



Capital Weekly

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



No. 027

Sunday, March 31, 2013

Price: \$1.00

FEATURING EXCERPTS FROM BUDGET DEBATE

ICJ Referendum DOA?

Belize Government Rejects Guatemala's Proposals



Luis Fernando Carrera
Guatemalan Foreign Minister



Jose Miguel Insulza
OAS Secretary General,



Hon. Wilfred "Sedi" Elrington
Belize's Foreign Minister

On March 26, 2013, the Government of Belize, through its Ministry of Foreign Affairs, issued the following self-explanatory Press Release:

The Government of Belize, having had occasion to review the proposals by the Republic of Guatemala as presented in writing on 17th March, 2013 to Secretary General of the Organization of American States, Jose Miguel Insulza, for the parties to consider postponement of the referenda

for an indefinite period or for Belize to proceed on its own to hold a referendum on the agreed date, has decided to reject the Guatemalan proposals in their entirety.

The Government of Belize notes that tremendous efforts over many years and through successive administrations have been spent in finding a negotiated solution that would bring to a definitive end Guatemala's unfounded claim to Belize, and that the failure of these attempts is what led to the signing of the Special Agreement

by Belize, Guatemala and the OAS on 8th December, 2008. That Special Agreement provides for referenda to be held in Belize and in Guatemala simultaneously on the date of 6th October, 2013 and had also been jointly agreed upon by the Parties for the purpose of consulting the respective publics on whether or not the solution should be found in submitting Guatemala's claim to the International Court of Justice. Any changes in the Special Agreement or the agreed dates of the referenda must

therefore be jointly agreed upon.

The Government of Belize is today writing to OAS Secretary General Insulza to inform him that Belize rejects the proposals by Guatemala and to confirm Belize's continued commitment to abide by the Special Agreement of December 2008, including the holding of simultaneous referenda as agreed on 6th October, 2013 (END).

As we said, it's self-explanatory. We end with a simple question: Is the ICJ Referendum Dead on Arrival?

Big Up the Cops!

Quick Response Foils Kidnapping



Mr. Allen Whyllie
Commissioner of Police

Police have foiled a kidnapping in Corozal. On Sunday Night in Corozal Town, a one-year-old child, Ivy Yang Chen, was taken at gunpoint from her mother, Mei Tang Chen. Kidnappers demanded a ransom of US \$450 Thousand.

But, the Police re-

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Who Will It Be Now?

Cross Country Classic Coming!

After five-years of Belizean drought, with Foreigners drinking up all the Cross Country glory, last year, 2012, young Giovanni Choto reclaimed the Garland for Belize and made all of us proud.

Who will it be in 2013? That's what everybody wants to know. On Holy Saturday, March 30, 2013 we will all find out.

Belizean again, or back to the Foreigners? What will it be; and who will it be?



2012 Champ, Giovanni Choto

From the Desk of the Chairman

Life and Death - Cycle of Cycles



Delroy Cuthkelvin
Chairman, Editorial Board

It's that time of the year once again when issues of Life and Death come into sharp focus. It is, of course, the Easter Season, which is centrally about how one Man died in order that all Mankind might live.

Everywhere, in every way, the cycle of Life and Death constantly plays out before us and around us. But, in this part of the World, in this peculiar Land, there is something in 2013 that tells us there is more at hand than just another turn in the regular cycle.

Indeed, by all accounts, the year just ended a quarter ago marked for us the end of an entire cy-

cle; the cycle of cycles, if you will; and the beginning of something completely new.

Theirs being a civilization predating the Birth of Christ, and rising to its greatest glory some 900 years after his Death and Resurrection, the Mayans, perhaps without being fully conscious of it or attaining the complete fulfillment ordained, were driven by some Divine force towards the revelation and acknowledgement of the same universal truths and principles that gave rise to Christianity?

Could it be that the end of the Mayan Calendar just One Quarter ago on the Winter Solstice (December 21) of 2012, and the beginning of a new age thereafter, marked the unfolding or fulfillment of some Life and Death paradox that parallels and replicates the Biblical account of Christ's Death and the new beginning it signaled for the entire Human Race?

In this little Nation, once at the center of a great civilization, and poised

once again for unimaginable greatness, could it be that the Elections of 2012, called one year early, were not at all untimely; that, in the fullness of time, no sooner, did the Belizean People put an end to the cycle of boom and bust that inevitably attended the death of one-term UDP Governments succeeded by PUP waste and corruption resurrected?

Could it be that it really was no coincidence that the virtual death of dynasties on one side of the political divide corresponded with the death of tribalism on the other side, as the Old UDP Government gave way to a new UDP Administration embracing, at its highest executive level, independent elements and those ostracized, vilified and crucified by their own Party (the Opposition)?

Indeed, Easter brings into sharper focus matters of Life and Death, decay and renewal. And, if you stop to think about it, the significance for us, this time around, is broader and deeper than it ever was.

Congrats!



Dr. Marjorie Parks

The Ministry of Health extends congratulations to Dr. Marjorie Parks on her *Outstanding Women Award* by the Women's Department of the Ministry of Human Development, Social Transformation and Poverty Alleviation.

Dr. Parks was nominated for this award by the Nurses' Association of Belize. The award was given to her Wednesday Night, March 27, 2013 at a ceremony at the Bliss Center for the Performing Arts.

Each year, the Women's Department chooses six women - one from each district - for their outstanding contributions to their orga-

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To the Soul of the People

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New Venezuelan Ambassador Presents credentials to Governor General



His Excellency Yoel Del Valle Perez Marcano, New Ambassador of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela presenting his credentials to Belize's Governor General His Excellency Sir Colville Young

(Belmopan. March 21st, 2013.)

His Excellency Yoel Del Valle Perez Marcano, Ambassador of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to Belize has presented his credentials to the Governor General of Belize, His Excellency Sir Colville Young.

The Governor General extended a warm welcome to the Ambassador on behalf of the people of Belize; and both

the Governor General and the Ambassador expressed hope for the continuation of their strong and cordial diplomatic relationship.

The Ambassador also presented his letter of credentials to Minister of Foreign Affairs and Attorney General, Hon. Wilfred Elrington and Chief Executive Officer in the Ministry of Affairs, H.E. Alexis Rosado.

Prime Minister on Leave



*Hon. Dean Barrow
Prime Minister of Belize*

The Office of the Prime Minister informs

that the Hon. Dean Barrow departed the Country Wednesday, March 27, 2013 on personal leave.

During the Prime Minister's absence, Hon. Gaspar Vega, the Deputy Prime Minister, will act as Prime Minister.

Prime Minister Dean Barrow expects to return to Belize on Easter Monday, April 1, 2013.

Congrats!

(Continued from Page 2)

nization and community. The Women's Department feels that "it is important to take note of all the honourees' contribution and to use the ceremony to re-energize their efforts in the path that leads to women's empowerment and respect for human rights."

Dr. Marjorie Parks was the first nurse in Belize to complete a Doctorate

Education Degree in 2011. Her immense contribution over the years to the nursing profession is invaluable. She is currently the Deputy Director of Health Services and Chief Nursing Officer in the Ministry of Health.

The Minister of Health, Hon. Pablo Marin, the Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Peter Allen and the management and staff of the Ministry of Health share in this prestigious honour with Dr. Marjorie Parks.



Belmopan.
March 25th, 2013.

The Ministry of Health is investigating a cluster of fourteen suspected cases of Hepatitis A that have occurred over the last three weeks in the Trio Village, Stann Creek District. One such case has been confirmed by lab.

Hepatitis A is a food and waterborne disease with symptoms that may include yellowing of the eyes and skin, dark urine, light-colored stool along with mild fever, vomiting, diarrhea and loss of appetite among others. This self-limiting disease can

PUBLIC CAUTION Rising Cases of Hepatitis A

also be contracted from close contact with infected individuals.

The Ministry advises the public to take necessary precautions (as listed below) to prevent contamination and spread of the virus.

- Wash hands properly using soap and clean water especially before preparing or serving food, after using the toilet and after changing diapers.
- Wash all vegetables, fruits and other raw food with clean water before eating it.
- Do not consume con-



taminated water or ice. Boil and treat all drinking water with chlorine.

• Disinfect contaminated dishes, toilets and common surfaces.

Since the start of the year, a few

cases have been identified mainly in the rural communities of the Corozal, Cayo and Toledo Districts. We are aggressively conducting house-to-house health education and environmental cleanup campaigns to treat the cases in all the affected areas.

The Ministry of Health re-emphasizes the need to



practice good hygiene and sanitary measures at all times. If you or someone you know suspects the presence of the disease, please visit the nearest health care facility in your community.

A health and wellness message from your Ministry of Health

**For More Information contact:
Director of Health Services**

**Ministry of Health
Belmopan
822-2325/0809**

"Stop Trying to Scare the Belizean People!"

Belmopan Member Rebuts Leader of the Opposition

Let me first observe that there are two traditional markers, standards or yardsticks used to judge a country's performance, or in this case, the performance of the United Democratic Party Government, My Government.

And Mr., Speaker, let me say for the record that there are some who take issue with my reference to this United Democratic Party Government, this Government of the Honorable Dean Oliver Barrow, as "My Government". I continue to so unabashedly because, unlike those on the other side who are ashamed of the record of *their* government between 1998 and 2008 and ashamed of associating themselves with the Government of Said Musa, I am extremely proud of this United Democratic Party Government, and exceedingly proud of my Prime Minister, the Honorable Dean Oliver Barrow (applause).

