



Capital Weekly

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



No. 005

Wednesday, February 16, 2011

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Stop Sicking Out at SSB!

Start Looking Out for the Sick

The sick out by unionized members of the Social Security Board on Monday, though it made the news, was certainly not riveting. And there's a reason why it wasn't, don't you think?

That reason, of course, is the fact that no one at all believes that the workers of the Social Security Board are inadequately remunerated for the service they deliver, especially in comparison to the benefits received from Social Security by the average Belizean worker and contributor.

Hats off to the management of the SSB, particularly its present and principled General Manager Merlene Bailey



Social Security Offices in the Old Capital, Belize City

Martinez, for acknowledging this in a press release today issued in response to the staged sick out. That, in our view, was the real news of the day. (That press release from

the Management of the SSB is re-printed in its entirety on Page 6).

The other significant news of the day was made by one

of two national TV stations whose job it is to bring the news, not to make the news. Channel Five, owned and operated by Ashcroft and the Opposition, nevertheless made news in its visible attempt to sensationalize and magnify, as much as possible, the SSB sick out story.

Channel Five on Monday deployed reporters to every part of the country in an attempt to highlight and magnify the effects of the SSB sick out. And, a quick scan of the online transcript of Channel Five's newscast for that evening shows a story nauseatingly embellished with

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What's Wrong With BTL?

Patronizing the Enemy - Ostracizing the Patriots

For proper perspective, let's begin by recounting, as briefly as we can, how it is that Belize Telemedia arrived at its current position of being, at least for now, under the control of the Government and People of Belize.

It was the last administration led by Musa and Fonseca, remember, which immediately upon returning to office in 1998, began making good on its



Belize Telemedia Corporate Headquarters in Belize City

unholy commitment to hand over BTL to the man who was the biggest financier of the PUP campaign going into the 1998 general elections.

There was a very good reason, in case you haven't yet figured it out, why he became the biggest funder of the PUP in those general elections, that reason being that he could not have his

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Editorial

Football Politics



Delroy Cuthkelvin
Chairman, Editorial Board

This past Sunday afternoon, we found ourselves watching live on Krem TV the entire second half of a football game deciding the 2011 Championship of the Belize Premiere Football League (BPFL). The game, played at the Norman Broaster Stadium in San Ignacio, featured two-time defending champion BDF and the Toledo Ambassadors.

When the long whistle blew (or as they say in Spanish, cuando dijo el árbitro que no hay tiempo para mas), BDF came out on top by a score of Two to Nil, thereby securing their third straight championship. But the Toledo Ambassadors had nothing to be ashamed of, as they gave very good account of themselves coming from a place that has often been dubbed the forgotten district.

We ourselves are, of course, natives of that other Southern District, Stann Creek, too often not remembered enough for its outstanding history and

accomplishment in Belizean Football, among other things.

As boys growing up in the Stann Creek Valley, football was the only field sport in which we participated in any meaningful way. (We incidentally, were privileged to attend primary school at St. Matthews Anglican in Pomona, with one of the Country's most professionally-landscaped football pitches located directly on the opposite side of the road, and at our full disposal.)

And, though we have since learnt to appreciate a number of other sports, no one can yet convince us—nor, apparently, the rest of the world—that football is not the most rewarding of all sports.

Our strongest argument in favour of football's superiority is the fact that it is the most challenging of all sports for the simple reason that it is the only game that allows one to control the ball with everything except what is by nature the most dexterous part of the body, the hands. Only the goal keeper, who is the very last line of defence, is afforded that privilege. Football then, by our analysis, is the sport that requires the greatest of skill. Of

course, we stand to be corrected!

True, although in our view, almost anyone could bounce a ball with the hands, we are nevertheless great fans of Basketball, especially the NBA. In fact, earlier in the afternoon this past Sunday, we had just watched on ABC the Boston Celtics defeat the Miami Heat (producing mixed feelings for us, as both teams are favourites of ours). In the other game, the Orlando Magics, no favourite of ours, brought us joy nonetheless, as they put a beating on the Los Angeles Lakers of whom we are avid "haters", as they would say in basketball jargon. Again, I'm open to rebuke for being a certified "Laker Hater".

But, getting back to football at home, as we watched the Minister of Sports Hon. John Saldivar handing out trophies to the first and second place teams in the BPFL Championship (thanks again to KREM TV), we were reminded how critical to the future of this rewarding sport is his determination to clean up the state of affairs in a discipline where it is not *political football*, but *football politics* that appears to be holding us back and preventing us from making our mark on the international pitch in an activity that is truly the world's game.

