



CAPITAL WEEKLY

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



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The Race for Deputy is On!

Cabinet & Caretakers Support Saldivar - Faber Counting on Delegates

It has been one of the dominant stories for the past month and will certainly remain so for the next six weeks. It's the contest to fill the post of Deputy Leader for the United Democratic Party.

The post was left vacant by Deputy Prime Minister Hon. Gaspar Vega when he announced his decision not to seek re-endorsement as the Party's Deputy at its National Convention in Dangriga on Sunday, March 20, 2016. The day after that national convention, Monday March 21, 2016, two aspiring candidates publicly confirmed



16 of the 19 area representatives and constituency caretakers who are endorsing Honourable John Saldivar for UDP Deputy Leader, including 13 out of 19 members of Cabinet

Deputy Prime Minister Endorses Aspiring Deputy



Deputy Prime Minister Hon. Gaspar Vega and Aspiring Deputy Hon. John Saldivar in Belmopan Tuesday following Cabinet Meeting

The Post of UDP Deputy Leader was made vacant by his voluntary resignation a month ago; and now he is making it known who he wants to succeed him as Deputy Leader of the Party.

In a press release issued by the Saldivar campaign late Tuesday night states, "Deputy Prime Minister and Orange Walk North Area Representative Hon. Gaspar Vega is endorsing Hon. John Saldivar for First Deputy Leader

of the United Democratic Party, a position which Vega recently relinquished voluntarily. In so doing, Hon. Vega joins 12 other Cabinet Colleagues and a total of approximately 20 Standard-Bearers countrywide in their support for Saldivar to become the UDP's next Deputy Party Leader.

The UDP Special Convention to elect a new Deputy Leader will take place Sunday May 29, 2016 on the IT-VET Grounds in Belize City."

their intentions of seeking to fill the position. Collet Area Representative Hon. Patrick Faber did so in at a press conference; Hon. John Saldivar made his via a televised announcement aired nationally. But the date was yet to be set for the special convention to decide who would become the new UDP Deputy Leader, and that would have to occur at a National Party Council meeting which the party announced would not happen until shortly after the Easter Holidays. That meeting occurred this past Saturday, April 9, 2016 at the UDP Headquarters in Belize City. The date chosen is May 29, 2016 and the venue the ITVET (Old

Technical College) Grounds in Belize City. On that day, at that location, close to 600 delegates from around the country, representing all 31 constituencies, will vote to make the ultimate decision of who will be the UDP's new Deputy.

But the race is about more than just replacing the party's Deputy Leader. It has greater implications about who will take full charge of the UDP as Party Leader when Prime Minister Dean Barrow steps down from the position prior the next general elections scheduled to occur by 2020.

In fact that person will become Prime Minister even prior to the general elections, for a period of time which will depend on how early Prime Minister Barrow decides to retire. And, the PM himself is hoping that whoever becomes deputy now, would become the leader then, and spare the party another such contest which always has the potential to become divisive.

In an interview with the media at the March 20 National Convention, the Prime Minister explained, "There would need to be a convention for leader at that time. My sense is that most

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National Security Minister

Visits Out-District Formations



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Police Minister Hon. John Saldivar addressing conference-room full of officers from all ranks of San Pedro Formation on Ambergris Caye

EDITORIAL

The Travails of Transition

In our editorial a few weeks ago, we characterized the dramatic developments surrounding the leadership of both major political parties (the PUP and UDP), though seemingly earth-shattering, as being part of the normal course of political transition in a dynamic democracy.

True, change is, for the most part, a desirable and inevitable thing, but it also, much too often, a messy, divisive and tumultuous undertaking. Whatever the case, across Belize's political landscape, change is certainly in the air.

For the United Democratic Party (UDP), the first round of change features a spirited race to fill the position of Deputy Party Leader left vacant by the voluntary stepping aside of the three-time Deputy Prime Minister. But everyone knows, and the Prime Minister himself has indicated, there are deeper and wider implications for the highest position, as he prepares to retire sometime before the next General Elections which must occur by 2020.

For the People's United Party (PUP), while its leadership race took place two and a half months ago, the transitional pains are far from over, as the newly emerging leader's efforts to overhaul his party's executive meets with vigorous resistance, even threats of court action by discontented elements within his party.

Fortunately, for the UDP, the leadership campaigns, though fierce, have been positive and respectful, so far, at least. As to the preservation of unity beyond the current race for Deputy, it is left to be seen how that plays out, and the result itself will certainly have some bearing on it.

For better or worse, political change is in the air; and, notwithstanding the travails often associated with it, such transition remains a vital, virtuous and unavoidable feature of our dynamic democracy.

The Race for Deputy is on!



Hon. Patrick Faber and Hon. John Saldivar at Saturday's UDP National Party Council Meeting pledging to keep it positive and clean

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people see what's going to happen now as a kind of dry run for 2019 or 2020; and I think the hope is that whoever wins now, will be seen as having a lock on 2020, and that might actually result in our avoiding having another convention. If that's how it turns out, so much the better; let us have the fight now, and let us have, therefore, years after the fight takes place, to heal all wounds."

As to who enjoys his favor to become the next deputy and presumably succeed him as UDP Leader and Prime Minister, PM Barrow has vowed to remain, in his own words, "scrupulously neutral". But such neutrality has certainly not been the order of the day for most members of the UDP Cabinet. Except for one other member of Cabinet, in addition to the PM, everyone else has now publicly declared where his or her support lies. The count shows Hon. John Saldivar having clear and overwhelming majority support among his Cabinet colleagues. Out of 19 Cabinet members, 13 have declared public support for Saldivar; only 3 have done so for Faber. Out of all 31 area representatives and standard-bearers of the party, Saldivar has the expressed support of 19, while only 12 have endorsed Hon. Patrick Faber.

Among the blocs of support enjoyed by Saldivar is the entire Cayo Caucus, including Second Deputy Hon. Erwin Contreras, and all three women parliamentarians. The outgoing Deputy Leader and still Deputy Prime Minister, Hon. Gaspar Vega, has also publicly thrown his support behind Hon. John Saldivar. Hon.

Faber, for his part, is hedging his bets on the hope that enough delegates make an individual decision to support him against the wishes of their area representatives and standard-bearers. Whether that will happen is left to be seen. We will know on May 29, 2016 when the ballots are cast and the votes counted.

In the meantime, the race is heating up to a feverish pitch, although both campaigns have remained exemplarily positive and clean. Both aspirants have vowed to keep it that way, noting that they have been good friends and pledging to maintain the camaraderie throughout and after the race. Hon. Patrick Faber, one of the youngest elected politicians, is promoting his candidacy as "The Path to the Future", while Hon. John Saldivar, the elder aspirant, is promoting himself as the leader who represents and engenders "Unity, Maturity and Continuity."

