



MCC - GAME CHANGER FOR BELIZE

"I offer my sincere thanks to the United States Government for your generous contribution to the people of Belize. ... I am convinced that with the support of our partners and the determination of the Belizean people, we will achieve remarkable things together." - PM John Briceño



The MCC and the GoB have partnered in a signing designed to change and uplift a generation and more of Belizeans. On November 11, 2020, Belize elected planBelize, a team of 26 service-oriented Belizean, and a future of progress never before seen in Belize. Unbeknownst to every Belizean, the world was watching our every step, our every move, and our every plan. The United States government, specifically, scoped and evaluated Belize for two years and our resulting scorecard awarded Belizeans the right to a compact

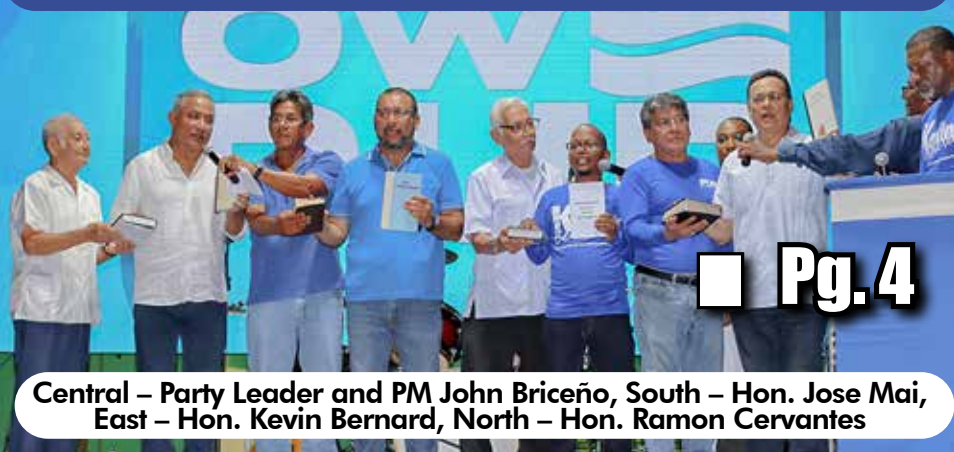
destined to be a game and life changer. Today the 4th September just at the beginning of our September celebrations, Belizeans have another anniversary to add to the long list of reasons to celebrate September. At 43, we have signed on to a Belize 250-million-dollar grant that will be spent on Education and Energy tweaked to combat poverty and promote sustainable environmental consciousness. This is the complete antithesis of the squandered PetroCaribe

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As the UDP Implodes the PUP Stays Pan Track Serving the People

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OW QUAD ENDORSEMENT CONVENTION



■ Pg. 4

Central – Party Leader and PM John Briceño, South – Hon. Jose Mai, East – Hon. Kevin Bernard, North – Hon. Ramon Cervantes



Lake Independence
DPM CORDEL HYDE

The Man for Lake-I

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Judicial Education Conference Justice our Goal



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DUAL ENDORSEMENT CONVENTION

Freetown, Hon. Francis Fonseca / Caribbean Shores, Hon. Kareem Musa

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MCC - GAME CHANGER FOR BELIZE

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funds of 2015. These MCC funds will arrive at their intended bullseye—the people of Belize. The MCC is strict and disciplined quite similar to the Briceño administration. The partnership will be seamless. The people of Belize win again; here truly, everybody wins!



Release

GoB and the Millennium Challenge Corporation Sign Five-Year US\$125 Million Grant Agreement



On the 4th September 2024 the Government of Belize and the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), a U.S. government agency, signed a five-year US\$125 million Grant Agreement for investment in education and energy in Belize. Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño signed on behalf of the Government of Belize, and CEO Mrs. Alice Albright signed for MCC.

U.S. Ambassador to Belize, Michelle Kwan, and Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development & Investment, Hon. Christopher Coye, also attended the signing ceremony. MCC investments are designed to reduce poverty by incorporating sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

The Belize Compact will tackle challenges in education and high electricity costs that limit sustainable and inclusive economic growth in the country.

The compact will consist of two projects – the Education Project and the Energy Project – both of which will be implemented by a new Belizean entity called the Millennium Challenge Account-Belize (MCA-Belize Authority), established as a statutory body in August 2024. Project implementation is expected to commence in 2025.

The Education Project will seek to equitably increase the number of post-primary graduates with competencies relevant to current and anticipated labor market demands by transforming teaching and learning, promoting access and progression through secondary education, and strengthening the capacity, legal and institutional framework of the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET).

The Energy Project will work to decrease the cost of electricity by facilitating new power purchase agreements for lower-cost renewable energy, modernizing the grid to efficiently manage an influx of variable power generation,

and supporting the Government of Belize to improve policy and regulations to enable efficient use of the lower-cost renewable energy.

The Millennium Challenge Corporation is an independent U.S. government development agency working to reduce global poverty through economic growth. Created in 2004, MCC provides time-limited grants that pair investments in infrastructure with policy and institutional reforms to countries that meet rigorous standards for good governance, fighting corruption and respecting democratic rights. (release)



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Cabinet Brief

Belmopan, August 28th, 2024.

The Cabinet met on 28th August 2024.

- The Minister of Foreign Affairs reported to Cabinet on the recent official visit to the Republic of Guatemala where Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño met with Guatemalan President Bernardo Arévalo on several priority areas, including Trade and Economic Cooperation, Security and Border Management Issues, Energy, Tourism, Labor and Migration, the ICJ process and Taiwan. On trade, a trade delegation for Belize met with their counterparts. The meeting involved discussions on the expansion of the Partial Scope Agreement, agriculture and regional cooperation. On energy, the discussion focused on Belize becoming connected to the Central American, which would help to support Belize's rapidly increasing energy demand. On the dispute, talks involved working to ease tensions on the Sarstoon River, as well as Belize and Guatemala committing to abide by the ruling of the ICJ. Discussions were also held on regional issues such as migration, Immigration and agriculture.
- Cabinet gave its approval for a one-time subsidy of 1 million dollars to the citrus industry for the purpose of purchasing fertilizer solely to apply to orchards in order to improve production.
- Cabinet gave its approval for the repeal of Part VI of the Social Security Act, Chapter 44, revised edition 2003, which establishes the National Health Insurance as part of the Social Security institution, to introduce legislation to create the National Health Insurance Authority as a Statutory Board under the Office of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance.
- Finally, Cabinet reminds Belizeans to remain alert as we enter the peak of the hurricane season.

Ends

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EDITORIAL

EMPOWERING BELIZE'S FUTURE

The Transformative Impact of the MCC Compact on Education and Energy

Belize, a country, rich in natural beauty and cultural diversity, is poised to embark on a journey of progress and prosperity with the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) Compact. On September 4, 2024, the MCC Compact, worth USD 125M, was signed by the Prime Minister of Belize and the CEO of the MCC, Mrs Alice Albright. The government of Belize has also committed to invest USD 40M to complement the project. In particular, the focus on the education and energy sectors within the compact holds immense promise for driving sustainable development and empowering Belizeans to shape a brighter future.

One of the key benefits of the MCC Compact to Belize lies in its emphasis on transforming the education sector. Investing in quality education and skills development, the compact aims to equip Belizean students with the knowledge and tools needed to succeed in an increasingly competitive global economy. Improved educational infrastructure, enhanced teacher training programs, and innovative curriculum development initiatives will not only raise the standard of education in Belize but also ensure that students are prepared to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

Furthermore, the MCC Compact's focus on the energy sector presents a unique opportunity for Belize to enhance its energy security, promote sustainability, and drive economic growth. By investing in renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power, the compact aims to reduce Belize's dependence on fossil fuels, mitigate the impact of climate change, and create a more resilient energy infrastructure. This strategic shift towards sustainable energy practices benefits the environment. It protects our natural resources and promises significant economic growth and resilience for Belize, offering a promising future for job creation and economic prosperity. Access to reliable and affordable energy is crucial for powering economic activities, supporting businesses, and improving the quality of life for all Belizeans.

The MCC Compact's investments will improve access to quality education and promote inclusivity and equity in the education sector. By targeting underserved communities and marginalized groups, the compact aims to ensure that all Belizean children have equal opportunities to receive a high-quality education regardless of their background. This focus on inclusivity helps bridge the education gap. It fosters social cohesion and unity within Belizean society, making everyone feel included and valued.

Similarly, the MCC Compact's investments in the energy sector will promote environmental sustainability and drive innovation and economic diversification. By transitioning to renewable energy sources, Belize can reduce its carbon footprint, create new job opportunities in the green economy, and attract investment in clean energy technologies. This shift towards sustainable energy practices will benefit the environment, protect our natural resources, and contribute to Belize's long-term economic growth and resilience, offering a promising future for job creation and economic prosperity.

As Belize moves forward with implementing the MCC Compact in the education and energy sectors, stakeholders need to collaborate effectively and ensure that the benefits of these investments reach all segments of society. By leveraging the transformative power of education and sustainable energy, Belize can empower its citizens, create opportunities, uplift communities, drive economic growth, and build a more prosperous and sustainable future for future generations. This perfectly aligns with the PlanBelize Medium Term Development Strategy (MTDS) designed and developed by the Government of Belize, which follows the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and provides a clear roadmap for our collective efforts.

In conclusion, the MCC Compact's focus on the education and energy sectors represents a significant opportunity for Belize to unlock its full potential and pave the way for a brighter tomorrow. By investing in education, promoting renewable energy, and fostering inclusivity and sustainability, Belize can chart a course towards a more prosperous, equitable, and resilient future for all its people.

Congratulations to the Cabinet and Government of Belize for their strategic decision to focus on these two sectors. This thoughtful selection, in alignment with the MCC Compact, promises a brighter future for Belize.

en Español

EMPODERANDO EL FUTURO DE BELICE

El Impacto Transformador del Pacto de la MCC en la Educación y la Energía

Belize, un país rico en belleza natural y diversidad cultural, está a punto de embarcarse en un viaje de progreso y prosperidad con el Pacto de la Corporación del Desafío del Milenio (MCC). El 4 de septiembre de 2024, el Primer Ministro de Belice y la Directora General de la MCC, la Sra. Alice Albright, firmaron el Pacto de la MCC, dotado con 125 millones de USD. El Gobierno de Belice también se ha comprometido a invertir 40 millones de USD para complementar el proyecto. En particular, la atención prestada en el pacto a los sectores de la educación y la energía es muy prometedora para impulsar el desarrollo sostenible y capacitar a los beliceños para forjarse un futuro mejor.

Uno de los principales beneficios del Pacto de la MCC para Belice reside en su énfasis en la transformación del sector educativo. Invirtiendo en una educación de calidad y en el desarrollo de capacidades, el pacto pretende dotar a los estudiantes beliceños de los conocimientos y herramientas necesarias para triunfar en una economía global cada vez más competitiva. La mejora de las infraestructuras educativas, los programas de formación del profesorado y las iniciativas innovadoras de desarrollo curricular no sólo elevarán el nivel de la educación en Belice, sino que también garantizarán que los estudiantes estén preparados para afrontar los retos del siglo XXI.

Además, la atención que presta el Pacto de la MCC al sector de la energía brinda a Belice una oportunidad única de mejorar su seguridad energética, promover la sostenibilidad e impulsar el crecimiento económico. Al invertir en fuentes de energía renovables como la solar y la eólica, el pacto pretende reducir la dependencia de Belice de los combustibles fósiles, mitigar el impacto del cambio climático y crear una infraestructura energética más resistente. Este cambio estratégico hacia prácticas energéticas sostenibles beneficia al medioambiente. Protege nuestros recursos naturales y promete un importante crecimiento económico y resiliencia para Belice, ofreciendo un futuro prometedor para la creación de empleo y la prosperidad económica. El acceso a una energía fiable y asequible es crucial para impulsar las actividades económicas, apoyar a las empresas y mejorar la calidad de vida de todos los beliceños.

Las inversiones del Pacto de la MCC mejorarán el acceso a una educación de calidad y promoverán la inclusión y la equidad en el sector educativo. Al dirigirse a las comunidades desatendidas y a los grupos marginados, el pacto pretende garantizar que todos los niños beliceños tengan las mismas oportunidades de recibir una educación de alta calidad, independientemente de su origen. Este enfoque inclusivo ayuda a reducir la brecha educativa. Fomenta la cohesión social y la unidad de la sociedad beliceña, haciendo que todos se sientan incluidos y valorados.

Del mismo modo, las inversiones del Pacto MCC en el sector energético promoverán la sostenibilidad medioambiental e impulsarán la innovación y la diversificación económica. Mediante la transición a fuentes de energía renovables, Belice puede reducir su huella de carbono, crear nuevas oportunidades de empleo en la economía verde y atraer inversiones en tecnologías de energía limpia. Este cambio hacia prácticas energéticas sostenibles beneficiará al medioambiente, protegerá nuestros recursos naturales y contribuirá al crecimiento económico a largo plazo y a la resiliencia de Belice, ofreciendo un futuro prometedor para la creación de empleo y la prosperidad económica.

A medida que Belice avanza en la aplicación del Pacto del MCC en los sectores de la educación y la energía, las partes interesadas deben colaborar eficazmente y garantizar que los beneficios de estas inversiones lleguen a todos los segmentos de la sociedad. Aprovechando el poder transformador de la educación y la energía sostenible, Belice puede empoderar a sus ciudadanos, crear oportunidades, mejorar las comunidades, impulsar el crecimiento económico y construir un futuro más próspero y sostenible para las generaciones venideras. Esto se alinea perfectamente con la Estrategia de Desarrollo a Medio Plazo de PlanBelice (MTDS) diseñada y desarrollada por el Gobierno de Belice, que sigue los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS) de la ONU y proporciona una hoja de ruta clara para nuestros esfuerzos colectivos.

En conclusión, el enfoque del Pacto de la MCC en los sectores de la educación y la energía representa una oportunidad significativa para que Belice libere todo su potencial y allane el camino para un mañana más brillante. Invirtiendo en educación, promoviendo las energías renovables y fomentando la inclusión y la sostenibilidad, Belice puede trazar el camino hacia un futuro más próspero, equitativo y resiliente para toda su población.

Enhorabuena al Gabinete y al Gobierno de Belice por su decisión estratégica de centrarse en estos dos sectores. Esta meditada selección, en consonancia con el Pacto de la MCC, promete un futuro mejor para Belice.

