



# Capital Weekly

*From the Heart of the Nation to the Soul of the People*



No. 002

Sunday, January 23, 2011

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## *Superbond Strikes Again!*

### **Another 33 Million Gone!**



*Said Musa, the man who carried the name of Prime Minister when the National Debt got out of hand*



*Ralph Fonseca, the man who ran the country's finances, first as Minister of Budget, then as Minister of Finance*



*Mark Espat, the Architect of the Superbond, now wants to be Leader, but has serious intra-party difficulties*



*Johnny Briceno, was Musa's Deputy Prime Minister, now wants to be Prime Minister*

## **We Can't Forget The Past**

### *When We Are Paying In The Present*

### **And Will Continue to Pay in the Future**

Let's preface this story by stating that this is not politics; it is 'bread and butter' to every Belizean man, woman and child.

Let's paraphrase that and say, it is politics only to the extent that it is one set of politicians who got us into this bind, and another set of politicians who must now find the money to get us out of it.

The money they must find is, of course, the Belizean people's money, our money. And the bind we're speaking of is that infamous Super-Bond that is the legacy of the last administration.

It's a story that members of that administration,

especially those seeking to get back into office, would like us to forget, and they are fond of stating that the current administration must move on and forget the past.

But how can we forget the past, when it is costing us so many millions in the present and will continue to cost us so many millions more well into the future?

We must recap a little of the history about this onerous Super Bond; but first the latest news, which is that another \$33 Million will become due in less than a month, on February 20, 2011.

And by August of this year, when the next semi-annual

payment is due, we will have to fork up 47 Million all at once, as the interest would have increased from 6% to 8.5%.

Speaking of which, we must remind you that, notwithstanding the enormous burden we've been bearing over the past few years, it is only the interest that we have been paying up to this point, and that is all we'll continue to pay up until 2019.

Imagine how much more painful it will be when payments on the principal kick in.

That will first happen on August 20, 2019 when the first bullet payment on the

principal becomes due. That bullet payment, combined with the continuing payment on the interest, will take the debt servicing up to over 100 Million every six months.

In other words, when combined with the continued payments on the interest, those bullet payments (to repay the principal) would take the annual debt servicing payments up to over 200 Million a year, since such payments must be made, not once, but twice every year.

As Prime Minister Hon. Dean Barrow noted in his Budget Speech last year, the

*(Continued on page 18)*

# Editorial

## *Unity of Purpose*



**Delroy Cuthkelvin**  
*Chairman, Editorial Board*

**T**wenty Ten was no easy year for Belizeans, and Twenty Eleven promises to be no easier, as the New Year has already brought with it some new and not so new challenges, putting to test our resolve as a People and a Nation.

The uncertainty in the Cruise Tourism Industry, despite the Prime Minister and his Government's best efforts to secure a new and favourable deal for tender operators; a hell of a time in Pomona Valley, as hitherto irreconcilable differences put the Citrus Industry in peril and the jobs and livelihood of hundreds of farmers, field workers and factory employees on the line, the Prime Minister having again stepped in to quell tensions and hopefully broker a workable compromise and a viable way forward; the level of Crime and Violence, though showing signs of a possible downward trend, still unacceptably high.

Again, no one said it was going to be easy, and it surely isn't. What the Prime Minister *did* say and affirm in his New Year's Address is that the 2011

agenda is nevertheless filled with good things, and that in the course of ups and downs, fluctuating fortunes and dramatic shifts, the one constant thing is Belizean pride and patriotism.

Belizean Patriotism and National Pride are no vain or hollow attributes or dogma. They are invaluable virtues founded on the unconquerable faith and the firm conviction that we are indeed the best nation on Earth; that the Creator, through nature, has blessed us with such wealth untold because he has a purpose for this small but potentially powerful nation as a beacon, an example and an inspiration for our challenged region and our troubled world.

Consider the outstanding example in disaster management we have set for other counties in our region, including our most powerful neighbour and ally to the North, whose own independent media and historians have labelled and recorded Hurricane Katrina as the best (or worst) example of how NOT to handle the humanitarian aspect of a natural disaster.

For us, Hurricane Richard was perhaps the best, though only one of the many examples of how a government committed to the wellbeing of its people, and the people themselves committed to their fellow citizens, can weather,

overcome and recover from any storm, natural or man-made, despite our limited resources and our relative under-developed status as a young nation.

That, indeed, is Compassion and Competence, but it is also National Pride and Patriotism; the kind of Patriotism that our musical artists and poets sing and write about, but also the kind of Patriotism and National Pride that literally see the word made flesh as we band together and work in concert to preserve life and limb, to relieve families, reconstruct homes, rebuild communities and restore purpose.

It's an example we've set not just for others, but also for ourselves; for, indeed, if we take this model which we ourselves have established in disaster management and adopt it to every other challenge confronting us, we will for sure see substantial progress on all fronts in 2011.

If we all work together, Police, Community, Churches, Schools and Social Organizations, this could well be the year that we finally break the back of Crime and Violence.

This unity of purpose is also the only way forward for Belizean tender operators and employees in the Tourism Industry, for selfishness and division cannot secure victory in the path of the advancing cruise-ships in 2011 any more than it would have against the assault by the Spanish vessels in 1798.

And, for sure, the only way the Citrus Industry will move forward for the benefit of the entire Country is if our brothers and sisters in the South follow the example of those in the North, putting their differences aside and resolving to work in concert

to secure their own livelihood and that of all others involved in the industry.

Again, it surely helps to have a compassionate and understanding leader who, notwithstanding the enormity of the challenge in every instance, has not hesitated to step in, to save the day and to point the way forward.

But as has been proven in the Sugar Industry and in Disaster Management, it is only the commitment and hard work of every individual, every organization and every community, that will see us survive, overcome and, indeed, prosper.

Let us tackle and topple the colossal challenges of the New Year with the wisdom and experience we acquired in **2010** and prior, and with the unity of purpose that is our only hope in 2011 and beyond!

### Capital Weekly

*From the Heart of the Nation  
To the Soul of the People*

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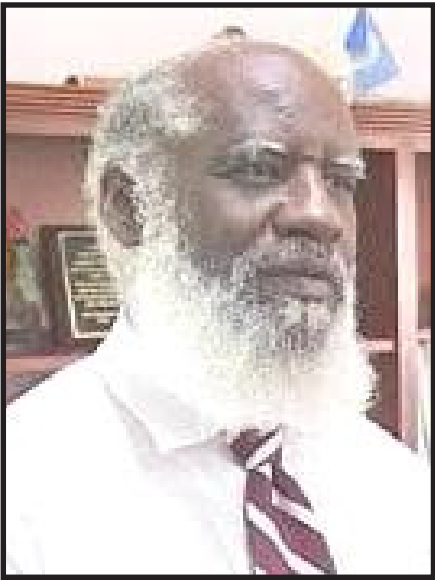
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# Aid for Trade

## Big Conference Comes to Belize



Wilfred "Sedi" Elrington  
Minister of Foreign Affairs and  
Foreign Trade,

It's a big event! Big people, big ideas, and big benefits if the big plans eventually pay off! It's the **Aid for Trade** Conference which takes place this Friday January 21, 2011, at the Fort George Hotel in Belize City.

It's got rhyme all right, and reason all the more, as the strategy to be unveiled is one which its architects say is intended to revolutionize the entire concept of foreign assistance to our developing nation; one that will see us not as hopeless dependents, but as key participants in a dynamic global economy.

The conference will be opened by Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Hon. Wilfred Elrington. Quite fitting, indeed, since Sedi, as he is affectionately known, is a successful, well-respected attorney, but a revolutionary nonetheless.

A strong reminder of the constructive revolutionary in this seasoned attorney, long-time social activist turned Cabinet Minister, came in an address he delivered in Venezuela almost a year and

a half ago on this very same topic. The address was titled: *"The Role of Aid for Trade in Addressing Trade Disadvantages"* and is reproduced elsewhere in this publication (**Page 12**).