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE SOUTH

Norwegian's Harvest Caye Cruise-Port Ready for Business

Belize's Tourism Industry should receive a major boost as a massive multi-million dollar project nears completion. The project involves the construction of a new cruise tourism port at Harvest Caye in Southern Belize just off the Placencia Peninsula. The new cruise tourism port with alongside docking facility is set to go into full operation when the new cruise tourism high-season opens in November of this year.

Last week, the owners of the project, Norwegian Cruise Lines, invited the Belizean media for a local launch of the facility and updated them on the status of the project. Head of Destina-



Massive Investment on Harvest Caye by Norwegian Cruise-Line

industry it's not unusual to hire people in the high season and let them go in the summer - they have to raise a family that way. So we decided that 95% of our positions may peak up a little bit and down, but will be full-time, year round positions. So we have 240 approved positions, and 98% of those are Belizeans.

There is a food and beverage provider, and they are expected to hire 150 people. My guess for the retailers is 50, but it's probably higher than that. My

ment's standpoint, the project has major economic development implications, as expressed by Tourism Minister Honourable Manuel Heredia.

"As a government we continue forward on a clear path to achieving our goal of 1.5 million cruise passengers by the year 2030, as stipulated by the national sustainable tourism master plan. This particular investment will provide the empathy to continue in every way down the road of achieving that

and bring further equity in the tourism product. Belize continues to rank as a top 5 destination, and what an involved and valuable shore excursion and adventure brand cruise in the south, shown to grow equitably and aligned in the development forward in tourism in southern Belize," Heredia commented.

And although the project has seen its fair share of controversy, all indications are that the investors are just as pleased with their new investment and their choice of doing it in Belize.

"We chose Belize, really, because we felt Belize deserved a second cruise port. We went through an exercise where we



Colin Murphy, Vice President Destination Development, NCL

tion & Port Operations, NCL's Senior Vice President Colin Murphy, stated, "So, this is the beach and the beach look fabulous I gotta say. More trees and more shade; but the beach came out extremely well and we are very happy with the outcome. We try to give the building a little bit of character and styles, so they are not boring and functional buildings. The bathrooms will have similar look. These are the early days of those beach fillers; we had landscape to go in to make them look very nice."

Commenting on the economic and employment impact of the project, Murphy stated, "So, this is the economic impact, despite what you read in the social media...The approved, head count is 240 full-time, 50 weeks a year positions and maybe a small number of people we will have seasonally. We made the decision that in the hospitality



Massive Investment on Harvest Caye by Norwegian Cruise-Line

guess for tour-operators is 70, but it's probably higher than that. We feel that we kept our promise. We promise to be a good corporate citizen, we promise to support business in Belize as much as we could, and we think it's going to be a transformative event."

From the Belize Govern-

ment's standpoint, this partnership will allow us to build upon our success in the Belize district

thought...where would we put a flag in the ground, where would we say, okay, this is where we are going to be coming for years to come. Where were we willing to make a commitment? And we were one of the first cruise lines to come to Belize years ago. So we have always been a little affectionate, if you like, towards Belize. We feel a bit proprietary or responsible for your cruise industry in some way.

So we chose Belize because Belize it is the jewel, and we felt that it is a wonderful passenger experience, and we just felt that creating something in the South was the right direction for us. So we are very proud, as I say, today," the NCL Vice-President expressed.



Honourable Manuel Heredia Belize Minister of Tourism

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TRANSFORMATION IN THE NORTH

Corozal Rehabilitated Town Market Annex & Streets



Invited Guests at the Inauguration of Rehabilitated Corozal Market



The Symbolic Cutting of the Ribbon to mark the Inauguration

The newly rehabilitated Corozal Town Market Annex and surrounding streets, built by the Government of Belize at an estimated cost of \$298,757.30 and \$390,543.00 respectively, through a loan from the World Bank under the Belize Municipal Development Project (BMDP) with counter-part funding of three per cent by the Corozal Town Council, was officially inaugurated on Friday April 8, 2016.

The market facility occupies over 220 square meters. This will create opportunities for vendors to foster and enhance their livelihoods, serve as a central meeting point for the people of Corozal and surrounding communities to exchange goods, produce, ideas, interact and create meaningful opportunities in the pursuit of continued socio-economic development.

Vendors and shoppers will also enjoy the convenience of 15 market stalls due to the ambience of a more spacious, pleasant and safer environment for all.

In addition, the completion of the street infrastructure project will contribute to the transformation of the market for a healthier envi-

ronment and enhancement of the aesthetics of the market.

In this regard, the paved surrounding streets, namely 1st Street South & 6th Avenue, will facilitate and provide Corozaleños, in particular pedestrians and drivers, with better access to smoother road surfaces, thus enabling men, women and children to traverse this area



Rehabilitated Corozal Market, re-named Gabriel Hoare Market

much easier in their daily lives.

Belize Social Investment Fund (SIF) is Government's poverty-reduction flagship agency, addressing the basic needs of Belizeans through socio-economic initiatives and community empowerment; and it is within this context, that it completed the Corozal Town

Market and Streets Project.

Guest Speaker at the inauguration was Corozal Mayor Hilbeto Campos, who remarked, "The market is the heart of a community. It doesn't matter whether it is in a city with millions of people or a small village with only a few families. A market is a symbol of the condition of its inhabitants. A wholesome,

multicultural and full of hope. The Gabriel Hoare Market was initiated as a substitute for the Old Corozal Market which was located near Mothers' Park. From its inception it was noted that the demands of its people far exceeded the capacity of the single-structure building. It would be very difficult to explain the fast growth and transformation that our administration injected into this market and its surroundings to produce today what is a more modern and a more efficient place."

(The BMDP is a \$30 million dollar project financed by the Government of Belize through a loan from the World Bank. The project, which aims to provide much needed infrastructure in seven major municipalities in the country, is being implemented by the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) of the BMDP, under the umbrella of the Social Investment Fund; and aims to provide access to basic municipal infrastructure, and enhance municipal management in selected Town and City Councils of Belize: Belmopan, Benque Viejo del Carmen, San Ignacio and Santa Elena, Dangriga, Punta Gorda, Corozal and Orange Walk.)



A Vendor in the Newly Rehabilitated Corozal Town Market



A Vendor in the Newly Rehabilitated Corozal Town Market

TRANSFORMATION IN THE SOUTH

Fresh Images of Maura Lopez Market in Punta Gorda

The inauguration of the Rehabilitated Market in the northernmost Town of Corozal comes less than three months after another upgraded municipal market in the southernmost Town of Punta Gorda was officially inaugurated.