We won't say much more at this time, as the

matter of the FFB's apparently undemocratic ways in its governance of Belizean football is currently under investigation by a committee appointed by the Minister of Sports. For now, suffice it to say, our hearts and souls are in full support of what the Minister is attempting to achieve.

And, looking at the raw talent on the Norman Broaster Stadium this past Sunday only reinforced in us the conviction that it is time—regular time, injury time, overtime, and sudden death, if you will—that we set things right in Belizean football in order for us NOT to squander away many generations more of such natural talent with which our youth are bountifully blessed.

Go Hon. Saldivar, Go! For the sake of our talented footballers, and for the sake of the nation, GO!

Capital Weekly

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

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A Day Of LOVE

Valentine's Day Was February 13th in Port Loyola

By Vernon Cuthkelvin



Exuberant party supporters at Port Loyola Convention

Thousands descended on the Wilton Camerbatch Field to celebrate the endorsement of Hon. Anthony 'Boots' Martinez as UDP Standard Bearer for Port Loyola.

It was the biggest convention ever held in the Port Loyola constituency and for the first time

Loyolans.

Speaker after speaker echoed praises and congratulated the Hon. Boots Martinez on his hard work and dedication not only as the representative for Port but to his Ministry and the United Democratic Party countrywide.

and surprises. An all star host of entertainers graced the stage led by the living legend Paul Nabor, 'Titiman' Flores, Ernestine Carballo, Professor Chumba (the Fire Eater), Youth Connection, and Supa G. Kenny Morgan, the master of ceremonies, kept the huge crowd filled with excitement all evening, especially during the raffling of the stove, washing machine, refrigerator, microwave, tennis



Party Leader Dean Barrow



Anthony Martinez supported by former PUP opponent Oscar Rosado, both flanked by former UDP Chairman Douglas Singh and Belize Rural South Area Rep. Manuel Heredia



Hon. Patrick Faber, Paul Nabor and Hon. Anthony Martinez

ever in his political career 'Boots' was unopposed. Anthony 'Boots' Martinez will represent the United Democratic Party for Port Loyola in the next General Elections.

Notably, in the last General Elections, Boots handsomely defeated Oscar Rosado of the PUP to become the representative for that area. Words would never explain the amazement of the massive crowd when Oscar Rosado was called to stage as a guest speaker at Sunday's Convention. He emphatically and resoundingly pledged his whole hearted support for Anthony 'Boots' Martinez and the UDP and joined the family of 'Boots' Port

Cabinet colleagues, numerous Representatives and Standard Bearers along with officials of the party attended this convention which can only be deemed 'the convention of love'. A love that was clearly demonstrated by the thousands in attendance as they swarmed the Prime Minister; the Hon. Dean Barrow, with hugs, kisses and warm embraces and vocally welcomed the Deputy Prime Minister; the Hon. Gaspar Vega, the Chairman; Hon. Patrick Faber, Regional Leaders and other Ministers of Government.

The cool afternoon set the stage for what would be a hot evening of entertainment, prizes

shoes, bicycles, cell phones, dining certificate, shopping certificate, sofa set, flat screen television, and the grand prize of FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS. Only registered voters of Port Loyola qualified for the raffle which was all free.

Valentine's Day for Port Loyola came on Sunday February 13, and to put it in the words of a lady who won a bicycle "I have never been to a convention that

is filled with so much love. I walked here this afternoon and now I am riding home on a new bicycle, thanks to Boots Martinez and the UDP".

Imagine the reality that some households today in Port Loyola now enjoy, a stove, a washing machine, etc., as a result of the love that spread through the heart of Port Loyola by Hon. Boots Martinez and the UDP this past Sunday, February 13, 2011.



Hon. Gaspar Vega, Paul Nabor and Hon. Anthony Martinez

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 on-line at GOB’s official portal <http://www.belize.gov.bz> or can be requested from daniel.cano@sifbelize.org.

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

Executive Director
Belize Social Investment Fund
3rd Floor, PAPI’s Building
Constitution Drive
Belmopan City
Belize

The sealed envelope containing the Statement of Capability must include the name and address of the applicant and should be clearly marked “**Statement of Capability: Urban Planning Officer, Belize Municipal Development Project**”

BSIF shall not be bound to assign any reason for not selecting any applicant and will not defray any costs incurred by the applicant in the preparation and submission of statements.

