowers	Ian Chi	Raul Gilharry
Jose Izaguirre	Julio Blanco	Rianna Bush
Ariel Aguilar	Kayla Bryant	Rosalyn Tzib
Blanca Flowers	Lecimarco Luna	Sheena Rodriguez
Florence Williams	Lilia Marin	Steven Cal
Joyce Longworth	Lorena Guzman	Thalia Avilez

INSURANCE CORPORATION OF BELIZE

Abdel Cowo Maretha McCulloch Nestor Hernandez Hiram Ochaeta

RF&G INSURANCE COMPANY

April Smith Echeverria	Clara Noble	Claudio Azueta
Ena Martinez	Farrah Marchand	Gigi Godfrey
Isabell Bardalez	Jairo Vasquez	John Friessen
Julien Ferguson	Kira Pinelo	Marlena Ramclam
Neville Forrester	Richard Coye	Roselia Zabaneh
Sandra Johnson	Sylvia Kuylen	St. Martin's Credit Union
Blue Creek Credit Union	Belize Bank Limited	Belize Credit Union League
Belize Bank Corporation Ltd.	Mirror Enterprises Ltd. (Jorge Espejo Sr.)	
La Inmaculada Credit Union	L3G's & Associates (Yadira & Fatima Chi)	

RF&G LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

Christiani Vargas	Daphne McFadzean	Deon Robinson
Dishon Smith	Ena Martinez	George Nicholson
Immanuel Westby	Jorge Rosalez	Kaitilin Nicholas
Kevin Peralta	Magdalene Okondo	Maria Coyi
Maria Riverol	Marsha White	Maslin Howler
Mayeli Hoy	Melissa Skeen	Ricardo Magana
Richard Coye	Shantel Lofter	

SAGICOR LIFE INC.

Alfred Jesse	Amy Forte	Bernadine Villagran
Candice Meighan	Carol Panton	Dawn Henry
Derick Perera	Farrah Marchand	Florence Williams
Karen Gill	Lerone Ayuso	Marlene Forrester
Marsha Gill	Mirna Paul-Greenidge	Myrna Martinez
Nikita Smith	Olga Herrera	Paul Schmidt III
Phyllicia Bonell	Richard Coye	Rodney Card
Ryan Simpson	Saira Manzanero	Samuel Brown
Shakera Young-Forrester	Simiona Nicholas	Tessa Usher
Vikky Murga	Yaennis Escolona	Yazmin Urbina
Zeidie Thompson	Belize Insurance Center (Insurance Agent) Ltd.	
Simpson's Insurance Agency Limited		

SCOTIA INSURANCE CARIBBEAN LIMITED

Belize Bank Corporation Limited
Belize Bank Limited

MASSY UNITED INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

Marsha Gill	Sadira Gonzalez	Marta Martinez
Belize Insurance Center (Insurance Agent) Ltd.		

BELIZE INSURANCE CENTRE (Insurance Agent) Limited

Andrea Corredor Martha Castillo

SIMPSON'S INSURANCE AGENCY LIMITED

Jennifer Arzu Williams	Jose Urbina	Linda Caldera
------------------------	-------------	---------------

D. Brokers licensed under Part IV

BROKER

1. Diversified Life Solutions Brokers Limited
2. McLean Insurance & Risk Solutions Limited

Special Notice on Banks and other Financial Institutions acting as agents of Insurance Companies.

No Bank or Bank Official shall exercise any undue pressure or influence in any manner whatsoever upon a borrower to place insurance in any particular insurance company for the security of the Bank.

All clients of Financial Institutions have a choice of insurer and should not be obligated to insure with a particular insurer only because the financial institution is providing such person with insurance premium financing or a loan.

Clients of a financial institution feeling coerced in placing insurance with a company against his/her will should notify the Supervisor of Insurance immediately.

Any notification to the Supervisor can be made via email to osipp@mof.gov.bz, or by post at #2 Toucan Avenue, Belmopan.

Update on Licensing information on Insurers and Intermediaries can be found on <https://osipp.gov.bz>

Alma D. Gomez
(Alma D. Gomez)
Supervisor of Insurance



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Belize Water Services Limited invites applicants to fill the vacant post of **Customer Service Manager** in the Customer Service Department.

SUMMARY:

Manages, plans, organizes, integrates and evaluates the service activities and operations of assigned branch; ensures that at the branch level customer expectations are being met and exceeded by team, and performs related duties as assigned. Implement policies and procedures and the company mission, vision and core values is carried out effectively.

DEPARTMENT DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Administer a comprehensive complaint policy and procedures system guided by the Codes of Practice and Water Industry Act.
- Improve our efficiency - Reduce customer waiting time wherever possible and manage all customers' queries and complaints professionally.
- Build and maintain an excellent Customer experience whilst focusing on the company's mission, vision, and core values.
- Improve our customer base – whilst ensuring continuous reduction in the company's Account Receivable and at the same time retain and increase our customer base
- Empower our workforce – Provides coaching, guidance, and feedback that works to develop and retain a highly competent, team of customer-service oriented staff through selection, training and day-to-day management practices which support the Company's mission, vision and values
- Address and solve complaints and queries received in a way that is a win-win for both the customer and the company and provide the necessary follow-up to customers.
- Quality assurance through monitoring of policies and procedures and providing feedback to staff members.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES - The incumbent may not perform all of the listed duties and/or may be required to perform additional or different duties from those set forth below to address business needs and changing business practices.

- Plans, manages, controls, evaluates and administrative assistance to the Customer Service area at the branch offices countrywide.
- Assist the manager with the day-to-day management and reporting.
- Recommend and assist in the implementation of goals and objectives; establish schedules and methods for customer service; implement policies and procedures.
- Evaluate operations and activities of assigned responsibilities; recommend improvements and modifications; prepare various reports on operations and activities.
- Coordinate, analyze and implement strategies to ensure that all key accounts countrywide are properly monitored.
- Review and analyze meter reading, field service, and collections activities in relation to billing reports to assess unit production at the district level.
- Make adjustments as necessary with regard to billing problems; and communicate directly with customers to resolve difficult or complex service/billing issues for the district offices.
- Participate in the selection of staff; provide or coordinate staff training; work with employees to correct deficiencies; implement discipline procedures.
- Answer questions and provide information to the public; investigate complaints and recommend corrective action as necessary to resolve complaints.
- Conduct monthly district visit to branch offices to ensure that they are adhering to policies and processes.
- Build and maintain positive working relationships with co-workers and the public using the principles of good customer service.