Renamed the MAURA LOPEZ MARKET, tribute to one of the outstanding women of Punta Gorda, it was refurbished at a cost of almost a Million Dollars with financing from the European Union and the Government of Belize. That project included the refurbishment of the old structure to accom-



The recently inaugurated Punta Gorda Market renamed the MAURA LOPEZ MARKET in honour of one of Punta Gorda's outstanding women, refurbished at a cost of almost a Million Dollars, with funding by the European Union and Government of Belize

modate 11 new individual stalls and reconstruction of the Civic Centre with 12 new stalls and bathrooms for Fruit & Vegetable vendors. Another outstanding feature of the market project is that the design of the existing layout was improved to accommodate Arts & Craft and Food vendors. The Scope of works included demolition, internal and external cladding, roof, electrical and plumbing installation and building finishes.

The market was inaugurated on January 21, 2016, but the images we bring you were captured just two weeks ago while on an assignment in the South.



The recently inaugurated Maura Lopez Market in Punta Gorda



The recently inaugurated Maura Lopez Market in Punta Gorda

Sustainable Development Goals

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM HOLDS MEETING IN BELIZE



Karen Barnard, Deputy Resident Representative United Nations Development Program (UNDP)

There are seventeen Sustainable Development Goals named by the United Nations Development Program, and this week, Monday April 11, 2016, the UNDP convened a meeting to discuss Belize's drive to fulfill them.

These Sustainable Development Goals (The Path to 2030) constitute the natural progression from the Millennium Development Goals (2000-2015) which were used by nations around the world to chart a path to development in areas such as Education, Health, Economic

Growth and Gender Equality.

Karen Barnard, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP, explained, "Fifteen years later we are able to say what we have accomplished, or what we haven't accomplished with those goals in each country; and Belize has successes...But now, with that whole process concluded in some way – the millennium development goals – we have a bigger project, a bigger framework called sustainable development goals...It gives us something to work towards. Belize has to decide which of these seventeen goals they need to take

and focus on, and try to accomplish. I feel confident that Belize is in a good position, because I find it is a place where people really care about their country; they care about their neighbors; they care about people that they don't know, that they see on the streets. I think Belize is a very caring country; and the government is committed as well. So, I think that Belize has a lot of potential to work on this."

For his part, Seleshi Bekele Awulachew, from the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, commented, "Belize has achieved quite a lot in



*Seleshi Bekele Awulachew
UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs*

terms of the Millennium Development Goals, but when you say the 2030 agenda or post-2015 sustainable development goals, we don't mean that we stop what we've been doing with the MGD and move to the new agenda. It's a continuum actually, but the new agenda brings the opportunity to expand those eight goals to seventeen goals. For example in the past there was an education goal. It continues to be an education goal. There were health goals. It will continue as well. Those for which we have not achieved the full extent will be achieved during the SDG era."



UNDP Meeting on Sustainable Development Goals held in Belize City

TRANSFORMATION IN THE WEST

LED BY MINISTER OF WORKS & CAYO CENTRAL REPRESENTATIVE



The physical transformation of the nation's infrastructure network has been evident under the Dean Barrow administration, particularly during its last term (2012-2015). It is on the strength of this physical transformation and the promise that "The Best is yet to Come" that the Administration secured a historic third term in the November 2015 General Elections.

Putting this into perspective, Prime Minister Rt. Hon. Dean Barrow proclaimed in his recent budget presentation on March 8, 2016, "It is because of all this that we premised last year's election drive on the theme "The Best is yet to Come". So it was not just a campaign slogan, but a call to arms based on past performance and future promise. It was a declaration of confidence. It was an expression of resolve. It was a commitment to

perseverance. Above all, it was an articulation of faith that no matter the obstacles, no matter the challenges, no matter the trials, we - the



Government, the people, the nation - will together achieve what is due, what is just, and what is deserved for our beloved Belize."

But the fact that the PetroCaribe program, which has served as a major catalyst and source of funding for the massive infrastructural

transformation, is now being significantly impacted by the precipitous fall in world fuel prices and the dramatic reduction in low-cost financ-

ing available through these uniquely concessionary loan funds, has led to growing concern that the transformation might come to a halt. Well not so fast, said Prime Minister Barrow in his New Year's address at the start of 2016. The transformation agenda would continue,

he assured, although not as robustly considering the accepted financial constraints.

"The investments in road rehabilitation and sporting facilities have been unprecedented and have transformed this country in a way never seen before, and unlikely ever to be seen again. Thus, the 70 million is treated as a one-off capital expenditure, which was undertaken given the availability of the highly concessionary funding under the PetroCaribe Program.

Now we do absolutely expect the continuation of similar capital investment programs, though not at the same level. The extent of this reduced but still robust new normal will be determined by a number of factors," the PM explained.

One of those factors is, of course, the availability of other sources of financing and the timeliness of the rollout of such funds to

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TRANSFORMATION IN THE WEST

LED BY MINISTER OF WORKS & CAYO CENTRAL REPRESENTATIVE



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supplement Petrocaribe funds already earmarked for ongoing projects.

“Our trademark infrastructure drive will also continue, though now there will be a mix of funding sources. There is enough that we have set aside from the PetroCaribe days of plenty, to complete the countrywide BIL sporting projects (such as the Belize City Center) and the tourism road network improvements that we began in the last quarter of 2015.

So construction proceeds apace on the Lamanai Road, the Cristo Rey/San Antonio Road, and the North Ambergris Road to the new Efrain Guerrero international Airport. IFIs, including CDB, IDB, OFID, and the Kuwaiti Fund, will in turn finance the rehabilitation of the Philip Goldson Highway from the Airport junction to Belize City; the new Macal River crossing; the Hummingbird Highway; and the Belmopan to Benque

redo. OPEC/OFID will also fund, and their Board has just approved, a completely new PGIA Link Road with a bridge over the Belize River



and extending from behind Gentrac to around Mile 8 on the George Price Highway. As well, there is the recently announced UK Government Caribbean Grant initiative. Belize's share of this new aid endowment is in the region of 135 million Belize dollars to be spent, we propose,

principally on the Road to Caracol. The point is that in 2016, there will continue to be public infrastructure work and jobs aplenty, with

Representative is the Minister of Works himself, Honourable Rene Montero. It is being undertaken in the Santa Elena side of the Twin-Towns in the Regent Street Area, which includes the rehabilitation, reorganization, and paving of vital streets. One of them is Salazar Street.

As the first and second layers of chip and seal were laid, Honourable Montero remarked, “First layer to seal Salazar Street, ensuring longevity...Next step, chip and seal...Developing Cayo Central with you the residents and visitors in mind... No promises, only accomplishments...Salazar Street now fully paved.”

The rehabilitation of Salazar Street in Cayo Central is part of the nationwide Belize Municipal Development Project (BMDP), implemented by the Social Investment Fund (SIF) through funding from the World Bank, Government of Belize and the San Ignacio/Santa Elena Town Council.

all the multiplier benefits to our people that this entails,” the Prime Minister affirmed.