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:
28th February, 2011

The Fever is On!

Math Olympiad Heats Up



Southern Regional Champions from Julian Cho Technical High School of Toledo

The pitch is feverish—and that's no exaggeration—as the 2011 Math Olympiad, sponsored by the Social Security Board, has our young and bright Belizean minds blazing with figures and challenging computations.

Schools from remote areas, hitherto virtually unknown, are making their mark on the national stage, while others,

Southern zones.

In the West, whose championship was the first to be decided, the Belize Christian Academy emerged as regional champions, with Sacred Heart College coming in Second.

Next was the Southern Regional knock out competition, the results of which we'll break to you gently since it is the most recent news.

The participating schools were Delille Academy, Georgetown Technical High School, Independence High School, Julian Cho Technical High School, Mafredi Vo-Tech School, Stann Creek Ecumenical College and Toledo Community College. Julian Cho Technical High School was victorious earning a total

Second place winners were Independence High School with 900 points.

The next knock-out series will be the Northern Regional Competition which will be held at the Orange Walk Multipurpose Complex on Wednesday, February 16, 2011, at 9.00 a.m.

The Social Security Board,



Southern Regional Sub-Champions from Independence High School, Stann Creek

of 2,250 points and will be moving on to National Championship. Representing Julian Cho Technical High School were Louis Kus Jr., Rudi Fajardo, Su Hong Deng and Gladis Itch.

proud sponsors of the Belize Math Olympiad, said in a media release, it acknowledges the exceptional support from all participating high schools and invites everyone to support, encourage and enjoy the remaining competitions.



Western Regional Champions of Belize Christian Academy

challenged like never before, are digging in and bouncing back.

So much for the commentary, now here are the stats: So far, the regional championships have been decided in the Western and

On the morning of Wednesday February 9th, the Sacred Heart Parish Hall in Dangriga was filled to capacity as seven high schools from the South competed for the title of the 2011 Southern Regional Champion.



Western Regional Sub-Champions from Sacred Heart College, San Ignacio

PRESS RELEASE

The Social Security Board (SSB) is of the view that the industrial action organized by some members of the CWU is premature and unjustified. The rationale given for the sickout today Monday February 14th, 2011 does not take into consideration all of the issues that the SSBs Board has had to consider before it determines the feasibility of the salary increase requested by the CWU members .

Firstly, the SSB Board's position is that its first responsibility is the prudent management of the SSB Fund for the greater benefit of all the insured workers. When one looks at the current level of insured benefits that the SSB provides to workers in comparison with the employment package provided to the SSB staff, it is clear that any requests for salary increases can only be taken in conjunction with a full review of the current level of benefits paid, particularly pension benefits.

In its negotiations with the Staff, the SSB Board has emphasized the fact that our employees enjoy compensation packages that compare favourably with similar level institutions in Belize. Also, our employees have received salary increases as late as **2007**, while the lowest paid pensioners' last increase was in **2001**.

We believe that with further dialogue, the SSB and its Staff will be able to come to an amicable agreement that fully reflects the reality of the financial state of the SSB and the broader economic situation of Belize.

The Board takes this opportunity to thank the members of staff who have shown up for work to ensure continued service delivery to our customers.

The End

*Issued Monday, February 14, 2011 by the
Management of the Social Security Board*

OAS Scholarships Advertisement

The Government of Belize (GOB) is now taking applications for the Organization of American States (OAS) 2012 – 2013 Scholarships to do Bachelors, Masters or Doctorate degrees.

Candidates should have a GPA of 3.2 or above and choose a field within the Priority Subject Areas established by GOB and OAS.

All applications must first be completed online using the website www.oas.org . Three (3) copies of the completed application must be delivered to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, NEMO Building, Belmopan, Belize Attn: Mr. Percy Lewis or Ms. Ardel Sabido by February 25, 2011.

The application package includes the Application Form (8 pages), three (3) Recommendation Letters (using the OAS form provided), Transcript/s (authenticated), Diploma/s (authenticated), Certificate of Language Proficiency and/or TOEFL Certificate, SAT or GRE (whichever is applicable), School Acceptance Letter (for self-place applications), Medical History Form and Résumé.

Feel free to call 822-2167 or email either percy.lewis@mfa.gov.bz or ardelle.sabido@mfa.gov.bz for an application checklist.



