



Capital Weekly

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



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Full Report on visit by US SOUTHCOM Commander - General John F. Kelly

GOB Supports Mega-Project By Belizeans Businessman

The Government of Belize supports, in principle, the Mega-Million Dollar Project unveiled this past week by Belizean Developer Mike Feinstein to build a docking facility at Stake Bank just off the coast of Belize City.

That's what Hon. John Saldivar, who was Acting Prime Minister at the time, told reporters on Thursday, one day following the announcement by Feinstein and his group. The project, Feinstein says, entails an immediate investment of over \$100 Million and will create thousands of jobs.

"We certainly welcome the concept, we welcome the investors that are trying to put this project off the ground, but as with everything else - they need to go by the rules and they have to do their EIA's, and



What the Proposed Stake Bank Project will look like when completed

once they pass through the various processes - then it's a go," Saldivar told reporters.

He further explained, "As far as I'm aware - Cabinet is in support of the Stake Bank Project - not in its entirety, there are aspects of it in which we have some problems - we have

to look at the two causeways that they're looking to build. I believe Cabinet is comfortable with at least one of them - the one that connects to Belize City, but all of those things are up for discussion; I believe that the investor is currently in discussion with the technical people."

Hon Saldivar's position was corroborated and further expounded on by Hon. Godwin Hulse, who heads a Cabinet Sub-Committee appointed to consider such proposals: "When a project comes to Government, they say, okay in concept, this is good. Feinstein's project has that. Then we look at all the aspects, it has to meet these criteria. They're saying the environmental aspects look good; now we are finalizing the economic aspects to see how good that looks; within the parameters as I said. That is still to be finalized; there are bits and pieces of information outstanding there. When we get that and that looks good, then we are pretty good."

The Stake Bank Project was officially launched at a Press Conference at the Biltmore Plaza Hotel in Belize City this past Wednesday, September 4, 2013.

Belmopan Wins Atlantic Bank Female Football



Story on Page 22

The New Champions, Belmopan's Triple B's Female Football Club

Celebrating 215th Anniversary of Battle of St. George's Caye

Tuesday, September 10 marks the 215th Anniversary of the Battle of St. George's Caye.

One of the most central elements of the celebration is the crowning of the Queen of the Bay, which takes place during the Official Battle of St. George's Caye Day Ceremonies, traditionally held at the Memorial Park in the Old Capital, Belize City.

This year's Queen of the Bay is Toledo's Jahrine Avila,

Continued on Page 2



Queen of the Bay, Jahrine Avila

From the Desk of the Chairman

A Good Time to be Belizean



Delroy Cuthkelvin
Chairman, Editorial Board

The National September Celebrations are here! The Tenth is right upon us, and Independence is just around the corner.

No matter what our personal situation, every warm-blooded Belizean this time of the year is somehow infected by the patriotism and festiveness that fills the air.

This year, as we commemorate our nationhood, our sovereignty and our right to self-determination, the celebrations somehow seem to take on a bit more meaning than they ordinarily do.

Indeed, there are some tangible and timely, if not overdue, developments newly unfolding, which are worth quite a celebration, as they truly serve to reinforce and consummate the Independence we nominally attained over three decades ago.

The National Bank, inaugurated one day after

the official launch of this year's National September Celebrations, is certainly one such development.

The fact that we continue to regain control over our valuable national assets is also good reason to celebrate, even more so that our courage and righteous determination is now being unambiguously vindicated by our highest regional courts.

Belizean innovation and creativity, in every field and on every front, is blossoming like never before, as our business people and entrepreneurs unveil bold and ambitious projects; as our musicians and cultural ambassadors hit the grandest regional and international stage, dazzling and captivating huge audiences; as our young athletes defend our national pride, gaining respect and recognition abroad.

Yes, Crime and Violence is still a major challenge, but we are certainly now beginning to see some much yearned for light at the end of the tunnel.

True, as Lord Rhaburn proclaimed, "If yuh born deh yuh born deh; tell them that yuh born deh."

And, as one of our most seasoned local sports commentators is fond of putting it, "Win, lose or draw, I'm a Belizean, and I know you are too."

Well, this is, indeed, a particularly good time to be Belizean. Celebrate, Belize!

Celebrating 215th Anniversary of Battle of St. George's Caye



Belmopan's Queen of the Bay, Mikayla Banner, won the Talent Segment and was Second Runner Up in the Overall Contest

Continued from Page 1

who won the 68th Queen of the Bay Pageant at the Bliss Institute for the Performing Arts in Belize City on Friday night, August 30.

Miss Stann Creek Verinicia Vernon won 1st runner-up, while second runner up was Miss Belmopan, Mikayla Venise Banner, who also won the talent section that took place two weeks earlier.

Mikayla Banner won \$1,000 from the Barrow & Co. Law Firm, a gift basket from Southside Meats, a SMART phone, and a \$250 prize from the Belize Social Security Board. All 5 finalists also received a gift package from Travellers Liquors Ltd.

Jahrine Avila won Miss Eloquence and won the judges' favor for her formal gown design, her march on stage to patriotic September tunes, and her curtsy before the reigning Queen Yadira Yvette Argueta.

Other finalists were Miss Black Orchid Winter Nerrie Lizette Haulze, who also won Miss Amity and Miss Photogenic; and Miss Barrier Reef Shamira Imani Leal. Miss Belize City Andreaa Meighan and Miss Caribbean Sea Kinemah Barrow were not among the finalists.

She won the coronation dress from Creations Bea, a full University of Belize scholarship from The Ministry of Education, \$1,000 cash from the Prime Minister Hon. Dean Barrow, a tablet computer from FulTec systems, a Telemedia

Digicell phone, a gift basket from Grace Kennedy Belize Ltd., a pearl necklace, a beauty treatment by Mapye, a \$500 cash prize from the Belize Social Security Board, and gifts from the Executive Director of the Women's Commission Ann-Marie Williams and from former Miss Teen Belize Azizi Hoy.

Verinicia Vernon also won a \$1,000 cash prize from Simon Quan & Co. Ltd., a 45 piece dinner set from Hofius Ltd., a gift package from Roses paper products, a SMART phone, a gift basket from the San Cas Group of companies and a \$250 prize from the Belize Social Security Board.