So, Mister Speaker, you will hear me constantly speak of this government as my government; and I urge all other members of the United Democratic Party to proudly refer to this government as their government, because it is a government of which we are extremely proud. But to the matter at hand, Mr. Speaker, I was saying that there are two traditional markers that are used to judge a country's performance, among others, of course.

First, we must compare our performance in one year against what was achieved in the previous year. Second, we must compare our performance this year against what other countries and other governments, especially in the region, have achieved. And third, and perhaps most importantly, Mr. Speaker, we must compare the performance of our government against what governments before us had achieved or not achieved.

In other words, we must look at this year and the last, see where we are, and where we are going, whether we have done better or we have done worse; we must look at our friends and our neighbors and see how they are doing, and if we are doing better or worse than they are doing; and we must look at the record of those that were in government before us, those that sit right on the next side of the aisle, Mr. Speaker, who governed before we came into power,



*Hon. John Saldivar
Belmopan Area Representative*

er, and see if we are performing better or worse than they did.

So, Mr. Speaker, for those on the other side who are ashamed of the People's United Party Record between 1998 and 2008, they should cork up their ears, because they will hear ad nauseam the shameful record of their party; because they cannot judge my government. Who are they to judge my government, to issue a report card on my government except they do so against the backdrop of what they did when they were the government? The most "thieving", "lying", "corrupt", those are words associated, Mr. Speaker, with the government between 1998 and 2008. And now they have the face of brass to, a few

so on, he prefers to look at the future and paint this gloom and doom picture of where he thinks we are going to go in 2013-2014.

Mr. Speaker, when we look at how this government has performed in 2012 versus 2011, we see that we are making progress. And we look at the prospects for 2013. When we look at GDP growth Mr. Speaker, as is widely known, and as the Leader of the Opposition tries to gloss over it, in 2012 our economy grew by 5.3 percent, Mr. Speaker. This is nothing short of phenomenal, Mr. Speaker. That is why he wants to gloss over it; the good things that this government has done, he wants to gloss over it.

To put it in context, Mr. Speaker, in 2011, we achieved

"And if you look at what was achieved in the previous 10 years, in terms of GDP growth, 5.3 percent is the highest rate of growth in the last 10 years of this Country's history."

weeks ago, put out what they call a report card on the UDP.

Shame, Mr. Speaker, is an emotion that is alien to them.

Anyway, Mr. Speaker, let's get to the Budget and the performance of my government. Let us look first at how we did in 2012. And as I go to talking about what we did in 2012, I just couldn't help but notice how the Leader of the Opposition just tried to brush over our achievements in 2012, and instead of talking about what we achieved in 2012, the 5.3 GDP Growth and

1.9 percent GDP Growth, and in 2012 we had 2.7 percent. And if you look at what was achieved in the previous 10 years, in terms of GDP growth, 5.3 percent is the highest rate of growth in the last 10 years of this Country's history. The last time that this Belizean Economy grew by more than 5 percent was in 2003. It means that for the four last years of the PUP Administration they could not match the 5.3 percent growth that we have achieved in 2012.

And when you look at it,

Mr. Speaker, the last time the economy grew in 2003 by more than 5 percent it was fuelled, as the Leader of the Opposition has now admitted, it was fuelled by reckless spending, by reckless borrowing, that landed us right into the arms of the Superbond.

And I hope we have transcript (in fact, I know we have a transcript) of what he said, because he has finally taken the credit (if you can call it credit) for the fact that it is their fiscal policies, their policy of reckless spending and reckless borrowing that landed us into the Superbond; a Superbond albatross around our necks, for which we have nothing to show. And this is the second time I have heard him talk about wanting to show what they did with the Superbond.

And, forgive me, Mr. Speaker, I forgot to bring the list of the things that they claim to have used the Superbond money on; and my good colleague from Collet has promised me that he has that list, so I will leave him to go through that list. But he is now trying to take credit that those monies were used for the good of the People of Belize.

Well, it is only he, and the people on that side of the aisle that think that the Superbond was used for anything like the good of this Country. The Superbond, Mr. Speaker, was not used (and we know that) for the good of this country, but rather to line the pockets of those who are on the other side. Ask the member for Orange Walk Central, because he has called on numerous occasions for them to bring back the millions.

In the UDP version of economic growth, though, Mr. Speaker (fast forward to 2012), we have set our debt with the renegotiated Superbond, which they want to call 2038 Superbond, we have set our debt on a sustainable path, one which is expected soon to achieve for Belize a coveted, and up to this point, what appeared to be, impossible to achieve debt to GDP ratio of 60 percent. Under this UDP Administration, Mr. Speaker, we will become the envy of the region and the World as it relates to debt management. In the UDP version of economic growth, Mr. Speaker, we are disciplined, and we are focused.

And he is talking (I'm sure for political gain, again)

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"Stop Trying to Scare the Belizean People!"

Belmopan Member Rebuts Leader of the Opposition

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saying that they are on the side of the public officers and the teachers. Let me remind him again that it is they that froze the increments for teachers and public officers in 2005. And don't do as I've heard the member for Toledo East tried to do, and say, "I was not a part of that".

You were all a part of that; you were all a part of freezing public officers' and teachers' increments. And it was the United Democratic Party, when it got into government in 2008, which restored the increments for public officers.

But what we are always going to be, Mr. Speaker, what we are always going to be is responsible; we are always going to be a responsible government. We are not going to be reckless; we are not going to play to those who would want to see us spend recklessly and put our Country into further problems. Public officers and teachers deserve their raise, and they will get it as soon as this government and this country are able to responsibly afford to give them their raise (applause).

In the UDP version of economic growth, this economic growth is being fueled by growth in Agriculture, growth in Tourism, growth in Construction, growth in Fisheries, growth in Aquaculture, expansion in Hotel Construction, better performance in Sugar and in Banana; this is what the UDP version of economic growth is based on; not Superbond that borrows a Billion dollars and spends it recklessly.

What does that mean, Mr. Speaker? It means that the UDP version of economic growth is sustainable. We can continue to experience these levels of economic growth for years to come, as long as the people keep a responsible administration like that of the United Democratic Party in office (applause).

Mr. Speaker, this is not the first time we've done this; this is not the first time that the United Democratic Party has done this. But you what I thank God for, that this is the first time we have gotten a second term so that we can now move forward and show the Country where we can go if we are a responsible government. That is one of the things that I think the Leader of the Opposition and the PUP dread. They

dread going back to the polls in four years time, because the four years of unprecedented growth and development that we will experience under the UDP will make it almost impossible for them to be the government next time around.

And I hear them lam-

Opposition, what do you think has been central to the negotiations with the unions in terms of the salary increase that they are asking for? The Budget has been central to those negotiations! Because it is the budget upon which the Prime Minister has promised that if we get the

"This Economic Growth is being fuelled by growth in Agriculture, growth in Tourism, growth in Construction, growth in Fisheries, growth in Aquaculture, expansion in Hotel Construction, better performance in Sugar and in Banana... What does that mean? It means that the UDP version of economic growth is sustainable."

basting Ambassador Espot. I would want to think that in their minds, 2012 was, Mr. Speaker, Mark Espot 1.0. In 2017, they may well see Mark Espot 2.0.

Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition started out his presentation this morning by talking again and lamenting about this government not consulting. Mr. Speaker, why do you think the people were breaking up the steps of the National Assembly in 2005 and 2007? How quickly they forget, that it is they that locked the Unions out of their office, that it is they that refused to talk to the Unions, the Chamber, the Churches, all the social partners; it is they that did that. And that is why they got the worst whipping ever in 2008; because they refused to consult, Mr. Speaker.

And now they come, Mr. Speaker, and accuse my government of not consulting? Well, first of all, when it comes to the unions, Mr. Leader of the

kind of revenue performance that we wish to have, that it is based on that that the teachers and public officers will get their raise. So, they have been studying the Budget; we have been talking the Budget with them.

And then, to talk about the Chamber, it is this Government, Mr. Speaker, that appointed a liaison officer in no lesser place than the Prime Minister's Office to liaison directly with the business sector. So how can you say that this government is not consulting with the business sector or the unions?

But you see, Mr. Speaker, when they are in Opposition, they speak of all these lofty concepts, concepts which they, when they were in government for ten years, they refused to practice. And that is one of the reasons, Mr. Speaker, I continue to say, it is going on our second term, it is going on to ten years now, and if you recall in 2008 I had predicted

20 years; because unless we get a change in the leadership in the People's United Party from those that were the same people that presided over the mess that took place, the corruption that took place from 1998 to 2008, they are never going to see the light of day as a next government of Belize (applause)!

And the one thing they have done, Mr. Speaker, the one thing they have done, that to my mind, slams the door shut on them ever becoming the government in the near future, is that they passed a resolution in their party which says that you can't remove the Leader; you can't remove any of the representatives; you can't remove any of them that were a part of the corruption, the massive corruption of the last People's United Party Government. So it seems to me that they have doomed themselves, Mr. Speaker, they have doomed themselves to stay in Opposition because the People of Belize are not going to put any of them in the majority to take over the Government of this Country if they continue to have as their leaders the same people who presided over the worst ten years of corruption this Country has ever seen (applause).

Mr. Speaker, maybe I should not offer them free advice; but they have already made the decision that they will not move any of them, so it's going to be another five years for us after this.