QUAD ENDORSEMENT CONVENTION OW 2024

August 31 was the day when the four PUP constituencies in Orange Walk went official as to readiness with Standard Bearers for Belize's next General Elections. As our election laws will have it, Prime Minister John Briceño is the only person who knows when this historic date is to be etched into the annals of PUP lore.

With no Opposition it might be tempting but the PM is saying that there is work to be done. The PUP

will never take the Belizean people for granted. The pace of work by John Briceño and his team has been torrid and transparent and people centric. Of the members of parliament, all are proud of their work and it is easy for them to face their constituents again. It is an easy decision for their constituents to ask their present representatives to continue on track and pace in making Belize one that works for the Belizean people.



ORANGE WALK CENTRAL ENDORSES PM HON. JOHN BRICEÑO

"Mister Chairman. My name is Luis Aguilar, a proud voter and constituent of Orange Walk Central.

Today we come here to stand for our Prime Minister and our Area Representative for Orange Walk Central.

Today we tell the world that we are satisfied with all the work and time he has been giving us these last 31 years.

Today we Nominate Hon. John Briceño to be our Standard Bearer for another five years and we pledge to work along with you Johnny Briceño once more for OW Central in 2025."

The Area Representative of Orange Walk Central is proud to always be among his people. Orange Walk Town is seeing unprecedented progress and expansion. The town has outlived its land and one of the visions of John Briceño is to have Orange Walkes living across the river. The road has been paved and lots have been processed and land ownership across the river is a reality. BWS and BEL and the vaunted cable is accessible across the river. Only time is a factor to how fast the community will develop.

In town, the Prime Minister has worked with the Town Mayor and councillors to make use of the Community Development Fund in the infrastructure namely streets, drains, culverts and the like. This partnership with the Town Council has been replicated in other township. This partnership is one that yields fruits to be savoured by the residents who get better



streets and less dust. Even the streets of San Estevan got help from the hands-on approach by the Hon. John Briceño.

Orange Walk Central is proud to share John Briceño with the country. As Prime Minister he is loved everywhere for his being down to earth. John Briceño will go to your house and eat pigtail and

panades. He is one of us. As leader of the country he leads his team of Representatives and Cabinet with the same charisma he has on main street or in a farm. He is both powerful and gentle. He will one day be talking to the Guatemalan president and the following day he will embrace a baby with the love he has for

a nation. John Briceño has been compared to the Father of the Nation. The debate is out there. His actions will be judged by history. There is no secret. Prime Minister Briceño works and works and works with unending love for Belize and Orange Walk Central.

ORANGE WALK NORTH ENDORSES RAMON 'MONCHI' CERVANTES

"Juntos avanzamos con más Fuerza"

Nominated by Adreidy Correa: Good night everyone it is with Honor and Privilege to stand here and be the person to Nominate -Hon. Ramon Monchi Cervantes!!!

He has brought a renewed Sense of progress and hope to Orange walk North.

YES, YES I said it right never, Never before we have Witnessed so much accomplishment in such a short time.

It is for 13 years that we have been oppressed, longing for the changes that we are now beginning to see with the PUP.

And that's why TODAY, I stand here with great Pride to Nominate Hon. Ramon Monchi Cervantes as the PUP standard bearer for Orange walk North.

** Together we move forward, stronger than ever.*



** Juntos avanzamos con mas Fuerza.*
** Bienvenidos al Partido unido del Pueblo !!*

Monchi as he is known nationwide is as serious as one can get. People around him need to be on the ball as he cares a lot for the good work they do. Ramon Cervantes is a leader to his people and will our work you easily if you do not keep up. His tasks are ex-



tensive as his villages demand service. He has made sure that Orange Walk North gets that is due from Community Development Fund to all versions of clinics—Land, Vital Stats, Immigration, and Health. His commitment to the villages is direct with the people and their chairpersons and councils.

Monchi took over from a tyrant who also nationally was infamous for being abnormal. Monchi, like the plan-

Belize team of representatives is of the people. The people of Orange Walk North know that with another five years the sky is the limit as there is more that needs to be done. Working with MIDH more streets will be upgraded and paved. NHI is already accessible to everyone in OWN and land issues are being resolved daily. When elections are called OW North is definitely going PUP with Ramon 'Monchi' Cervantes.

ORANGE WALK EAST ENDORSES KEVIN BERNARD

"Mr. Chairman, I, Doreth Pascascio, rise to present our champion for the past four years. All our villages and sections of Orange Walk have felt the positive power of progress of our area Representative. Being the drive behind the massive Ministry of Health and Wellness has only enhanced his service to his people in Infrastructure, Education, Community, Job-Creation, Health, of course, and more.

It is therefore my pleasure and duty to nominate the Hon. Kevin Bernard as our Standard Bearer to contest the next General Elections for the OW East constituency."

Kevin Bernard is widely regarded as a hard worker and a no-nonsense let's get it done now type of representative. Kevin serves the people with an assertiveness that he transferred from the time he was Mayor of Orange Walk.

Kevin Bernard got national fame when as the sole PUP Municipal Town



Council under the vindictive Barrow administration, he led Orange Walk to unprecedented infrastructure development. All the Mayors then and still

today try to copy his leadership style within their towns. He is still willing today to lend a helping hand and advise to any Mayor to asks especially in Orange Walk Town.

Two years ago, Prime Minister John Briceño asked the Hon. Bernard to take over the Ministry of Health and Wellness in a Cabinet reshuffling geared to maximizing talent and know-how. He took over from already successful Hon. Michel Chebat. The MoHW has been one of the

prideful Ministries. Under Kevin Bernard the NHI is practically all over the country and Health institutions are being built everywhere. Access to health care has increased dramatically and it is only getting better.

Min. Bernard's success in Health and Wellness has not made him miss any beat in Orange Walk East. His portion of the town and villages are developing the quality of lives of the residents. Kevin Bernard is a true champion of the people.

ORANGE WALK SOUTH ENDORSES JOSE ABELARDO MAI



"Mister Chairman, esteemed colleagues and members of the PUP, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Luis Tun, a proud Belizean from Trinidad Village, loyal PUP voter and constituent of Orange Walk South.

We have come here today because we are proud of our Area Representative for Orange Walk South. We have seen his hard work as Minister of Agriculture and his dedication to our area. We can give testament to his hard work and care for the people, young and old.

It does not even seem like four years have passed and we want to see more. We want more development. We want more dedication to our young people. We want more improvements in agriculture. We want a champion to continue fighting for us.

Minister Mai is recognized by many as the best minister of Agriculture Belize has ever had. In Central America and in the Caribbean Region he is respected for his knowledge and achievements in Agriculture.



champion of the farmers! A champion of the people!

We are proud to Nominate Hon. Jose Abelardo Mai to be our Standard Bearer for another five years and we pledge to work along with him once more for OW South."

Jose Abelardo Mai was born on May 3, 1969. He is married to Flor Mai de Polanco and has two children. He received an Associate Degree in Applied Science from the Belize College of Agriculture, majoring in Agriculture. He then attended Tuskegee University in Alabama, USA, where he attained his Bachelor's Degree in Plant and Soil Science from the College of Agriculture, with honours. While there, he was selected to be a research assistant at the Carver Research Foundation, studying how NASA astronauts could use sweet potatoes in space. His love and passion for agriculture spawned a career in that area, and he returned to Orange Walk where he held various posts in the private and public sector, including Agriculture

Continued on page 6

BELIZEPROPERTYAUCTIONS.COM COUNTRYWIDE PUBLIC AUCTION SALES: PROPERTY

San Antonio Village, Corozal District

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. Atlantic Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the following property. Sale currently running until 31st December. Public Auction Sales will expire fortnightly on the dates and times listed on the website until sold.



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Corozal North	1	115
The freehold property of Ms. Alberta Meggs Lopez surety for Mr. Luis Abel Requena.		

BELIZEPROPERTYAUCTIONS.COM PUBLIC AUCTION SALES: VEHICLES

Belize City, Belize District

BY ORDER of Messrs. The Belize Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the following vehicles. Sales currently running until 31st December 2024. Public Auction Sales will expire fortnightly within this period on the dates and times listed on the website until these vehicles are sold.

VEHICLES



Grey 2018 Chevrolet Equinox LT Tan 2011 Chevrolet Cruze Silver 2014 Chevrolet Equinox

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DPM, CORDEL HYDE: THE MAN FOR LAKE-I



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Natural Resources Petroleum and Mining and Area Representative for the Lake-Independence constituency was officially endorsed on Friday, August 30, 2024. Deputy Secretary General, Collet Montejo, officiated the oath. The endorsement was festive beyond words as Hon. Milin Espat, Hon. Rodwell Ferguson, Hon. Dr. Louis Zabaneh, Chairman Hon. Henry Charles Usher, and Mayor Bernard Wagner presented highlights of the great work of Hon Cordel. Thereafter, DPM Cordel spoke to a packed audience in a humble backyard setting.

DPM Hyde is the embodiment of an astute politician, who won his first election in 1998 as Area Representative for the Lake-Independence Division beating the incumbent Hubert Elrington. Hyde served two terms under the Said Musa government. Thereafter, he took a two-term hiatus and returned to his winning ways beating the former area representative Mark King in a resounding fashion and keeping the Lake in firm grips. Then in 2020, Cordel was a part of the overwhelming victory of the People's United Party during the Blue Tsunami.

Cordel has played a pivotal role in the transformation of the Ministry of Lands dubbed the infamous "Hotbed of Corruption" strenuously driving for integrity and reform under the PUP good governance model. DPM is recognized for his patience and stickler to his commitment. Those characteristics of commitment has transcended to attending to his constituents in the "Lake". Over 10,000 first-time landowners have received their parcel of land including many of his supporters. Hyde have also contributed to the social well-being and the improvement of the quality of life as the commander in the Lake-I constituency. Cordel's endorsement represents one of the surest seats for the PUP whenever the general elections are called.

DPM Cordel Hyde is the MAN FIH DIH LAKE!

ORANGE WALK SOUTH ENDORSES JOSE ABELARDO MAI

Continued from page 5

Extension Officer, Principal Agricultural Officer, Director of Extension, Marketing and Agro-Processing, and Marketing Officer. In 2020, after the PUP victory at the polls on 11 November, he was named Minister of Agriculture, Food Security and Enterprise, a portfolio in which he continues to set an example as a minister of government who puts in arduous hours striving to fight for the well-being of the agriculture sector.

Jose Abelardo Mai has been Member of Parliament representing Orange Walk South since 2012 and continues to be elected by the people because he is one of them, and because he champions their causes. He is a tireless worker, and because he is always on the ground in the communities under his watch, he understands what the people need to be able to live productive, meaning-



ful lives, able to sustain their livelihoods and their families. He is loved and respected because he believes in service, and he is one of the people, first and foremost.

He is a believer in the critical importance of food security for the nation. Whenever there is an issue facing farmers, Mr. Mai has always been at the forefront, championing the cause of the people. He continues to fight for the long-term sustainability of farmers and farming all over Belize. He has received many accolades and recognition all over Belize and the region as the best Minister of Agriculture Belize has seen, and he continues fighting to ensure the sector gets the best it can for the farmers of all types.

As Belize approaches its 226th Anniversary of the Battle of St. George's Caye and 43 years of Independence, *Benny's* wishes all Belizeans a Safe and Happy

September Celebrations!

Benny's

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f i y

**BELIZE COMPACT
SIGNING CEREMONY****Main Remarks****Hon. John Briceno****Prime Minister and Minister of Finance,
Economic Development, Investment,
Civil Aviation and Immigration****September 4, 2024**
Belize Biltmore Plaza

A pleasant good morning!

(Protocol Established)

Today marks a pivotal moment in the development of our nation. It is with immense pride and a deep sense of responsibility that we stand here at the signing of a \$125 million US dollar grant from the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC). The MCC Compact represents the profound partnership between Belize and the United States of America, built on shared values and a common vision for a prosperous future. Through this agreement, we are embarking on a journey towards sustainable development, poverty reduction,

and inclusive growth for all Belizeans.

Over the past two years, our teams have engaged in rigorous research and development to determine the initiatives that would have the highest impact for our country and our citizens. We have conducted feasibility studies and engaged extensively with stakeholders from the public and private sector to ensure that our approach is not only comprehensive, but also broad. After in-depth examinations, we determined that education and energy would be the two sectors of focus under this compact. These two areas are critical to the development of our country, encompassing several targets within the #PlanBelize Medium Term Development Strategy – particularly, under Strategic Objective 1: Poverty Reduction and Strategic Objective 2: Economic Transformation and Growth.

In the education sector, our focus is clear: we must ensure that our youth are fully equipped with the necessary skills to thrive in a rapidly evolving labour market. My government is committed to increasing the number of post-primary graduates that meet the competencies in numeracy, literacy, critical thinking, and the subject knowledge that is necessary for success in today's day and age. To meet this objective, we are placing special emphasis on technical and vocational education and training (TVETs) to ensure that our students are not only skilled but certified to meet the demands of modern industries. We have also prioritized the development of policies to support special needs education and professional development for our teachers, recognizing that a quality education is the foundation of a prosperous society.

The energy sector is equally crucial to our nation's progress. Reliable and accessible energy is essential for powering industries, infrastructure, and daily life. Our research has focused on finding sustainable ways to reduce the cost of energy for the people of Belize. Through this grant, we will facilitate new power purchase agreements for low-cost renewable energy, modernize our grid to efficiently manage an influx of variable power generation, and support the organizations that oversee our electricity infrastructure. However, Belize faces the challenge of meeting its growing energy demands while also ensuring alignment with the climate change targets in our Nationally Determined Contributions and the commitments under the Blue Bond agreement. Our energy needs must go hand in hand with the responsibility we have to reduce Belize's carbon footprint, protect our natural resources, and contribute to the global effort in mitigating climate change. The efforts under this compact will ensure that we build our capacity to sustainably manage our energy resources, while ensuring that the wholesale cost of electricity in Belize is more affordable for our citizens.

This grant is a testament to the strength of our partnership with the MCC, an independent U.S. Government International Development Agency, whose mission to reduce poverty by fostering economic growth is fully aligned with the priorities of this Government and our #PlanBelize Medium Term Development Strategy. Together, we have identified key areas in education and energy where these funds will have the most significant impact, enabling us to create a brighter, more prosperous future for all Belizeans.

As we move forward, let us remember that this investment is not an end but a means—a means to transform lives, create opportunities, uplift and empower communities, and secure a sustainable future for Belize. Let us remember that the true measure of our success will be the positive impact we have on the lives of our people. I am confident that with the continued support and collaboration of all our partners, we will achieve these goals. On behalf of the Government of Belize, I offer my sincere thanks to the United States Government for your generous contribution to the people of Belize.

