

Chester Williams Gone After Only 59 Days

SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo District, Wednesday, September 22, 2010:

He officially took up duties as the Officer Commanding Cayo (Police) District a mere 59 days ago, on July 26, 2010, and as he hands over duties today, September 22, **Sr. Supt. of Police Chester Williams** holds the record as having served the shortest time in the seat as Officer Commanding this western police formation.

Despite the short tenure, Chester Williams leaves behind remarkable improvements at the San Ignacio Police Station. These improvements includes:

- a) a measurable case file management system;
- b) a shift supervisor/complainant management system;
- c) a police of the month award program;
- d) Strict guidelines for answering the telephone,
- e) A strict dress code to



Senior Superintendent of Police Chester Williams

address the practice that was becoming regular for policemen to be walking the streets without their caps and; improvements within the San Ignacio Police Station. In the short time that he was in San Ignacio Town, Chester Williams clearly demonstrated

TRAFFIC ACCIDENT CLAIMS THE LIFE OF A YOUNG MALE CYCLIST FROM SAN IGNACIO

Continued From Front Page

vehicle coming in the opposite direction, the two friends reportedly took to the middle of the highway just in time to see the car passing them on the right side, in the grass, off the shoulder of the highway with their friend momentarily on the hood before being flung over the top of the car.

Before police arrived, the critically injured cyclist was picked up and rushed to the San Ignacio Community Hospital by one of the first persons to arrive on the scene. He reportedly passed away about an hour later from severe injuries he received to the back portion of his body with the x-ray showing at least three broken ribs.

The driver of the car, identified as **Miguel Enriquez**, 34, Belizean mechanic of a 3rd Street address in San Ignacio Town, has been detained pending further investigation. Enriquez was reportedly on his way to Spanish Lookout when the incident occurred. He has provided a urine sample as a routine requirement of the



Chris Chuc's Bicycle

that effective police management can indeed go a long way in reducing crime.

If it were not for the September 21 stabbing of **Leonardo Velasquez** (reported elsewhere in this edition of the newspaper), which occurred one day before his departure, Chester Williams would have left this community with not a single reported major incident of violence occurring under his watch despite large social gathering during the month of celebration in September.

Senior Superintendent Chester Williams departed Belize on Thursday, September 23 enroute to Barbados where he will join **Assistant Superintendent of Police Bart Jones** as they begin studying law at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus.

In the interim, **Inspector Claudio Mai** is holding over while a more senior replacement officer is identified to take command of the Cayo (Police) District. We trust that the replacement officer comes with the capacity to maintain or maybe even surpass the standard set by Chester Williams.

investigation. The car's license and insurance are current.

The deceased, only a month ago captured second place in the Junior Road Championship Race. He also excelled in a recent cycling event in Guatemala.

He is survived by his mother, **Lilibeth Chuc**; one brother, **Michael Escobar** and three sisters **Thaisis**, **Damelin** and **Evian Escobar** as well as several other relatives and countless friends. Our sympathies go out the bereaved family as they begin to make arrangements to lay their loved one to rest.



The car that Miguel Enriquez was reportedly driving



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A Special And Fun Event In Santa Familia

BY:Jana

The **Santa Familia Equine Racing Club** held its first racing event on September 19 at 1 pm, as an intro for the **Independence Celebrations 2010** in the village.

The races were organized by Guy Stables, Paws Vet Clinic, the Santa Familia Village Council, David Carrillo and The Santa Familia Advancement Committee.

Approximately 250 persons came to see this first-time event, which took place at Dan Silva's property in Carmelita, at the far end of Santa Familia village.

A total of 24 horses were brought in from the surrounding areas in Cayo, as far as from Benque Road and most of them participated in the four races on the half mile stretch.

After the race activities continued with games, a parade, music and fireworks. The 8 food stalls and the coke tent provided food and drink for everybody while **DJ Manza** from Bullet Tree entertained everyone with his fun music.

THE WINNERS:



First Race - Local/Semi-Trained

– 1st place Wiley Done First,
Owner: Whistling Ducks Farm,
2nd place Michael,
Owner: Rafael Humes Jr.

Second Race - Paint Race

1st place Imani,
Owner: E. Tesecum,
2nd place Lightning,
Owner: J. Zuniga

Third Race – Cattle Horses

1st place Santina,
Owner: S. Juan,
2nd place Tatania,
Owner: J. Zuniga

Fourth Race – Professionals

1st place Twinkle Twinkle,
Owner: Guy Stables,
2nd place Kenya,

Owner: Guzman Stables

Congratulations is extended to all who participated and a big **Thank You** to everybody who contributed and assisted.

Special thanks go to **Rafael Humes Jr** for bush hogging the race track and the entertainment site; **Area Representative, Hon. Elvin Penner** for donating the trophies; **Whistling Ducks Farm** for equipment and supplies; **San Ignacio Police Formation** for assigning four policemen to maintain law and order; **Dan Silva** for the usage of his land, and especially to the race official **Ms. Marjie Olson Henley** from Light Rein Farm, who kept a sharp eye on the finish line to determine the winners, and last, but certainly not the least, to all the horse owners and fans who made this a special and fun event.

We look forward to the next race: **November 19, Garifuna Day, 2 pm** at a location to be announced later.

Happy Birthday Belize

BY: **Larry Waight**

September 21 is Belize's Independence Day, and the entire country comes alive with the exhilarating celebrations one would expect from a young nation with such a rich history and culture.