Mr. Speaker, he talks about cost of living going up, and maybe those who are not privy to the numbers might want to believe him. But I can tell him and remind him that under this UDP administration, for the last five years, inflation has never gone up above 2 percent. And the last time that it went up above 2 percent was under the People's United Party. It is under them that inflation had gone beyond 2 percent, Mr. Speaker.

And now they come and try to talk about us. And we are well within the internationally accepted targets for inflation, because those who understand economics understand that growth comes with fluctuations in prices.

And then, he starts talking about public debt; he spoke about the Public Debt. For the life of me, I can't understand these people over the



Hon. Francis Fonseca, Leader of the Opposition

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By Zelda Hill

Faith Lift

The Resurrection of Christ: Blind Faith or Fact?

Without the physical resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, Christianity is baseless. Today, over 2 billion people worldwide claim to be Christians and thus embrace faith in the deity, virgin-birth, suffering, death and bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Christians in Belize join yearly with Christendom to commemorate the Lenten Season and Easter, during which many commit to fasting and to giving up certain luxuries while others reflect on and celebrate the spiritual significance of Jesus' sufferings and triumphant resurrection from the dead.

For many skeptics, being a Christian and thus believing in the resurrection of Christ is not rational. An atheist once proposed, "1.6 billion Christians can be wrong. My claim is simply that rational people should give up these beliefs". In reference to Christianity, someone recently posted on the social media that "blind faith secures its own perpetuation by the simple unconscious expedient of discouraging rational inquiry". But apart from faith in the divine inspira-

tion of the Scriptures and what is declared therein about the resurrection, there are other proofs that the resurrection of Christ is a historical fact.

The strongest evidence for the resurrection is the existence of the Church, especially the Church that existed immediately after Christ's res-

urrection. The Church would not have flourished in Jerusalem if the claim of the resurrection of Christ by early Christians could have been exposed as false. Although history confirms that a brutal Roman persecution ensued and many Christians were killed, the Church flourished. It is a fact that no one knowingly and willingly dies for something that they know is false. If the disciples had stolen Christ's body, when threatened with death for their faith, they would have confessed. But they went to their deaths proclaiming that Jesus resurrected and that they saw Him with their own eyes.

Critics also argue that these post-resurrection appearances were the result of an

expectant imagination by His followers who were dreaming or hallucinating. The Biblical account confirms that Jesus' followers did not expect Him to resurrect (Luke 18:33-34) and those who had not seen Him doubted the witness of the others who had. Jesus appeared to groups of people, even to 500 at one time. 28:4). After they recovered they ran to the Sanhedrin (the Jewish Court) to report it but were bribed to say that they had fallen asleep. Strangely, if the Sanhedrin believed that they had fallen asleep they would have been killed. But their lives were spared in order to propagate a lie. The Bible also states that after the resurrection, even the Jewish priests believed in Jesus Christ and were converted to the faith (Acts 6:7) since they could no longer ignore the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The resurrection of Christ is the most significant fact in history. Moreover, for the Christian it is a premise for the future resurrection and the hope of eternal life with Jesus for all those who have accepted His sacrificial death for their sins. Easter should never just be a time to passively refrain from all the immoral habits that control us for most of the year but it should be an opportunity to remember the real purpose of Christ's death and to celebrate His life and the new life He gives to all those who truly believe, trust and obey Him.

Have a blessed and safe Easter Holiday!

"The strongest evidence for the resurrection is the existence of the Church, especially the Church that existed immediately after Christ's resurrection. The Church would not have flourished in Jerusalem if the claim of the resurrection of Christ by early Christians could have been exposed as false."

While one person may dream or hallucinate, groups would neither hallucinate and see the same thing, nor dream the same dream at the same time.

Similarly, the guards who were placed at the entrance to the tomb of Jesus could not have fallen asleep during their watch; they would not dare to forsake their duties. The Biblical account states that they were struck by fear at the unusual occurrences that they became as dead men (Matthew

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other side of the aisle; praising themselves about the Superbond, Mr. Speaker? They haven't learnt yet? They haven't understood yet that, "Mea culpa", is what the People of Belize need from them? To say you are sorry? It is better for you to say you are sorry for what your party did 10 years ago than to come and still try to justify the foolishness that your party did when last you were the Government of Belize.

They talk about debt consolidation, Mr. Speaker? He said, oh, the Superbond was debt consolidation. Yes it was consolidation, consolidating all the bad debts that they had incurred in three years, in three years as the Government of Belize.

Don't try to let the People think, Mr. Leader of the Opposition, that the Superbond had anything at all to do with the debt that had been incurred by this Country prior to 1998.

It had nothing at all to do with that. It had to do with all of the private loans, all of the commercial loans that you all had gotten in the name of the Belizean People to waste and spend recklessly.

Still blaming Hurricane, Mr. Leader of the Opposition? Wheel and come again!

And then, to cap that off by saying this 5 years of the UDP administration has been five years of nothing? So, what are you telling the Belizean People? That they re-elected a government of nothing? Is that what you are trying to tell the Belizean People? You know, in a subtle way, you aristocrats really like to disrespect the Belizean People, you know. You aristocrats like to think that the Belizean don't have brains. They understand what you are trying to say when you say that this is a waste a time government for the last five years. You are trying to tell them that they voted for a waste of time government.

No sir! No Sir! The People of this Country know exactly why they put this United Democratic Party in for a second term, and will perhaps do it for a third term (applause), because we are continuing to move forward. When you look at our figures and economic indicators, Mr. Speaker, we are moving forward, and they can continue to deny it as long as they want (applause).

How can he say that Belize has stopped working?



Hon. John Saldivar in the National Assembly

I didn't see his speech before he read it this morning. I don't know who wrote it for him. But, how can you say that Belize has stopped working?

Ask the Cane Farmers. Ask the Cane Farmers if Belize has stopped working. In fact, go up North to the Cane Farmers, and you will hear that they are being told, plant more, plant more, plant more! Because the UDP has saved the Sugar Industry (applause)!

this country. We are doing a damn good job of facing those issues and those challenges!

Mr. Speaker, like I said earlier, the Leader of the Opposition refused to acknowledge the growth statistics for 2012. Completely ignored them! He said, never mind, you grew the economy by 5.3 percent in 2012, but, he says, 2013 will be worse! That is the gloom and doom story that they want to predict; that is the gloom and doom

"The Leader of the Opposition refused to acknowledge the growth statistics for 2012...Never mind, you grew the economy by 5.3 percent in 2012, he says, but 2013 will be worse! That is the gloom and doom story that they want to predict... Well, I am here to declare to you that we are well on the way to greater successes in our economy; not the gloom and doom that you are predicting"

Go down South, go down South –and ask the Banana Growers—where Banana has expanded with a new marketing arrangement for the sale of their bananas. How can you say that Belize has stopped working?

Ask the Fishermen! They are right here! Ask the Fishermen who have seen, how much, 17 percent, 20 percent growth. Talk about Tourism! Go and ask the people who work in the Tourism Industry if Belize has stopped working.

What I will say to you, though, Mr., Speaker, is that they dug this Country into such a hole that it's going to take more time to address all of the issues that are facing

story that they want the Belizean People to buy. Regardless of who is saying it, Mr. Leader of the Opposition, I am here to declare to you that we are well on the way to greater successes in or economy; not the gloom and doom that you are predicting.

Talk about uncertainty? That is why we had this big change, one of the reasons we had this big change in 2008, because nobody believed in them. World Bank was not here. World Bank had stopped lending them money. IDB had stopped lending them money. CDB had stopped lending them money.

That's why they had to go to Superbond; because nobody, none of the credible peo-

ple wanted to lend them money.

You heard what my Prime Minister said, Mr. Speaker? To hell with Moody's! To Hell with Standard and Poor's, because we don't need any commercial loans. We are going to grow this economy with private sector involvement, and with multi-lateral and bilateral assistance. We don't need to go to those people anymore, so they can take our rating to anywhere they want.

Talk about Business certainty? Can we forget the two exclusive contracts that they gave for the Tourism Village? What was certain about that? You get something that you think is exclusive and, *bam si deh* (lo and behold), somebody else turns up with something just like what you have. After you've already gone to raise money on the international market and find people to invest, you get to find out that the Government has already given somebody else the same exclusive contract that you have.

And that is only one of the instances. There were many. Remember Lufthansa? I think we are still paying, but judgment was received against this Government because they had an agreement with Lufthansa, an airline company from somewhere in Europe, and when they already had it signed, sealed and delivered, they turned around and signed another contract with the Airport Concession Company, which included "Brother Billy".

Talk about certainty in the business environment? Nobody will ever trust anyone from the other side, because they are the ones that wrote the book on double-talking duplicity; in fact, they redefined the term 'exclusive' when they were the Government of Belize.

Mr. Speaker, the Future. They talk about the future. Mr. Speaker, are they trying to scare us. What is a scary thought is to think that the People's United Party could ever again in the future become the government of this Country! That is a scary thought, a frightening possibility, if it were ever to occur, Mr. Speaker.

So, please, we are far from October, far from Halloween, far from spook! So don't spook the Belizean People; don't scare the Belizean People into thinking we could ever have PUP 2.0 a la 1998 to 2008! Don't let them scare us!

All in Two Days' Work

PM Barrow Wraps Up Debate on 2013-2014 Budget

Mr. Speaker, let me try to deal as quickly as I can with what the main protagonists on the other side had to say.

You know I was told that I should try to respond to at least each of their Deputy Leaders, but there are so many deputy leaders, that I am afraid I have to abandon the enterprise (applause)! A lot of chiefs and very few Indians over on that side!