Today more than ever, I am convinced that with the support of our partners and the determination of the Belizean people, we will achieve remarkable things together. Let us seize this moment as a catalyst for change and transformation and let us work hand in hand to realize the full potential of our nation.

Thank you all and God Bless Belize!

**Conference on Criminal Justice Reform:
Advancing the CCJ Academy for Law
Needham's Point Declaration****Official Address****PRIME
MINISTER John Briceno****Minister of Finance, Economic Development,
Investment, Civil Aviation and Immigration***Belize City*
2nd September, 2024.

Good Morning.

We are pleased to be joined by our Governor General, Dame Froyla Tzalam.

I join with others in welcoming our distinguished Justices from abroad.

Our own Chief Justice Blenman and other Justices of our Belizean Courts.

Our International Partners.

Other Distinguished guests.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am pleased that we are able to gather so many of you here in Belize to discuss criminal justice reform. If memory serves me, this is the first time such eminent and distinguished persons from the region and afar have convened in Belize to discuss and examine

this burning issue which affects each and every one of us, whether as taxpayers, victims of crimes or stakeholders in this sector. I therefore want to commend and congratulate the organisers of this conference, the Judicial Education Institute of the Senior Courts, as well as the facilitators. I am sure that during the discussions all will reaffirm that a criminal justice system must be firm, but fair in holding offenders to account for the wrong they have committed against their fellow citizens. The victims, their loved ones and society must feel and be able to show that the State is serious about punishing the wrong that was committed. This means proper investigations being conducted by the police; the prosecution of the case being proceeded with in a timely manner; the offender, if convicted, receiving a just sentence; and the offender being properly rehabilitated to return to society after serving his or her sentence. In other words, we must have a criminal justice system that is fit for purpose with adequate laws and systems in place.

I was reminded of a case in our recent past which shows how terrible wrong things can go when a criminal justice system is not fit for purpose. The case involved a teenager who I will refer to as X. X was charged on or around 17 September, 2009 for the offense of carnal knowledge of a female under the age of 14 years. He was 15 years 5 months old at the time he was charged. The female complainant had just turned 13 years. Both were students at the same high school. As you can imagine, this teenager's life would have dramatically changed after that date. About 17 months later, and not as yet 17 years old, X's trial came up before the Court to start. He did not have any lawyer. The judge nonetheless proceeded to try him unrepresented. He was convicted by a jury and was sentenced by the court to the mandatory minimum sentence of 12-year imprisonment. As one of the local newspapers at the time stated, this was "a cruel prison sentence for one youthful indiscretion." X then appealed to the Court of Appeal of Belize in 2011. And when you thought things could not get any worse for X, well it did. It so happened that there were glitches with the court recording system and so no transcript of the court proceedings could be done. He therefore remained in prison awaiting the hearing of his appeal while this was being sorted out. Fortunate for him, (if you can say that), six years later, in 2017 he was granted bail and released from prison while he waited to have his appeal be concluded. Many, many years later after the filing of his appeal, the Court of Appeal in 2019, with a reconstructed transcript, granted X his appeal.

This case highlights how unjust laws, delays and grave inefficiencies in the criminal justice system can lead to a colossal loss for an individual. Happily, the criminal justice system in Belize has come a long way since this case. Recent laws such as the Criminal Procedure (Plea Discussion and Plea Agreement) Act and the Alternative Sentencing Act (which will come into force shortly) were passed by this Government as part of its criminal justice reform agenda. So too, with the support of donor agencies such as the European Union, UNDP and the Government of the United States, this Government has been able to realize its commitment to criminal justice reform with the bolstering of the capacity in the forensic unit, the police department and the Community Rehabilitation Department, to name a few. These are all, as well, part of Government's embracing of the Needham Point Declaration. Of course, more still remains to be done. And this is why this conference is so key as stakeholders meet to discuss and interrogate the various topics on the agenda to seek to further reform the criminal justice system.

I note one of the first topics for discussion is that of bail. I can report that Cabinet just last week gave its approval for the Attorney General's Ministry to commence stakeholders' discussion on a draft Bail Bill. This bill is a part of this Government's continued reform of the criminal justice system, and it seeks to incorporate the various bail provisions scattered in six different legislations, and new provisions, under a new comprehensive Bail Act.

Ladies and gentlemen, this conference certainly promises to produce practical tips on how to further facilitate criminal justice reform in Belize. The Government looks forward to your thoughts and views on these topics.

I thank you!

Third High-Level Dialogue Regional Climate Change Platform of Economy and Finance Ministries

Opening Remarks

PRIME MINISTER John Briceno

San Pedro, Belize August 30, 2024

Third High-Level Dialogue Regional Climate Change Platform of Economy and Finance Ministries

Remarks Day 2

PRIME MINISTER John Briceno

San Pedro, Belize



Honourable Ministers, distinguished guests, and esteemed colleagues,

It is my honour to welcome each of you to our beautiful Isla Bonita, as we gather for the third high-level dialogue of the Regional Climate Change Platform. Hosting this significant event on the stunning shores of Ambergris Caye, where the natural beauty of Belize vividly underscores the urgent need for our collective action against climate change, is both a privilege and a reminder of the solemn responsibility we have to carry out the work of this Platform.

We have made remarkable strides since the landmark Barranquilla meeting in 2021, where IDB Governors called for a regional platform to assist our Ministries of Economy and Finance in addressing the socioeconomic challenges posed by climate change.

A pivotal moment being the launch of the Regional Climate Change Platform in August 2022, with the Inter-American Development Bank serving as the Technical Secretariat and where our mission was made clear: to embed climate change into our economic and fiscal policies, craft a unified national vision for climate action that aligns with our social and economic priorities and foster a regional vision of sustainable economic and climate resilience.

But before we talk about the work that has been done and how we plan to chart the way forward, we must speak on the great leadership that has gotten us to where we are today. We owe our gratitude to the previous pro tempore presidencies of the Dominican Republic and Chile – their leadership has been instrumental in advancing the Platform’s objectives and strengthening regional cooperation. We also extend our heartfelt thanks to the IDB for their unwavering support as the Technical Secretariat, and to Jordan Schwartz, the IDB’s Executive Vice President, for his presence today. We are equally grateful to Frank Fass-Metz, the Executive Director for Germany, whose government’s generous funding has been crucial in bringing this platform to life. We also recognize Minister Carola Morena of Chile for her exemplary presidency and warmly welcome Minister Ricardo Bonilla of Colombia, who will be elected as the Pro Tempore President on August 31, 2024. Together, their contributions continue to drive our mission forward.

Over the past two years, our countries have not only embraced the objectives of this platform; we have mobilized our human and financial resources to make them a reality. We commend the Secretariat and the IDB Group for their invaluable technical and financial support. Their work in knowledge generation, resource mobilization, peer exchanges, and intersectoral coordination has led to several significant milestones, such as:

- The first-of-its-kind comprehensive technical training for Ministries of Finance in Latin America and the Caribbean on fiscal policy for climate action, with robust engagement from member countries.
- The collective development of a shared vision of sustainable finance among Ministries of Finance in the region.
- The establishment of the Platform as a globally recognized knowledge hub; and
- The creation of an accountability mechanism by Ministries of Finance in Latin America and the Caribbean to monitor policy implementation.

I believe it is safe to say that the work done on a regional level has certainly had a positive effect on the national efforts across our respective countries. Take Belize for example – we, too, have made significant contributions to international climate action through innovative measures. We successfully effected a homegrown investment grade blue bond transaction that mobilized private capital to restructure and reduce our national debt while financing marine conservation. This supports our commitment to expand marine protected areas from 20% to 30% and enabled the establishment of a \$180 million trust fund for conservation. And as a part of that Blue Bond Transaction, we have also committed resources to the development of a National Enforcement and Conservation Monitoring Strategy and Action Plan for Belize’s Blue Space, which aims to strengthen the governance, improve the management, and enhance the monitoring of Belize’s coastal and marine resources.

Following on the heels of this blue bond transaction, Belize also committed to the first ever Project Finance for Permanence for ocean conservation. This PFP is being developed and implemented in conjunction with the efforts of the World Wildlife Fund and other non-government donor partners with financial close expected in 2025.

Belize is also committed to ambitious green climate goals, including a target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 24% by 2030, with a focus on energy, agriculture, and waste management. With the support of our international partners, projects are already ongoing in many of these sectors.

In order to increase Belize’s access to funding for these initiatives, the government created the Climate Finance Unit in January of 2022 which is housed within the Ministry of Economic Development. The unit holds the Green Climate Fund and Adapta-

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Honorable Ministers, distinguished guests, and esteemed colleagues,

It’s a great honor to welcome you all as we gather on day two of the high-level meeting of the Regional Climate Change Platform of Finance and Economy Ministries being held in San Pedro Town known as la Isla Bonita in front of the magnificent Caribbean Sea and the largest living barrier reef in the western hemisphere as our backdrop. Additionally, we are home to over a hundred protected areas, and we boast a biodiversity richly adorned with thousands of species of flora and fauna.

At the same time, this setting serves as a powerful reminder of the urgency and importance of our collective efforts to combat climate change. Our geographic location makes Belize highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, with Belize ranked 8th out of 176 countries for climate risk. On average, the annual economic loss from extreme weather events triggered by climate change is about 4% of our GDP. In 2016, just a category 1 hurricane named Earl was able to exact roughly 7% of our GDP in economic losses. This pales in comparison to what our Bahamian brothers suffered at the hands of the Category 5 Hurricane Dorian but it is impactful nonetheless. We have since suffered significant losses not only from other hurricanes and storms such as Eta, Iota and Lisa but also from droughts and forest fires most recently a few months ago that have adversely impacted the agriculture sector, our pristine forests and the livelihoods of our citizens.

Belize has taken the initiative to address these ongoing challenges by enhancing ambitious strategies and policies on climate action, as well as disaster risk financing strategies, recognizing that our nation is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

A milestone worth highlighting is my Ministry of Economic Development participation in the technical dialogue of the platform held in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic 2023. Our participation allowed Belize to become an active member and take advantage of the knowledge sharing between peers and technical assistance provided by the IDB Secretariat. As a result, the Ministry of Economic Development managed to request technical assistance to conduct a green bond assessment, and we are now about to finalize Belize’s first green bond framework which will be completed in September 2024. This shows that Belize continues to seek to identify new sources of funds to continue implementing our #Plan Belize Medium Term Development Strategy.

The green bond framework will seek to finance projects with positive environmental impact that will help conserve the country’s biodiversity and address Belize’s main climate risks such as floods, extreme temperatures, and global warming. These impacts are expected to worsen, affecting the agriculture, fishing, and tourism sectors. To mitigate these threats, Belize aims to conserve biodiversity, transition to a low-carbon economy, and address the effects of climate change to ensure sustainable development. The issuance of green bonds will seek to allocate resources to the economic sectors with the greatest environmental risk and opportunities for green financing. This will address the main threats and strengthen the economic system to face the previously described environmental consequences. Additionally, we have requested more technical assistance for a fiscal policy for climate change, which aims to increase the transparency, effectiveness, and efficiency of climate-related fiscal policy as we have seen what the working groups were doing under Chile pre-tempore presidency.

The above is a clear example of what small countries in the Caribbean can achieve by engaging with other members of the LAC region on this platform. Noting that the challenges presented by climate change are faced by all of us in the LAC region, this regional platform serves a critical mechanism through which we are able to learn from each other and support appropriate climate action.

As such I encourage all countries to become active members of the platform so they can work closely under the new presidency of Colombia for 2024-2025 to achieve the new work plan and the joint regional vision on sustainable financing. In this regard, I am particularly pleased that the participation turnout has been amazing today in San Pedro as we have superseded previous events, so allow me to thank the Governments of the Dominican Republic and Chile, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the Climate Finance Unit and Policy and Planning Unit from the Ministry of Economic Development who made this possible for it to be a successful event.

We need to work together as a region, and take full advantage of what the platform offers. Adequate financing on a continuing basis of course will be required by the donor(s) so the member countries can continue participating to benefit and get exposed to existing and new innovative initiatives. These include, for example, the development of more liquid carbon markets, disaster risk management as well as much needed capacity building and strengthening bilateral cooperation in climate action.

We certainly welcome and applaud the efforts of President Illan Goldfajn and the IDB Group team in discussing disaster risk management, natural capital and biodiversity and approaches to addressing climate change and environmental sustainability at the board level as these are new initiatives that the technical team discussed in Puerta Varas, Chile. We look forward to these discussions leading to the approval of innovative financing mechanisms at the Governors level that can support our region’s goals. In this regard, I would like to recognize the members of the IDB Board members from

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Third High-Level Dialogue Regional Climate Change Platform of Economy and Finance Ministries

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tion Fund Portfolios but is ultimately tasked with engaging our development partners and identifying new funding sources for climate change initiatives in the country. Our portfolio of ongoing climate projects totals roughly 67 million USD, and spans sectors such as water, agriculture, fisheries and coastal zone, and infrastructure. One of our most recent achievements is the approval of a 25 million USD grant from the GCF to support the sugarcane farmers in northern Belize. We are also in the implementation phase of a 20 million USD climate-smart agriculture project with the GCF and IFAD to help increase the resilience of smallholder farmers to climate change impacts.

Our commitment to championing climate issues does not go unrecognized on the international stage. In fact, two weeks ago, Belize hosted an international Peer Learning Forum, here in San Pedro, in collaboration with the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Global Network. We regularly participate in international forums to not only showcase our efforts in addressing climate change, but also to reflect our commitment to working collaboratively with the global community. We hope that our advocacy serves as a fitting backdrop to this platform's agenda. The next two days will be filled with pivotal discussions that will shape the region's approach to sustainable development. During our working groups, we will carefully review the progress achieved under the 2023-2024 work plan and examine the proposed themes, activities, and leadership for the coming year.

Key topics of focus will include debt management and green financing, fiscal revenues and incentives, and public expenditure—each critical to advancing our shared objectives. We will also oversee the formal transfer of the pro tempore presidency from Chile to Colombia, which will outline its strategic goals and vision for the 2024-2025 period. Additionally, our discussions will include the strategic approval of the 2024-2025 work plan and the formal adoption of a unified regional vision on sustainable finance. I am confident that our engagement over these two days will lead to meaningful outcomes and set a strong foundation for the future.

