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Wednesday, April 6, 2011

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Battle for Belize *PM Unveils New Plan to Fight Crime*



Prime Minister Dean Barrow flanked by Ministers of Police and Defence Douglas Singh and Carlos Perdomo respectively



The most massive turnout ever recorded in the history of conventions in the Cayo South Constituency took place on Sunday April 3, in Roaring Creek.

Over Two Thousand Six Hundred registered voters of the constituency cast their ballots and returned the Hon. Ramon "El Campeon" Witz as the duly elected Standard Bearer for the United Democratic Party in the up-coming General Elections. In what can only be described as an emotionally charged, hotly contested convention, Hon. Ramon "El Campeon" Witz secured victory with a total of 1351



Hands raised in victory, Ramon Witz flanked by Party Chairman Hon. Patrick Faber and his long-time friend Alberto "STAR" August

Page 2

Editorial *NOT ANOTHER DOLLAR!*



Delroy Cuthkelvin Chairman, Editorial Board

t is not our favourite topic, but in our reflections this week, if we focus on anything other than crime and violence, we would NOT be relevant. And what we feel compelled to say might NOT be politically correct, but if we say otherwise, we would be lying.

The truth is that, as Prime Minister Dean Barrow confessed at the very start of his press conference on Monday, and as the hundreds of members of the Chinese Belizean community expressed in their demonstration a couple hours earlier, all of us in this country who are law-abiding citizens are truly ANGRY at the crime situation.

Butthat's not the politically incorrect part of what we are compelled to say. That part of it is that, notwithstanding all the good intentions, it is evident that all the hard-earned monies we have been spending in an earnest attempt to convert hardened criminals into productive citizens have been largely in vain, as they become more emboldened to snuff out the very lives of those who are working hard to foot the bill.

As we all know, and as the Prime Minister reminded us in his press conference, those who have turned our communities, especially Belize City, into a death zone are no more than a handful, yet they are effectively holding all the rest of us hostage. Someone once said that no majority will for too long allow itself to be oppressed by a minority. The almost uncontrollable rage of the Belizean Chinese community on Monday was entirely representative of the mood, though

relatively restrained, of the masses of lawabiding Belizeans of all ethnicities throughout the length and breadth of this once peaceful country, a rage that is accompanied by a deepening resolve to no longer allow our freedom and our right to live in peace and security to be denied by a handful of heartless, hardened criminals, whatever their pretext might be.

For a country so deep in debt after ten years of a morally bankrupt administration, we can hardly afford to pay, in any other way, such a heavy price, in blood or money, for a situation we ourselves did not create.

It might not be the politically correct thing to say at this time, but as we had to tell the last administration for entirely different reasons, Belizeans might just feel compelled to say to this administration, NOT ANOTHER DOLLAR! Just break some necks!

Mexican Trade Delegation Visits Belize

The Belize Trade and Investment Development Service (BELTRAIDE) is facilitating a Mexican Trade Mission from April 4-7, 2011.

A contingent representing the Association of Suppliers of Quintana Roo (ASQ) is here to meet with entrepreneurs in Belize City, San Pedro, Benque Viejo and Placencia to explore business opportunities. They have expressed interest in Tourism Sector and in return they will seek to purchase products from the agroprocessing and aqua-culture sectors.

The Mission is being facilitated by the Minister responsible for Economic Development, Commerce, Industry and Consumer Protection, Hon. Erwin Contreras.

The visit is one of the important developments coming out of Prime Minister Dean Barrow's visit to Mexico Last October.



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Page 3

Attention Drivers! New Regulation Prohibits Heavy Tint



The Department of Transport hereby notifies all vehicle owners, dealers, importers and tint-shop operators that effective **June 1, 2011** no vehicle can be driven or parked on a public road if it has any tint that does not fall within the following restrictions:

Windshield:

A. NOT less than 50 %Visible Light Transmission (VLT)B. Only Non-Reflective Tint NOT more than 4 inches from the top

Front & Rear Windows and Rear Glass:

A. NOT less than 20% Visible Light Transmission (VLT)

B. Reflective or Non-Reflective Tint of any Colour

This is in Accordance with Section 3 of the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Tinted Windows) 2011 Regulation which states as follows: 3. Subject to Sub Regulation (2) and Regulation 4, no person shall use, or cause or permit another person to use, a motor vehicle on a public road if its windscreen, rear glass or any of its windows is tinted or otherwise treated, in a way that is likely to impede sight, from outside the vehicle, of a person or thing inside the vehicle.

Ministry of Lands Relocates

More Office Space, Better Parking, Better Service



New Lands Department Building on Zenia Street, Cohune Walk

The Department of Lands and Surveys, Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment, is now operating from a new location.

The Lands and Surveys Department is now be located at Zenia Street, Cohune Walk, Belmopan City.

This became necessary in order to facilitate a more spacious, comfortable and customeroriented atmosphere where improved services can be provided



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

to the general public.

The Public is further advised that the offices of the Departments of Environment, Geology and Petroleum, and the Solid Waste Management Authority will relocate to the building vacated by the Lands and Surveys Department, at Market Square.

Inauguration of the new building takes place Wednesday April 6, 2011. 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.

Wednesday, April 6, 2011



Ismael "Miley" Garcia National Sports Coordinator Ministry of Sports

Work at the Marion Jones Sporting Complex is moving speedily ahead.

Last Monday, February 28th Tenders for Phase 4 of the Project were opened in Belmopan. Five companies namely Maheia's United, Jebco Construction Co. Ltd., Modern Construk and Urbanizadora Continental, Medina's Construction Company and Kee Chanona Company Ltd., submitted bids for this phase of construction. Phase 4 of the Marion Jones Project is the most expensive component and it involves the Grandstand Renovation and Expansion.