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILL REQUIREMENTS:

Candidates will need to show evidence of the following:

- written and spoken communication skills that allow you to inform, help and advice customers, and liaise with other professionals;
- listening skills, to understand exactly what customers require; problem-solving skills;
- confidence, patience, politeness, tact and diplomacy, when dealing with difficult situations;
- motivational skills and an ability to supervise and lead a team of customer service assistants;
- creative thinking, to be able to come up with new ideas to improve customer service standards;
- an ability to work well under pressure;
- organizational and planning skills to develop customer services policies;
- good personal presentation, especially when working with customers face to face

COMPETENCIES TO BE EVALUATED ON:

1. Technical and Functional Skills
2. Understanding of the Business
3. Ability to achieving Results
4. Serving the Customer
5. Teamwork
6. Interpersonal and Communication Skills
7. Leadership and Personal Effectiveness

EXPECTATIONS:

- Prepare, maintain, and submit monthly reports on operational and personnel matters.
- Maintain a schedule of month end reports outlining the date received and errors identified on the reports.
- Make recommendations to management concerning staff matters and improvement to procedures and policies.
- Communicates with other departments and management to resolve problems and expedite work.
- Train and instruct staff members, assist with hiring of staff members and make recommendation to discharge staff members whenever necessary.
- Required to have an excellent knowledge of the company's mission, vision, core values, Codes of Practice and the Water Industry Act and possess the ability to communicate such to employees and customers verbally and in writing whenever necessary.
- Ensures that adjustments are prepared for (over-estimated customers, wrong reading, high bill or others).
- Ensures that jobs in JTS are closed one day after work in completed in the field and all jobs are moved from created to pending status and pass to Operations Department.
- Keep record of the time refund of security deposit request is received from the district to process the payment.
- Ensure that DISN and Inactive meters are dealt with monthly.
- Ensure that all accounts are billed timely and efficiently conduct random (25%) check of all cycles to identify inconsistencies.

EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS:

- Master's degree in Accounting or Business Management with at least 5 years' experience or Bachelor's degree with at least 10 years' experience in customer service activities or accounting duties and managerial responsibilities will be an asset.

Interested persons can send your application letter with your detailed resume **March 4, 2022** to:

Human Resources Manager
Belize Water Services Limited,
 P.O. Box 150, Central American Boulevard, Belize City, Belize
 Email : hr@bwsli.com.bz

BWS: Delivering water and more...

MINISTRY OF HEALTH & WELLNESS
VACANCY NOTICE

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to fill the post of **Health Planner, Policy and Planning Unit**, Ministry of Health & Wellness.

Principal Duties: Policy analysis and development. Human Resources planning and management; data management information system; technical assistance to health regions, monitoring Service Level Agreements; Assessment and improvement of NHI Health Care Package; improving Primary Health Care Activities; and Provide technical assistance to all four (4) Health Regions which includes all public and private institutions. Compile and develop annual national and regional reports. Assist in development of working budgets and financing for health activities.

Salary Pay Scale: 23 of \$34,428 x \$1,392.00 = \$60,876.00

Qualification: Master's Degree in a Public Health or related Social Science field is preferred.

Deadline: Deadline is March 1st, 2022
Application with two (2) references on professional experience and copies of qualifications and a Curriculum Vita are to be submitted to: -

Chief Executive Officer
Ministry of Health & Wellness
Belmopan

ceosecretary@health.gov.bz

Note: Please visit www.health.gov.bz to view the copy of the Terms of Reference for this vacant post.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH & WELLNESS
VACANCY NOTICE

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to fill the post of **Health Economist, Policy and Planning Unit**, Ministry of Health & Wellness.

Principal Duties: The Health Economist is expected to provide expert advice in the areas of resource utilization, value for money and alternative health financing strategies. The officer is expected to monitor expenditure patterns and trends in public and private capital and recurrent health expenditure for preventative, primary Health Care, ambulatory care and hospital care; pharmaceuticals and medical equipment procurement and usage. The officer is also expected to provide advice on the implications of expenditure patterns on access, efficiency and equity in the health system.

Salary Pay Scale: 23 of \$34,428 x \$1,392.00 = \$60,876.00

Qualification: Master's Degree in Health Economics or related field and experience in policy analysis, planning, research or teaching.

Deadline: Deadline is March 1st, 2022
Application with two (2) references on professional experience and copies of qualifications and a Curriculum Vita are to be submitted to: -

Chief Executive Officer
Ministry of Health & Wellness
Belmopan
ceosecretary@health.gov.bz

Note: Please visit health.gov.bz to view the copy of the Terms of Reference for this vacant post.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH & WELLNESS
VACANCY NOTICE

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to fill the post of **Procurement Officer, Central Medical Stores**, Ministry of Health & Wellness.

Principal Duties: Ensure assigning and delivery of requisitions within the CMS scheduled delivery to health facilities countrywide. Track stock levels and report none delivery of tender items to Procurement Manager for sourcing, ensuring availability.

Salary Pay Scale: 10 of \$18,367 x 878 - \$35,048 per annum

Qualification: Associates Degree in Applied Science - Pharmacy
Registered Pharmacist
Minimum 5 years Experience in Hospital Pharmacy

Deadline: Deadline is March 14th, 2022
Application with two (2) references on professional experience and copies of qualifications and a Curriculum Vita are to be submitted to: -

Chief Executive Officer
Ministry of Health & Wellness
Belmopan

ceosecretary@health.gov.bz

Note: Please visit www.health.gov.bz to view the copy of the Terms of Reference for this vacant post.

BELIZE, 2022

IN THE SUPREME COURT – PROBATE SIDE.


STATUTORY NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE ESTATE OF CRISTAVEL VILMA ROMERO a.k.a. VILMA ROMERO

Deceased Late of No. 82 Fourth Avenue, Corozal Town, Corozal District, Belize.

