



Capital Weekly

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



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Special Report on Annual BDF Volunteer Battle Camp

A Call To Action!

Chiquibul Symposium draws Massive Response

The evening news on all national stations described it as a standing room only affair; so massive was the turnout for an event called the Chiquibul Symposium 2013.

As the name denotes, it was all about the Chiquibul, one of Belize's richest national parks located on the Western Border in the Southern part of the Country.

Almost half a million acres in size, large portions of the Chiquibul Forest located in the National Park have been under sustained assault, mainly by Guatemalan civilians who plunder its resources for their own survival and monetary gain.



Ancient Mayan Site of Caracol in the Chiquibul National Park Area

Besides encroaching on another Country's territory, they are outrightly breaking the law; but stopping them and bring-

ing them to justice has been a tricky matter in the context of the so-called Territorial Dispute between Belize and Guatemala.

In the meantime, the abundant natural wealth of the Chiquibul, which Belizeans themselves are forbidden from exploiting, are being systematically pillaged, with the possibility of being virtually depleted if the situation is not quickly arrested.

That's right where the Chiquibul Symposium comes in, being the launch of an intensive campaign to raise country-wide awareness on the tremendous wealth of the National Park and the need to protect and preserve it.

The event featured a number of key speakers, and the following are some of the salient points they made:

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Opening of Fifth Belmopan Sports Summer Camp



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Future Footballers learning to control the ball at Summer Camp

Minister of National Security Visits Troops at BDF Camp



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National Security Minister Hon. John Saldivar and Lt. Colonel Felix Enriquez, Officer Commanding, BDF Volunteer Battalion

From the Desk of the Chairman

What an Independent Nation Does



Delroy Cuthkelvin
Chairman, Editorial Board

Like most Belizeans, we are not at all happy with the result of the CONCACAF Gold Cup in which our National Football Selection competed a couple weeks ago. We were really hoping for our boys to at least move on to the second round, and they didn't. Even our last ditch effort to secure a point or three in our final match at the group level ended in utter disappointment as we instead ceded 4 goals to Cuba, exactly what they (or we) needed to move on to the second round.

Indeed, we're not at all happy with our performance, but we are certainly proud that we took our stand internationally as our boys bravely defended our nationhood to the bitter end. It is what an independent Nation and an independent People must do.

This past week, we had the privilege of visiting with our Belize Defense Force troops as they conducted the Annual BDF Volunteer Battalion Battle Camp at Camp Belizario, and accompanying members of our mil-

itary to some of the sites they help to guard and protect, including the Ancient Mayan Temple of Xunantunich.

We are pleased at the professional, effective and dutiful manner in which our soldiers keep carrying out their daily mission, despite the limited resources we as a small, developing nation are able to commit to our military force. We certainly appreciate whatever assistance comes from friendly governments and international agencies; but ultimately, defending our national sovereignty and territorial integrity is our responsibility as Belizeans, and we accept it. That's what an independent People and Nation must do.

As the week came to an end, hundreds of Belizeans from all sectors were coming together to formulate and execute a concerted plan to protect and restore, regain and maintain control of our valuable forests, particularly the Chiquibul area which has been under relentless assault by intruders from our not so friendly neighbor across the Western Border.

Among us are international friends and partners whose support and assistance will certainly go a long way in enabling us to fine-tune and implement our strategy in this regard; but ultimately, it is up to us as Belizeans to reclaim, restore and preserve the untold wealth with which Nature has so bountifully blessed us.

It is what an independent Nation and People must do!

IMF Praises Belize's Economic Performance



Central Bank of Belize

Since they are in the business of managing finances, not serving people, advice and analysis by experts at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on the performance of developing nations must always be taken with a grain of salt. But, for what it's worth, the IMF's latest report on Belize is quite favorable.

The IMF, in its release dated July 16, 2013 states: "The Belize Government's completion of the exchange of its 'super-bond' for new U.S. dollar denominated bonds due to expire in 2038 brought substantial cash-flow relief (about US\$130 million over the next 5 years)."

The report notes that, "output growth is estimated at 5.3 percent in 2012, led by a recovery from the 2011 effects of weather-related damages in commodity exports. Inflation averaged 1.4 percent, as commodity price pressures abated."

Commenting on developments in Belize's monetary and banking system, the IMF says, "After two years of decline, credit to the private sector recovered modestly in 2012."

Making projections on Belize's economic performance in the current fiscal year, the IMF release states: "Despite the acceleration in economic activity in 2012, output growth is expected to moderate to about 2.5 percent in the medium term. The primary surplus is projected at 1 percent of GDP in FY13/14, with public debt expected to decline to about 75 percent of GDP at end-2013, reflecting, in part, the net face value haircut of 3 percent from the recent debt exchange."

The IMF reports that, "Executive Directors congratulated the authorities on the strong economic performance last year and the successful completion of the external debt exchange. These positive developments notwithstanding, Directors noted that Belize's economy still faces substantial challenges and vulnerabilities."

They encouraged the authorities to take advantage of the existing breathing space to rebuild policy buffers, pursue active debt management, accelerate financial sector reform, and buttress the economy's resilience to external shocks."

In terms of their re-evaluation of Belize's Financial and

Monetary reform measures, the IMF report states: "Directors welcomed the authorities' plans to revamp the debt management framework. They encouraged continued efforts to develop a more robust debt management, strengthen the institutional framework, and build capacity to implement a medium-term debt management strategy. Options to develop the domestic debt market should also be explored to mobilize domestic financing. Executive Directors welcomed progress on financial sector reforms."

The report ends with advice for further improvement and progress, as follows: "Given the remaining vulnerabilities, including the still high nonperforming loans, they (the Executive Directors) called for continued vigilance, close monitoring of individual institutions, and intensified efforts to implement the remaining recommendations of the 2011 Financial Sector Assessment Program (FSAP)."

They called on the authorities to advance structural reforms, focusing on removing impediments to private investment, boosting competitiveness and jobs, and promoting inclusiveness and the diversification of exports and energy sources."

Capital Weekly

*From the Heart of the Nation
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Published By:

Roots & Rhythm Ltd.
12 Lime Street
Belmopan

Chairman:

Delroy Cuthkelvin

Business Manager:

Karen Ozaeta

Compositor:

William Cuthkelvin

Telephone:

802-1284

Email:

capitalweeklybzebmp
@gmail.com

A Call To Action!

Chiquibul Symposium draws Massive Crowd



Audrey Wallace, CEO in the Office of the Prime Minister



*Wilbur Sabido
Chief Forest Officer*



*Pedro Cho
Chiquibul Expert*



*Brigadier General David Jones,
Commander of the BDF*

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Pedro Cho, Chiquibul Expert: "Material (gold, xate and timber) is worth about \$2.1 Billion Belize dollars. Every year, because of annual interest through growth, we increase that value by \$3 million dollars. The natural wealth, water and so forth, is worth to me more than \$1.3 Billion Dollars, but we can put that figure on it. Cultural at the moment, \$81,000 a year - so the grand total, if you indulge me a little bit, will be about \$3.4 Billion Belize Dollars. I think it's much more than that; I'm sure it's much more than that; that's one and a half times the GDP of Belize. Who knew a piece of bush worth so much? There's a high probability that in ten years time, if we do nothing, that is what will happen to the Chiquibul - we will lose half of it. This is equivalent to the rate that was occurring here. And in 20 years time, we will lose the other half."

Rafael Manzanero, Executive Director, Friends For Conservation And Development: "We are recommending, apart from the illegal logging, apart from the gold panning, we are saying Milpa is the one that has not been addressed to the extent."

I know the Belize Defense Force was recently there, but in reality, only about 40% of those Milpas could have really been destroyed; not because the will is not there, but it's the sheer manpower it is going to require to get rid of a Milpa of 87 acres or 120 acres that is still out there right now. How many people are willing to say that they are going there to chop those crops?"

Brigadier General David Jones, BDF Commander: "When I took that flight, it was alarming, the amount of clearing, planting, encroachment, illegal logging in the Chiquibul. Some of the Milpas Mr. Manzanero spoke about, we destroyed from the 1st to 7th of June, about 11 Milpas ranging from 2 areas to 20 acres in size. This is what our soldiers have been doing; a lot of acres of farming we destroyed in the area."