Anyway, I do want to bear well in mind, Mr. Speaker, as we conclude this marathon session, your admonition right at the start as to conduct. And I think, by and large, you have been rewarded; I feel the debate has been relatively civil. I don't want to depart from that, but I do have to sound a warning, Mr. Speaker.

It is a hollowed parliamentary tradition everywhere in the civilized world, you know, for opponents to deploy language as a weapon. This is what happens in high-quality debates; you employ words as a sword on which to impale the other side. There's nothing quite like a well-turned phrase; a shaft that hits the mark. And this really is good stuff, so I certainly feel that we ought to practice that kind of tactic. We are to educate our constituents, we are to educate the Nation; but also are to entertain them, and it shouldn't be all this dry, rambling stuff such as we were last treated to, where people, apparently, when they come back in another life, will be explorers where you circumnavigate the entire globe. My point is, Mr. Speaker, is that I don't want anybody on that side to be too thin skinned.

Responding to Leader of the Opposition:

I'm starting now with the Leader of the Opposition. Where he was concerned, Mr. Speaker, I recollect that after my own budget presentation, he was interviewed by Channel 7, and his comments were so perfunctory that it was reported to be shortest reaction to a budget speech from a leader of the Opposition ever. I, and I am sure other members of the public, saw the way the station framed it as being kind, because, in other words, in respect to the Leader of the Opposition, he was not



Prime Minister Hon. Dean Barrow in the National Assembly

just short, he was insubstantial.

Yesterday, now, was almost three weeks on, so he had time to study, to prepare. But I'm sad to say that not much changed. He may not have been as short as he was that first day, but he was as insubstantial. So much so, Mr. Speaker, that in going over my notes of what he said, there is very little that I can find that merits any serious reply.

One thing, though, I don't wish to interfere with the seating protocol on the other side, but I would suggest to the Leader that he moves as far from the ex-Prime Minister as he can (maybe that's why he sent him home early today).

I say this because he must not allow himself to be further infected with that disease of bald-faced mendacity. Because, Mr. Speaker, (and I thought it was surprising) we heard from the Leader of the Opposition yesterday some whoppers. And I am not talking about Burger King.

He said, for example, that the cost of living in this Country had gone up by 30 percent. The SIB (Statistical Institute of Belize), the Central Bank, the figures are there, the rate of inflation over the last year was 1.3 percent. But the Leader of the Opposition said the cost of living had gone up by 30 percent.

Then, Mr. Speaker, he went farther and farther into never-never-land, deeper and deeper into the PUP rabbit hole, because he sought to describe this Superbond succubus, their consolidation of this most punitive, horrendous, criminal set of external loans, that we spoke about on the last occasion, from KB Bank, from RC Bank, from DY Bank, at 17 percent, and 18 percent, and 19 percent. Their consolidation was merely a consolidation of these outrageous loans.

And, yesterday, the Leader of the Opposition tried to describe that consolidation as a rescue operation. Now, we are really talking about some Alice in Wonderland stuff here. A rescue operation that saddled us with payments, as all Belize now knows, of some 95 Million dollars annually in trying to service what was the product of this so called rescue operation.

I note that he *did* make some effort to get into what I suppose he would describe as Economic Philosophy. He tells us that he does have a Degree in Economics; but the most he could muster there was to counsel against Big Government. And I think, in this respect, he was echoing the Chamber of Commerce. And I'm not going to quarrel with the Chamber of Commerce, you know. You talk about consultation. We have tried to forge a working relationship with the Cham-

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Hon. Francis Fonseca with Hon. Said Musa at his side

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ber of Commerce that I think has stood the Nation in good stead. It's been going on for over a year now. But I will very respectfully make clear that that kind of economic philosophy is not for this Government.

And, Mr. Speaker, even in trying to propound the philosophy, the Leader of the Opposition gets it wrong, because the kind of neo-liberal economic orthodoxy that he is seeking to follow, he should know, talks about counter-cyclical spending when there is a downturn. You want to counsel restraint; you want to counsel austerity when there is global downturn that affects us? Go back to your textbooks, go consult your masters in Washington, and even they will tell you that there is a need in those circumstances for counter-cyclical spending.

Again, I hear the Chamber talking about a balanced budget. A balanced budget is no magic bullet, you know; and economists differ as to even the desirability of a balanced budget; and in that regard, you might call us Keynesians, and we are unabashed where that is concerned. In lean times you don't want any balanced budget. You need to have deficits because you have to spend to stimulate the Economy. What you don't want to do is to borrow on such unsustainable terms that you can't later on deal with the deficits, and you can't service the debt, and you end up into the kind of Superbond mess with which they saddled us.

You see, this thing requires judicious management. It requires, Mr. Speaker, sure-footed handling of the Economy. It does not require some kind of holding on, in some kind of uninformed way, to some kind of foreign gospel that these people try to foist on us. So, what is clear is this: we didn't sign on to any Washington consensus that suggests that the role of the State ought to be atrophied, ought to wither away. We didn't sign on to that. We believe that in a small country such as Belize, where there is economic inequality, where there is inequality of opportunity, we believe in the strong hand and the stout heart of a government that will look after the people, that will uplift the People, that will

preside over the enforcement of egalitarianism, so that we can take the entire country forward, but so that in particular we can relieve the plight of those least able to take care of themselves. That is what the United Democratic Party stands for.

Belize Infrastructure Limited (BIL)

He, the Leader of the Opposition, (and this was a refrain echoed by a number of those on that side) tried to pour scorn on the special purpose vehicle that we're setting up, the Belize Infrastructure Limited (BIL) Pub-

tent conceded, although in this budget, we made the point that there was a proper display of the kind of capacity that we've been striving for in the past four or so years, and we *did* see something like full implementation. But we recognize that there are constraints when it comes to the Ministry of Works, when it comes to government bureaucracy generally. And we are in a hurry to get things done for the People of this Country. We are in a hurry to give them, both in the urban areas and the rural areas, precisely the kind of infrastructure uplift that they wind and complain about so much;

will be done by the private sector.

The first undertaking of BIL is to preside over the reconstruction of the Belize Civic Center, and thereafter to spend not less than 30 Million Dollars in each of the districts. That is what the Minister of Health, the Representative for Corozal Bay, was talking about when he said that there will be not less than \$2 Million for the Andres Campos Civic Center in Corozal Town. Somebody over there was grumbling about the People's Stadium in Orange Walk. Well, the People's Stadium will get a facelift as a consequence of BIL and the infrastructure stimulus package.

And all this money is not coming from the taxpayers of Belize, but from Petro Caribe, thanks to the UDP restart of that program, and thanks to the generosity of the Venezuelan people and the late Comandante Hugo Chavez, may he rest in Peace.

We are rolling out our BIL, and things will start to happen, \$60 Million Worth of Infrastructure work, job-creating infrastructure will get done by the UDP for the People of this Nation.

"We believe that in a small country such as Belize, where there is economic inequality, where there is inequality of opportunity, we believe in the strong hand and the stout heart of a government that will look after the people, that will uplift the People, that will preside over the enforcement of egalitarianism, so that we can take the entire country forward, but so that in particular we can relieve the plight of those least able to take care of themselves. That is what the United Democratic Party stands for."

Responding to The Member for Fort George

I think that is enough, Mr. Speaker to deal with demolishing what the Leader of the Opposition had to say or didn't have to say. And so, of course, I have to turn, going right along, to the master perjurer himself, the prevaricator of all prevaricators, the ex-prime Minister of Belize.

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lic Company that we formed. Mr. Speaker, I don't know if it is true when they come here and they say that a lot of what they are telling us echoes what the social partners said to them. I don't know how much we can believe them, because, as I said, certainly the Leader of the Opposition has obviously not been inoculated, and the contagion of the one who sits beside him has clearly affected the Leader of the Opposition. But if what he said does indeed echo some concern that social partners have, let me disabuse all of them of their ill-conceived notions and the lack of understanding. This special purpose vehicle is meant purely and exclusively to ensure quick delivery of his Government's \$ 60 Million stimulus package (applause).

They are the ones that complain about the slow pace of implementation of government project. They pick through the Capital Budget to try to show where money has not been spent, and then use that as a stick with which to beat the Government. And we have to some ex-

and we thought the surest easiest way to do this is to form the special interest vehicle.

Now, I hear all kinds of nonsense, such as that it will compete with the private sector. Look, Mr. Speaker, the 60 Million Dollar Infrastructure Stimulus Package to be administered by BIL will see contracts being awarded on the basis of transparency, and, of course, all the work



Hon. Said Musa, Member for Fort George

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Mr. Speaker, I noticed he started off kind of wobbly, and then the Minister of Education pointed out that he had just celebrated his 69th birthday, which means that he has started his 70th year. And I figured that now that the man has entered the 70th year of his life that he is changing.

Well, as it turned out, no such luck! Even though it was clear, as he went along, that he is slowing down ever so slightly, he was able to work up enough of a head of steam to treat us to some of his classics.

Example: he said the salary package for CEO's was almost \$200 Thousand annually. That's an outright, flagrant, blatant lie. It was their Government that converted Permanent Secretaries to CEO's, and so they created the contractual arrangements that now govern the terms and conditions of CEO's.

In any event, let me make clear to the entire country that the CEO's get \$69,400 a year in salary. In addition to that, they get \$22,000 in telephone, living and entertainment allowance. So, what's the grand total? Something like, \$91,400.

And then, all of them keep talking about contract officers. For goodness sake, make a distinction between political appointees, political advisors, properly so-called, and contract officers!