But, for a preview of the big conference on Friday, we turn to CEO in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Alexis Rosado, who is himself a major player in the economically revolutionary strategy brilliantly dubbed "Aid for Trade", and in the conference being held to unveil it.

In an interview with the Government Press Office's Rudy Aguilar, Rosado made the following remarks:

*"The whole idea of Aid for Trade is to assist in putting trade as an integral part of our developmental strategy and our development agenda.*

*Trade, we recognize, is an important engine for growth and for development. In the past, in our development strategies, we have tended to recognize that; but we have referred to trade in passing, really; we have not given it the level of importance and priority that we feel it deserves.*

*With all the various studies, research and planning that have been taking place over the past two years, we have now managed to put trade, international trade, as a more important pillar of the development process.*

*We believe that by getting assistance from abroad to*

*help us to develop our capacities, develop our infrastructure, develop our standards, develop our capacity to penetrate markets abroad, we should be able to contribute to the creation of employment to better social cohesion and to growth and prosperity in the country generally.*

*So it's not just about receiving aid, it's also about us doing what is necessary to take that leap forward in our productive sector as well."*

*The Belizean public needs to know that the Government of Belize is doing all it can to assist the private sector to be able to have an environment that allows them to grow, that allows them to find markets for their products, that assists them in accessing markets, that helps in clearing the way for our products to be able to enter into other markets.*

*We are doing our best, and everything we have set out to do has been done in consultation with the private sector and the public sector, so that we could identify certain priorities, certain goals, so that we can all be on board, we could all be singing from the same hymn sheet when we talk with our international partners."*

*"There are many countries, there are many international institutions that are willing to assist Belize, that are willing to help us, but at the end of the day, we need to know what it is we want to*



Alexis Rosado  
CEO, Ministry of Foreign  
Affairs and Foreign Trade

*do. The whole idea behind this is that we want to achieve prosperity for the Belizean people generally and we hope that with this we will be able to achieve some of that."*

The Aid for Trade Conference is a one day event which starts at 9:00 AM Friday January 21, at the Radisson Fort George Hotel in Belize City, and culminates with a press conference scheduled for 2:30 in the afternoon. Officially opened by Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade Hon. Wilfred "Sedi" Elrington, it will feature a number of insightful speakers, both local and international.

The conference and the strategy which it is all about, are being coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and includes a number of line ministries and agencies such as the Ministry of Agriculture, Belize Agriculture Health Authority (BAHA) and the Bureau of Standards.

**Capital Weekly**

From the Heart of the Nation  
To the Soul of the People

# At Last!

## *Massive Expansion and Upgrade of Airports and Airstrips Countrywide*



*Hon. Manuel Heredia, Minister of Tourism & Civil Aviation*

ment. That's exactly what is coming at long last!

In fact, the expansion and improvement is already underway and is about to move to a grander scale, according to the Managing Director of the Belize Broadcasting Authority (BAA), Kenworth Tillett, who was making the rounds throughout the media this past week to inform the public of the works that are underway and those that are about to begin.

*"Basically, the authority has to upgrade and expand several of the airstrips across Belize, in*

*particular the Belize Municipal, which is clearly in need of an expansion and as you can see, it is in fairly bad condition,"* Tillett told Channel Seven News in an interview.

There are basically two massive expansion and improvement projects that are about to begin. One is for rehabilitation and upgrade of the San Pedro Airport, the other for the expansion of the Belize City Municipal Airport.

The San Pedro Project is a \$3.1 Million

*(Continued on page 5)*

*"Is that where we're going to land?"* That was the question—more like a remark of astonishment—I once heard from a tourist as a local flight I was on began its descent to one of our local airstrips in Belize.

Anyone who has ever travelled from one point to another in Belize, other than the Phillip Goldson International Airport, will readily agree our country's network of local airports and airstrips needs major expansion and improve-



*What Belize City Municipal Airport will look like when the expansion and upgrade are completed*



# At Last!

## Massive Expansion and Upgrade of Airports and Airstrips Countrywide

(Continued from page 4)

investment that is expected to be completed within a six to eight month period. This project is a cooperative effort between Cocesna and The Belize Airports Authority.

(Cocesna has already partnered with the BAA in funding both the Dangriga and Corozal project, and now the San Pedro Airport. It is an International Organization that promotes Central American Integration, and provides Air Navigation Services, Aeronautical Safety, Aeronautical

Training and other related services, to its member countries.)

To implement the other project in Belize City, funds are being borrowed from abroad, which is why the BAA will have to start tacking on an additional \$5.00, called a "Rider" fee, on all airfares for passengers travelling within the country.

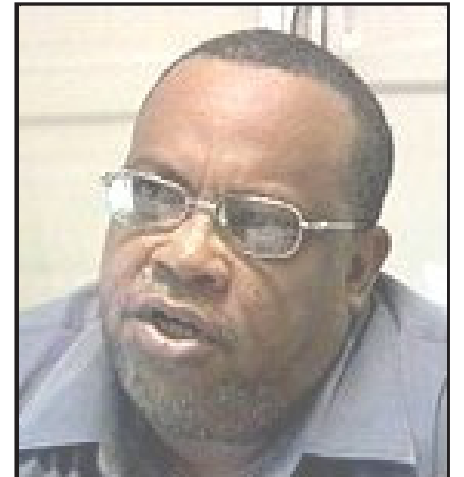
"We have no subsidies or any other kind of budget to do this, so for safety purposes we must upgrade and we must expand, and therefore we need to seek funding to do

it," Tillett explained.

"And whenever you do that, you need to pay off the loans that you are going to acquire. In the better interest of the flying public we have instituted this "rider" to meet these obligations.

At the point of purchase a customer will be charged in the ticket booth a \$5.00 rider for the purchase of that fare.

Nobody likes to implement any kind of taxes, and certainly it would not be in the best interest of everybody just to levy a tax, but it is very



Kenworth Tillett,  
Managing Director, BAA

important that we work on these airstrips, that we bring the system up to some safety standard, and we have to pay for it, so we have to levy these taxes."

The Belize Airports Authority is a Statutory Body in the Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation and Culture. The current cabinet minister with responsibility for this portfolio is Hon. Manuel Heredia, elected representative of Belize Rural South Division, in which the popular tourism destination of San Pedro is located.

Upon its appointment in 2008, the current BAA Board began developing a Master Plan for the upgrade of the entire system of aerodromes. A grant was



Anthony Thurton & Associates Ltd.  
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Mile 11, Western Highway, Belize City, Belize

PROPOSED MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

Another angle of the design model for the expanded and upgraded Belize Municipal Airport

(Continued on page 10)

# “Belize Was The Wealthiest Settlement In The Caribbean”

## *Could We Be Poised To Regain That Position ?*

Last week we reported on the fact that coming out of the recession, Belize’s modest growth rate of 2.4 percent, projected to increase to 3.7 percent this year, is actually the highest in the entire Caribbean at this point. We know very well that does not at all mean we are the wealthiest nation in the region. But we once were, according to a respected historian who this past week delivered a lecture in the nation’s capital, Belmopan on the Campus of the University of Belize.

Professor Victor Bulmer Thomas, who will soon be launching a book in which he compares the Belize Economy over the past two hundred years with the rest of the Caribbean, told a packed hall of students, educators and other interested Belizeans, that Belize was not always one of the poorest countries in the Caribbean as it now is, ranking 22 out of 28 in descending order of wealth.

Doctor Bulmer contends—and supports his thesis with strong historical data—that Belize was once the wealthiest settlement in the entire Caribbean. He also presented strong arguments and data as to why Belize has over the past two hundred years fallen from that enviable position to its present standing in comparison to its regional allies.

All those who attended the lecture say they felt



*Doctor Victor Bulmer Thomas*

enlightened by the presentation, and most felt that Doctor Bulmer’s arguments were sound and well substantiated. Needless to say, we have neither the time nor space to fully

wealth. Our Nation Anthem tells us: “Nature has blessed thee with wealth untold.”