The Belize Defense Force cannot do it alone. No single organization in this Country can do it alone. You can't expect only the government to do it. It is going to take a collective effort. Two things need to happen: There needs to be a policy on what should happen in that area; and there should be a political directive. There has to be guidance from the top; that policy needs to be driven and supported by a strategy."

Wilbur Sabido - Chief Forest Officer: "We have to tackle these actions simultaneously. We cannot be cherry picking what is the least conflictive activity that we would want to address on any given day. At this point, we're at a really critical juncture as to the Chiquibul, in terms of what is needed to address the situation; and I think that after all the presentations on all the different issues, it seems daunting. I think that once we are able to clearly define which entity is responsible for what actions, there has to be some concerted level of effort to carry out these actions."

Audrey Wallace, CEO, Office of the Prime Minister: So today, we are here because the people who work on

the ground, the people who face tremendous challenges on the border on a daily basis, the people who sometimes risk their lives to protect our national interest, are sounding the alarm. I suspect they feel that the disturbing images streaming across our television screens during the evening news are still not enough to wake us all up. I agree. So let us build on this call to action, together, expanding the already strong partnerships. The government is committed."



Rafael Manzanero, Friends For Conservation And Development



University of Belize

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



University of Belize

INTERNAL AUDIT ASSISTANT

Duty Station: Belize City
Unit: Internal Audit

Area of responsibility: Under the supervision of the Internal Auditor the Audit Assistant will conduct various types of audits and reviews in accordance with accepted professional auditing standards to promote effective internal controls, efficiency of the policies and procedures, review the reliability and integrity of financial and operational information, review the means of safeguarding assets and verify their existence and to ensure adherence to applicable laws and regulations. These duties include but are not limited to:

- Assisting with the review and audit of compliance with policies, plans, procedures, laws, and regulation;
- Assisting with the review and audit of the accomplishment of established objectives and goals for operations and programmes and whether the operations and programmes are being carried out as planned;
- Drafting of reports as necessary for the approval of the Internal Auditor;
- Any other related duties as assigned.

Required skills:

- Attention to details
- Results oriented
- Ability to multi task and work with deadlines without close supervision

Qualifications:

- Minimum of a Bachelor' Degree in one of these fields: Accounting, Finance, Audit, Economics or Business Administration.
- Audit experience required

To apply (View Full Job Description):
Kindly apply online at www.ub.edu.bz under About UB, opportunities/vacancies (<http://www.ub.edu.bz/university/jobs.php>). Please upload a cover letter, curriculum vitae, copies of relevant degrees and certificates, transcript of highest degree and 2 reference letters.

You must forward a valid Police Record to:
Human Resource Director
University of Belize
Hummingbird Avenue
Belmopan City

DEADLINE
29
JULY 2013

If you have any questions kindly contact Ms. Dora Najarra at dnaajarra@ub.edu.bz

Taiwan Funds Tilapia Production

Ground-Breaking for \$2.5 Million Project in Central Farm



Taiwanese Ambassador H.E David Wu leading in the signing of the historic poster to launch the Project



Deputy Prime Minister Hon. Gaspar Vega Minister of Natural Resources and Agriculture

This past Wednesday July 17, 2013, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Agriculture, in collaboration with the Taiwan Technical Mission, hosted a ground-breaking ceremony for the building of a Tilapia Hatchery Center in Central Farm.

The event was for the launching of an Aquaculture Project that is being implemented in the development of the Tilapia Industry. The Aquaculture Project is estimated to have a cost of Two and a Half Million US dollars (US \$2,500,000.00), and a duration of five (5) years which initiated from February 2012 and is to culminate on February 2017.

The aquaculture Tilapia Hatchery Building will comprise of Eighteen (18) earthen ponds, a reservoir and a sedimentation pond, along with 12 nursery tanks and 16 concrete tanks.

The primary objective of this aquaculture project is to produce **One Million** "all male" high-quality Tilapia fingerlings to assist in the development of the on-growing small-scale Tilapia farming operations in Belize; to promote the use of

modern Tilapia aquaculture technology to increase the annual Tilapia production, gradu-



The Audience of special invited guests at the Launch of the Tilapia Project in Central Farm

ally decreasing the price in fingerling production; to promote the use of alternative feed to reduce commercial feed cost by 30-35%; and to supplement the meat protein intake to families in rural areas through improved Tilapia Production in the region.

Main speakers at the event were Ambassador of Taiwan to Belize, H. E. David Wu, and Belize's Minister of Natural Resources and Agriculture, Hon. Gaspar Vega.

In his address, Hon. Vega said, "This is another expression of the R.O.C's continued commitment to the long-

term development of Belize. For this, we express our heartfelt gratitude to the People

lize and Taiwan will bring through this particular project: "Aquaculture has been

and Government of Taiwan." He spoke of the practical benefits the collaboration between Be-

identified as one of the major methods by which we can help

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The Audience at last Wednesday's Launch of the Project

Taiwan Funds Tilapia Production

Ground-Breaking for \$2.5 Million Project in Central Farm



The Symbolic Groundbreaking: Ambassador H.E. David Wu, DPM Gaspar Vega and Agriculture CEO, Jose Alpuche



*Roberto Harrison
Acting Chief Agriculture Officer*

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meet the ever growing demand for fisheries product. Tilapia is being farmed successfully in many countries. Here at home, we have had moderate success so far; but the growth potential is very high. With this potential in mind, and the resounding success Taiwan has had with Tilapia, it is only natural that we collaborate with them in the development of the sector here."

Hon. Vega gave tribute to his predecessor in the Ministry of Agriculture, Hon. Rene Montero, under whose leadership as Minister of Agriculture the idea



Billboard showing what the Hatchery Center will look like

of the project was initially conceived; and he congratulated the contractors who were awarded the contract to execute the proj-

ect, Kiko's Engineering Services and Southwest Construction: "In a few years time when this facility is in full operation and

the Tilapia sector is expanding exponentially, you will all beam with pride in saying that you had a hand in the success that Belizean aquaculture enjoys."

Hon Vega concluded his address by reiterating his appreciation to the Taiwanese Government on behalf of the Government and People of Belize:

"Ambassador David Wu, let me once again reiterate our heartfelt thanks to your government for this wonderful gift to the People of Belize."

The event was chaired by Mr. Roberto Harrison, Acting Chief Agriculture Officer. Also in attendance and participating in the ground-breaking ceremony was Chief Executive Officer in Ministry of Agriculture, Jose Alpuche.



Heavy Machinery already working on the site of the Taiwanese-funded Tilpaia Project

Liquor License Notice

Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, **Li Hao Liu** is applying for a **PUBLICAN SPECIAL LIQUOR LICENSE** for the Year 2013 to operate **Desire Lounge** located at 35/37 Halfmoon Avenue, Belmopan City, Cayo District.



By Zelda Hill

If the whole world would follow God's plan for sex, marriage and family, there would be no unwanted babies in this world. But even as societies realize the excessive price we pay in human carnage and ruined lives for disobedience, we seem even more resolved to continue defying our Creator's blueprint for life.

Thousands of years ago the Prophet Isaiah warned about those who dare to "call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter (KJV Isaiah 5:20)". This reversal of values is obvious today and accurately describes the attitude of those who support Abortion.

Pro-Choice is the euphemism or the pleasant name used today in order to lighten the moral accusations of conscience from the offensiveness of the act of selective infanticide or plain murder. Pro-Choice supporters claim to have been liberated from labeling their actions as "wrong" or "right" and generally believe that the pregnant female alone should have the "right" to decide to keep or murder her unborn child.

Their use of the word "choice" suggests the absence of coercion but in reality, while pregnant mothers are confused and anxious due to biological changes within their bodies [especially young mothers who lack the support of a husband or a sympathetic family] Abortionists are able to coerce them into murdering their child. And even when the deed is executed by murderers with medical degrees and with the permission of legislators, Abortion is essentially a modern ritual in the worship of the 'god of self', to whom babies are mercilessly sacrificed on

cold-hearted altars in the name of convenience and blatant greed.