Belizeans have always been enthusiastic about exercising free speech and their right to independence, so it is no wonder they so vigorously pursued, embraced and now celebrate nationhood.

This makes September a great month to enjoy the multi cultural party that really kicks in September 10, the Battle of St George Caye Day, and peaks on September 21 when, at midnight 1981, the blue, white and red flag of the independent nation of Belize was first raised throughout the country. The story of Belizean Independence is as colourful as the country itself.

From the first nomadic peoples who settled to establish the incredible Maya civilisation beginning in 1800 BC, to the legendary Baymen and the pirates, slaves, adventurers, explorers and other settlers who followed, Belize has grown with a certain rugged independence and sense of fair play. It was only natural that even with many obstacles to overcome, the people would, without resorting to violence or warfare, demand and receive their independence. This sense of victory is very still fresh

and very much alive in Belize today, and is at no time more apparent than during September.

The former colony of British Honduras officially changed its name to Belize in 1973, and the drive towards statehood continued to gain 'people power' momentum, despite obstacles such as a long standing sovereignty dispute with neighbouring Guatemala. The push for freedom continued, however, and on September 21, 1981, Belize's Independence was finally declared.

Belize is now a thriving democracy, with high voter turnout and lively participation in the electoral process. Creole, Mestizo, Garifuna, Maya, Asian, European and the many other ethnic groups of Belize continue to unite under the banner of statehood and take pride in the ongoing development of their small robust country.

The theme for this year's celebrations is, **"United and Proud – Moving Forward – I Am Belize"**, and this perfectly sums up the national feeling.

Belizean Independence has been celebrated at Chaa Creek since that historic midnight in 1981, and this year the party continues as we encourage visitors to join in celebrating the fulfilment of what for many years was a passionate dream – the birth of the sovereign and independent nation of Belize. Happy Birthday and Viva Belize!

Eden SDA High School VACANCY NOTICE

A vacancy exist at Eden SDA High School in Santa Elena, Cayo for a Music Teacher for the school year 2010 -2011

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION:

- (a) A Bachelor's Degree in the subject area, preferably with teacher training
- (b) Three years teaching experience

Applicant should be willing to follow the Christian principles practiced at the school

APPLICATION PACKAGE MUST INCLUDE:

- (a) A letter of application;
- (b) Resume;
- (c) Certified copies of all certificates and diplomas;
- (d) Transcripts from tertiary institutions attended in sealed envelopes
- (e) Two recent testimonials in sealed envelopes

Deadline for the submission of application package is Tuesday October 12, 2010 and should be addressed to:

The Chairman
Eden SDA High School Board
P.O. Box 68
San Ignacio Town
Cayo District
Belize, C.A.



BELIZE TOURISM BOARD

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

MARKETING DIRECTOR Belize Tourism Board

Terms of Reference:

DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES:

The Director of Marketing will be responsible for managing the global marketing team and agencies with a focus on growing visitor numbers through online, offline, trade and public relations.

This Director will also be responsible for implementing the proposed fundamental shift in marketing strategy to focus on online and trade relations. As such he/she needs to demonstrate a solid understanding of marketing planning and strategy in relation to destination marketing and budget and performance management. He/She should demonstrate clear expertise in both new media and trade marketing.

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- ▶ Achieve marketing objectives as outlined in Marketing & Industry relations section of BTB Action Plan 2010-12
- ▶ Develop, implement and manage marketing strategy including value proposition, positioning statement and marketing mix tactics.
- ▶ Develop annual marketing plan to include budgets, goals and objectives, tracking measurements and reporting.
- ▶ Manage and develop the Marketing personnel to build a cohesive team dedicated to ensuring the successful implementation of marketing strategy
- ▶ Provide quarterly and annual business reviews for BTB Senior Executive Team
- ▶ Ensure integrity of the brand and value proposition is fully embraced at all consumer, partner and employee contact points.
- ▶ Financial & performance management

QUALIFICATIONS:

The Director of Marketing must have a minimum of 10 years travel industry with proven experience in managing marketing strategy and planning. They must have the ability to develop and manage marketing strategy, implement marketing plans that are equally focused offline and online, and establish brand propositions.

- ▶ 10+ years experience in marketing management career stream, preferably 3+ of those years spent in destination marketing.
- ▶ Graduate degree, with course work or experience in marketing and/or management.
- ▶ Proven experience developing integrated marketing plans, budget management and performance evaluation involving a range of key marketing tactics with a particular focus on online and trade marketing.
- ▶ 5+ years experience leading a team of diverse professionals in the fields of online & offline marketing, PR and media relations.
- ▶ 5+ years dealing directly with media buying, advertising, creative and PR agencies.
- ▶ Solid understanding of regional and global sustainability issues and experience in developing sustainability marketing initiatives.
- ▶ Demonstrated experience in building, presenting, negotiating business / marketing proposals.
- ▶ Understanding of CRM Principles including customer acquisition, retention and database management.
- ▶ Goals oriented with strong leadership skills.
- ▶ Experience working in an international setting and proficiency in Spanish preferred.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Applications along with two letters of references are to be submitted to the Belize Tourism Board no later than Friday, October 8th, 2010. Applications should be directed to:

**DIRECTOR OF TOURISM
Belize Tourism Board
P.O. Box 325
Belize City, Belize**

Your Horoscope & Lucky Numbers



ARIES:
March 22 to April 20

The key to handling this excessively demanding week is to keep your focus and take action, instead of worrying and thinking. Even in face of intense work pressure, you will have to attend to several personal and family demands as well. Try to do justice to all without worrying about the outcome. **Lucky Numbers: 03, 28, 63.**