What we are also well aware of now is the fact that throughout the years many have come to this land and

But let’s not lose hope. It’s not where you are that matters most, but where you are headed. The independent statistics show that although Belize is admittedly in the Twenty First Century one of the poorest nations in the Caribbean, we have nevertheless emerged from the economic recession with the strongest economic growth in the same region.

If only we can continue this trend and ensure that such statistical growth converts into the social and human progress which Prime Minister Barrow spoke about in his New Year’s message, which he says such growth must underpin, Belize might well be poised to once again become one of the



*An Attentive Audience of Students, Educators and Senior Public Officers including Cabinet Secretary*

recount those arguments. Suffice it to say, it comes as no surprise to us, for we were always well aware of the fact that this little country of ours was fashioned and created in

exploited this natural wealth, while those who were born and bred here are systematically denied the opportunity to reap the full benefits.

wealthiest, if not the wealthiest, of countries in the Caribbean.

*(Continued on page 7)*



(Continued from page 6)

Doctor Bulmer was once a teacher forty years ago in Belize at St Michael's college. Two of his students at that time were Dean Barrow, now Prime Minister of Belize, and Wilfred 'Sedi' Elrington, currently the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade. Dr. Thomas has been a Director of the Royal Institute of International Affairs since April 2001. He is an Emeritus professor of Economics at the University of London and an Honorary Research Fellow with the University's Institute of



Among the audience, Mayor Simeon Lopez, Ambassador Bert Tucker and CEO Lawrence Sylvester



Some of our bright young minds absorbing knowledge about the Past as they prepare for the Future

Latin American Studies, where he was Director from 1992 to 1998. He has worked as a consultant with the European Commission, the United States Agency for International Development, and the Inter-American Development Bank. He was awarded the Order of the British Empire from the Queen in 1998. He currently lives in South East London.)

## Sports Update

### With Ismael "Miley" Garcia



Ismael "Miley" Garcia  
National Sports Coordinator  
Ministry of Sports

The latest news coming out of the Ministry of Sports in Belmopan is that the three-man committee appointed

by Minister of Sports Hon. John Saldivar to investigate the validity of elections conducted by the Football Federation of Belize (FFB) continues to carry out its mandate with great diligence.

As you know, the Minister of Sports had given that committee until January 28 to complete its investigations and submit its report to the Minister.

Well, we must inform you this week that the committee has since asked the Minister for some additional time, as it has been a little difficult for them to schedule all the meetings in a

timely manner with all the members of the different associations countrywide, since most of those individuals are gainfully employed and must first take care of their occupational obligations.

The Minister has therefore granted the committee the additional time it needs to thoroughly wrap up its investigations.

In other news, you will remember that in December Hon. John Saldivar declared open the annual inter-departmental dominoes tournament. Seven teams are participating, namely Ministry of Works, Police, BDF, Labour/NEMO, Fire/Fisheries, Natural Resources and Ministry of Public Service.

The regular season got underway last Thursday January 11, 2011 at the Belmopan Civic Center with two big games between Public Service (led by Hon. John Saldivar himself) and Labour/Nemo. As it turned out, Labour /NEMO came from behind to win this match with a score of 3014 to 2616.

Play continued on Tuesday, January 18 with first time action by Police versus BDF. The BDF got the better of the Police to come up with the big win of 3055 to 2371. And in the other match, Fire/Fisheries defeated Labour/NEMO 3001 to 2411. A

All are invited to come out every Tuesday and Thursday to the Belmopan Civic Center at 6:30 PM to witness more exciting games.

**50 Reasons To Be Thankful For The Past Year  
And To Be Hopeful In The New Year**

**1.** Belize Economy on the recovery, registering the strongest growth in the entire Caribbean at 2.4%. Projected to grow at 3.7% in the New Year.

**2.** Prime Minister and Government respond quickly to provide relief for Belizeans affected by Hurricane Richard. Prime Minister makes more than 3 Million available for immediate rebuilding, pledging that every person whose home was damaged or destroyed will have it repaired or rebuilt. Promise is being kept as over 900 homes have been repaired in the districts and over 200 in Belize City.

**3.** Government intervenes to safeguard the livelihood of over 30,000 persons in Sugar Industry. Prime Minister commits \$10 Million loan to the Industry, brings stakeholders together to sign a memorandum of understanding which has resulted in major improvement in the quality of cane delivered, thereby ensuring greater profitability. GOB also secures waiver from financial institution to which BSI is indebted thereby enabling BSI to draw down on the loan. Sugar crop already showing remarkable improvement in quality.

**4.** Government solves foreign exchange crisis in the Commercial Free Zone in Corozal, also saving hundreds of jobs in the North.

**5.** Wooden Bridge in San Ignacio/Santa Elena to be replaced with permanent structure; funds already approved by CDB

**6.** \$30 Million in new funds obtained to be spent in Belize City on infrastructure, poverty alleviation and employment for jobless persons and at risk youth.

**7.** \$350 Thousand Grant to small farmers for relief from Hurricane Richard, plus 4 Million from DFC made available to them.

**8.** 12 million dollars on small business and countrywide poverty alleviation projects via the Social Investment Fund; 62 million dollars in EU money for the Belize Rural Development Programme in the South, and Accompanying Measures for Sugar in the North.

**9.** Belize Telemedia Nationalized; company restructured; shares already sold to a number of Belizeans.

**10.** \$20 Million from Venezuela recovered, used to repair and build homes.

**11.** DFC restarted, providing loans to students and small business at very low interest (8 percent).

**12.** Farmers rebound from flooding disasters with Government's assistance; Taiwan assists rice production in Toledo; Belize now self-sufficient in grains, surplus exported.

**13.** Partial Scope Agreement allows Belizean exports to Guatemala

**14.** New agreement with Mexico to export Belizean beef and other products.

**15.** Subsidy for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Form students countrywide; automatically awarded to those in Stann Creek and Toledo; scholarships increased at all levels.

**16.** New buildings at Georgetown and Mopan Technical High, Lady of Guadeloupe, St. Ignatius High, Independence Sixth Form; new High School at Corozon Creek; new primary and secondary school buildings countrywide; computer labs at several schools.

**17.** Lynam re-opened (ANRI); Old Technical College restored; ITVET extended; UB expanded; Teacher-Training increased.

**18.** Improved performance in PSE (Primary) and External Exams (Secondary).

**19.** Paving of Placencia Road completed.

**20.** Last 9 miles of Southern Highway paved (Golden Stream to Big Falls) to complete project started by last UDP administration.

**21.** Highway to be paved from the Dump to Jalacte in Toledo.

**22.** Paving of Blue Creek, San Lazaro, San Estevan and Progreso Roads.



**50 Reasons To Be Thankful For The Past Year  
And To Be Hopeful In The New Year**

**23.** Over 100 Miles of Sugar Roads upgraded with EU Funds.

**24.** New Two-Lane Bridge at Middlesex completed.

**25.** Kendall already under construction with a new flood-resistant design; Mullins River replacement coming soon.

**26.** Albert and Regent Streets repaved; other streets upgraded and paved;

**27.** Roads and Highways improved and rehabilitated countrywide, with new culverts installed at many locations to improve drainage.

**28.** New bridges at Mexico Creek, Maypen and Rancho Dolores in Belize District.

**29.** New bridges at San Antonio/Cristo Rey, Santa Familia, Billy White, Macal Low-level Crossing, and Roaring River (Arizona) in Cayo.

**30.** Repaving of Bullet Tree Main Street.

**31.** Belize City Urban Rejuvenation Project provides hundreds of jobs; Municipal Infrastructure Projects in district towns funded by World Bank.

**32.** Crooked Tree gets water system; Burrell Boom water system upgraded, projects underway to provide potable water to 9 villages in Belize River Valley; another project provides water system for villages along the Old Northern Highway;

**33.** Cotton Tree, St. Matthews and Frank's Eddy connected to Belmopan Water System;

**34.** Water systems built or repaired in Hopkins, Seine Bight, Independence, Sittee River Sarawee, Placencia, and Monkey River.