The hideous and inhumane sacrifices of babies to the pagan god, Molech, are recorded in several Books of the Old Testament. The people of Israel and Judah, including their kings, officials and priests, provoked God by building high places in the Valley of Ben Hinnom to sacrifice their sons and daughters to Molech. According to Jewish tradition, the image of Molech was made of hollow brass and had the face of a calf with his hands stretched out like a man who opens his hands to receive something.

The people lit the brass idol aflame and the priests took

caused by knives, sharp tools, suction tools, burning solutions and other gadgets that are placed into the womb to chop the unborn to pieces. These sacrifices are fueled by the handsome profits made by the administrators of abortion clinics and by insatiable medical personnel who had sworn to preserve life and not to destroy it. Naturally, mothers - even those of animals - are created to protect their children's lives at all costs.

Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ, exemplified this protective instinct of a mother by sacrificing her pleasure and pursuits in order to keep her child. Mary was a young, unwed mother who had done nothing unfavorable for

they have no other choice but to terminate their pregnancy are mistaken. There is always a choice to do what is right since God has promised that in every temptation He would always provide a way of escape from evil (1 Corinthians 10:13).

This truth applies not just to the temptation of having an abortion but also to the deception of sexual permissiveness, which often leads to premature sexual activity and other immoral sexual behaviors that are the basis for understanding why so many unborn children are unwanted by their parents.

But instead of helping the Church to reinforce the truth that sex has lasting and wholesome benefits only when experienced within a committed and loving relationship between a male and a female as ordained by God, Governments are choosing to legislate "sexual freedom" and sexual deviancy and to make legal abortions more accessible, even to children.

It is time for parents and those who care about our children's future, including the future of the unborn, to ensure that the minds of our children are not manipulated to believe that evil is "good" and that bitter is "sweet". For as Lucifer thought that he could take the place of God, mere humans today in positions of influence and power, seek to do the same by deciding what is good and what is evil.

Whether we disbelieve or are indifferent to the scientific and Scriptural evidence, the unborn is a human being from conception and we must do all we can to reverse the statements and statistics of the modern-day rite of child sacrifice through abortions from our medical records and from the pages of Belize's history.

"Pro-Choice is the euphemism or the pleasant name used today in order to lighten the moral accusations of conscience from the offensiveness of the act of selective infanticide or plain murder. Pro-Choice supporters claim to have been liberated from labeling their actions as "wrong" or "right" and generally believe that the pregnant female alone should have the "right" to decide to keep or murder her unborn child."

the babies and placed them into the smoldering hands of Molech. God told the prophet Jeremiah that it had never entered His mind that the people would have done such a detestable thing (Jeremiah 32:35), which they did to appease the gods or to gain favor for a plentiful harvest and for a victory in battle. The bones of thousands of infant sacrifices have also been found at Ancient Carthage in North Africa.

Today, in modern times this unimaginable idolatrous rite continues. Innocent lives still in the "safe" and nurturing wombs of their mothers are being sacrificed, often times brutally even when they are able to feel pain. Millions of babies, more than those who have been killed in all the wars combined, have been mercilessly slaughtered simply because they have no place in the lives of their mothers or are likely to interrupt their selfish plans. There are millions of mothers who would rather die than to cause their children to suffer pain, especially to have them experience such cruelty

her to be "burdened" with an unplanned pregnancy. But after learning that the child was the work of the Holy Spirit and that God already had a plan for her son [as He does for all the unborn] she was willing to endure the shame of a pregnancy out of wed-lock, the probability of becoming a poor single-mother, the rejection of her fiancé, and even the possibility of being stoned to death! She must have thought of terminating the pregnancy but instead decided to obey and trust God to fulfill His promise for her child.

If Mary could have taken such a stand in a culture that was far less forgiving of perceived or actual sexual sins, then modern-day mothers who may be persuaded to feel that

Capital Weekly

*From the Heart of the Nation
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"Collaboration for Production"

Address by Hon. Gaspar Vega at Launch of Taiwan-Funded Tilapia Project

Today we break ground for two grant projects funded by the Government of the Republic of China Taiwan at a value of just over 1.5 Million Belize Dollars.

The Tilapia Hatchery Building and the pond network are separate projects of almost equal costs, however, together they will add far more value to the aquaculture sector.

This is another expression of the R.O.C's continued commitment to the long term development of Belize. For this, we express our heartfelt gratitude to the people and government of Taiwan. This project represents a major improvement on the Tilapia Hatchery that currently exists in Biscayne. That facility is actually on borrowed land and severely limits our ability to do proper investments in research and development.

The facility to be constructed here will provide a solid foundation on which government will be able to grow, and by year five, provide up to a million fish fingerlings to Tilapia farmers throughout the country. It will provide a hub for research and development that we are sure will benefit more than the Tilapia Industry.

We are all too aware of the severe stress on traditional fish stocks globally, and certainly here at home. Aquaculture has been identified as one of the major methods by which we can help meet the ever growing demand for fisheries product. Tilapia is being farmed successfully in many countries.

Here at home we have had moderate success so far, but the growth potential is very high. With this potential in mind, and the resounding success Taiwan has had with Tilapia, it is only natural that we collaborate with them in the development of the



Hon. Gaspar Vega delivering his address at the Launching of the Tilapia Project in Conjunction with the Taiwanese Government

sector here.

What is more interesting, is that Taiwan has developed and still maintains a via-

This will take some time before commercial availability, but I am sure we will be able to find long-term solutions.

"Aquaculture has been identified as one of the major methods by which we can help meet the ever growing demand for fisheries product. Tilapia is being farmed successfully in many countries. Here at home we have had moderate success so far, but the growth potential is very high. With this potential in mind and the resounding success Taiwan has had with Tilapia, it is only natural that we collaborate with them in the development of the sector here."

ble small fish farm sub-sector. Their vast experience in integrated fish farming provides a knowledge base that we must learn from.

We must recognize that this investment, while a vital foundation to build an industry on, is one of many improvements required along the production value chain. Vital to a successful Tilapia Industry in Belize is the sourcing of more affordable fish feed. We are happy to report that the R.O.C Technical Mission and our Ministry are conducting trials to formulate a more affordable feed.

man resource capacity improvements are required. Our Aquaculture Unit Director is currently on study leave in Taiwan, and we also regularly benefit from short-term training courses. We must now intensify the training and development at the farmer level and for this we trust that the R.O.C Technical Mission will help us develop a comprehensive framework to achieve this.

We wish to congratulate Kiko's Engineering Services and Southwest Construction for their successful bid as contractors for the two projects. We want to thank the Ministry of Works for their continued assistance in overseeing the project from concept to completion. Your continued collaboration is vital to make this project a success. In a few years time, when this facility is in full operation and the Tilapia sector is expanding exponentially, you will all beam with pride in saying that you had a hand in the success that Belizean aquaculture enjoys.

I will end by acknowledging the role played by my predecessor in bringing this project forward. Minister Rene Montero was invited to attend, but was unfortunately unable, due to long-standing family commitments.

Ambassador David Wu, let me once again reiterate our heartfelt thanks to your Government for this wonderful gift to the people of Belize. I thank you.



The audience of invited guests at the Project launch

Recreation and Direction

Opening of Fifth Belmopan Sports Summer Camp



Hon. John Saldivar



Councilor Victor Perdomo



Mayor Simeon Lopez

A Youth Summer Camp for a total of over 350 students was officially opened on Tuesday July 16 in Belmopan. The Summer Camp is co-sponsored by Minister of National Security and Belmopan Area Representative Hon. John Saldivar; Mayor Simeon Lopez and the Belmopan City Council; and the Belmopan Sports Council.

Official ceremonies to open the summer camp were held at the Hilltop Basketball and Tennis Court in Belmopan. Speakers included Hon. John Saldivar, Mayor Simeon Lopez, Belmopan Sports Coordinator Angelica Reyes, and Edmund Guy from the Department of Youth Services. Master of Ceremonies was Deputy Mayor Joel Westby, and the Vote of Thanks was delivered by City Councilor with responsibility for events, Victor Perdomo.

