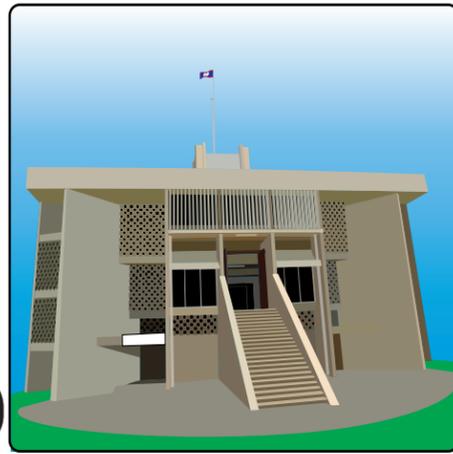




Capital Weekly

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



No. 022

Thursday, February 16, 2012

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Nomination Day

United and Strong in Belmopan!

Anyone can talk about running for office, but it is only those who get themselves nominated that are really in the race.

For the municipal elections, registration to enter the race took place countrywide this past Wednesday.

But besides being an official part of the election process, nomination day has always been an occasion for displaying strength and rallying the troops that will do battle on Election Day.

It's an opportunity that was seized upon this past Wednesday, especially by the governing UDP which by all accounts is in superior fighting form, as compared to the PUP, which has been taking blow after blow from within, in addition to successive defeats suffered at the polls since the Cayo South By-Election of October 2003.

The man who, in that by-election, became the first ever UDP to win the Cayo South constituency, Hon John Saldivar, is now the area representative for the constituency of Bel-



Mayor Lopez and Hon. Saldivar wave at supporters on Nomination Day

mopan. He has now served two terms and is getting ready to go for a third.

Saldivar himself will be nominated this Friday, February 17, along with all other candidates for the General Elections country-

wide, which take place on March 7.

But this past Wednesday, it was Mayor Simeon Lopez and his slate of candidates for councilors whose turn it was to sign up for the municipal elections that

were already scheduled by law for March 7 and will thus be held on the same day as the General Elections.

Saldivar and his army of UDP campaigners and supporters nevertheless joined in the nomination day parade, making for one giant UDP march of unity and solidarity. "United and Strong," was indeed the slogan boldly displayed on red-shirts worn by campaigners and supporters of the UDP in Belmopan.

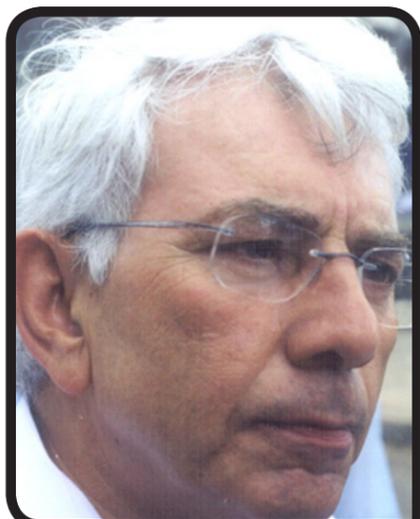
And, we can tell you, on that day, there was plenty of red, more than quadrupling the blue T-shirts that had come out earlier in support of the PUP. And there were also hundreds of UDP flags to go with the T-shirts.

As to Belmopan's third party, the VIP, and other independents, they stuck to the official process; no crowds, no march, no music, no flags.

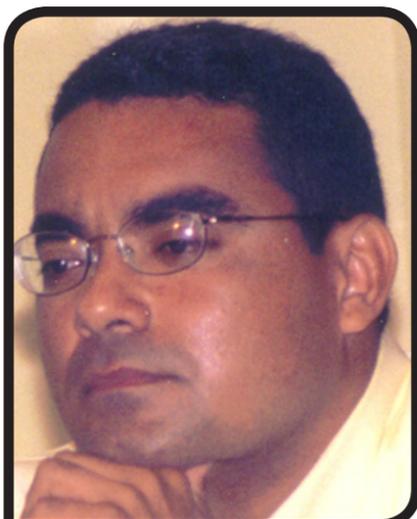
And so, the stage is set—as far as the municipal elections are concerned—no new horse being able to enter the race. And the same will be true for the General Election race by the end of this week, as those nominations take place on Friday, February 17.

Superbond Strikes Again!

Another 33 Million Gone!



Said Musa



Francis Fonseca

Thirty Three Million! That's how much money the Government and People of Belize have to find in the next few days for one single payment on the Super Bond left behind by the PUP.

Bright and early this coming Monday, February 20, 2012, we will have to pay up US \$16,768,533.33 which converts to BZ \$33,537,066.66, being the latest installment on the repayment of the Super Bond which the PUP left as a legacy for Belizeans, and which the

(Continued on Page 9)

Objection to Shakron Nomination



Story on Page 14

From the Desk of the Chairman

The Harder They Come The Harder They Fall!



Delroy Cuthkelvin
Chairman, Editorial Board

Is it only me, or do you get the distinct feeling that the forces opposed to this UDP administration are growing more desperate by the minute as the General Elections draw nearer?

And isn't it becoming just as obvious that the harder they try, the more they're failing, and falling like flies that hit a glowing light-bulb?

There was a time when the 'invincible blue machine' was pretty effective at muddying the waters amidst an election season, so that it became difficult for the average Belizean voter to distinguish between good and evil, right and wrong, truth and fiction. And on the ground, the 'blue machine' had such a dominating game it appeared they could win

any election, even one that all the vital signs told you they should lose.

Those days are gone, and today the PUP appears to be a party without soul, style or substance; a kind of walking dead organism which is simply limping around longing to regain the mobility and ability it once had. If there was ever a time for the third party elements to jump the PUP and move into second place, that time is now.

But that is not the main point of our essay. That point is that the Barrow administration is so decisively and resolutely on the right track that it is becoming harder by the minute for the pockets of resistance, including what is left of the PUP, to mount any effective assault against it, even if they were to coalesce, as they appear to be attempting at this late stage in the game, around the single agenda of bringing down an administration that has so successfully stood up and defended the national interest; an administration that has, indeed, gone a step further in taking the offensive on behalf of the People and Country of Belize.

"The harder they come, the harder they fall; one and all!" (Jimmy Cliff)

Paved Placencia Road Inaugurated



A portion of the newly paved Placencia Road



Hon. Melvin Hulse
Stann Creek West Area Rep.



Hon. Anthony Martinez
Minister of Works

It is the access road to one of Belize's most popular tourism destinations, the Placencia Road, which leads to the village by the same name, Placencia.

After a decade of promises by the last administration, that road has finally been paved by the Dean Barrow Government with financing coming mainly from the Caribbean Development Bank.

The project agreement was signed in 2008 with Cisco Construction, and the works were completed last year.

Also constructed as part of the entire project was a multi-purpose building in Seign Bight, which was built to replace the old multi-purpose structure that had to be demolished to accommodate the widening and paving of the Placencia Road that passes through that neighboring village.

Among special guests

at Thursday's inauguration ceremony were Minister of Works, Anthony Martinez, and Stann Creek West Area Representative, Hon. Melvin Hulse.

Capital Weekly

*From the Heart of the Nation
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Tourism Turns the Corner

BIG Increase in Overnight Visitors

It is no secret that, comparatively, Belize's Economy is doing well. Comparative, that is, to other countries in the region, particularly other members of the Caribbean Community.

This is, of course, within the context of the global economic crisis from which nations great and small are struggling to recover.

One of the key areas where Belize's recovery is evident is Tourism; and the news coming out of that sector this week was particularly good. At a press conference on Wednesday in Ambergris Caye, the Belize Tourism Board announced that tourist arrivals for the last quarter of 2011 had increased by as much as 6.5 percent over the figures for the same period of 2010. The actual figure for the last quarter of 2011 was 56,964 overnight tourists.