PUBLIC UTILITIES
COMMISSION



PUBLIC UTILITIES
COMMISSION

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Utilities Commission (PUC)

Guidelines to Assist Wiremen

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 **any** 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 www.puc.bz.

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.

Sports Update

With *Ismael “Miley” Garcia*



Ismael “Miley” Garcia
National Sports Coordinator
Ministry of Sports

Construction on the Marion Jones Sporting Complex continues as Government strives to deliver on this multi-million dollar project. Preliminary Works on the Running Track are near 80 percent complete, and very shortly the asphalt base will be installed before the synthetic track is laid down.

This track will meet IAAF standards, and will go a long way in making Belize more competitive internationally.

Bleachers have been completed for the running track. These works are being carried out by International Environments (IE).

The perimeter fence, being done by L&V Construction is 90 percent complete, and works on the football pitch have commenced. This field will be constructed to FIFA standards. A practice football field is also being prepared.

The facility is presently completely closed to the public since works are also being carried out on the outer track used by citizens to do daily exercise and the loose material



Phase One of Marion Jones Sports Complex Project

poses danger for accidents by pedestrians.

Pre-qualification bid documents for the Grandstand (Phase 4) of the project, have been issued to the six bidders that have pre-qualified. This is the biggest component of the

project and has a value of over eight million dollars (\$8,000,000). Already the works in the sporting complex are creating an impressive stir among the populace and this final phase will no doubt inspire many more of our young athletes.

In other sports news, the interdepartmental dominoes tournament continues in Belmopan every Tuesday and Thursday. The venue has been changed from the Belmopan Civic Center to the Police Training School Compound Canteen. Teams are competing fiercely for the grand two thousand dollars (\$2000) prize. Leading the race at present is the combined Fire/Fisheries Departments' team closely followed by the Belize Defence Force.



Phase Two of Marion Jones Sports Complex Project

Clean Solar Energy

GOB signs MOU with UB

The Government of Belize through the Ministry of Finance this morning signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for a clean solar energy project with the University of Belize (UB) at the university Central Campus, Belmopan.

Signatories to the MOU were the Financial Secretary, Mr. Joseph Waight, and Acting President and President Emeritus, Dr. Corinth Morter-Lewis. Also present was the Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Works, Mr. Cadet Henderson.

The BZ \$20 million Photovoltaic Project, which is funded by the Government of Japan through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), is designed to introduce clean energy to Belize by solar electricity generation using photovoltaic panels which are referred to as the PV system.

“UB is poised to become a leader in clean solar energy in the region,” remarked the Acting President and President Emeritus, Dr. Morter-Lewis. “UB students in particular from the engineering faculty will benefit from being exposed to this cutting-edge

technology.”

The construction of the photovoltaic panels which will be completed in one year will commence in August of this year and will be built on 2.04 acres of land at UB's Central Campus. All related costs to the construction and operations will be

realized by GOB and JICA.

As stipulated in the MOU, the power generated by the PV system will be sold to Belize Electricity Limited (BEL) and the gross proceeds from such sales will be transferred by way of a grant to UB. Also, GOB will transfer the ownership

and management of the PV system after a period of ten years to UB free of cost.

The equipment procured under the project will be maintained by the Ministry of Work and UB with necessary assistance from BEL and other related organizations.



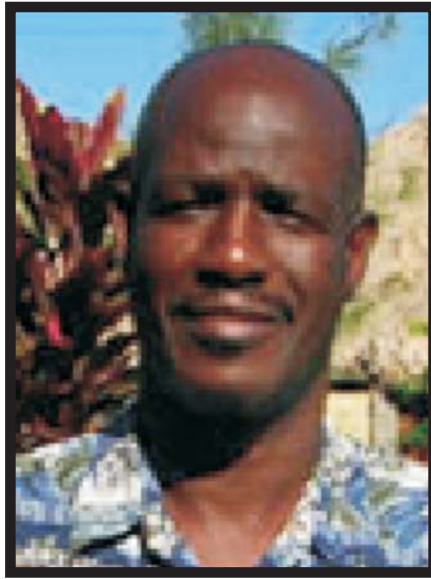
Signing: Cadet Henderson, CEO Ministry of Works, Financial Secretary Joseph Waight and UB Acting President Corinth Morter Lewis

Politics in Stann Creek West

Southern Shots - by "Bill Cutty"