**35.** New water Systems built in villages in all other districts throughout the country.

**36.** Electrification of villages in Banana Belt; PUC protects consumers, disapproves increase in electricity rates.

**37.** Marion Jones Stadium upgraded; Football field in Cayo being upgraded to FIFA standard; funds sought for World-Class Basketball Stadium.

**38.** New farmers' markets in Cayo, Belize City and Independence; state of the art slaughter house in Belize River Valley.

**39.** New Poly-clinic in Cayo; Western Regional Hospital refurbished and upgraded; new clinics and refurbished hospitals countrywide;

**40.** Affordable dialysis through WORTH;

**41.** Free medical treatment in Venezuela. (Mission Miracle)

**42.** NEMO made effective; Met Office gets new Doppler radar;

**43.** Public Transportation better regulated; Airports extended and upgraded.

**44.** Lands Department now transparent and efficient; thousands of Belizeans receive house lots and farmland.

**45.** IDB funds Tourism Infrastructure, Solid Waste and Land Management projects.

**46.** Belize's first ICT Centre built and established with funding from Taiwan.

**47.** Petroleum Resources now unequivocally and constitutionally owned by Government and People of Belize.

**48.** Recall Mechanism empowers voters to recall failed Area Representatives before General Elections.

**49.** Public Confidence in Government restored; Belize regains the trust of Bi-lateral and Multi-lateral partners.

**50.** Operation Restore Belize launched to restore social values, public safety and national pride.

# At Last!

## *Massive Expansion and Upgrade of Airports and Airstrips Countrywide*



*San Pedro Airstrip being upgraded with \$3.1 Million Project*

*(Continued from page 5)*

obtained from the International Development Bank (IDB), consultants were hired, and a master plan and design were drafted.

For the past 30 years no significant improvements had been made to Belize's local airstrips. Most of them were in poor condition, and they were potentially life-threatening.

The two local commercial carriers, Maya Island Air, and Tropic Air, with other private operations, sustain flourishing air transport activities of more than 120,000 operations each year (takeoffs and landings). Estimations are that in excess of 330,000 commer-



*Recently Upgraded Pelican Beach Airstrip in Dangriga*

cial passengers, most of them tourists, fly between seven of BAA's main airports as well as the Philip Goldson International Airport (PGIA).

The Belize Airports Authority is the regulatory authority for all publicly owned airports in Belize, with direct managerial and maintenance obligations for Fifteen (15) airstrips or airports, namely, Belize City Municipal Airstrip, Basil Jones Airstrip (inactive),

Central Farm Airstrip (Cayo), San Pedro Airstrip (Ambergris Caye), Melinda Airstrip (Stann Creek), Caye Caulker Airstrip, Punta Gorda Airstrip, Ranchito Airstrip (Corozal), Placencia Airstrip, Sarteneja (Corozal) Airstrip, Pelican

Hill Airstrip (Orange Walk).

This does not include the Phillip Goldson International Airport (PGIA), which is publicly owned but is leased to a private company that is in charge of all operations of that airport.

Considering the importance to the Tourism Industry and the safety and comfort of the local flying public, BAA believes it is imperative that these aerodromes be brought up to as modernized a state as possible.

Since its appointment in 2008, this current BAA Board has presided over the improvement and upgrading of the Pelican Airstrip in Dangriga and the Ranchito airstrip in Corozal. It is presently working on a major upgrade of the San Pedro Airstrip.



*Airplane taxiing on upgraded Pelican Beach Airstrip in Dangriga*

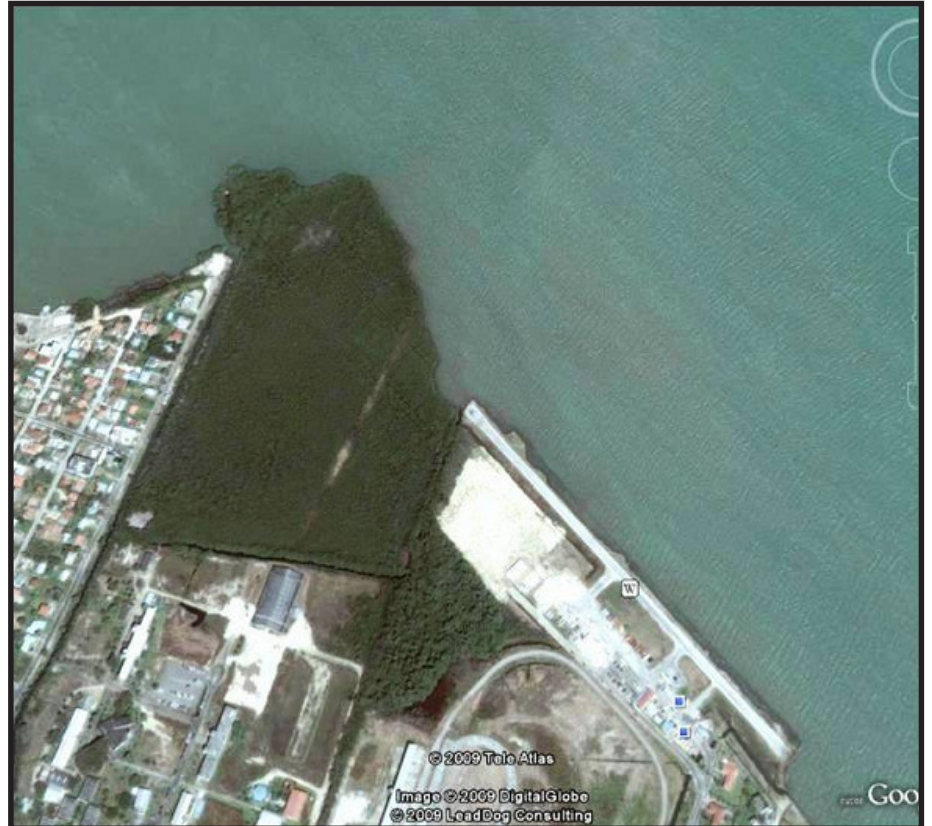


# At Last!

## *Massive Expansion and Upgrade of Airports and Airstrips Countrywide*



*The much-improved Airstrip in Ranchito, Corozal*



*Belize City Municipal Airstrip (Google Earth) soon to be extended*



### **BELIZE AIRPORTS AUTHORITY**

Belize City Municipal Airport  
Belize City, Belize  
P.O. Box 1572

Phone: 223-3784  
Fax: 223-4300  
E-mail: baa\_bema@yahoo.com

### **Belize Airports Authority Institutes Rider Fee**

**Belize City, Belize – January 15, 2011** - The Belize Airports Authority (BAA) today announced its implementation of a Rider fee on all airline tickets sold for local travel, in the country of Belize. Passengers are now obligated to pay an additional five dollar (\$5.00) fee wherever local airline tickets are purchased.

“This small fee has become necessary as the Authority seeks to secure loans to expand several airports in the country of Belize, including and most urgently and immediately, the Belize Municipal Airport,” says BAA Managing Director, Kenworth Tillett.