And, indeed, the infrastructure works continue countrywide; and one of the many projects that is just beginning to take shape is this one in the constituency of Cayo Central, where the Area



Peace Process Progresses

Belize Guatemala Discussions Filcitated by OAS

In the face of increasing tensions near the western and southern borders, Belize and Guatemalan diplomats at the highest levels continue to push forward with their efforts towards peaceful co-existence and a lasting solution to the age-old territorial dispute.

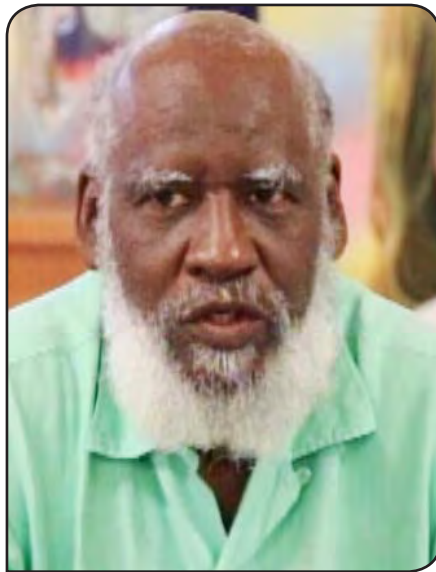
On the diplomatic front, despite the challenging border incidents, such as the recent shooting of a Belize soldier, presumably by Guatemalan civilians, much progress appears to have been made in the peace process this past week as very cordial bilateral meetings took place between high-level teams from both countries under the auspices of the Organization of American States (OAS). The teams were led by foreign Ministers of both countries; for Belize, Hon. Wilfred 'Sedi' Elrington; for Guatemala, Carlos Raul Morales.

The meetings were held at the OAS Headquarters in the Adjacency Zone on Friday, April 8, 2016. The bilateral discussions, which also included military officials from both sides, were very lengthy, extending from midday until late afternoon.

The meetings were exclusively covered by Channel Five News (Great Belize Television) who carried the following comments from the participating officials, starting with Belize Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Wilfred Elrington:

"It will be recalled that in March we had gone to Washington to discuss the various instances that were troubling the Belizean public in relation to activities in the Sarstoon River. And at that time of the discussion with the Guatemalan counterpart, we had agreed that we will try to meet as quickly as possible after the Easter vacation to try to further the discussion. So this meeting was to do that, and at the same time we decided that we will in fact try to deal with other issues which we have on a bilateral basis between the two countries.

So we now have present here with us the Guatemalan Foreign Minister who is not any stranger to Belize, Carlos



*Hon. Wilfred Elrington
Minister of Foreign Affairs*

Raul Morales and his delegation, including the Guatemalan Ambassador to Belize H.E. Manuel Roldan Barillas; we have Magdalena Talamas from the O.A.S, because we always do these meetings under the auspices of the O.A.S; we have Assad Shoman representing the Leader of the Opposition; we have General Jones from the Belize side, General Perez from the Guatemalan side; and, of course, we have Ambassador Alexis Rosado, Belize's Ambassador to Guatemala, CEO Sylvester from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Sir Elsie, the trusted secretary who is going to be recording and reporting on this meeting.

So, what I propose to do is simply to invite first Guatemala Foreign Minister to give his impression on the meeting and then I will ask Assad to do the same and then I will conclude by simply inviting Miss Talamas to say a few words on the matter."

Hon. Elrington, who has often been accused by the local press of being blunt and insensitive in his public comments on the Belize Guatemala issue,



*Carlos Raul Morales
Guatemalan Foreign Minister*

politely declined to engage in any back and forth with the media, stating, "I don't want to open the door to questions largely because we prefer to report certainly to our principals before we go into any further details on this matter. We think that it is only fair and decent; but I can't go without thanking you all for your special interest in coming all the way out here and waiting for such a long time to be able to be informed as to what we are doing, and to inform the Belizean Nation of this very important matter. So, let me thank you and give you the firm assurance that we will be communicating with our principals. You will be free to perhaps try to organize some kind of interview with the Prime Minister once we have briefed him so that he in fact can properly inform the nation. I just want to apologize for him because I think earlier in this week he had indicated that this meeting would not have been on today, but it was a kind of touch and go because of commitments in which the Foreign Minister had abroad, and the General, but the General cut short just to

ensure that this meeting be held, because it is of such an important nature. So he came in early this morning so that we could do it. But for any further information I am sure you will be able to contact the PM's office. We will certainly be reporting to him no later than Tuesday. He will have all the details, and then, thereafter, I am sure you could feel free to make contact with him."

The Guatemalan Foreign Minister, Carlos Raul Morales, for his part, remarked, "We are here today to continue building a new relations between Guatemala and Belize. Minister Elrington and myself, Minister Morales, we are aware that we have a goal, and the goal is to have the best relations between both countries. We know we have a differendum, and the differendum has to be sent to the ICJ; but in the meantime, we have to build a very good relationship between both countries, and we have to avoid any kind of incident between both countries. This is most important; we have a very good neighborhood, and the idea is to work together, because we are going to be neighbors forever.

Definitely, there are many challenges to face, but we have the goodwill to continue working together, and we will have these kinds of meetings; we are having these kinds of meetings just to instruct the joint commission that is lead by the Guatemalan Ambassador and Mr. Rosado to continue with the work to strengthen the bilateral relations. I mean, the implementation of the 13 bilateral agreements. We are working very hard; I am very happy because General Perez, who is the Chief Commander of the Guatemalan Army, is here with General Jones of the Belize Defense Force talking about the bilateral relations and how we can avoid any kind of incidents.

It is important to understand that cooperation between both countries is very important to work against organized crime. Organized crime works in both countries, and organized crime is present in different areas of both countries; and the only way



Guatemalan General speaking with BDF General David Jones

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Peace Process Progresses

Belize Guatemala Discussions Filcitated by OAS



Magdalena Talamas
OAS Representative

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to be successful in this area is to work together. Thank you, Minister, for being here; thank you, Magdalena, for hosting this meeting, and this office in the adjacency zone; and we will continue working together for the peace of both countries and to continue building these bilateral relations of peace. Thank you."

As we noted earlier, the discussions were held under the auspices of the Organization of American States at the OAS Headquarters in the Adjacency Zone. Representing the OAS there was Magdalena Talamas, who stated, "I am here representing the Secretary General of the OAS, Luis Almagro. Welcome to this house of the Americas, to the house of Belize and Guatemala; and I want to reiterate the Secretary General's commitment to supporting the efforts of Belize and Guatemala to finding a peaceful and permanent solution to this centuries-old territorial dispute. His good offices will continue as long as both countries decide that they want to place this trust on us. We have been very proud to support and witness the progress that has been made over the past 16 years; and our doors will continue to be open to find a permanent solution. So, thank you very much, and we are very happy with the meeting that took place today, and the discussions that we believe make the countries get closer to a more definitive solution."