In his address Hon. Saldivar told the students, "The camp offers great opportunity for you, the young people of Belmopan, to be introduced to new sports disciplines, and for those already introduced to be shown new techniques and to

learn new things about the various sports that you perhaps already love and that you may come to love."

And, to the parents he said, "For those of you who have taken the time out this morning

us to be successful, not just in Sports, but in School, in Community and in Nationhood."

The Summer Camp involves sports in six disciplines: Tennis, Football and Softball are running for the first two weeks,

College students. The Belmopan Summer Camp is an annual event that is now running for five years consecutively. Its purpose is to keep the young people positively and meaningfully occupied during the summer



Audience of Students and Parents at Tuesday's Official Opening of the Sports Summer Camp

to be here with your children, it is a wonderful example; it is a wonderful symbol of what we need to have in our communities and our families, the support structure that we need for

from July 15 to July 26; Basketball, Volleyball and Chess will run for the next two weeks, from July 29 to August 9. The sessions run from 8:00 in the morning to 12:00 Noon, and from 1:30 to 4:30 in the afternoons.

The participants in the summer camp are mainly Primary School students, but also include High School and Junior

holidays, and help identify potential athletes in the various sports disciplines.

On Tuesday, we found a group of young participants on the Governor General Field learning football techniques under the supervision of two players from the Belmopan Bandits, namely Colin Moody

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Mayor Simeon Lopez, Belmopan Sports Coordinator Angelica Reyes and Edmund Guy, Representative from Youth Services Department

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Recreation and Direction

Opening of Fifth Belmopan Sports Summer Camp

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and Jerome James, assisted by experienced footballer Lyle Zuniga. They said they are extremely happy to be able to offer their services to provide some guidance and motivation to the younger ones who will someday become the athletes and superstars representing their community and country at home and abroad.

These athletes must be applauded for their invaluable contribution, together with the Area Representative, the Mayor and City Council, the Belmopan Sports Coordinator and her Department, the parents, teachers and students themselves, and everyone else who is a part of the collaborative endeavor.



Mayor Lopez along with some of the children, parents and trainers on the Hilltop Tennis Court



Bandits Footballer Colin Moody teaching children to control the ball



Colin Moody teaching more young footballers to control the ball



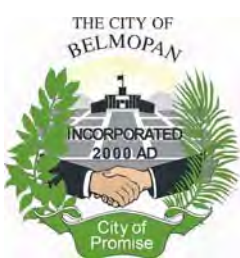
Young footballers practicing ball-passing until they get it right



Bandits Player Jerome James (left) teaching ball control and passing



A young footballer practicing his newly acquired ball-passing skills



PUBLIC NOTICE



The General Public is hereby advised that the Third Quarterly Meeting of the Belmopan Intoxicating Liquor Licensing Board for the year 2013 will be held at the Belmopan Lion's Den on Wednesday July 17, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.

All applications must be submitted to the Belmopan City Council by Friday July 12, 2013. Any application received after this date will be subject to a Special Meeting fee of \$100.00.

Persons wishing to make representations to the Board are invited to attend.

Clerk

Belmopan Intoxicating Liquor Licensing Board



Government of Belize
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, YOUTH AND SPORTS
Education for Self, Education for Strength, Education for Life

A CRITICAL LOOK AT COUNSELLING IN THE BELIZE EDUCATIONAL SETTING

The University of Belize, in partnership with the Ministry of Education Teacher Education Development Services (TEDS), is hosting a conference to critically look at counselling services within the educational setting and to share relevant information with counselors and other stakeholders.

August 5 & 6, 2013

ITVET Compound

Belize City

SCHOOL COUNSELLORS

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

SOCIAL WORKERS

MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

You are invited !!!

Conference Sessions Include

- Values & Ethics of the Counselling Profession
- Data Drive Intervention
- Developing School Counselling Crisis Management
- Developing Crisis Management Plan
- Using Data for Effective Counselling Management
- Childhood Psychopathy
- Early Childhood Trauma
- Conflict Mediation Techniques
- Monitoring & Evaluating Counselling Programs

*Continuing
Education Development
Credits (CED) will be
awarded*

Registration & more information Contact: Ms. Martha Jonch at 223-0037 ext. 304 or email mjonch@ub.edu.bz

Registration Deadline: July 22, 2013

"Sports, School, Community & Nationhood"

Address by Hon. John Saldivar at Belmopan Sports Summer Camp



Hon. John Saldivar, Minister of National Security and Belmopan Area Representative

Mayor Simon Lopez, Deputy Mayor Joel Westby, other councilors of the Belmopan City Council, Miss Angie Reyes, City Administrator Mrs. Wade, other officials of the Belmopan City Council, Parents, and, of course, the wonderful children of Belmopan, for whom all these activities are planned:

Good Morning to each and every one of you; and let me join all the previous speakers in welcoming you to this Fifth Annual Belmopan Sports Summer Camp.

As has been said by previous speakers, the camp offers great opportunity for the young people of Belmopan to be introduced to new sports disciplines, and for those already introduced to be shown new techniques, and to learn new things about the various sports that you perhaps already love, and that you may come to love.

This is an opportunity for you to be exposed, and I urge you to try all the disciplines, as many as you can, as many as time will permit, to determine for yourselves the sport or sports that you would like to play for a long time to come. Some of you may be multi-talented and may be able to play various sports. This is your time to learn the various sports and pick up one of them or more as your hobby.

Sports is very important; it is a clean way of having the fun of recreating after school, or sometimes even during school, when you have competitions within your various schools. So, it's important for you to have sports, not just for your mind, but also for your body. For you to be a healthy person, well-rounded, sports and exercise are also a key.

I was very impressed by some of the statistics that Miss Angie was giving with regards to what has happened with our young people, with you our children as a result of this Summer Sports

program over the last few years. I want to thank the Mayor and the Belmopan City Council, who have collaborated with me over the last five years to ensure that this Sports Summer Camp is a success.

There is a lot to look forward to in sports these days. As the Mayor has already said, our National Football Team is currently in the United States participating for the first time in the Gold Cup. We have also, in the next few days, I understand, the National Softball Team that will be leaving to represent Belize, I believe, in Puerto Rico. And then, I believe, our National Volleyball team will also be leaving shortly to represent Belize in El Salvador.

And so, there's a lot of opportunity for you to be a part of our National Program; and this is where it starts. So, I would hope that each and every one of you would put your mind and put your body, put

program over the last few years. I want to thank the Mayor and the Belmopan City Council, who have collaborated with me over the last five years to ensure that this Sports Summer Camp is a success.

I want to thank the National Sports Council, those that came even before Angie; and to thank Angie, as she has been here as our Belmopan Sports Coordinator; and all those presidents and officials of the various sporting organizations, Basketball, Volleyball, Softball, Football, Track and Field, Tennis, that have all volunteered their time to help to coach, to help to teach our children the techniques of the various disciplines.

But I want to give a special thanks to the parents, especially those of you who are out here today. For our sports programs to be successful, parents have to be involved also, because parents are the ones that will guide our children; that will make them feel that it is a worthwhile venture. And when you are out here supporting your children, it is the greatest support they can have. And so, for those of you who have taken the time out this morning to be here with your children, it is a wonderful example; it is a wonderful symbol of what we need to have in our communities and our families, the support structure that we need for us to be successful, not just in Sports, but in School, in Community and in Nationhood.

So thank you all very much, and enjoy; please do enjoy what we have prepared for you! (Applause)

"For our sports programs to be successful, parents have to be involved also, because parents are the ones that will guide our children; that will make them feel that it is a worthwhile venture. And when you are out here supporting your children, it is the greatest support they can have....It's a wonderful example; it is a wonderful symbol of what we need to have in our communities and our families, the support structure that we need for us to be successful, not just in Sports, but in School, in Community and in Nationhood."

Program that has been held now for the past five years. Some of you, and some of your friends have been participating even at the national level, and that is very important.

This is for us a kind of a talent search; for us to be able to find some of the talented

everything together to learn as much as you can from this Summer Camp, because this can indeed be the beginning, the start of something great for you in Sports.