TAURUS:
April 21 to May 21

There will be quite a few developments on the professional front. It is also a phase where the negative, gloomy feelings of the past few days are overtaken by a sense of exuberance and positivity. There will efforts to revamp your personal and public image. **Lucky Numbers: 21, 44, 96.**



GEMINI:
May 22 to June 21

The coming week will be better in terms of personal issues. There is a lot of happiness and satisfaction stemming from your family interactions. There is increase in

your charm and people are drawn to you, in awe of what you can accomplish and also to seek your opinion. **Lucky Numbers: 36, 58, 72.**



CANCER:
June 22 to July 23

You may have to travel to honour your professional commitments. Make sure that all details have been taken care of. You may take up a cause, which may lead you to dedicate a great amount of time to it. Do not ignore loved ones and their reasonable demands owing to this. **Lucky Numbers: 18, 84, 92.**

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LEO:
July 24 to August 21

Some grand plan is on the anvil, something like a pet project. You may start a new course or begin lessons and pursue a hobby seriously. You may even put in a lot of effort in order to entertain guests. However, you are cautioned against getting overly critical about your own self or analysing situations too much. **Lucky Numbers: 06, 32, 69.**



VIRGO:
August 22 to September 21

Get prepared and all set for a busy week ahead. The professional scene will be happening and will require quite a bit of input from you. Just be sure that you do not ignore finer details as you go about the business. Do not enter into arguments or confrontation. **Lucky Numbers: 27, 50, 62.**



LIBRA:
September 22 to October 23

You may suddenly feel that you are turning into a more sensitive individual with your feelings taking a more intense form. There is serious work in store professionally, so it will be best to keep your equilibrium. You might come up with some new insights at work. **Lucky Numbers: 48, 57, 81.**



SCORPIO:
October 24 to November 21

Although there will be some complexities or tough challenges arising at work, you will have reprieve in the form of effective solutions and adequate time to iron out issues. Your work will be appreciated but you will have to sustain the tempo of your work. **Lucky Numbers: 24, 33, 65.**



SAGITTARIUS:
November 22 to December 21

The coming week is likely to be rewarding for you in the form of a promotion or increased income. Also, you must remember that you'll be able to make strides in your work only if you are quick to read the call of the times and adapt to the requirement. **Lucky Numbers: 01, 25, 53.**



CAPRICORN:
December 22 to January 20

The big thing that is likely to keep you occupied this week is finances. Do not lend or borrow money. Also, it will be in your best interests to keep your plans to yourself and function quietly for some time. There will some reason to celebrate. **Lucky Numbers: 05, 47, 78.**



AQUARIUS:
January 21 to February 19

It's more like a fun filled week ahead for you. There are great opportunities to let your hair down. You may try to gain the most out of your adventurous experience but don't miss out on the fun in trying to do so. Those in the field of research and academics may be rewarded for good work. **Lucky Numbers: 75, 87, 95.**



PISCES:
February 20 to March 21

The coming week is more likely to draw you into some serious introspection and subsequent hard work to make your efforts count. There will be some worry about money which you can handle if you rein in your impulsive buying. Your interactions with family members will also be in focus. **Lucky Numbers: 15, 42, 80.**

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Discurso De Independencia Por El Hon. Erwin Contreras, Representante Del Cayo Oeste Ministro de Desarrollo Economico, Comercio y Industria y Proteccion Del Consumidor



Hermanos Benqueños, hoy en este importante día, quisiera antes que nada expresar una gran felicitación a todos y cada uno de nosotros, por este feliz acontecimiento, felicidades por estos 29 años de arduo esfuerzo, de unidad y de trabajo, pero sobre todo de sobriedad positiva.

Hoy 29 años después, miramos hacia atrás y descubrimos que el camino es largo, pero que lo estamos recorriendo juntos, buscando un beneficio común para las familias de este país.

Ayer fue el camino hacia la independencia, buscando respeto, dignidad, soberanía y una autonomía, que estamos fortaleciendo cada vez mas, frente a los demás países de la cuenca centroamericana.

El cambio lo estamos viendo cada día, en Benque Viejo del Carmen, estamos trabajando para ser un pueblo fuerte y diferente, la paz y la amistad que distinguen a los benqueños, se ve fortalecida cada día, hemos logrado en solo 2 años y medio, regresar las oficinas de registro de votantes, las oficinas de teléfonos. El Ministro de Recursos Naturales **Hon. Gaspar Vega**, estará próximamente abriendo sus oficinas de terrenos en Benque Viejo, esto es un logro para el beneficio de todos. En la zona libre ya se pavimentaron las calles con servicios de agua potable y electricidad, y en 2 semanas aproximadamente, se estará empezando la construcción de las primeras empresas, lo que conlleva a el ofrecimiento de trabajo para nuestra área.

El próximo mes de octubre, estaremos inaugurando nuestra biblioteca publica, con todos los adelantos tecnológicos que exigen nuestros jóvenes, estamos trabajando también, con gente Benqueña para abrir un **“Call Center”** inmediatamente, esto nos ayudara también, para mejorar las demandas de trabajo tan necesarias en nuestra área.