Belize having rekindled the bi-partisan spirit at home in its efforts to resolve the territorial dispute with Guatemala,

the Opposition also had its seat at the table in the person of Ambassador and former Foreign Minister, Assad Shoman. Following the discussions, Ambassador Shoman, explained, "Progress was made in attempting to come together on that issue; but, of course, something as complicated as that cannot happen in one day; so that the Guatemalan side will of course take that document back. We will hear back from Ambassador Rosado and the General who were at that meeting, to know what the concerns of the Guatemalans are, and so on, within a few days. We can't put an exact date on it. The Foreign Minister has to meet

telephone or whichever means is necessary to ensure that this understanding that there must be peace will percolate down to all the ranks and right down to the elements that are present along the Sarstoon. So we leave here with hope that there will be peace and that soon we will come back and be able to sign on to some document that will declare the modus vivendi on the Sarstoon when there is a definitive resolution on the claim.

And, in accordance with the newly rekindled bipartisan spirit, Prime Minister Dean Barrow later met with Leader of the Opposition Hon. John Briceno to update him on the progress.



H.E. Assad Shoman
Opposition Representative

to be working together to find a solution that is going to protect and preserve every single square centimeter of our territory, be it water or land. We met to discuss the issue of the Sarstoon. As we speak, sometime today, there is going to be a meeting between the Foreign Ministers of Belize and Guatemala, and the two generals from both militaries, the military from Belize and the military from Guatemala...Our party is also a member of that team, and we are going to be presenting a set of protocols as to how we are going to be dealing with the Sarstoon, just as we have had protocols on how we deal with the adjacency zone on the western part of our border. We have always promised that we want to work together; the Prime Minister has assured us that they will continue to share all information with the Opposition for us to have all the necessary information to keep in step with what Government is doing."

Coming out of the meetings was the announcement that specific agreements had been reached with respect to confidence building measures and protocols for engagement in the Sarstoon area. Prior to this, the confidence building measures dealt only with protocols of engagement on the western border. Extending the confidence building measures to the Sarstoon border was a specific recommendation that came, as we recall it, from Opposition representative Assad Shoman, as expressed at the Bar Association's Annual Law Conference on February 19 at the Belize Biltmore Plaza Hotel.



Guatemala General & Belize Foreign Minister Hon. Wilfred Elrington

with the President; we have to meet with our principals here as well. Within a few days we have to come back and be able then to come up with a way for peaceful use and natural harmony to exist in the Sarstoon, That is our objective; the generals have both spoken here among us and said that they want peace; that they will remain in close and constant contact with each other, by

Following his meeting with the Prime Minister, Briceno commented, "We felt that it was important for us to meet to have a better analysis or understanding of what really is taking place. We in the PUP have said that when it comes to the unfounded claim that Guatemala has over Belize, that it is something of national importance, and that it is something that all of us are supposed



Right Hon. Dean Barrow
Prime Minister of Belize



Hon. John Briceno
Leader of the Opposition

Fighting Crime & Narco-Trafficking

United States Embassy and Belize sign Amendment to the Letter of Agreement
- International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs Program

United States Ambassador to Belize H.E. Carlos Moreno and the Right Honourable Prime Minister of Belize Dean Barrow signed the 16th Amendment to the Letter of Agreement (LOA) implementing the International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) program through the Central America Regional Security Initiative (CARSI) on Thursday, April 7, 2016.

The U.S. Government has provided over \$35 million in programs and grants to Belize through the Central America Regional Security Initiative (CARSI) since 2008. The current agreement provides USD \$6,450,000 in funding to be used for the following projects: Improved Border Inspection, Vetted Units, Capacity Enhancement, Justice Sector Reform, and Community Policing. To date, the US Government, through



Signing the Agreement, Prime Minister of Belize Right Honourable Dean Barrow and United States Ambassador H.E. Carlos Moreno

INL, has committed a total of USD \$28.4 million since 2008 to these programs in Belize.

In addition to INL programs, the US Embassy has also provided over USD \$6 million in CARSI Economic Support Fund grants to local and international NGOs operating in Belize. Programs have included entrepreneurship, vocational training and job placement, after school

activities, educational assistance, skills training, and arts and culture. Another \$1.2 million will be issued as grants again this year. The United States Government is proud to support citizen security in Belize, a country which shares our values of democracy, human rights, and rule of law. INL CARSI programs have assisted police nationwide with training and equipment. Through this

programming, the Belize Police Department has dramatically improved mobility and taken major steps toward modernization including case management and evidence handling.

INL-CARSI has also focused on the concept of community policing, both within the police and in communities. In areas with active, US-funded neighbourhood watch and community policing programs, local police stations have reported decreases in burglaries and other crimes. The INL-CARSI program continues to support safer streets and more resilient communities in Belize. Ongoing efforts will enhance capacity throughout Belize with programs in forensics, prosecution, and the judiciary. INL-CARSI continues to support law enforcement agencies as well as community led programs.

(Press Release from United States Embassy in Belmopan, Belize)

FOUR NEW AMBASSADORS TO BELIZE CREDENTIAL PRESENTED GOVERNOR GENERAL IN BELMOPAN



H.E. Aitzaz Ahmed, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Governor General



H.E. Yusra Khan, Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia and Governor General Sir Colville Young

Four ambassadors presented their credentials to the Governor General of Belize H.E. Sir Colville Young on Monday, April 11, 2016 at Belize House in the City of Belmopan.

H.E. Aitzaz Ahmed, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, H.E. Yusra Khan, Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia, H.E. Ibrahim Obeidat, Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and H.E. Mohamed Saadat, Ambassador of Palestine, all expressed their pleasure in being a representative of their

countries in Belize and extended warm greetings to Belize from their respective governments.

Each ambassador con-

veyed his country's intention to continue to develop and maintain strong associations with Belize.

The Governor General gracious-

ly welcomed the ambassadors and received their credentials.

Belize established relations with the Islamic Republic of Pakistan just last year, October 21 with the signing in Mexico City of a Joint Communiqué.

Belize's Diplomatic relations with Palestine and the Republic of Indonesia were also established in Mexico City, Joint Communiqués being signed on July 9, 2014.

In the case of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Belize had established diplomatic relations with that Nation as early as 2006.



H.E. Mohammed Saadat, Ambassador of Palestine and Governor General of Belize Sir Colville Young



H.E. Ibrahim Obeidat, Ambassador of Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Governor General

CODICADER comes to BELIZE

OFFICIAL LAUNCH CONDUCTED AT MARION JONES STADIUM

It's a big deal, indeed, that Belize is this year hosting the CODICADER (Central American Council of Sports & Recreation) Games. The games themselves will be held from July 6 to 11, 2016, but the official launch took place this past Friday, April 8 at the Marion Jones Sports Complex in Belize City.