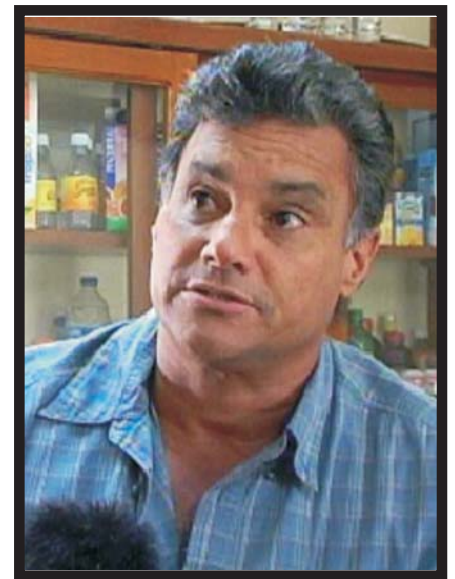
Hon. Melvin Hulse



Rodwell Ferguson



Denzil Jenkins



Henry Canton



Just the facts!

Tropical Gaming Company of Belize Limited shares some Quick Lotto facts:

- ✓ ***The Lotto Jackpot prize has BEEN AS HIGH AS \$182,500.00***
- ✓ ***Lotto contributes to the Belizean economy in several material ways:***
 - ***It pays 12.5% of its gross sales to the Government!***
 - ***It pays Business Tax.***
 - ***It pays commissions to its agents:***
 - ***It withholds & remits to GOB 15% from all prizes paid out!***
 - ***It paid a total of \$1,474,519.00 in prizes last year!***

Lotto:

Easier to understand!

Easier to play!

Easier to win!

Look out for some more Lotto facts next week!

Presently the United Democratic Party in the Stann Creek west has three candidates in the race for standard bearer. Hon. Melvin Hulse (incumbent), Mr. Dennis Martinez (Retired teacher) and Mr. Denzil Jenkins (former Manager of Belize Food Products Ltd and a player in the Citrus Growers Association). Hulse at this time is not at the height of his popularity and could be defeated by Jenkins. I believe it will be a close race since both men have the ability to attract substantial political funds.

The PUP has endorsed Rodwell Ferguson to run a third time after losing to Hulse in 2008. There were at least three other aspirants but it is rumoured they were rejected. In the Valley, the PUP's believe new faces such as Corona Villafaranco or Orlando Agustine would have been better for the PUP chances in 2013. It is highly unlikely that Rodwell Ferguson's endorsement was pushed by Party Leader Johnny Briceno. It can be recalled that

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Politics in Stann Creek West

Continued from page 8

Ferguson was one who turned on Briceno during the struggle against Musa/Fonseca. As a matter of fact, the vehicle (Prado) which Ferguson now has privately was the one assigned to then Minister of Natural Resources John Briceno. As soon as Briceno resigned from the Cabinet, Ferguson scurried off to Musa to beg for it.

If Hulse wins the UDP Convention, most analysts believe he can easily defeat Rodwell Ferguson again. This is why the PUP's are trying to encourage Henry Canton back into the political arena. Canton seems reluctant to get back into politics, preferring to exert his energies at Citrus Products of Belize Ltd (CPBL). He has transformed the company into a world class manufacturing entity. Some believe Canton could defeat Hulse; after all, he did it before in 1998. This time Hulse believes he is more formidable.

Should Denzil Jenkins defeat Melvin Hulse in the UDP convention and Canton re-enters the ring, the citrus agenda could be played out in the political ring. It is believed that Denzil Jenkins' motivation to get into politics is to advance his citrus Agenda. In 2013 it is still possible for Jenkins and Canton to faceoff in Stann Creek West. We'll see.

(The views expressed above are entirely those of the writer)



Rodwell Ferguson's Expensive Prado, a legacy of his single term in elected office



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 of 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.

Brand New School Buildings In The Southern Districts



*Area Rep Hon. Juan Coy, Minister of Education
Hon. Patrick Faber and Daniel Cano of SIF*



Hon. Patrick Faber in the midst of happy teachers and students

New school buildings which will address the educational needs of children in San Vicente and Hope Creek Villages in the Toledo and Stann Creek Districts respectively, were officially inaugurated last week. The total cost of both projects is approximately \$1.3 Million and will benefit some 446 students.

Both projects were implemented by the Social Investment Fund, a statutory body under the auspices of the Ministry of Economic Development.