Durante muchos años hemos trabajado para conseguir nuestro propio banco, quisiera compartir hoy en medio de esta alegría, que en breve se estará construyendo el Banco Heritage en Benque Viejo del Carmen. Con estas muestras de apoyo solidario a nuestro pueblo, nos estamos fortaleciendo con una autonomía que satisfaga a los Benqueños, con servicios que aporten el crecimiento de nuestro pueblo. Pero algo que a sido un objetivo en mi



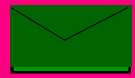
administración, a sido la educación para todos los jóvenes de Cayo Oeste, seguiremos manteniendo ese afán de mejorar las ayudas en el sistema escolar.

A fin de este año como lo prometimos, se estará desarrollando un mega-proyecto de construcción de calles y drenajes en Benque Viejo del Carmen, esto es como respuesta de las iniciativas que hemos gestionado, ante el gobierno central, el embellecimiento de nuestra municipalidad, con calles y drenajes será una realidad a fin de este año.

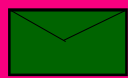
En solo 2 años y medio de administración, el gobierno que represento construyo decenas de sistemas de agua potable en todo el país, a través de mi ministerio desarrollaremos un puente, que unirá a Santa Elena con San Ignacio, de primer nivel a la altura de las grandes urbes, en breve también se estará inaugurando la nueva frontera sur, que conectara el área de Jálcate Belice con Peten y el área de Izabal Guatemala, se estará construyendo la carretera denominada **“Coastal Highway”**, que unirá la democracia con el Hummingbird Highway, esta era una prioridad durante mas de 30 años, ahora será una realidad.

Estaremos recibiendo 30 millones de dólares, para continuar los trabajos de agua potable y electrificación, para mas familias necesitadas, por eso hablar de alegría de independencia, es hablar del crecimiento como pueblo y país, que estamos recibiendo. 29 años de independencia solo se puede celebrar con trabajo para nuestra gente, por ello cada día, estamos buscando nuevas fuentes de empleo, poco a poco nos estamos independizando como pueblo, ahora buscaremos que este beneficio común, abarque a todos los habitantes de Cayo Oeste, hemos encontrado obstáculos en el camino, pero la fuerza de entereza nos a sacado a flote, hemos cimentado el éxito en el trabajo arduo de cada día, ayer nuestros próceres que lucharon por ver un Belice libre, encuentran hoy una libertad de paz y de justicia, sabiendo que mañana con la Unidad Y el Orgullo de esta nación, caminaremos rápidamente para ser cada día mejores.

Felicidades a todos, porque todos somos Belice, I'm Belize, Viva Belice, Happy Independence Day.



Readers Write



Sacred Heart College Students Comment On Crime

Dear Editor,

Crime is present in every society, but sometimes it escalates to a level that members of the society begin to demand that something be done to minimize or eliminate it.

The crimes committed stem from changes over the years. Every new generation seeks different ways to make life easier for the next generation. However, crime continues to plague our society because of abandonment of basic family values, financial problems, insufficient parental role models and peer pressure.

Financial problems is one of the main causes of crime in society. Scarcity of financial resources may lead to stealing and even murder which affects the society in a negative way.

Those who commit crime resort to it because they are unable to meet their needs. Criminal activity is a fast way of making easy money.

We are of the opinion that the crime rate could be lowered if the children have higher levels of education because that will give them a better chance at well paying jobs. A high level of education, better jobs and salaries will minimize the need for committing crimes.

Money is not the only thing a child needs when growing up they also need a good role model to look up to. Due to the high rate of unemployment some parents resort to travel abroad and leave children behind, without the parental role model children tend to take wrong turns. Children that are abandoned at a young age are more likely grow up without anyone telling them right from wrong.

Young parents also contribute to the causes of crime. They do not know how to properly raise a child.

Social organizations, the schools, the churches, and the homes have to teach children and young teens good values and how to live a life or working hard for what they need.

The children that grow without a good role model tend to be the ones committing crimes in the society and something must be done to lower the crime rate but it will not happen overnight.

Peer pressure is something that most teens go through and this is one of the main reason for crime.

Teens experiencing peer pressure might commit crimes to fit into a group like gangs and friends. In gangs an individual might be pressured to take drugs or commit an illegal act to be able to join or continue to show commitment to the group.

There are some children and teens who, for the need of friendship, are drawn away from school and other friends who are doing the right thing.

If the individual has good advice from parents as to how to choose a good friend and walk away from things like drugs and crimes, the crime rate, we believe, will be lower.

With proper intervention programs, better education, better paid jobs and good family values and unbroken homes, the crime rate could subside.

Each of us must become the change we want to see in our community.

Yesica Bautista, Luby Pech, Liani Tzib and Annie Estrada
Third Form Students, Sacred Heart College

Dear Editor,

Crime is a social problem in every part of the world. It has become a major and serious problem in our Belizean society.

Over the past years, Belize has experiences a crime wave due to poverty, unemployment, and many other causes. All these factors have helped in contributing from petty to serious criminal activities such as theft, murder, manslaughter, carnal knowledge, rape, incest and human trafficking.

Firstly, poverty is said to be one of the leading causes of crime. Those who are living in poverty do not have the means to provide for themselves and their families. When the sole provider or breadwinner of a household has lost his/her job, it poses a serious consequences to the family. Therefore, some may get engaged in various criminal activities in order to cope with their situation. This may include robbery and theft. Hence, the reason why some innocent Belizeans including store owners are continuous victims of hold up and other criminal acts committed by those in need.

Secondly, unemployment has been an enormous predicament in Belize. The lack of employment has amplified our crime rate; it has crippled the growth of our tourism industry, causing robbery and other crimes to increase. Tourists are now afraid to walk the streets of Belize City and come out of their cruise ships to buy our products and see what Belize has to offer. The lack of education has caused many youngsters to engage in gang activities.