To complement our discussions and truly embrace the concepts of our agenda, I invite you to join us on Sunday, September 1st, for a site visit to the Hol Chan Marine Reserve. This excursion will allow you to experience firsthand the natural treasures of Belize, including the largest living Barrier Reef, a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site. You will gain insight into the innovative blue bond transaction that has not only helped Belize manage its debt but also increased the funding we have available for marine conservation. I hope that this visit will give you a firsthand look at the vibrant ecosystems that our collective efforts aim to protect and highlights the tangible outcomes that will result from our commitment to sustainable finance and environmental stewardship.

Once again, I welcome you all to Belize – a land of inspiration and unity, where together, we will chart a path toward a sustainable future. I trust that your time here will be productive, memorable, and reflective of the shared vision that guides us all.

Thank you.

Third High-Level Dialogue Regional Climate Change Platform of Economy and Finance Ministries



Continued from page 8

Germany, United Kingdom and Central America present with us here today. These discussions are crucial, and we hope they will lead to the development of innovative financing mechanisms that can support our region's goals. We recognize that the IDB Group is the only multilateral development bank developing three specific action plans to support climate change. This further underscores the Group's commitment to our region's sustainable future.

As the Prime Minister of Belize, I commit my support to the platform and we are ready to share our successful experiences and lessons learned especially as it pertains to the blue bond transaction as tomorrow during the tour to Hol Chan Marine Reserve you will see firsthand my administration's commitment to the protection of the environment and our natural resources. This visit will showcase Belize's leadership in ocean conservation and our innovative approach to debt management through the blue bond, which has not only helped us manage our debt but also tangibly supports our efforts in marine conservation.

As we conclude today's discussion, I encourage each of you to continue collaborating and ensure the sustainability of this innovative platform. Latin America and the Caribbean region, including some of the most vulnerable nations in climate change, are doing their part to address this global challenge. Now, we call on the larger developed nations to step up and do their part. Together, we can forge a path towards a sustainable future, where our economies thrive, and our environment is protected for generations to come.

To conclude, I hope we will have another great day advancing the platform's objectives and supporting our joint regional vision. This will enable us to garner the necessary support from other partners so we can continue to adapt and mitigate the impacts of climate change. Let us ensure that our work here today leads to real, tangible outcomes that will benefit our region and the world.

September 05, 2024



NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the EIGHTEENTH Annual General Meeting (the “**Meeting**”) of Belize Telemedia Limited (the “**Company**”) will be held on **Friday, the 27th day of September 2024**, beginning at 10:00 a.m. where the following business will be transacted, viz.:

1. To receive and consider the Report of Directors and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st of March 2024.
2. To consider and declare a dividend for the period ended 31st of March 2024.
3. To elect a “Publicly Elected Director” (see notes at www.livedigi.com/agm-2024).
4. To appoint Auditors for the 2024 to 2025 fiscal year and authorize the Board to agree on their remuneration.

Please be informed that the Company will provide virtual access to the Meeting for Shareholders and the duly authorized Proxies to join the Meeting virtually. Shareholders and duly authorized Proxies who wish to attend and vote at the Meeting in this manner must pre-register at www.livedigi.com/agm-2024 no later than 10:00 a.m. on or before **25th of September 2024**. Upon registration, Shareholders and the duly authorized Proxies will receive an email with further instructions and information. Shareholders and the duly authorized Proxies will only be able to access the Meeting virtually using a laptop or desktop computer. This access will form part of the formal proceedings of the Meeting. Shareholders will be able to access the Report of Directors and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st of March 2024 via the BTL's official Digi Website (www.livedigi.com).

Please be reminded that a member entitled to attend and vote at the Meeting is entitled to appoint a Proxy to attend and vote in his stead. A Proxy need not be a member of the company. Please note that Mr. Eric Eusey (Publicly Elected Director and member) has indicated his willingness to act as proxy on your behalf and we urge you to appoint him as proxy as noted above. Kindly submit your proxy form to the registered office of the Company at the Esquivel Telecom Center, #1 Saint Thomas Street, Belize City, Belize no later than 10:00 a.m. on or before **25th of September 2024**.

For more information contact us at prdept@livedigi.com.

Judicial Education Institute Conference Justice our Goal

"Law and order exist to establish Justice, and when they fail in this purpose they become this dangerously structured dams that block the flow of Social Justice" Reverend Martin Luther King (circa 1963).

Belize stands firmly at a critical juncture; a paradigm shift in the dispensation of justice as the JUDICIAL EDUCATION INSTITUTE (JEI) of the SENIOR COURTS OF BELIZE is convening a Conference on CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM. This event was launched at the Biltmore Plaza, in Belize City on Monday, September 2, 2024. A first-of-its-kind convening face-to-face, eminent jurists and distinguished guest from the region and afar to discuss the burning issue of criminal justice reform. JUSTICE OUR GOAL, which is a mandate of PlanBelize, embodies several focal points that will be addressed by the Needham's Point Declaration over the five-day period. The Needham's Point Declaration was adopted by regional governments in October last year in Bridgetown Barbados and contains 39 recommendations that will guide the process of establishing criminal justice reform. The Declaration underscores the need for swift and fair Justice for the guilty and the protection of the victims by identifying key areas integral to criminal justice reform. One of the areas Belize was recognized for was its stellar performance in the reduction of backlogs in a short period of time. The JEI, which was established in December 2023, is the brainchild of the transformative and dynamic leadership of Honourable Chief Justice Madam Louise Esther Blenman, who made the conference possible, was echoed by Derick Sylvester, Chair of, Judicial Education Institute

The conference is being funded by the European Union (EU) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) PACE Justice Project, the United States Embassy International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Agency (INL) and the Government of Belize (GOB).

UNDP Resident Representative, Kishan Khoday spoke on the strides Belize has made as it relates to the dispensing of justice, using the maxim "Justice delayed is Justice denied" and pointed to a positive shift over the last two years. Khoday proffered that the coming together of a number of eminent luminaries is a testament and recognition of some of the efforts done in Belize. Importantly, the Prime Minister of Belize, Honourable John Briceño punctuated the need for criminal justice reform by recalling a case and elaborating on how egregious a criminal system can get if it is "not fit for purpose".

Today Belize stands behind the 8-ball and was applauded several times as a pioneer in reformatory Justice. The keynote speaker, the Acting President of the Caribbean Court of Justice and the Chairman of the CCJ Academy of Law, Justice Winston Anderson lauded Belize's Judiciary and the Government of Belize on the achievement of some of the key recommendations embedded in the Declaration. Institutional Collaboration, one of the key recommendations, to which the esteemed Jurist drew upon, is the Judicial Board instituted in



Belize, suggesting it as the "envy of the other Caribbean jurisdiction and has been touted as a template for institutional collaboration in other countries in the region. And for this, the people in the legal profession and Belize can be justly proud." The Justice considered that Belize represents the tip of the spear in terms of reform.

The participants will engage and share knowledge and best practices aligned with the 39 recommendations listed in the Needham's Point Declaration to improve the criminal justice system in Belize and across the region. It is expected that the conference will have a positive impact in ensuring that effectiveness, fairness and integrity of the judicial system is upheld. Consequently, ensuring that Law and Order does not fail its purpose and not become the dangerously structured dams that block the flow of social justice.

By Hilly Bennett

Atlantic Bank

Wishes everyone a safe & happy

St. George's Caye Day

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DUAL ENDORSEMENT CONVENTION

A Night of Unity: Hon. Francis Fonseca Reaffirmed in Freetown



On Thursday, August 26, Independence Hall buzzed with energy as Hon. Francis Fonseca and Hon. Kareem Musa were once again endorsed as the People's United Party candidates for Freetown and Caribbean Shores, respectively. The joint endorsement convention was a testament to their steadfast dedication to their constituencies.

Hon. Fonseca has served the people of the Freetown Constituency since 2003 as an area representative. This will be his fifth consecutive election and would be over 2 decades of service as a senior parliamentarian.

"I always appreciate the love and support of my Freetown Family!" Fonseca expressed with gratitude. His connection with the people of Freetown is evident, and his commitment to continuing to work for their betterment is unwavering. "The work continues..." he declared, signaling his readiness for the challenges ahead.

The event saw staunch support from Prime Minister and Party Leader Hon. John Briceño, Deputy Prime Minister Hon. Cordel Hyde, Chairman Hon. Henry Charles Usher, and other Deputy Leaders, along with members of the national executive and party supporters. Prime Minister Briceño reaffirmed his commitment to building a brighter future for Belize under Plan Belize. The night was a celebration of solidarity, with dynamic speeches that inspired confidence in the party's vision.

As Hon. Fonseca steps forward, backed by his Freetown family, his focus remains clear: to serve with dedication and to work tirelessly for the people who have placed their trust in him. The future of Freetown, and indeed Belize, looks bright under his continued leadership.

Continue to Rise: Kareem Fi Shore



On Thursday, August 26 Hon. Kareem Musa and Hon. Francis Fonseca were officially endorsed to represent their respective constituency. Hon. Musa poised to represent the beautiful people of Caribbean Shores for a second term, is more determined than ever. Under the theme "Continue to Rise - Kareem Fi Shore," His commitment to his constituency shines through, reflecting his dedication to the people who have entrusted him with their future.

"We have laid the foundation, but there's still much work ahead," Hon. Musa emphasized during the joint endorsement convention. His eagerness to continue serving is clear, as he passionately spoke about the progress made and the path forward.

The event was a powerful display of unity, with the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, and other leaders of the People's United Party offering their support and delivering inspiring speeches. His appreciation was evident as he thanked them, along with the PUP Secretariat and committees, for their role in organizing the event.

"Our journey is far from over, and with your support, we will continue to rise," He declared, highlighting his unwavering dedication to Caribbean Shores and Belize.

As he looks toward the future, Kareem Musa remains committed to uplifting his constituency, ensuring that Caribbean Shores continues to shine as a beacon of progress.

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICES

Notice is hereby given that **Kevin S. Castellanos** is applying for a **Night Club Liquor License** to be operated at "**Okis Night Club**" located on Churchill Street, Benque Viejo Del Carmen, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Yung Guang Ruan** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at "**Duola Restaurant**" located in Roaring Creek Village, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Shi Kai Li** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at "**88 Shikai Shop**" located at # 7386 Antelope Street, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Shi Ping** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at "**999 Fing Shop**" located at # 7030 Iguana Street Ext., Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Ray Anthony Good** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at "**Eli-ray**" located at # 6515 Poinsetta Street, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Jian Jian Liu** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at "**Landing Store**" located in Bermudian Landing Village, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Chun Hua Huang** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at "**J. Mall**" located in Hattieville Village, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Yongfa He/Xianghui He** are applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at "**Fa Shop**" located in Sand Hill Village, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Yongfa He/Xianghui He** are applying for a **Malt & Cider Liquor License** to be operated at "**Fa Shop**" located in Sand Hill Village, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Jiaxi Yu/Li Zhou** are applying for a **Convenience Store Liquor License** to be operated at "**Wong Gok Restaurant**" located at # 11 6th Street, King's Park, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Zhong Yuan Mo** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at "**New Asia Restaurant**" located at # 15 Vernon Street, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Sheng Wang Chen** is applying for a **Convenience Store Liquor License** to be operated at "**K.C. Shop**" located at # 78 Barrack Road, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Chun Ying Tan** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at "**Tasty's Restaurant/Bar**" located at # 40 Mahogany Street, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Meiling Luo** is applying for a **Convenience Store Liquor License** to be operated at "**Zhong Wang Shop**" located at # 15 Hopkins Street, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Takayuki Yanai** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at "**Taka Kitchen**" located at # 2/4 Hutson Street, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Wei Chao Huang** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at "**Sea Shore Store**" located at 3 Miles Philip Goldson Hwy., Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Shaoqun Zhou/Hui Zhi Huang** are applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at "**William Supermarket # 2**" located at # 26 C.A. Blvd., Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Yue Ling Huang Wong** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at "**Highway Store**" located at # 271 Philip Goldson Hwy., Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Xiongwen Wu** is applying for a **Malt & Cider Liquor License** to be operated at "**Xiang Long Store**" located at # 771 Sailfish Avenue, Ladyville Village, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Jack Chiu** is applying for a **Malt & Cider Liquor License** to be operated at "**Milky Way Cafe**" located at # 1643 Coney Drive, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Jin Jun Chen** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at "**Steven's Shop**" located at # 67 Cemetery Lane, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Reality Check

By: CP Mathers

The United Democratic Party's Self-Made Novela: Drama, Betrayal, and the Implosion of Belize's Opposition

In the world of Belizean politics, the United Democratic Party (UDP) has been taking centre stage, not as a beacon of leadership, but as the unwitting cast of a political telenovela that has the nation glued to its screens. Over the past weeks, the UDP has been embroiled in a spectacle of drama, mistrust, frustration, and backstabbing that could rival any soap opera. With plot twists that keep coming, the party seems to be imploding before our very eyes.

The latest episode opened with UDP heavyweights Tracy Panton, Beverly Williams, Patrick Faber and John Saldivar, in a surprising alliance, submitting a petition to the Secretary General of the UDP seeking to recall Party Leader Moses "Shyne" Barrow. According to the "Alliance for Democracy," the petition boasted 208 signatures from 17 constituencies—enough, they believed, to force the embattled leader to pack his bags. But UDP Chairman Michael Peyrefitte, channelling his inner villain, swiftly moved to dismiss the petition, claiming it fell short of the required 176 signatures, at least under "normal circumstances."

Peyrefitte didn't stop there. He took a page from the soap opera playbook, accusing Panton of violating the UDP Constitution and arguing that her involvement in forming a new political entity meant she had "constructively resigned" from the party. The accusation was a dagger aimed straight at the heart of the dissenters, with Peyrefitte declaring Panton unfit to even submit the petition in the first place.

The Central Executive Committee, in an almost clandestine session, attended by only fifteen members—four of whom were standard bearers—passed a motion that officially declared Panton, Williams, along with Patrick Faber and John Saldivar, as having "constructively resigned" from the UDP. In a plot twist that might have sent jaws dropping, the motion seems less about rules and more about reinforcing Barrow's grip on a party spiralling out of control.

The Alliance for Democracy, never one to shy away from a good showdown, blasted the UDP's leadership for what they called a "reckless and undemocratic" decision.

The Alliance's criticism highlighted the deep rift within the party and underscored just how fractured the UDP has become under the strain of internal power struggles and wounded egos under Shyne Barrow's leadership.