The new school building in San Vicente Village was inaugurated on Thursday morning, 10th February at the project site. This project consisted of the construction and completion of a 25 ft wide by 240 ft long one-storey reinforced concrete school building with timber and concrete roof and strip and pad foundation, comprising of six classrooms, a library, and principal's office and a male and female bathroom block. All exterior doors are solid timber panel doors and the windows are storm guard aluminum louvers. Also included in the

project were the installation of electrical, lighting and plumbing fixtures, and a standard septic tank with soak-away waste water system and the provision of school furniture, including teachers' tables and chairs, students' armchairs, cupboards and bookshelves.

The total cost of the San Vicente School project was \$414,000. Of this amount, \$331,000 was a grant from the Basic Needs Trust Fund (BNTF 5), a program promoting poverty reduction through socio-economic initiatives and community empowerment. BNTF5 is jointly financed by the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and nine beneficiary governments, including Belize. The Government of Belize contributed \$83,000 in counterpart funding. Some 140 school children will benefit from the new school, which will also serve as a hurricane shelter. Prior to the project, the children were housed in a small wooden building.

San Vicente is a remote village



Hon. Patrick Faber Delivering address at Hope Creek

located 40 miles northwest of Punta Gorda Town near the Belize/Guatemalan border and 5 miles from Jalacte Village. The village was established around 1986 by farmers from Jalacte and surrounding areas. San Vicente has a population of 329 inhabitants.

Meanwhile, the new Hope Creek

Methodist School was inaugurated on Friday morning, 11th February at the project site in Hope Creek Village. The project included the construction of a 8,800 square foot, two-storey reinforced concrete structure measuring 30 ft 6 inches wide by 144

Continued on page 11



Newly Constructed School Building in San Vicente, Toledo

Brand New School Buildings In The Southern Districts



The Spanking New, Spacious School Building at Hope Creek, Stann Creek



Dangriga Area Rep. Arthur Roaches speaking at inauguration

Continued from page 10

ft long. The building has four classrooms, a library, an administration office and a female bathroom block on the ground floor. The first floor has four classrooms, a computer laboratory and a male and female bathroom block.

Hope Creek Methodist School has been growing in population since it was established seven years ago. Prior to the project, the children were housed in prefabricated buildings, which were in very poor condition. The new school building will, therefore, provide an enhanced educational environment for both children and teachers. A playground with swings, slides and seesaws, school furniture along with some landscaping was included in the project to further enhance the children's educational environment.

Some 306 children will benefit from the project.

The new Hope Creek Methodist School was financed by the Government of Belize through the Commonwealth Debt Initiative (CDI) at a total cost of \$888,645.00. The community of Hope Creek contributed materials and labor for the project.

Hope Creek Village is situated in the Stann Creek Valley Area of the Stann Creek District along the Hummingbird Highway. It has a population of about 1,500 persons and was established in 1962.

The guest speaker at the inauguration of both projects was the Hon Patrick Faber, Minister of Education and Youth, along with the respective Area Representatives, Ministers Juan Coy and Hon Arthur Roaches, as well as representatives of the Social Investment Fund among others.

**(Special Thanks to
Mike Hernandez Jr. J.P.,
Director of Public Relations,
Social Investment Fund for
providing us with Photographs
and Information)**



Cutting Ribbon: Toledo East Rep. Eden Martinez, Dangriga Rep. Arthur Roaches, Minister of Education Patrick Faber, Pat Bennett, Manager of Methodist Schools and Daniel Cano of SIF



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

Job Title: Quality Assurance Officer

Division: 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:

- 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 a 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.

Other Assets:

- 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
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
Vice President:*

Post: Vice President

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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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, Deans and Institutional Directors.

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);
3. maintenance of sport fields and facilities;
4. maintenance of grounds and
5. general services, e.g., cleaning, purchasing and receiving and the delivery of mails.
6. Organize and control traffic patterns and parking on campus.

Qualifications:

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:

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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*

Job Title: Computer Technician

Reports to: Campus Administrator/Director Information Communication Network

Duty Station: Punta Gorda Campus

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

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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DEADLINE TO APPLY: February 18, 2011

New Justices of the Peace Sworn In

Two From Cayo- Three From Dangriga



New J.P. Eddie Webster being sworn in by Solicitor General Oscar Ramjeet



Randolph Castillo just sworn in by Solicitor General



Nyani August just sworn in by Solicitor General



Alberto August just sworn in by Solicitor General

On Friday, February 11, Five New Justices of the Peace were sworn in, two from the Cay District and Three from the Stann Creek District.

Sworn in as new Justices of the Peace from San Ignacio, Cayo, were Alberto August and his wife Nyani August, who are co-owners of the Star Newspaper which renders valuable service to the people of Cayo through public information and education.