Some other problems that may arise are that innocent people are being hurt, killed, raped and deprived of their freedom. The destruction of the tourism industry is a very dreadful situation due to the fact that tourism is an essential part of Belize's economy and tourists are now afraid to come to Belize because of the crime rate. The prospective investors will no longer be interested and want to invest in our country if he/she sees our nation in a deplorable situation. Whatever this jewel has not yet unfolded could remain concealed because of terrible crimes that are occurring today.

This problem will definitely create greater poverty. The lack of employment and the high rate of crime definitely has to be addressed in our country.

Thirdly, the misuse of drugs is one of leading social problems in our communities. It has influenced many illegal activities in Belize.

Gangs at constant war to protect their source of income and gains from the illegal trading in marijuana and cocaine.

In the drug dealer's mind, it is

their job to sell without worrying about the serious consequences it can cause on our neighborhood, society or country. Making money becomes priority rather than the welfare of the society.

Lastly, another reason for the escalating crime in Belize has been caused by corruption in the government system. Corruption happens mainly because of the lack of transparency within the daily legal financial transactions, the misuse of other monies by the government and dishonesty to the citizens of our country. When a government is elected, it mostly helps a chosen few, and most of the people they assist are financially capable of providing for themselves and their families. They generally do not help people who need the most assistance. Most of these poor are suffering today because of politics being played within the government departments. Hence, the reason why a corrupt government contributes to crime in our country of Belize.

In conclusion, crime in Belize is increasing on a daily basis. The crime rate in Belize is caused by poverty, lack of employment, drug trafficking and corruption caused by some of the government officials. A solution to this problem could be by reducing the rate of unemployment, by helping to create/ providing jobs, hosting more educational/sports camps for the youths, establishing safe recreational facilities for both children and adults.

Other solutions to crime could be implementing stricter punishments for grave crimes committed. We need to work hand in hand to make our country safer and more peaceful for all Belizeans and visitors to our shores.

Jamila Alvarez, Renice Palacio, Clarence Trapp, Gian Guerra, Jamila Avilez

Third form students, Sacred Heart College

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A Nicaraguan Official Is Found Slain In the Bronx, NY

Katie Orlinsky for The New York Times

By AL BAKER

Published: September 23, 2010

A Nicaraguan official was found dead on Thursday, his throat slashed, in his Bronx apartment, the police said.

The police identified the dead man as **César Mercado**, 34, a senior consulate officer who had been working in New York for eight years and had been performing the duties of consul general.

Mr. Mercado's body was



César Mercado, 34

discovered at 10:35 a.m. by his driver, who, detectives said, had arrived to pick him up.

He was lying just inside the entrance to his sixth-floor apartment, at 2070 Grand Concourse, near East 180th

Street, in the Mount Hope neighborhood, said **Deputy Commissioner Paul J. Browne**, the Police Department's chief spokesman.

"The door was unlocked" but was shut when the driver arrived, Mr. Browne said.

The driver, who was not identified, left the apartment and called the police, Mr. Browne said.

Detectives from the 46th Precinct found several knives in the apartment, he said.

A 12-inch kitchen knife and a

paring knife were found in the bathroom sink, along with a lot of blood, possibly indicating that the stabbing happened there and that Mr. Mercado collapsed as he approached his door.

The body had deep cuts to the neck and stab wounds in the abdomen, Mr. Browne said.

The police, along with agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, were seeking a motive for the killing, and no suspects had been identified.

Mr. Browne said that the apartment did not appear to have been ransacked, and that Mr. Mercado's body was clothed.

Mr. Browne said Mr. Mercado had been seen by neighbors on Wednesday.

Some neighbors in the six-story tan-brick building, known as August Arms, said they recalled Mr. Mercado as being a nice person. No one, however, seemed familiar with his job.

One woman, **Daisy Valle**, 40, who has lived on the fifth floor for 16 years, said she was surprised that someone of Mr. Mercado's stature was living there.

Nicaragua's foreign minister, **Samuel Santos López**, who was in New York for meetings of the United Nations General Assembly this week, was looking into the death and was communicating with Mr. Mercado's relatives, according to La Prensa, a leading Nicaraguan newspaper.

C. J. Hughes, Ray Rivera and Karen Zraick contributed reporting.

The Newest Fad - Spray-On Clothes

LONDON | Wed Sep 22, 2010
8:00pm BST - LONDON
(Reuters):

As the fashion pack leave London for Milan, one designer and a professor of particle technology unveiled their own unique collection made in one afternoon with spray-on fabric. The pair, **Manel Torres** and **Paul Luckham**, are perfecting a fabric that can be sprayed onto skin and other surfaces to make clothes, medical bandages and even upholstery.

Torres, a visiting academic at Imperial College London, approached Luckham, an Imperial College professor of particle technology, to help him realise his dream of a spray-on garment that can be taken off, washed and worn again.

"Couture these days is almost dying," Torres said. "I think here we have a good way of creating instant clothing — that is not very expensive."

Torres demonstrated the process in a lab at Imperial College, spraying a T-shirt onto a model in a matter of minutes. An experience the unnamed



model described as "nice, actually."

"It's like second skin," she said.

The system uses short fibres, such as wool, linen or acrylic, mixed with polymers to bind them together. A solvent which evaporates on contact with a surface allows the fibres to be sprayed out of can as a liquid.