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 36 of the Administration of Estates Act Chapter 197 of the Laws of Belize that all persons having claims as creditors against the above-named deceased or her estate, are required to lodge any such claim(s) with MANUEL ROMERO and RACHEL COYE, Administrators of the above-mentioned Estate, c/o Bradley Ellis & Co. LLP of No. 52 Regent Street, Belize City, Belize, within three (3) months from the first publication of this notice after which date the Administrators shall proceed to distribute the assets of the estate among the beneficiaries entitled thereto having regard only to such claims of which the Administrators will then have had notice.

DATED this 24th day of February, 2022


BRADLEY ELLIS & CO. LLP
Attorneys-at-Law for
MANUEL ROMERO and
RACHEL COYE, Administrators
of the Estate of Cristavel Vilma
Romero a.k.a. Vilma Romero

Sports minister promises more funding



Minister of Sports Hon. Rodwell Ferguson

By William Ysaguirre

The Minister of Sports and Public Utilities Hon. Rodwell Ferguson has pledged to lobby for more funding for sports, after witnessing firsthand the Belize national women's team, the Lady Jaguars, lose 0-8 to Panama in the CONCACAF elimination round of qualifiers at the Cuscatlán Stadium in San Salvador on Sunday, February 20.

In an interview with the Football Federation of Belize (FFB) in Salvador, Ferguson said he believes "our athletes can do much

better, but with the support of the entire country of Belize." To improve will require a concerted effort, he said, so he will lobby with his Cabinet colleagues, the business community and even seek international support to find a way to help our athletes develop, so they can excel in international competition within the region. He hopes to raise at least \$1.8 million to be able to pay the players a stipend of \$100 per day, which would work out to an annual salary of \$36,500 per player, enough for about 50

players: 25 of the senior men's team – Belize Jaguars, and 25 from the female senior team.

The Bowen & Bowen Group has sponsored the Sprite basketball tournament in Belize City in partnership with the Police Department since 2017, and \$100,000 has been budgeted for this year's tournament. Ferguson said he hopes to enlist the help of Minister of Home Affairs Hon. Kareem Musa to partner with the Police Department to organize a countrywide basketball program

starting on May 7, as a crime prevention initiative to engage at risk youth. He said he already has a budget of \$250,000 for the tournament.

He lamented that often in Belize a project is begun and "there's no completion, such as the Marion Jones as a classic example". He admitted that the National Sports Council's budget is "very minute", and so he would have become creative to go to the diaspora or international agencies to make it happen. Former minister of Sports Hon. Kevin Bernard admitted on Monday, that the National Sports Council's budget for fiscal year 2021-22 was about \$2.5 million. This is for the development of over 25 sports disciplines played around the country, staff salaries and the upkeep of NSC sports facilities.

He recognized that the FFB has limited resources to promote football at all levels throughout Belize. The FFB receives an annual subvention of USD \$1 million from FIFA for football development, and in May 2020, FIFA disbursed an additional USD\$1.5 million to Belize, specifically for COVID-19 mitigation measures in football. The FIFA

Forward Program had also awarded the Bze\$2.44 million for the rehabilitation of the bleachers at the FIFA Goal project Stadium in Belmopan, where the steel bleachers had fallen into disrepair and would be replaced with concrete bleachers which included ramps for the handicapped. The contract was awarded to Coleman Construction on May 20, 2020. The concrete bleachers are complete, but the stadium is not certified yet by FIFA, so Sunday's match against Panama was to be a 'home' game, but it was played in Salvador. A small mercy that spared the Lady Jaguars from losing in front of their home fans.

Minister Ferguson had travelled to El Salvador last Friday to lend moral support to the Lady Jaguars, who had previously lost 0-6 to El Salvador last Wednesday, February 16, in their debut match of the qualifiers for the FIFA Women's World Cup to be held in Australia and New Zealand next year.

In his Facebook post immediately after the match, Ferguson commented: "They were led like a sheep to be slaughtered. Their optimism before the game was high. Traveling to Salvador to do

my own assessment, it is an embarrassment what the female team went through today.

"The support of country is not there. We will be the first to criticize. The FFB have a budget of 4 to 5 million to promote and improve football at all levels. It takes more than that, if we want to excel. You know it's an embarrassment for all of us.

"When I see the infrastructure in sports in Salvador, it's amazing. I believe the development include the Government and the private sector. As the new Minister of Sports, I will have to change the narrative. The entire nation has to be involved. I am calling on my colleagues in Government, private sector and all affiliate bodies that are involved with each discipline. We are backward when it comes to infrastructure. Here in Salvador there is a hotel of 74 rooms just to host athletes, to reduce the cost of their stay.

"I had to sympathize with the female athletes today after their 8-nil defeat. As the Minister of Sports, I will start to engage my colleagues in Government, the business community, the diaspora and the World at large by seeking funds. Hold your heads high, ladies."

S U D O K U

Medium Puzzle

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

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

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



Inflation could hit mental health as much as your wallet

The cost of living is rising, creating new economic uncertainty on the tail end of a very uncertain two years. Experts say the result could be more mental strain, stress and anxiety.

Inflation in the U.K. hit a 30-year high in January, with consumer prices up 5.5% from the previous year. The U.S. saw consumer prices rise 7.5% year-over-year as of January, the biggest annual increase in 40 years.

In and of itself, inflation is not necessarily tied to declines in mental health. The impact on individuals depends heavily on their financial situations: For example, someone deeply in debt can benefit from inflation because each dollar they have to pay back is worth less, effectively shrinking their debt. But if that person's income doesn't rise along with inflation, they may end up in worse financial shape. And people whose incomes mostly go to necessities like food and gasoline — low-wage earners — tend to suffer most of all when inflation is high.

The result of continuing inflation, then, could be to deepen economic inequality, a problem that existed well before the pandemic, said Lisa Strohschein, a sociologist at the University of Alberta who studies stress, family dynamics and health, including the effects of financial strain.

"Growing economic inequality has been a significant and long-term issue," Strohschein told Live Science. "And we now live in a world where the pandemic has made some people more wealthy than they already were, but for people who are at the bottom, they have never been more insecure."

The impacts of economics

Economic indicators don't occur in a vacuum, so linking a particular measure to mental health isn't always possible. But there are some things researchers know well. One is that economic inequality, or a large schism between haves and have-nots, is bad for a population's health, including mental health.