Sworn in as Justices of the Peace from Dangriga were Eddie Webster, former Senator and current Clerk of the National Assembly; Randolph Castillo, veteran plumber and entrepreneur, and Lomy Nunez, businesswoman.

The five new JP's were sworn in by the Solicitor General in the Office of the Attorney General on Friday Morning.



Lomy Nunez just sworn in by Solicitor General

Stop Sicking Out at SSB!



Social Security Headquarters in the Nation's Capital, Belmopan



*Merlene Bailey Martinez,
Finally, an SSB General
Manager with a conscience*

something we are never reluctant to dish out when it's deserved or called for. But for now, let's just say we are in full agreement with the SSB management when it states, "Any requests for salary increases can only be taken in conjunction with a full review of the current level of benefits paid, particularly pension benefits."

Continued from page 1

as much as FIVE (5) photographs of SSB buildings countrywide (No Boledo Rake). If that's not overdoing it, we don't know what is.

But getting back to the substance of the issue (whatever substance there is to it), the workers of SSB who staged the sick out reportedly did so in protest of negotiations for a new collective bargaining agreement which started in August of 2009. As to the timing of the sick out, it was intended to disrupt the process of collections at a time when social security payments are due, the 14th of the month.

But while those SSB workers staged their self-seeking moves, what about the general Belizean workers and contributor to the SSB scheme who have often complained in times of sickness, for example, of not receiving benefits as adequate or as timely as they should? And what about retired contributors? Are they receiving the kind of package they should?

These are lingering questions and long-time issues that have, of course, been inherited from an administration that was known to fleece the Belizean workers'

money at SSB for unsound private projects concocted by cronies of the party in power at that time.

If we go on, this could well become another indictment on the last administration,

Well said and nuff said. Stop sicking out, guys, and start looking out for the sick and aged.

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***

**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 16th 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.

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

What's Wrong With BTL?

Continued from page 1

way with the 1993-1998 UDP Government led by Doctor Manuel Esquivel, who refused to honour or consummate the buy over of majority shares in BTL by Ashcroft interests on the grounds that such a purchase was in glaring violation of BTL's original Articles of Association, which forbade any single person or entity, save the Government of Belize or some permitted person (authorized by, and on behalf of the government), to own more than 25 percent of shares in the company.

We must then go back a little further to 1993 when, just one day before leaving office, Fonseca persuaded former Prime Minister Price to sign a letter authorizing Ashcroft as a "permitted person" to purchase majority shares in BTL.

That was, of course, a deliberate misinterpretation of that particular clause in the Articles of Association, the spirit of which was clearly that such a "permitted person" would have to be acting on behalf of, and in the interest of the Government and People of Belize. And, though the shrewd British Billionaire professes to operate some kind of "charitable trust" on behalf of Belizeans, we all know there's really no *trust* in the *trust*; in fact, as the late American writer Gertrude Stein would have put it, "*there's no there there!*"

Going back a little further still, those Articles of Association were put in place back in 1987 when BTL was created under the previous UDP Administration led by none other than Doctor Manuel Esquivel, and when the man



Lord Michael Ashcroft

who is (now) the current chairman of BTL had (then) become the first chairman of the company.

Bear in mind, we recount all of this not just as history for history's sake, but in order that we might understand that the present and future of BTL are all wrapped up in its past; that if we do not know and appreciate the past, we are not likely to appreciate what we have and who's responsible for it; and because, without a knowledge of our history, we are bound to repeat the mistakes of the past.

Now, coming to the current situation and more recent events that got us here, the unmanageable and unpatriotic state of affairs that left the current administration with no other choice but to re-nationalize BTL, is a position that was virtually arrived at as early as April 2005, when the

very workers of BTL teamed up with other unions, with the then Opposition (which is now the Government), and with the patriotic and courageous masses of Belizeans to bring telecommunication services to a grinding halt in an attempt to force the then administration in line with the people's interest, or force them out of office.

Having manoeuvred itself out of what, for a while, appeared to be an inescapable impasse, the Musa/Fonseca administration, unchanged and resolute in its intentions, proceeded in September of that year (2005) to sign with the same Ashcroft interests (to which it had resold majority ownership in BTL) an Accommodation Agreement guaranteeing them 15 percent net-profits, and committing the Government and People of Belize to compensate the owners of BTL for any shortfall in such

guaranteed profits.