I, therefore, want to close by thanking all those who have helped to organize this



Audience of Students, Parents and Trainers at official Opening of Belmopan Sports Summer Camp



NATIONAL SECURITY TAKES CENTER PAGE



Sharpening Skills for Selfless Service *Annual BDF Volunteer Battalion Battle Camp 2013*

This past Friday, July 19, 2013, Minister of National Security Hon. John Saldivar visited and addressed members of the Volunteer Battalion of the Belize Defence Force who are currently engaged in their Annual Battle Camp. Battle Camp 2013, which is being held at Camp



BDF Commander David Jones invited to inspect Guard of Honor at Camp Belizario

congratulated them for their unselfish service to their Country, and he emphasized the increasing role they must play in preserving safety and security both internally and along our national borders.

Earlier in the week, on Tuesday, July 16, Commander of the BDF, Brigadier General David Jones had similarly visited and addressed members of the BDF Volunteer Battalion at their Annual Battle Camp in Camp Belizario, Cen-

to support Civil Authorities in Maintenance of Law and Order when called upon and to provide support to the regular force



Lt. Colonel Felix Enriquez leads a briefing

as required; and to perform any other duties assigned by the



Brigadier General David Jones inspecting the Guard of Honor

Belizario, located at Central Farm in the Cayo District, focuses mainly on operations conducted in what the BDF calls the Western Tactical Area

Agriculture Health Authority (BAHA), National Institute for Culture and History (NICH), NEMO and the Police; inland and border patrols; and man-



Brigadier General David Jones receiving a briefing from Lt. Colonel Felix Enriquez; Major E. Ogaldes at the controls

tral Farm, Cayo.

The mission of the Volunteer Battalion of the BDF is

Commander of the BDF. Specific current roles include Camp

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A combined team of members from the Volunteer battalion and Regular BDF Soldiers practicing armed combat

of Responsibility. This includes internal security; assisting and supporting agencies such as Immigration, Customs, Belize

ning observation/conservation posts.

Speaking to the volunteers, Honorable Saldivar



Combined team of volunteer members and regular troops



Sharpening Skills for Selfless Service

Annual BDF Volunteer Battalion Battle Camp 2013

Continued from Page 12

Guards, Camp Maintenance, Camp Administration, F5 Cell,

Heroes and Benefactors' Parade, September Celebrations, and New Horizons Project.

The Battalion is broken down into the following units or companies: Bravo Coy; Charlie Coy; Delta Coy; BDF Youth Cadet Corps; Technical Reserves; and Band. Training is based on a four year rotation and covers Jungle Warfare, Internal Security, Conventional Warfare and Operations and Camp Duties,



Major E. Ogaldez wraps up the full briefing

Support in National Emergency Management and Disaster

Relief (through NEMO), Belize Youth Cadet Corps, BDF Youth Cadet Corps, Band, Hail Storm,



National Security Minister Hon. Saldivar being briefed by Lt. Colonel Felix Enriquez, Major E. Ogaldez at the controls

Relief (through NEMO), Belize Youth Cadet Corps, BDF Youth Cadet Corps, Band, Hail Storm,

The focus this year is on Operations and Camp Duties.

The aims of the Battle



Regular Soldiers and Volunteers demonstrating drills for the Minister



National Security Minister Hon. John Saldivar addressing the BDF Volunteers

to sharpen and demonstrate the skills of the Battalion; and to practice soldier's individual barrack discipline. Over 300 volunteers are taking part in this year's Battle Camp.

The Annual Battle Camp is only one of the activities in which members of the Volunteer Battalion participate. Other



National Security Minister Hon. Saldivar inspecting the Guard of Honor at Camp Belizario to commence his visit on Friday

Camp are to test the Volunteer Battalion's ability to adequately plan and conduct actual operational duty in each capacity as those of the Regular element

activities include Companies' Weekend Training, Officers and Seniors Weekend Training, Parade Evenings, Annual Sports Meet and Annual Closing Pa-



Members of the Volunteer Battalion assemble as they are being addressed by Minister of National Security Hon. John Saldivar

in the Western Tactical Area of Responsibility; to provide a real insight of the Regular Force's operation commitment; to prac-

rade, which take place at the end of the Battle Camp.

Battle Camp 2013 runs from July 12 to July 23.

BDF Bestowed British Bedfords

BATSUB Hands Over 17 Four-Ton Trucks to Belize Defence Force



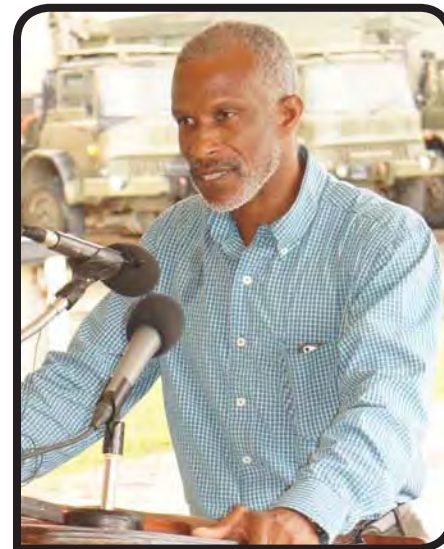
H.E. Pat Ashworth
British High Commissioner

Morrison, who visited the General, and who has also asked me to pass on his best regards to the B.D.F today.

That caused a lot of head scratching because we know that BATSUB was suppose to replace the Bedford four-tonners with six-tonners, and the six-tonners in some way were supposed to cover the cost of the four-tonners; so I am afraid that General Jones put the cats among the pigeons there in asking for this donation. But the Minister took this request

the four tonners. The six-tonners are great, but I know there are a lot of people in the British Army who would be sorry to see the four-tonners go."

Speaking on behalf of the Ministry of National Security and the Government of Belize, CEO Lovell said, "We had some twenty or so four-ton vehicles that are on our inventory. And of those twenty vehicles, only ten of those vehicles, fifty percent of our fleet, are roadworthy. The need for the entire force is some sixty or so troop-lifting vehicles.



Colonel George Lovell, CEO
Ministry of National Security

The Belize Defence Force has received a total of Seventeen (17) Four-Ton Trucks from the British Army Training Support Unit Belize (BATSUB).

The Handover took place at a short ceremony on Wednesday July 10., 2013 in which the main speakers were British High Commissioner in Belize His Excellency Mr. Pat Ashworth and CEO in Belize's Ministry of National Security Colonel (Ret.) George Lovell.



BDF Commander David Jones and British High Commissioner Pat Ashworth, handshake marking the official handover of the trucks

bringing our number to twenty seven. We yet are not where we want to be with the troop-lifting vehicles we need. And while we would like to ensure that they are going to last for these ten years that you speak, His Excellency, what we need to do is to ensure that there is proper equipment husbandry. And I will like to ask General to ensure that he gives us his commitment that this will be done in whatever lifespan or time-line that he has for these vehicles, and for ones we will obviously need to



H.E. Pat Ashworth and CEO Lovell flanked by BDF Commander Jones and Batsub Commander as National Anthem plays



Members of the British Army Training Support Unit Belize Standing respectfully as the National Anthem is being played

In his address, Mr. Ashworth said, "It does give me great pleasure to present these vehicles to the B.D.F. I was here when General Jones first requested the vehicles, and that was back in March when we had the Minister of International Security Strategy, Dr. Andrew

with him, and with the support of myself and the O.C of BATSUB, it was agreed that we could give the seventeen fully working four-tonners to the B.D.F.

And our hope is that this is going to keep the transport going for another ten years. These are some incredible vehicles,

So twenty was one-third of what we needed to sustain the force, to have the force at the efficiency level that we can accept. And yet we were down to one third, with only one-sixth of our fleet roadworthy. It is pleasing today to see now that we have seventeen new roadworthy vehicles,

get to supplement the total of twenty-seven troop lifting vehicles that you now have.