The spray can be applied using an aerosol can or high pressure spray gun and the texture can be varied by changing the fibres and the numbers of layers of spray. The whole process also allows the material to be recycled.

"The beauty about this

material is that...I will tear it into parts and I will dissolve it again with the same solvent and I will spray some of it in Rome in two days time," Torres said.

Fashion is just one use of the technology and the pair have set up

a company to explore other applications, such as medical patches and bandages, hygiene wipes, air fresheners and upholstery for furniture and cars. Luckham says the technology could see a change to the way we think about using fabric — for example a sterile duster could be sprayed onto a surface which needs to be cleaned.

"The advantage of having it in an aerosol can is that once the material is inside nothing can get in and so no germs can get inside," he said.

The material can be hand-washed and Torres says more work is needed to ensure it can withstand a washing machine. (Editing by Paul Casciato)

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Belize's Opposition Leader John Briceno Offered No Real Alternative On Independence Day

By: Wellington C. Ramos



On the 21st day of September this year many Belizeans who live in the United States of America and elsewhere around the world, including myself, tuned in to Love FM and other radio stations to listen to the Independence Day Celebrations speeches broadcasted live over the internet.

Most of us are concerned about the increase in violent crimes especially murders that are taking place on the streets of Belize City and the economic situation our country is facing today.

The current government has already outlined several new initiatives that they have put in place to curve the crime rate and is waiting for more assistance from overseas to receive technical and other support to deal with this on-going dilemma.

The recent economic report released by the Statistical Institute of Belize (SIB) indicated

that the economy is rebounding slowly but not as fast as the government would like it to rebound.

The Prime Minister of Belize Hon. Dean Barrow, in his independence day address, spoke about Belizean Nationalism and the pride and love most Belizeans have for their country. He stressed on the accomplishments his government has made since assuming power two and a half years ago. He cautioned that the journey ahead is long but his government will do everything to make sure that in the end they prevail. He pointed out that Belize today is a lot different from the Belize they inherited back in 2008 when they came to office. At that time, the country was plagued with; corruption, poor credit rating, divisive government, family rule and unequal distribution of wealth. Belize looked as if it was the personal estate of a few families and one ethnic group monopolized all the wealth that was available to the general public.

Most of the money that was available at the Development Finance Corporation (DFC) and the Belize Bank went to the same wealthy families who have plenty and still wanted more. This greed on their part deprived students from borrowing to further their education, farmers from doing farming and poor families from improving and

buying homes. Their borrowing eventually bankrupted the DFC and some of them have not repaid their loan to this day. This is Taxpayers money and the government should utilize all legal options to recover these outstanding debts and bring those funds to the Government's Treasury where they belong.

That administration just gone was so brazen and cold blooded that many of them went into new business ventures with these funds, as if nothing went wrong while still refusing to pay their debts to the financial institutions.

When it was time for the Honorable John Briceno, Leader of the Opposition People's United Party to speak, he started off like a raging bull in attack mode. Little did he realize, that his party was in power for ten years and the state of Belize today is based on the foundation they laid in those ten years while he was in office as a Deputy Prime Minister in that previous government.

Had he forgotten that he was a part of the break away G-7 group protesting the dictatorial behavior of his **Prime Minister Said Musa**, those same dictatorial behavior when it came to spending and disbursing public funds especially when it came to the general public's health spending.

Does he not realize that he is the head of a party that is divided and all the other five elected members of his party are against him and are not satisfied with his leadership and want him to be replaced as their party leader.

These five members are very powerful because they can choose another leader from among themselves to represent them in the House of Representatives today if they please. Yet, he is going around doing many party unconstitutional maneuvering to maintain his fragile leadership of the party where they would much prefer to seem him go.

The PUP convention is planned for October 17th this year in Dangriga Town, a place where they are not popular for leasing the Commerce Beight Pier to one of their Party Stalwart for thirty-five years

without any money being paid to the government of Belize. This same character is now seeking a position on the PUP executive so that he can get more out of his party but as far as Dangriga residents are concerned, they want back their pier for their people to get jobs and go fishing. Once this pier is delivered back to the people of Dangriga by this current administration, the People's United Party will never again win another election in that constituency.

The only thing that has Rodwell Ferguson looking good are those few dollars he is giving away but as the saying goes: **"A fool and his money shall soon depart"**.

The good people of Dangriga are known for eating your food, taking your money and still go to the polls and vote against you.

If John Briceno was making a case for the people of Belize to replace the United Democratic Party for his party he failed miserably. He would have to convince the Belizean people that if given the opportunity to govern Belize, he will be different from Said Musa.

I heard nothing of substance, fundamental or visionary from this leader as to where he would like to take Belize in the next five years.

His speech was full of criticisms lacking any real substance and constructive proposals to deal with the problems Belize face today.

A solution to the crime situation requires a joint effort by all political parties and all stakeholders in Belize.

In the beginning, Briceño supported the government's **"Restore Belize"** crime initiatives and that was a good gesture on his part. However, amidst the pressure from some members of his party he later withdrew his support. From the time he withdrew, I have not heard any major policy initiatives coming from him as to what he would do to solve crime in our country.

Crime and the current state of the national economy are the two major problems Belize face today and with the economy showing signs of improving, the United Democratic Party must now focus all its resources on solving crime to win the next general election.