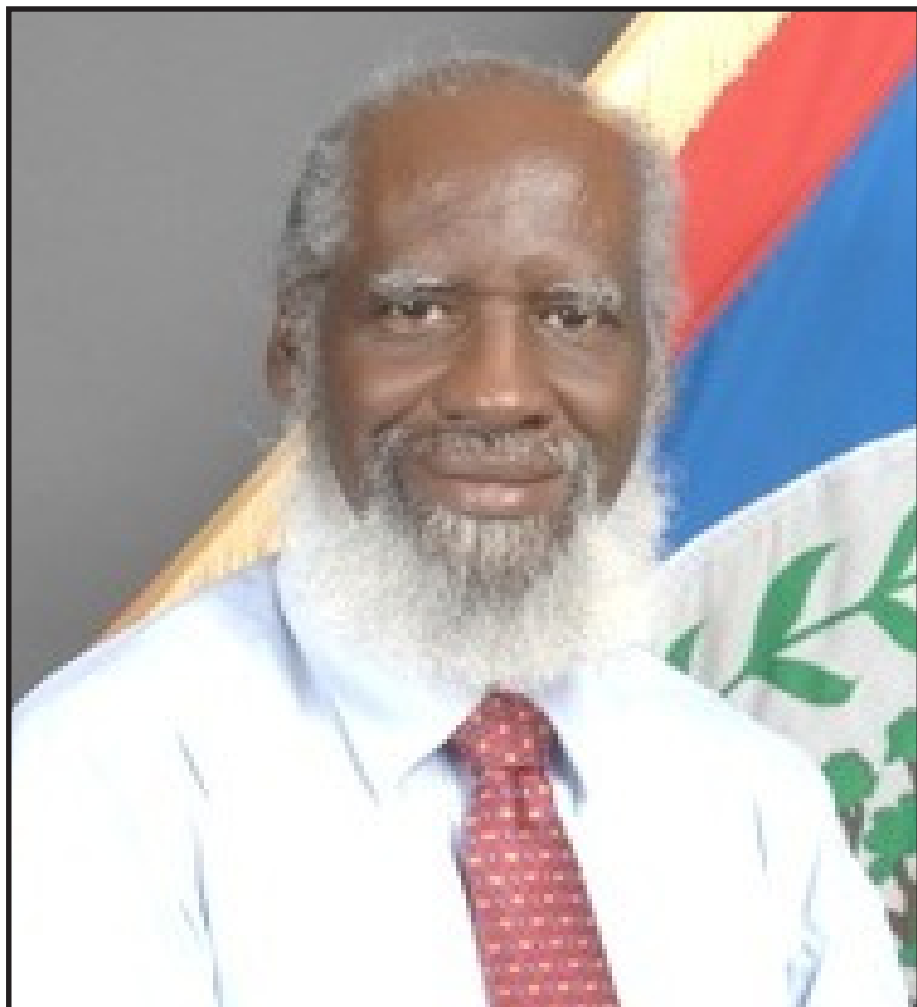
The BAA manages and maintains all public aerodromes in Belize with no subvention or funding from any external source. Capital improvements for the good and safety of the industry must be made and therefore utilizing Statutory Instrument No. 44 of 2010, which states **“Regulations made by the Minister responsible for Civil Aviation in consultation with the Belize Airports Authority, in exercise of the powers conferred upon him by section 36 of the Belize Airports Authority Act, Chapter 238 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000-2003,”** the Rider Fee has officially been implemented.

In corporation with COCESNA and the Government of Belize, the BAA, to date, has upgraded and improved; Corozal’s Ranchito Airport, Dangriga’s Pelican Airport and is currently working on the San Pedro Airport, all at no cost to the flying public and people of Belize.



# A Vision for National Development

## *Presentation on AID for TRADE by Hon. Wilfred Elrington in Caracas, Venezuela, at Consultations on Financial Crisis: Towards An Integrated Response, September 1-2, 2009*



*Hon. Wilfred "Sedi" Elrington  
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade*

### **Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Distinguished colleagues:**

Many thanks for this opportunity to participate in this important consultation on financial crisis and trade. The theme chosen - Towards an Integrated response is a most appropriate one.

Belize is blessed with a special history and location which places it as a bridge between two important sub regions linking the Caribbean and Central American peoples. We enjoy membership in both Caricom and SICA- the Central American integration movement, and have received great help and solidarity from both.

We have had a long history of interactions with many others - and we carry a deep yearning for strengthening and extending our relations with other countries of Our America because we share a common heritage and future. Today we once again take the opportunity to express our deepest gratitude.

An integrated response to our present financial crisis must

therefore begin within our national environments and simultaneously reach out, embrace and enhance our regional efforts at integration. We must cooperate to inform, organize and influence the continental global agenda in a spirit of mutuality and solidarity to achieve common economic and social progress.

Our vision begins with this reality and the acceptance of our responsibility to build our capacity and to make the links necessary to play our role fully.

Our commitment to engage and accompany our peoples in this transition through this recession and on to increased productivity, good social relations and cooperation and solidarity with all peoples.

Please allow me to share perspectives on Aid for trade its origins rationale and overview of operations and how it may be enhanced to help us move forward.

### **Aid for Trade:**

Although trade is an important engine of growth,

many of our developing countries face considerable supply-side constraints which limit the ability to participate effectively in global markets.

These constraints cover a wide range of issues spanning from deficiencies in vision and leadership, inadequate managerial and technical skills, weak institutional framework and gaps in public-private sector communication and coordination. In addition poor infrastructure, limited technology, finance, business support services, transportation, storage facilities and market information also pose tremendous difficulties to productive efforts.

Any combination of these may lead to a fragmented and hostile operating environment and ultimately limit capacity of countries and business and other productive entities to nurture ideas, perceive opportunities and to gear up and respond adequately.

Joseph Stiglitz in his Aid for Trade Report points out **"it is meaningless to give us [developing countries] tariff-free market entry if we are unable to use it."**

Recognizing this, the Ministerial Declaration in establishing the Doha Round of Trade negotiations in 2001 made technical assistance and capacity building a key component of the development dimension of the talks.

Aid for Trade was therefore initiated in 2005 within the WTO framework and recognized that:

(i) developing countries lack the basic infrastructure and capacity to take advantage of the market access opportunities resulting from trade negotiations;

(ii) changes in the international trading system have significant adjustment costs to developing countries;

(iii) existing aid programmes

have not been able to deal with these at all.

The establishment of Aid for Trade has helped to crystallize global attention on these long expressed needs. Through its programs it seeks to systematically assist developing countries to achieve better trade performance, to reduce trade costs, to enhance their competitiveness, increase their exports, achieve economic growth and contribute to poverty elimination.

In practical terms AFT finances:

(i) trade-related technical assistance;

(ii) trade-related infrastructure;

(iii) programs to develop productive capacity within developing countries to make sure that market access opportunities are seized.

In essence, AFT has both national and regional components and combines immediate action with a longer term perspective in targeting the vulnerabilities and creating the enabling environment for growth. In order to be more effective than existing aid programs AFT is challenged to create working partnerships and methodologies which values responsiveness and encourage ownership of the trade and aid initiatives by developing countries. This is vital if it is to move us from situations "where trade is possible - to making trade happen".

Aid for Trade provides a *framework* to connect a range of identified development activities with a coherent trade development strategy and to achieve harmonization and complementarity of internal economic policy and external development processes and

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# A Vision for National Development

(Continued from page 12)

strategic actions. It seeks to introduce coherence and cohesion into situations which are often fragmented and incoherent and sometimes in stages of disintegration with limited productive activity.

The Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) is the main mechanism through which Least Developed Countries LDCs access additional Aid for Trade resources. It sets out to bridge the gap between demand and supply for Aid for Trade and to mainstream trade into national development plans and Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs), since these form the platform on which donors base their aid planning. It also provides LDCs with the platform for leveraging additional funding from their development partners by translating trade-related needs into funded and deliverable projects.

To access Aid for Trade, developing countries must clearly prioritize their needs. In return, their development partners need to provide trade-related assistance and capacity building to meet the demand with a supply of resources and within the enlightened aid framework of AFT.

## Aid For Trade –Review of Operations and the Global Recession.

In 2007, as was the case in 2006, Aid for Trade grew by more than 10% in real terms and total new commitments from bilateral and multilateral donors reached \$25.4 billion, with an additional \$27.3 billion in non-concessional trade-related financing.

In 2009 a Global Review of the operation of Aid for Trade by the WTO and OECD notes that “remarkable progress has been achieved in a short time: partner countries are mainstreaming trade in their development strategies and clarifying their needs and

priorities; donors are improving aid for trade delivery and scaling up resources.” The review shows that Aid for trade has been most effective in trade policy analysis-negotiation –implementation; (ii) trade facilitation, (iii) competitiveness and (iv) export diversification.