Phase 1 was the construction of the perimeter fence, Phase 2 and 3 involve the upgrading of the football pitch, the outdoor beach volleyball court, the construction of the running track and surfacing of the cycle track. The running track will soon be completed since on

Sports Update From the Ministry - with "Miley" Garcia



Field visit of expansion works underway at Marion Jones Stadium

Thursday, March 31 the contract for the hot mix works was signed with two local companies, namely Rodla Construction and Buttercup.

This Thursday also the Minister of Sports, Honorable John Saldivar, Chief Executive Officer in the Ministry, Charles Gibson, and the senior staff from the Ministry of the Public Service, Governance Improvement, Elections and Boundaries and Sports went on a field visit to the Marion Jones Sporting Complex. The visit was intended to give senior management a firsthand view of the improvements and progress being made at the Sports Complex.

Also on this visit were the chairpersons of the various district sports councils who later met with the Minister of Sports at the office of the National Sports Council. The chairpersons thanked the Minister for this meeting and the opportunity to air some of the concerns from their sporting districts.

Some of the discussion centered

on the proposed improvements and amendments for the modernization of the Sports Act. Chairpersons also reported on the state of sporting affairs in their districts and highlighted some of their pressing needs.

The Minister acknowledged their concerns and pledged to work closely with the National Sports Council to bring improvement to all the sporting districts. Plans are currently underway for a Sports Summit.



The Belmopan Intoxicating Liquor Licensing Board hereby gives notice to the general public that the <u>Second Quarterly Meeting</u> will be held on <u>Thursday, 14th April, 2011</u> at the Belmopan Civic Center commencing at <u>9:00 a.m.</u>

All Applicants for liquor Licenses for the National Agriculture Show are requested to be present at this meeting for discussion of their applications.

All holders are reminded that all premises must be fully inspected and newspaper publications are done.

Clerk

Belmopan Intoxicating Liquor Licensing Board

Witz Wins! El Campeon is the Champion

Continued from page 1

votes. His able challengers, Hilly Lopez and June Young received 998 votes and 291 votes, respectively. There were 31 spoilt votes.

Various Party Officials, Members of Cabinet, Councillors from the two City Councils and from Town Councils, along with well-wishers and supporters of the U.D.P, came to witness and be a part of this truly open and transparent democratic process.

This exercise of democracy is unprecedented in the history of politics in Belize for it is the first time that a ruling party in government has ever subjected so many of its standing Members of Cabinet (Ministers) and elected Area Representatives to contested conventions. The fact that once there is a challenger, those who have



In a a show of party unity, Ramon Witz and challengers June Young and Hilly Lopez after the result of the convention was announced

been elected must go back to their respective constituency and seek the endorsement of their people, is in itself remarkable.

That all the U.D.P conventions are open,

which allows almost every registered voter from the division to vote and chose who will represent the U.D.P, is indeed, both exciting and refreshingly democratic.





Ramon Witz supporters celebrating the victory

patiently in line to vote for the candidate of their choice.

The entire day was filled with excitement. Campaigners rushing voters in by the bus-loads while influential individuals quietly lobbied voters, securing that last word of encouragement before that vote was cast.

The voting ended at

Witz Wins! El Campeon is the Champion



Denton Belisle, Witz's Campaign Manager

Continued from page 6 4:00pm, and the tedious process of counting began. By sunset there was a massive crowd of jubilant supporters who swelled onto the street in an impromptu parade with Hon. Ramon Witz. With tears of joy and chants of "El campeon" hundreds of tired, but visibly re-energized supporters ventured into the streets of Cayo South and into the night celebrating.

We at this newspaper publicly endorsed Ramon Witz because we believe that he has been steadfast in championing the cause of the Revolution of the True and the Brave.

It was, however (in our view), the subsequent, virtual endorsement of Witz by Prime Minister and UDP Leader Dean Barrow at a ceremony in Cotton Tree last Monday that made the biggest difference in this convention in the closing days of the campaign.

Notably, Ramon Witz has pledged to work hand in hand with both individuals who contested him in the convention in order to continue bringing development to Cayo South.



How sweet it was, the celebration by the hundreds of Ramon Witz Supporters (All photos provided by Ruben Campos of OW)

Cross Country Fever Heats Up

Joel Borland is Junior Champion



2011 Junior Cross Country Champion Joel Borland crosses the finish line

an effort to catch the threeman breakaway, and that they did just as they entered Blackman Eddy.

Now, with the peloton back intact, the pace dropped, as team Indeco put their riders at the front to protect any chance of another breakaway.

As the race reached Camalote, young Giovanni Lovell, brother of Greg Lovell, riding for team Indeco, launched an attack out of the peloton. To his surprise, no other rider tried to follow him, so he continued to push harder. By doing that,

Continued on page 9

By: Special Sports Correspondent Raynord Garbutt

Thirty Two Belizeans and one Mexican made up the peloton for the Twelfth Annual Junior Cross Country Cycling Classic that started from Succotz at 9:00 AM on Sunday April 3, 2011 en route to Belize City.

The 70 mile journey took the riders over hilly and flat terrain.

Last year's champion Deezan Spence, along with his Twin-Town cycling team, was ready for the challenge of defending his title.

High Road Team, but he was quickly reeled back in by the peloton after trying to escape between Succotz and Cayo.

As the race passed through San Ignacio and Santa Elena, all Thirty Three riders were bunched together just contented with the pace and watching to see where the first attack would be coming from.



As the race got started, Zahir Figueroa of the Cayo Uprising Team broke out of the peloton early to pick up the first two station prizes, but was under the watch eyes of the peloton to keep the race intact.

The third and fourth station prizes were won by Darwin Cowo of the Cayo On approaching Esperanza Village, Zahir Figueroa, Brandon Guzman and Darwin Cowo escaped from the peloton and built a 57 second lead. The three riders fought hard to maintain their lead, working together and sharing station prizes.