The initial cost that was given to us, just for you to understand, was some \$250,000 for each of the troop lifting vehicles that we wanted. I was told

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Twelve (12) of the Seventeen (17) Four Tonne Bedford Trucks handed over to the Belize Defence Force by the British Army

BDF Bestowed British Bedfords

BATSUB Hands Over 17 Four-Ton Trucks to Belize Defence Force



Force Adjutant Major T. Cal
Presenting welcome Remarks

Continued from Page 14

that the gift that was given to us is some \$300,000 worth, which means a depreciation value that has been placed into the donation that has been given by your kind office, Excellency, and by the Government of the United Kingdom. We are, in fact, grateful because this will take us a long way in terms of having the Belize Defense Force providing the type of service that our people so rightly deserve.”

Also speaking at ceremony was the BDF’s Force Ad-

to provide continual overtime payments. As we witness this handing over, we must recall that one of our Prime Minister’s discussion points whilst in the United Kingdom recently was in relation to BATSUB’s continued training option in Belize. I could safely infer that our relationship with BATSUB and, by extension, the Government of the United Kingdom will continue to fructify.

This coveted donation could not have come at a better time, especially as we prepare

BDF Commander David Jones, who later commented to the local press that was present for the occasion, “This donation came about from an initial meeting I had with the British Government. There was a member for the Ministry of Defense who came to visit Belize, and after I took over in February, I had a meeting with him shortly after, and I told him that one of the critical areas where we lacked capacity was troop-lifting vehicles. I noted that BATSUB had a number of these four-ton trucks



Force Operations Officer, Major C. Roaches - Vote of Thanks

I didn’t know I would get so many, because initially they had said I would get six of them. I got the news actually last week that I am going to get a total of seventeen; so I am very, very grateful for them. It came at an opportune time because our deployment of soldiers was much more in numbers recently, along the border; and we didn’t have the vehicle capacity to do that. Now, with these vehicles, we can deploy up to an entire battalion strength; because in the past we haven’t been able to deploy up to a company with the trucks



Officer Commanding BATSUB, Major Shawn Cain, BDF Commander David Jones, H.E. Pat Ashworth and CEO Colonel George Lovell



Members of BATSUB and the BDF during the Handover Ceremony

jutant, Major T. Cal, who said, “Our logistical support bares most of the strains especially where it relates to troop carrying vehicles. Just the other day, I mentioned to my colleague that if the current few troop-carrying vehicles could express themselves, we would be forced

on the recruitment and training of our new soldiers. In closing, I will borrow the words of Rowan Garel, well known fund-raiser for BCVI: “No donation is too big or too small.”

Receiving the handsome and timely donation from the British High Commissioner was



Officers of the Belize Defence Force

here; they have scaled down, and they’re not being used, and we are in desperate need of these.

He agreed with the suggestion I made that the BDF should be able to get some of these trucks, and he had promised that I would get some.

that we have; and now we can deploy more than a company, up to an entire battalion, probably up to three hundred guys we can deploy easily now with this new addition that we have.”

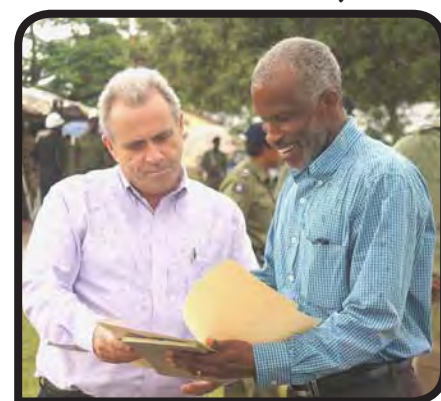
The Handover ceremony took place at the BDF Headquarters, Price Barracks, Ladyville.



The other Five (5) of the Seventeen (17) trucks handed over to the BDF



O. C, BATSUB Major Cain and BDF Commander David Jones



H.E. Pat Ashworth and CEO Lovell “comparing good notes”

“What Are We Doing About It? ... And What More Will We Do?”

(Remarks by Audrey Wallace, CEO in the Prime Minister's Office - Chiquibul Symposium)



Audrey Wallace, CEO in the
Office of the Prime Minister

We are all too familiar with the images that stream across our television sets on the evening news showing huge illegal clearings in our forests, highlighting time and again the on-going threats to our protected areas, especially those on our border with Guatemala. Today we are here to focus on the Chiquibul Forest, which comprises three of the most regularly violated protected areas. The organizers of this symposium want to raise the alarm, to increase awareness of the magnitude of the problem. This is a call to action to get more people, groups, organizations, businesses, NGOs, international bodies involved to solve this complex and persistent problem. This is a timely and very necessary initiative for which I applaud and thank the organizers.

The presentations so far this morning underscore the fact that the problem in the Chiquibul Forest is stark, glaring and growing. It is multi-faceted and, therefore, requires a multidimensional response. To address it adequately, we have to understand the various aspects of the problem.

We have seen and heard about the problems, today. Deforestation, illegal logging, illegal mining, poaching, looting, illegal xate extraction, drug smuggling, arms smuggling, human trafficking, contraband,

illegal immigration, soil erosion, contamination of our watersheds, and ultimately, our reef system. All of these are currently threatening the integrity of the Chiquibul.

This symposium is specifically about the Chiquibul, but the threats mentioned relate in varying degrees to all our border regions. To further complicate the situation, Guatemala, our neighbor to the west and south refuses to recognize our border as settled. The border dispute and what is happening in the Chiquibul are different but closely related problems. The border dispute is one that some fail to recognize or choose to ignore, but it is there and it cannot be resolved by simply wishing it away.

So the question is what are we doing about it, and what more will we do? The problem that we are discussing today is

“So the question is what are we doing about it, and what more will we do? The problem that we are discussing today is not a new one. It has manifested itself in different ways over time. And over time, we have developed practices and policies to address them with varying degrees of success.”

not a new one. It has manifested itself in different ways over time. And over time, we have developed practices and policies to address them with varying degrees of success.

A hundred years ago, it appeared that the problem had to do with concerns that the British Hondurans were expanding their logging activities into Guatemala. They would have been doing this illegally. The British maintained, of course, that their operations were within Belize.

A decade ago, the concern was not so much about illegal logging and gold mining as it is today. The big issues then were illegal settlements and illegal xate cultivation. Be-

tween 2000 and 2013, we have addressed the problem of illegal settlements. Remember the infamous Santa Rosa? That settlement was set up during the days when British troops were still here in the early 1990's. No one talks of Santa Rosa anymore, but it was only removed in 2008.

Without any fan-fare or fuss, the last of the illegal settlements were removed earlier this year, specifically from Retiro and Sapote.

Hearing the discussions of today, we can conclude that illegal settlements are no longer the most pressing issue. This does not mean that we do not remain vigilant. We still are. We are aware of people coming across every day and of camping sites that go up from time to time. We monitor them as best we can and we dismantle them as soon as we can. General Jones can speak more author-

itatively about this.

There is no doubt that the level of illegal activity in the area is increasing and, currently, the problem is manifested most visibly with deforestation and illegal cultivation. Over the last several years, local media houses have reported extensively about this, thanks in no small part to conservation groups like Ya'xche Conservation Trust and Friends for Conservation and Development (FCD) - front-line groups who do advocacy and research and who have publicized their findings and concerns at every turn. This symposium is another one of their efforts aimed at raising awareness, of which we are fully supportive.

I know there is a tenden-

cy out there to position these NGOs and Government as being at loggerheads with each other. Actually, we are partners. The Chiquibul National Park and the Colombia Forest Reserve are managed through joint partnership between these NGOs and Government. Sometimes we have differences and sometimes we disagree on how we should go about doing things, but we agree completely on the need to protect and conserve our natural resources and that we must do everything in our power to accomplish this. And we share the commitment to working with each other to get this done. That is partnership.

Our joint commitment is manifested in a number of ways. Over the last few years, we have increased our presence in the area by the placement of Conservation Posts. Since 2008, five have been established - Rio Blanco, Tapir Camp, Ceibo Chico, Santa Rosa and Machaquila, - and we intend to establish more. The idea behind the Conservation Posts, as opposed to the traditional Observation Posts, is that foremost among the priorities is the protection of our forests and natural resources from depredations. While Conservation Posts must by necessity have a BDF presence, collaboration with forestry and the co-managers, such as FCD, is an integral part of their existence.

How effective these conservation posts have been is yet to be clearly determined, and a thorough and honest analysis should be made with a view to improving their effectiveness. We must undertake such analysis and debate, however, in the context of the formidable task that is before them.