The Global review also warns that maintaining the momentum will be difficult in this current economic recession, and that the quantity and the quality of aid, including aid for trade, are now more important than ever for economic growth and human welfare.

Indeed, as a result of the ongoing recession the global trading environment has worsened dramatically since the start of AFT in 2005. From 2008 developing countries have begun to feel the full effects of the global financial and economic crises with impacts on domestic capital markets and their access to international capital markets.

World merchandise exports are projected to fall 9% in 2009 the largest such decline in 60 years. Foreign direct investment fell 20% in 2008 with a further expected fall of 20% from its 2008 level in 2009 thus limiting availability of finance for trade and infrastructure investment.

The drying up of global liquidity and reassessment of risks by commercial banks have led to a rise in the cost of Trade Finance with a growing unmet demand of USD 300 billion. This requires urgent short term solutions and follow up public private sector collaborative efforts.

A recent report released by ECLAC, projects that the volume of trade in the Latin America and Caribbean region will fall by 13% in 2009. The volume of exports will decrease by 11% -a 72-year low and imports by 14%, a 27-year low and there has been trade restricting actions by some governments.

At the same time, CARICOM spokesmen have noted that the flows of aid in support of this region’s global trade “fall well below the level required to have

a meaningful role in stimulating exports and in contributing to the development objectives of Caribbean countries. They have issued a call for a “clear commitment” from development partners on likely flows of new aid allocations in support of international trade, “given the peculiarities of each aid-receiving country”.

## Drawing lessons for the way forward:

Given this changed context –our countries, Aid for Trade and other development partners are now severely challenged to help ourselves and each other to exit the crisis and resume growth and development .

Together we have to take immediate short term action to remove our vulnerabilities and accentuate our potentialities, to stimulate business and in systematically laying the ground work for growth and development and in the attainment of the Millennium Goals which form an important milestone in the advancement of our societies. Here are some recommendations for consideration:

Aid for trade will be required to mobilize timely resources to match national and regional efforts and to prevent countries sinking even deeper into recession. Of crucial importance are the speed, scale, and quality of aid response, the streamlining of development partner /country interface and the fullest use of ‘donor’ self assessment and other mechanisms in accordance with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Declaration.

There is urgent need for a stronger focus on capacity development, and our countries must seek a greater role in the design of aid for trade interventions which reinforces local dialogue and encourages ownership among stakeholders.

*Recognizing that not only are there gains from trade, but there are also pains from trade Aft should be designed appropriately –with the broadest possible package- and not rule out any options*

*since different countries will have different needs at different points in time .The costs of adjustments identified earlier and the Trade financing needs are cases in point which require appropriate priority treatment*

A process for engaging the private sector must be a core component of efforts Development partners in particular must improve the disbursement rules of Aft. Slow disbursement tends to undermine the value of the assistance extended in support of time sensitive adjustment processes. Donors should programme their trade-related activities for longer time spans and with a more active participation of recipients; this would increase the predictability and ownership of Aft flows.

Donors should consider scaling up the level of aid for trade facilitation as this appears to be particularly cost-effective investment.

Increased allocation for economic infrastructure since the impact of aid seems to be especially high on exports. Donors should work with recipients to identify those contexts in which there is more need for aid to productive sectors. This will contribute to better predictability of funding more extensive use of budget support .

A key component of this program must be South - South Cooperation / Aid for Trade and Triangular and other creative mechanisms.

South-South Cooperation is a vital force in world economic development today. The world’s emerging - including China, India, Brazil, Venezuela, Mexico, Cuba , Colombia, Chile South Africa, Malaysia and Thailand - have made a quantum leap in their investments in the global South and in trade with developing nations. Some, long considered net recipients of aid, are now emerging as net donors, focusing their aid

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## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES



The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) invites expressions of interest from suitably qualified and motivated candidates in respect of the following employment opportunities:

### **1. Director - Finance and Administration**

#### **Duties and Responsibilities:**

The **Director - Finance and Administration** is responsible for the general management and supervision of the finance and administration functions of the Office of the PUC, including but not limited to:

- a) Direct supervision of finance and administrative staff
- b) Development, implementation and operation of financial and accounting systems
- c) Preparation of annual budgets and reports
- d) Human resources functions, programs and plans
- e) Human resources development and training
- f) Consumer affairs and customer services functions
- g) Public relations and public education functions, programs and plans
- h) Processing of applications for licenses, authorizations, reports, documents, etc.
- i) Maintenance of registers of licensees, Byelaws, Orders, Decisions, Regulations, etc.
- j) Maintenance of office equipment and other relevant assets of the PUC
- k) Other relevant duties and responsibilities that may be assigned from time to time

#### **Qualifications:**

The successful candidate shall possess:

- a) Minimum of a Bachelor of Science Degree in Finance, Accounting, Business Administration or related field
- b) **At least five (5) years' experience in a senior management position in comparable organization**
- c) Outstanding interpersonal, planning, motivational and organizational skills
- d) Unwavering interest and commitment to the purpose, duties and responsibilities of the PUC

### **2. Director - Tariffs and Rate Setting**

#### **Duties and Responsibilities:**

The **Director - Tariffs and Rate Setting** is responsible for assisting the PUC in the determination, setting, reviewing, monitoring and evaluation of tariffs, rates, fees and charges in respect of services provided by licensees and public utility providers in Belize. Specific duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- a) Direct supervision of assigned staff
- b) Assist in the development and implementation of rate setting Byelaws, Regulations and methodologies
- c) Management and control of rate review proceedings and filings
- d) Assist in the determination and setting of tariffs, rates, fees and charges in rate review proceedings or filings
- e) Assist in the development, issuing and monitoring for compliance of Decisions and Orders in relation to tariffs, rates, fees and charges
- f) Supervise or conduct relevant economic studies in relation to affordability and appropriateness of tariffs, rates, fees and charges
- g) Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of approved tariffs, rates, fees and charges in respect of the statutory objectives of the PUC and the relevant Acts
- h) Assist in the Preparation of annual budgets and reports
- i) Other relevant duties and responsibilities that may be assigned from time to time

#### **Qualifications:**

The successful candidate shall possess:

- a) Minimum of a Bachelor of Science Degree in Economics, Finance or related field
- b) **At least five (5) years' experience in rate setting or eight (8) years' experience in a senior management position in a comparable field**
- c) Outstanding interpersonal, planning, motivational and organizational skills
- d) Unwavering interest and commitment to the purpose, duties and responsibilities of the PUC

### **3. Director - Electricity Sector**

#### **Duties and Responsibilities:**

The **Director - Electricity Sector** is responsible for assisting the PUC in the regulation of the electricity sector in respect of the services provided by licensees and public utility providers. Specific duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- a) Direct supervision of assigned staff
- b) Assist in the development and implementation of Byelaws, Regulations and Orders in respect of service quality and reliability standards
- c) Assist in the development and implementation of Byelaws, Regulations and Orders in respect of electrical installation construction standards
- d) Assist in the development, review and implementation of relevant codes of practice of licensees in respect of the services they are authorized to provide
- e) Assist in the processing of applications for licenses, consents and authorizations
- f) Monitoring of licensees for compliance to licence conditions and relevant Acts, Byelaws, Regulations, Orders, Decisions, codes of practice, and standards
- g) Supervise or conduct relevant studies in relation to current and forecast trends in demand and supply of electricity
- h) Supervise the invitation, evaluation and award of competitive bids for the provision of electricity services where appropriate
- i) Assist in the conducting of rate review proceedings and filings
- j) Assist in the Preparation of annual budgets and reports
- k) Represent the PUC in international organizations, forums, conferences, workshops and working groups from time to time
- l) Other relevant duties and responsibilities that may be assigned from time to time

#### **Qualifications:**

The successful candidate shall possess:

- a) Minimum of a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering or related field
- b) **At least five (5) years' experience in a relevant position**
- c) Outstanding interpersonal, planning, motivational and organizational skills
- d) Unwavering interest and commitment to the purpose, duties and responsibilities of the PUC

#### **Benefits**

The base salary for all three (3) positions will be based on personal qualifications and experience, within the salary scale of BZ\$50,000.00 to BZ\$90,000.00 per annum.