The peloton, on the other hand, decided to up the tempo of the race in

Giovanni Lovell

Cross Country Fever Heats Up

Joel Borland is Junior Champion

Continued from page 8

he quickly established a twominute gap between himself and the peloton.

Passing the Belmopan Junction, the lead was up to three minutes. Young Lovell never looked back, but was focused on the job at hand, to get as many station prizes as possible.

As the peloton struggled with who was going to chase Lovell. Team Indeco became security to protect Lovell, making sure that if a chase group was formed, one of their riders would be in that group.

Lovell, now peddling for over some thirty-two miles, was caught at the Belize Zoo by team mate Joel Borland, Juan Umana of another team, Kyle Gentle of Cayo Uprising and Austin Armstrong of Twin-Towns to make it now a five-man breakaway, with the peloton hot on their heels. But the break would stick, no matter what it took.

Indeco, now having two riders in the breakaway, Lovell once again upped the tempo of the race, making sure the peloton would never catch them.

breakaway kept it all the

way to the finish, only to see

The

five man



First Place Joel Borland, Second Place Juan Umana, Third Place Kyle Gentle

Joel Borland of team Indeco outsprint the other four riders to the finish.

And just like that, Joel Borland took the coveted prize at the finish and was crowned the 2011 Junior Cross Country Champion with a time of 3 Hours, 56 Minutes and 21 Seconds.

Second place went to Juan Umana, Third Place to Kyle Gentle, Fourth Place to Austin Armstrong and Fifth Place to Giovanni Lovell.

See Capital Weekly Online In Living Colours at: belizenews.com/CapitalWeekly

Wednesday, April 6, 2011

Battle for Belize

"We really are beginning to fight now, or are entering into a new phase in the battle to regain control, certainly, of Belize City."

-Prime Minister Hon. Dean Barrow

In the wake of a murderous weekend that saw four homicides within twenty four hours in Belize City, the work-week opened with an angry protest by the Belize Chinese community over the loss of two members of that community among the four. And, by mid-afternoon Prime Minister Dean Barrow was hosting a press conference to address what he admitted was a crisis situation that called for swift, decisive and sustained action.

The PM was flanked by the Ministers of Police and Defence as well as the Attorney General, and by the top brass of all the security forces. The full text of the PM's opening statement and his closing remarks are reproduced below.

"Good Afternoon, Ladies and Gentlemen:

You all know the purpose of this afternoon's press conference. We are here to talk about the response of the Law Enforcement Authorities, of the Government of Belize to the recent crime wave.

Now, we've been seeing that there's been an upsurge in criminal activities. This upsurge in criminal activities has been of grave concern. We have noted that the internecine, the turf rivalry, the street confrontations between the Belize City gangs have, in fact, increased significantly over the Later on in the day, on Saturday two Chinese women, two Chinese grocers were murder.

Late Saturday night, early Sunday morning, there was the fourth murder. That one, the Commissioner tells me, as far as we can determine, had nothing to do with any kind of gang connection. That was a citizen who got into an altercation and the suspicion is that there was a kind of revenge attack on him.

In any case, I want to, as I said, express my sympathy to all the victims' families.

After I spoke with the Commissioner very early on Saturday morning, I indicated to him that we would really need to go into a kind of quick retreat, that is, the Security Forces, so that we could determine the proper response to what was happening. And then on Sunday morning, after I learned that, in fact, things had worsened since I spoke to the Commissioner on Saturday morning, I decided that there was a need for all the security forces, or all the heads of the security forces to come together in a strategy session later that day, later on Sunday.

Now, I started making contact with, apart from the Commissioner, the Minister of the Police, the Minister of Defence, I spoke or got in touch by text with General Tapia (BDF), I sent a text message to Colonel Lovell, to my own CEO, Captain Borland of the Coast Guard became involved later on, and as you can see, all the Security Forces are represented here this afternoon. I hope that gives you some indication of the complete seriousness with which we're treating what has happened. I want to say that when I got in touch with the various personalities, the various Heads, the response was one that duty dedicated, but I sensed that it went beyond that. I really was extremely encouraged by the fact that all the security heads seemed to be as one in appreciating that this problem has to be dealt with urgently and that without in any way wishing to be melodramatic, we really are beginning to fight now, or are entering into a new phase in the battle to regain control certainly of Belize City.



PM Dean Barrow outlines Plan of Action

that was agreed among the Security Forces, I was visited by the Minister of Police at home late yesterday evening, and we went over quickly what the Security Forces had come up with. And then this morning at 10.30, I met with all the leaders, but (and this is extremely important) in terms of the Police Department, not just the Commissioner and his second in command, all the top brass from the Police Department were in the meeting this morning. A lot of the middle management people were also in the meeting this morning. And again, I took that as a signal of the absolute commitment of the Police Department across the ranks to come to grips with this situation, to get on top of this problem. And I want to, from the start, signal my appreciation for that. I sensed individual commitment on the part of all the personalities involved in this morning's meeting.

But ladies and gentlemen, what I hope to do is to sketch this overview, and then, in terms of the details of the new operational trust that the Security Forces will be undertaking, I will turn the microphones over to the Minister of the Police, and I expect that in his presentation he will be aided, as may be necessary, by the Minister of Defence, and by the CEO, the Commissioner, the General and perhaps CEO Lovell. But, for my part, hand in hand with the operational step up, I believe that we have to make more use of the legal infrastructure that we've tried to create as part of the unfolding response over the past six months or year to what has been indeed a continuing crisis. And while we have to make more effective use of the legal infrastructure, there are some new things that we also have to do.

past two weeks or so with the resulting consequences.

This weekend, in particular, has been an especially murderous one, and before I go any further, I want to take the opportunity to offer condolences to the victims' families, the victims of the crime spree over this weekend. Between Saturday and early Sunday morning, there were actually four murders.