As if this wasn't enough to keep political pundits buzzing, the mediation team, assembled like a last-ditch attempt to rescue the UDP from itself, has thrown in the towel. Comprising Reverend David Goff, Bishop Clare, Laura Longworth, Aldo Salazar, and Lindsay Garbut, the team has officially suspended its activities after the parties failed to reach any compromise. Reverend Goff, speaking with the exasperation of a therapist whose patients refuse to listen, noted that effective mediation depends on a willingness to compromise—a factor notably absent in the current UDP drama.

And what of UDP Chairman Michael Peyrefitte, whose insistence that being "constructively resigned" is distinct from being expelled has Belizeans scratching their heads. But with UDP branches already scouting for new candidates, it's a tough sell—like trying to convince viewers that a dead character might come back to life without any plot holes.

Not to be outdone, Panton and her newly christened "Shun Four" gang—the quartet of castoffs who refuse to stay silent—are doubling down on their mission to unseat Shyne. In a press conference on September 4th, they called for a "UDP Unity Convention" and demanded the appointment of an interim leader until the dust settles. It's a bold power play, and one that has left Shyne looking less like the party leader and more like a protagonist surrounded by an ever-thickening web of intrigue.

As the UDP's saga unfolds, one thing is clear: the party's internal battles are far from over. This political soap opera may have more episodes left, filled with alliances formed and broken, leaders challenged, and egos bruised. For now, the UDP seems stuck in a loop of self-destruction—a cautionary tale for any party that forgets its role not as the protagonist of a drama, but as a servant of the people.

Grab your popcorn, Belize; this show is just getting started.



Ministry of Religious Affairs Extends Congratulations to the Methodist Church on the Ordination of Bishop Rev. Elswith Clare

Belmopan, Belize. September 2, 2024. The Ministry of Religious Affairs is pleased to extend its heartfelt congratulations to the Methodist Church on the ordination of the new Bishop, Rev.

Elswith Clare, who was ceremoniously ordained on September 1, 2024. This significant milestone marks a momentous occasion in the life of the Methodist Church and the broader religious community.

Rev. Elswith Clare's ordination is a testament to her unwavering dedication, spiritual leadership, and commitment to serving both the church and its congregation. Her ascension to the role of Bishop represents not only a personal achievement but also a beacon of hope and inspiration for all who look to her guidance.

In her new role, Bishop Clare will undoubtedly continue to uphold the

values of compassion, unity, and faith that are central to the Methodist Church's mission. The Ministry of Religious Affairs recognizes the vital role that religious leaders play in fostering community, promoting interfaith dialogue, and supporting societal well-being. Bishop Clare's leadership is anticipated to significantly enrich these endeavours.

On behalf of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, we wish Bishop Clare every success in her new role and look forward to witnessing the positive impact she will make within the church and beyond. May her tenure as Bishop be marked by wisdom, grace, and transformative leadership.

Congratulations once again to Bishop Rev. Elswith Clare, and best wishes to the Methodist Church as it embarks on this new chapter of spiritual growth and community service.

Ends.

SCA Hosts Inspiring SWIM & LEARN Event



The Saint Catherine Academy (SCA) of Belize City, Belize, hosted an inspiring SWIM and LEARN event on Saturday, September 1, 2024, marking the kick off to a year promoting Earth's care, advocacy, and protection. Coincidentally, "Hope and Act with Creation" is the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation theme on September 1, 2024. This unique event was held in collaboration with the Belize Coast Guard, Oceana Belize, the Belize Triathlon Association, and the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), showcasing the academy's commitment to environmental conservation and the significance of swimming in Belizean waters.

The SWIM and LEARN event was a remarkable blend of fun and knowledge, showcasing the many benefits of swimming while highlighting the importance of preserving Belize's waters. It was organized and coordinated by esteemed alumni, including representatives Commandant Alma Pinelo of the Belize Coast Guard, Jacinta Gomez Usher of Oceana Belize, Paulita Bennett-Martin of Sea of Life, Kaya Cattouse of the Belize Triathlon Association, Diane Haylock of the YWCA, and Dolores Balderamos Garcia of the Ministry of Human Development, Families and Indigenous Peoples' Affairs along with SCA representatives Dr. Salome Tillett, Aldarita



Marin and Jamie Usher.

CleanUp Campaign

While the swimmers made the 6-hour journey to the city, Oceana Belize organized a coastal clean-up that included additional data collection, working with the Sea of Life Organization, and building on the analysis elements of environmental protection. In only a couple hours, and working along a small section of the coastline along the Marine Parade, many bags of trash and debris were collected, sorted, and data entered into unique computer apps before placing in trash bags, emphasizing the urgency and importance of environmental conservation and the need to protect Belize's waters.

The Route

Continued on page 17



BACK to SCHOOL



Dolores in BRC

This is a donation of a brand new Stove to Ladyville Evangelical School with over 355 students! We take the opportunity to 'bigging up' our outstanding School Wardens! Keep up the great work Principal Ms Chi and Vice Principal Ms Correa !!!!



Osmond sends Greetings to the beautiful People of Toledo East



"A few weeks ago I inspected the school at Monkey River to get a first-hand understanding of the challenges that the school had and to see how best I could have addressed them.

As school was about to open, I want to personally deliver chairs, and my team did repairs on the doors and windows of the school. In addition to this the school had no electricity and internet. I can report to you that the school in Monkey River now has internet, electricity, better doors, windows and comfortable chairs in the class rooms.

I believe that Education is the only key to getting out of poverty. I will work hard every day to better the lives of our people especially through education.

Saludos mi gente bonita de Toledo Este.

Hace unas semanas inspeccioné la escuela de Monkey River para comprender de primera mano los desafíos que tenía la escuela y ver cuál era la mejor manera de abordarlos. Entregué las sillas personalmente, y mi equipo hizo reparaciones en las puertas y ventanas de la escuela. Además de esto, la escuela no tenía electricidad ni internet.

Hoy puedo informarles que la escuela de Monkey River ahora cuenta con Internet, electricidad, mejores puertas, ventanas y sillas cómodas en las aulas.

Creo que la educación es la única clave para salir de la pobreza. Trabajaré duro todos los días para mejorar las vidas de nuestra gente, especialmente a través de la educación."

Queen's Square Back-to-School Success with Lorna Mckay

Over 85 children received free haircuts and braids at our Back-to-School event on Saturday, August 31st, thanks to the amazing efforts of the Queen's Square Committee and Dr. Lorna McKay! The event at Cumberbatch Field was all about getting our kids ready and confident for the new school year.

Dr. McKay, who is running for office in Queen's Square, shared why this event was so important: "This was about more than just haircuts and braids; it was about being there for our children and community. I urge everyone to get registered and help elect a representative who truly cares. No matter your political affiliation, I promise to be there and work tirelessly for every resident in our constituency. Together, we can make lives better because 'Doc Gat Yu Bak!'"



Message from new PUP Standard Bearer for Queen's Square Dr. Lorna Mckay

Dear Students, Parents, Teachers, and Residents of Queen's Square,

As we embark on a new school year, I want to extend my heartfelt wishes to each of you for a successful and enriching year ahead. Education is the cornerstone of our community's future, and as someone who has spent many years in the classroom, I understand deeply the transformative power it holds.

To the students, this is your time to shine! Embrace every opportunity to learn, grow, and challenge yourselves. The knowledge you gain today will pave the way for a brighter tomorrow, not just for you but for our entire community.

Remember, every challenge you face in your studies is a stepping stone to greater success. Keep your heads high, stay focused, and know that your community is rooting for you.

To the dedicated teachers, I offer my deepest gratitude. You are the architects of our future, shaping the minds and hearts of our young people. Your commitment, passion, and resilience

are truly inspiring. As you step into the classroom each day, know that your efforts are recognized and appreciated by all of us. You are not just educators; you are role models and mentors, and your influence extends far beyond the walls of the classroom.

To the parents, I encourage you to take an active role in your children's education. Your involvement is crucial to their success. Whether it's helping with homework, attending school events, or simply talking with them about their day, your support makes a world of difference. Let's work together to ensure that our children have the tools and guidance they need to thrive.

As I continue my journey to represent you in Queen's Square, know that I am committed to making lives better, particularly through education. Together, we can build a community where every child has the opportunity to succeed and every family can feel proud of their achievements.

Wishing you all a successful, safe, and inspiring school year ahead!

Brand-new School Building at St. Matthews MIDH-MoECST Step Up after Fire Disaster



PUP Delivering on PlanBelize

« PUP ENDORSEMENT CONVENTIONS »»

Orange Walk Central – Party Leader and PM John Briceño, OW South – Hon. Jose Mai, OW East – Hon. Kevin Bernard, OW North – Hon. Ramon Cervantes

Freetown – Hon. Francis Fonseca & Caribbean Shores - Hon. Kareem Musa



Lake Independence – Deputy Party Leader and DPM Cordel Hyde



BELIZEPROPERTYAUCTIONS.COM

COUNTRYWIDE PUBLIC AUCTION SALES: PROPERTIES

Seafront Resort Properties, Boca Chica, San Pedro, Ambergris Caye

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. Atlantic Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the following properties in ONE LOT. Sale currently running until 30th November 2024. Public Auction Sales will expire fortnightly on the dates and times listed on the website until this LOT is sold.

PARCELS 1355, 1356, 1357, 1358, 1359 & 1797 BOCA CHICA, SAN PEDRO, AMBERGRIS CAYE, BELIZE DISTRICT:



REGISTRATION	SECTION BLOCK	PARCELS
San Pedro	7	1355, 1356, 1357, 1358, 1359 & 1797

(Being an incomplete Resort Development situate on the southern end of Ambergris Caye known as Boca Chica TOGETHER with 6 parcels of land above described the freehold properties of Messrs. Boca Chica Rosorts Limited.)

“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 Auction

LETTER
TO THE Editor

Embracing the E-Bus Revolution in Belize City



Dear Editor,

This morning, I decided to park my truck and take the E-Bus from Belama to Downtown Belize City for work, and I must say, the experience was great! The Belize City Council is truly transforming the Old Capital with this innovative and eco-friendly initiative.

The introduction of the E-Bus is a significant step forward in modernizing public transportation in our city and by extension our nation. Not only is the ride a comfortable and convenient way to travel, but it also contributes to reducing our carbon footprint,

a crucial move toward a more sustainable future.

The smooth ride, clean interior, and punctual service make the E-Bus a worthy alternative to driving. It is encouraging to see our city leaders prioritize environmentally friendly solutions that also enhance the quality of life for residents.

As more Belizeans embrace this new mode of transportation, we can collectively reduce traffic congestion, lower emissions, and enjoy a healthier urban environment. I commend the Belize City Council for their forward-thinking approach and urge everyone to experience the E-Bus for themselves.

Let us continue to support and expand such initiatives that benefit both our community and the planet.

Sincerely,
Tamesha Smith

SCA Hosts Inspiring SWIM & LEARN Event

Continued from page 12

The Belize Coast Guard played a crucial role in mapping the route and managing the swimmers, ensuring the safety and well-being of all participants. On the vessels deployed on the route, the twenty-four swimmers were supported by experienced captains, rescue swimmers, and first aid.

All Important Registration

The Belize Triathlon Association contributed to registration and offered essential preparation advice and training support to the swimmers, exemplifying its dedication to promoting aquatic activities in Belize.

The YWCA announced its additional collaboration activities with SCA for the upcoming year. These activities will focus on organizing competitive swim meets to further encourage swimming and environmental awareness, in addition to the swimming classes offered as part of the SCA Curriculum.

The event celebrated the beauty and significance of swimming in Belizean waters and emphasized our responsibilities in maintaining our waters' well-being. Passionate swimmers and swim groups participated in the extraordinary nine-mile swim, showcasing their enthusiasm for aquatic endeavors and environmental advocacy. The coordinators are committed to having additional swim events.

The SWIM and LEARN event at SCA is a testament to the academy's commitment to environmental stewardship and community engagement, reflecting a proactive approach to addressing environmental issues. As the kickoff event to a year promoting the care, advocacy, and protection of Earth,

it not only set a positive and inspiring tone for future endeavors and collaborations in Belize City and beyond but also paved the way for a promising future of environmental awareness and action, instilling a sense of hope and optimism in the audience.

The SWIM & LEARN event is the first of its kind. It is a multifaceted endeavor involving numerous groups, catalyzing a year of activities dedicated to environmental care, advocacy, and protection of the Earth.

Thank you to everyone who supported us in making this happen:

SCA Sea Hawks | Belize Coast Guard | Belize Triathlon Association | YWCA, Belize | Sea of Life | Oceana Belize | Min. Dolores Balderamos Garcia, Minister of Human Development | Min. Henry Usher | Mr. Mario Guerrero | Mr. John Searle | Mr. Jahlen Blades | The Swimmers!



Like the Sea Hawk (SCA's Mascot) fearlessly takes to the sky and dives into the depths of the beautiful Belizean waters, the 25 swimmers at the event conquered the waters with determination and strength. By aligning our Sea Hawk with the promotion of swimming and learning, we emphasized the values of courage, resilience, and the pursuit of knowledge. The Sea Hawk symbolizes our 2024-2025 commitment to encouraging students and community members to embrace new challenges, explore the beauty of Belizean waters, and celebrate the vitality of swimming as a valuable life skill. (SCA post)



Chat Tourism

The Stuff of Legend



The Battle of St. George's Caye is the stuff of legend. As the notes from history record it, the first attempt by the Spanish to take St. George's Caye happened on September 3, 1798. Unsuccessful, the Spanish fleet would launch successive attempts with their fleet of 32 vessels, manned by 500 seamen and two thousand soldiers. The battle that started on the 3rd would last until September 10th. There was a great defeat, and the Spaniards never came back. From the Bay of Honduras, a British Lieutenant-Colonel would send word to Jamaica that the settlers had been attacked by a flotilla but that "the armament had been repulsed and the expedition entirely frustrated". The British had secured its control and presence in the territory, and with it, the future of our modern day Belize was also secured. One hundred years later, on the 26th of August 1898, the 10th of September was officially observed as a Public Holiday. Since then, Belizeans have only ever known peace; however, that is not to say that we have not had and fought other battles.