Capital Weekly

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

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Opening of September Celebrations

Sunday September 1, 2013, St. George's Caye

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By Zelda Hill

Faith Lift

When Culture and Carnality Converge

The Caribbean Carnival is a celebration of freedom from the evil that was Slavery, freedom fought for by men of faith and integrity who were instruments of a righteous God.

The word *Carnival* originated from the Latin expression *carne vale*, which means “farewell to meat” and the celebration took place just before the fasting of Lent when one could not eat meat. The festival was adopted

the Church should never allow Satan to continue his reign as the king of Carnival in Belize. And since there is the risk of deceiving the younger generation into redefining culture as immodesty and revelry, the time to vacate the pulpit and the pews to join the Carnival celebration is of utmost urgency.

The Church needs a radical understanding of its mandate to be the “salt” and

tians are also smart, creative, artistic and jubilant, while our message is inspiring, uplifting and healing; not discouraging and degrading. Moreover, how will our children learn that the celebration of culture can also be fun, respectful and decent if Christians do not actively participate in the festivities?

When culture and carnality converge, as moral agents the Church must work to redeem and restore the original meaning and purpose of Carnival. We cannot celebrate freedom and then be bounded by chains of decadence, sexual perversion and lewdness in our expressions of that freedom.

When we celebrate within the boundaries of decency, self-control, and order, it is then that we show real appreciation for the sacrifice of those who fought for the freedoms we enjoy. A few Christian organizations have already realized the importance of impacting our nation through active participation in the Carnival and more should engage in the mass bands, the floats, the artistic designs, the music, and in all areas of entertainment.

Our faith, knowledge, gifts and abilities can combine to redeem another event that Satan through his deceit has exchanged for evil, darkness and bitter (Isaiah 5:20). Withdrawing from areas deemed as evil territory is never an option.

Our Christian faith and values should reflect in every area of our Belizean experience, including our culture, especially at Carnival time.

On the exterior we see sparkling images of Belizean flora and fauna, jubilant faces and bodies of all shades of brown, accentuated by colourful clothing and glittering paint, swaying and vibrating in the sweltering heat to the pulsating rhythm of cultural music.

For a while we forget our dividing socio-economic and political differences and unite to celebrate our natural heritage and cultural diversity. However, a closer look at our Belizean Carnival will reveal much more than culture.

The clothing, if you call it that, seems inadequate and attracts lustful stares and arousals, the male dancers seem to prefer effeminate outfits and moves and the dances are sexually suggestive and perverted. Even the movement of our young children illustrate that their innocent minds have been corrupted as they give adult onlookers “bedroom” lessons, while their intoxicated mothers cheer them on with pride.

And the explosive sounds accompanied by indecent lyrics reinforce a general atmosphere of intemperance, rebellion and disregard for order. In seasons of festivity when culture and carnality converge, what should be the Church’s response?

There are some who desire the Church to be mere highway observers of the speed at which morality is plunging in Belize. But if the Church neglects its duty to contribute in shaping culture, the true purpose of Carnival will be masqueraded and distorted even more.

“The clothing, if you call it that, seems inadequate and attracts lustful stares and arousals. The male dancers seem to prefer effeminate outfits and moves, and the dances are sexually suggestive and perverted. Even the movement of our young children illustrate that their innocent minds have been corrupted as they give adult onlookers “bedroom” lessons, while their intoxicated mothers cheer them on with pride. And the explosive sounds accompanied by indecent lyrics reinforce a general atmosphere of intemperance, rebellion and disregard for order. In seasons of festivity when culture and carnality converge, what should be the Church’s response?”

from ancient Egypt by the Roman Catholic Church in Europe then transported to the Caribbean by European slave traders. Since it was only celebrated by the affluent Europeans, on emancipation the freed Africans transformed the festival as a celebration of the end of slavery.

Eventually, *carne vale* came to mean “a farewell to the flesh”, in which we see participants let go of discretion and decency to embrace untamed passions. To many it appears more like an indulgence in the “flesh”, which is the sinful nature of man that idolizes revelry, selfish desires and the abandonment of self restraint.

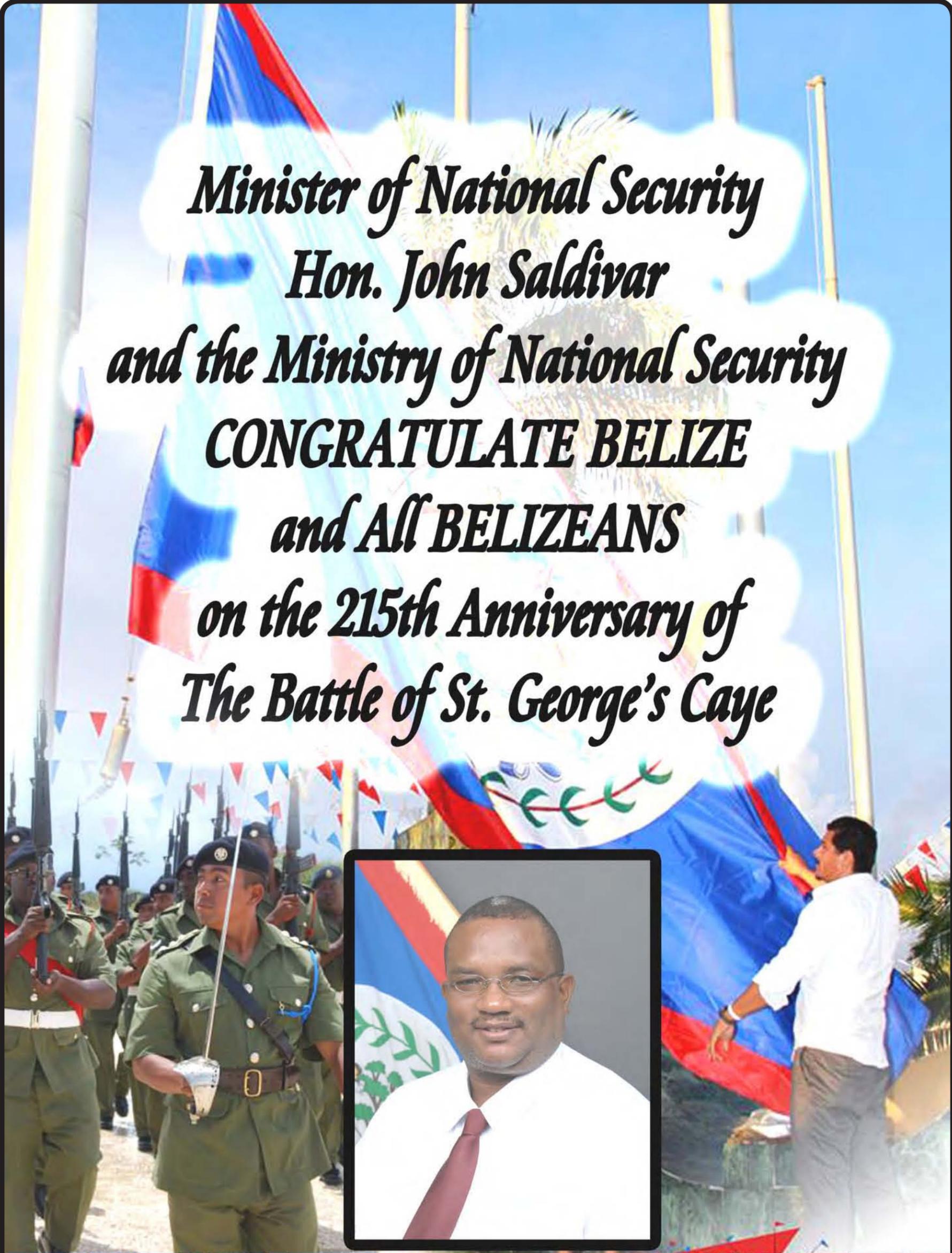
While it would be so much easier for the Church to denounce Carnival and warn its flock to abstain from participating or even observing its activities from the sidelines, as the gatekeepers of morality