The problem in the Chiquibul stems from the phenomenon of endemic poverty and a growing population in the Peten. Added to this, is the growing problem of organized transnational criminal networks that are expanding their

Continued on Page 17

“What Are We Doing About It? ... And What More Will We Do?”

(Remarks by Audrey Wallace, CEO in the Prime Minister's Office - Chiquibul Symposium)

Continued from Page 16

activities throughout the region. Illegal logging and deforestation is a multi-billion dollar industry of global concern; the xate trade is a multi-million dollar business that has affected all the neighboring countries. The same can be said of illegal immigration, smuggling, and human trafficking.

The Peten has experienced a population explosion over the last twenty years. It is a province that has attracted people from other parts of Guatemala, mostly landless peasants, who are searching for space to make a living. Their practice of slash and burn destroys the forests and the soil so that they must keep moving in search of greener, more fertile lands. We have heard of the problem of land tenure in Guatemala. The majority of the land in the Peten is owned by absentee landlords, and most of the land is owned by very few. Protection of their forests and preservation of their natural resources have been huge challenges in Guatemala and many fear that, in Peten, it is a losing battle. A large part of the forest cover there has been lost. There is a real danger that they can lose it all, especially as the masses of people continue moving from southern and western Guatemala in a northerly and easterly direction.

Belize lies in their path. The Chiquibul is a fragile ecosystem that cannot sustain intense human activity. It is a natural asset that we are determined to protect. In fact, it is legislated that we must protect these areas; not because we are a nation of tree-huggers, but because the Chiquibul Forest sustains life, and it is the basis of our economic prosperity, both now and in the future. Among other things, it includes watersheds that together are the source of fresh water for thousands of Guatemalans and a third or more of Belize's population, courtesy of the Macal and Mopan rivers that converge to form the Belize River. If the for-

est is destroyed, the watershed is destroyed, the soil loosens up to cause erosion and floods, followed by a whole series of disasters that ultimately damage our coastal waters and our reef system. So we have to care, and actively seek solutions to the threats, even as they increase and change over time.

in filing a suit. For example, a person held for illegal logging requires the presence of a forest officer in court; one held for illegal gold panning requires the involvement of the Geology and Petroleum Department; a charge for illegal entry involves the Immigration Department.

But the problem will not

“So today, we are here because the people who work on the ground, the people who face tremendous challenges on the border on a daily basis, the people who sometimes risk their lives to protect our national interest, are sounding the alarm. I suspect they feel that the disturbing images streaming across our television screens during the evening news are still not enough to wake us all up. I agree. So let us build on this call to action, together, expanding the already strong partnerships. The Government is committed.”

Policing the length of our border with Guatemala, a total of 174 miles, over sometimes very difficult terrain, presents its own challenges. It requires coordination and collaboration among various institutions, including BDF, Police, Forestry, Immigration and FCD. Detention and processing through the courts is another challenge in itself and requires a level of commitment and collaboration that has to be above average to be successful and effective. The court system is bogged down and slow, and conviction rates are low, partly because of the need for inter-agency presence

be addressed merely by putting more boots on the ground. There are already a number of ideas that have been floating and Government is intent in exploring them. We must take a holistic and integrated approach to this. It will involve promoting sustainable livelihoods, not just in Belize, but in Guatemala too, especially in those located near the border. People, on both sides of the border, must be able to make a living without destroying Nature.

Our protected areas are large carbon sinks and are valuable not just to Belize, but to the earth as a whole. We had

resolved for some time now that we would have to internationalize the nature of the problem. We must let the World know that we are doing everything we can to protect these natural assets; but that in the face of sustained and increasing threats, we cannot do it alone. We must raise international awareness. To this end, we have held discussions with the British, with the Guatemalans, and with the OAS. We expect that an international conference to raise global awareness will be held in London later this year. Aside from raising awareness, we intend to mobilize resources. We need to build on the existing plans. The long-term plan cannot be constrained by the limited resources of the Country. We have to be bold and innovative in our thinking; we have to involve all the stakeholders.

So today, we are here because the people who work on the ground, the people who face tremendous challenges on the border on a daily basis, the people who sometimes risk their lives to protect our national interest, are sounding the alarm. I suspect they feel that the disturbing images streaming across our television screens during the evening news are still not enough to wake us all up. I agree. So let us build on this call to action, together, expanding the already strong partnerships. The Government is committed.

Thank you.



A packed hall at the Radisson Fort George Hotel for the Chiquibul Symposium

Annual BDF Volunteer Battle Camp

Camp Belizario - Central Farm - July 12 - 23, 2013



Annual BDF Volunteer Battle Camp

Camp Belizario - Central Farm - July 12 - 23, 2013



Do The Right Thing!

Top Ten Awards by Ministry of National Security



Second Place, Monica McKoy
Independence High School, Stann Creek

It was held almost three weeks ago, but congratulations are in order still to the young people who were recognized by the Ministry of National Security and Police Department in the "Do Di Rait Ting" National Awards.

The 8th Annual Award Ceremony was held on July 5, 2013 at the Princess Hotel and

tion, Youth and Sports awarded the 1st Place winner, Dexter Hernandez of Independence High School, a full scholarship to pursue an Associates Degree at UB or some other Junior College. His prizes included a laptop computer from Belize Telemedia and a \$500



Third Place: Gilbert Zetina
St. Ignatius High School, San Ignacio, Cayo

3rd prize, receiving a full tuition scholarship (including registration) from Sacred Heart College, and \$500 cash from an anonymous donor.

Yvon Noralez of the Caye Caulker Ocean Academy won



Fourth Place Yvon Noralez
Caye Caulker Ocean Academy

High School's Hammon Lemoth and Rubi Mayen won 8th and 10th places respectively. Lemoth received \$400 cash from First Caribbean Bank, while Mayen got \$300 cash from First Caribbean Bank.

And, Caye Caulker Ocean Academy's Whitley Aguilar won the 9th prize, receiving \$300 cash from First Caribbean Bank.



Fifth Place: Amber Williams
Independence High School, Stann Creek

Casino in Belize City. The merit program awards at-risk youth who make the effort to live a righteous life, saying NO to drugs, theft and crime; and choosing to "do the right thing".

In presenting the awards, National Security CEO Colonel George Lovell and Police Commissioner Allan Whyllie were joined by Mrs. Garcia of Crimes Stoppers Belize and representatives of other corporate sponsors.

The Ministry of Educa-

cash prize from the Belize Social Security Board.

Second Prize winner Monica McKoy, also of Independence High School, won a laptop computer sponsored by the DFC, an MP3 player offered by COURTS Belize Ltd; and \$1,000 cash from Atlantic Bank.

Cayo's Gilbert Zetina of St. Ignatius High school won



First Place, Dexter Hernandez
Independence High School

er from Fulltec Systems and \$500 cash from an anonymous donor. Fifth Place winner Amber Williams and 6th place winner Shaquille Palacio, both of Independence High, and 7th place winner Adrian Flores of the Agriculture and Natural Resource Institute (ANRI), each received \$500 cash prizes from First Caribbean Bank. Belmopan Baptist



Sixth Place: Shaquille Palacio
Independence High School, Stann Creek

Recognition was also given to the past winners: 2006 - Ramona Garcia, Independence High; 2007 - Erick Moriera, Julian Cho High, Toledo; 2008 - Britney Vernon, Delille Academy, Dangriga; 2009 - Jesucita Castellanos, Mt. Carmel High, Benque Viejo; 2010 - Tracy Donis, Eden 7th Day Adventist High School, Santa Elena; 2011 - Keenan Moguel, Independence High; and 2012 - Kent Gabb, Gwen Lizarraga High school, Belize City.



Seventh Place: Adrian Flores
ANRI, Stann Creek District



Eighth Place: Hammon Lemoth
Belmopan Baptist High School



Ninth Place: Whitley Aguilar
Caye Caulker Ocean Academy



Tenth Place: Rubi Mayen
Belmopan Baptist High School

CDB's Basic Needs Trust Fund invests \$19.1 Million for poverty alleviation in Belize

From north to south and east to west of Belize, the Social Investment Fund (S.I.F.) and the Caribbean Development Bank's (C.D.B.) Basic Needs Trust Fund (B.N.T.F) continue to implement projects aimed at addressing the basic needs of poor Belizeans. The Government of Belize also provides counterpart funding for projects implemented under the BNTF.