With our nationalist movement emerging in the 1950s, we fought a long battle for our independence from Great Britain. Perhaps it was fate that ensured that our Independence would come in the same month as the Battle of St. George's Caye. Since securing our own government, flag, and constitution, we have fought to carve a place for ourselves in the world. Over the last 43 years, Belize has had many social and economic battles. These days, the tourism industry plays a pivotal role in helping to ensure stability and victory on the economic, social, and cultural fronts. This year the tourism industry is projected to generate around \$1.4 billion in revenue as it remains the second largest industry in the overall economy. This industry is manned by more than more than 25,000 jobs across 2,200 establishments. With industry stakeholders as allies, the battle to establish Belize as a premier and competitive eco-tourism destination is being won. Just take the post-COVID 19 recovery numbers as evidence. The Belize Tourism Board (BTB) is captaining the ship, and so far it has steered the industry into numerous victories. Following the pandemic crash, the tourism industry has seen increased overnight visitor arrivals, improved overall occupancy, more cruise ship calls and visitors, improved airlift capacity and routes to connect Belize to the world, more and better trained industry workers, tourism product expansion, and more global recognition by established travel media and magazines. The work to improve Belize's standing in the global tourism market will continue year after year because some battles are never quite over.

Our tourism industry is a major part of our arsenal as we age as a country and continue to cement our place in the world. When the Spanish decided to attack on September 3rd 1798, we had three ships: Swinger, Towser and Teaser. They had a fleet. Baymen, Buccaneers, and the enslaved fought side by side to defend this territory. Today we are direct beneficiaries of their sacrifice and bravery. This month Belizeans will celebrate 226 years since the Battle of St. George's Caye was won and forty-three years since our independence was secured. Perhaps these days the Battle sounds more like the stuff of legend than of history, but we know better. The only thing mythical about the 10th of September are the costumes and mas bands that will line the streets during this weekend's carnival celebration- another yearly battle.

Chat again later.

Jasmine Anderson
For the Belize Tourism Board

Developing the Transportation Industry with the Involvement of Stakeholders

By Hon Gilroy Usher, Port Loyola

As bus operations in the transportation industry you are gathered here

for a very important meeting with the Ministry of Transport - A discussion on how to answer the cry of the public for better service which they truly deserve with the involvement of the stakeholders that include bus operators and their employees, commuters, lending institutions, and the government among others.

The Department of Transport is responsible for transportation by road outside of the towns and two cities; nevertheless, the Department works closely with the cities and towns, as they all have the same goal as stated earlier.

As most persons are aware transportation is one of the key industries for national development. It is charged with ensuring the movement of thousands of persons and goods from point A to point B anywhere in the country daily in most efficient, convenient, and safe manner at a reasonable cost. Once any part of that responsibility is not being met, it results in major inconvenience for many of the stakeholders with the loss of time, earnings, and goods as well an unnecessary expense, in addition to injuries and sometimes fatalities.

For those reasons all the stakeholders in the transportation industry agree that the public deserves the best possible service. To achieve that goal, we all have to shoulder our responsibilities to improve the industry.

To improvement the standard of the transportation bus operators need proper equipment, users of their service need to pay their fares and take care of the vehicles they use, government needs to provide proper roads and necessary services such as license, road service permits and enforcement of the traffic laws. And Government through the Ministry of Transport has to lead the way in ensuring necessary and adequate bus terminals. It is also important that lending institutions and operators in the transportation industry work together to help ensure operators have access to funds to upgrade their equipment and service.

Like most other businesses transportation is a very competitive industry. With choice more customers gravitate towards service that is efficient, reliable, safe, and convenient for a reasonable cost. That reality is also true for operators of buses and other equipment in the transportation industry. It is therefore in the best interest of all operators in the industry to improve their service in every possible way. That is vital for success in their line of business.

Through the Ministry of Transport this administration has done many things to improve the transportation



industry and assist bus operators in being successful.

When the cost of fuel was extremely high, government intervened to protect commuters from higher fares by granting bus operators and other qualified operators in the transportation industry a fuel subsidy for several months until the cost of fuel decreased to a manageable level.

As part of efforts to motivate bus operations to improve their equipment the De-

partment of Transport is offering road service permits from two years to ten years with longer time for more modern buses. The issuance of road service permits in that manner is a major plus for bus operators. The implementation makes it easier for operators to access financing to upgrade their equipment and service to a higher level.

One of the things that hinders growth, efficiency, and proper records for financial accountability with bus operators is the lack of a ticketing system. It is therefore good to know that a ticketing proposal is on the agenda for the discussion today.

Bus terminals are costly but a necessity for an efficient and modern transportation industry. In trying to address that need the Ministry of Transport is inviting interested business persons including bus operators to invest with the government in a Private Public Partnership (PPP) to ensure adequate terminals across the country. In a similar way the Ministry of Transport is inviting business persons including bus operators to bid for

the contract to operate Electric Buses with the UNDP E-mobility Project.

Like Computers, Electric buses in the country are here to stay. Through the UNDP project two modern electric buses have been operating in Belize City for almost three months, and yesterday three modern electric buses arrived in the county for interdistrict service. The Ebuses in Belize City are becoming the preferred choice for more commuters steadily, and it is expected that the same desire will repeat itself with the modern E-Buses for interdistrict travel.

Computers and E-buses represent the modern, efficient, and user friendly way to address the needs of the public in communicating with words and in traveling, and to reiterate they are here to stay.

Bus operators, who rise to the challenge to bid individually or as a cooperative to manage the E-buses that will eventually be majority owned by members of the private sector at the end of the UNDP Project, will therefore play a major role in helping to ensure that the transporting industry of the country remains in the hands of Belizeans including its pioneers.

All stakeholders in the transportation industry are therefore encouraged to work together to ensure betterment for themselves and the country. As Henry Ford said "Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress, and working together is success."



The Ministry of Health & Wellness invites you to wear

YELLOW

on Monday, September 9, 2024 to show support and promote awareness of World Suicide Prevention Day!



BELIZEPROPERTYAUCTIONS.COM
PUBLICAUCTIONSALS: PROPERTIES & VEHICLE
Countrywide

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. The Belize Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the following properties. Sales currently running until 31st December 2024. Public Auction Sales will expire fortnightly within this period on the dates and times listed on the website until these properties are sold.

1. Lot No. 74 (386.146 ACRES) Duck Run Area, Cayo District:



All that lot piece or parcel of land being Lot No. 74 from a sub-division containing 386.146 acres the freehold property of Mr. Milton Humes.

8. Parcel No. 126 Douglas Village , Orange Walk District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Douglas Village	1	126
The freehold property of Ms. Juliana Nicholson.		

2. Parcel No. 1095 Mcville Rd., Queen Square West, Belize City:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Queen Square West	45	1095
The freehold property of Mr. Deon Longsworth.		

9. Parcel No. 3404 Trail Farm Village, Orange Walk District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Ann Gabourel	4	3404
The freehold property of Mr. Enop Martinez.		

3. Parcel No. 32/1 Chan Pine Ridge Village, Orange Walk District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Chan Pine Ridge	4	32/1
The leasehold property of Mr. German Tzul.		

10. Parcel No. 900 Consejo, Corozal District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Consejo	1	900
The freehold property of Mr. Narciso Rodriguez.		

4. Parcel No. 707 Unity Street, Port Loyolaville, Belize City, Belize District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Port Loyolaville	45	707
Freehold property of Mr. Lloyd Ford Jr.		

11. Parcel No. 650 Raleigh Street, St. Martin De Porres West, Belize City, Belize District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
St. Martin De Porres	45	650
Freehold property of Ms. Shari Williams		

5. Parcel No. 1314 Mamie Apple Street, Belmopan, Cayo District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Belmopan	20	1314
Freehold property of Ms. Jaseth Jackson.		

12. Vehicle: 2008 Dodge Caliber



6. Parcel No. 625/1 Guinea Grass, Orange Walk District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Guinea Grass	4	625/1
The leasehold property of Mr. David Perrera.		

7. Parcel No. 695 West of Coconut Drive, San Pedro Town, Belize District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
San Pedro	7	695
The freehold property of Mr. Peter Lawrence		

“FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & PHOTOGRAPHS PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE”

TERMS: STRICTLY CASH
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Welcome to another edition of the interactive morning show SITI TAAK with your Belize City Council (BCC). It is the peak of the hurricane season and this week's episode featured emergency management and disaster preparedness, with guests Councilor Kaya Cattouse and City Emergency Management Organization (CEMO) Liaison Officer, Melonie Dawson. The conversation reflected on the role of CEMO regarding disaster response, whether it is a hurricane or other natural disasters.

Host Micheal Fritz dug right into the topic asking CEMO's Liaison Dawson to explain to the public the role of the organization. Dawson said that CEMO is "basically responsible for coordinating disaster management efforts within BC and to also enhance our strategies when it comes to our preparedness, mitigation response and recovery phases within BC." Councillor Cattouse weighed in on the conversation and drew a nexus of her councillor obligations in the Sanitation and Maintenance Department with CEMO saying that there is a collaboration between the organization and the S&M Department "in the aftermath of a disaster ensuring that the city comes back to full swing 100 per cent efficiency."

Kaya stressed that it is no easy task getting the city prepared for a disaster. Ms. Dawson noted that Kaya is the co-chair to the Environment and Solid Waste subcommittee which is one of the council's most important subcommittees. Interestingly, CEMO is publicly recognized as working from June to November during the Atlantic Hurricane Season. However, Ms. Dawson explained that that was not the case. She also shared that preparation begins in December adding that most of the work begins in the preparation phase. Notably, preparations start with an analysis of the performance during the June to November season to ensure that any gaps are filled and updating the plans for instance, whether the hurricane shelters functioned up to capacity. Additionally, ensuring that the primary mandate of capacity-building whereby the employees are fully prepared and understand what their roles and responsibilities are in the execution of their functions.

Thereafter, there would be a meeting with all the 14 active subcommittees. Consequently, CEMO Liaison, Dawson would coordinate with in the execution of disaster directives. The Human Resource Committee also an important component to disaster management would ensure that there are enough resources and hurricane shelters are up to par. In the preparation the Sanitation and Maintenance Department would be digging drains and picking up "white" garbage and as Councilor Cattouse chimed in "the limbing of trees" and other items in the resident's yard that could be "potential missiles in the case of a hurricane or in case of heavy winds."

However, Dawson advised residents to have their own hurricane preparedness plan. She said "a family plan would be a guide for you to know or to steer you on what your plans would be in the event a storm would come to Belize." For instance, if you need to evacuate your home, a hurricane shelter would be identified and secure important documents e.g. passports, social security cards, etcetera. Kaya injected into the conversation noting that people with disabilities are considered by CEMO and are afforded the same access to whatever is necessary to assist them in the event of a hurricane or any other disaster. Cattouse reflected on the aftermath of Hurricane Lisa, a category 1 hurricane that brought massive destruction to the Jewel. The city experienced massive damage but through a collaborative effort the recovery was done on record time. Cattouse highlighted that the work was continuous from day to night. A damage analysis and needs assessment were done on the path of recovery. A very important component of emergency management is the EOC the Emergency Operating Centre also called the nerve of CEMO. It is where the coordination occurs during a disaster. It involves the Mayor, the City Administrator and other heads gather in the decision-making process.

Once again SITI TAAK clarified and qualified that the BCC's business is not only about building streets but is involved in many other areas that are important to the needs of the city. With the possibility of a tropical wave being monitored by the National Meteorological Service (NMS), the conversation with CEMO Liaison Dawson and Councilor Cattouse was critical in what is hurricane preparedness and the role the BCC plays in the event of a disaster. Tune in on Vibes Media next Wednesday for another interactive discussion with your BCC. "Always 'bout the People."

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PUBLIC AUCTION SALE: PROPERTY

San Pedro, Ambergris Caye, Belize District

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. Atlantic Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the following property. Sale currently running until 30th November 2024. Public Auction Sale will expire fortnightly on the date and time listed on the website until the property is sold.

Parcel No. 2609 San Pedro Ambergris Caye, Belize District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
San Pedro	7	2609
The freehold property of Mr. John Greif IV.		

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MPUELE Launches Pico Solar Kit Distribution for Pig Farmers in Belize



August 26th, 2024 - The Ministry of Public Utilities, Energy, Logistics & E-governance (MPUELE) is excited to announce its distribution initiative aimed at supporting sustainable farming practices in Belize. As part of our commitment to enhancing agricultural productivity and environmental stewardship, we are pleased to distribute pico solar kits to pig farmers across the nation.

Empowering Farmers with Renewable Energy

To promote renewable energy solutions and reduce the reliance on traditional, less sustainable energy sources, the Ministry is providing state-of-the-art pico solar kits to pig farmers. These compact and efficient solar systems are designed to deliver reliable power to rural areas, improving the operational efficiency and overall productivity of farms.

What the Pico Solar Kits Include

The pico solar kits are equipped with: A high-efficiency solar panel | LED lighting for improved visibility | A charging port for small electronic devices | These kits are expected to provide significant benefits to pig farmers, including:

- **Enhanced Farm Operations:** The farmers can increase security and protection for their livestock from bat attacks in the darkness by illuminating their confinement areas.
- **Reduced Energy Costs:** By harnessing solar power, farmers can cut down on expenses associated with traditional energy sources.



- **Environmental Benefits:** A reduction in the carbon footprint associated with fossil fuel-based energy.

The distribution of pico solar kits is a crucial step towards fostering sustainable agricultural practices in Belize. The Ministry recognizes the vital role that pig farmers play in our agricultural sector, and by providing them with renewable energy solutions, we are not only supporting their economic well-being but also contributing to a greener future for Belize.

The Ministry of Energy has collaborated with the Pig Council Association and the Belize Livestock Producers Association to ensure the effective distribution of 100 kits. Demonstration and support have been provided to the association to facilitate the smooth integration of solar technology into their daily operations. These kits have been funded by the European Union through the Lait Up Belize Technical Assistance Project.

This initiative is part of the Ministry of Energy's broader strategy to promote sustainable energy practices and support the agricultural community. By investing in renewable energy solutions, we are paving the way for a more resilient and environmentally friendly future for Belize. (release)

IDB supports Urban Development Transformation and Efficiency in Healthcare Services in Belize



September 2nd, 2024

SAN PEDRO, Belize – The Executive Vice President of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Jordan Schwartz, and the Prime Minister of Belize, Hon. John Briceño, signed loan contracts and related non-reimbursable grant agreements to finance two new programs aimed at enhancing healthcare services and promoting sustainable urban development in Belize, respectively. The signing took place on Friday 30th August 2024, during the Third High-Level Dialogue of the Regional Climate Change Platform of Finance and Economy Ministries in San Pedro, Ambergris Caye.

"The IDB is proud to support Belize in two critical sectors, improving the efficiency, quality, and access of health care services and enhancing an infrastructure and urban development program that will boost tourism and economic growth," Jordan Schwartz said.