Successful candidates will be entitled to an annual gratuity of 20% of base salary and to twenty (20) working days vacation annually.

Successful candidates will also be entitled to participate in all benefit plans, if any, provided by the PUC to its employees generally, including its ongoing training program.

#### **Applications**

The deadline for applications is 5:00 PM on February 10, 2011.

Completed applications along with two letters of reference should be sent to:

Employment Opportunities  
Public Utilities Commission  
41 Gabourel Lane  
Belize City, Belize



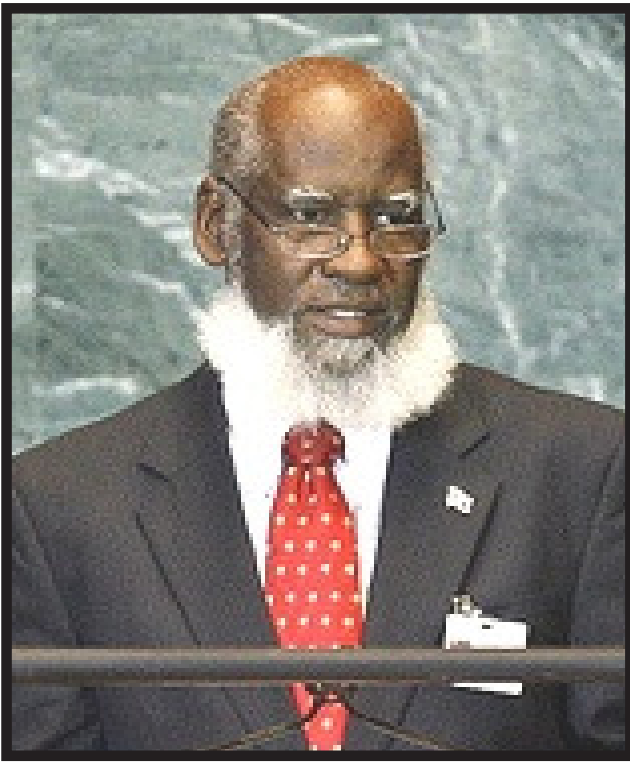
# Andy Palacio

(1960-2008)



*Three Years Later, His Spirit Lives On*

# A Vision for National Development



*Hon. Wilfred "Sedi" Elrington,  
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade*

*(Continued from page 13)*

efforts on southern nations.

There is growing economic complementarity and capacity for developing countries to advance their development through mutual cooperation.

South South Aid for Trade is particularly attractive because of its responsive flexible relevant technology and often times more nimble processes of interaction. South-South trade is growing at an estimated ten percent annually. It now assumes even greater importance as a component of Aid for Trade and require adequate resources be given to this modality and to build and extend this notion of regional solidarity and to maximize the impact on Trade and development.

Mr Chairman, please allow me in my remaining moments to share a few insights on our efforts to mobilize Aid for Trade in Belize to bring the maximum benefits for our people.

At this time, Belize enjoys almost unlimited market access to some of the world's largest markets, the European Union under the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), USA under the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI), Canada under CARIBCAN; there is also access under several other trade arrangements such as Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Colombia, Cuba, and Venezuela. We recently initiated a mission to ex-

plore penetration of Central American markets and are members of Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME).

In 2008, Belize along with its CARICOM colleagues and the Dominican Republic embarked on its first major liberalization arrangement with the European Union – the Economic Partnership Agreement.

In our own preliminary assessments, we know that the requisite resources for restructuring the economy in line with our EPA commitments and obligations will require resources far greater than what our government can provide.

I do not need to tell you that supply side constraints and other factors have hampered our efforts to make the most of these opportunities in the past and continue to confront us in the present time. But I will tell you that we have not accepted that situation as permanent. We have set out

to address and change this driven by the aspirations of our people and inspired by efforts of countries in regional cooperation and solidarity. We intend to make the most of Aid for Trade and other sources of cooperation to take the opportunities offered.

A vision of national development with trade mainstreamed into the national development strategy is the beacon which guides our efforts. To achieve this, we are nurturing leadership which understands the potential of trade and slowly building alliances.

Because there is no completed

*(Continued on page 19)*



## PUBLIC NOTICE



### Public Utilities Commission (PUC)

In exercise of the powers conferred upon it by Section 19(12) of the Belize Telecommunications Act, No. 16 of 2002, and Section 11(3) of the Telecommunications (Licensing Classification, Authorization, and Fee Structure) Regulations, 2002, and all other powers thereunto enabling, the Public Utilities Commission (PUC; the Commission) serves Notice this day, January 19, 2011, that effective February 21, 2011, it intends to revoke the Internet Service Provider (ISP) Class Licenses granted to the following license holders:

- a) Channel Broadcasting Cable
- b) Cyberbel
- c) Internet Solutions of Belize
- d) Satellite Connections
- e) Tenchtronics Communications
- f) @pplied Technology Co. Ltd
- g) Full Contact Ltd
- h) Clear Contact Ltd
- i) Mycuz.net

#### **Reasons for Intended License Revocations:**

The Commission intends to revoke the ISP Class Licenses granted to the above license holders for failure to pay required annual license fees, and or failure to provide annual returns and reports in accordance with Section 31 of the Belize Telecommunications Act.

Where any of the above license holders remedies the breaches referred to immediately above within thirty (30) days commencing with the date of this Notice and to the satisfaction of the Commission, the Commission shall withdraw its proposal to revoke the respective license.

*Issued by the Public Utilities Commission on January 19, 2011.*



# His Dream... Our Reality



**Martin Luther King, Jr.**, (January 15, 1929-April 4, 1968) was born Michael Luther King, Jr., but later had his name changed to Martin. His grandfather began the family's long tenure as pastors of the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, serving from 1914 to 1931; his father has served from then until the present, and from 1960 until his death Martin Luther acted as co-pastor. Martin Luther attended segregated public schools in Georgia, graduating from high school at the age of fifteen; he received the B. A. degree in 1948 from Morehouse College, a distinguished Negro institution of Atlanta from which both his father and grandfather had graduated. After three years of theological study at Crozer Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania where he was elected president of a predominantly white senior class, he was awarded the B.D. in 1951. With a fellowship won at Crozer, he enrolled in graduate studies at Boston University, completing his residence for the doctorate in 1953 and receiving the degree

in 1955. In Boston he met and married Coretta Scott, a young woman of uncommon intellectual and artistic attainments. Two sons and two daughters were born into the family.

In 1954, Martin Luther King became pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama. Always a strong worker for civil rights for members of his race, King was, by this time, a member of the executive committee of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the leading organization of its kind in the nation. He was ready, then, early in December, 1955, to accept the leadership of the first great Negro nonviolent demonstration of contemporary times in the United States, the bus boycott described by Gunnar Jahn in his presentation speech in honor of the laureate. The boycott lasted 382 days. On December 21, 1956, after the Supreme Court of the United States had declared unconstitutional the laws requiring segregation on buses, Negroes and whites rode the buses as equals. During

these days of boycott, King was arrested, his home was bombed, he was subjected to personal abuse, but at the same time he emerged as a Negro leader of the first rank.

In 1957 he was elected president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, an organization formed to provide new leadership for the now burgeoning civil rights movement. The ideals for this organization he took from Christianity; its operational techniques from Gandhi. In the eleven-year period between 1957 and 1968, King traveled over six million miles and spoke over twenty-five hundred times, appearing wherever there was injustice, protest, and action; and meanwhile he wrote five books as well as numerous articles. In these years, he led a massive protest in Birmingham, Alabama, that caught the attention of the entire world, providing what he called a coalition of conscience. and inspiring his "Letter from a Birmingham Jail", a manifesto of the Negro revolution; he planned the drives in Alabama for the

registration of Negroes as voters; he directed the peaceful march on Washington, D.C., of 250,000 people to whom he delivered his address, "I Have a Dream", he conferred with President John F. Kennedy and campaigned for President Lyndon B. Johnson; he was arrested upwards of twenty times and assaulted at least four times; he was awarded five honorary degrees; was named Man of the Year by *Time* magazine in 1963; and became not only the symbolic leader of American blacks but also a world figure.