The first on Saturday morning was, in our view, distinctly as a consequence of gang activity; although, we believe that the unfortunate victim was not in any way a player, and that's what is especially frightening.

Out of that session held yesterday, I received a memorandum of the strategy

Battle for Belize

Continued from page 10

Let me give you some examples of what I mean. We have amended various pieces of Legislation in an effort to strengthen the legal arsenal of the Police. We've introduced new limitations on bail. We've said that in the case of certain people who are known offenders, the courts now have the power when there is no choice but ultimately to grant bail, to restrict their freedom of movement, to say that they can't leave their places of abode within certain hours, to say that they cannot be found in particular areas of the City.

I am yet to find, or I am yet to hear since we passed that legislation, of any instance in which the courts have, in fact, imposed any of the limitations. I'm not blaming the courts, as we said this morning, it might be that our prosecutors are not making the requests of the courts. But we certainly have to ensure that we use all the tools that are available to us.

We passed a law that said

because we are concerned about the young boys in particular, (12, 13, 14, 15, 16), that are being recruited as shooters (or shotters), we've passed a law that said, look, if the Police Department will identify some of these young men, we can get the social workers to do an investigation, an inquiry into their home circumstances. And, if it turns out that there is no parental supervision, if it turns out that they are not going to school, if it turns out that they are not gainfully employed, if it turns out, in most cases, they are too young to be gainfully employed, if it turns out that they are habitually hanging out with known players, then the court is entitled to make a Care and Custody Order for the welfare of the juvenile, but also to help to protect the society.

We, through the Minister of Education, are able to place such persons, consequent upon a court order, in a secure facility, not a jail, a secure facility where they will receive counselling, where they will be taught life skills, where they will be educated. I don't know of one instance in which any such application has been made to the court. Things like that tell me that we really have to step up in our game when it comes, as I said, trying to make better use of the legal infrastructure.

We've seen recently where people that we believe, well let me talk about one particular case, of somebody that we believed had committed a murder; we didn't have the evidence to charge him, but we felt as sure as we could be, in fact, we knew (it was just that there is this difficulty of witnesses not wanting to come forward), we knew this individual had committed murder. He was convicted thereafter of a fire arm offence. Well, no sooner had that happened and he was sentenced than he appealed, and the Magistrate gave him bail pending the appeal.

Well, again, we are going to change the law, and we have already introduced the legislation, that will put a stop to that. As it is, when that person was originally charged with the firearm offence, he couldn't get bail from the Magistrate's Court; he had to wait and go to the Supreme Court. So when you're charged you can't get bail, but when you are convicted, you can get bail, just like that? There's something radically wrong there!

Another thing: these people appeal their sentences in the Magistrate's Court, and that's a 'get out of jail free' card. Not only are they given bail pending an appeal, their appeal never gets heard.

We're going to introduce a law that requires Magistrate's and I am sorry, I don't care who I'll offend, this is an extremely serious matter, and I am beyond the point where I have to worry about bruised feelings—we are going to pass a law that will give the Magistrate's a time limit within which (and that is the case now) they have to prepare their reasons for decision.

Continued on page 12



BELMOPAN TRADE LICENSING BOARD

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is hereby advised that the <u>Second Quarterly Meeting</u> of the Belmopan Trade Licensing Board will be held on <u>Wednesday, 13th April, 2011</u>, at the Belmopan City Council's Offices commencing at <u>10:00 a.m.</u> Applications for new trade licenses must reach the Clerk of the Trade Licensing Board no later than 12:00 noon on Monday, 11th April, 2011.

Clerk

Belmopan Trade Licensing Board

Wednesday, April 6, 2011

Battle for Belize



Attorney General Hon. Bernard Pitts

Continued from page 11

It's just that now, there is the requirement, but it's violated with impunity and nothing happens. Well, consequences are going to attach to the failure of any magistrate to prepare the reasons for decision in a timely fashion so that the appeal can be dealt with, and so that these people don't simply abuse the system and are allowed to get away scot free. I will go to Cabinet tomorrow, and I will ask that we re-introduce the provisions to change the Constitution to bring into force Preventative Detention Laws. Again, I am very sorry. On the last occasion there was an outcry. We are at a point now where if all people of good sense among us don't realize that the situation is so extreme as to demand a measure like that, then I'm sorry, we will simply, once Cabinet gives me the approval, we will simply have to proceed in the face of whatever opposition there is.

The Attorney General is being asked to meet with the Upper Judiciary. The Death Penalty is still on the books in this country. It's not like before where, you're convicted of murder, you should, in the normal course, be automatically sentenced to death. Now, a lesser sentence can be passed; and there are some cases of murder, I haven't been a lawyer to practice criminal law for a while, but I know enough to know that there is murder and there is murder, and it is not in every case of murder that the court is even able to pass the sentence of death. But in those cases where, in fact, the Court is entitled to pass the sentence of death, we want that sentence, in fact, imposed. It is true that we are not catching very many of them, but that is



Head of Coast Guard, Captain John Borland

even more reason to ensure that when we *do* catch and convict somebody, the maximum penalty is, in fact, applied.

And I am not going to get into the arguments about the deterrent and all that kind of stuff. I certainly In other words, we will have to disclose the statement that's been made, but we are going to look at how we can fix the law so that we don't have to disclose the name of the person. There will have to be all sorts of safeguards built

am convinced that if you imposed the maximum penalty that will act as a deterrent. It will certainly deter the one that you execute, that's for sure.

We had earlier passed a law that said that somebody who gives a statement as a witness to a crime, and we're again talking about the shootings, the killings, the murders, would no longer now have to go to court to testify, if it can be shown that that person has been placed in fear of his or her life.

Well, we are going to go further; we are going to look at how we can actually preserve the anonymity of such a person. around this to ensure that there is no violation or abuse, but we will have to look at that.