the “light” of the world (Matthew 5:13-14). The Scriptures abound with other dynamic metaphors of the role of God’s people in the society, not just moderately influencing but by being strategic and aggressive in its redemptive role. If our God is a God of war and we are His army, as an army of locusts does (Joel 2:9) He commands us to “rush into the city and run up the wall” in order to “possess the land” (Deut. 16:20).

We possess by participating as we reflect and demonstrate our symbols of faith and moral virtues. Chris-

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*Minister of National Security
Hon. John Saldivar
and the Ministry of National Security
CONGRATULATE BELIZE
and All BELIZEANS
on the 215th Anniversary of
The Battle of St. George's Caye*



Belize - United States Partnership Reaffirmed

New SOUTHCOM Commander Visits Belmopan

The welcome could not have been any warmer than it was last Thursday when General John F. Kelly, the new head of the U.S. Southern Command touched down in Belmopan. It was the first ever visit to Belize for the seasoned and decorated General who is now responsible for all operations of the US Army from below Mexico all the way down to the tip of South America.

The General's visit started the day before, Wednesday September 4 and took him along the Country's borderline waters by helicopter, in addition to important



General John F. Kelly at Thursday's Press Conference

report by its special assignment reporter, Mike Rudon, "The U.S. Southern Command has been a very friendly partner in Belizean development – in areas ranging from medical care and infrastructure assistance to training and the donation of military expertise and equipment, very often on a large scale.

Perhaps SOUTHCOM is best known by the general public for its New Horizons initiatives which have touched many lives across the country. But it does much more than that. And that's why the Commander of the US Southern Command, General John F. Kelly was greeted with much affection and fanfare on this, his first visit to Belize."

Continued on Page 9



The Helicopter that brought General Kelly to Belmopan

stops at the BDF Headquarters at Price Barracks, Ladyville, one of the Belize Coast-guard's Forward Operating Base in the Cayes, and Fairweather Camp in the South.

General Kelly arrived in Belmopan on Thursday afternoon around 1:00, and after a short meeting with Minister of National Security. Hon John Saldivar and top officials at the Ministry and commanders of Belize's se-

curity forces, he was escorted by CEO George Lovell to a Press conference at the National Police Training Academy in the Nation's Capital.

In his remarks welcoming the General to Belize, Minister Saldivar commented, "For those of you that don't know, General Kelly is in charge of all operations and initiatives by the United States Military from below Mexico all the way down

to the tip of South America. Incidentally, or maybe not so incidentally, General, I would like to point out that Belize is, geographically speaking, the first nation south of Mex-



CEO George Lovell walks General Kelly to the Ministry of National Security Building, with US Charge D' Affairs Margaret Hawthorne



Member of Belize's Security Forces Saluting General Kelly



General John Kelly and Hon. John Saldivar in the Conference Room at the Ministry of National Security Headquarters

ico; and I would like to think that we are also first in line for assistance and joint-initiatives under your command."

As noted in Channel Five's Evening newscast in a

Commenting on the track-record of the United States Southern Command and its assistance and support, Hon. Saldivar said, "The longstanding partnership

Belize - United States Partnership Reaffirmed

New SOUTHCOM Commander Visits Belmopan

Continued from Page 8

and cooperative relationship that the United States Government and the Government of Belize share is one of mutual respect and benefit.”

For his part, General Kelly emphasized the fact that the relationship is one that is based on mutual respect.

“I’m here as a partner; I’m not here as a senior partner; I’m here as a partner.

The United States extends the hand of partnership all over this part of the world. What do we plan to do here in Belize in the future and the scope of operation? First of all, whatever Belize wants.”

Commenting specifically on the partnership with respect to fighting organized crime, General Kelly stated,



Belize's Minister of National Security Hon. John Saldivar delivering his Welcoming Remarks to General John Kelly

supports that. So any country, regardless of what their political system is, that wants to work with the United States against these terrible cancers, then they're partners of ours.



Alfonso Noble, Editor of the UDP's Guardian Newspaper



Jules Vasquez, Editor of Channel Seven News



General Kelly answering questions from the Belizean Media

es here, for the government to continue this great track-record of decreasing crime.”

And, it was on that very note that Minister Saldivar closed his remarks welcoming the General to Belize:

“This is as fitting an occasion as any to acknowledge how instrumental the United States, through its Southern Command and its Embassy here in Belize, have been in assisting and supporting our

filling our role in this fruitful and essential partnership as we endeavor to make our country, this region and the world safer and more secure.

In my Ministry and my Government you and your government can rest assured that you have an everlasting partner and ally.

Welcome to Belize, thanks for coming, and may this friendship and partnership never end.”



