

## Capital Weekly

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



No. 003

Wednesday, February 2, 2011

# \$\$\$ Billions Beneath the Sea Should We Drill for Oil Offshore?

o drill or not to drill? It's no academic question, but an urgent and practical one that confronts Belizeans and our government as we are caught between the promising potential of huge oil reserves (much of it quite likely lying beneath the sea) and the strident voices of organized, internationally-funded opponents of oil-exploration offshore and in a number of large expanses of national lands which they say should be off-limits to any such activity.

The Prime Minister and his Government, while acknowledging that caution should always be exercised in even the contemplation of any such activity with possible environmental implications, have nevertheless been quite candid



An Off Shore Drill-Rig on Platform

about the fact that they see oilexploration offshore or on land in pretty much any part of the country as a proposition that is not intrinsically bad; in fact, much desired considering the needs of the Country with its limited financial resources and unprecedented demands such as the repayment of the infamous Super Bond created and left behind by the last administration. Fair enough, it seems.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the raging debate, the passion and patriotism of those who contend that there's much too much at stake where our environment and natural wonders are concerned, can hardly be gainsaid or rebuked.

It goes without saying that we must not as a nation enter into

**Continued on page 17** 

# Preparing the University of Belize Graduates 466

### Women Outnumber Men almost Three to One







Some of the 324 women who graduated Saturday from the University of Belize in Belmopan (See Story on Page 7)

## Editorial

### Let Democracy Prevail!



Delroy Cuthkelvin Chairman, Editorial Board

It goes without saying that a strong Opposition is essential to a good Democracy, for without it the best of governments will tend to become complacent.

In Belize, these days, it is manifestly clear that, for whatever reason, we have the weakest opposition party in a long time.

We have tried our best to stay out of the business of that mass party which presently occupies the position of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition, as we believe any party, or organization for that matter, must be afforded a fair degree of freedom to conduct its own affairs the way it sees fit.

But, as we've noted before, so essential an element of our Democracy is the role of the Opposition, its business is not just its business but, in an extended way, the entire electorate's business, since opposition members are paid by all taxpayers to keep the ruling government on its heels and to offer themselves as a viable alternative, should such alternative to be deemed necessary by the People.

In light of this, we believe it is now time for Belizeans in general, not just members of the People's United Party, to call on that Opposition party to get its act together. And, for sure, it will never be able to get its act together in the manner

it is conducting the process of selecting its political leaders in the thirty one constituencies countrywide.

It is now common knowledge that rather than opening up the process for all aspirants to seek election as standard bearer in constituencies countrywide (providing they meet the basic requirements), the leadership of the Opposition Party has instead elected to anoint its chosen candidates.

What is also common knowledge is that this is in stark contrast with the ruling party (UDP) which has been conducting completely open and fair conventions countrywide, subjecting every incumbent standard-bearer, including members of the Prime Minister's own Cabinet, to the possibility of being challenged. And, quite a number of them are indeed being challenged.

This is Democracy at its very best, and it goes without saying that the ruling party must be congratulated. Likewise the Opposition must be condemned for its glaringly undemocratic internal affairs which, as we've noted before, is not just their business, but the people's business.

More than being condemned, though, the Opposition party must be encouraged to follow the good example being set by the ruling party, to let the people they will be offering to the electorate in the next general elections be chosen in open and fair conventions. It's the only way to guarantee a strong and effective opposition that will be able to keep the current government on its heels and offer itself as a viable alternative.

Do the right thing, and Let Democracy Prevail!



#### **DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT**

Belmopan Bus Terminal, City of Belmopan, Belize C.A. Tel: 501- 822-2038 Fax: 501- 822-3317 E-mail-departmentoftransport@yahoo.com

#### **PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Department f Transport advises members of the public of the following aids to traffic safety:-

- 1) Put on lights when travelling on roads at night and during early morning, late evenings and conditions of dust, mist, fog and rain.
- 2) Don't drive on the wrong side of the road
- 3) Don't overtake going up a hill or any incline
- 4) Don't over take when you cant see clearly ahead
- 5) Try to stop driving in the middle of the road
- 6) Make sure vehicle rear lights are working
- 7) Heavy equipment, houses and other oversized items cannot be transported nor can big farm tractors and other farm equipment be driven on roads after 6:00pm.

#### **Condolences**

**Our Spirits are** dampened this week by the sad news of the passing of Irvin **Penner, the Brother** of Hon. Elvin Penner, Minister of Public Utilties, Information and **Broadcasting.** Through this medium, we convey, our deepest sympathies to **Minister Elvin** Penner and Family. May the Almighty grant you the strength to endure and overcome the grief his death has brought you. And, May His Soul **Rest in Peace** 

#### Capital Weekly

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

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### Time To Re-Think This Tourism Thing

The spontaneous outburst at a press conference last week by Tom Greenwood, a man who was the highest ranking Belizean in the Belize Defence Force in its early days, has given us special cause for pause and reflection on a matter that has troubled us for quite some time.

We at this newspaper have always been fans of Tom, even when we have not seen eye to eye with him politically or otherwise; and we are convinced that while, in this instance, his own business interests are certainly at stake, Tom's spontaneous outburst was driven more by a sense of patriotism and national pride, that national pride having been severely offended, wittingly or not, by representatives of the largest cruise company whose ships visit our shores.

It's a sentiment we're sure all warm-blooded Belizeans can identify with, confirming the words of



Carnival Legend, the only vessel scheduled to stop in Belize this week

Prime Minister Hon. Dean Barrow in his recent 2011 New Year's Address, when he proclaimed, "In the course of ups and downs, fluctuating fortunes and dramatic shifts, one thing is constant: Belizean Pride, Belizean Patriotism."

Now, coming to the heart of the matter, what has always troubled us is the fact that we as a Nation and a People have for some time now been heading in a direction of deliberately setting up ourselves to be dangerously dependent on an industry that relies too heavily on the goodwill of other peoples from other nations. That is, in effect, what Tourism in its most extreme form, is!

Mind us, there's nothing wrong, we believe, with Tourism per se; but it must not, we contend, be the central focus of a nation's economic and social development for the very reason that there is too much there that is not within the control of the people and nation of the sovereign state in question. This is not vain ideology; it is basic and peretinent common sense.