In a study published in the journal *World Psychiatry* in 2018, researchers reviewed 26 studies on income inequality around the world and found that two-thirds said that as income inequality rose, so did depression. A statistical re-analysis of 12 of those studies showed that people in highly inequitable societies were about 1.2 times more likely to experience depression compared with people in more equal societies. Unequal societies also have higher rates of schizophrenia, studies have found, perhaps because inequality decreases social cohesion and raises chronic stress for vulnerable people.

Unemployment is also hugely damaging to individuals' mental health. The Holmes-Rahe Life Stress Inventory, a psychological tool used to gauge how likely it is that someone experiences health impacts from stress, ranks losing a job as the eighth-most stressful life change that can happen to someone. Many different studies have found negative impacts of being unemployed, ranging from symptoms of anxiety and depression to low self-esteem and loss of well-being. In one 2009 paper in the *Journal of Vocational Behavior*, researchers describe how they re-analyzed data from more than 300 studies on unemployment and mental health; they found that 34% of people who were unemployed experienced psychological symptoms, compared with 15% of the employed. Blue-collar workers were hit the hardest.

Inflation is more complicated. For the low-earning households, the rising cost of goods is a source of insecurity. A recent Washington Post investigation looked at how inflation is hitting low-income Americans and found people struggling to afford basic groceries and other necessities. In contrast, the wealthiest segment of society has more of a financial cushion to absorb rising costs, as well as investments that tend to outperform inflation in the long run.

Financial strain hasn't been as big of a problem in the pandemic as labor market upheaval might suggest. People spent less and may have saved more, said Scott Schieman, a sociologist at the University of Toronto. But inflation will change



that picture.

"Inflation will make the actual level of pay seem less adequate," said Schieman. "And for lower-earning households, that starts to make the anxiety and strain creep up."

Schieman's research involves long-running nationally representative surveys of American and Canadian workers. In the U.S. in January and February, he said, more than half of workers said they felt their job didn't pay them enough to make ends meet. That's part of a trend going back at least 20 years, he said. Feeling underpaid is linked to worse job satisfaction, he said, which may explain why workers are quitting their jobs in large numbers. For those who stay — or who can't find a better-paying position — the financial crunch can have emotional echoes.

"Feeling underpaid and having insufficient income from one's main job is a chronic source of stress that has links to anger and resentment," Schieman said. "That dampens positive views about other aspects of the job that might otherwise be seen as good things — like autonomy or challenge."

To stave off inflation, governments may raise interest rates, which puts a brake on borrowing and spending. This can have negative impacts on some subgroups, though. For example, a 2018 study published in the *Journal of Affective Disorders* found that people who are deeply in debt may struggle psychologically when interest rates rise. The heavily indebted have a higher rate of mental health problems than the general population. For this group, the research found, a 1% increase in interest rates can lead to a 2.6% increase in the risk of experiencing a psychiatric disorder.

Inflation has risen in the past, Strohschein said, and that hasn't always translated to major financial and mental strain. Wages often rise along with inflation, easing some of the stress for consumers, she said. But higher cost of living is just one stressor among many that people have experienced since the COVID-19 pandemic started. That means

that many people are already at the end of their ropes.

"People can handle one stressful thing, but when [stressors] begin to accumulate, that's what puts people over the edge. It's that straw that broke the camel's back," Strohschein said.

In the U.K., wage growth is not currently keeping up with the pace of inflation, especially among frontline workers in education and health, *The Guardian* reported. Frontline workers are among those hit the hardest by the emotional strain of working outside the home and caring for others during the pandemic.

There is a psychological impact to inflation beyond its financial impact, Schieman said.

"Things just feel worse, there's a sense of uncertainty and a loss of control that goes with it," he said. "And there's a sense it could be worse down the road. All of these things dampen our sense of satisfaction and undermine emotional well-being."

This feeling of fear about the future may be hitting young people hard. Though older people are at a far higher risk of death from COVID-19, surveys suggest that younger people took the biggest psychological hit during the pandemic. Research conducted in the U.S. by psychologist Jean Twenge of San Diego State University

found that in 2020, adults 18 to 44 saw the worst impacts on mental health, while adults over 60 were least affected psychologically.

The youth mental health crisis has only continued. University students have missed opportunities for socialization and career networking due to pandemic precautions, Strohschein said, and many are feeling uncertain or even hopeless about their prospects.

"For young people, it's about the ways in which they make the transition to adulthood and their fears for their future," she said. These fears are likely well-grounded, she added, as the Great Recession of 2008 did have long-lasting impacts on Millennials, the generation that was launching into adulthood when that financial crisis hit. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Millennials delayed marriage and home buying due to high levels of student debt and high unemployment during the recession. A similar pattern could be seen in today's young adults, Strohschein said.

"The ways in which young people today are progressing through these really formative years and making decisions about what they will do with their lives, I think are going to be with us for a long, long time," she said.

- LiveScience



No Excuses

Time for Transformative Thoughts and Action

Sedi Elrington

No right thinking Belizean can fail to be horrified, pained and outraged by the brazen depravity and savagery of our youthful Afro Belizean assassins! An eye witness to the murder which recently occurred at the car wash on Albert Street, the heart of downtown Belize City, in broad daylight, said that the three assassins seemed to be no older than fifteen to sixteen years of age. And, that after committing their dastardly deed they casually entered the alley across the street, with weapons brandished, and emerged a few minutes later, without the weapons, and went to the car wash.

Surely without urgent course correction, our youthful assassins will ultimately have a much more devastating effect upon our society than even the deadly Covid-19 virus.

It is not normal for youths to gravitate to a life of violence, crime, and savagery. And, the history of our own colonial past, contain no record of Afro Belizean youths displaying those tendencies. The record of our colonial era shows our youths to have been civil, disciplined, law abiding. The British ruling class, who were in large measure absentee masters, relied heavily upon them to man all government institutions. This practice continued until we attained our Political Independence on September 21st, 1981. Our colonial civil service was outstanding for its professionalism, honesty, competence, and efficiency.

The genesis of the drastic deterioration and depravity in the character of a growing number of our Afro Belizean youth can be traced to the disruption brought about in our society by the category five hurricane Hattie in 1961. That hurricane caused widespread damage and destruc-

tion to the Belize and Stann Creek districts. Those two districts have historically been the home of the bulk of our Afro Belizean population. In the aftermath of the hurricane Afro Belizean parents migrated in droves to the United States to seek their fortunes and to rebuild their lives. In most cases they left their children behind in the care of older siblings, and assorted relatives including grandparents.