General John Kelly sharing a few laughs with Channel Seven Journalist Jules Vasquez just prior to the Press Conference

“There is no country that I know of on Earth that supports things like Human Trafficking, trafficking in young women for sex purposes, drugs. No country I know of

If this country, for example, becomes difficult to move (illicit) products through, it will go around this Country; so the best thing, my suggestion would be for the security forc-



General Kelly conversing with Belize Coastguard Commander, Rear Admiral Borland and Police Deputy Commissioner Aragon

Remarks by Hon. John Saldivar

Welcoming General John F. Kelly to Belize

Miss Margaret Hawthorne, Chargé d'Affaires, US Embassy, Belize; General John F. Kelly, Commander, US Southern Command; Lieutenant Colonel Ricardo Gonzalez, US Military Liaison Officer, Belize; Colonel (ret.) George Lovell, CEO, Ministry of National Security; General David Jones, Commander, Belize Defence Force; Rear Admiral John Borland, Commandant, Belize Coast Guard; Mr. Allen Whylic, Commissioner, Belize Police Department; Members of the various security forces present; Other distinguished guests; Members of the Media; Ladies and Gentlemen:

Good afternoon. It gives me great pleasure to welcome to Belize for his first visit ever, General John F. Kelly, Commander of the US Southern Command.

For those of you that don't know, General Kelly is in charge of all operations and initiatives by the United States Military from below Mexico all the way down to the tip of South America.

Incidentally, or maybe not so incidentally, General, I would like to point out that Belize is, geographically speaking, the first nation south of Mexico; and I would like to think that we are also first in line for assistance and joint-initiatives under your command.

The longstanding partnership and cooperative relationship that the United States Government and the Government of Belize share is one of mutual respect and benefit. This partnership, to a great extent has been made possible through the stewardship of the US Ambassador here in Belize and his staff at the US Embassy.

I would like to particularly thank Ambassador Vinai Thummalapally, who over the past few years has been very keen in addressing both the United States and Belize's interests in our fight against organized crime in our country. I must also thank the US Military Liaison Officer until quite re-



Belize's Minister of National Security Hon. John Saldivar delivering his Welcoming Remarks to General John Kelly

cently, lieutenant Colonel Darren Lynn who, like Vinai, was instrumental in coordinating and expanding the US Department of Defence's programs and our BDF and Coast Guard's development programs.

I am confident that the current Chargé d'Affaires, Miss Margaret Hawthorne, whose presence I also acknowledge, will ensure that these initiatives remain intact.

Let me also take this opportunity to welcome Lieutenant Colonel Ricardo Gonzalez, who is also with us this afternoon, and whom I am confident will continue to effectively co-ordinate and expand our programs with equal vigour to that of his predecessor.

Time will certainly not permit me to mention all the mutually beneficial programs and initiatives that have derived from this valued partnership. Let me highlight just a few of them.

Quite recently, we saw the construction of a Forward Operating Base (FOB) for the Belize Coastguard at Calabash Caye; and construction work is underway for similar Forward Operating Bases in San Pedro, Ambergris Caye and Hunting Caye. Plans are in place for the construction of yet another FOB in the Big Creek Area; and we are also looking, as part of

our future enhancement of our Coastguards operational capability, the construction of a Forward Operating Base at the Four Mile Lagoon in the North of the Country in Corozal.

Other Coast Guard programs that are ongoing include the US Navy Seals' Selection Course for which graduation ceremonies are scheduled for 25th of this Month.

The BDF equally sees a number of programs and initiatives that are designed to strengthen our human resource and equipment capabilities. US Marine Forces South Reverine Training Team is presently conducting training with the BDF in the Punta Gorda area and is expected to be there up until the 14th of this Month. Elements of that same unit are also conducting intelligence training for members of our various security forces.

Recently, the BDF acquired seven military vehicles, known as the J8's; and my understanding is that two Reverine Metal Shark vessels will very shortly be added to the BDF fleet.

The US Southern Command recently completed construction of the Joint Operations Centre building at Price Barracks which will no doubt strengthen our security forces' inter-agency efforts.

The New Horizon 2013 Exercise that occurred earlier in the year was a huge success, and our understanding is that there are already plans for New Horizon 2014 to take place in the April-June period of the upcoming year. It is my hope to have some of the projects for New Horizon 2014 executed right here in my Belmopan Constituency.

I was told that plans are in place for exercise Fused Response, which is an exercise with US Special Operations Command South, to take place in Belize in 2014. And, Joint Task Force Bravo (JTF Bravo) is partnering with our security forces in our anti-narcotic efforts.

As I said earlier, those are only a few of the many programs and initiatives that the longstanding, ever strengthening partnership between our two governments has produced and continues to produce.

This is as fitting an occasion as any to acknowledge how instrumental the United States, through its Southern Command and its Embassy here in Belize, have been in assisting and supporting our efforts to effectively fight organized crime.

I am happy to report that our homicide rate to date for this year is the lowest we have seen in recent years, and I am optimistic that this success will continue for the rest of the year, and beyond.

Your presence here today, General Kelly, is a compelling reaffirmation of the continuing commitment by your Government in this regard. And, I want to use this opportunity to likewise reiterate my Ministry and Government's unwavering commitment to continue fulfilling our role in this fruitful and essential partnership as we endeavour to make our country, this region and the world safer and more secure.

In my Ministry and my Government you and your government can rest assured that you have an everlasting partner and ally. Welcome to Belize, General Kelly; thanks for coming; and may this friendship and partnership never end.

Biography of General John F. Kelly

Commander of United States Southern Command

General Kelly was born and raised in Boston, MA. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1970, and was discharged as a sergeant in 1972, after serving in an infantry company with the 2nd Marine Division, Camp Lejeune, NC.

Following graduation from the University of Massachusetts in 1976, he was commissioned and returned to the 2nd Marine Division where he served as a rifle and weapons platoon commander, company executive officer, assistant operations officer, and infantry company commander. Sea duty in Mayport, FL, followed, at which time he served aboard aircraft carriers USS Forrestal and USS Independence.

In 1980, then Captain Kelly transferred to the U.S. Army's Infantry Officer Advanced Course in Fort Benning, GA. After graduation, he was assigned to Headquarters Marine Corps, Washington, DC, serving there from 1981 through 1984, as an assignment monitor.

Captain Kelly returned to the 2nd Marine Division in 1984, to command a rifle and weapons company. Promoted to the rank of Major in 1987, he served as the battalion's operations officer.