Besides, Belize is ours, isn't it? So let's fix it up and keep it clean and pure for our own pleasure and enjoyment in the first instance. Then, since it's so nice, let's invite others to come and share in the enjoyment—for a reasonable fee, of course.

But, we contend, the

focus should be on us and our country first, and only secondarily on those who come to share, enjoy and contribute to this good thing that is ours.

We won't rehash here the details of the latest developments in this enormous challenge facing us in cruise-tourism, for that has been amply done in other sections of the media. What we will say is that this is a day that we surely should have seen coming.

It's no time to point fingers now at who might have, or should have known what was manifestly imminent. The fact is the moment of truth is upon us, and we had better wise up if we haven't as yet, rethink this whole tourism thing, put our heads together, our shoulders to the wheel, and come up with a formula and a model that works for us and secures our national interests and our sovereignty for the long-term.

It's time, indeed, to rethink this tourism thing!





Tom Greenwood at a Press Conference last week told Carnival Cruise line to, in effect, "ship up or ship out"

# Virtual Reality

### New Cayo Bridge on the River

Northern Highway Corridor On the Way



Virtual Reality: An artist's conception of new Cayo Bridge to be built, superimposed over acutal photograph of designated location

The new, elevated, permanent structure that is to replace the Wooden Bridge that links Cayo's twin-towns of San Ignacio and Santa Elena is well on the way to making the transition from possibility to reality.

In fact, we can now say that literally speaking, it is already at the stage of 'virtual reality' as this week we can actually show you, in virtual reality, what the bridge will look like at the actual location it is designed to be erected further downstream from the wooden bridge.

The San Ignacio/ Santa Elena Bypass Project involves the construction of a new high level tow lane bridge structure across the Macal River including the upgrading of several main arteries linking the San Ignacio and Santa Elena Towns.

When the entire project is completed there will be an alignment which connects La Loma Luz Boulevard on the Santa Elena side with Joseph Andrews Drive on the San Ignacio side. There will be two major roundabouts, one at the junction of Loma Luz Boulevard and the Western Highway, the other at the intersection of Joseph Andrews Drive and the San Ignacio/Benque Viejo section of the Western Highway.

Smaller roundabouts will be installed at other locations, for example, the intersection of Joseph Andrews Drive and Bullet Tree Road, according to CEO in the Ministry of Works, Cadet Henderson.

The loan funds for this project have already been approved by the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and the loan agreement will soon be officially signed by the Government of Belize and the CDB. The draft design has been completed and is currently being reviewed by the Ministry of Works for approval. The procurement of contractors will commence shortly. In fact, work is expected to

commence within the next three to four months.

In other exciting news coming out of the Ministry of Works, we can tell you that in its planning stage is the Northern Highway Corridor Project, which involves the rehabilitation and upgrade to four-lane status of the Northern Highway between Buttonwood Bay and the Burrell Boom Road Junction.

Following approval from the funding agency, the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the Government of Belize through the Ministry of Works, advertised locally

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# Virtual Reality

### New Cayo Bridge on the River

Northern Highway Corridor On the Way



From another angle, the artist's conception of the bridge to be built, also superimposed over a photograph of the designated location

#### **Continued from page 4**

and internationally for the submission of "Statement of Capability" for the consultancy services for the execution of a Feasibility Study and Preparation of Detailed Design for the Northern Highway.

In November 2010, submission of an "Expression of Interest" was received from fourteen (14) Engineering Firms from within the region and from other member countries of the bank.

At this time, an evaluation of the consultants "Statement of Capability" is being conducted to enable the Ministry of Works to develop a short list of consultants.

It is anticipated that the feasibility study and detailed design will commence in March and should be completed within 8 months.

The proposal is being appraised by CDB, and the plan is to upgrade the highway to a four-lane standard from Haulover Bridge all the way up to the Burrell Boom Junction, the first priority being up to Lord's Bank with a beautiful boulevard running through Ladyville.

All indications are that, as far as infrastructure is concerned, possibilities are indeed turning to reality under the current administration.

Where credit is due, let it be given.



Cadet Henderson, CEO, Ministry of Works



#### BELIZE SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND



#### BELIZE MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

### URBAN PLANNING OFFICER - MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND EVNIRONMENT

#### STATEMENT OF CAPABILITY

The Government of Belize (GOB) has received financing from the World Bank (WB) towards the cost of a municipal development project to improve and maintain municipal service delivery in selected towns of Belize. The project comprises small-scale infrastructure improvements; capacity building for the municipality councils; technical assistance to central government in municipal management; and project management and administration. GOB has appointed the Belize Social Investment Fund (BSIF) as the implementing agency for the project. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this financing will be applied to contracts for consultants to enhance the capacity of the Ministry of Labour, Local Government and Rural Development and the Ministry of Natural resources and Environment to support the municipalities in improving management, developing improved financial management capacity, analyzing municipal financial information for informed decision making; and in strengthening urban planning capacity, and developing municipal growth plans respectively.

BSIF is seeking to recruit an individual to fill the following position; The critical minimum requirements are listed below. Applicants may obtain the Terms of Reference for the positions as indicated below:

#### **Urban Planning Officer**

- a. Bachelor's Degree or equivalent in Urban Planning or related field
- b. Minimum of five (5) years or relevant professional working experience
- c. Sound knowledge of land use and land use policies in the country
- d. Knowledge of environmental and socio-economic issues related to urban planning and design (environmental management, traffic management, crime prevention etc.);

The consultancy is expected to be for an initial period of twenty-four (24) months commencing in March, 2011. Duty station of the Consultant will be in the Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment.

BSIF now invites individuals interested in undertaking the assignment to submit their Statements of Capability. In submitting their Statements of Capability, applicants should be aware that they will be assessed based on the following areas:

- a. Qualifications
- b. Experience of the individual relative to the particular assignment
- c. Experience with multi-lateral funding agencies
- d. Experience in Belize and / or the Caribbean
- e. Availability of Candidate for the proposed consultancy period.