The Registrar, the Chief Magistrate, all these people are contract officers, but they are paid on the same salary scales, on the same basis as public officers. In terms of the advisors, the political appointees, properly so called, there are no more than 6.

And as to the le-

gal and professional fees, the member for Fort George said it was \$14 Million.

If you break it up between what there is in the Recurrent under Ministry of Finance and in the Capital Budget, it does amount to that. But he has the nerve to complain about that? You know what that money is for?

There's are the recurrent legal and professional fees of 2.9 Million that we paid during the year to restructure the Superbond; there's an estimated 8.5 Million that we will have to pay now because of the closing; and we also must pay the creditor committee expenses of another 3 Million; and that brings the grand total of cost to 14.5 Million.

And so, they (on the other side) caused us to have to expend this 14.5 Million, but what do we get in return? We get in return the taming of the Superbond, the avoidance of the fiscal cliff and the success that I said deserved to see us crowned with wreaths and garlands (And, you know, these literal-minded people took it to mean that there will be physical wreaths and garlands).

It means, then, that we didn't spend nearly as much as we might have spent with respect to the continuing litigation that we also have to engage in as we seek to resist the illegal and outrageous tax and sovereignty giveaways that that same member for Fort George secretly arranged with the Ashcroft Alliance.

Then, he talked about expenses at our Mission in New York. But these have gone up because there is finally a permanent representative in place, and because we also now have to pay our own rent for the Be-



Hon. Johnny Briceno, Member for Orange Walk Central

lize Embassy in New York. You know, before we didn't have to pay the rent because there was a lease on premises donated or given to them rent-free by Ashcroft as part of the deal, remember, when they made him Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Belize to the UN.

What they gave back to Ashcroft, in terms of the Patrimony of the People of this Country was, as the whole world knows, outrageous; so we prefer to pay our own way. This is a sovereign Belize under the United Democratic Party.

But, Mr. Speaker, let me conclude quickly with the member for Fort George, because the bulk of his presentation was spent in trying to burnish his legacy, trying to convince us that all that so-called PUP Growth, manufactured on the back of the usurious loans that funded the white elephants projects and the crony roads to nowhere, witness, Galeria Maya.

So, when he tries to burnish his legacy, Mr. Speaker, that is the labor of Sisyphus, Mr. Speaker. And I want to say to you and to this Honorable House that the only legacy he has is the one that has enshrined him as the sovereign of deceit, the sultan of fraud, the sheik of dishonesty.

You know, the same Mr. Mediratta that the Leader of the Opposition tried to claim as his friend, how did they get to know Mr. Mediratta? Mr. Mediratta used to work at Bear Sterns when they were arranging these loans. And, maybe not Mr. Mediratta

personally, but Bear Stearns is the same brokerage house that certified that \$25 Million of the money they eventually bundled up into the Superbond had gone missing; had disappeared into PUP pockets. And that is the man they are claiming as friend?

And then, Mr. Speaker, the ex-Prime Minister charged us with the makings of an executive dictatorship in this country under the UDP; the same ex-Prime Minister who constituted such a duopoly of depravity with his alter ego, the cousin of the Leader of the Opposition, who diverted the 40 Million from Venezuela and Taiwan; who presided over such an empire that his own ministers revolted, denounced him, left him and formed the G 7.

His fellow congregant and I, as Anglicans, as Christians, we were all taught to say that no one would separate us from the love of Christ Jesus. But, no; he inverted the Scriptures and proclaimed, "No one will separate me from the love of Ralph Fonseca (applause)!"

Those are the words that will encapsulate the only legacy that the ex-Prime Minister has. And, I am here to say that that legacy is the legacy of Lucifer.

Responding to the Member for Orange Walk Central:

Another member spoke about extra money for BEL-TRAIDE. The extra money for



Vaughan and Vaughan, Supporters and Agents of the Opposition

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Hon. Florencio Marin Jr, Member for Corozal South-East

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BELTRAIDE, Mr. Member, is for the expansion of the small business development center.

And in case you didn't hear, look at the way foreign direct investment has increased. Last year it was at a level higher than when you left office; and a lot of that is due to BELTRAIDE and the work that the Ministry of Investment has been doing.

And then, Corozal Free Zone. It wasn't they that started the Corozal Free Zone. That thing was conceptualized and conceived when I was Minister of Economic Development. People like Alvin Hender-

son, the Henderson brothers; even Arturo Lizarraga, people like those were the people who conceptualized it. That is when that thing was started.

Now they come claiming credit? In any event, the fact is it is there and it has rebounded wonderfully last year under the United Democratic Party, and as a consequence of that almost 6 percent growth in the Economy.

Now, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to Sugar, that the member from Orange Walk Central also touched on, there is the fact that no-one can erase the record of the UDP in rescuing the Sugar Industry (applause). My friend, the member for Or-

ange Walk South said, "You didn't rescue the Sugar Industry, you rescued BSI." Well, BSI owns the factory! If you don't have any factory, you can't have any industry (applause)!

Anyway, Mr. Speaker, the fact is that there is unprecedented progress, economic progress now in the North. You know, the new board of American Sugar Refiners just voted something like something like \$11 Million for factory expansion, and the EU is giving almost 17 Million to the farmers for replanting.

And with prices having already been increased, you're talking about a new golden age not just for Sugar, you are talking about a new golden age generally in the North, where Corozal and Orange Walk are awash in progress and prosperity and money (applause).

Responding to the Member for Toledo East:

And, the member for Toledo East (he is another Deputy Leader too).

Somebody texted me from Toledo, from PG when he was talking, and said, ask him about all the Ministry equipment and vehicle that was sold; ask him about the one that Government was never able to reclaim after he left office; ask him about the VOA land; and ask him about how many lots he got at the same Indian Ville that he said was reserved for the people of the constituency.

Responding to the Member for Belize Rural Central

Now, the member for Belize Rural Central (isn't she an-



Hon. Dolores Balderamos Garcia, Member for Belize Rural Central

Responding to the Member for Corozal South East:

Mr. Speaker, I can't resist, I was going to finish, but the Honorable member for Corozal South East (he is also a Deputy, isn't he?).

Mr. Speaker, he started off by saying that in attempting to describe what exactly is his position on the budget, "words fail me," he said.

Well that is all we have to say about him. Words continue to fail him (applause).

He never did get off the ground (applause).

other Deputy too?), the one that Honorable Anthony "Boots" Martinez says plays musical chairs. Well Mr., Speaker, I'm afraid she was a mish-mash of clichéd nostrums and boring citations from some top-heavy academic documents. You know, some of what she said was good, but it wasn't original; it was what she was quoting from some document. Whatever she said that was original wasn't good. That's for sure.

But, what I was surprised me was the fact that she, at one point got very strappy and snappy, when it is she who

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Hon. Mike Espat, Member for Toledo East

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likes to complain about being mean. You know, it is just as I once saw it described: it only proved that she is no Little Red Riding Hood, but more like the Wolf in Grandma's Bonnet. And when next she talks about Ma-

yard rooster, this is the peacock; this is the man that struts his stuff. In the end, I kind of felt, Mr. Speaker, that the barn-yard rooster never came out as much more than a strangulated, cluck, cluck, cluck, cluck (applause)! But again, he is also an economic guru, because he was talking



Hon. Julius Espot, Member for Cayo South

hogany Heights, she must talk about the fact that her Government paid \$9 Million to one Mr. Hamze for the Land when it was worth only \$1 million dollars, and when the land did not even belong to Mr. Hamze. And Hamze has left the Country; and that is root of all the problems with Mahogany Heights.

Responding to the Member for Cayo South

Then, of course, I have to come to another Deputy Leader; the member for Cayo South (isn't he a Deputy Leader too?) Mr. Speaker, this is the barn-

as well about balanced budget, and about big government being an insult to the private sector, and what we need is transparency and access to land to help to move the economy forward.

Well, when he talks about access to land, maybe he could arrange access to land for people by sharing some of the land that he accessed under the PUP Government. And he wasn't even a Deputy Leader then.

Conclusion

So, Mr. Speaker, let me conclude by saying that what at times degenerated into a



P.M. Hon. Dean Barrow, wrapping up the Budget Debate

kind of side show put on by the harlequins on the other side, must not be allowed to distract the good Belizean People.

The UDP record is one of continuing success, almost 6 percent growth, Tourism up by over 10 percent. (You know,

Caricom; the reclaiming of King Sugar's Throne (as I said), the new and improved prices for Banana; and best of all, Mr. Speaker, our fiscal house in order and our debt trajectory sustainable.

In the next few weeks, look out for the start of the an-



House Speaker, Hon. Michael Peyrefitte and National Assembly Staff

the Minister of Tourism just informed me today that the magazine, Trip Adviser, just today announced that Ambergris Caye is voted the premier island destination in the entire world).

Tourism up by over 10 percent! Agriculture and Aquaculture going great guns; BAL returns in terms of the Shrimp Farm. You heard the Minister of Investment: the new Investment in the former Fresh Catch Tilapia Plant; the export of Cattle and Corn to Mexico; Chicken to

nouncement of the core of the National Bank, lending at unbelievably concessional terms to teachers and nurses and police men and women, and soldiers, and all public officers (applause).

This, Mr. Speaker, is the next big thing. This is UDP Time. This is the time of progress; this is time of advance; this is the time of uplift.

This, Mr. Speaker, is the time of One Government, One People, One Belize (applause)!