The parents worked hard in the States. Some did live-in jobs. Many did two jobs simultaneously, because they had to be providing for two households, one in the States and one back home! With limited education and skills, their earnings were meager, modest. But monthly, they faithfully remitted cash and barrels stuffed with groceries and clothing for their children back home. Materially, their children never had it so well, but those children also were never so deprived of that essential parental nurturing and guidance that every human child is entitled to. In particular, they were deprived of the love, tender care, discipline and work ethic which only parents can truly provide, and without which it is impossible for one to evolve into an honest, productive, law abiding citizen.

Bereft of guidance, discipline and wisdom the Afro Belizean youth left in Belize soon started dropping out of school in alarming numbers. They ceased attending church services and Sunday schools, as well as scouting and guiding activities, and consequently received little or no spiritual, ethical or moral education. Inevitably, and insidiously, with the advent of adolescence, those children became sexually active and also began experimenting with alcohol and drugs. Pretty soon, children with little or

no education, skill or job, started having children. They had no clue about parenting, about how to rear their offsprings. And, there was no one around to guide them.

Simultaneously, their siblings in the United States were faring no better. They lived mainly in the ghettos. They had to contend daily with practices and customs which were alien to them. Because some

While our security forces must relentlessly seek to enhance their efforts at crime prevention and the apprehension of criminals, particularly seasoned gangbangers, our nation must embark on a collective effort at preventing the upcoming young and innocent from degenerating as they grow into adolescence, into amoral gang members and assassins.

parents did live-in jobs while others worked long hours, seven days per week, many children received scant parental nurturing, guidance and discipline. Many were forced to spend the majority of their time on their own. Inevitably, some became involved in criminal activities, primarily the selling of drugs, and were jailed, while others were arrested because they were living illegally in the United States, and had neither citizenship nor permanent residence. Many were deported from the United States commencing in the 1970's and 1980's after serving time for drugs, immigration and other offences. Those early deportees brought back with them the deadly gang culture which has now spread across the length and breadth of our country. They formed the Crips and Bloods gangs.

Successive Belizean governments have been wholly ill-equipped to deal with the fallout from the introduction of the gang culture in our society. The late 70's and 80's, when the gang members started to return home, was a time of transition of political power from British to Belizean

politicians. The British bequeathed to us a country that was poor, broke and severely underdeveloped. Our institutions were few and fragile. Our infrastructure skeletal. Our laws antiquated and fit for colonial subjects, not citizens of a sovereign independent nation. Our talent pool was severely limited, with few managerial, technical and professional personnel. But no

government over the last four plus decades has had the will or capacity to introduce the necessary reforms to remedy these systemic government weaknesses and deficiencies and in the case of the gang phenomenon every administration has sought to rely upon the police to stem the increasing excesses of the criminal gangs which now operate with virtual impunity in our country. However, every initiative of the police has resulted in failure. The gang problem is clearly not one which the police can eliminate. Indeed the situation is worsening. It is being compounded by the relentless increase in the activities of transnational narco traffickers who are transshipping cocaine through our country in light aircrafts. Already this week within a period of only twenty four hours two such aircrafts landed in our country. One in the Belize district and one down south. The police was nowhere in sight.

As we have seen in the case of Mexico, the carnage being committed by narco traffickers in that country is unceasing and the extent of the savagery is chilling! Also in

Haiti the gangs are brazenly seeking to supplant the authority of that nation's security forces. Clearly if our efforts to contain the activities of our criminal gangs continue to prove futile it will only be a matter of time before we will be experiencing similar carnage as that being experience by our hapless Mexican neighbours.

While I am aware of governments impecuniously and indebtedness, I entertain no doubt that without urgent collective intervention by government, the private sector and the wider society to address the dire needs of poor Afro Belizean families, our efforts to stem the gang culture and violence will continue to prove to be futile. The gang phenomenon is a mere symptom of our society's historic, persistent and abject failure of our poor and powerless families and youths. Because of that failure we are reducing an ever growing number of our youths, our most valuable assets, to amoral assassins.

Recent government's press releases have been indicating that friendly governments and other organizations and institutions are offering grants to our country for various purposes. It is the view of this writer that our government should prioritize the alleviation of the plight of our poor and vulnerable youth who are at risk of evolving into the next generation of assassins, above everything else, in deciding on which project to spend those grant funds. There can be no more worthy and urgent need at this time than for government to invest in initiatives that can help to put an end to the escalating violence and murders in our country.

While it is commendable that attempts are being made to set up gang mem-

bers in small businesses, the reality is that the socialization of ghetto youths and the inherent difficulties in successfully managing businesses make them more likely to fail than to succeed. Initiatives that are more likely to succeed are structured ones in the nature of a National Youth Service Corps in which youths are drafted into a mandatory comprehensive programme lasting for a minimum of at least three years during which time they are closely monitored, supervised and disciplined and are taught readily saleable skills with which they can earn their keep. Additionally, they can be taught tolerance, patriotism and leadership skills. In a multi-racial, multi ethnic society such as ours it is essential that patriotism be imbued in our youth and that every effort be made to deemphasize our ethnic and racial differences and to accentuate our commonalities particularly our identification as Belizeans first and foremost.

While our security forces must relentlessly seek to enhance their efforts at crime prevention and the apprehension of criminals, particularly seasoned gangbangers, our nation must embark on a collective effort at preventing the upcoming young and innocent from degenerating as they grow into adolescence, into amoral gang members and assassins. It is essential to bear in mind, that such initiatives can only bear fruit if the miserable lot of our families and children is reversed and enhanced through the provision of opportunities for access to adequate nutrition, social services, skills training, education, discipline, moral and ethical instructions and jobs which pay living wages. This will require transformative thinking and action on the part of our collective leadership elites.



MINISTRY OF FINANCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND INVESTMENT

NEW GAMING MACHINE LICENSE MORATORIUM NOTICE

The Gaming Control Board of Belize would like to inform the public that New Applications for Gaming Machine (Establishment) Licenses for the period of April 1st, 2022, to March 31st, 2023, will only be accepted for those that will be located at the following tourism destinations: Ambergris Caye, Caye Caulker and Placencia.