The terms of reference for the assignments can be viewed online at GOB's official portal <a href="http://www.belize.gov.bz">http://www.belize.gov.bz</a> or can be requested from <a href="mailto:daniel.cano@sifbelize.org">daniel.cano@sifbelize.org</a>.

One original and two (2) hard copies of each submission in English must be delivered by **3:00 pm on 21**<sup>st</sup> **February, 2011** to:

Executive Director
Belize Social Investment Fund
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, PAPI's Building
Constitution Drive
Belmopan City
Belize

#### **VACANCY NOTICE**

**POSITION TITLE**: Senior Trade Analyst/Project Manager

**OBJECTIVE:** The objective of the project is to build the capacity of the Directorate of Foreign Trade in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade to coordinate and facilitate implementation of the CSME and the EPA.

#### **DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

Assist and provide necessary support to the Foreign Trade Directorate in its functions as Secretariat in the EPA/CSME Implementation Structure. These will include but not be limited to:

- a) Conduct diagnostic assessments of implementation obligations emanating from the CSME and EPA. This should include but not be confined to recent reports on the status of Belize's Implementation of the CSME regimes, the National EPA Roadmap, and Aid for Trade Consultations Summaries and other reports;
- b) Devise and implement initial consultative process to priorities CSME and EPA obligations, including those related to administrative systems and processes;
- c) Develop a Multi-Year Action Plan, with time bound targets, in coordination with a Project Steering Committee (PSC); and assist with its development and implementation;
- d) Assist in the development and implementation of a public education campaign on CSME/EPA matters;
- e) Assist in advancing Legislative Reforms for the CSME and EPA;
- f) Supports ministries and departments in the implementation of their CSME/EPA obligations;
- g) Devise a Plan of Action for resource mobilization, including short project proposals, in consultation with stakeholders;
- h) Craft viable project proposals to assist with accessing donor funding;
- i) Specific priority must be given to dialogue with the Ministry responsible for gender/women's affairs and other gender experts to ensure a gender perspective is integrated into the DFT's Multi-Year Action Plan.

#### **QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE:**

- a) A Master's degree in Economics, International Trade, International Studies, Development Studies or any other relevant social science discipline;
- b) A Diploma in Project Management or demonstrated experience in Project Management and Development
- c) At least five (5) years working experience on international trade issues, including those relating to the CARICOM integration process;
- (d) Familiarity in project preparation and design, CARCIOM policies and institutions and the EPA;

The successful candidate will also be expected to have excellent management, leadership and communication skills and must be proficient in the use of MS-Office, including Office, Word, Excel, Project and Power Point.

#### **SALARY:**

Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience.

#### **POSITION DURATION:**

The duration of the assignments for the Senior Trade Analyst is twenty-–four (24) months.

Please address letters of application accompanied by Curriculum Vitae and two references to the Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, NEMO Building, Belmopan.

Closing Date:

28<sup>th</sup> February, 2011

# Preparing the Way

## University of Belize Graduates 466



466 Strong, Pledging to Continue Investing in their Community and Country

any more women than men seem to be investing in the future these days, at least here in Belize.

But that's just the sidestory. The big news, front and centre, is that the University of Belize graduated 466 persons in Belmopan on Saturday, having in great measure prepared them for a promising and rewarding future.

Indeed, that's the acknowledgement and acclamation pronounced by the theme chosen for the graduation, which was, "UB the Premiere National University: Preparing the Way Forward."

But, getting back to the numbers, of the 466 graduates, 324 were women, and only 142 were men, the underlying story of the gender balance (or lack of it) in tertiary education being one which we will surely have to analyze in greater depth another time.

For now, suffice it to say our opening thesis that more women than men are investing in the future is conclusively borne out by these numbers. And the "investment" analogy comes directly from the address delivered at the graduation by the guest speaker for the historic occasion, Education Minister Hon. Patrick Faber.

"The graduates we celebrate here today are all smart not just because they have earned a certificate, diploma or degree in the academic sense, but because they are conscious investors", Hon. Faber insightfully remarked. "They invested time, effort and resources to achieve the goals we all join in celebrating with them today."

"It would be remiss of me not to acknowledge that your investment was not yours alone. All of you will admit, I'm sure, to the tremendous support you have had from your spouses, your families, your friends and your teachers.

"To extend the metaphor just a bit more, these supporters have been your co-investors in your entrepreneural endeavour. While in some cases some of you may own personal debt to your supporters, your co-investors, which you will have to pay back in some tangible way, I believe

in most cases the debt you owe is not one that you pay back but one that you pay forward.

You have accomplished a great deal with the support of others. Now you can choose to keep the returns to yourself or you can re-invest it or pay it forward to those others for whom it will have a great multiplier effect, in your families, in your communities and in Belize. God knows we need such investments in each other right now, to create the multiplier effect in our communities and in our Beloved Belize."

Some more noteworthy numbers from the graduation: the faculty with the highest number of graduates was the Faculty of Education and Arts with 235; followed by the Faculty of Management & Social Sciences with 107graduates; the Faculty of Science and Technology with 79; and the Faculty of Nursing, Allied Health & Social Work graduating 45.

Commenting on the fact that educational-teaching was the discipline with the greatest number of graduates, Acting President of the University of Belize, Doctor Corinth Morter Lewis stated, "It is a vivid recognition of the critical role of the national institution moulding leaders to shape the lives of the country's human resources; our people and future generations in the continued pursuit of national development for Belize."

For his part, Minister of Education, Hon. Patrick Faber reaffirmed his commitment and that of the Dean Barrow administration to tertiary education. "About 26 Million, almost 14 percent of the recurrent expenditure, is spent on the tertiary sector," he noted. "This includes salary and tuition grants for our junior colleges, a 10 Million grant to the University of Belize, and another 8 Million in scholarships and financial assistance for studying at the tertiary level at home and abroad; and I will tell you that almost a half of that, another 4 Million out of that 8 Million, comes to the University of Belize."

A large proportion of our scholarships and financial assistance go to our students attending UB. In fact, the government is still absorbing a

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# Preparing the Way

## University of Belize Graduates 466



Valedictorian, Laura Friesen receiving gift from UB Chairlady Imani Fairweather Morrison

#### **Continued from page 7**

fee increase that was introduced by UB in 2006; so that the cost is not borne by the students, and this is because the tuition at UB is already maintained artificially low to make it affordable for our students.