Belize's Prime Minister, the Hon. John Briceño, said, "These new agreements with the IDB are important steps in the Government's plan to develop Belize. Investments in healthcare and urban development will not only enhance the quality of life of our citizens but also lead to a healthier, more resilient, and prosperous Belize."

The US\$10 million sustainable urban development loan program will improve access to urban services and enhance infrastructure in the northern municipalities, benefiting an estimated 40,000 residents in Orange Walk, Corozal, and San Pedro. Additionally, the program will benefit from US\$2.5 million of non-reimbursable resources



to further support these efforts.

The health loan program, totalling US\$17.36 million, includes a \$7 million loan from the IDB and a \$7 million loan from the Korean Infrastructure Development Co-Financing Facility for Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as \$3.36 million of non-reimbursable financing from the IDB Grant Migration Facility. The program will benefit approximately 300,000 people, including 37,000 migrants and 42,000 indigenous people. It focuses on strengthening the Primary Healthcare model, with special attention to reproductive, maternal, neonatal, and child health, noncommunicable diseases, accident and emergency services, and surgeries. It also incorporates a gender perspective, addressing the needs of women experiencing violence and individuals with mental health conditions.

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The Albert Constituency Deserves Better: A Call for Change with Kaya Cattouse

For the last 12 years, the Albert Constituency has been plagued by neglect under UDP so-called representatives that lacked leadership for the people. Residents have witnessed firsthand the lack of meaningful development and the absence of genuine concern for their well-being. Tracy Panton, the current Area Representative, has done little to address the pressing issues facing the constituency. Her tenure has been marked by inaction, leaving the community to fend for itself as vital needs continue to go unmet.

In stark contrast, the People's United Party's (PUP) Standard Bearer, Kaya Cattouse, represents a beacon of hope and change for the Albert Constituency. Kaya is not only young and vibrant, but she also embodies the energy, charisma, and vision necessary to bring about the transformation that the community so desperately needs. Her dedication to the people, particularly the children, is evident in her actions and initiatives.

Recently, Kaya spearheaded a highly successful Back-to-School Drive, ensuring that every child in the Albert Constituency had access to essential items like school bags, tennis shoes, haircuts, and hair braiding, regardless of their family's political affiliation. This event was not just about providing supplies; it was about showing the community that someone cares. Kaya's commitment to inclusivity and her determination to uplift every resident of the Alberts reflect her deep concern for the future of our children and the well-being of our entire community.

Kaya Cattouse is a visionary leader who understands the transformative power of education and community support. Her focus on the youths and her passion for creating opportunities for all make her the ideal candidate to lead the Alberts into a brighter future. She has shown that she is willing to go above and beyond to ensure that no one is left behind—a sharp contrast to the stagnant leadership we've experienced over the past decade.

The time for change is now. The Albert Constituency deserves a representative who is not only present but also actively working to improve the lives of its residents. Kaya Cattouse is that leader. She will bring the positive change we need, and she will be the best representative the Alberts has ever seen.

As we move forward, we encourage all voters in the Albert Constituency to support and vote for Kaya Cattouse. With Kaya, we can be confident that our community will thrive, our children will have the opportunities they deserve, and the Alberts will finally receive the attention and care it has long been denied.

ency to support and vote for Kaya Cattouse. With Kaya, we can be confident that our community will thrive, our children will have the opportunities they deserve, and the Alberts will finally receive the attention and care it has long been denied.



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Belize Climate Week 2024: "Uniting for a Sustainable Future through Innovation and Inclusivity"

The Ministry of Sustainable Development and Climate Change, through the National Climate Change Office observed Belize Climate Week 2024. The event was held from August 25 to 28, 2024, at the Gala Lounge in Orange Walk Town, under the theme: "Climate Action: Inspiring Change, Driving Advocacy, Promoting Inclusivity, and Fostering Innovation." This event is a critical part of the Climate Change Agenda bringing the youth and agriculture constituencies to be a part of the solution to combat Climate



sity, and spark innovation in the fight against climate change.

Belize Climate Week 2024 aims to inspire actionable solutions and strengthen climate resilience in Belize.



Change in Belize.

The events were as follows:

1. August 25: Innovation fair entitled 'Inspiring Change, featuring displays from government bodies, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector.
2. August 26: Official opening ceremony, followed by presentations by climate change experts from Belize and the region aimed at engaging youths.
3. August 27: Youth and agriculture forum.
4. August 28: Negotiators Training: Preparation for COP29.

Belize Climate Week 2024 was a dynamic and engaging platform for discussions on pressing climate issues and the promotion of sustainable solutions. This four-day gathering will bring together a diverse array of youths from all over the country, all committed to advancing climate action and building a more resilient future for Belize.

With a focus on inspiring actionable solutions and fostering climate resilience, Belize Climate Week 2024 is poised to be a catalyst for positive change. Join us as we come together to drive advocacy, promote inclu-

Progress in BRC with Hon. Dolores Balderamos-Garcia

The newly rehabilitated bus shelter at Western Paradise on the Sunset Park side will go a long way to ease the commuting. This is just one example of the Area Representative working hard for the community from basic infrastructure to education.

This is in addition to larger projects that she brings from Central Government like land, housing, security etc. The country is seeing and general upliftment and Dolores is Working for Belize Rural Central to bring development as needed.



SELECTION OF BUS OPERATOR FOR THE MANAGEMENT, OPERATING AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR THE INTERCITY ELECTRIC BUS PILOT PROJECT

Project: Towards Low Carbon Transport: Piloting e-mobility within Belize's Public Transport System

Location: Belmopan, Belize

Date: August 26th, 2024

Deadline for Expressions of interest: September 11, 2024 @ 5pm

Background:

The Government of Belize accessed 4.5 million Euros in grant funding under the European Union's Development Fund (EDF-11). These funds support the piloting of electric vehicle technology within Belize's Public Transport System. Three (3) E-Buses have been procured to operate on the western and northern corridors. The Government will transfer routes to the private operator through the issuance of a "Route Concession" or Road Service Permit.

Objectives:

The Ministry of Youth, Sports and Transport invites potentially interested and qualified parties to express their interest in the management, operating and maintenance services for the three Electric Buses to operate on the western and northern corridors.

The Management Company's operational duties and responsibilities shall include, but are not limited to:

- Operate and maintain buses provided by the Government
- Ensure that the buses operate on approved bus routes only;
- Ensure due maintenance of the buses as per required in the maintenance manual.
- collect all gross revenue;
- hiring, firing and supervising all employees and subcontractors;
- payroll and accounting services;
- ticketing;
- security and janitorial services;
- ensuring that license and insurance of vehicles are valid at all times
- Participate in data collection as required by the Government.

If you are interested in submitting an expression of interest, kindly follow the link below: https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/3xkps5-1k95fw83rugpjsj/RFE0I_E-Buses_Management_contract_Notice_final_11.pdf?rlkey=m17iox6253z9n80cn3k0v9l8g&st=r4vkwn1a&dl=0

Or visit The Department of Transport's page.

WHEN PRIME MINISTER JOHN BRICEÑO SPOKE – YOU COULD HEAR A PIN DROP

By Dickie Bradley

You could hear a pin drop. The Prime Minister of Belize was addressing the biggest and most important judicial conference being held in Belize.

The conference was about reforming the Criminal Justice System in our country. Legal luminaries from the region crowded the Biltmore conference room to contribute to 5 days of workshops, training and resetting legal lethargy to restore confidence in the court system. A system propped up on a weary adage that the wheels of justice grind slowly but grind exceedingly find – or something like that.

Not anymore...Not if Chief Justice Lousie Blenman has her way and her say. Her Ladyship adorned the head table – beaming with pride and accomplishment. This gathering with far reaching implication is entirely her dream, her baby. She is determined to introduce, to convince and, if necessary, to impose psalms and the proverbs on the legal profession in Belize. These new commandments are called Needham's Point Declaration.

Needham's Point comes from a place in Barbados. There, in October last year, representatives from the Caribbean gathered and hammered out the visionary precepts in a Declaration. Our own Justice Minister Anthony Sylvestre and the said Chief Justice Hon. Blenman helped birth the formidable principles with their signatures. The precepts in the Declaration are the brainchild of our highest court- the Caribbean Court of Justice and its Law Reform Academy. Guess who came to our conference to share in our judicial history making moment? The erudite Justice Hon. Winston Anderson, likely to ascend to the Presidency of our Apex Court. May it be so.

Also joining the historic gathering where officials/ partners from the United Nations Development Fund, the European Union, the mighty US Embassy Drug Enforcement Agency. Honorable Linda Dobbs friend of our C.J. from the International Law Book Facility which has donated container load of books to our Courts. Also, Honorable Alice Yorke Soo Hon, President of the Appeal Court of Turks and Caicos. So too our friend Paula Lewellyn, Jamacia's Director of Public Prosecution, and our own D.D.P. Cherylyn Vidal. Our hero the indefatigable Simeon Samson S.C.

And our beloved Justice Antoinette Moore who by now should have been appointed Deputy Chief Justice and placed in charge of the criminal section of our Supreme Court/ Senior Court. All our other judges, Magistrates and Crown Council and prosecutors.

Then there were the criminal defence attorneys. They had planned not to be present as they are unhappy with a few judges whom they claim are wrongly denying bail to scores of our people over a misinterpretation of the words "special reason". But thanks to Justice Derick Sylvestre they turned up, 10 out of 28 seasoned defence lawyers, imagined having a major conference on improving Criminal Justice and having no defence lawyers. Respect to Judge Sylvestre.

The opening ceremony of the conference was a smashing success. The Leader of the Opposition attended, so too the Governor General. They flanked

our hardworking Attorney General who has recently given the courts several progressive legislations providing for alternative sentences, plea bargaining, expunging conviction records. In praising his prodigious Attorney General our Prime Minister said Anthony recently obtained Cabinet's approval for a first of its kind Bail Act which will be rolled out for consultation with stake holders.

It is the Prime Minister's speech which inspired this column. In his official remarks, Hon. Johnny elicited laughter from an otherwise austere looking audience. He said he had good news and bad news. The good news was that Belize is blessed with so much beauty and an astonishing place to visit. The bad news is that the conference agenda is so packed with work that

our distinguished invitees won't get a chance to see the uniqueness of Belize. Then the Prime Minister shifted gear. He told a tale, a sad narrative that bears repeating- no, that bears legislative intervention. It exposes how magistrates and judges are handcuffed by the very laws they extol. It punctured mandatory sentences, it underscored the "insolence of office and the law's delay".

Johnny Briceño, Prime Minister of this nation told the august gathering that once upon a sad day in Orange Walk, a minor was arrested for carnal knowledge of another minor. At trial he received the mandatory sentence of TWELVE years in jail (a life ruined). His family appealed. The appeal took over SEVEN years. The judges and magistrates at the conference were becoming

uneasy. They could not discern where the Prime Minister was heading with this serious critique. Will he chastise the cold heartedness of the courts. The failure to follow Shakespeare's "the quality of mercy is not strained..." It would be C.C.J. Judge, Honorable Winston Anderson who said law and courts exist for justice. It is the reason we lawyers are at odds with some bail Judges. Even if parliament's misguided efforts are to lock up people, the Judges are the guardians of our constitutional rights. And liberty is our second most sacred right.

Hon. Johnny Briceño was smooth. When he reverted back to first gear, instead of crying shame on the courts, he matter - of - factly mentioned his hopes that such days are in the past. The sighs of relief were palpable.

Needham's Point Declaration has come to Belize. Welcome sister, your visit has been long overdue. You will our Prime Minister and Cabinet approval.



CENTRAL BANK
of BELIZE

The Central Bank of Belize (Central Bank), in accordance with Section 57 (1) of the Central Bank of Belize Act, Revised Edition 2020, intends to appoint an external auditor for the audit of its Accounts for the upcoming three-year cycle commencing January 1, 2025.

The Central Bank invites eligible firms authorized to practice as public auditors in Belize to submit tenders comprising technical and financial proposals. It is expected that the firm can demonstrate that it has previous experience in providing auditing services to medium or large size organizations.

Tenders must be submitted to the Central Bank via email to:

Email address: internal.audit@centralbank.org.bz

Subject Line: "Firm Name" - Tender for Auditing Services

Tenders must be received by the Central Bank no later than 4:00 p.m., on 13 September 2024.

For inquiries regarding the scope of work, please contact the Chief Internal Auditor, Central Bank of Belize, at phone number: (501) 223-6194 or email: internal.audit@centralbank.org.bz. A "Guideline for Audit Bidding" sheet will be provided upon request.

We look forward to your submission.

Belize advances in integration of asylum-seekers

BELMOPAN, Belize – Seven asylum-seekers in Belize have been granted Permanent Residency Cards, officially recognizing their legal status in the country. The residency cards were distributed on 2nd September during an Amnesty Ceremony at the University of Belize Conference Center in Belmopan City, Cayo District.

Hon. John Briceño, The Prime Minister of Belize, Ms. Tanya Santos, the CEO of the Ministry of Immigration, Ms. Dayna Blades, the Director of the Nationality and Passports Department, Mr. Nikolai Zelaya, the Director of the Refugees Department, Jose Samaniego, UNHCR Regional Director for the Americas and Jose Egas, Representative for UNHCR's Multi-Country Office covering Aruba, Belize, Cuba, Curacao, Guyana, Nicaragua, Panama, Suriname, & Trinidad & Tobago and Myrat Myradov, Head of National Office attended the ceremony.

The Belize Amnesty Programme provided asylum seekers and irregular migrants with an alternative pathway to permanent residency. The registration phase concluded on 31 March 2023, resulting in 12,765 applications, including 737 applications under asylum seeker criteria. The Government is finalizing approvals and issuing per-

manent residency cards; close to 400 asylum seekers have received residency cards.

"UNHCR commends the Government of Belize for its regional leadership in addressing forced displacement and providing durable solutions. With their new permanent residency, asylum-seekers—who viewed Belize as a place to rebuild their lives—can now fully integrate and contribute to the country's vibrant and diverse society," expressed Jose Samaniego, UNHCR Regional Director for the Americas.

UNHCR has partnered with the Government of Belize to support refugees and asylum-seekers since the 1980s. The Amnesty marks a significant step in protecting and stabilizing vulnerable populations.