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Independence Day Address Delivered by Hon. Rene Montero,Area Representative Cayo Central Minister of Agriculture And Fisheries

SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo District, Tuesday, September 21, 2010:

A pleasant good afternoon to one and all. It is indeed a great honor and pleasure for me to address you on this momentous , on the 29th year of inde- pendence of Belize.

Geographically Belize is a bridge between Central America and Caricom and centrally located between our neighbors to the North Mexico and on the South west with Guatemala.

Our team for this years September celebration “**United and Proud, Moving Forward, I am Belize**” Depicts the struggle and aspirations of a young nation moving forward to achieve social and economic independence.

As Belizeans we need to be united because in unity there is strength. It also encompasses pooling both our human and financial resources to obtain sustainable development, with policies and strategies that



Hon. Rene Montero, Minister Of Agriculture & Fisheries

embraces the respect for our biodiversity and the environment. As Belizeans we have a lot to be proud of, First and foremost we should all be proud of being Belizeans, Proud of our National Anthem, Proud of our National Flag, Proud of all our National Symbols and most of all proud of our democracy, as we continue to struggle for peace, peace with ourselves, peace with our neighbors and most of all peace with our creator.

Also, we should be proud of our barrier reef, proud of our natural beauty, our ruins and most of all proud of our people. As Belizeans we need to show loyalty and patriotism to our systems of government and our way of life. **United and Proud Moving Forward ... Iam Belize.**

It is sad to say that crime is rapidly escalating but as a nation we must find a solution to crime. Our present Government is putting in place policies that will have long term effect in reducing crime so that we can live in peace and tranquility.

At this point, I would like to take this opportunity, to welcome our new commanding officer of the Police Formation here in San Ignacio. **Mr. Chester Williams;** He is known to be a dedicated officer and a person that takes his job very seriously, we are seeing a change, a change in attitude towards the police that of respect and trust. We are also seeing an increase in street patrols in the twin towns of San Ignacio and Santa Elena and in the surrounding villages.

Mr. Williams I must publicly commend you for the good work that you are doing and I am looking forward to working with you.

As the area representative for Cayo Central I am aware of the economic challenges facing our people and I feel for you. But I must tell you that we have a caring and visionary government that’s working for you that gives us hope, hope in tomorrow and hope for the future of our children and children’s children.

As a nation we will continue to develop and prosper, as your area representative for Cayo Central and as Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries I have the commitment and the political will to make the necessary change that will improve the standard of living for all Belizeans.

Early next year we will start the construction of the Hawks Worth Bridge and paving of the Loma Luz Boulevard.

The uplifting of the twin towns of San Ignacio and Santa Elena through a \$5 Million project with the World Bank which will

address the problem we are now facing with drainage and also some key streets will be paved. However, it is important to point out that it is only through a strong central government working closely with the municipa- lities that makes projects like these possible.

Other projects in the pipe line include the construction of a new primary School in the Santa Cruz area and the paving of the Cristo Rey/San Antonio road from Santa Elena to San Antonio and from Georgeville to Caracol.

The construction of a bridge at central farm to replace the ferry, a 10 Million dollars from IDB to strengthen the core public Agricultural services, 4 million dollars from Alba funds for rural development, focusing on poverty alleviation through an integrated farming system target- ing the “**Farm Family**” which will provide year round employment for the farmer and his family thus minimizing the migration of our youths to the urban areas and the list goes on and on.

As a government we are cognizant of the crime situation, but the crime situation did not creep on us over night, it has been taking root over the past ten years of the PUP mismanage- ment of our resources and policies which only helped to fill the pockets of a few selected cronies.

We can never forget the legacy of the PUP government, the Super Bond. The Super Bond is our cross and indeed a heavy cross which involves paying some 60 million dollars on interest rates alone on an annual basis and there is nothing to show for this criminal act that will continue to affect real growth for years to come.

In closing, I would like to challenge all the youths to stay in school, as a good education offers a window of opportunities and is one of the best weapons to combat crime and poverty alleviation.

Now, I invite each and everyone of you to join in the parade, enjoy yourself, have fun, but please don’t over do it. Happy 21st Independence Day to all. Let us Celebrate, **United and Proud..... Moving forward.... I am Belize!**

Thank you and God bless us all.

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THE 9TH ANNUAL

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Virginia Set To Execute First Woman In Nearly A Century

Teresa Lewis will die by lethal injection on Thursday unless an appeal to the supreme court can save her

The state of Virginia this week plans to carry out its first execution of a woman in nearly a century, despite claims that Teresa Lewis has severe learning difficulties.

Lewis's last hope is an appeal to the US supreme court after **Robert McDonnell**, the state governor, said he will not spare the life of the 41-year-old who was convicted of arranging for two men to murder her husband and stepson.

The men who carried out the killings – one of whom was Lewis's lover – received life sentences.

Lewis's last hope of avoiding the death chamber is an appeal before the supreme court. Her lawyers will argue that because she has such a low IQ her execution would be unconstitutional.

Prosecutors say that Lewis, a grandmother, deserves to be executed because she planned the killings in cold blood and bears a greater responsibility than the men who carried out the murders in order to collect insurance money.

Julian Lewis and his son Charles were shot in 2002 after an earlier attempt by Lewis to organise their deaths failed.

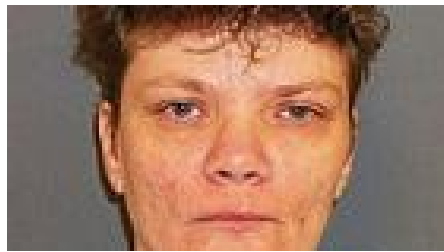
McDonnell, a strong advocate of the death penalty, said that an appeal for clemency before an execution is one of *"the toughest decisions"* a governor faces. He said he had read court transcripts and documents submitted by Lewis's lawyers but could see no reason why she should be spared.