The BNTF Program is a regional grant program financed by the C.D.B. for poverty reduction infrastructure and livelihood enhancement services. The program has disbursed over \$189 million U.S. dollars throughout the region. Ten countries, including Belize, benefit from the current, sixth cycle of funding known as BNTF6. In Belize, the BNTF6 is expected to be completed by the end of this year with 22 projects valued at \$6.6 million dollars. The program continues to contribute to the national development of Belize through the provision of social infrastructure, including resource centres, schools, health clinics and access to water, sanitation, drainage and roads.

Since January of this year, S.I.F. completed 9 major projects valued at \$4.6 million dollars under the BNTF while many other projects financed under the SIF 2 loan are nearing completion.

In the area of water and sanitation, water systems have been upgraded in Bella Vista in the Toledo District and Young Bank Village in the Cayo District. Under this sector, a new water tank and pump house is under construction in Santa Familia Village in the western part of Belize. Meanwhile water expansion is underway in St Mathews and Franks Eddy and Corozalito in the Cayo District. The water system for Corozalito, a small community in the outskirts of Succotz Village also in the Cayo District, should become operational in the coming weeks. The water supply is also being expanded in Chan Pine Ridge village in the Orange Walk District. The plan is to connect the village to BWSL's main distribution network in Orange Walk Town.



New Santa Familia Village 20,000 gallon tank under construction.

In the area of Education, a new building was completed at St Edmund Campanion RC School in Teakettle village the Cayo District. Further south, the school was rehabilitated and expanded in Silk Grass Village in the Stann Creek District. In addition, a new building is currently under construction at All Saints Primary school in Belize City, and a new eight class room building is nearing completion at the Orange Walk Technical High School in the northern part of the country.



Renovated Silkgrass Methodist School, Stann Creek Dist.

In the area of Economic Infrastructure, the third phase of a \$3.0 million drainage project in Trial Farm Village was completed. This project has brought an enormous peace of mind to the residents of Trial Farm since prior to the project they had to constantly evacuate their homes as a result of flooding during the rainy season. A similar project drainage project is also underway in the Buttonwood Bay area of Belize City. Buttonwood Bay is a relatively new area



From top to bottom: Drainage project under construction in Buttonwood Bay. Residents of Golden Haven enjoy the comfort of their new home. BNTF scholarship receipts enrolled at Y.E.S.

located near the second roundabout in Belize City. The project area has a high demand for proper drainage since it is below sea level and is subject to flooding during the rainy or hurricane season.

In the area of Social Services, new multipurpose centres were completed in San Jose and Guinea Grass villages in the Orange Walk District while the residents of the Golden Haven Home of the Elderly in Hattieville Village now enjoy the comfort of their new home. A new mental health day care centre was also completed in Belize City.

In the area of skills training, 10 students of low income families are completing their education at the Youth Enhancement Services in Ladyville while other students are pursuing a vocational career in various vocational institutions throughout Belize.

As the BNTF 6 project steams full speed ahead towards completion, the BNTF 7 has already been launched. Under this program \$12.5 million dollars will be available for projects in the areas of Education, Water and Sanitation and Road Access and drainage. This figure represents an increase of 74% in CDB funding under BNTF for Belize. This means more funds for the poor areas of the country, with the poorest areas receiving the most attention. Implementation of projects under BNTF7 will start by the end of this year. All these projects represent the Government's and the Social Investment Fund's strong commitment to alleviate poverty in Belize with the assistance of our development partners such as the Caribbean Development Bank.

Miley Garcia Softball

Camalote Leads - Still Undefeated



Shadine Salazar scores for Camalote United

Undefeated Camalote United continues to lead the Ismael "Miley" Garcia Female Softball Competition in the Cayo District. Intermittent rain from a passing tropical depression did not stop Camalote, Roaring Creek, Grace Kennedy and the Ontario Rebels from en-

er, Dana Mae King, who also walked 6 batters, as Nadina Coye, Frances Coye, Shadine Salazar and Bridgett Fuller scored in the 1st inning. Nadina scored again in the 2nd and

giving up only 2 hits as she led her team to a 17-8 win over the Esperanza Wolverines. Her teammates got 12 hits off the Wolverines' pitcher Shareenie Soberanis, who also walked



Francine Salazar - Pitcher for Camalote United

3rd innings. Frances, Francine and Sherlet Gamboa scored in the 3rd.

Felicia Gillett scored Belmopan's only run in the bottom of the 5th. Camalote had left 8 runners on base, while Belmopan left 4 runners on base.

Roaring Creek Grace Kennedy pitcher Leyandra Guy struck out 5 batters, walked 8,

9 batters. Grace Kennedy's Tanya Davis, Karlee Bradley, Greta Davis, Myralee Ho and Shamicka Anderson scored in the top of the 1st inning, while only Wolverines' Shamera Wade and Felicia Perez scored in the 1st.

Tanya, Stephanie Francis, Anderson and Joyce Galvez scored in the 3rd inning. Wolverines' Perez, Patricia



Bridgett Fuller Camolote United

Spain and Melinda Blancheaux scored in the bottom of the 3rd, and Spain and Perez scored again in the 4th, but the game was called by mercy rule when Tanya Bradley, Greta, Shadalee Ho, Anderson, Galvez and Lisandra Guy scored again in the top of the 5th. Grace Kennedy made only 2 errors but left 9 runners on base. The Wolverines had



Felicia Gillett scored the only run for Capital City Emeralds

joying big wins in Las Flores on Sunday, July 14.

Belmopan got only 3 hits off Camalote's pitcher Francine Salazar, who struck out 4 batters and walked 2, allowing no runs in the first 4 innings of Camalote United's 9-1 win over the Belmopan Capital City Emeralds.

The Camalote ladies got 11 hits off Belmopan's pitch-



Arlenie Pastrana bats in a run for Las Flores Shooting Stars



Sharine Reyes of Ontario Rebels, safe on Second Base

made 7 errors, and left 5 runners on base.

The Ontario Rebels had to go the full 7 innings for a 13-6 win over the Las Flores Shooting Stars, who collected 9 hits off Ontario's pitcher Indira Ireland. Ireland struck out 6 batters and walked 3. Ontario's Sharine Reyes, Lynn Perez, Indira Ireland, Jean Gabourel,

Continued on Page 23

Miley Garcia Softball

Camalote Leads - Still Undefeated

Continued from Page 22

Rhona Ireland, Vanessa Perez and Loren Henry scored in the 1st inning; while only the Stars' Arlenie Pastrana scored in

on base in the 5th inning and pinch runner Delmi Hernandez scored the run. The Stars, however, left seven runners on base. Arthurs, Gabourel and Henry scored in the 6th inning



Rhonda Ireland scores for Ontario Rebels



Indira Ireland, Pitcher for Ontario Rebels



Sharine Reyes scores for Ontario Rebels



Lynn Perez scores for Ontario Rebels

the 1st. The Rebels collected 17 hits off the Stars' pitcher Guadalupe Chicas, but the Stars only trailed 5-7 when Chicas, Regina Sho, Luz Franco, and Marilu Hernandez scored in the 3rd inning. Ireland and Gayle Arthurs scored in the 4th inning to lead 9-5, but the Stars' Antonia Cawich got

for the 13-6 win. The Rebels left 9 runners on base.

The Capital City Emeralds take on the Las Flores Shooting Stars, and the Ontario Rebels face Roaring Creek Grace Kennedy when competition continues in the village of Blackman Eddy on Sunday, July 21, 2013. More next week!



Gayle Arthurs Ontario Rebels



Luz Franco scores for Las Flores Shooting Stars



Guadalupe Chicas, Pitches for Las Flores Shooting Stars



Arlenie Pastrana scores for Las Flores Shooting Stars



Guadalupe Chicas scores for Las Flores Shooting Stars

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