Opposition members listen to members of Government side speaking



**Hon. Rene Montero
and the Staff at The Ministry of Works**

**Wish The People of Cayo Central
and All Belizeans**

*A Blessed and Safe
Easter Season.*



“Busy Serving the People”

(Presentation by Hon. Rene Montero during Budget Debate 2013-2014)

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the 2013/2014 budget. But before I continue with my presentation I must take time to publicly congratulate our Prime Minister the Hon. Dean Barrow for his stewardship in the successful renegotiation of the super bond. Once again he has proven the ‘nay-Sayers’ wrong, and has proven that only a UDP Government can successfully deliver this country through financial hardship.

The past year has been a successful one for the Ministry of Works regardless of the many challenges we have been faced with and the numerous obstacles we had to overcome. Nonetheless, I am pleased to report that due to superb leadership, dedication, and hard work of the **WORKS TEAM** we were able to show marked improvement in the road infrastructure of this jewel.

Budgetary constraints continues to be a reality not only in this country, but in all developing economies thus the reason we are ever mindful of our Prime Minister’s advice of the need to enhance the institutional capacity of ministries and encourage sustained improvement in their performance and management so that we can meet the expectations of the various stakeholders in our development efforts.

At the Ministry of Works we are committed to prudent financial management and effective delivery of service to the Belizean people. **After all Mr. Speaker, this is the reason why the Belizean people have given us a second term in office.** I am therefore pleased to be able to report to this Honourable House and to the people who have elected us to office, my Ministry’s achievement for the past fiscal year.

THE PAST YEAR

Mr. Speaker, the Ministry has made significant progress on a number of projects over the past year, and I would like to take this opportunity to enumerate some of our achievements.

Southside Poverty Alleviation

The Southside Poverty Alleviation Project continues on schedule, with the first phase being completed in December of 2012, at a cost of approximately



*Hon. Rene Montero, Minister of Works and Transport
Member for Cayo Central Division*

\$16m. The second phase will expand on the base built up in the first phase by continuing with the provision of the drainage and street infrastructure, housing & septic improvements, land reclamation assistance and the continuation of the educational and social improvement programmes, at a cost of \$36m. All of these works are being funded by the OPEC Fund for International Development. **Our government is determined to make life better for all Belizean, especially for those on South Side Belize City.**

Dump to Jalacte

This project comprises the upgrading of the road from the Dump at mile 14 on the Southern Highway to a point near Jalacte Village (Guatemalan Border) in the Toledo District. This includes the upgrading of 22 miles of road to pave standard. The work is on schedule and the first 7 miles of road will soon be completed, and barring unforeseen events, we are confident that the road will be completed within the time envisaged in the contract – which is June 2014.

Once again Mr. Speaker, your UDP government has delivered on its commitment to the Belizean people.

As part of the financing package provided by CDB it was anticipated that a bridge would also be constructed at Mullins River. The Ministry is now in discussion with the Bank to determine an appropriate all-weather structure that can be constructed within the limits of the remaining

funds.

Independence Bus Terminal

The Independence Bus Terminal building has been completed on for a sum of five hundred eighty three thousand six hundred Belize dollars (BZ\$583,600), made possible by way of Grant Funds provided by the European Union under the Banana Support Program. This terminal will be opened for use within the next three weeks.

Northern Border Rehabilitation Project

This project is being funded by CABEL along with counterpart funding by the Government of Belize at a cost of \$12m. Temporary works have been completed by the Mexican to accelerate the opening of the new Chactemal Bridge, and we are hopeful that the contract will be signed soon for the works to commence.

Forth Road Project (Santa Elena San Ignacio Bypass)

This Project involves the construction of a new high level bridge structure across the Macal River including the upgrading of two main arteries linking Santa Elena and San Ignacio Towns. The new bridge structure will accommodate two-way heavy and light duty traffic thereby alleviating current heavy usage of the existing single lane Hawkesworth Bridge.

The total project cost is approximately \$58m and is

funded by the Caribbean Development Bank with counterpart funding from the GOB. Works are well under way for the construction of the round-a-bout, whilst we await the non-objection from the funding agency for Lot 2, the new bridge construction; Lot 3, Branch Mouth Road to Joseph Andrews Drive inclusive of river works; and Lot 4, Joseph Andrews Boulevard,

This project also made provision for three relatively small complementary consultancy services related to road safety in Belize and Vehicle Weight Control on the main Highways.

Two of these studies, a Road Safety Management Capacity Review and an inventory of the arterial road network by the International Road Assessment Program, have been completed and have provided the basis for a new project which will commence shortly, with the consultant for the Vehicle Weight Control Study arriving in country within the next week.

PROJECTS IN THE PIPELINE

Road Safety Project

This project derives from the studies I just mentioned and has as its objective the reduction of deaths and serious injuries associated with road traffic accidents. Works will be carried out to improve the safety of road users and road infrastructure along the Western Highway between Belize City and Belmopan.

The project is multi-sectorial and proposes to address road user behaviour through increased awareness and understanding of the risks involved (public education and curriculum development for schools); provide law enforcement support (training for Transport Department employees and Police; acquisition of 2 highway patrol vehicles and ancillary equipment), post-crash response support (acquisition of 2 ambulances for BERT) and road safety management capacity building. The project is estimated to cost some BZ\$17.7 million, approximately \$14.5 m of which is a loan from CDB.

MOWT will be responsible for implementing the physi-

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“Busy Serving the People”

(Presentation by Hon. Rene Montero during Budget Debate 2013-2014)

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cal works on the Western Highway and the round-about at the junction of the Western and Hummingbird Highways.

Northern Highway

The Ministry is also implementing a technical assistance loan provided by CDB to assist in financing the services of consultants to prepare a feasibility study and detailed designs for upgrading the Northern Highway between the Airport Junction and the Haulover Bridge.

The objective of the intervention is to establish technically viable solutions to improve the safety and efficiency of that segment of the highway which is one of the most trafficked sections of road in the country.

The consultants DIWI International is expected to mobilize within the next couple months with expected completion in 8 months thereafter.

Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Project for Belize City

The objective of this Program is to support the Government of Belize in the rehabilitation, improvement and protection of the Belize City's drainage and urban road networks aiming at reducing Belize City's vulnerability to flooding events while increasing long term capacity to provide adequate maintenance to streets, drains and canals.

Main components include construction of drainage structures and canals in Belama Phases 3 and 4; the upgrading, rehabilitation and maintenance of selected streets in the project area; development and implementation of a maintenance management system for the Belize City Council; acquisition of essential maintenance equipment for BCC and partial funding of maintenance works; and a public awareness campaign (PAC) aimed at educating residents on the importance of avoiding littering and the disposition of solid waste in drains and canals.

The project is estimated to cost BZ\$21.5 million, \$20 million of which is a loan from IDB. The Project Execution Unit has been established and is working diligently on the first phase of

this project.

Belize Rural Development Program/AMS Sugar Roads

Contracts have been signed for the construction of the Belmopan Market, the Hopkins Road and two sugar roads in the North, namely:

Lot A - The second phase of the Orange Walk – Blue Creek road which is from San Lazaro to August Pine Ridge Village (6.6 miles);

Lot B - Yo Creek to San Antonio Village (3.7 miles), Northern Highway to San Lazaro

the capital program, there are much rehabilitation and upgrading of our road network that has taken place in this reporting period.

These includes the upgrading of the Manatee Road, the upgrading of the Jaguar Paw and Roaring River Roads to facilitate out tourism industry, shouldering in the Camalote and Democracia Villages and along the old Northern Highway, upgrading of the Crooked Tree/Blackburn Causeway, re-sealing along the George Price High Way between miles 28 to 31 and along the Humming-

bird Highway.

Ministry personnel are also engaged in maintaining other government assets, namely the public buildings and inland waterways. The technical staff sits on many advisory and review committees for other ministries. All in all a full plate for the Ministry, Mr. Speaker, but I can assure you that our staff will do their best to cope.

As you can see Mr. Speaker, throughout this jewel, this UDP government has been working tirelessly on delivering on its promise to the people of this great nation. We continue to create a better way of life for all Belizeans regardless if they are red, blue or yellow. We at the Ministry of Works and Transport are proud to be contributing to this reality.

CONCLUSION

Mr. Speaker, much has been accomplished but much remains to be done. We will continue in our endeavour to ensure that the capacity, safety and user comfort of the road infrastructure of Belize is enhanced to acceptable international standards. Despite these difficult economic times we will be creative with financing and package upgrading projects with the expectation that additional funds will become available in the future. We will remain optimistic and will find no excuse not to plan the future of our transportation network.

I wish to thank the many residents and motorists who endured the inconvenience of bridge, culvert, road, street, and drain construction and for your confidence in our determination to make Belize a better place.

Mr. Speaker, in concluding I would like to reiterate the commitment of the Ministry of Works and Transport to ensure that those national assets that we are charged with developing and maintaining are kept in a condition we can be proud of. Our budget will pose challenges but with ingenuity and adaptability we will overcome those challenges.

Mr. Speaker, I hereby endorse the budget as proposed.

Thank you.



Hon. Rene Montero in the National Assembly During the Budget Debate

Junction (5.5 miles), and Northern Highway to Shipyard Village (9 miles);

These works are all funded from European Union resources made available to Belize. Additionally, Mr Speaker our government was able to provide over \$650,000 for the rehabilitation of farm roads in the Corozal and Orange Walk Districts prior to the opening of this year's sugar cane season. Your government continues to look after the development of the sugar industry and the lively hood of the Caneros and their families. After all, we are a government that cares!