I am at a point, I've said that in terms of the Preventative Detention, I am determined to go forward with that. I need to be certain that my Cabinet is of the same mind.

Now, I am going out on a limb: I, for one, am certainly prepared to look at removing trial by jury in the case of charges for murder. That is, well, as of now, I am flying solo on that one, but I'm telling you that I will certainly ensure that that debate at least takes place, although I can't go

Wednesday, April 6, 2011

Capital Weekly

Page 13

Battle for Belize



Police Commissioner Crispin Jeffreys

Continued from page 12

as far as to say that, as with the Preventative Detention provisions, I am confident that we will at least take those to the National Assembly.

Apart from all that, I am committed to finding now additional money for the Security Forces (in particular the Police Department), for bullet proof vests, additional firearms and additional radios. I will get a costing from the Minister very shortly. But, cost it what it may, we have got to ensure that when we ask our Police Officers to stop and search these people, they don't have to fear that, I'm stopping and searching this person because I believe he may have a gun, but I am unarmed, and so perhaps I better not stop and search him.

Belize City, we are going to ensure that the Police are very much better equipped.

I am also going to find some money for the Special Branch and the Gang Suppression Unit to be able to draw on in an effort to increase our effectiveness at intelligence gathering. That money will serve, as well, another purpose. If we can do all I spoke about in terms of protecting the identity of witnesses, surely we would be able to offer inducements, financial inducements, rewards for eye witness testimony that can help us to put away the people who are committing these murders. So it's two things: better intelligence will give us a better chance at actually forestalling some of the crimes; but running a sort of confidential, informant network, as well as being able to pay perhaps some of the same people involved in the life, a



BDF Commander, General Tapia

significant amounts to get them to help us with solving the crimes. It's certainly worth a shot, and I will find the monies that are necessary to help us to do precisely that."

Conclusion:

"I believe that we are coming

having sufficient resources, all the resources that we would like, both human and material, but I believe that it is my job and the job of the ministers and the job of the heads of the security forces to persuade the people of this country, and in particular, the people of this city, that we are doing, and will continue to do all that we possibly can in the circumstances."

So, apart from the increase in bodies, in human resources that will now be placed in the streets of up with a full range of responses that look at the operational side of things, look at the legal infrastructure side of things; it's a range of responses that also will be looking at trying to further generate employment. The Belize City Southside Poverty Alleviation Project Two starts today. That's a 28 million dollar project; and what it will do in terms of job creation is something that, as well, will help us with respect to trying to deal with this crisis.

I am satisfied that our response is what it should be. There is always room for improvement; we are always going to be, to a degree, constrained by not (As he promised, Prime Minister Dean Barrow on Tuesday took the proposed new tough measures to Cabinet for approval. Those measures all received the full support of the Cabinet, including the Preventive Detention provision. They will be taken to the National Assembly at the next House Meeting)

Page 14	Capit	al Weekly	Wednesday, April 6, 2011
	PUBLIC UTILIT	TIES COMMISSION	
	PUBLI	C NOTICE	
PUBLIC UTILITIES	PROPOSAL TO G	RANT A LICENCE TO	PUBLIC UTILITIES
CONSOLIDATED WATER BELIZE LIMITED (CWBL)			
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION (PUC; the Commission) hereby serves NOTICE this day, March 17, 2011, pursuant to Section 15(4) of the Water Industry Act, that it proposes to grant a licence to Consolidated Water Belize Limited (CWB), authorizing it to purify, store and supply water to Belize Water Services Limited (BWS) for the purpose of enabling a supply by BWS to the public on Ambergris Caye, Belize.			
Proposed Terms and Conditions of Licence The proposed licence shall authorize CWB to furnish exclusively to BWS a supply of potable water of up to an average 450,000 US gallons per day on Ambergris Caye, subject to any potable water supply quality standards established by the Ministry of Health or which may be contained in the proposed licence or any agreement between CWB and BWS, as approved by the Commission.			
The proposed term of the licence shall be 15 years, commencing with the effective date of the licence (being the date that the proposed licence is granted).			
Representations or Objections Interested persons (those who may be affected by the granting of the proposed licence) may make representations or objections to the pro- posal to grant the licence.			
The deadline for making representations or objections is April 18, 2011.			
Representations and objections in writing may be sent to the Public Utilities Commission, P.O. Box 300, 41 Gabourel Lane, Belize City; or emailed to info@puc.bz.			
Issued by the Public Utilities Commission on March 17, 2011			
BELIZE WATER SE PUBLIC NOT		DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: 19 Apri ORGANIZATIONAL LEVEL: Administrator DUTY STATION: San Pedro Branch Office SUPERVISOR: Branch Manager QUALIFICATIONS Education: • Bachelors Degree in Nursing or Reg experience	£

Belize Water Services Limited reminds customers that their water bills payment can be made via cash, check, credit or debit cards at any of the BWS's offices countrywide, or at any Authorized **BWS** Collection Agent.



Please note that authorized BWS collection agents do NOT charge any add-on fees for payment of your bill.

Authorized BWS Collection Agents include all the commercial banks, and designated agents in Ladyville, Burrell Boom, Hattieville and Benque Viejo.