At the age of thirty-five, Martin Luther King, Jr., was the youngest man to have received the Nobel Peace Prize. When notified of his selection, he announced that he would turn over the prize money of \$54,123 to the furtherance of the civil rights movement.

On the evening of April 4, 1968, while standing on the balcony of his motel room in Memphis, Tennessee, where he was to lead a protest march in sympathy with striking garbage workers of that city, he was assassinated.

*Free At Last, Thank God Almighty, We're Free At Last!*

## Belmopan City Council Incentive Package 2011/2012

As of January 1, 2011, Property Owners in the City of Belmopan are eligible to participate in the following discount package:

- **25% Discount for full payment of 2011/12 Property fees made ON or BEFORE January 31, 2011.**
- **20% Discount for full payment of 2011/12 Property Fees between February 1 and February 15, 2011.**
- **15% Discount for full payment of 2011/12 Property Fees between February 16 and February 28, 2011.**
- **10% Discount for full payment of 2011/2012 Property Fees between March 1 and March 31, 2011**
- **5% Discount for full payment of 2011/12 Property Fees between April 1, 2011 and December 31, 2011.**

*N.B. Senior Citizens (65 yrs or older) are eligible for an additional 5% discount for properties on which they reside.*

***For more information visit your Belmopan City  
Council Offices at 36/38 Trinity Bld., Belmopan  
Or call: 822-2271, 822-2319 or 802-3679***

### ***Superbond Strikes Again!***

*(Continued from page 1)*

government's External Debt now stands at 1.9 Billion; and out of that total figure, the Super Bond inherited from the Said Musa administration is responsible for as much as 1.1 Billion (with a B).

In other words, the Super Bond left behind by the last administration is actually responsible for almost 60 percent of the entire External Debt.

All this, the current Prime Minister charges, is the result of reckless borrowing, the monies from which were

never spent on the people to improve their quality of life, or on the country's infrastructure. And now, he says, the fact that his government must find millions every six months to repay those debts means that it is being deprived of much needed revenues to invest in the people and infrastructure of the Country.

Members of the former administration which created the Super Bond contend that they borrowed to stimulate growth and develop the country.

But that claim is evidently not in sync with widespread public opinion of how the country's finances were run under the Musa administration from 1998 until 2008.

Those were the days when the former Minister of Finance who calls himself a "financial engineer" was boasting about what he called "growth economics".

While there might have been some unsustainable growth in economic activity, what grew most of all was the National Debt, the result mostly of excessive commercial borrowing at high interest rates with short maturity periods.

As it turned out, it wasn't too long before that excessive borrowing presented a hindrance to the said PUP administration, and in order to create some breathing room for themselves and their free-spending policies, they decided

to postpone the burden by amalgamating all the burdensome debts into one giant Super Bond.

While it was former Minister of Finance Ralph Fonseca, authorized by the then Prime Minister Said Musa, whose "growth economics" grew the national debt to uncontrollable levels, the man who master-minded the creation of the Super Bond was actually the former Tourism Minister, later the Minister of National Development, Mark Espat, who currently has aspirations to lead the PUP and perhaps one day become Prime Minister.

And the man who is currently the PUP leader, John Briceno, was at that time Musa's Deputy Prime Minister, and also a member of a Cabinet Committee tasked with overseeing the financial policies of the government after it became accepted within the administration that Fonseca's "growth economic" policies had spun out of control and could have led to the party's political ruin.

That cabinet committee, however, proved futile as Fonseca continued to have his way, and the rest is now history.

But so much for the history! What most preoccupies Belizeans in the present is the fact that we must find 33 Million dollars to pay in three week's time, and we will have to find many millions more until we finish paying off that Super Bond in 2029. By then the Super Bond would have cost us **\$1, 588,590,700**, or to put it another way, over **1.5 Billion**, with a B.

Tell me, how can we forget the past, when it is costing us so much in the present, and will continue to cost us so much more in the future?



# A Vision for National Development



*OAS Secretary General Jose Miguel Insulza and Belize's Foreign Minister, Wilfred Elrington*

*(Continued from page 16)*

national development strategy we are simultaneously contributing to its elaboration while developing the trade strategy for national inclusion. At the same time we emphasise a crucial link with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to ensure the solid foundation upon which competitiveness must be based.

*We recognize that if our own house is not in order, it makes it easier for donors to dictate where and how the aid should be used. On the other hand, if we have done our own development introspection, then we can ensure that aid complements and strengthens our plans, and structures rather than undermining them. But this by itself is an enormous task; nonetheless, it is imperative that as individual countries, we know where we want to go and there are none but ourselves to determine where that ought to be.*

And so we have initiated preparation of an Aid for Trade Plan of Action for the period 2009-2012. This is being developed in a focal point linked with national and international cooperation and supporting efforts of trade negotiation and trade promotion, infrastructure development and insupporting implementation of our Trade Agreements.

This calls for a regrouping and refocusing of our efforts with coherent action to enhance overall

competitiveness and skills for interdependence and a phased approach to working our way out of this dilemma.

The Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) is crucial in helping to bridge gaps in the operating context and to conduct the multi interface that is required on a variety of levels with government, business firms/private sector/public sector, and regional and development partners.

We aim to harmonize action and to increase absorptive capacities, and are placing priority action on special Trade and Investment promotion initiatives to maximize inflow of investments in Belize, which encourage Innovation and on identifying critical infrastructure and the links to the ongoing integration in Central America. We shall be establishing a special innovation fund to support innovative initiatives and also seek access to Trade financing funds.

We shall intensify our connection with South South and triangular initiatives to innovate and stimulate strategic and productive sectors such as education, agriculture and industry, processing and services—transportation, energy, climate change.

To deepen our efforts and increase the prospects for

sustainability we are setting out to educate and train young private entrepreneurs and economic, national and global

citizenry. We hope to imbue them with values and skills for enhanced productivity cooperation and competitive skills.

We intend to place young Belizeans in challenging situations and are seeking internships from our friends and development partners to accelerate experience and prepare these young folk for engagement in social and economic transformation of our country, region and world.

To ensure broader public awareness—we are developing the B span concept, investing in public education through national television and radio for Economic national and global citizenry and emphasizing economic literacy and the language of integration in preparation for citizenry and global solidarity.

*We thank you!*



## PUBLIC NOTICE



### Public Utilities Commission (PUC)

In exercise of the powers conferred upon it by Section 19(12) of the Belize Telecommunications Act, No. 16 of 2002, and Section 11(3) of the Telecommunications (Licensing Classification, Authorization, and Fee Structure) Regulations, 2002, and all other powers thereunto enabling, the Public Utilities Commission (PUC; the Commission) serves Notice this day, January 19, 2011, that the Internet Service Provider (ISP) Class Licenses granted to the following entities have been cancelled effective January 1, 2011.

- a) Central Telecommunications Limited
- b) UTECH
- c) Wireless Internet Solutions (Pier 1)
- d) IPO Networks Limited
- e) Mirronet Limited
- f) International Technologies Limited
- g) Belize Internet Group
- h) H2TECH Limited
- i) SW Wireless
- j) Paradise Communication Limited
- k) It Solutions Limited

**As a consequence these former license holders are not authorized to provide internet services in Belize.**

*Issued by the Public Utilities Commission on January 19, 2011.*

# Like Judas Re-incarnated



**Paid Ashcroft Defender**



**Paid Ashcroft Defender**

**For a few pieces of Silver  
these PUP Lawyers are  
prepared to sell out  
their Country**

**PUP for Money  
UDP For Patrimony**