CODICADER is an organ of the Central American Integration System (SICA) whose goal is to contribute to the strengthening of integration, solidarity and peace between our peoples of member countries which include Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama and Belize.

The Games will host student athletes between the ages of 6 to 12 years, and the sporting disciplines will be table tennis, football, basketball and volleyball. The competitions will be held across the country simultaneously in Orange Walk, San Ignacio, Belmopan and Belize City.

In his address at the launch, Minister of State with Responsibility for Youth and Sports, Hon. Elodio Aragon remarked, "This is the first time ever Belize will hold the under-thirteen CODICADER Games for primary school students. It has not been an easy task because, at the end of the day, everything comes down to resources. But I'm proud to know that we have come together at the level of the Ministry, at the level of the National Sports Council, stakeholders and businesses in Belize to make this a reality. This will become a reality for Belize, and I know that we are all anxious for this to happen here in July. I wish to take this



Minister of State for Youth and Sports Elodio Aragon, National Sports Director Ritchel Dominguez and Michelle Rudon of Genesis Arts



At the head-table for the launch, National Sports Director Ritchel Dominguez, Hon. Elodio Aragon, and Michelle Rudon of Genesis Arts

opportunity to share with you what CODICADER stands for and why these games provide a great social and economic opportunity for Belize. CODICADER's membership is comprised of ministries of sports in each Central American country. One of the responsibilities of CODICADER is the implementation of the Central American Games for students at the primary and secondary levels and for persons with disabilities. In 2016, three CODICADER events will be held in the region. Belize will kick off the games with the primary school competitions to be held from July 6 to 11, 2016. This will be followed by Honduras who will host the secondary schools competition in

September of this year; and then Nicaragua who will host the games for persons with disabilities in November of this year."

For his part, Belize's National Sports Director, Ritchel Dominguez, commented, "We in Belize, it's very rare we get to host these competitions, and that is why is I think my staff and myself, and even Genesis Arts, who have come onboard to partner with us, are excited; and we are all excited and waiting for that day. And we are doing our best that Belize may be represented and that the kids coming may enjoy a good time in Belize.

We want to make CODICADER exciting. We want to make CODICADER so that these kids that are coming enjoy Belize and take back that memory of how beautiful Belize is."

Participating athletes will be between the ages of 6 and 12 from countries throughout the Central American Region.

Minister of State Aragon Attends Central American Meeting for Secretaries of Education and Culture



Hon. Aragon among Regional Secretaries of Education and Culture

This past Friday and Saturday, April 1 and 2, 2016, Minister of State in the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Honourable Elodio Aragon was in Tela, Atlántida, Honduras, where he attended a two-day meeting for Central American Secretaries of Education and Culture.

The Education Secretary of Honduras, Marlon Escoto, President Pro-Tempore of the Coordinación Educativa y Cultural Centroameri-

cana (CECC/SICA) presented the Education on Borders Project during the meeting.

Honduras' First Lady, Ana de Hernández, was the keynote speaker at the meeting on the issue of child migration.

This was the 36th meeting developed by the Coordinación Educativa y Cultural Centroamericana. Accompanying Minister of State Aragon to the regional meeting was Chief Executive Officer in the Ministry of Education, Youth and Culture, Mr. David Leacock.



*Ritchel Dominguez
Belize's National Sports Director*



*Hon. Elodio Aragon - Minister
of State for Youth and Sports*

YOUTH AND COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION PROJECT

GROUND-BREAKING FOR LAKE INDEPENDENCE RESOURCE CENTER

The Ministry of Human Development, Social Transformation and Poverty Alleviation, the executing agency for the Youth and Community Transformation (YCT) Project, hosted a ground-breaking ceremony on Monday, April 4, 2016 at the site on Chetumal Street Extension in Belize City for the much anticipated Lake Independence Resource Center (LIRC).

Speaking with Channel Five News, Minister of Human Development, Social Transformation and Poverty Alleviation, Hon. Anthony 'Boots' Martinez stated, "It is a welcomed initiative, in my view. I think that I support it wholly because, by extension, this project is not only for Lake Independence, you know; it is for the south-



*Honorable Anthony Martinez
Minister of Human Development
Social Transformation and
Poverty Alleviation*

and culture, literacy and life skills can be honed and shared."

The objective of the Youth and Community Transformation Project is to reduce vulnerability of children and youth to crime and gang mem-



*Judith Alpuche, CEO in the
Ministry of Human Development
Social Transformation and
Poverty Alleviation*

this community, focusing on young people and focusing on families. There will be sporting facilities within the resource center, as well as spaces for us to provide parenting training, job preparedness, conflict resolutions, skills training, life skills on a whole, and a number of other programs that we are currently undertaking.

In other parts of the south-side, we are using existing organizations and facilities like Samuel Haynes Institute of Excellence, the YMCA, and the Yarborough Community Policing Center to provide the services that will be offered at the LIRC. So, with the YCT project, we are trying to strengthen capacity of existing organizations, as well as build capacity elsewhere, where there isn't as much infrastructure, where there isn't as much organizations working. We couldn't just build one facility, and that's why we are using existing organizations, strategically placed in different areas; so that if young people have re-



*Melissa Miralda
Human Development
Coordinator, Community
Rehabilitation Department*

strictions on their movement, that they have those facilities available closer to them so that they will be able to move. This works very well with another building that was done through another project—the CAPS Project—we have the Gateway Center that was recently built, and they are providing similar types of programming."

The Lake Independence Resource Center is a subproject of the Community Infrastructure Support component of the YCT Project. The LIRC will be a 21,000 square foot single-story structure, constructed primarily of reinforced concrete and concrete block work, and will include training rooms/spaces for the delivery of a variety of programs, ranging from pre-literacy to after-school literacy, adaptive life skills programs, arts and cultural programs, and indoor, multi-purpose sports programs.

The Lake Independence Resource Center project is scheduled to be completed by September, 2016.



Ground being broken for the Lake Independence Resource Center

side. Fortunately enough, Lake Independence had the land space and the infrastructural project running through it, and so it is very welcomed."

In her address at the ground-breaking ceremony, Melissa Miralda, Human Development Coordinator at the Community Rehabilitation Department, remarked, "This is an occasion whose time has come after years of planning and aspirations towards the commencement of this essential facility. I can attest that this dream has been shared by our director, Miss Bradley, for some time now. We dreamt of a space that is protected and safe, that is owned by the community, and where the germination of programs such as sports, arts

bership in the Collet, Lake Independence, Pickstock and Port Loyola divisions of Belize City. This will be achieved by providing services to enhance literacy and adaptive life skills, support conflict mediation, and improve inter-linkages and the sharing of best practices among participating agencies working within these communities. The project is being financed by the Government of Belize through a loan facility from the Caribbean Development Bank.