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Mr. Speaker, while I have spoken in some detail about

bird Highway. Works should also start shortly on the Hawksworth Bridge, San Roman Bridge, the Baking Pot Ferry the Laguna Seca and Pueblo Nuevo Ferries, and the San Marcos Bridge. Mr. Speaker, whilst Her Majesty's Opposition continues their infighting and goes around crying "WOLF", your UDP government is busy serving the Belizean people!

The Ministry has completed the Road Maintenance Strategy for Belize that would develop a sustainable means of ensuring that all activities needed to keep the roads operating indefinitely and to clear up any existing maintenance backlog are done on a timely basis. This will be presented to Cabinet for approval

Congrats & Welcome : Recruit Intake #88

130 New Officers Join The Ranks of the Belize Police Department



Graduation Ceremonies were held on Tuesday, March 19, 2013 for 130 new officers of the Belize Police Force who make up Recruit Squad #88.

During the Ceremonies, Awards were given out

in various categories. Baton of Honor went to RPC 1528 Andy Rodriguez; In the Written Exam, First Place went to RPC 1450 Rodrigo Castillo, and Second Place to RPC 1528 Andy Rodriguez; the award for Most Consistent Recruit

went also to RPC 1528 Andy Rodriguez.

The Best Physical Condition Award was taken by RPC 1480 Daniel Jimenez; the 1st Shooting Qualification Award went to RPC 1467 David Gongora; the Comman-

dant's Prize was received by WRPC 1544 Lourdes Torres; and the 1st in First Aid Award went to RPC 1579 Zair Pott.

During the ceremony, awards of recognition were also given out to a number of retired Police Officers. They

Congrats & Welcome : Recruit Intake #88

130 New Officers Join The Ranks of the Belize Police Department



are: Mr. Paul Wade, former Assistant Commissioner; Justo Augustine, former Superintendent; Claudio Mai, former Acting Assistant Superintendent; James Moriera, former Acting Assistant Superintendent; Moses

Aranda, former Inspector; Hubert Augustine, former Sergeant; Michael Ciego, former Corporal; and Michael Muslar, former Police Constable.

All awards were presented by Minister of Na-

tional Security Hon. John Saldivar, who also delivered the keynote address.

The Graduation Ceremony was held at the National Police Training Academy in Belmopan.

The 130 new recruits

went into active Police Duty starting Monday, March 25, 2013, over 100 of them being deployed to Belize City, which it is well accepted is the area with the greatest need for an increase in the number of Police Officers.

More Expert-Training for Crime-Fighters

UN and UK Sponsor Forensic Ballistic Training



Colonel (Ret.) George Lovell - CEO Ministry of National Security



Ms. Jackie Brown - Deputy British High Commissioner

The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC) in collaboration with the British High Commission in Belize and the Ministry of National Security has conducted a one-week Training on Forensic Ballistics mainly in support of criminal investigations and the counter-proliferation of firearms and ammunition.

A one day seminar entitled 'Overview of Forensic Ballistics for Decision-Makers and Policy-Makers' was followed by a 4 day technical course exclusively for forensic technicians, forensic scientists and other specialized person-

nel. These activities form part of UNLIREC's broader technical assistance to countries of the Caribbean and Central

and reducing armed violence. The National Forensic Science Service continues to receive advanced training

nies for the Forensic Ballistic Course took place at the Radisson Fort George Hotel and was attended by the



Head Table; Director Forensic Service David Henderson, Deputy British Commissioner Jackie Brown, CEO Geroqe Lovell, Audience of Participants and Invited Guests

America focused on curbing illicit small arms trafficking

on the newly acquired IBIS 3D system. Opening Ceremo-

Chief Justice and other senior members of the Judiciary.



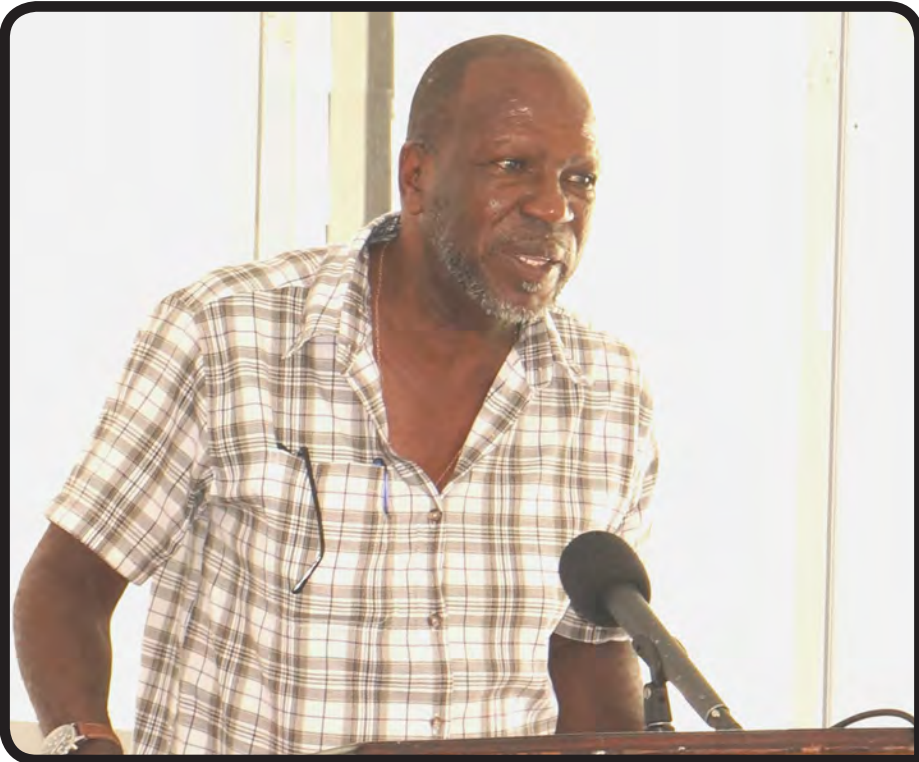
Participants and Invited Guests including Chief Justice and other members of the Judiciary



M.C. Raphael Martinez
Police Press Officer

More Expert-Training for Crime-Fighters

22 Belizeans Complete Forensic Ballistic Training



David Henderson, Director, National Forensic Science Service



H.E. Pat Ashworth, British High Commissioner



*Orlando Vera, Participant
Firearm Examiner*

On Friday March 22, 2013, Twenty Two (22) persons received certificates after

completing a one-week Training Course in Forensic Ballistics, conducted by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC) in collaboration with the British High Commission in Belize and the Ministry of National Security. The areas covered by the course are mainly in support of criminal investigations and the counter-proliferation of firearms and ammunition.

Keynote Speaker at the Closing/Graduation Ceremony

was British High Commissioner in Belize, H.E. Pat Ashworth. Other speakers included the newly appointed Director of the National Forensic Science Service, David Henderson; and Chief Forensic Analyst, Genoveva Marin. Also present was Deputy British High Commissioner, Jackie Brown. Master of Ceremonies was Police Press Officer, Raphael Martinez.

The Closing/Graduation Ceremony on Friday, March 22 took place inside the Family Association Conference



*Genoveva Marin
Chief Forensic Analyst*

Room at the Belize Defense Force Compound at Price Barracks, Ladyville.



Participant receives certificate for successfully completing the Course



Participant receives certificate for successfully completing the Course



Participant receives certificate for successfully completing the Course



Participant receives certificate for successfully completing the Course



Sr. Supt Miguel Segura; Special Advisor from India, Ashuk Chan; Commissioner Allen Whyllie; Deputy Commissioner Elodio Aragon

Some significant fine-tuning has been taking place within the Police Department to better equip it to meet the new challenges. On March 18, 2013, Commissioner Allen Whyllie summoned the media to a Press Briefing where he outlined the changes which are intended for greater efficiency and effectiveness.

“We cannot be satisfied in terms of the status quo, and the way how things have been done in the past. And whilst there will be pit falls, challenges and difficulties, rest assured that we firmly believe that the senior leadership level, that these changes are for the betterment of the department as well as the services to the nation.”

The policing zones of the country have been re-constructed to ensure that important administration is carried under the direct command of senior officers. There

are 4 different regions or zones; Commander of the Northern Region is Sr. Superintendent Joseph Myvette. Eastern Zone Commander is Assistant Commissioner of Police Miguel Segura. Senior Superintendent Aaron Guzman commands the Western Region. And Senior Superintendent Robert Mariano commands the Southern Region.

Belize City, which now falls under the Eastern Region, and which is getting over 100 of the 130 new recruits of Intake #88 who just recently passed out, is being divided into four precincts:

“100 of these recruits have been posted to Eastern division. It’s unprecedented; it has never happened before, but we believe that with the deficiency we face, this infusion will lead to the kind of positive results. And that recruit - 100 recruits are going into pre-

Police Restructures to Meet New Challenges

cincts, which is the new concept of policing we’re doing within Belize City. We have established 4 police precincts across Belize City. One of those precincts - precinct 1 is located at the corner of Cut Avenue and Euphrates Avenue, and that precinct is under the command

4 which is located at the existing Belama police station, and the commander for that precinct is Assistant Superintendent David Chi.”