A **Moratorium** will be placed on applications from all other locations until further notice. Please note that this applies only to new applicants and not renewals.

License Holders that received approval for the period of 2021/2022 may submit renewal applications.

We can be contacted via:

Telephone: (501) 828-6704/ 828-9046

Email: belizeinvestment@invest.gov.bz

Facebook: Investment Policy & Compliance Unit

\$1.5 Million Paid to CWU for Stevedores

CF20220078 Page 1 of 18 2022-02-10

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BELIZE A.D. 2022

GENERAL REGISTRY FILED CLAIMANT

AND

CHRISTIAN WORKERS UNION	1 st DEFENDANT
EVAN "MOSE" HYDE	2 nd DEFENDANT
GUY NEAL	3 rd DEFENDANT
WINFIELD DENNISON	4 th DEFENDANT
KENTON BLANCO	5 th DEFENDANT
JAMES NEAL	6 th DEFENDANT
WENDELL WHITAKER	7 th DEFENDANT

CLAIM FORM

The Claimant, Port of Belize Ltd. ("PBL"), a company incorporated under the Companies Act, Chapter 250 of the Laws of Belize, with registered office at Caesar Ridge Road, Belize City, Belize whose business is to operate the primary cargo port in Belize claims against

The First Defendant, Christian Workers Union ("CWU"), a trade union duly registered under section 13 of the Trade Unions and Employer's Organizations (Registration, Recognition and Status) Act ("the Act") which aided, facilitated, and encouraged the Third through Seventh Defendants to participate in an illegal strike which unlawfully prevented PBL from loading and unloading cargo containers for a period of eight days, causing substantial economic loss.

The Second Defendant, Evan "Mose" Hyde, President of the First Defendant who aided, facilitated and encouraged the Third through Seventh Defendants to

The Government of Belize deposited \$1.5 million as *ex gratia* payment into the Christian Workers Union (CWU)'s bank account on Wednesday afternoon, a day after the Port of Belize Limited (PBL) and Arturo Vasquez applied for an interim injunction to stop the payment.

Prime Minister John Briceño told the media on Wednesday morning that "we will pay it in advance because it is something that we felt that needed to be done and at the same time to be able to ease the tension that was taking place at the Port of Belize."

In the application, PBL and Vasquez say that the Briceño Administration had no legal authority to enter into an agreement and commit to make an *ex-gratia* payment without the approval of the National Assembly. PBL and Vasquez say their case is strong and arguable, claiming that no monies shall be withdrawn from the Consolidate Revenue Fund without the authority of the National Assembly and without disclosure to the House of Representatives.

In response, Prime Minister John Briceño said that monies will be included in the upcoming budget. The government issued a warrant for expenditure which allows a three-month grace period for government to seek approval from the National Assembly.

In a now retracted statement, PBL said it will no longer engage in negotiations with the CWU concerning changes to the working hours of stevedores. CWU President Evan "Mose" Hyde says members feel "hunted" and "encircled" by very serious level operations. "Our membership feels angry; our negotiating team feels targeted; and Christian Workers Union feels as if though there is a mission to get it," said Hyde.

Hyde says stevedores have interpreted the recent events a "very serious coordinated strategy that CWU must be targeted and must pay a price." Stevedores anticipated this latest legal move by PBL and since last week have been expediting steps to have the proper process in place to allow for proper disbursement of the \$1.5 million. Hyde said, "We saw bad vibes coming; we saw bad mind coming."

GOB had agreed to make such payment in a memorandum of understanding signed by GOB and CWU on February 3, 2022. According to the MOU, the money is compensation "for any prejudice they may have suffered as a result of the privatization of the Port by the said Government of Belize."

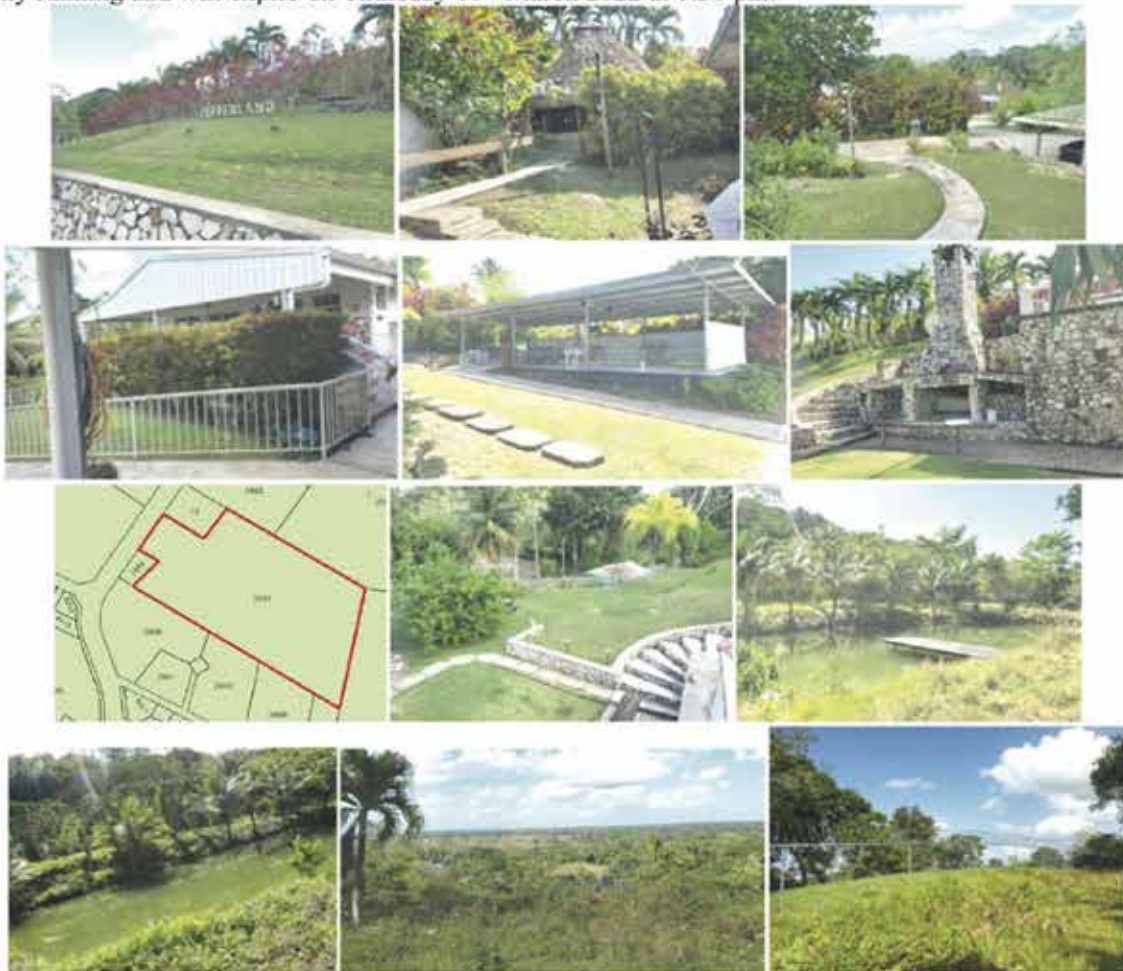
The *ex-gratia* payment came after the CWU's stevedores and PBL were at odds for several days. Stevedores carried out strike action which prevented the offloading of containers. PBL in a separate claim is suing the CWU, Hyde and five stevedores namely Guy Neal, Winfield Dennison, Kenton Blanco, James Neal and Wendell Whitaker, for \$1,034,403 in damages for the tort of interference by unlawful means that caused financial loss. PBL's position is that the strike was illegal and caused irreparable damage.