For a complete listing of Authorized BWS Collection Agents, visit our WEB Site at www. bws.bz

MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES

COMPETENCIES

Fluent in English

Knowledge of company policies

- Medical Management of Injured Insured Persons while ensuring compliance with established protocols;
 - Assessment and management of medical care of Injured Insured Persons
 - Ensure adherence to Medicare Procedures and established protocols;
 - Purchase employment injury health services;

Good managerial, leadership and human relations skills

Ability to work in an organized manner and to meet targets Proven ability to work independently and with initiative

Excellent knowledge of computer applications (Word, Excel, Power Point)

- Ensure service providers comply with negotiated fees schedules;
 Ensure health services purchased meet defined standards of quality;
- o Maintain register of institutions of health care delivery and professionals ensuring accreditation standards;
- o Assist in the selection of Medical Boards/Referee and referrals;
- · Administration of Employment Injury Unit at Branch Office
 - Administrate the Employment Injury Unit
 - Conduct regular evaluations to measure impact on defined health objectives;
 - Assist in development and implementation of an Occupational Safety and Health Program;
 - Generate reports on trends and health care needs relating to employment injury;
- Assist in general branch processes as assigned from time to time
 - Supervise and assist with training for the Branch Office and other locations
 Assist in conducting regular client satisfaction surveys;

 - o Monitor and evaluate established contracts between National Health Insurance/Employment Injury and Health Care Providers
 - Assist in the preparation for and implementation of National Health Insurance
 - Provide other administrative and technical support as requested by the Branch Manager

Interested Applicants can send an application letter and updated curriculum vitae to eal@socialsecurity.org.bz, or to:

Interviewees will be asked for: originals of academic accreditations, letters of recommendation, and other documents which may strengthen his /her application.

Manager - Human Resource Management Services Social Security Board **Bliss Parade** P. O. Box 18 **City of Belmopar** Cayo District

PUBLIC UTILITIES

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:

Consumer Affairs/Public Relations Officer 1.

Duties and Responsibilities:

The Consumer Affairs/Public Relations Officer is responsible for assisting the PUC in the regulation of licensees for all utility sectors particularly with respect to matters directly affecting consumers, including the handling of complaints, and to manage the public relations and public education functions of the PUC. Specific duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- a) Direct supervision of assigned staff
- Assist in the development and implementation of Byelaws, Regulations, Orders and methodologies or processes for handling of complaints b) against

licensees in all utility sectors

- Planning and logistical control of public proceedings or meetings c)
- d) Assist, as appropriate, in the determination and setting of tariffs, rates, fees and charges in rate review proceedings or filings
- e) Assist in the collection and analysis of comments received from Interested Persons and the general public where required
- Assist in the maintenance and operation of the PUC Website f)
- Assist in the development of codes of practice for licensees and monitoring of licensees for compliance to such codes g)
- 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:

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

2. <u>Director – Telecommunications Sector</u>

Duties and Responsibilities:

The **Director** – **Telecommunications Sector** is responsible for assisting the PUC in the regulation of the telecommunications 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 general administration of the c) telecommunications sector
- d) Assist in the development and implementation of short- and long-term objectives for the telecommunications sector
- Assist in the processing of applications for licenses, permits and authorizations e)
- f) Monitoring of licensees for compliance to licence conditions and relevant Acts, Byelaws, Regulations, Orders, Decisions and standards
- g) Supervise or conduct relevant studies in relation to current and forecast trends in demand and supply of telecommunications services
- Assist in supervising and conducting rate filings, approvals and determination h)
- i) Assist in the Preparation of annual budgets and reports
- j) 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 k)

Qualifications:

The successful candidate shall possess:

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

<u>Benefits</u>

The base salary for both positions will be based on personal gualifications and experience, within the salary scales of BZ\$36,000.00 to BZ\$75,000.00 per annum for the position of Consumer Affairs/Public Relations Officer and BZ\$50,000.00 to BZ\$90,000.00 per annum for the position of **Director – Telecommunications Sector**.

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 April 19, 2011.

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

Employment Opportunities Public Utilities Commission 41 Gabourel Lane

Page 16

We Are At War!

It has not, and will never be the practice of this paper to highlight crime and violence. We find no gratification in sprawling violent crime scene photographs in our pages in an attempt to be "sensational" and sell our paper. We are sensational naturally!

At this desk, we make special efforts to promote Belize positively around the world in fulfilment of our patriotic duty and creed. We love Belize, and although confronted with seemingly enormous tribulations, we must continue to face these challenges knocking at our door-steps, headon.

We must never back down regardless of how ineffective our efforts might seem. Why? Simple: because we sincerely feel that we have the most peaceful and loving country anywhere on God's given earth. Or maybe, we're just being nostalgic, imaging things the way they used to be; or the way we hope they can be again.

Notwithstanding, our peace as Belizeans is being threatened and our lifestyle thwarted by the spate of gun violence primarily on the south-side of Belize City.

G.O.B has introduced several new, sometimes referred to as, "Draconian" measures by passing tough gun legislation and dramatically increasing Police along with Belize Defence Force (B.D.F) presence in our City Streets. G.O.B has also launched various social and community awareness campaigns such as Restore Belize, Anti-Gang Operations, Conditional Cash Transfer Program etc.

The countless efforts have had some success, though collectively they seem to represent a mere drop in the bucket, and in the ear of several gun-wielding youths of the south-side Belize City. Too many years of total neglect has resulted in the almost irreversible attitude of violence, fuelled by repeated confrontations among rival areas in the city. There is obviously still a level of disconnection between efforts of government and several of the individuals wrapped up in this war. Indeed, we are at war, a most consequential war; our version of what is occurring in the Middle East Region today. The reality, although harsh, is that this war is among the extremely young and most specifically, the black, south side communities in Belize City.

Part One- By Vernon Cuthkelvin



Monday's Protest by Chinese Belizeans in front of Supreme Court

effort is, without a question, the most significant and successful measure taken by government to date in an effort to reduce crime in the most impoverished areas in the city. The story of this successful effort by the Ministry of Works, and by extension the Government of Belize, is still being written, and I must address it in the subsequent article because of its vital importance.

Today however; I am regrettably writing this article because over the last two weekends alone there were seven murders in Belize City. Last week one of the victims was a 19 year old labourer, Shamir Medina; and the other victim was a student, Devon Reynolds, only 14years old. A mechanic, 51year old Linsford Ferguson, was shot multiple times with a 9mm gun in the St. Martin's Area of the city. A Belize Defence Force member was shot in the leg while at the B.T.L Park, and a Police Officer was shot in the chest and robbed of his gun while on duty at the Belama Police Sub-Station.