Where else in the world can you get an Associate Degree for 15 US dollars per credit hour? Where else in the world can you get a Bachelors Degree for 45 US Dollars per credit hour? It is ridiculously cheap."

But, Faber insisted, the current government and the leadership of the university are NOT at all content with the level of accessibility to tertiary education to those who represent the future of the country. And he outlined several strategies being implemented and explored to improve such accessibility.

"Increasing accessibility also means exploring other modes of delivery, such as distance learning, on-line modalities, as well as making access more affordable," he noted. "There is need for our institutions to mobilize other modes of funding, for example, grant funds and the establishment of endowment

funds. Additionally, our tertiary institutions can explore public and private sector partnerships that would result in additional sources of funds.

Such funds can help to offset operational and developmental costs. They can also be used to provide grants and students loans to make tertiary education more accessible and affordable. Similarly, there is need to explore ways to cut waste and for us to be more efficient."

"We commend UB for its revitalization of the Central Farm Campus. However that is not the only area where progress is being made. I am told by the Board that they have approved a new building for the Nursing and Allied Health Program at the cost of some 3 Million Dollars (applause)."

"UB partnered with the Ministry of Education and Youth

to offer the Cert-Ed Program countrywide including Orange Walk and San Pedro, thereby providing expanded coverage and access to the program, Similarly, the Bachelors in Tourism program started in San Pedro this semester and there are also plans to take the diploma in education for secondary teachers to Corozal."

And, lest he be accused of not satisfactorily applauding the efforts of those responsible for the progress to date, the Minister of Education concluded his address with the following words of acknowledgement:

"I laid out a tall order to the University of Belize a few years ago upon assuming office. You can see from what I have just recounted that much progress has been made. And I congratulate the Board of Trustees, especially its Chairlady, Mrs. Imani Fairweather Morrison, the administration, the faculty, the staff and students of the University of Belize for their steadfast efforts towards these goals."

"While much has been accomplished, much more is still left to be done. The building and strengthening of our National

#### **Continued on page 9**



One of 466 graduates receives her degree from Acting President of UB, Doctor Corinth Morter Lewis

# Preparing the Way

## University of Belize Graduates 466



Hon. Patrick Faber Minister of Education, Delivering Keynote Address at Saturday's UB Graduation Ceremonies in Belmopan

#### Continued from page 8

University is a continuous task, block by block; and I am confident that we are all up to that task."

And, turning to the men and women of the hour, the graduates themselves, he affirmed, "I extend my heartfelt congratulations, as well as the congratulations of the wider government, the Cabinet of our Prime

Minister the Honourable Dean Barrow, to all of you. May you go on to set and achieve new goals for yourselves, your families, your communities, and for Belize. May you continue to make yourselves and your families, your communities and our country proud."

Among the graduates, the highest honour went

to valedictorian, Laura Freisen.

Several students received the University of Belize's official white, gold and purple honour chords.

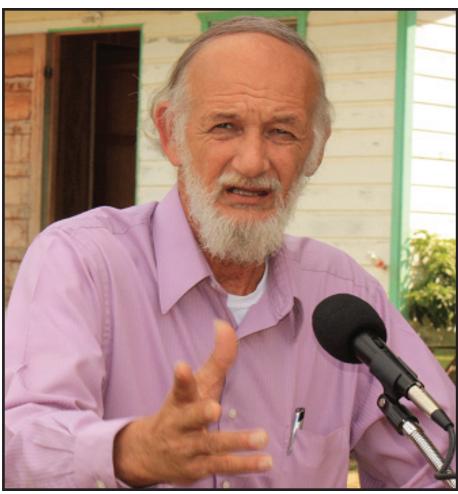
The tri-cable white honour chords are designed to honour those graduates with Cum Laude; goldhonourchords designate graduates with Magna Cum Laude

(great honour); and purple honour chords distinguish graduates with Summa Cum Laude, the highest honour.

The total number of honour graduates was 77.

The graduation was held at the University of Belize's Central Campus in Belmopan, and it was UB's Twelfth C o m m e n c e m e n t Exercise.

## Clean, Safe, Convenient Water For Kendall and Maya Center



Hon. Melvin Hulse, Area Representative, Stann Creek West



The Newly Built 20,000 Gallon Concrete Elevated Water Tank



Gregorio Chun, Resident of Maya Center

It's so trite but so true, that water is the essence of life.

Life springs eternal in Kendall/ Maya Center as clean, safe and convenient drinking water is now in abundance in those villages located 14 miles out of Dangriga on the Southern Highway.

The 342 Thousand Dollar project was funded by the Government of Belize through the Social Investment Fund, with a loan from the Caribbean Development Bank.

It consists of a 20,000 gallon concrete elevated water tank, a concrete pump house with chain-link fence, supply and installation of 7.5 HP submersible single-phase pump, a chlorinator unit, the installation of a network of 4,000 feet of distribution pipes, and 80 water meters.

Opening ceremonies

for the project took place last week, and Stann Creek West Area Representative Hon. Melvin Hulse was the guest speaker.

In his usual, straight-forward, no-frills style, the "flipping" Minister, as he is fondly known, stated:

"This is just another essential piece of development, putting in the permanent infrastructure, and we move forward, guys. And we will keep developing Maya Center. This is only one thing; we don't stop here. We have electricity expansion, dust reduction, and a lot more. This is the kind of work we are doing in Stann Creek West right now."

Maya Center and Kendall combined have a total population of around 500 residents.



Hon. Melvin Hulse turns on faucet as Daniel Cano of SIF watches

# On The Same Page

### Belmopan, Cotton Tree, St. Matthews, Franks Eddy



Belmopan Area Rep John Saldivar and Mayor Simeon Lopez cut ribbon to inaugurate water expansion project in Lomas de Las Flores Area

On the same page with Kendall and Maya Center this week is the City of Belmopan. We're speaking of course of the literal page of Capital Weekly, and also metaphorical page of water expansion.