The mystery of all mysteries, as it must be told to generations of Belizeans to come, is that, all of a sudden, the most lucrative company in Belize saw its net profits plummeting by millions of dollars as the former owners sought to avail themselves of huge tax-breaks in compensation for allegedly unrealized profits that had been guaranteed to them under that infamous Accommodation Agreement.

As is now engraved in the annals of Belizean history, the current Dean Barrow Administration, determined to ensure that the former owners of BTL are not allowed to continue fleecing the people of this country under the cover of an unconstitutional agreement, made the ultimate move of publicly acquiring BTL in the interest of the nation and its people, with the intention, of course, to later divest itself of majority shares in a manner that would ensure the continued protection of the national interest. That is the process that is now underway.

We come now to the main point and latest episode in this long story of the patriots versus the enemies of the people. It's a story that is by no means over. In fact, from all indications, it has only just begun. In light of this, we believe the national unity surrounding the BTL cause, which is really the Belize cause, must be maintained, or perhaps more appropriately, rekindled; for it might well be that the coalition of courageous Belizeans has since been weakened a bit by the failure of

Continued on page 18

What's Wrong With BTL?



Channel Five, owned by Ashcroft and openly Anti-Belizean, is still being patronized by BTL with thousands of dollars in ad campaign

Continued from page 17

all of us concerned to consciously nurture that cohesion and unity of purpose.

Now to our specific gripe. We have been terribly offended by the fact that, after four weeks of trying, we were notified that we could not convince BTL to advertise with this newspaper; a newspaper which, from the start, has declared and cultivated an unapologetically patriotic stance on the side of the national interest and against all those who, by their words and deeds, have declared themselves enemies of the Belizean People, not the least among which are the former owners of BTL.

Everyone in the media business knows very well that advertising in Belize is as much patronage as it is marketing. To put it another way, you generally support who support you. Whether or not it should be that way, is quite another issue. The fact is, it is; and it is what it is!

We have no quarrel, per se, with the young and energetic Melanie Blakes (or the likes thereof), who do their so-called marketing thing at BTL these days. The truth is we don't even know who they are, what they stand for, or what they would fall for. We *do* know ourselves very well. We also, of course, know the Paul and Christine Perriotts, the Mark Ushers and Nelson Youngs, all of whom we closed ranks with back in 2005 to begin the revolution

that would eventually land BTL back, presumably, in the hands of the true and the brave.

How it is that a television station now owned and run by the same former masters of BTL, from whose control we courageously fought to wrestle away BTL, qualifies for thousands of dollars in continuous advertising and promotion from BTL, while this newspaper, through which we declaredly continue the same patriotic struggle, does not qualify for a penny, is a logic (if it is) that truly escapes us.

Bear in mind how important it is, under the challenging circumstances, that we rekindle and rally the coalition of national unity around the BTL cause, which is, as we've noted before, the Belize cause. And be informed that the most ardent readers of this new periodical with an ancient cause, is none but the true and brave soldiers and generals of the people's revolution; the same revolution that eventually led to the re-nationalization of BTL, the same revolution that will ensure that, beyond the divestment of shares, the company remains a proud and profitable Belizean product.

Something seems wrong at BTL, and we honestly can't figure out what it is. Please, for the sake of the Nation, could we stop patronizing the enemy and ostracizing the patriots?

Snapshots of Progress and Development

New Fire Station in Pomona



A model for many more to come, according to Minister of National Emergency Management and Fire Department and Area Representative for Stann Creek West Hon. Melvin Hulse. This Fire Station at Pomona in the Stann Creek Valley was officially inaugurated last Wednesday, February 9, 2011

Project Underway to Pave Orange Walk - Yo Creek Road



The entire project is for the paving of the road from Orange Walk Town all the way to Blue Creek

(Photos Courtesy of Ruben Campos, Orange Walk)

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

February 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

INSURED PERSONS NEARING RETIREMENT AGE!



Ensure that all your contributions are up to date by visiting any of the Social Security offices countrywide;



An updated contribution record will facilitate the timely and accurate processing of your Retirement Benefit.



If you are between 60–64 years and earning less than \$50.00 weekly, submit your Retirement Benefit claim within thirteen (13) weeks after the date of last employment.



At age 65 whether employed or not, submit your Retirement Benefit claim within thirteen (13) weeks after completing age 65.



The timely submission of your Retirement Claim will guarantee the full payment of the benefit.



SOCIAL SECURITY BOARD