In 1987, Major Kelly transferred to the Basic School, Quantico, VA, serving first as the head of the Offensive Tactics Sec-



General John F. Kelly, Commander, US Southern Command

tion, Tactics Group, and later assuming the duties of the Director of the Infantry Officer Course. After three years of instructing young officers, he attended the Marine Corps Command and Staff College, and the School for Advanced Warfare, both located at Quantico.

Completing duty under instruction and selected for Lieutenant Colonel, he was assigned as Commanding Officer, 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, CA.

Holding this command position for two years, Lieutenant Colonel Kelly returned to the East Coast in 1994, to attend the National War College in Washington,

DC. He graduated in 1995, and was selected to serve as the Commandant's Liaison Officer to the U.S. House of Representatives, Capitol Hill, where he was promoted to the rank of Colonel.

In 1999, Colonel Kelly transferred to joint duty and served as the Special Assistant to the Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, in Mons, Belgium. He returned to the United States in 2001, and was assigned to a third tour of duty at Camp Lejeune, now as the Assistant

Chief of Staff G-3 with the 2nd Marine Division.

In 2002, selected to the rank of Brigadier General, Colonel Kelly again served with the 1st Marine Division, this time as the Assistant Division Commander. Much of Brigadier General Kelly's two-year assignment was spent deployed in Iraq.

He then returned to Headquarters Marine Corps as the Legislative Assistant to the Commandant from 2004 to 2007. Promoted to major general, he returned to Camp Pendleton as the Commanding General, I Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward).

The command deployed to Iraq in early 2008 for a year-long mission, replacing II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward) as Multinational Force-West in Al Anbar and western Ninewa provinces.

LtGen Kelly commanded Marine Forces Reserve and Marine Forces North from October 2009 to March 2011.

General Kelly comes to United States Southern Command from his previous position as the Senior Military Assistant to the Secretary of Defense from March 2011 to October 2012.

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GREAT Documentary Launched by Police Department: *Gang Resistance Education And Training*



Senior Superintendent of Police Louise Willis

This past Thursday, September 5, 2013 in Belize City, the Police Department launched a historic documentary which chronicles the success of a joint initiative in which that department is the lead agency, and which involves the US Embassy in a collaborative effort which puts trained Police Officers in the classroom to impart real life skills to our young people.

The program is patterned off a similar program that originated and was implemented in the United States. In Belize the program got started back in 2008. It has reportedly been a remarkable success, and the public now gets an opportunity through this video documentary to witness a great

deal of it. The program is administered through the Community Policing Unit which is now headed by Senior Superintendent of Police Louise Willis.

At Last Thursday's launch, she remarked, "The

ages positive relationship among community group, parents, schools and our law enforcement officers.

There were four objectives for developing this GREAT documentary which will be



The audience at the Launching Ceremony, seated up front, Pastor Eugene Crawford of the Evangelical Association of Churches

GREAT program is built around classroom curriculum, instructed by trained and certified police officers. The prevention of GREAT involvement/

seen here today: One, to create a visual documentation of the work of the Police Department, the community policing, the U.S. Embassy, the Minister



Mr. Allen Whyllie Commissioner of Police

nity policing in Belize; Three, to utilize the documentary as a training and capacity building tool for our Police Department; Fourthly and honestly, to create the first educational documentary in the history of the Belize Police department, showing off our community policing unit success."

Channel Five's Mike Rudon reported in that station's Thursday evening newscast: "Those law enforcement officers have made a positive difference in the lives of four thousand youths in the school setting alone, since 2008. The Department is proud of that achievement, and the idea of a documentary to chronicle and promote the expansion of the program was born."

Commenting on the fu-

Continued on Page 13



Primary School Students perform a skit at the Documentary Launch



Master of ceremonies Raphael Martinez

participation is its primary objection. The program is intended as an immunization against delinquency, youth violence and gang membership. The program encourages

of Education, Youth and Sports, the primary school students and the principals; Two, to enhance, educate and create public awareness on the GREAT program and the commu-



Police Superintendents Garcia and Chi in audience



GREAT Documentary Launched by Police Department : *Gang Resistance Education And Training*



**Colonel George Lovell, CEO
Ministry of National Security**

Continued from Page 12
ture of the Program, Senior Superintendent Willissaid, "In this year, the program will be rolled

out to the rural areas. In addition, 30 officers will be trained and over 4000 students will graduate from this program."

Present for the launch on Thursday was Commissioner of Police Allen Whylie who stated, "For me it is a great day and a great pleasure to be here and it is a huge success story within the Belize Police Department. I want to say that the Police Department remains committed to the GREAT program. We are committed to seek and find ways to partner with the community, with the schools; we are opened to ideas; feel free if you have an idea that

could be beneficial. We will look at it, we will discuss, and if we can run with it, rest assure that my office will embrace it."

Also present for the GREAT occasion was CEO in the Ministry of National Security, Colonel (Ret.) George Lovell who assisted the Commissioner in handing out complimentary copies of the documentary to teachers, students and stakeholders in the program.

The production of the documentary was funded by the United States Embassy in Belize. It was produced at Great Belize Productions Limited, which was com-



**Mr. Douglas Hyde from the
Community Policing Unit**

missioned by the Embassy.

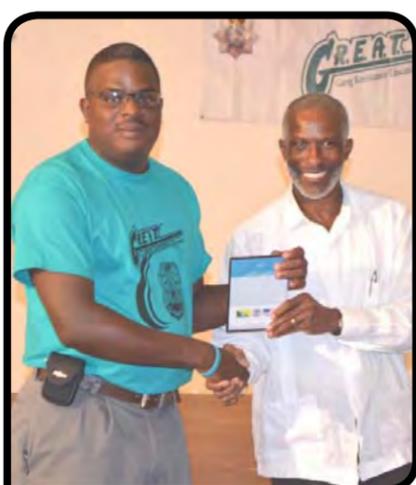
The launch of the documentary took place at the Belize Biltmore Plaza Hotel.



CEO George Lovell and Commissioner Whylie handing out copies of the documentary Teachers, Students and other invited guests



CEO George Lovell and Commissioner Whylie handing out copies of the documentary Teachers, Students and other invited guests



CEO Lovell and Compol Whylie hand out copies of the documentary

CEO Lovell and Compol Whylie along with the GREAT Team

Another Historic September Day

First National Bank of Belize Opens In Belmopan



Prime Minister Hon. Dean Barrow delivering the Keynote Address

Address by Hon. Dean Barrow Prime Minister of Belize

Now, Ladies and gentlemen, this is one time when, in describing the proceedings as historic, we engage in no hyperbole. The launch of the National Bank of Belize is an accomplishment for the ages.