On January 21, Belmopan held inauguration ceremonies for the expansion of its water system in the Lomas de Las Flores area. The ceremonial ribbon cutting was done by Area Representative Hon. John Saldivar and Mayor Simeon Lopez.

This project has been implemented concurrently with the extension of water services from the Capital City to the villages of Cotton Tree, St. Matthews and Frank's Eddy on the Western Highway. The first phase of that project is nearing completion as BWSL is now inviting residents to apply for their connection to the water mains which will now supply them with safe and reliable drinking water



Hon. Ramon Witz, Area Representative for Cayo South His tireless efforts secured water expansion project for Cotton Tree, St. Matthew's and Frank's Eddy Villages

straight from Belmopan.

Residents in those villages have been suffering for ten years as the rudimentary water systems they relied on for water had become nonfunctional and contaminated.

It's a project that has come about through the relentless efforts of Cayo South Area Representative Hon. Ramon Witz and the personal commitment of Prime Minister Hon. Dean Barrow who promptly followed through

on his pledge to find over One Million Dollars to execute the project to improve the lives of the residents in those three villages.

For residents of the villages, it's a long overdue project that has come not a minute too soon. This also, of course, puts those villages on the same page with the Nation's Capital—the same page of national development and improvement in the quality of life.



Water mains being run along Western Highway to provide water to Cotton Tree, St. Matthew's and Frank's Eddy



#### 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
- Processing of applications for licenses, authorizations, reports, documents, etc.
- Maintenance of registers of licensees, Byelaws, Orders, Decisions, Regulations, etc.
   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
- 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

#### 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:

- Direct supervision of assigned staff
- Assist in the development and implementation of rate setting Byelaws, Regulations and methodologies
- Management and control of rate review proceedings and filings
- Assist in the determination and setting of tariffs, rates, fees and charges in rate review proceedings or filings
- Assist in the development, issuing and monitoring for compliance of Decisions and Orders in relation to tariffs, rates, fees and charges
- Supervise or conduct relevant economic studies in relation to affordability and appropriateness of tariffs, rates, fees and charges
- 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
- Outstanding interpersonal, planning, motivational and organizational skills
- d) Unwavering interest and commitment to the purpose, duties and responsibilities of the PUC

#### 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
- 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
- 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
- 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
- Assist in the conducting of rate review proceedings and filings
- 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
- 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
- At least five (5) years' experience in a relevant position
- Outstanding interpersonal, planning, motivational and organizational skills
- 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





#### The University of Belize invites applicants for the post of Quality Assurance Officer

Job Title Quality Assurance Officer

Academic Affairs Reporting Relationship: Quality Assurance Director

**Duty Station:** Belmopan Campus

Functional Relationship: Assistant Provost, Faculty Deans, ODL Director, Academic Directors, National, Regional and International networks or agencies focused on teaching and learning in higher education.

#### Areas of Responsibility:

Division:

 participates in the planning, execution and regular evaluation of a strategic multi-year plan consistent with the university and the Academic division's strategic plan aimed at institutionalizing mechanisms that ensure the continuous development of the quality of teaching and learning at the University of Belize

· participates in the development of a multi-year strategic plan based on coherent set of accreditation standards for the achievement of specified QA goals and consistent with the university's shared vision;

Advices and makes provision for the establishment of a continuous professional development program specifically focusing on excellence in teaching and learning

Participates in the development of the annual budget proposals for the QA office specifically as it relates to the officer's annual work plan;

· Develops and maintains active working relationships with local, regional and international networks or agencies focused on excellence in teaching and learning in higher education

Actively participates in the quality assurance committee;

· Deputizes for the QA Director in his absence

Qualifications: Minimum Masters Degree (PhD preferred) in Curriculum/Instruction and or Assessment in Higher Education

Belmopan

No less than 2 years experience in Quality Assurance

· Bilingual (Spanish & English)

To apply:

Kindly apply online at www.ub.edu.bz under About UB, opportunities/vacancies (http://www.ub.edu.bz/university/jobs.php).

Please upload a cover letter, curriculum vitae, copies of relevant degrees and certificates and 2 reference letters.

· You must forward a valid Police Record to:

**Human Resource Director** University of Belize **Humming Bird Avenue** 

If you have any questions kindly contact dnajarro@ub.edu.bz

DEADLINE TO APPLY: February 18, 2011



#### The University of Belize invites applicants for the post of Director Campus Operations and General Services:

Post: Director Campus Operations and General Services

**Duty Station:** Belmopan Campus

Reporting relationship: Vice-President Advancement and Operations

Functional Relationship: Director of Human Resources, Director of Finance, Campuses and Field Stations Administrators, Director of Information and Communications Technology, Assistant Provost,

Supervising relationship: Director of Security, Director Physical Plant

#### Areas of responsibility:

The Director of Campus Operations and General Services (DCO) is responsible for:

1. Participating in the proper planning, organizing, administration and monitoring of all operations related to security and emergency responses;

2. the maintenance of faculty buildings, furniture and office/classroom equipment, and maintenance of buildings, furniture and equipment related to student services (cafeteria, and residence);

maintenance of sport fields and facilities;

4. maintenance of grounds and

general services, e.g., cleaning, purchasing and receiving and the delivery of mails.

6. Organize and control traffic patterns and parking on campus

The Director of Campus Operations and General Services must have:

 A minimum of a Bachelor's Degree in a discipline related to administration, project management or some discipline involving operational planning.

At least five years of successful experience as an Operations Manager of a medium size or large corporation or institution.

The DCO must also have good leadership skills.

High level of computer literacy with proficiency in a project management software

Proven ability to think critically, to analyze situations logically and comprehensively and to identify and implement solutions.

· Excellent people and communications skills, with a flair for customer service. To apply:

Kindly apply online at www.ub.edu.bz\_under About UB, opportunities/vacancies

(http://www.ub.edu.bz/university/jobs.php). Please upload a cover letter, curriculum vitae, copies of relevant degrees and certificates and 2 reference letters.