It's a record-breaking achievement. And the figure for December 2011 alone was also a record-breaker, reaching 26,900.

Arrivals at the Phillip Goldson International Airport were also at a record high, having increased consistently since 2008 when the current UDP Government took office. During the last quarter of 2011, the airport recorded 42,034 visitors, representing an increase of 9 percent over comparative figures for 2010.

In Cruise Tourism, admittedly, the growth has not been as consistent. In October 2011, the number of cruise-tourism arrivals recorded was 39,959, up by 25.9 percent over the figures for the same period of 2010. The increase in November was even greater as arrivals soared to 92, 416 visitors, an increase of 32.1 percent over the figures for the same period in 2010. In December of 2011, however, those arrivals were only 96,367, down by 11.5 percent from the numbers for the previous year, 2010.

Nevertheless, the overall figures show a cumulative growth of almost 12 percent since 2008.

Commenting on the particularly good performance in overnight visitors, Tourism Minister Manuel Heredia said, *"For the first time in the history of Belize's tourism, we have attained record overnight arrivals in three of the twelve months of last year; namely January, July and December of 2011. As a result of these top performing months, I am proud to say that 2011 will be recorded as only the second time in Belize's history that we have exceeded 250,000 overnight arrivals."*

As to Cruise Tourism, BTB's Director of Quality Assurance, Laura Esquivel Frampton, made the following comments:



Hon Manuel Heredia
Minister of Tourism

"The cruise sector has done very well for us even when our overnight sector was taking a dip. So we have the zone, we have to continue our negotiations with the Florida Caribbean Cruise Association and of course capacity building for our local stakeholders in the cruise sector."

We are also working on—and there's going to be training in March in cultural tourism for persons who are offering cultural tourism products, giving them training and also a small grants program that is coming through the IDB project and looking at health and safety standards and accompanying training throughout our sector. We also have to focus a lot on capacity building and training for our industry."

We've revamped our tour guide certification course and should be giving that to the industry a little later this year so that we can begin new programs that focus on interpretive skills. Introduction of a new tour operator course; right now there is no course offered to persons who operate tours, so we have created that groundwork and we are ready to roll out our first training in the summer. And we're looking at quality

enhancement training, customer service training; wait staff, bartending front desk, and key to all of this is to get more trainers into the system."

Total overnight arrivals in 2011 stood at 250,263. It is the second highest performance in this particular sector, the highest being in 2007, which was just before the global economic recession hit.

It is only the second time in the history of Tourism in Belize that the figures for overnight tourism surpassed 250,000 visitors.

Not only is the news good, the projections are also promising, in fact even more promising for 2012, the Belize Tourism Board says. And beyond that, the future looks even more promising as a major airline out of Canada, Sunwing Airline, is scheduled to begin direct flights to Belize early in 2013.



February 15, 2012

Logo/Slogan Competitions

Participate In The Belize National Sanitary Cattle Plan Project Logo/Slogan Competition!

The Belize National Sanitary Cattle Plan Project is a project funded by the Government of Belize partly through a Grant from The European Union. The Project Execution Unit was established in January, 2012 and is housed at The Agricultural Show Grounds, Hummingbird Highway, Belmopan City. This Unit, in collaboration with the Belize Agricultural Health Authority, the Belize Livestock Producers Association and other stakeholders, has launched a public awareness campaign seeking to educate and sensitize Cattle Farmers and the Belizean public about the importance and benefits of this project, including the need to get their livestock tested for Bovine Tuberculosis and Brucellosis so that they meet the bovine animal health standards that will enable them to export live cattle to Mexico.

Terms of the LOGO/Slogan Competitions:

- ❖ Competition is open to (High School) Students ages (12-17)
- ❖ An Individual may submit one (1) entry only
- ❖ Logo/Slogan should incorporate elements related to the principal objective of the Belize National Sanitary Cattle Plan Project
- ❖ Participants are encouraged to be highly imaginative, inspired and show foresight in their submissions.
- ❖ All entries must be original, unpublished, and not submitted or accepted elsewhere between start and end of the Competition
- ❖ Logos must be submitted in JPEG or PDF format
- ❖ Immediate relatives of the members of the evaluation committee shall not be eligible to submit an entry
- ❖ The Committee would not be obliged to accept a winning submission in the unlikely event that there are no suitable choices.
- ❖ In the unlikely event of a tie, winner will be selected by a blind draw.
- ❖ The Winning entry and all rights thereafter becomes the property of the BNSCP- Project
- ❖ The deadline for the submission of entries is on or before March 16, 2012 at 4.00 p.m.

Submission of Entries for BNSCP LOGO/Slogan Competition:

Submission of the Logo/Slogan can be sent via email however two (2) copies must be on CDs either hand delivered or by mail to BNSCP- Project. Entry packages SHOULD BE ADDRESSED AS FOLLOWS: Logo/Slogan Competition, Belize National Sanitary Cattle Plan Project, P.O. Box 169, National Agricultural Showgrounds, Hummingbird Highway, Belmopan, Cayo District.

Prizes:

The winner of the BNSCP LOGO/Slogan Competition will receive a prize of \$500 from the BNSCP Project.

Kindly note that an information package outlining the project overview and objective is available electronically and will be facilitated to all interested individuals upon their request.

For more information on the campaign, please contact Kay Garnett, Administrative Assistant at the Belize National Sanitary Cattle Plan Project, Tel: (+501) 822-2143/1283 or email at kgarnettcattlesweep@gmail.com or cattlesweep@gmail.com We look forward to receiving all of your submissions, which we trust shall be creative, innovative and exciting.



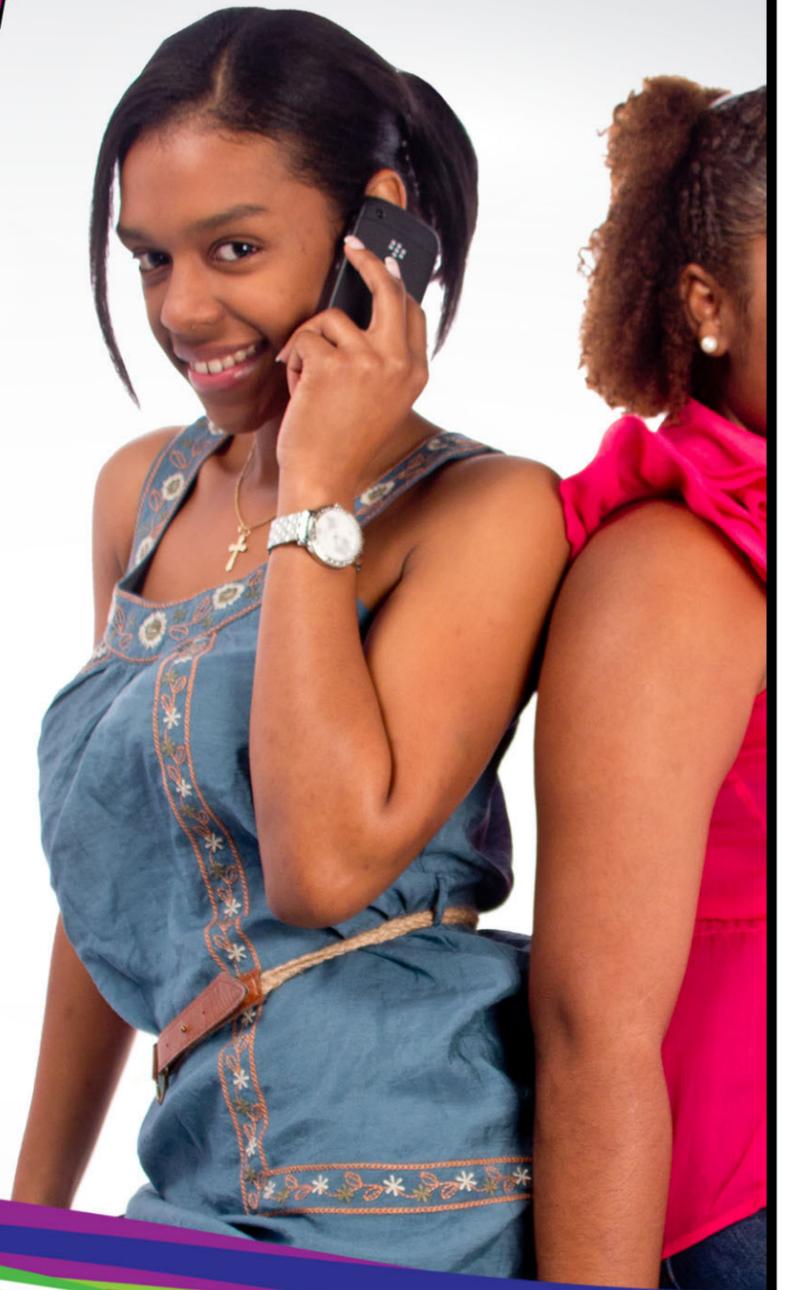
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Ignorant or Dishonest?