Chief Executive Officer in the Ministry of Human Development, Social Transformation and Poverty Alleviation, Judith Alpuche, explained, "The Lake Independence Resource Center is intended to really provide a safe space in



How Lake Independence Resource Center will look when completed

Belize Joins 'Mesoamerica Without Hunger'

In Belize 'Mesoamerica without Hunger' drives the Pilot Project of sustainable schools in the Toledo district



Hon. Gaspar Vega and H.E. Ambassador Bruno Figueroa

In order to strengthen national and local institutional frameworks for food security and family farming, Belize officially joined the 'Mesoamerica without Hunger' program.

Mesoamerica without Hunger is a South-South cooperation agreement that runs on the Central American countries, the Dominican Republic and Colombia, with the support of FAO and the Government of Mexico, through the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID).

In Belize, Mesoamerica without Hunger is oriented in a first phase for the design and de-

velopment of a pilot experience of sustainable schools in the Toledo district, whose young population is mostly indigenous.

Mesoamerica without Hunger coordinates efforts with several Belizean institutions, such as the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education. The participation of local farmers as a key role in providing safe and quality food has special emphasis in this process. One of the goals of Sustainable Development Goals is to reduce malnutrition rates. While Belize is one of the nations in the region that have better nutritional levels, there

are still significant challenges. Mesoamerica without Hunger will contribute to face them.

Through this initiative, Mexico and Belize show once again their commitment to boost the capacity of their communities in order to increase their access to resources and thereby achieve sustainable food security.

The Sustainable Schools initiative is especially based on activities such as the involvement of the educational community; the adoption of adequate and healthy school meals; the implementation of educational school gardens; the improvement of kitchens, dining areas, storage, and the direct

purchase of products from local family farming for school meals.

The Mesoamerica without Hunger Agreement, signed by FAO and the Government of Mexico is a South-South triangular cooperation agreement, that includes actions and cooperation initiatives to strengthen ties between Mexican and Mesoamerican institutions, in order to promote the fight against hunger, reduce inequality and increase living standards in the countries involved.

Mesoamerica without hunger seeks to support, through FAO, agreed actions with each of the countries in the region to strengthen food and nutrition security.



Jorge O'Ryan (FAO Representative), H.E. Carlos Quesnel (Mexican Ambassador to Belize), Hon. Gaspar Vega (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, Environment and Sustainable Development), H.E. Ambassador Bruno Figueroa (Director General for the Mesoamerica Project, Mexico's Secretariat of Foreign Affairs), Jose Alpuche (CEO Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, the Environment and Sustainable Development)

Major International Recognition for Career Belizean Woman Immigration Officer

Belizean Debra Baptist-Estrada was named one of 14 Women of Courage award winners for 2016, the US Department of State reports. Baptist-Estrada was commended by the State Department for her refusal of bribery.

In a summary of her biography, the State Department stated, "In an institution largely dominated by men, 20-year Belize Department of Immigration veteran Debra Baptist-Estrada has consistently refused bribes and other incentives to look the other way."

As Port Commander of Belize's only international airport, Ms. Estrada worked with US officials last spring to crack open a drug and human smuggling operation to the US and Europe. After being transferred



Veteran Belizean Immigration Officer Debra Baptist-Estrada receiving her award from United States Secretary of State John Kerry

to Belize's northern border this summer, Ms. Estrada continued to bring her incorruptible style to the job, enforcing immigration laws that had not been enforced for a very long time, and rejecting bribes to look the other way.

Estrada is courageously promoting the change this country needs by strengthening the rule of law. On April 1, the award winners will travel across cities in the United States to attend an International Visitors Leadership Program. The group will reunite in Los Angeles, California to reflect and share ideas on how to improve the female population in the world.

The awards were presented by United States Secretary of State John Kerry at the U.S. Department of State in Washington, D.C., on March 29, 2016.

Police Minister Tours Out-District Formations

“In spite of the scarce resources, I continue to believe that the biggest resource that can contribute to the fight against crime is right here in your heart”



Honourable John Saldivar
Minister of National Security



Mr. Allen Whyllie
Commissioner of Police

As Minister of National Security, Hon. John Saldivar is currently on a nationwide tour of Police Formations to re-assess and re-evaluate the effectiveness of the Police and explore ways of improving the work of the Department in its fight against crime and its function of increasing safety and security throughout our communities.

Two days later, April 1, 2016, the National Security Minister travelled to San Pedro, Ambergris Caye where he visited that formation. He was also accompanied by Commissioner Allen Whyllie. The Police Minister inspected a guard of honour and addressed a special conference of police officers from all ranks of the formation, later taking their questions on any and all issues

affecting their work in fighting crime and improving safety and security in the community.

Speaking, during his address, about his ongoing tour of police formations in the out-district areas, Honourable Saldivar told police officers, “What we have been seeing is a shift of the crime and the criminals moving to other areas outside of Belize City. And so, this round of visits that I am doing is very timely, because I want to signal to the officers in the out-district that we feel that we have done the necessary changes in Belize City; we feel that what we have done in Belize City is working and will continue to work; and the time has come now for all of us, the Minister, the CEO, the Commissioner and all, to start focusing on the areas outside of Belize City. And because we already see that shift, we know that we



Officer Commanding San Pedro Formation welcomes Police Minister John Saldivar

are already playing catch-up in terms of equipping the Police in the out-district to deal with the new wave of crime and the patterns that are now emerging.”

“And so we are doing this countrywide tour again, unannounced, yes; we are doing it without a lot of fanfare over it, but I personally am here because I want to hear from you. I want to hear what are the things



Police Minister Hon. John Saldivar inspecting Guard of Honour



A Conference-room full of Police Officers from San Pedro Formation

On Wednesday, March 30, 2016, Hon. Saldivar visited the Toledo Formation headquartered in Punta Gorda. He was accompanied by Commissioner of Police Allen Whyllie and Southern Region Commander Senior Superintendent Ralph Moody. He inspected a guard of honour and held indoor discussions with local commanders and members of that formation.



At the head-table, Commissioner Whyllie and Hon. John Saldivar

that concern you; because we, myself and the Commissioner and the CEO, we’ve got to make sure that we have happy officers; and if not happy, contented; and if not contented, at least motivated to do the work of the Police; because one of the things that I have heard in the four years as Minister of the Police is that the Police is the biggest

Continued on Page 15



Commissioner Whyllie and Hon. Saldivar sing Belize National Anthem



Police Officers of San Pedro Formation sing Belize National Anthem

Police Minister Tours Out-District Formations

“In spite of the scarce resources, I continue to believe that the biggest resource that can contribute to the fight against crime is right here in your heart”



Police Minister Honorable John Saldivar inspecting Guard of Honour



Guard of Honour under command of Senior Supt. Ralph Moody

Continued from Page 14

factor in the equation when it comes to fighting crime. If your police officers are not happy, they will not police crime the way they should. Sometimes they don't police it deliberately, sometimes they don't police it inadvertently, but we have got to make sure, that you are always motivated to do the police work that you are required to do.”