You must forward a valid Police Record to:

**Human Resource Director** University of Belize **Humming Bird Avenue** Belmopan

If you have any questions kindly contact dnajarro@ub.edu.bz

DEADLINE TO APPLY: February 18, 2011

University of Belize



#### The University of Belize invites applicants for the post of Vice President:

Vice President Post:

Reporting Relationship: This position reports to the President

**Duty Station:** Belmopan Campus

Functional Relationship: Provost, Director of Finance, Director of Human Resources, Assistant Provost, Deans and Institutional Directors

Specific Responsibilities:

responsible for leading the design, implementation and coordination of effective and well integrated Advancement, Research Programmes and Operation Services that support the University's mission and strategic direction

 the administration, management and academic goal accomplishment of the university through development activities and special projects;

supervises the University's Research agenda,

has oversight for all Information Technology Services and projects undertaken through Operations and it ensures effective Maintenance and Security of the campuses and land assets.

**Key Duties:** Provide leadership and oversight for the Departments and Units identified under Supervisory

Relationship (above). Serve as the University of Belize's representative on the Foundation Board, assuming responsibility

for the internal operations of the foundation, development of fund raising strategies through the foundation and working collaboratively with the UB Foundation Board and the UB President. · Establish and implement plans, programs and schedules for University Advancement through external fund raising in collaboration with the director of Development.

 Provide oversight in the preparation and development of proposals and present development projects to various corporations, foundations and individuals; coordinate development activities of Deans and Directors of Faculties and Departments

Provide leadership and oversight for the University's Research agenda in conjunction with the Director of Research and the Research Council.

 Review existing and develop policies and procedures; evaluate and serve in an advisory capacity to university officers and the President, make recommendations for improvements in University Advancement, Research and Operations

Supervise, direct, delegate, and evaluate work of assigned staff.

· Determine fiscal requirements of Departments and Units within his/her portfolio and prepare budgetary recommendations; monitor, verify and reconcile expenditure of budgeted funds

 Provide administrative direction to staff in the implementation and execution of the planned programs and services for University Advancement and Operations.

Serve as a key strategist for the University through service on the Senior Management Team and

various other relevant committees (Eg. Academic Council, Policy Observatory, Strategic Development Plan Committee etc.).

Perform related duties as required.

#### Required Education and Experience:

Minimum of a Masters Degree (Ph.D. Preferred) in Management or Administration

Background in and knowledge of institutional research

· Experience relative to university development activities and in stakeholder engagement and strong networking skills

· Capacity to manage fund raising in a public university setting.

To apply

· Kindly apply online at www.ub.edu.bz under About UB, opportunities/vacancies (http://www.ub.edu.bz/university/jobs.php). Please upload a cover letter, curriculum vitae, copies of relevant degrees and certificates and 2 reference letters.

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**Human Resource Director** University of Belize **Humming Bird Avenue** Belmopan

If you have any questions kindly contact dnajarro@ub.edu.bz

DEADLINE TO APPLY: February 18, 2011



#### The University of Belize invites applicants for the post of Computer Technician

Computer Technician

Campus Administrator/Director Information Communication Network Reports to:

Punta Gorda Campus **Duty Station:** General Responsibility: Provides Technical and software support for all the constituencies of the

University of Belize in the area of Information Technology.

Duties and responsibilities:

 Performs system and application analysis/design, and programming in both client/server and web-based application.

 Provides documentation throughout software development process Installs/sets up computers, printers, and all other peripherals

Configures computers

· Installs software on all computers

Upgrades computers and related peripherals · Upgrades software and hardware

Trouble shoots computer problems hardware and software

· Identifies parts needed to repair/upgrade computer systems · Mans the help desk and responds and resolves hardware/software problems for the users

· Repairs printers, computers and other peripherals

Assist in network setup

· Maintains the security of the network

· Assist faculty and staff in solving computer related problems

· Assist students in the computer labs

· Runs network cables

· Assist the Director of IT in the smooth operation of the IT department

#### Qualifications:

· Associate Degree with A+ or comparable education

Two years practical computer experience Must be able to work well with little supervision

Complete complex assignments independently Well spoken in English

Good basic math skills

Must be able to lift up 40 pounds Agile and able to work in tight spaces

Kindly apply online at www.ub.edu.bz under About UB, opportunities/vacancies

(http://www.ub.edu.bz/university/jobs.php). Please upload a cover letter, curriculum vitae, copies of relevant degrees and certificates and 2 reference letters.

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If you have any questions kindly contact dnajarro@ub.edu.bz .

DEADLINE TO APPLY: February 18, 2011



Ismael "Miley" Garcia National Sports Coordinator Ministry of Sports

Minister of Sports Hon. John Saldivar has signed a new statutory instrument extending the deadline for the three-man investigative committee to complete their investigations into the validity (or otherwise) of the Election of Executives of the Football Federation of Belize which saw the re-instalment of Doctor Bertie Chimio as FFB President, with his entire slate once again filling all other executive posts.

The committee has since wrapped up its investigations in Dangriga and Toledo, and is now moving on to Corozal, Orange Walk and Belize Districts this coming week. From there they will be heading west to Belmopan and Cayo, rounding out their schedule of investigations.

In local news out of Belmopan, excitement continued in the Annual Inter-Departmental Dominoes Tournament featuring the Minister of Sports himself, Hon. John Saldivar as a member of the Public Service Team.

On January 13, Labour/ Nemo defeated the Minister's team, Public Service, 3013 to 2841; while Natural Resources trashed Ministry of Works 3014 to 2616.

On January 1 8, BDF

# Sports Update

### With Ismael "Miley" Garcia

overcame the Police 3055-2371 and Fire/Fisheries beat Labour/NEMO 3001 to 2411.

On January 20, Fire/ Fisheries defeated Police 3064-2026, while

Labour/NEMO prevailed over BDF by a score of 3018 to 3154.

On January 25, Fire/ Fisheries beat Public Service 3020-1959. That game, incidentally, stirred some healthy laughter at the Minister's expense as rumour had it that his mental reflexes were slowed by the fact that he had just over-indulged in the destruction of some good old Belizean boil-up. Thanks for the laughter, Ministro. Hope I don't get disciplined for it.