Noisemakers Badmouth Belize Economy

Prime Minister Dean Barrow made the point during his appearance on Love FM's Morning show, that the noisemakers who are trying to dispute the fact that the Belize Economy is doing well under this government are either being ignorant or dishonest; and we would have to agree.

As early as October 2010, when he came to Belize immediately following Hurricane Richard, IDB President, Luis Alberto Moreno stated:

"Belize entered the global recession from a position of relative macro-economic stability and came through it very unscathed. Although growth decelerated, the economy did NOT actually contract, and macro-economic stability was maintained. Belize continues to have one of the lowest inflation rates in all of the Western Hemisphere." (Luis Alberto Moreno - IDB President)

Late last Year, the IMF, no fan of this government's pro-poor policies, confirmed what the IDB President had stated in a statement of their own, which read: *"Belize weathered the financial crisis relatively well, when compared with other countries in the Caribbean Community. Output expanded*



Francis Gegg

in 2010—owing largely to activity in the electricity, and wholesale and retail trade.

Twelve-month inflation was nil in 2010...but picked up slightly early this year (0.9 percent in February 2011)...Growth in 2011 is being supported by expansion in the manufacturing and agriculture sectors, as well as an improvement in the terms of trade, allowing the stabilization of the foreign reserves cover at about 3 months imports of goods and services." (IMF Statement, August 25, 2011)

As it turned out, the growth rate of the Belize Economy had reached over 3 Percent by the end of 2011, and all indicators show that the economy is poised for further growth in the year just started. Belize's Economic performance in 2011, was better than most, if not all its neighbors in the Caribbean at this



Yasmin Andrews

time, and particularly encouraging in the context of current global conditions.

That growth for the entire year was even better than was projected by Prime Minister Dean Barrow himself in his 2011 Independence Day Speech, and better than the 2.4 % growth recorded in 2010.

It was the highest growth rate since the economic recession hit home, and it signals that we have in fact weathered the storm relatively well, something which, as we noted earlier, even the IMF has had to concede.

The Prime Minister, in his New Year's Address, noted that the situation is even more encouraging when one examines the pillars that hold up the structure. Those pillars are the various areas of the productive sector.

The Free Zone had re-

corded a 23% hike in year on year sales, Wholesale and Retail Trade was up by 7.7 %, Hotel and Restaurants grew by 2.1 percent as a consequence of a 3.3% increase in overnight tourists; Transport and Communications went up by 2.5 percent; Construction by 7.4 percent; Fishing by as much as 14.5 %; and while overall Sugar production fell, rations, quality and prices improved so that the industry is having an outstanding season.

The latest statistics just coming out of the Tourism industry this week further reinforce the fact that the Belize Economy has indeed weathered well and recovered from the economic recession, and is poised for further growth and strengthening.

Indeed, those who are determined to prove that the Belize Economy is not doing well, and who insist on saying so in the face of the stubborn facts to the contrary, are being either 'ignorant' or 'dishonest'.

With the Prime Minister's permission, we would like to add one more option: they are just being 'bad-minded'.

We won't attempt to determine which it is. Let them choose which cap they want to wear.

Cayo South
Moving Forward With
Dean Barrow, Ramon Witz
and the UDP
Always for The People!



By Zelda Hill

If a society is as healthy as its families are, then we don't have to search very long and far to understand why our world's societies are stressed morally and economically. In every society, the word 'family' should evoke a sense of happiness, belonging and security, but for many such associations are unfamiliar. God's plan for the family, the most valuable institution of society, has regrettably been undermined. This fact is evident in societies where instead of protecting and caring for its most vulnerable members, the elderly and the children, they are neglected and isolated. There are also societies that design legislation to kill its powerless and innocent members - even intruding into the womb! And when a society seeks to tamper with or remove laws that are designed to preserve the integrity and functionality of the family as God intended it, the impact on the already endangered component is devastating. It is past time for every sector of our society to resurrect respect for God's laws and reinforce aspirations for committed marriages, especially in our younger generation.

Committed marriages are happy marriages and produce healthy families and societies. A union that defies God's original design, however committed, even with the sanction of the state, is no marriage at all. God's original plan for marriage and family is evident in the Genesis account of the first man and woman, Adam and Eve, He created. "It is not good for man to be alone", God recommended. And God made a helper for the man, a woman, to comple-

ment him. The Creator performed the first marriage in the Garden of Eden by bringing the woman to her man and then declaring that "... a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh." This instruction meant that the couple was to become one in a sexual and figurative sense, sharing their lives and their resulting children together in an environment of love, nurture and security. Their children were to follow this similar pattern of union in marriage.

Studies are revealing that by encouraging and supporting the idea of marriage, the health and well-being of individuals in a society are improved. On the other hand, just living together outside of marriage brings increased conflict and aggression fueled by uncertainty and infidelity.

God's evaluation of what He designed and ordained was that it was "good", a position He continues to uphold. But man has composed the various definitions and arranged the diverse patterns of unions, much to his own detriment.

God is neither humored nor does He respect such diversity, as those who seek to redefine unions and families would like us to do. He is in fact grieved at the varieties of 'families' that have spiraled from our 'modern' societies: unmarried couples, absent fathers, absent mothers, siblings with different fathers and the latest addition...same-sex 'parents'. It is distressing to realize that, in many instances, what we refer to as families are not families at all but instead are training camps for abuse, confusion, frustration and deviancy. Many of our young men who are trapped in the cycles of drug abuse and criminal activity have never experienced the love, protection, discipline and mentor of

their fathers. The seemingly acceptable replacement by a step-parent, in most cases, serves to aggravate the already delicate circumstances after a parent abandons the family.

Since God created the family, an examination of His manual to extract its wisdom will reveal that its definition of 'family' is the word 'fatherhood'. The Greek word for 'family' is 'patria', which comes from the root 'pater'. From the word 'pater' comes the word 'padre', which means 'father'. In Jewish culture, an orphan was a child whose

father was dead, even if the child's mother was present. Without a father in the home there is no family. The family, with committed and loving parents as God designed it, provides what is needed for the holistic development of children, who will in turn build healthy societies.

Studies are revealing that by encouraging and supporting the idea of marriage, the health and well-being of individuals in a society are improved. On the other hand, just living together outside of marriage brings increased conflict and aggression fueled by uncertainty and infidelity. In committed marriages, parents and children are emotionally and physically

healthier and there are significant reductions in the rate of alcoholism, depression, suicide, and psychological and mental illnesses. When children know that their parents are in their lives for the long haul and their parents openly express their love and commitment to each other and to them, children are less likely to experience loneliness and insecurity and to be influenced by gangs and drugs.