“Now I will say to you from the outset something you already know. Resources are limited. Resources are scarce. That is a reality of Mother Earth that we live on. What we have been given is finite. It will finish someday if we use it all up. It is scarce. What does that mean? We can't give everything that you want; we can't even give everything that you need; but we can try our darndest to do so; and we must learn then to work within those limitations as much as possible, and set our priorities so that the scarce resources can be used in a manner that will give us the best results.”

“For me, in spite of the scarce resources, I continue to believe that the biggest resource that can contribute to the fight against crime is right here in your heart. Police Officers, you have to want to do this. You have to want and love the job that you do. And that is the biggest motivator; not your salary, not your remuneration, not your



Police Minister Honorable John Saldivar and Commissioner Whyllie Saluted by Regional Commander Senior Superintendent Ralph Moody

promotion, not your allowance, but your desire to contribute to this nation and its people.”

“And so, the message I bring to you today is that we will do as much as we can to fix the situations that you're in, the conditions under which you have to work. You must know by now that there is a 60 Million Dollar Security Program that has started, that will see over 35 Million of that spent on the

Police Department, doing various things, ranging from fixing barracks, building new police stations, fixing current police stations, getting new equipment, new vehicles, more guns, more ammunition, and more of the things you need to do a better job. But even if we spend all of that 60 Million Dollars on the Police Department, you and I know that will still not be enough to bring everything that we need

to fight crime; so we make up for that deficiency with motivation that comes from inside of each and every one of you.”

“In my mind, we have had some successes in terms of the department's image. We've been doing well, haven't we? We have moved from that position where every day you see or hear of some case of police brutality; every day you have somebody on the news railing up, fussing, fighting about something that the Police has done. I'm not saying we've completely eliminated it. We still know we have some problems, but I want to thank each and every one of you that has contributed to the improvement of our image as a department.”

“Community policing has been a great contributor to the change in the public's attitude towards us and in terms of our image and how we are viewed by the public. We must continue to focus on community policing. What we have been doing recently, I've tried to kind of put some directives to the Commissioner that out of every new intake that we pass out from the Police Academy, that 24 of those recruits be assigned to community policing in one municipality. We've done this already in Belmopan, we've done it already in San Ignacio, and we hope that in the next intake, we will continue doing it elsewhere.”



Hon. Saldivar Commissioner Whyllie and Senior Supt. Ralph Moody touring upgraded courtroom facilities in Punta Gorda



Room full of officers from Toledo Formation prepare for open session with the Police Minister Hon. Saldivar and Commissioner Whyllie



At the Head-Table, Hon. John Saldivar, Commissioner Whyllie, Senior Supt. Ralph Moody and Officer Commanding Toledo Formation

BELTRAIDE SHOWCASES ITS WORK At COROZAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE EXPO



Over 1,000 visitors to the Annual Corozal Junior College (CJC) Business Expo held on Friday 8, 2016 on the school campus in Corozal Town had lots of fun, but they

from candles, food and drinks, arts and crafts, financial, agricultural services and motorcycles among many others. BELTRAIDE was among those exhibiting companies and its booth showcased numer-



also learnt how BELTRAIDE works in attracting trade investment, as well as trade promotion and facilitation in Belize. Some 31 companies

ous brochures on the work of its various units. A central feature of the booth was a video presentation on the work carried out by BelizeINVEST, EX-



from the Corozal and Orange Walk Districts displayed their wares and information on their products which ranged

PORTBelize, SBDCBelize and BTEC. Prospective young entrepreneurs visiting the booth obtained information on how

to establish a business and where to get assistance to create their market and business plans. In addition, all visitors to the booth received a copy of

cess of the expo, in particular, can be measured by the great number of students who have emerged better prepared from this experience when they even-

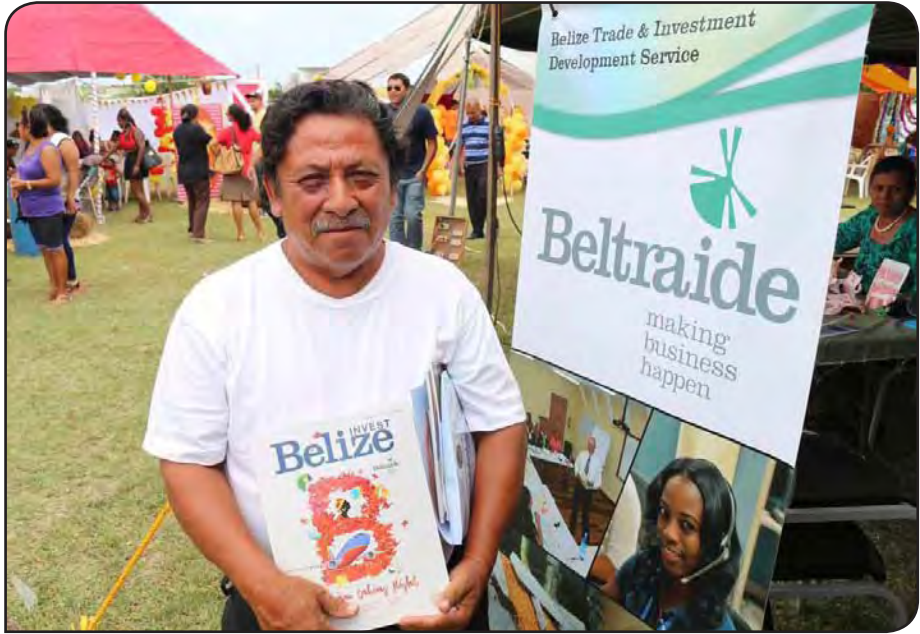


Invest Belize Magazine, a BELTRAIDE publication aimed at keeping the business community informed on current events.

The annual CJC Business Expo is part of the college's efforts in its "pursuit of excellence". Through its programs,

tually face the workplace. BELTRAIDE, therefore, is pleased to have been able to make a contribution towards this success.

BELTRAIDE is a statutory body under the auspices of the Ministry of Economic Development, Petroleum, Investment



including the annual business expo, many students' lives have changed for the better. According to CJC's management, students have been provided with hands-on and practically real experiences as they simulate owning a business. The suc-

Trade and Commerce. Its mission is to enhance Belize's prosperity by fostering investment confidence, entrepreneurship, business growth and innovation.

(Article and Photos Courtesy Mike Hernandez JP - Public Relations Officer, BELTRAIDE)