Hyde concedes that the CWU and stevedores do not possess the resources to go into legal war with PBL. "We don't have the capacity to engage in some kind of protracted litigation, confrontation where the resources of the receivership and creditor to the PBL would drag us from here to the CCJ and back. We don't have the resources to do that," Hyde said.

PUBLIC AUCTION SALE: SIGNATURE PROPERTY

Pepperland, Mile 60, Unitedville, Cayo District

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees, Messrs. Belize Social Security, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the below described property. Sale currently running and will expire on Thursday 10th March 2022 at 1:30 pm:



REGISTRATION SECTION
Society Hall

BLOCK
24

PARCEL
3561

(Being a VERY ATTRACTIVE AND UNIQUE residence, farm, leisure development: **Main Residence** - timber & zinc building with premium finishes on the interior 28 ft. x 65 ft. + extension 22 ft. x 10 ft. = 2 bedrooms + 2 bathrooms + living room + dining room + kitchen + gym [2,040 sq. ft.]; at entrance, **Concrete Building** 27 ft. x 54 ft. = apartment + bathroom + food preparation area + workshop/utility/garage [1,458 sq. ft.]; **Warehouse Building** 30 ft. x 30 ft. divided in two [900 sq. ft.]; **Semi Enclosed Building** 15 ft. x 44 ft. = entertainment area + large BBQ Pit; **Open Thatch House (Palapa)** 25 ft. diameter + perimeter concrete bench [490 sq. ft.]; **BBQ Shed** 10 ft. x 14 ft. = built in pit + bathroom [140 sq. ft.]; **kennel**; Adjacent to residence **Two Car Garage** 20 ft. x 26 ft. all encompassing 2 acres. The main house situate beside a hill cut and dressed with stone walls + hilltop leveled with concrete slab 15 ft. x 80 ft.; An open space behind the main house has a large fire place with chimney stack + surrounding benches; All buildings are interconnected with concrete walkways beside extensive landscaping works; All roads on this property were improved with stone chippings or gravel providing all weather access; 1 acre developed as pasture and remaining portion developed as a farm with bearing fruit trees (teak, mango, citrus, breadfruit) together with adequate swim hole and road works to three (3) most beautiful hilltops with scenic views of the surrounding area. The entire 15.384 acres of land is fenced mostly with chain link. This very beautiful property situates near Mile 60 on the George Price Highway, Mount Hope, Unitedville, Cayo District, the freehold property of Mr. Howard Oldham (deceased) and Mrs. Wilana Oldham.)

SITE VISITS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

"FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & PHOTOGRAPHS PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE"

TERMS: STRICTLY CASH
KEVIN A. CASTILLO
TELEPHONE 223-4488

Website: belizepropertyauctions.com

E-mail: kevinacas@yahoo.com

Facebook: Belize Auctions



FUN FACTS!

Don't hold in a sneeze!

You might be tempted to hold in a sneeze in a crowded place, when speaking to another person, or in other situations where having to sneeze seems ill-timed. But research suggests repressing a sneeze could be hazardous to your health, sometimes causing serious complications.



Why are sneezes so powerful? It's all about pressure. When you sneeze, your body produces pressure in your respiratory system. This includes your sinuses, nasal cavity, and down the throat into your lungs.

In a 2016 study Trusted Source, scientists measured a pressure level of 1 pound-force per square inch (1 psi) in the windpipe of a woman who was sneezing. When a person is exhaling hard during strenuous activity, they have a windpipe pressure that's much less, only about 0.03 psi.

Holding in a sneeze greatly increases pressure inside the respiratory system to a level of about 5 to 24 times that

caused by the sneeze itself. Experts say holding this additional pressure inside your body can cause potential injuries, which can be serious. Some of these injuries include:

- Experts say it's possible for the pressure to cause your eardrum (or even both eardrums) to rupture and cause a loss of hearing. Most ruptured eardrums heal without treatment in a few weeks, though in some cases surgery is needed.
- Sneezing helps clear your nose of any things that shouldn't be there. That includes bacteria. Hypothetically, the redirection of air back into

your ears from your nasal passages could carry bacteria or infected mucus to your middle ear, causing an infection.

- Experts say, while rare, it's possible to damage blood vessels in your eyes, nose, or eardrums when holding in a sneeze. The increased pressure caused by the sneeze being held in can cause blood vessels in the nasal passages to squeeze and burst.
- Your diaphragm is the muscular part of your chest above your abdomen. While these injuries are rare, doctors have observed cases of pressurized air becoming trapped in the diaphragm, collapsing the

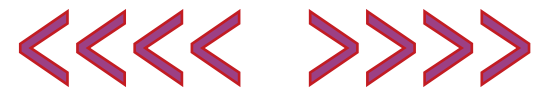
lungs Trusted Source in people trying to hold in their sneezes.