Modern research simply echoes and endorses what God had originally prescribed in His Word. Although the benefits of committed marriages and family-life are unmatched when compared to other unions, the statistics show that the frequency of marriages is decreasing worldwide.

The Bible explains this deterioration of marriages as a characteristic of these later times and the result of abandoning faith in God and pursuing deceiving spirits and demonic teachings (1 Timothy 4:1-3). Any person or group that denounces the sanctity and importance of marriage is definitely in opposition to God's will since His prescription for healthy families and societies will never be amended. The slightest deviation from God's plan will cause us to endlessly and fruitlessly search to alleviate the consequences of such neglect and rejection.

If a healthy society is a priority for our citizens and statesmen, any other system that introduces doctrines that are contrary to the will of God should be discarded.

Capital Weekly

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

PACT

Protected Areas Conservation Trust

INVESTMENTS

for January 2012



PACT GRANTS OVER \$600,000 IN JANUARY 2012!

For the month of January, the Protected Areas Conservation Trust (PACT) invested a total of **\$619,530.06** in new and ongoing grants.

Over \$389,000 in new grants for projects in eight protected areas:

Community Baboon Sanctuary

\$60,000.00 - Community Baboon Sanctuary Women's Conservation Group

Corozal Bay Wildlife Sanctuary

\$29,537.50 - Sarteneja Alliance for Conservation and Development

Chiquibul National Park, Chiquibul Forest Reserve, Caracol Archaeological Site

\$100,000.00 - Friends for Conservation and Development

Gladden Spit & Silk Cayes Marine Reserve, Sapodilla Cayes Marine Reserve

\$99,992.56 - Southern Environmental Association

Bladen Nature Reserve

\$100,000.00 - Ya'axché Conservation Trust

PACT also disbursed over \$168,000 for ongoing grants; of this \$61,000 was facilitated via partnerships with the Meso-American Reef Fund (MAR Fund) and the PACT Foundation.

The new grants include a Small Grant of \$60,000 to the Community Baboon Sanctuary Women's Conservation Group (CBSWCG) for the preparation of a management plan for the Community Baboon Sanctuary. The Community Baboon Sanctuary is a voluntary grassroots conservation initiative established in the Belize River Valley, with the goal of sustaining the habitat of the Black Howler Monkey while promoting economic development in the participating communities.

The Sarteneja Alliance for Conservation and Development (SACD) is also the recipient of a Small Grant. SACD is working in collaboration with the Forest Department to manage the Corozal Bay Wildlife Sanctuary. Currently, there is limited understanding of the ways in which climate change will affect the aquatic systems of CBWS and since Northeast Belize has a high risk climate change status it is important for management to be aware of such information for improved long term management effectiveness. This investment will establish a baseline for monitoring the water quality in Corozal Bay Wildlife Sanctuary.

The Chiquibul Forest (Chiquibul National Park, Chiquibul Forest Reserve and Caracol Archaeological Reserve) continues to be under a diverse set of threats. The Forest Department and the Friends for Conservation and Development (FCD) have been working together to manage this area and since 2005, PACT has been investing in these management efforts. FCD has established a biodiversity research program that would provide data for adaptive management of this area. Understanding the importance of research, the PACT is investing \$100,000 to support data collection efforts, and to strengthen capacity for research and park surveillance.

The Grant to Southern Environmental Association (SEA) will support management of two important marine protected areas: Gladden Spit and Silk Cayes Marine Reserve (GSSCMR) and Sapodilla Cayes Marine Reserve (SCMR). This investment from PACT will facilitate scientific monitoring for commercial species, landings and spawning aggregation at GSSCMR and SCMR. This is an important process for the region to keep abreast of the fish stocks.

PACT awarded a Medium-Sized Grant to Ya'axché Conservation Trust for conservation efforts in Bladen Nature Reserve, one of only two nature reserves in the country that employs the strictest form of conservation management. This investment from PACT will focus on strengthening the biodiversity monitoring and data collection program established in 2008 by Ya'axché.

Support was also provided to the Belize Forest Department to facilitate assessment of the Rosewood stock. The research involves data collection and analysis (stock taking), zone identification, and GIS modelling.

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AGM in the Free Zone

Address by Executive Chairman, David Akerman

Tonight I begin by giving all praise, honor and thanks to God for bringing us together here tonight.

This is the 4th year that I have the privilege and the honor of addressing you and it is with great pride and pleasure that I stand before you to relay the achievements of the Corozal Free Zone since the takeover of this administration.

The Corozal Free Zone has shown that sound improvements are possible with accountability, transparency and commitment in the things that we do. We can be taken as a role model for other institutions that are in a transition period to achieve competitiveness and economic stabilization. No man is an island and yet each head is its own world. The Board members who have devoted their invaluable time towards the improvement of the CFZ and who have contributed to the successes over the past years will always be held in high regards with this administration. All our achievements would not be possible without the unconditional input of every single employee; be assured that your work is very important to me. We are a team and everyone has a role to play and the success of us all depended on the interest and dedication that you have put in your respective jobs.

As the winds of change swept the nation in 2008 with the election of a new government, the expectations of the Corozal Free Zone investors was riddled with a lot of questions. Changes were met with certain skepticisms as millions of dollars were at stake and the new direction was uncertain.

The takeover of the new administration happened at a time when the economic recession plagued the entire globe and the Corozal Free Zone was not spared the effects of the crisis. Nevertheless although we knew that the road ahead would be a very rocky and steep one, we set out to meet the challenges that loomed in the horizon.

At the inception of the change in administration and after careful analysis and scrutiny it was realized that there was the need for major restructuring in all avenues of service and in the infrastructure of the CFZ. The administration then embarked on the tedious task of complete restructuring of the CFZ.

So much had to be done that it was difficult to determine where to start but as the saying goes: all journeys must start with the first step, so we started to confront the major task of transforming the Zone into what it is today.

Primarily, the infrastructure and the security services needed immediate attention and so those needs were addressed. The deplorable conditions which the securities were working under and the lack of basic facilities was a disgrace and so we restructured the entrance of the CFZ and the security now counts with



David Akerman, Executive Chairman, Corozal Free Zone

bathroom and shower facilities. The security services have been upgraded and we are presently forming a Quick Response Team for major emergency situations. This unit will consist of highly trained personnel who will be armed and will be on call to respond to major incidents. We have hired the services of Anchor Security from Belmopan who are tasked with the training of our Quick Response Team. Also training for the securities and firemen in first aid has been completed. Observation towers has been placed in strategic locations with spotlights installed along the fence lines to enable our securities to monitor the movements along the fence lines; an area that was target for the criminal element to access the Free Zone. Allow me to say proudly that we have come a long way in the restructuring of the Security services and there is always room for improvement but we are getting there.

The infrastructure posed another major challenge for the new administration but we were not to be deterred and now, visible to all are the fruits of the struggles and achievements of this management. Major investment was carried out in the repairing of the streets and obviously the drains were no less a priority that needed to be addressed in the event of heavy flooding that plagued the Zone during the rainy season.

We can now appreciate better streets with the signs in place to assist in the proper traffic control and the flooding has been alleviated. The administration has embarked on a beautification project and we can all enjoy and appreciate the landscaping that is in place. A welcoming sight, if I may say so myself, for as they say, first impressions are lasting impressions. Our maintenance crew has done a spectacular job in enhancing the image of the Zone and in the daily maintenance of the streets and drains and have been very effective in the improved garbage collection services rendered by the administration.

The vision of the new administration saw the need to upgrade our garbage collection and disposal and lobbied to move it from private controlled

to complete administrative control. The move has brought vast improvements in the service provided to the investors and there now exists a more organized and efficient garbage collection. We turned to our allied partners, the Republic of China, (Taiwan) for the donation of two compactor garbage trucks for the proper removal and disposal of garbage.