That same day, Police also defeated Natural Resources 3026 to 1597. And on January 27, the Minister's team rebounded as Public

Service defeated Natural Resources, while Police upset the defending Champions Ministry of Works.

Dominoes can be fun indeed, and a great activity to foster camaraderie in the work place. It is also, of course, a bona fide sport.

Keep coming out Tuesdays and Thursdays to the Belmopan Civic Center at 6:30 PM for exciting games.



#### **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.

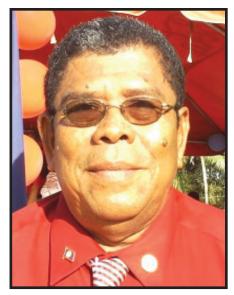
Where any of the above license holders remedies the breaches referred to immediately above within thirty (30) days commencing with the date of this Notice and to the satisfaction of the Commission, the Commission shall withdraw its proposal to revoke the respective license.

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



### City Council at Work

#### Upgrading Infrastructure in the Capital



Simeon Lopez Mayor of Belmopan

Major upgrade to infrastructure is coming soon to all our towns and cities countrywide through the Municipal Infrastructure Project funded by the World Bank.

The Belmopan City Council welcomes but isn't waiting idly for that project to come on stream. Rather, the team at City Hall, headed by Mayor Simeon Lopez, have put their own abilities and industry to work, and have been able to find resources, not only

to maintain the Capital City's vital infrastructure, but also to start upgrading them to the next level; so that when the municipal infrastructure project begins to roll, it would only enhance and extend the important work that has already begun.

This week we bring you images of such works taking place on Paloma Lane, joining Macaw Avenue to Sinsonte Avenue. That area is, in fact, being upgraded to paved standard. The council has re-organized the entire area, making full use of the additional space on the drain sides to creating parking. One layer of tar has already been laid, and another will be put on in the next two to three weeks.

Similar works are taking place in various other areas of the city. In some areas all that has been needed is patching, dumping or grading of streets, and in those



Paving of Paloma Lane, joining Macaw Avenue to Sinsonte Avenue.

instances, that is being done.

Some of the more ambitious projects being currently considered for almost immediate execution are, the construction of a footpath bridge off Oriole Avenue; ramps and rails particularly for public buildings; reconstruction of a portion of walkway between Cayo Street and Stann Creek Street; rehabilitation of Caribbean Street near Amethyst Street; completion of a portion of street at the junction of Libertad and Corozal Streets; replacing of broken and missing slabs on the main walkway from Civic Center to Angelus Press; paving of a portion of Intelco Street from the junction with Hummingbird

Drive; completion of paving of the small unpaved segment of Trio, Bladen and Swasey Streets, as well as University Crescent; and the rehabilitation of Hummingbird Avenue at the entrance of UB.

Mayor Simeon Lopez says these projects were not unilaterally decided on by the City Council, but were instead indentified in conjunction with residents particularly through a recently formed citizen's group which calls itself VOICE of Belmopan.

One such project that has already been executed by the Belmopan City Council is the installation of a Speed Bump at the Junction of Caribbean Street and

#### PUBLIC NOTICE



**Public Utilities Commision (PUC)** 



#### <u>Guidelines to Assist Wiremen</u>

The PUC has prepared a package of guidelines for Wiremen, which provides:

- a) a description of requirements to be met for submissions;
- b) a sample drawing;
- c) a pair of submission sheets to be filled in during the submission process.

Wiremen are to adhere to these guidelines when making <u>any</u> submission to the PUC for Design Approval and subsequent Inspection of Customer Electrical Installations.

Wiremen may obtain a copy of these guidelines at the PUC Office, or download a copy from the PUC website <a href="www.puc.bz">www.puc.bz</a>.

The guidelines will come into use effective March 1, 2011.

For further information contact: The Electricity Sector Public Utilities Commission

Tel: 223-4938 Fax: 223-6818

Email: electricalsubmission@puc.bz

Issued by the Public Utilities Commission on January 28, 2011.

### 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.

## \$\$\$ Billions Beneath the Sea

## Should We Drill for Oil Offshore?

#### **Continued from page 1**

any major decision except with eyes wide open. Yet, one must forever be mindful of the fact that where there is much noise, there's not necessarily much reasoning, or much truth.

The truth, for example, is that while it has only now become the subject of major public debate, offshore drilling in Belize has been around, indeed, has been carried out for many years in many parts of the country.

Offshore exploration in Belize began in the mid 1950's. Extensive seismic surveys were conducted offshore and a total of 16 dry holes were drilled on San Pedro, the Turneffe Cayes, the Glovers Reef Cayes, off Dangriga and off Punta Gorda.

This exploration was

carried out when there was no environmental agency, but was nevertheless done in an environmentally safe manner. Since then there have been advances in technology that have made the exploration and production of petroleum far more safe and clean.

Off-shore drilling is a well-established, well-developed, tried and tested process. It begins with a seismic survey being carried out; and if drillable structures are located under the sea floor, then an exploration well is drilled using any of a number of types of offshore drill-rig, such as a semi-submersible platform or jack-up platform.

While drilling is being done, a device called a Blow-Out Preventer (BOP) functions to prevent blowouts, which is the

single major accident that can occur while drilling. It works by closing off the well if the drill-bit enters an over-pressured rock formation with oil and gas which would cause a blowout.

The blowout in the Gulf of Mexico was due to gross negligence and should not have occurred if the Blow-Out Preventer was functioning properly. (The Blow-Out Preventer should always be regularly tested while drilling to ensure that it is functioning properly).

If oil is struck, the well is capped and a permanent drilling platform takes over. Off shore production platforms collect the oil produced from one or more wells from the sub-seafloor through specially devised flow-lines and risers. The oil is then loaded on tankers or piped through underwater pipelines to shore and transported to markets around the world.

In order to carry out exploration, a company (local or international) must get approval from the Government at the level of the Cabinet. Once an application is approved, the government and the company negotiate the terms of the licence; then it is signed and the company carries out exploration under an approved work program.

A company cannot even commence a seismic survey, let alone drill a well, unless and until it gets an environmental clearance. In the case of offshore drilling, the Government would contract an independent drilling contractor to inspect the rig and the BOP and certify the rig for operation.