- According to experts Trusted Source, the pressure caused by holding in a sneeze can potentially lead to the rupturing of a brain aneurysm. This is a life-threatening injury that can lead to bleeding in the skull around the brain.
- Doctors have found at least one case of a person rupturing the back of their throat by holding in a sneeze. The 34-year-old man who presented this injury was reported having an extreme amount of pain, and he was barely able to speak or swallow.



Devil's Advocate!

'Devil's advocate' was a real job until 1983. Any time the Catholic church wanted to canonize a saint, an official acted as the devil's advocate by questioning the candidate's saintliness and arguing against their supposed miracles. If the potential saint could hold up to the intense criticism, the church knew they officially deserved the title.



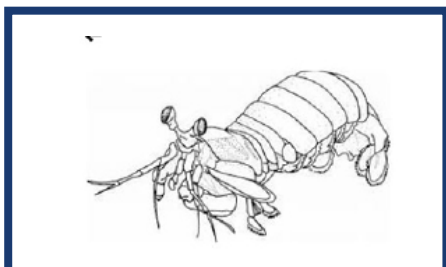
Step Cat?

A baby lynx's life was saved by a house cat. When Nika the lynx was rejected by her birth mother for being too weak, an employee of Novosibirsk Zoo brought in her own cat, which had just given birth to kittens. Despite never having been a foster mom before, the cat accepted Nika as one of her own and nursed her back to health.



COLOR ME

The Mantis Shrimp (or 'Stomatopod') is a small, aggressive marine Crustacean, that inhabit tropical and subtropical waters of the Indian and Pacific Oceans between Eastern Africa and Hawaii.



They are beautiful and vibrant in colour, but also deadly, able to club prey with the force of a bullet, or spike them with their sharp claws.

The mantis shrimp is notorious for their striking force, and have the nickname 'thumb splitter', due to the painful gashes they can cause if handled without care by humans.

There are around 450 species of mantis shrimp worldwide, and their colours range from shades of brown to bright, green, red and blue. The most infamous species is the Peacock mantis shrimp (also known as harlequin mantis shrimp, painted mantis shrimp, or clown mantis shrimp), and is one of the larger, more colourful mantis shrimps commonly seen.

They typically grow to around 10cms (4 inches) in length, but some have been recorded to be as large as 46cms (18 inches). The mantis shrimp's shell (known as a 'carapace') covers only the rear part of the head and the first few segments of the thorax.

While they are relatively common, they are not particularly well understood species as they are solitary and territorial sea creatures, spending most of their time hiding in rocks and burrowing in the sea bed.

Mantis shrimp are a violent predator and their diet depends on the species. They typically eat fish, crabs, clams, snails, worms, shrimp and squid. They can also prey on animals much larger than themselves, due to their significant power.

UNODC helps Belize fight Cybercrime

By William Ysaguirre

Belize has strengthened its ability to fight Cybercrime with the gift of state-of-the-art computer hardware and software from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

The Ministry of Home Affairs and the Police Department celebrated the launch of the new Cybercrime Forensic laboratory when the National Security Council Secretariat met with the UNODC at the Radisson Fort George Hotel in Belize City on Wednesday morning, February 23.



Minister of Home Affairs Hon. Kareem Musa

The new lab is an initiative of the UNODC Global Cybercrime Program for strengthening

the capacities of the Central American justice and security sectors to effectively prevent, identify

and prosecute cybercrime, transnational organized crime and associated casework through digital evi-

dence, said UNODC project coordinator Gabriel Juarez. Other beneficiaries of this regional initiative are El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. He commended Belize on the recently enacted Cybercrime legislation which allows the justice department to prosecute offenders.

The Ministry of Home Affairs now has a three-pronged approach to fighting cybercrime, Minister Hon. Kareem Musa noted. These are to focus on a legal framework to prosecute cybercrimes, to develop a national capacity to respond to cybercrime incidents, and to educate the public of the danger through awareness campaigns. This ability to provide verifiable evidence of a global standard is key for transnational enforcement, as most cybercriminals hide in the anonymity of the Dark Web may be physically located halfway around the world.

The Police Department now has the ability to analyze any digital device; laptop, cellphone or tablet to retrieve any electronic evidence which may support a criminal prosecution, Commissioner of Police Chester Williams noted happily. The Department began training its personnel to fight cybercrime with UNODC support in February 2020, to help in tracking down missing and exploited children. ComPol Williams submitted an official request to the UNODC for digital forensic equipment last July, and the needed equipment was received and installed in refurbished office space at Police headquarters in Belmopan in January. The laboratory staff was selected, and their training began in the use of the forensic tools and the protection of digital evidence. The Department is also training crime investigators, prosecutors and first

responders in how the laboratory's services can help criminal prosecutions, and this training will continue through the next three months.

Superintendent Mario Alcoser heads the Police Cybercrime Unit and he explained the functions of the new lab in a virtual tour. The lab can examine any digital device, including external hard drives and SIM card to retrieve and preserve digital information, and authenticate it so it may then be presented as evidence in a court of law. The staff was also trained to find evidence which may help to prevent the sexual exploitation of children and to coordinate their work with the National Center for Missing and Exploited children. The Police Department has also sensitized its investigators on these issues including cyberbullying. The lab has analyzed an average of 28 devices per month since it was established, but these numbers are growing exponentially.

The goal is for the lab's competence and success in prosecuting cybercrimes to discourage possible future offenders. Alcoser noted one early success in the prosecution of a woman who was using her computer to produce digital images of children of a vulgar nature, she was prosecuted and punished by a \$2,000 fine upon her conviction.

Director of Public Prosecutions Cheryl-Lynn Vidal also participated in the discussions and acting Chief Justice Michelle Arana attended virtually online.



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*

Deadline: *March 14, 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.

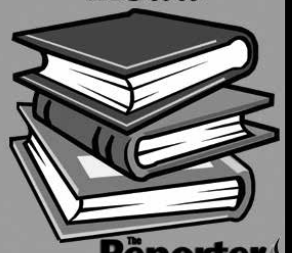
Interested parties should contact the Engineering procurement representative, via email to obtain Application Package and other information.

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 14, 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

**Keep Calm
and
Read**



Reporter

MULTI-PURPOSE CLEANER & DISINFECTANT

Smart Value!



\$2.00
32 fl oz

\$1.25
16 fl oz

BIG Select

Available in Stores Countrywide