Inferior quality structures were the order of the day under the previous administration and these such structures were considered fire hazards; and our dependency on our Mexican counterparts was becoming very annoying and so arose the urgency of investing in our own fire department. But such a feat would require thousands of dollars, and so we turned again to our ally, Taiwan, once again for the donation of a fire truck and with the cooperation of the private sector to incur expenses for freight, we established a fire department. This fire department counts with 5 full time personnel, all trained. Our restructured fire department now has an office and storage facility along with bathroom and shower.

Training was conducted for staff members of the Princess casino in the case of any outbreak of fires in the casinos. Special thanks goes out to the Taiwanese government for their invaluable assistance in the granting of the garbage compactor trucks, fire truck and for the donations of over \$100,000 Belize dollars in fire-fighting equipment which has just arrived. These assets now form part of our inventory. Of note is the fact that we now assist the Mexicans in the case of fire outbreaks, as of recently we were the first to respond to a fire in Sub Teniente Lopez.

The administration is working with the Chamber of Commerce to establish new strategies for Marketing. (Allow me to make mention that the CFZ now counts with a very efficient and effective Chamber.) The first phase of the new marketing strategy was launched in 2011 whereby advertisements of various forms has been launched in the major cities of our neighboring country; Mexico. The major objective is directed at attracting and increasing the retail buyers into the CFZ.

The CFZ partnering with the Chamber of Commerce is planning to host a week of discounts and companies will be invited to participate in this event. Of note is the fact that there now exists a more harmonious working relationship between the private and the public sector in the CFZ now. service to do their promotions for their respective companies.

It is said that in giving you receive and with that in mind the Administration saw the need to assist in social programs and by so doing, give back to our community. Throughout our tenure of our administration we have supported social in social interventions in education and culture and health oriented programs. As of recently we have partnered with the Belize Mission in providing general medicine for the el-

derly and in the field of dermatology in the rural areas. And in the field of dentistry over 1,500 children have received fluoride treatment, 79 received dental surgeries. Allow me to say that these social programs were established and approved by your Board of Directors.

Not to be outdone in our relentless efforts in continuously improving and upgrading the infrastructure of the Zone we maintain the ties already existing with the Taiwanese government and are in the process of negotiating for financing from the International Cooperation Development Fund (ICDF) of Taiwan in the areas for infrastructure and state of the art Security Surveillance Cameras to be installed in the entire perimeter of the Corozal Free Zone. Initial meetings have already taken place between a delegation of the Corozal Free Zone which included myself, the Board and the Directors of the Chamber of Commerce and Mr. Morgan Chao, the Vice President of ICDF. There is much that needs to be done and can be done providing the will to do so. Together private and public sector working for one common goal without any self interest.

Presently we are upgrading and modernizing our IT systems to bring quality service.

We are an administration with renewed vigor since our takeover in 2008. We have grown physically and have matured over the years. The CFZ administration now boasts of a work force that has evolved from 43 workers to 117. Our commitment is to use all our efforts and skills to meet the expectations of you, the investors, and I invite you all to join us in our continued efforts to move the CFZ forward which will be beneficial for all and country. In order to achieve the desired results we must focus on strategies to deliver long term value to you all. But we cannot go the journey alone; we need the commitments of all.

The course for the future is challenging. But we have emerged from 2008 to 2012 with renewed confidence and determination.

Thank you all for your participation here tonight and for your support over the past years. Special thanks goes out to the investors who have contributed to the development of the CFZ, for the trust and confidence bestowed upon me, to the members of the Board of Directors, past and present, who has given unselfishly of their valuable time to serve and were instrumental in the developments of the CFZ. Special thanks also to my family who has tolerated me through long hours of very tedious work and supported me throughout my tenure. To the Lord God who has blessed me with the knowledge to turn my dreams and ideas into practical possibilities and granted me the wisdom to do so.

And last, but not least, to all my staff who delivered diligently the policies of the Board of Directors.

Have a pleasant good night and God Bless!!

On Both Sides of the Issue

Shoman's Dual Position on Dual Citizenship



Lisa Shoman



Yolanda Shakron

In our two most recent editions, we made the point that Lisa Shoman, who has ambitions to lead the People of this Country, is consistently on the wrong side of issues of concern to the public at large. So consistent has been her record of taking the wrong position on every issue, we were beginning to wonder whether it's a record she can sustain.

Well, this week Shoman outdid herself as she has now come down on both sides of the same issue. The issue is, of course, that of dual citizenship and the question of whether those who hold it should be allowed to run for elected office at the level of Parliament.

Kudos to Channel Seven News for bringing back the tape featuring Lisa Shoman emphatically and categorically opposing even the thought of someone wanting to run for elected office at the level of Parliament in Belize while holding on to some other nationality.

"I think what you are hearing people here say is that if we give you the honour and the responsibility of serving in the National Assembly, be good enough to acknowledge that you have one master and that that master is Belize.

And I serve you notice Mr. Chairman, pass this law and I will line up to be first in line to challenge anybody who thinks they can get themselves elected and will not run afoul of the people of Belize," Shoman had declared.

The statement, replayed by Channel Seven in its Tuesday evening newscast for February 14, 2012, was made by Shoman back in 2009 when the Dean Barrow administration introduced in the House a bill proposing to allow dual citizens to run for elective office at the level of Parliament.

With a candidate of her own party, Yolanda Shakron, now seeking to run in the Lake Independence constituency, having just been confirmed to be a holder of both US and Belizean citizenship, Lisa Shoman has sud-

denly made an about turn. Either that or she is holding two opposing views on the very same issue.

According to Shoman, it is quite alright for Mrs. Shakron, a dual citizen, to offer herself for elected office. In an interview with Channel Seven News on Monday of this week, she stated, *"As to the party, we are satisfied that Mrs. Shakron's eligibility for running is - there is no issue with it. It is interesting, however, from a perspective of any lawyer, that the UDP ran Mrs. Marilyn Williams when she was a dual citizen as well, so don't worry; the same way the UDP can manage, we will manage."*

Shoman's allegation about a former UDP candidate being a dual citizen has never been proven. What has, of course, been proven beyond a shadow of doubt is that Shoman herself seems to have, not only dual views, but diametrically opposing positions on the very same issue.

It's Lisa Shoman yet again. When and how shall it all end?

Superbond Strikes Again!

Another 33 Million Gone!

Continued from Page 1

new PUP Leader, Francis Fonseca, is now calling on Belizeans to forget. But how can we forget something that is costing us so many millions even as we write, and will continue to cost us so many more millions in the future?

By August of this year, when the next semi-annual payment is due, we will have to fork up 47 Million all at once, as the interest would have increased from 6% to 8.5%.

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

Imagine how much more painful it will be when payments on the principal kick in. That will first happen on August 20, 2019 when the first bullet payment on the principal becomes due. That bullet payment, combined with the continuing payment on the interest, will take the debt servicing up to over 100 Million every six months.

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

As Prime Minister Hon. Dean Barrow noted in one of his recent budget presentations, the government's External Debt now stands at around 1.9 Billion; and

out of that total figure, the Super Bond inherited from the Said Musa administration is responsible for as much as 1.1 Billion (with a B). In other words, the Super Bond left behind by the last administration is actually responsible for almost 60 percent of the entire External Debt.

All this is the result of reckless borrowing by the last administration, the monies from which were never spent on the people to improve their quality of life, or on the country's infrastructure. We have calculated, for example, that the payments we have to make this year alone on the Super Bond, over BZ \$80 Million, would be enough to resurface the entire Western Highway from Belize City all the way to the Benque Viejo Border.

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

The infamous Super Bond is the amalgamation of various bad-loans incurred by the last PUP administration that earned the reputation of abusing public funds to underwrite the most insane and unsound (not to mention, corrupt) private ventures.