This past weekend there was the senseless killing of a contractor, Abner Rodriguez 39yrs old. The gruesome murders of two women of Chinese decent, 32yrs old Yan Ying Chen and 37yrs old Fei Lan Wu, both shopkeepers who were gunned down in their respective shops for no apparent reasons, sent shockwaves throughout the Chinese Community. 44yrs. old, Joel Hamilton, a barbeque vendor was shot seven times at the corner of South and Plue Streets in Belize City.

The reason I have listed the occupations of all the victims in the past two weekend's murderous crime spree is to make the point of how vulnerable productive citizens have become to the scourge of gang

Continued on Page 17

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

The Ministry of Works and its Minister have employed over a thousand youths from the southside of Belize City. This single 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

We Are At War!

Continued from on Page 16 violence. The Prime Minister's very law partner, a well respected and decorated Attorney at Law, was a victim of gang-related criminal activity.

The impromptu demonstration held by the Chinese Community throughout the downtown Belize City Streets, along with their nationwide shut-down of business, while understandably commendable, will be deemed simply a knee-jerk reaction to the problem that does not go away if the Chinese Community returns to business as normal this Wednesday.

How shameful it would be if the Chinese Community does not join in the efforts of government and assist in every way possible, even by adopting some form of additional social program. The reality is that none of us live in our own "Belize Bubble". The Chinese, the Arab, the Indian, the Mennonites and all the various communities who have made Belize their home must realize by now that Belize is not just a cow that can be milked, sucked dry and not nourished or replenished. Be ever mindful that there are those among you who must be prepared by now to put back some of what they have leeched and stored in foreign accounts "back home"!

These murders translate to generations being lost, families in grief, small communities shaken and in fear while the entire nation must mourn. This war was not created under, nor by the UDP Administration but it must be addressed by them in every way possible using every means imaginable to put a definite end to the madness.

But the government is not the only body of people who should act to bring an end to the killings. What the hell has happened to the N.G.O's who seemingly have the ability to spring multiple new and wellfunded branches overnight? Hello, OEANA! Where are the Churches who apparently prefer to preach to the converted congregations who grace their services weekly? The Chamber of Commerce members have seemingly mastered the art of getting rich doing business in Belize; why not give back? Why the hell are we wasting millions debating the merits of offshore drilling, discussing protecting the rain forest, ensuring that the people in the rural areas don't kill and cook game meat without a license? We argue over whether gas should be measured by pounds or gallons, and if the scale

is accurate by which it is measured. We fight over petty politics and conventions while we as a people are being eradicated every day.

The aforementioned are of some importance but must not be deemed ultimately as great priority on the list of what is the most important to us. We as a country must deal first and foremost with the war that has claimed and continues to claim the lives of countless generations of Belizeans.

We have spent millions securing our doors and windows with burglar-bars, building fences and investing in security guards, dogs and surveillance cameras. What the hell do we have to show for it? I passed a church the other day which had burglar-bars on its doors and windows. I wonder who they are trying to lock out of God's House. I get angry when I think of the hundreds of thousands we spend doing studies and seminars importing experts from abroad to come to Belize and tell us what we already damn know. (The Crooks Report, Dr. Gayle,...)

Many years ago, I use to attend SPEAR (Society for the Promotion of Education and Research) meetings regularly. I will never forget why I stop attending. I was invited to a seminar hosted by SPEAR. The guest-speaker was flown into the country from Australia. His name was Dr. Joel Ukovich and he came to discuss crime in Belize. (Sounds familiar?) The more things change the more they remain the same! I got up in that seminar that was held in the late 80's and asked the good Doctor Ukovich before excusing myself from both the seminar and Spear. "How long have you been in Belize Dr. Ukovich?" His response was, "Nine hours." Need I continue? Total Bull....!

Today, here we are in 2011, and we are still waiting for someone else to come from abroad, wasting millions as a country on these savious from on high.

Well let me be the first to tell you, Belize. No foreigner can or will save you. I will not discredit any of the contributions made. We welcome them, but the simple fact is that only you, Belize, can save yourself, for it is your sons, daughters, cousins, brothers, sisters and neighbours that are at war. This war is within our very Belizean Families. Let me be absolutely clear that this war is all-inclusive. Once you live within the borders of Belize, you're in. To be continued in the next issue of Capital Weekly.



BELIZE WATER SERVICES LTD. Press Release

Prime Minister Inaugurates Cotton Tree Water Distribution System

Monday, 28th March 2011 - Prime Minister of Belize, Hon Dean Oliver Barrow, officially inaugurates the Cotton Tree Water Distribution System, which is part of a Government initiative to improve provision of potable water to communities across the country.

The Cotton Tree Water Distribution System culminates the first phase of a project that aims to improve the quality of water supply to some 400 households in the three villages of Cotton Tree, St Mathews and Franks Eddy, located along the Western Highway near Belmopan. This project will connect all three communities through a main transmission line from BWS' Water Treatment Plant in Belmopan. This Plant, which already supplies Belmopan, Roaring Creek and Teakettle, has been upgraded to provide adequate supply to all areas.



Hon. Dean Barrow, Prime Minister of Belize



This new system replaces the existing Rudimentary Water Systems in Cotton Tree and Frank's Eddy/St. Matthews which were unable to provide adequate water, especially in the dry season. The residents in these communities have had to rely on rivers, springs and hand dug wells for their daily consumption of water, with water transportation as an arduous daily chore.

Hon. Ramon Witz, Cayo South This project came to fruition through the efforts of the Government of Belize in collaboration with the village councils, the Social Investment Fund and BWS. Having a fully functional water system in these communities will reduce health hazards due to water borne diseases and will directly improve sanitation, economic opportunities and living standards.