And so I want to start by immediately thanking the very many persons that have made it possible. Principal among them are Minister Joy Grant, Chairperson of the Board of Directors, and all the other Board members including, of course, the Managing Director, Mr. Jose Marin. Minister Grant, though, has perhaps done more than anyone else to make this a reality.

I know that Saturday evening when I was becoming concerned, because having passed here on Friday and having seen that we were not all together in a state of readiness, she reassured me by indicating that she was even then at the Bank engaging in helping to sweep the premise.

Generally, she used her experience as former local and international banker, and brought her unflagging energies to bear on the project. She of course needed to employ that

high level of commitment since at the same time as she was working on the national bank she was also conducting her general and wide-ranging ministerial work. It is a testament to her skills and capacity that she was and is able to do both things with absolute success.

I want to recognize, I don't see him present here this morning, I know he was invited, but I want to recognize the one and only William Arthur "Bill" Lindo. A national bank is something he has long written and spoken about, and he sent me reams of material when I first decided that this is something that required doing.

I must also pay tribute to the late doctor Leroy Taegar, with whom I must confess I never personally had any discussion, but who, according to the Amandala, was another early proponent of the idea.

Then there is my law partner, Rodwell Williams, himself an economist, and one of the best commercial lawyers you can find. He provided immediate encouragement, and gave me sound policy and technical reasons as to why this thing could and would work.

As well, I recognize Net Vasquez, who is always a happy

warrior whenever anything new needs to be undertaken. My son Anwar (Barrow), who was a businessman sufferer from the punitive commercial bank rates, saw at once the potential for public alleviation that the National Bank would bring. And, finally, financial and political guru, Mark Epat, whose enthusiasm is boundless when it comes to people-centered projects.

Now, above all, I must salute my colleagues in Cabinet. They straightaway got on board when I first broached the notion of the Bank with them, and they have remained constant throughout as we collectively worked to bring the idea to fruition.

Ladies and gentlemen, the bank is starting with 20 Million dollars in capital, all of which is contributed by the Government of Belize. I have made no secret of the fact that we have sourced that equity from the Petro-Caribe loan funds, so it is only right that we praise the help and support of the Government and People of Venezuela, the Bolivarian vision of late Hugo Chavez, and the continuation of that vision by Nicolas Maduro (applause).

It is also worth noting in this context that the logistics of the Petro-Caribe restart with Belize was negotiated by a team headed on my behalf by our Deputy Prime Minister, the Honorable Gaspar Vega, and which included National Bank Director John Mencias (applause).

With the 20 Million Dollar capital contribution, the bank will, as you have heard, at the beginning, operate solely as a mortgage-financing in-

stitution, and its exclusive home-construction loan portfolio will cater in equal proportions to teachers and public officers on one hand, and then to the larger public. Loans will be for a maximum of 100 thousand dollars; and this is for first-time homeowners, so that there will be no refinancing of existing loans held with other institutions.

Now, this modest start and the target-market are in and of themselves a good thing. So if we did no more than continue in that fashion, expanding the capital as we go along, and offering more and more Belizeans a chance at owning a home, we would have done well. But we are thinking big, and what is happening here this morning is part of a grand design, a far larger scheme of things.

I have long complained that in an international environment of all-time low lending rates, the inability of our commercial banks to seriously bring down the cost of money to consumers is a scandal. I have been given all sorts of reasons why those in control of the levers of our financial system have failed so signally.

The high non-performing loan ratio is blamed, as is the large numbers of existing borrowings with extended maturities that make it impossible to restructure on more favorable terms. And the chief culprit is said to be the general inefficiency in the modus operandi of the commercial banks.

Well, all I and Cabinet know is that it is a situation that we could not any longer countenance. It is unacceptable

Continued on Page 15



Audience of Ministers, Government Officials and Invited Guests

Another Historic September Day

First National Bank of Belize Opens In Belmopan

Continued from Page 14

that the spread between bank deposit rates and bank lending rates keeps widening in favor of the banks; and in this regard, this government refuses a minute more to be the dog that only barks. And so enter the National Bank (applause).

Now, it is no coincidence that as soon as we announced we'd be doing this and starting with home loans, the commercial banks moved immediately

lic; and that is why the plan is ultimately to take the National Bank the next level, and turn it into a full service, deposit taking, credit-card offering institution as soon as we can (applause).

As Shakespeare once said, though, too fast is as bad as too slow; so while we want to do this for our country as quickly as early possible, we must carefully construct this edifice. We will, therefore, take it step by step, preparing meticulously



Prime Minister Hon. Dean Barrow among the audience



The Pan Tempters Steel Band providing entertainment at the Launch

to lower their interest rates on mortgages (applause). So, even in that small initial space that we occupy, the competition that we represent has already benefited the consumer.

Of course, for those that we will be servicing, our lending rates will be unbeatable, because our bottom line is people and not profit (applause). That is why our introductory offer to the people of Belize is an unbelievably low 5.5 percent (applause).

Thus, ladies and gentlemen, to the grand design: the larger the space we can inhabit, the greater will be this competition factor that redounds to the advantage of the Belize pub-

for each phase as we grow and expand, ensuring that we only move when we are certain that we have built the capacity to finally pull this thing off with all the comprehensive certainty and success the Belizean People deserve.

But it is, even in its conception, a magnificent undertaking. Imagine a truly country-wide national bank with access to the bulk of what would be captive public sector funds, and putting all of it to work, not for profit, but for people!

A word of caution, though, before I leave—the utmost professionalism and the highest standards will be required to see this enterprise

through. That means sound lending practices based on proper evaluation and satisfactory collateral. The National Bank cannot be a grab-tug or the political pork-barrel into which, for example, the previous administration turned the DFC. So, the people for whom all this is to be done must do their part. When you borrow, you have to repay; and if we run into trouble because of delinquency even at this first stage, we will never reach level two.

I have every confidence,

some of the very detractors that earlier claimed that the Food Pantry Program wouldn't work, that the people would take the subsidized hampers and simply re-sell at a profit, that the administrators of the program would steal government blind.