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



PUBLIC NOTICE

The Public Utilities Commission (PUC; the Commission) serves notice this day, February 14, 2012, that, in exercise of the powers conferred upon it by Section 15 of the Belize Telecommunications Act and Section 5 of the Telecommunications (Licensing Classification, Authorization, and Fee Structure) Regulations 2002, S.I. 110 of 2002, and all other powers thereunto enabling, it proposes to grant an Internet Networks License to each of the following applicants:

1. **STELLAR LINKS LTD.**
2. **INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES LIMITED.**
3. **ALLIANCE IP (BELIZE) LTD.**

An Internet Networks License is an Individual License that authorizes a Licensee to provide Internet Service to the public and to build a network for the provision of such service.

Reason for proposed granting of Licenses:

The Commission intends to grant Licenses to the above applicants in order to promote further competition in the provision of High Speed Internet Service.

Comments/Objections:

Interested persons may submit written representations or objections with respect to the proposed Licenses on or before March 6, 2012, to the Public Utilities Commission, P.O. Box 300, #41Gabourel Lane, Belize City, Belize.

THE PRIME MINISTER'S TOUR CONTINUED IN TOLEDO LAST SUNDAY FEBRUARY 12, 2012



Safety and Comfort

SIF Project Refurbishes School Buildings in Cristo Rey



Cutting of the ribbon to officially inaugurate the building

Over 147 students of the Cristo Rey Roman Catholic School in the Corozal District are no longer exposed to the dangers associated with asbestos thanks to a project which included the rehabilitation of two main school buildings equipped with spacious

Fund at a total cost of \$300,000 and financed by the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) under its Basic Needs Trust Fund 5. BNTF is a program promoting poverty reduction through socio-economic initiatives and community empowerment and is jointly financed by the Caribbean

building (30 ft by 27 ft) were rehabilitated. These included replacement of the asbestos roof, including the roof sheeting and frames, installation of new doors and windows, new partitions, new ceilings and painting of walls and electrical wiring. Additional works for the pre-school included the repairing of damaged walls and columns, additional purlins for roof expansion and installation of water gutters.

The work scope for the bathroom block included construction of bathroom space for male

buildings with asbestos roofing, which posed a health hazard to both the teachers and students. After consultations and collaboration with the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health has recommended the removal of all asbestos roofs on school buildings countrywide since asbestos has been known to cause lung cancer.

Cristo Rey Village is located some 11 miles from Corozal Town; 2 miles from the cutoff of the northern highway or some 10 miles from the Santa



Cristo Rey Pre-school renovated as part of the project

and females along with shower stall, urinals, toilets and wash basins, septic tank and soak-a-ways.

The project also included the provision of furniture, includ-

Elena border. Most of the villagers rely on sugar cane farming and papaya cultivation for a living.

The guest speaker for the occasion was Hon. Nemencio



Cristo Rey RC School children pose for the camera along with delegates and invited guests during the ceremony

bathrooms, the supply of computers, office furniture and equipment. The refurbished facilities will be officially inaugurated tomorrow morning at the school premises.

The project was implemented by the Social Investment

Development Bank (CDB), the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and ten beneficiary governments, including Belize.

As part of the project a two-classroom building (60 ft by 37 ft) and a one-classroom pre-school



Main school building renovated by SIF

ing teacher's desks, computer desks, book shelves, 8 computers, photocopier, projector, two digital cameras among others. In addition, SIF donated the construction materials, including tiles, light fixtures, sheet rock, AC Unit, windows and doors for the rehabilitation of a third building. The community of Cristo Rey provided labor for the installation of these materials.

Prior to the project, stu-

Acosta, Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture. Representatives of the Ministry of Education, the Social Investment Fund and Management of the Roman Catholic Schools for the Corozal District also spoke at the event.

(Information and photos provided by Mr. Mike Hernandez Jr. (Sr. J.P.) Director of Public Relations for the Social Investment Fund)



Cultural presentations included a Jarana Dance performed during the official ceremony

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belizenews.com/CapitalWeekly

Safety and Comfort

School and Bathroom Block Inaugurated in August Pine Ridge

A rehabilitated school building along with a sanitary block that will benefit over 400 students of the August Pine Ridge RC School was inaugurated last Friday 10th February at the school premises in August Pine Ridge Village, Orange Walk District.

The project was implemented by the Social Investment Fund at a total cost of \$298,000 and financed by the Caribbean Development Bank

sides of the partition walls with metal backing, repairs to damaged columns and electrical rewiring of the building. The primary school measures 105 ft long by 37 ft wide and houses six classrooms, a computer lab and principal's office.

The project also consisted of the construction of a new bathroom block with bathroom spaces for the school's staff, and a male and female bathrooms, shower stalls and hand wash basins. Both male and female



Cutting the symbolic ribbon

school's administration for the rehabilitation of another building inside the school compound.

The school provided the labor for rehabilitation of three additional classrooms, including the tiling of the floor, and replacement of the ceiling,

students. The project therefore has provided a safer and more pleasant learning environment.

The village of August Pine Ridge is located some 16 miles from Orange Walk Town. The economic base of the village is mixed but cane farming is the most important



Portion of the building showing the new bathroom block

(CDB) under its Basic Needs Trust Fund 5. BNTF is a program promoting poverty reduction

bathrooms have doors that lead into the existing adjacent building in the event that the building is



Rehabilitated August Pine Ridge School building

therefore underscoring their commitment to the enhancement of the children's education.

The August Pine Ridge RC School was originally built in 1960s and is one of the largest rural schools in the Orange Walk District.

Prior to the project, the building had an asbestos-roofing which posed a health hazard to both the teachers and

from of income for the villagers.

Speakers at the inauguration ceremony included officials of the Roman Catholic Church, the Social Investment Fund and Community Leaders.

Information provided by Mike Hernandez Jr. (Sr. J.P.) Director of Public Relations of the Social Investment Fund



Cultural presentation at the ceremony

through socio-economic initiatives and community empowerment and is jointly financed by the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and ten beneficiary governments, including Belize.

The work scope consisted of the replacement of the school's asbestos roof with a new pre-painted roof, installation of a new ceiling, doors and windows. Works included dismantling and disposal of existing walls, installation of plycem walls to both

used as a hurricane shelter. The community of August Pine Ridge contributed with vertical props for the roof slab, excavation of the septic tank and soak away.

The project involved the supply of an AC Unit, electrical fans and 10 fully equipped computers, one photo copier, a projector with screen, two digital cameras and school furniture.

An additional \$17,000 in the form of construction material such as tiles and zinc sheets were provided to the



Students of August Pine Ridge School

Objection to Shakron Nomination



Yolanda Shakron

Belmopan, February 16, 2012

The Press Office informs the general public that a formal objection to the nomination of Ms. Yolanda Schakron as a candidate for the Lake Independence Electoral Division has been delivered to the Returning Officer, Mrs. P. Noreen Fairweather, by an elector of the Lake Independence Electoral Division.

The objection is based on the ground that Ms. Schakron is disqualified from being nominated or elected as a member of the House of Representatives in view of section 58(1) (a) of the Belize Constitution which provides that

‘no person shall be qualified to be elected as a member of the House of Representatives who is, by virtue of his own act, under any acknowledgement of allegiance, obedience or adherence to a foreign power or State.’

It is alleged that Ms. Schakron is a citizen of the United States of America and carries a U.S. Passport which she renewed by her own act in **July, 2002** when she was 36 years of age. She has also publicly admitted that she is a US citizen.

The nomination day is Friday, 17 February 2012.

Election Day March 7 Public and Bank Holiday

Belmopan, 14th February, 2012.