☐ This \$1.5 million project is funded by the Government of Belize (\$1.0 Million)

through the Commonwealth Debt Initiative (CDI) and Belize Water Services Limited (\$0.5 Million). The project is being executed by Belize Water Services Limited (BWSL) with oversight by the Social Investment Fund. The Belmopan-to-Cotton Tree component is estimated at \$1.3 Million.

For further information, please contact Haydon Brown, Public Relations Manager, Tel. 222-4757.

Belize Water Services... delivering Water and More

Enhancing the Learning Environment *Major renovation at Patchakan RC School*

Some 290 students and 13 teachers of the Patchakan RC School in the Corozal District will now enjoy a more pleasant learning and teaching environment, thanks to a project, which resulted in major renovations to the school's facilities.

The project, which was officially inaugurated last week is valued at \$190,000 and was financed by the Government of Belize through a combination of a loan and grant from the Basic Needs Trust Fund (BNTF) of the Caribbean Development Bank. The project was implemented by the Social Investment Fund. The community contributed approximately \$5,000 in labor for the project.

The largest portion of the project included the replacement of the asbestos roof with a new pre-painted galvalum roofing, installation



Students delivering their version of "Waka Waka" at the ceremony

of a new ceiling, electrical system, several windows and doors and painting of walls of the oldest building of the primary school. This school building measures 108 feet long by 30.5 feet wide with an eight foot front verandah.

The building houses 2 classrooms, a principal's office with a computer room and an extension built on one end for a teachers' lounge.

The Teacher's Lounge also received a complete

facelift and a new Ferroconcrete bathroom block (14 ft wide by 31 ft long) for students and teachers was constructed. This facility has substituted the existing six pit latrines which were damaged by Hurricane Dean.

The new sanitary block includes three toilets, two wash-hand basins and one shower stall for the female students and two toilets, one urinal, two wash-hand basins and one shower-stall for the male students. The facility also includes one toilet, a wash-hand basin and a shower in each case for male and female teachers. The sanitary block was constructed on the western side of the school building which is designated as a hurricane shelter.

The guest speaker at the inauguration of the project was Hon. Nemencio Acosta, Area Representative for Corozal North. Other speakers included Mr Daniel Cano, Executive Director of the Social Investment Fund, Mr Pedro Cucul, District Education Officer, Corozal District, Brother John Eutice C.S.V, representative of the Patachakan RC School's Management and Mrs Teobalda Ruiz, Principal of Patchakan RC School.

Information and photos provided by Mike Hernandez J.P., Director of Public Relations, Social Investment Fund (SIF)



The Symbolic Ribbon Cutting

Ministry

Belize and Japan holds Grant Ceremony

An official ceremony was held on Friday, March 18, 2011 in Belmopan at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Training Room for a Grant

Specific components of the Project to be implemented through the grant includes addressing and preventing malnutrition in children under 5 years of age

by empowering the local community and promoting behavior change by increasing the understanding of community's attitude and perception towards health.

enith, Hon. Pablo Marm and His Excellency Hirodni Ya Agreement between the World Bank and the Ministry of Health.

The objective of the grant is to improve the health and nutrition of children in communities in Toledo. Belize through an early childhood development approach.

The grant, which is in the sum of USD 2, 752, 894.00 was received by the Minister of Health, Hon. Pablo Marin to be used over a five-year period, for project implementation by the Toledo District Health Council.

Ministry of Health cautions Public on Heat Stroke

The Ministry of Health advises the general public in very hot weather it is important to keep in mind that persons of all ages can suffer a Heat Stroke. Heat Stroke is the most severe form of heat related illness. Heat Stroke is not necessarily caused by exercise or dehydration. High temperatures, lack of body fluids and overexposure to the heat and sun can all bring about a heat stroke. Red flushed skin is one of the first sign to look for in a person suffering from a heat stroke. Sometimes people experiencing heat stroke do not sweat. Other signs include a

body temperature of 102 - 106 degrees or higher, seizures, headache, a rapid pulse and sometimes unconsciousness. Children and elderly persons are more vulnerable.

Avoid suffering from heat stroke by drinking plenty of water, stay in a place where there is plenty of airspace, stay in shaded areas, use light colored and loose fitting clothing.

Heat stroke is a medical emergency, anyone exhibiting the signs and symptoms of heat stroke should be rushed to the nearest health center or hospital.

Belize commemorates World TB Day

The Ministry of Health celebrated

television show appearances,

World



Ministry of Health Fair for TB Day held at ITVET, Belize City site visits, sensitization

ADM Mills Nutrition Quiz Competition proceeds to the National Finals





Tuberculosis (TB) Day on March 24th under the theme, On the move against TB: Innovate towards Action.

To commemorate TB day, the National TB Program hosted a one day TB conference where a general overview of the present state of TB in Belize as well as other topics were discussed. The National TB Program also organized a week long program of activities for the entire country such as radio and

workshops, walkathons and health fairs that are usually held at hospital or clinic sites in each district

Although the TB Program has seen an increase in TB cases, they have improved surveillance in the testing specifically ensuring that all Early detection can decrease the onset of symptoms such as cough (sometimes with blood), fever, weight loss, tiredness and night sweats.

The Ministries of Education and Health in collaboration with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and UNICEF has concluded the first phase of hosting the annual National ADM Secondary School Nutrition Quiz Competition. We congratulate all the winners as they proceed to the National Finals of the Secondary School Nutrition Quiz Competition scheduled for May 12th 2011 in Belize City.

The competition is funded annually by the ADM Belize Mills Limited, the respective ministries, PAHO and UNICEF. Winners of the National competition will then proceed to compete in the Regional Nutrition Quiz Competition organized by the Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute (CFNI).

Ministry of Health Belmopan 822-2325/2363



Easier to Understand Easier to Play! Easier to Win!