That's the science of it. Yet it's for Belize, not just an academic matter as, considering the tremendous economic potential that possibly lies beneath the sea and the real financial difficulties we face as a nation, this question of aggressively pursuing the exploration for greater quantities of oil as a means towards meeting those economic and financial demands, has all too quickly



Audrey Matura Shepherd of OCEANA, one of the strongest opponents of offshore drilling

become a practical and urgent one.

It is no secret that the offshore areas of Belize, particularly the southern offshore region, are believed to have potential for large oil-fields that can generate significant revenues for the country, which would contribute to its economic and social development. If that possibility were to materialize by way of a large offshore discovery, the oil produced could generate Hundreds of Millions of dollars annually (Billions over a period of time) for the country and would create jobs and much needed economic activity, thus contributing to the development and prosperity of Belize.

This, of course, if it is to be done, would have to be done in an environmentally conscious and safe manner, so as to harmonise the coexistence of Oil Exploration, Fishing and Tourism. All that and more is what the great national debate is about.

Let the debate continue, and let's keep an open mind; but if there's great benefit to be derived, and if it can come without any significant loss to our other treasured natural assets, then why shouldn't we drill and extract the Billions of dollars that quite possibly lie beneath the Sea?



#### **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) Mirrornet 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.

# GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND FOREIGN TRADE STATEMENTS OF CAPABILITY

The Government of Belize has received a grant from the Caribbean Aid for Trade and Regional Integration Trust Fund (CARTFund), administered by the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), financed by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) with decisions on approval of projects made by a Steering Committee comprising DFID, CARICOM and CARIFORUM. The Government of Belize through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade intends to apply part of the proceeds to eligible payments under the contract for which this invitation is issued.

#### The scope of the consultancy service will include:

Assist and provide necessary support to Foreign Trade Directorate in its functions as Secretariat in the EPA/CSME Implementation Structure. These will include but not be limited to:

- (a) Collaborating with the CARICOM Secretariat, specifically the CSME and the EPA Implementation Units, relevant Government Ministries and Departments and the Private Sector to produce the required deliverables;
- (b) Undertaking a review of existing reports and studies on the implementation status of the CSME and the EPA.
- (c) Sensitizing stakeholders on the implications of new and revised legislation;
- (d) Utilizing existing diagnostic work on the CSME and EPA and initial feedback from stakeholders to identify gaps in legislation and recommend those requiring amendment or introduction;
- (e) Devising and implementing a consultative process to prioritize amendments, including a timeline;
- (f) Preparing a Cabinet brief of the proposed prioritized listing of legislative reforms for the approval of the Cabinet;
- (g) Drafting new legislation and preparing amendments to existing legislation, based on regional model legislation(as appropriate) and on comprehensive feedback from the Attorney General's Ministry; and
- (h) Collaborating closely with Attorney General's Ministry in finalizing existing legislation and preparing the legal instruments for enactments

#### **QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE**

- (a) At least a LLM degree and five (5) years' experience in drafting legal text OR a LLB degree and ten (10) years' relevant experience;
- (b) Knowledge of the Laws of Belize;
- (c) Familiarity with the CARICOM integration process and EPA; and
- (d) Excellent analytical and communications skills
- (e) Specific training and/or experience in international trade law will be an asset.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, now invites interested eligible consultants to submit Statements of Capability for the provision of these consultancy services.

#### Consultants shall be eligible for procurement if:

- (a) in the case of a body corporate, it is legally incorporated or otherwise organised in an eligible country, has its principal place of business in an eligible country and is more than 50 per cent beneficially owned by a citizen or citizens and/or a *bona fide* resident or residents of an eligible country or countries or by a body or bodies corporate meeting these requirements;
- (b) in the case of unincorporated firms, the persons are citizens or bona fide residents of an eligible country; and
- (c) In all cases, the consultant has no arrangement and undertakes not to make any arrangements whereby any substantial part of the net profits or other tangible benefits of the contract will accrue or be paid to a person not a citizen or *bona fide* resident of an eligible country.

Eligible countries are CDB Member Countries, Suriname and the Dominican Republic.

Submissions will be assessed based on technical competence, qualifications and experience, regional experience on similar assignments, the extent of prior commitments, and proficiency in English. Submissions should include corporate profile where appropriate, descriptions of similar projects completed within the past five years, and the Consultant's curriculum vitae.

Statements of Capability must be submitted in sealed envelopes marked "STATEMENT OF CAPABILITY: PRIVATE SECTOR PROJECT PROPOSAL HUB". Three copies of each submission in the English language must be delivered no later than 16:00 hours on 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2011 to the first address below and one hard copy sent simultaneously to CDB at the second address below.

Following the assessment of submissions, a shortlist of not less than three, and not more than six consultants, will be invited to submit technical and financial proposals. Copies of the terms of reference for the assignment will be made available to the short-listed firms.

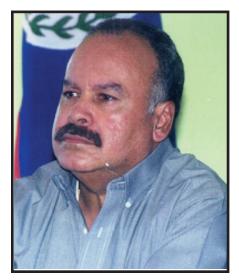
GOB reserves the right to accept or reject late applications or to cancel this invitation partially or in its entirety. It will not be bound to assign any reason for not short listing any applicant and will not defray any costs incurred by any applicant in the preparation and submission of statements of capability.

# 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

### **February 20, 2011:**

The Government and People of Belize have to find \$33 Million to make another instalment on the repayment of the Superbond left behind by the last PUP administration.

### August 20, 2011:

We will have to find another \$47 Million as the interest jumps from 6 percent up to 8.5 percent

### August 20, 2019:

Repayments go up to \$100 Million every Six Months (200 Million a year), as we start making Bullet Payments on the principal, while continuing to pay off the interest

### August 20, 2029:

By the time we're finished paying off the Superbond, it would have cost us \$1,588,590,700 (1.5 Billion with a B)

# We Can't Forget The Past

When We Are Paying In The Present

And Will Continue to Pay in the Future

# **Belize Math Olympiad 2011**

### Stimulating Enthusiasm and Critical Thinking Through Mathematical Creativity **Now Coming to your Area !!!**