Cabinet at its regular meeting today, Tuesday, 14th February, agreed that the Election Day, Wednesday, 7th March, 2012, be designated as a public and bank holiday. (END)

**Office of the Prime Minister
Belmopan, Cayo District**



BELIZE SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND
BELIZE MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
CONSULTANCY – DEVELOPMENT OF MUNICIPAL GROWTH PLANS (MGP's) FOR THE MUNICIPALITIES OF COROZAL, ORANGE WALK, BENQUE VIEJO, SAN IGNACIO & SANTA ELENA, BELMOPAN, DANGRIGA AND PUNTA GORDA, BELIZE

Loan No: 7958-BZ

Sub-Project ID No: 7958-BZ/C11

Expressions of Interest

The Government of Belize (GOB) has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contract for DEVELOPMENT OF MUNICIPAL GROWTH PLANS (MGP's) FOR THE MUNICIPALITIES COROZAL, ORANGE WALK, BENQUE VIEJO, SAN IGNACIO & SANTA ELENA, BELMOPAN, DANGRIGA AND PUNTA GORDA, 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.

The consulting services for this assignment under the Quality Cost Based Selection shall carry out the development of municipal growth plans (MGP's) for the municipalities of Corozal, OrangeWalk, Benque Viejo, San Ignacio & Santa Elena, Belmopan, Dangriga and Punta Gorda, Belize. The indicative implementation period for the consultancy is April, 2012 – April, 2013. BSIF hereby invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing the services.

Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments completed, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, current involvement in relevant projects, etc.).

In submitting their Expressions of Interest, applicants should be aware that they will be assessed, inter alia, based on the following areas: technical competence (number of similar projects previously completed and level of comparable responsibility / experience), qualifications and experience (professional qualifications of staff and experience on similar assignments), local and regional experience on similar assignments, financial capability and existing commitments.

Consultants may associate to enhance their qualifications. All information must be submitted in English.

Following the assessment of submissions, a short-list of not more than six applicants will be provided with Requests for Proposals including terms of reference and invited to submit technical and financial proposals. BSIF 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 Expressions of Interest.

A consultant firm will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers, May 2004 (revised up to January 2011).

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the email address below

One (1) original and two (2) hard copies of the Expression of Interest must be delivered by 4:00 p.m., 29th February, 2012 to:

Procurement Officer
Belize Social Investment Fund
Belize Municipal Development Project
3rd Floor, PAPI's Building
Constitution Drive
Belmopan
Belize, Central America
lemuel.palacio@sifbelize.org

Taiwan Assisting Belize in Aquaculture

The ways in which the Republic of China (Taiwan) has been and continues to be helpful to Belize are so numerous it would be impossible to list them out in a full edition of this newspaper.

This past week, yet another important agreement was signed between our two countries, this one for valuable assistance in the aquaculture industry.

The agreement was signed by Minister of Agriculture Rene Montero on behalf of Belize, and for Taiwan by that country's Ambassador, resident in Belize, His Excellency Mr. David Wu.

In May 2009, President Ma Ying-jeou of the Republic of China (Taiwan) made a State Visit to Belize. During the visit, President Ma promised the Prime Minister of Belize, the Honorable Dean Barrow, that the Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan) would assist Belize to promote Tilapia aquaculture.

In April 2010, the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Honorable Rene Montero; the Minister of State in the Ministry of Works, the Honorable Edmond Castro; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Honorable Mark Pech, requested assistance from the Embassy of the Republic of China (Taiwan) to further develop small to medium-scale aquaculture ventures in Belize.

The Republic of China (Taiwan) dispatched a delegation of investors and an aquaculture specialist in June 2009 and July 2010, respectively to appraise the potential of the industry and environment in Belize.

Both missions concluded that given the availability of suitable land and water resources, Belize offers great opportunities for the development of freshwater aquaculture. Therefore, in April 2011, the International Cooperation and Development Fund of the Republic of China (Taiwan) (ICDF) sent a project manager to Belize to prepare the agreement and project plan.

The total estimated duration of the project is 5 years. The project will be divided into three phases: the first phase is the construction of a hatchery centre in Central Farm; in the second phase, the project will focus on raising production of Tilapia in the country; and the third phase is to concentrate on facilitating the marketing mechanism.

The construction of a Tilapia hatchery center at Central Farm site will be completed in 2012 and it is expected to increase production of tilapia fingerlings from 110,000 to 1 million units by the end of the five-year project period.

The annual production will be 200,000 fingerlings in 2012; 300,000 fingerlings in 2013; 500,000 fingerlings in 2014; 700,000 fingerlings in 2015 and finally achieve 1 million fingerlings



Agriculture Minister Rene Montero and Ambassador David Wu

by the end of the five-year project period. Simultaneously, the price of fingerlings sold to farmers will be reduced by at least 20% (from US\$0.75 to US\$ 0.6) by the end of the five-year project period.

Additionally in this project, an Aquaculture Specialist from Taiwan will also assist the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries to develop alternative feeds for Tilapia culture to substitute commercial feeds by as much as 30-35%. The Taiwan Specialist and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries will organize a Tilapia farmer marketing cooperative and construct a processing center to assist in the domestic Tilapia marketing service to facilitate the production and marketing systems in 2015.

It is also expected that it will increase the supplement of meat protein intake of families in rural areas, and small-scale Tilapia farming will become a recognized and permanent feature of the agriculture sector in Belize after implementation of this project.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Utilities Commission (PUC)

In exercise of the powers conferred upon it by the Public Utilities Commission Act, Chapter 223 of the Laws of Belize, the Electricity Act, Chapter 221 of the Laws of Belize, the Electricity (Tariffs, Fees and Charges) Byelaws, and all other powers thereunto enabling, the Public Utilities Commission (hereinafter referred to as "the Commission") hereby notifies the general public that it has made and issued the **2011-2012 Full Tariff Review Proceeding Final Decision** (hereinafter referred to as "the Final Decision") for the Belize Electricity Limited (BEL; the Licensee).

Initial Decision adopted as the Final Decision:
 On **January 12, 2012**, the Commission made and issued the **2011-2012 Full Tariff Review Proceeding Initial Decision** (hereinafter referred to as "the Initial Decision"). The Licensee and Interested Parties representing users of at 10% of the electricity consumed in the previous calendar year were subsequently afforded 15 days to submit written comments and to make objections to the Initial Decision. No objections were received. Therefore, pursuant to Byelaw 22 of the Electricity (Tariffs, Fees and Charges) Byelaws, on January 30, 2012, the Commission adopted the Initial Decision as the Final Decision for the 2011-2012 Full Tariff Review Proceeding.

Summary of the Final Decision:

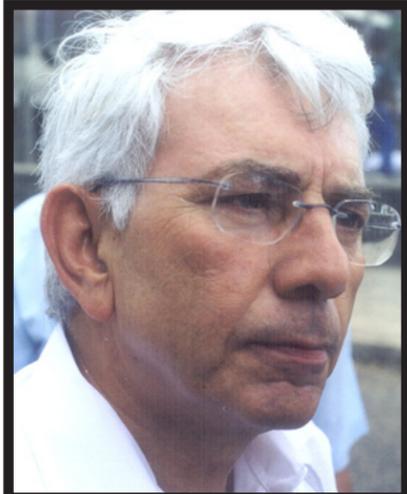
- The Final Decision determined Regulated Values, Mean Electricity Rates, Tariffs, Fees and Charges for the Full Tariff Period (FTP) of July 1, 2009, to June 30, 2016.
- The Final Decision approved a Mean Electricity Rate of \$0.4455 for July 1, 2009, to January 31, 2012, and a Mean Electricity Rate of \$0.4181 for February 1, 2012, to June 30, 2016.
- The Final Decision approved a Target Rate of Return of 10%, a Rate of Return Lower Limit of 9% and a Rate of Return Upper Limit of 12% for the FTP.
- The Final Decision approved total investments of some \$121.7 million for the period January 1, 2012, to December 31, 2016.
- The Final Decision approved no adjustments to all previously approved Fees and Charges.
- The Regulated Values and Mean Electricity Rates approved in the Final Decision resulted in the following approved Tariffs to be levied by the Licensee for the sale of electricity:

Approved Tariffs for Full Tariff Period (FTP) - July 1, 2009, to June 30, 2016				
Period	July 1, 2009 - January 31, 2012		February 1, 2012 - June 30, 2016	
	Service Type/ Consumption Block	Rate/Tariff \$/Mth; \$/KVA; \$/KWhr	Service Type/ Consumption Block	Rate/Tariff \$/Mth; \$/KVA; \$/KWhr
Social	0 - 50 KWhrs	0.26	0 - 60 KWhrs	0.24
	Minimum Charge	4.00	Minimum Charge	4.00
Residential	0 - 50 KWhrs	0.35	0 - 50 KWhrs	0.33
	51 - 200 KWhrs	0.44	51 - 200 KWhrs	0.41
	> 200 KWhrs	0.47	> 200 KWhrs	0.44
	Minimum Charge	5.00	Minimum Charge	5.00
Commercial	Service Charge	100.00	Service Charge	100.00
	0-10,000 KWhrs	0.45	0-10,000 KWhrs	0.42
	10,001-20,000 KWhrs	0.44	10,001-20,000 KWhrs	0.41
	> 20,000 KWhrs	0.43	> 20,000 KWhrs	0.40
Industrial 1	Service Charge	100.00	Service Charge	100.00
	Demand (KVA)	35.00	Demand (KVA)	33.00
	Energy	0.33	Energy	0.31
Industrial 2	Service Charge	100.00	Service Charge	100.00
	Demand (KVA)	21.00	Demand (KVA)	20.00
	Energy	0.28	Energy	0.27
Street Lights	Energy	0.55	Energy	0.55

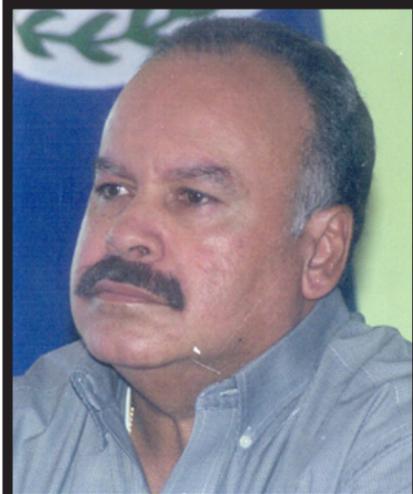
Issued by the Public Utilities Commission on February 15, 2012

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, recently served as Party Leader for a few days



Francis Fonseca, was Attorney General under the Musa Government, now wants to be Prime Minister

February 20, 2012:

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, 2012:

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

August 20, 2019:

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

August 20, 2029:

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

We Cannot Forget The Past

When We Are Paying In The Present

And Will Continue to Pay in the Future



**The Belize National Sanitary Cattle Plan Project
Supply of Cattle Identification and Mounting Equipment
Our ref.: EU/BNCSP/IO # 01 of 2012
BELIZE**

The Government of Belize (GOB) has received financing from the European Union and intends to apply part of the proceeds to payments under the Belize National Sanitary Cattle Plan Project for the Supply of Cattle Identification and Mounting Equipment.

The goods to be supplied and delivered are:

1. 100,000 ear tags (flag type)
2. 80,000 Electronic Identification (buttons) with electronic chip
3. 20,000 ear tag (button type) without electronic chip;
4. 7 Stick riders for Electronic Identification Ear tag;
5. 50 Universal ear tag applicator (pliers) for cattle,

The tender documents can be requested from the email address ssalazarcattlesweep@gmail.com.

Sealed tenders must be delivered to the Office of the Belize National Sanitary Cattle Plan Project located on The National Agricultural Showgrounds, Hummingbird Highway, Belmopan, Cayo District, Belize, Central America.

The deadline for submission of tenders is March 26, 2012 at 11:00 a.m. Belize time. Followed by the Public Opening at 11:30 a.m. Belize Time. Tenderers or their representatives are invited to attend.



**Tender for the Supply of Vehicles
The Belize National Sanitary Cattle Plan Project
Reference: EU/BNCSP/LO#02 OF 2012**

The Government of Belize (GOB) has received financing from the European Union and intends to apply part of the proceeds to payments for the Contract for the Supply, Delivery and After-sale service of four (4) pickup trucks for the Belize National Sanitary Cattle Plan Project.

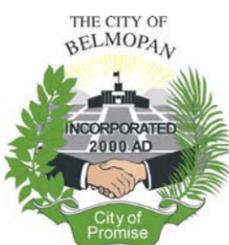
The goods to be supplied and delivered are:

- 3 Heavy Duty Pickup Trucks (manual transmission)
1 Heavy Duty Pickup Truck (automatic transmission)**

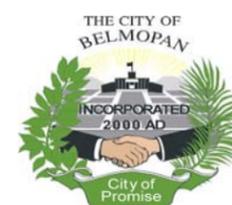
The tender documents can be requested electronically from email address ssalazarcattlesweep@gmail.com.

Sealed tenders must be delivered to the Office of the Belize National Cattle Sanitary Plan Project located on The National Agricultural Showgrounds, Hummingbird Highway, Belmopan, Cayo District, telephone number 822-2143.

The deadline for submission of tenders is Monday, February 27, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. The Public Opening will follow at 1:10 p.m. on Monday, February 27, 2012. Interested tenderers or their representatives are invited to attend.



**BELMOPAN CITY COUNCIL
INCENTIVE PACKAGE
2012/2013**



As of January 1, 2012, Property Owners in the City of Belmopan are eligible to participate in the following discount package:

- **20% Discount for full payment of 2012/13 Property Fees from February 1 and February 28, 2012.**
-
- **15% Discount for full payment of 2012/13 Property Fees from March 1 and March 31, 2012.**

N.B. Senior Citizens (65 yrs or older) are eligible for an additional

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

NOMINATION DAY IN BELMOPAN CITY WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 15, 2012



NOMINATION DAY IN BELMOPAN CITY WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 15, 2012



UNITED DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Belmopan City Council Candidates

March 2012



Simeon Lopez – Mayoral Candidate
 Educator for 40 years; Graduate of Western Australia School of Advanced Education- Perth Australia; Resident of Belmopan for 38 years; Completing second term as Mayor of Belmopan.



Joel Westby
 Educator and community activist. Presently teaching at Kuxlin Ha Government School (Maya Mopan). Has worked with the Red Cross, HelpAge and Cancer Society and has served as an officer in the Volunteer Battalion of the Belize Defence Force. Internationally accredited softball umpire and current Chief Umpire for softball in the country of Belize.



Anna Guy
 Community activist. A part of her neighborhood committee spearheading neighborhood initiatives and advocating for progress. Owner of Emjay's Beauty Salon.



Amilcar Umaña
 Educator at the Belmopan Comprehensive School since 1991 and head of the Information Technology department for the past nine years. Graduate of the University of Belize with summa cum-laude distinction. CXC examiner since 1998 and co-author of five computer textbooks; presently pursuing double Masters Degree in Information Technology.



Steven W. O'Brien
 Certificate in Economics, Sixteen years experience in Accounting and Management of Food, Beverage, Construction and Tourism Industries, Community Organizer, Sports Organizer, Social and Cultural Activist.



Tita Balona
 Primary school teacher at St. Martin's Primary School in Salvapan, Belmopan. Currently pursuing a degree in primary education at the University of Belize.



Victor Perdomo
 Businessman. Currently pursuing a Law Degree. Served as Deputy Mayor and councillor for two terms.