But I and this Cabinet believe in Belizeans; and our confidence in the People has always been vindicated, and especially on the Southside of Belize City, and in San Ignacio/Santa Elena, and in PG and Corozal, with respect to that Food Pan-



Prime Minister Hon. Dean Barrow and Chair of the Bank Hon. Joan Joy Grant enter the Bank followed by CEO George Lovell



The First Branch of the New National Bank located in Belmopan

though, that especially our teachers and public officers know exactly how high the stakes are, and will partner responsibly and successfully with Government to make our National Bank the pride of Belize and the envy of the Caribbean, for it is to this same Caribbean that our detractors point, saying that it has historically been the graveyard of earlier CARICOM Country efforts at national banks. Of course, these are

try Program. It is that same confidence that is being replicated countrywide now with respect to the National Bank; and it is that same confidence that assures us that we and the people will once again see off the detractors.

We will see them off, and make our National Bank both monument and reward, to the maturity, good sense and discipline of Belize and Belizeans. Thank You. (Applause)

Another Historic September Day

First National Bank of Belize Opens In Belmopan



Chair of the Bank Hon. Joan Joy Grant delivering Welcome Address



Managing Director Jose Marin delivering the Thank You Address

Address by Honourable Joy Grant Chair of the National Bank of Belize

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to a historic event in the evolution of the financial sector in Belize, and as a result, in the economic wellbeing of our Belizean People, the establishment of the National Bank of Belize, and the opening of its first branch here in Belmopan.

This opening marks the successful realization of a vision shared by Belizeans of different political affiliations but united in their belief in the value to our people of a bank whose focus is on serving the financial interest of all Belizeans, whose goal is not about maximizing profit but about providing the working class Belizean with the financial assistance and knowledge they require to improve their living standards through the construction and purchase of new homes, and later the renovation and upgrading of existing residences.

The impetus for operationalizing the vision by establishing the Bank at this time originated with Prime Minister the Honourable Dean Barrow.

His resolve to take action to establish the bank in a timely manner reflects his

commitment to make concessional financing accessible to all Belizeans as an important factor over time in the economic wellbeing of our people and the economic development of our country.

Initially, the National Bank of Belize will provide mortgage-financing for construction to first-time home-owners with fifty percent of the original equity financing for public servants and teachers, and the remainder for the general public.

In a few months, our range of banking offerings will expand to include other financial products and services. Of

course, we need to cover operating cost and capitalize for the future.

However, our focus is not on commercial profit but on the delivery of efficient, cost effective financial services to our people.

It was an honor for me to be asked by the Prime Minister to take on the challenge of establishing our first National Bank and to lead its development while, of course, discharging my regular duties as Minister of Energy, Science and Technology, and Public Utilities.

It was a challenge accepted readily and enthusiastically although recognizing the tight timetable that the Prime Minister identified.

And we have met the initial challenge successfully,

as you can see today.

You will notice that I said, we have met the challenge. At this point, I would like to recognize and express my appreciation for all the work done by the members of the Board of Directors and for the cooperation and dedication they demonstrated as we went about the task of planning for an developing this new financial entity.

I ask that they stand and be recognized as I call their names: Vice Chair, Mr. Marion Palacio; Managing Director, Mr. Jose Marin; Mr. John Mencias, Mr. Dylan Reneau, and Mr. Hector Sabido. Please, a big round of applause.

Once again, welcome to all of you who have joined us on this special occasion (applause).



The Audience of Ministers, Government Officials and Invited Guests in a boisterous applause

Partnering for Rural Family Health

The Ministry of Health and the Peace Corps

A total of sixteen (16) new Peace Corps Volunteers are in-country for a two year work mission. They aim to partner with community health workers on a Rural Family Health Programme, an initiative of the Ministry of Health and Peace Corps. Volunteers will be assigned to Cayo, Orange Walk, Toledo and Belize Districts.

The pioneer team arrived on June 26th and was enrolled in an intensive orientation and training program which ended August 13th. This marks the first time that all volunteers will

be assigned to the Ministry of Health to work in primarily rural communities for their stay; and the first all Peace Corps Volunteers will live with host families for the full duration of service.

Volunteers will carry out their work alongside the community health workers. The main purpose of their work-mission is to provide support to Ketchi and Spanish speaking villages adopting positive practices that contribute to the improved health of women and children. Areas being addressed at community level include; preventing and caring for children with common illnesses, improving

feeding practices and raising awareness on the prevention of non-communicable diseases.

In September 2012, a letter of intent to collaborate on a rural health initiative was signed between the Ministry of Health and Peace Corps Belize. This outlined the creation of a new development project that focuses on rural community health and wellbeing.

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) will be signed between the Ministry of Health and the Peace Corps to develop projects and activities in the health sector with the MOH network of community health

workers in villages around the country and with the Health Education and Community Participating Bureau (HECOPAB).

The swearing in ceremony for the Peace Corp Volunteers will take place in Belmopan at the George Price Centre on Friday, September 6th at 10am.

More than 1,800 Peace Corps volunteers have served in Belize since the program was established in 1962.

The Ministry of Health is pleased to further develop this strategic partnership with the Peace Corps as we strive to improve access to quality health services for all Belizeans.



General John F. Kelly in Belmopan - September 5 - 2013



General John F. Kelly in Belmopan - September 5 - 2013





THE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION (PUC)
*wishes all Belizeans
a Blessed, Safe and Patriotic
10th. of September Celebrations!*



**“BELIZE IN YOU,
BELIZE IN ME;
LAND OF THE FREE”**

Miley Garcia Cayo Softball Finals

Camalote Blazers Win Game One Over Roaring Creek



Tamira Martinez of Camalote Blazers



Francine Salazar Pitcher for Camalote



Pitcher, Leandra Guy of Roaring Creek Grace Kennedy



Stephanie Francis of Roaring Creek Grace Kennedy

The Camalote Blazers are one game away from winning the 2013 Miley Garcia Female Softball Championship in the competition organized by the Cayo Softball Association. Camalote won Game One of the finals 1-0 over the Roaring Creek Grace Kennedy at the Denbeigh Full-

er Stadium in Camalote on Sunday, September 8. Camalote's veteran pitcher Francine Salazar struck out 4 batters and walked one, giving up 5 hits, but even though the Camalote fielders committed one error, the Roaring Creek girls scored no runs, leaving 6 runners on base. Roaring Creek's Leyandra Guy struck out one batter, walked 2 bat-

ters and gave up 5 hits. The Camalote women left 8 runners on base, but Roaring Creek committed 2 errors, allowing Francine Salazar to score the winning run in the 4th inning. The consolation game for 3rd place between the Esperanza Wolverines and the Ontario Rebels was postponed for compassionate reasons due to a death

among the players' relatives. Game 2 of the Finals series comes up at the Denbeigh Fuller Stadium on Sunday, September 15. Both the champions and the sub-champions will represent the Cayo district in the national softball championship tournament scheduled for the weekend of September 27-29, at the Roger's Stadium in Belize City.