UNHCR's Regional Director for the



Americas and UNHCR's Multi-Country Office Representative are in Belize on a four-day visit that includes meetings with the Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade,

CEO of the Ministry of Immigration, Director of Refugees Department, MIRPS National Technical Team, Diplomatic Corps, UNCT, Refugee organizations, and UNHCR partners. (release)



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Consultancy services to develop rules for resilient and economic dispatch for the Power Sector of Belize

Institution: Ministry of Finance, **Economic Development** and Investment
Country: Belize
Project: Belize Renewable Integration and Resilient Energy System Project
Sector: Energy
Abstract: The project's implementation includes the procurement of several contracts that falls in the following categories: goods, consulting (individuals and firms) and non-consulting services to increase the supply of electricity consumption from renewable energy sources to achieve the target set out in the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) of 75% of gross electricity generation from renewables by 2030.

Grant No.: TFC2805-BZ
Process ID: BZ-CEU-381683-CS-INDV
Deadline: Thursday September 26, 2024; on or before 10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time)

The Government of Belize has received financing from the World Bank (WB), and it intends to apply part of the proceeds to payments for goods, consulting (individuals and firms) and non-consulting services to be procured under the project Belize Renewable Integration and Resilient Energy System Project. Bidding will be governed by the World Bank's eligibility rules and procedures.

Objectives:

The objective of the consultancy is to consult with all Stakeholders and adopt relevant international best practice to produce suitable rules for economic dispatch for the power system (generation and network facilities) that consider normal and extreme operating conditions and seek to minimize costs of electricity service to consumers meeting applicable criteria on reliability and increased resilience.

The Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment now invites suitably qualified firms ("Consultants") to submit an Expression of Interest. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.

The complete terms of reference may be requested from Therese Johnston, Procurement Specialist Assistant, at tjohnston.ceu@med.gov.bz during the hours of 8:00am – 4:00pm Mon - Fri.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form (1 PDF file) to the email address tjohnston.ceu@med.gov.bz by **Thursday September 26, 2024, on or before 10:00 am Belize Time**. Subject must include – Consultancy Services to develop rules for resilient and economic dispatch for the power sector of Belize - **name of Consulting Firm**.

Therese Johnston
 Procurement Specialist Assistant
 Central Executing Unit to the Ministry of Economic Development
 #1904 Constitution Drive, 2nd Floor
 Belmopan City, Cayo District, Belize
 E-mail: tjohnston.ceu@med.gov.bz
 Tel: 501-822-4106

IV Round of Migration Talks Between Belize and The Republic of Cuba

Belmopan, 29th August 2024.

The IV Round of Migration Talks between Belize and the Republic of Cuba were held in Belize City on 29th August 2024.

Both delegations provided an analysis of the migration flows and trends between both countries and exchanged information on the number of migrants traveling through Belize and Cuba. Each country highlighted the challenges they face in regard to regular and irregular migration flows between nationals of both countries. They stress the challenges regarding the use of fraudulent documentation and the increase of third country nationals that travel through Belize and Cuba.

Belize and Cuba highlighted the continuing trends in irregular migrations flows through the Central American region and reiterated their commitment to working together to ensure the rights of migrants are protected and respected.

Both countries committed to exchanging information to strengthen the collaboration in the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), signed between both countries in 2023, and exchange relevant information that will allow for safer migration flows between both countries and at the regional level.

Cuba committed to hosting the next migrations talks in Cuba in 2026. (release)



PUP Ready for 74th Anniversary with Strong Candidates

Dear Editor,

As the People's United Party (PUP) approaches its 74th anniversary, it is clear that the party is more prepared than ever to continue serving the people of Belize. With only three more candidates left to be endorsed, the PUP is poised to present a strong and united team as we enter this milestone year.

The PUP's rich history of championing the rights and well-being of Belizeans is a legacy that continues to inspire. As we approach this birthday moment, the party's dedication to progress and development remains unwavering. The endorsement of candidates across the country signals a readiness to address the challenges ahead with renewed vigor and a clear vision for the future.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister John Briceño, the PUP has demonstrated its commitment to transparency, economic growth, and social justice. The upcoming endorsements will only strengthen the party's resolve to deliver on its promises and build a better Belize for all.

As we celebrate 74 years of the PUP, let us look forward with optimism, knowing that the party is ready, capable, and fully equipped to lead Belize into a more prosperous future.

Sincerely,
Proud Belizean

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICES:

Notice is hereby given that **Elenita L. Castillo** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at "**Rosita's Mini Shop**" located on Nightingale Street, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Aleena Forte** is applying for a **Beer Liquor License** to be operated at "**U & I Shake Shaq**" located at # 44 Asuncion Street, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Julio Cesar Herrera** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at "**Celi Shop**" located in San Martha Village, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **James F. Martinez** is applying for a **Beer Liquor License** to be operated at "**James Fast Food**" located in Trial Farm Village, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

IN THE MATTER OF THE FORESTS RESERVES (MANATEE FOREST RESERVE) & (SIBUN FOREST RESERVE) ORDERS

The Government of Belize is strengthening collaboration between Government ministries, namely; Ministry of Sustainable Development & Climate Change, and Ministry of Natural Resources, Petroleum and Mining, and local Non- Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

To achieve this, a temporary task force has been formed constituting Government stakeholders and NGOs (*Panthera Belize, Programme for Belize, The Belize Zoo and Tropical Education Centre, Wildlife Conservation Society Belize, Foundation for Wildlife Conservation, Belize Maya Forest Trust and Monkey Bay Wildlife Sanctuary*).

The task force is charged with reviewing legislation and regulations concerning Belize's forest reserves in light of global conservation standards, best practices and sustainability. The task force will make recommendations on amendments to legislation and regulations, boundaries for existing forest reserves, further reservation of forests or de-reservation of forest areas, land tenure within forest reserves and enforcement of rules and regulations within forest reserves, among other things.

The most urgent issues that the task force will address are illegal squatting, farming, animal rearing and logging within forest reserves, specifically the Manatee Forest Reserve.

These illegal and unauthorized activities have caused soil degradation and deforestation that contributed to recent floods affecting the Coastal Highway in the Belize and Stann Creek Districts. These activities also threaten the connectivity of Belize's protected areas system that is key for the health of our biodiversity and watersheds.

Immediate action is being organized to stop all illegal and unauthorized activities within forest reserves, specifically the Manatee Forest Reserve. Support from other Government stakeholders and NGOs and co-operation from those persons who are in breach of the forest reserve laws is being requested.(release)



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Consultancy services for Rapid Biological, Environmental and Social Assessment at the Ladyville BESS Site, John Smith Road

Institution: Ministry of Finance, **Economic Development** and Investment
Country: Belize
Project: Belize Renewable Integration and Resilient Energy System Project
Sector: Energy
Abstract: The project's implementation includes the procurement of several contracts that falls in the following categories: goods, consulting (individuals and firms) and non-consulting services to increase the supply of electricity consumption from renewable energy sources to achieve the target set out in the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) of 75% of gross electricity generation from renewables by 2030.

Grant No.: TFC2805-BZ
Process ID: BZ-CEU-381687-CS-INDV
Deadline: Friday September 13, 2024; on or before 10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time)

The Government of Belize has received financing from the World Bank (WB), and it intends to apply part of the proceeds to payments for goods, consulting (individuals and firms) and non-consulting services to be procured under the project Belize Renewable Integration and Resilient Energy System Project. Bidding will be governed by the World Bank's eligibility rules and procedures.

Objectives:
The objective of this consultancy will be to carry the following at Ladyville:

- a) a Rapid Biological and Social Assessment (RBSA) of the flora and fauna to obtain baseline data on the presence, distribution, and relative abundance of biodiversity on the site (with special emphasis on species of conservation interest; and socio-economic data).
- b) consult with BEL on the proposed location of the BESS at Ladyville and provide an initial assessment of the potential environmental impacts of the proposed development at the site
- c) consult with BEL on the proposed location of the BESS at Ladyville an assessment of the potential socioeconomic impacts of the proposed development at the site
- d) considering a) to c) above determine the actions that can be taken in line with the Mitigation Hierarchy in accordance with relevant laws and regulations of the GoB and with the relevant standards of the World Bank Environmental and Social Framework

The Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment now invites suitably qualified firms ("Consultants") to submit an Expression of Interest. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The complete terms of reference may be requested from Therese Johnston, Procurement Specialist Assistant, at tjohnston.ceu@med.gov.bz during the hours of 8:00am – 4:00pm Mon - Fri.

Call for Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form (1 PDF file) to the email address tjohnston.ceu@med.gov.bz by **Friday September 13, 2024**, on or before 10:00 am Belize Time. Subject must include – Rapid Biological, Environmental and Social Assessment at Ladyville - **name of Consulting Firm**.

Therese Johnston
Procurement Specialist Assistant
Central Executing Unit to the Ministry of Economic Development
#1904 Constitution Drive, 2nd Floor
Belmopan City, Cayo District, Belize
E-mail: tjohnston.ceu@med.gov.bz
Tel: 501-822-4106

Belize Defence Force History - First Female Pilot!



The Belize Defence Force is proud to announce their first ever female pilot – 2Lt Julia Puerto.

2Lt Puerto has been in training at the Caribbean Military Academy, School of Aviation since 9 January 2023, and officially graduated on 3 September 2024.

2Lt Puerto went through initial ground school training before completing Primary Flight Training (Phase 1) and Primary Flight Training Extended (Phase 2) in a Diamond DA-40 Fixed Wing aircraft. She then went on to Phase 3 which is rotary flying in a Bell 505 helicopter.

2Lt Puerto expresses her gratitude for the opportunity to attend such a prestigious course and pursue her dream of becoming an aviator. She also expresses her foremost gratitude for God's enduring blessings, and to her family and friends who supported her throughout this journey. Present at this historic moment was 2LT Puerto's mother, who traveled from Orange Walk to proudly pin her wings.

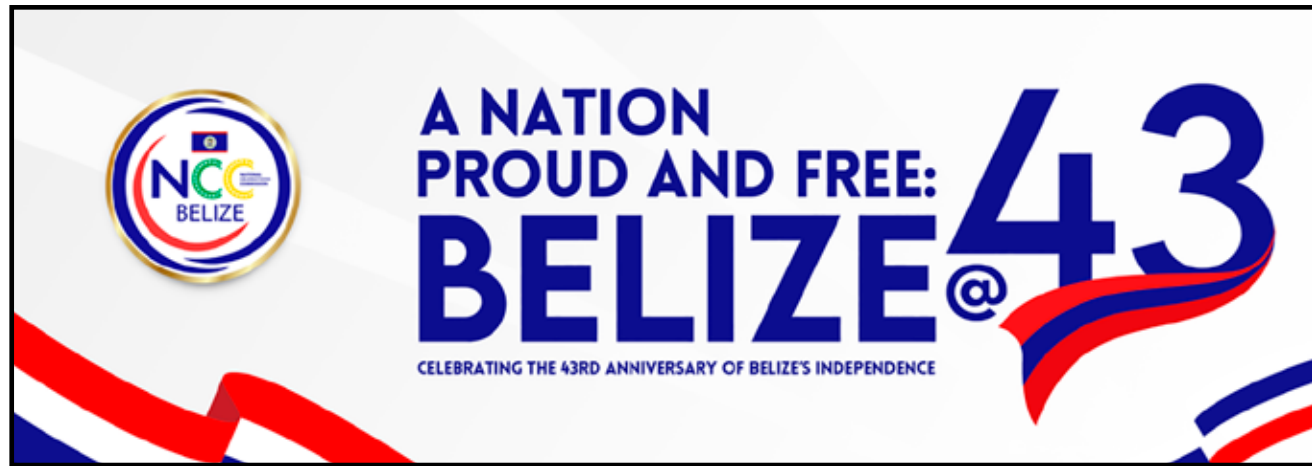
Congratulations 2Lt Puerto! We wish you clear skies and favourable winds throughout your aviation career!(post)

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICES:

Notice is hereby given that **Wendy Montesinos** is applying for a **Night Club Liquor License** to be operated at "**Sin Fronteras**" located in San Estevan Village, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Fidelia Tun/Diego Torres** are applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at "**A & F Shop**" located in San Jose Palmar Village, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Jovan Espadas** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at "**Mile 53 Palapa Bar & Grill**" located at # 9 Pomona Street, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE DESIGN & SUPERVISION OF THE BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS (BESS) INSTALLATION

Institution: Ministry of Finance, **Economic Development** and Investment
Country: Belize
Grant Name: Belize Renewable Integration and Resilient Energy System Project
Sector: Energy
Abstract: The project's implementation includes the procurement of several contracts that falls in the following categories: goods, consulting (individuals and firms) and non-consulting services to increase the supply of electricity consumption from renewable energy sources to achieve the target set out in the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) of 75% of gross electricity generation from renewables by 2030.

Grant No.: TFC2805-BZ
Process ID: BZ-CEU-429313-CS-QCBS
Deadline: Tuesday September 17, 2024; on or before 2:00 p.m. (Local Belize Time)

The Government of Belize has received financing from the World Bank (WB), and it intends to apply part of the proceeds to payments for goods, consulting (individuals and firms) and non-consulting services to be procured under the grant Belize Renewable Integration and Resilient Energy System Project. Bidding will be governed by the World Bank's eligibility rules and procedures.

Objectives:

The objective of this consultancy is to provide support and advice to the CEU to the Ministry of Economic Development, and the Ministry of Public Utilities, Energy, Logistics and E-governance, as appointed by Government of Belize (GoB), in all phases of the implementation of the BESS for this project for the power sector of the country as per GoB and World Bank guidelines and rules.

The Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment now invites eligible consulting firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.

From the expressions of interest received, the Executing Agency will prepare a short list comprising not fewer than five (5) and not more than eight (8) eligible firms.

Consultants will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank: [Procurement-Regulations-September-2023.pdf \(worldbank.org\)](#) and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the policies.

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

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the QCBS method set out in the Consultant Policies.

For further information & Expression of Interest template may be requested via email during the hours of 8:00am – 4:00pm Mon - Fri.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form (1 PDF file) to the email address tjohnston.ceu@med.gov.bz by **Tuesday, September 17, 2024**, on or before 2:00 pm Belize Time. Subject must include – **Consultancy Services for the Design & Supervision of the Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) Installation - name of Consulting Firm.**

Therese Johnston
 Procurement Specialist Assistant
 Central Executing Unit to the Ministry of Economic Development
 #1904 Constitution Drive, 2nd Floor
 Belmopan City, Cayo District, Belize
 E-mail: tjohnston.ceu@med.gov.bz cc rpascascio.ceu@med.gov.bz
 Tel: 501-822-4106



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