“To signal my commitment to the citizens, we also - this administration is serious about the issues of complaints against police



Senior Officers who command the various zones and branches countrywide

of Superintendent Alden Dawson. We have precinct 2 which is established at the lower flat of this police headquarters building, and the commander for that precinct is Superintendent Alford Grinage. We have precinct 3 which is at the lower flat of what was the former patrol branch building at Queen Street, and the commander for precinct 3 is Superintendent Gualberto Garcia. And we have precinct

and allegations of unprofessional behavior. I have made conscious efforts to strengthen the work of the Professional Standards Branch, and I have - and I hope that my appointment of a very senior officer to that branch will signal to the nation, as well as internally to my police colleges, that I am very serious. I have appointed Assistant commissioner of police Mr. Noel Leal to that branch.”



May the Blessings of Our Lord Jesus Christ be with You as we observe the season that commemorates the Great Sacrifice He made for all Humanity.



Have a Blessed and Safe Easter to The Residents of Belmopan City and Belizeans Everywhere.



From: Mayor Simeon Lopez and The Belmopan City Council





Allen Whyllie
Commissioner, Belize Police
Department

sponded quickly and their prompt action freed the child from her kidnappers. Here is the story as related by the Police to the media on Wednesday, and as reported by Channel 7 News.

Allen Whyllie
Police Commissioner:

“On Sunday, to be exact, we had a very heinous unspeakable crime that was committed against a young mother.

In the Corozal district sometime after 7:30 that night, she was driving on a road in Santa Rita Village area, where 2 vehicles intercepted her vehicle and stop her from moving. Several persons came out of that vehicle and took her baby away, basically kidnap her child, a 1 year old baby.”

Supt. Andrew Ramirez
Officer Commanding,
Corozal Police:

“We have also confirmed that the child was taken in the Corozal district - Orange Walk district in a village during the course of Monday and then back to Corozal.

We also confirmed that there was a contact number that was placed with the victim and through that number she was contacted at 11:03 p.m. where the demand for a certain amount of money was made.”

ACP Russell Blackett -
Officer Commanding,

Big Up the Cops!

Quick Response Foils Kidnapping

**National
Crime In-
vestigation
Branch:**

“When the call came in at 11:03 p.m. Sunday night, that was the only call with the instruction given to the victim, so all that time up to when the child was returned, there was no other contact with the mother.”

Supt. Andrew Ramirez:

“The male voice had indicated the sum of what the commissioner mentioned, \$450,000 US, and they had indicated Tuesday, referring to yesterday’s date, for payment and further instructions would have been made on that Tuesday as location and time. The voice further indicated that if the money was not paid, then something would happen to the child. They did not say kill, but they say something would happen to the child.”

As soon as the department got the news, they launched a major multi-department operation to lock down the Corozal and Orange Walk Districts.

Commissioner Whyllie:

“As a result on that information reaching the police, the officer commanding, Mr. Ramirez, who is here today, activated his quick response team, along with the other resources and put a number of checkpoints in place. I also asked the head NCIB, Assistant Commissioner Blackett to proceed to Corozal to take



Supt. Andrew Ramirez
Officer Commanding,
Corozal Police

command of the situation and all coordination.

Additional resources in terms of an anti-drug unit team, the mobile interdiction team, and a special patrol unit

team were also deployed to provide additional human resources for operational purposes to get to the bottom of this crime.

The Head of Special branch was also dispatched on Monday afternoon to also assist with his intelligence officers with the gathering of information.”

Less than 24 hours later, police had a major break in the case.

Commissioner Whyllie:

“I am pleased to report that Monday night the child was safely handed over back to the police, despite the fact that demands had been made for a payment of ransom.

Just this morning, a few minutes ago, the lead investigator, Mr. Ramirez, took a copy of the case file to the DPP for consultation in terms of whether or not we should proceed to charge, and who we should charge.

She will also be giving further advice in terms of what additional work we may need to do.

So, despite the fact



ACP Russell Blackett
Officer Commanding
National Crimes
Investigation Branch

the baby is safe, the investigation is still continuing. We have not put any charges on these persons. As I said, we have several persons in custody, and we do believe that we have the right persons. Whether or not they are the main players, as was asked earlier, or they are just functionaries, we are not in a position to say at this time, but we do believe that they knew what was happening.”

With this swift undoing of the kidnapping ring, the police hopes to send a clear message that they are capable and ready to snuff out this type of crime:

Allen Whyllie:

“I think that our response in terms of the resources diploid - on the time diploid on the seniority of the officers diploid shows that we will not sit back and treat it like just any other crime.

It is a very serious crime, it has serious consequences and we need to as much as possible, reassure the nation that we have the capability and the capacity to respond and respond in time when these sorts of things occur.”

Capital Weekly

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

Belmopan Kids and Youth Cup 2013



Christian Bush Valencia, YWAM - Roaring Creek



Edil Lemus, AC Milian - Salvapan 1



Gerwayne Williams, Chelsea - Maya Mopan

**Belmopan City
Council
Kids and Youth Cups
2013
(Organized by Belmo-
pan Football League)**

**Games Result week 3
Kids Cup U - 12**

Saturday 16/03/2013

1:00 pm:

Celtic - Las Flores = 00
vs Manchester United -
San Martin = 02
Fernando Donis - 34
min
Manuel Figueroa - 59 min

2:30 pm:

Valencia YWAM - Roar-
ing Creek = 01 vs Man-
chester City - Armenia
= 01
Christian Bush - 7 min
Johnny Garcia - 14 min

**Kids Cup U - 12
Sunday 17/03/2013**

1:00 pm:

Inter Milan - Piccini =
00 vs New Castle - Salva-
pan 2 = 00
2:30 pm Real Madrid -
Mountain View = 06 vs
Chelsea - Maya Mopan
= 01

Tahj Reid - 4 min Ger-
wayne Williams - 55 min
Collin Gentle - 8 & 44
mins
Ahmaud Sanchez - 20
min
Dalton Moreira - 45 & 53
mins

4:00 pm:

Barcelona - Site 7 = 03 vs
AC Milan - Salvapan 1 =
01

Jahlin Pelayo - 4 min
Edil Lemus - 24 min
Wilfredo Galvez -
15 min
Tyzae Carr -
38 min

**Games Schedule week
3 Youth
Cup U - 16
Sunday 24/03/2013**

12:00 pm:

Valencia YWAM - Roar-
ing Creek vs Real Ma-
drid - Mountain View

2:00 pm:

Barcelona - Site 7 vs Celt-
ic - Las Flores

4:00 pm:

Chelsea - Maya Mopan
vs Manchester United -
San Martin

**(Information and
Photos provided by
Peter Alvarez,
Chairman)**



Jahlin Pelayo Tyzae Carr & Wilfredo Galvez
All of Barcelona - Site 7



Fernando Donis & Manuel Figueroa
Manchester United of San Martin



Johnny Garcia, Manchester City of Armenia



Tahj Reid, Ahmaud Sanchez, Collin Gentle & Dalton Moreira
Real Madrid of Mountain View

Belmopan Kids and Youth Cup 2013

Standings in the Belmopan City Council Kids cup 2013

Group A	Won	Drawn	Lost	Played	Points
Barcelona	3			3	9
AC Milan	2		1	3	6
Real Madrid	1	1	1	3	4
New Castle		3		3	3
Inter Milan		1	2	3	1
Chelsea		1	2	3	1
Group B	Won	Drawn	Lost	Played	Points
Liverpool	1	1		2	4
Man. United	1	1	1	3	4
Valencia		2		2	2
Man. City		2		2	2
Celtic		2	1	3	2



Adrian Cal, Manchester United - San Martin

Belmopan City Kid Cup Goal Scorer

Names	Goals Scores	Teams
Edil Lemus	3	AC Milan Salvapan1
Joshua Alvarez	3	AC Milan Salvapan1
Shemar Ingram	2	Liver Pool Police Cadet
Ainsliegh Perez	2	Barcelona Site 7
Tyzae Carr	2	Marcelona Site 7
Collin Gentle	2	Real Madrid Mountian View
Dalton Moreira	2	Real Madrid Mountian View



John Banner ,Naim Wilson & Mario Valencia
YWAM Roaring Creek

Standings in the Belmopan City Council Youth Cup 2013

Group	Won	Drawn	Lost	Played	Points
Valencia	3			3	9
Barcelona	3			3	9
Man. United	2		1	3	6
Celtic	1		2	3	3
Real Madrid			3	3	0
Chelsea			3	<	



Isaiah Martinez,Noah Moro,Tarique Humes, Barcelona-Site7

(Information and Photos provided by
Peter Alvarez, Chairman)

City Council

Kids and Youth Cups 2013

(Organized by Belmopan Football League)

Games Result week 3 Youth Cup U - 16

Sunday 24/03/2013

12:00 pm Valencia YWAM - Roaring Creek = 05 vs

Real Madrid - Mountain View = 00
Mario Valencia - 31 & 71 min

Naim Wilson - 32 min

John Banner - 51 & 56 min

2:00 pm Barcelona - Site7 = 05 vs Celtic - Las Flores = 00

Tarique Humes - 26 min

Noah Moro - 31 & 73 min

Isaiah Martinez - 61 min

Adrian Torres - 75 min

4:00 pm Chelsea - Maya Mopan = 00 vs Manchester United

San Martin = 01

Adrian Cal - 31 min

Belize's National Team played to a Nil-Nil Draw against Trinidad & Tobago in a Friendly International Match Last Saturday, March, 23 at the FFB Football Stadium in Belmopan



Read Capital Weekly Online
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**To the People of the Belmopan Constituency
and All Belizeans Countrywide
A Safe and Blessed Easter**

**From Your Belmopan Area Representative
and Your Minister of National Security**

Hon. John Saldivar