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32 years of INDEPENDENCE

BELIZE SEPTEMBER CELEBRATIONS '13

215th ANNIVERSARY Battle of St. George's Caye

"BELIZE IN YOU, BELIZE IN ME, LAND OF THE FREE"

To all Residents of Belmopan, Surrounding Areas and BELIZEANS Countrywide

Congratulations on the 215th Anniversary of The Battle of St. George's Caye

Belmopan Triple B's are Champions

In Atlantic Bank Female Football Competition

The Belmopan Triple B's won the 2013 Atlantic Bank female football championship by drilling the Ladyville Jaguars 8-0 in Game 2 of the finals at the FFB Stadium in Belmopan on Saturday, September 7.

Game 1 of the finals had ended in a 0-0 draw at the MCC grounds on Saturday, August 31.

Belmopan's Kaina Martinez and Miriam Villamil led the



Belmopan's Triple B's, Champions of the Atlantic Bank Competition

The Belmopan keeper Idania Ramirez handled all other challenges.

In the 2nd half, Kaina brought the ball into the goal area and crossed to Jennisha Scott, whose left foot tap was enough to score a 5th goal.

Kisling's efforts to put Ladyville on the scoreboard resulted in her getting hurt,

Continued on Page 23



Best Defense - Shandy Vernon

attack with the help of Iris Centeno and Joslyn "Chu-chu" Cadle on the wings and Kaya Cattouse and Jennisha Scott at midfield.

Ladyville Jaguars was sorely missing Shineele Gentle who had to sit out the game following a red card suspension from the first final and their star sweeper Sara Arzu was also missing in action.

Alma Alarcon, Mercedes Choc and Sheryann "Baby" Tracy did their best, but Kaina Martinez soon escaped their marking to score the first goal.

Miriam Villamil added a 2nd goal, then Kaina scored her 2nd and 3rd goals to complete her personal hat trick to give Belmopan a 4-0 at the half.

Ladyville's Georgia Vaccaro and Kara Kisling tried to get an attack going with the help of Shamieka Franklin and Nancy Bainton on the wings and Britney Nunez and Gloria Garcia at midfield, but the Belmopan defenders Rose Ogaldez, Shadalee Ho, Beatrice Alfaro and Shandy Vernon shut down the visitors the entire game.



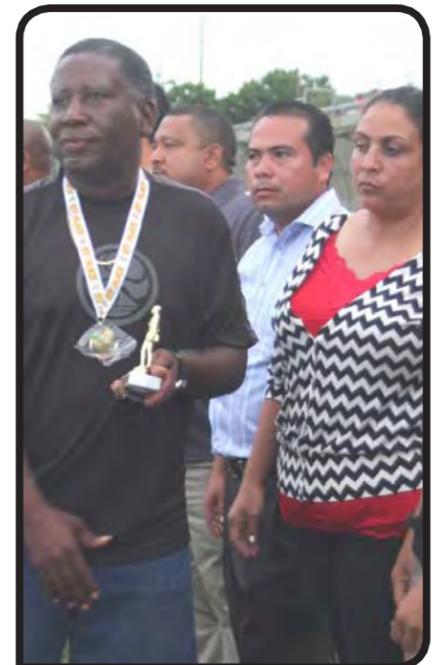
Best Midfielder - Iris Centeno



Best Goalkeeper, Claudia Martinez



Best Manager - Jean Gabourel



Best Coach, Kent Gabourel



Second Place in the Competition, the Ladyville Jaguars



Third Place in the Competition, the Pumas of Dangriga

Belmopan Triple B's are Champions

In Atlantic Bank Female Football Competition



Kaina Martinez of Belmopan



Miriam Villamil of Belmopan



Iris Centeno of Belmopan



Jennisha Scott of Belmopan

Continued from Page 22

and she had to be carried off the field. Veronica Flores relieved Shamielka Franklin, while Belmopan's Noemi Magana took over from Joslyn Cadle.

Kaina escaped the last defenders and took on Claudia Martinez solo to blast the ball into the net from point blank range: 6-0.

Ladyville's Dawn Bainton replaced Mercedes Choc, but Miriam Villamil now

mounted a solo effort to lob the ball over Claudia to the far corner of the vee: 7-0.

Rose Ogaldez now moved up from defense to join the goal-shooting derby and escaped the last defenders. Sheryann Tracy tied to close her off, but not before Ogaldez blasted a shot into the back of the net: 8-0 final score.

The Dangriga Pumas won the consolation game for 3rd place: 5-4 over the 4x champions, Gentle Touch of

Esperanza. Shayama "Shy" Caliz scored the Pumas 1st goal, Nykemah Kuylen added a 2nd goal, Naomi Gamboa scored a 3rd goal and Emmerlyn Nunez added a 4th for the Pumas to lead 4-3 at the half as Kimberly Perez and Abby Halliday had scored for Gentle Touch.

In the 2nd half, Gentle Touch equalized the score 4-4, but the Pumas won a free kick, and Kuylen sent the ball into the goal area for Emmerlyn Nunez to finish for the 5-4 win.

Atlantic Bank's Belmopan branch manager Carlos Moreno presented the team trophies to the champions, 2nd and 3rd place winners, and the individual awards.

Ladyville's Claudia Martinez won Best Goalie while Kara Kisling won the Most Goals award. Belmopan's Shandy Vernon won Best Defense and Iris Centeno won Best Midfielder. Belmopan's Kent Gabourel won Best Coach and Jean Trapp-Gabourel won Best manager.

Happy 10th of September



Congratulations BELIZE
especially residents of BELMOPAN
on the 215th Anniversary of the Battle of St. George's Caye

from Prosser Fertilizer & Agrotec Co. Ltd.
Belmopan Branch





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Wishes all Belizeans a happy and safe 10th September

The Trust is a partnership between the Government of Belize and Belize Natural Energy Ltd.



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Empowered people and communities thriving in a harmonious, socially and environmentally responsible manner, who are conscious architects of their own future

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