McDonnell said Lewis admitted to committing the *"heinous crimes"* for which she was convicted and dismissed claims by her lawyer that she is not mentally fit to be held responsible.

The governor said that no medical professional has concluded that she is *"mentally retarded"* under Virginia law.

"The test for me really is: is there anything that would be a miscarriage of justice in letting the execution go forward?" he said.

Lewis's lover, **Matthew Shallenberger**, and another man, **Rodney Fuller**, shot the victims in their beds at a trailer home. Fuller confessed to the crime in order to save himself



Teresa Lewis, 41

from the death penalty.

The judge in the case later said he could not impose a more severe sentence on Shallenberger for the same crime.

But he sent Lewis to the death chamber after describing her as the *"head of this serpent"*.

Prosecutors portrayed her as scheming, saying she lured the two men into carrying out the murders with sex and the promise of a share of the insurance claim. Shallenberger has since killed himself.

The defence says that a psychologist tested Lewis and found she had an IQ of 72 which put her in the *"borderline mental retardation"* range.

The supreme court has ruled that the execution of *"mentally retarded"* people – interpreted by the courts as those with an IQ of less than 70 – is unconstitutional. Lewis has also been diagnosed with a dependency disorder and addiction to painkillers.

Defence lawyers also say Shallenberger told a former girlfriend that he *"manipulated"* Lewis in order to try and collect the insurance money on her husband so he could set himself up as a drug dealer in New York. They say Shallenberger wrote to a friend from prison that *"the only reason I had sex with [Teresa Lewis] was for the money – to get her to 'fall in love' with me so she would give me the insurance money"*. However, prosecutors say that such claims are manufactured to save Lewis from the death chamber.

Among those who have appealed for her sentence to be commuted is the novelist **John Grisham**.

The last woman to be executed in the state was 17-year-old Virginia Christian in 1912 for the murder of her employer after she was accused of stealing a gold locket.

There are 53 women on death row in the US. They include **Linda Carty**, who is from the Caribbean island of St Kitts and who holds a British passport but spent most of her adult life in the US. Carty was convicted, along

STAR HUMOR

Wasted Talent

Thomas was a man who traveled all around the world. Every city he stopped in he would buy something for his mother and send it to her.

On one such stop he found an expensive parrot that spoke seven different languages. He immediately bought it and sent it home to his mother.

A few days later he calls his

mother. *"Did you like the parrot?"* he asked.

"Oh yes," she replied. *"It was delicious."*

"WHAT!" Thomas cried out *"You ate it! That parrot wasn't for you to eat! It spoke seven languages!"*

The mother paused for a moment and then said, *"So why didn't it say something?"*

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with three co-defendants, of murder in Texas after kidnapping a 25-year-old woman and her three-day-old baby.

The woman was tied up with duct tape and a bag sealed over her head before she was forced into the boot of a car where she died of suffocation.

Carty's co-defendants testified against her and were spared the death penalty. She says she was framed by them because she was an informant for the Drug Enforcement Administration. Carty is facing execution after the US supreme court refused to hear an appeal.

The Ultimate Penalty

Eleven women have been executed in the US since the restoration of the death penalty in 1976.

The first was **Velma Barfield**. She was put to death in North Carolina in 1984 for putting rat poison in her boyfriend's tea after fearing he had discovered that she was forging cheques on his bank account.

Karla Faye Tucker drew international attention before her execution in Texas in 1998 because she became a born-again Christian while in prison and pleaded with the state's then governor, **George Bush**, for clemency. Tucker was convicted of murdering two people with a pickaxe during a robbery with two men. Bush refused to commute her sentence.

Christina Riggs, a nurse, was put to death in Arkansas in 2000 for smothering her two small children. After killing them, she wrote a suicide note and took an overdose of pills, but survived. During her trial she would not let her lawyers argue against the death penalty, saying she wanted to die. When the jury obliged she said *"Thank you"*.

Lois Nadean Smith was executed in Oklahoma in 2001 at the age of 61 for killing her son's former girlfriend. Smith shot **Cindy Baillie** nine times after accusing her of plotting to have her son killed. Smith's lawyers told the court she was trying to protect her son and was under the influence of drink and drugs at the time of the killing.

Aileen Wuornos was unusual as a female serial killer who received six death sentences and was executed in Florida in 2002. Wuornos, a prostitute, admitted murdering seven men. She claimed they had raped her or attempted to. She was the subject of the 2003 film, *Monster*.

The most recent execution of a woman was in 2005. **Frances Newton** was put to death in Texas for the murder of her husband and two children, aged seven and one. Prosecutors said she did it to claim \$100,000 (£64,000) in life insurance. Newton claimed her husband was a drug dealer who was murdered because he was in debt to suppliers.

Discurso De Independencia Por El Alcalde De Benque Viejo Del Carmen Sr. Nicholas Ruiz

**“UNIDOS Y ORGULLOSOS. HACIA
ADELANTE. SOY BELIZE!”**



Como alcalde de Benque Viejo Del Carmen, me siento muy honrado de estar ante ustedes una vez mas celebrando el aniversario de nuestra Independencia – ya son 29 años y podríamos decir que Belize emerge de ser un país joven, a ser un país ya con su propia identidad y características de nación.

Pienso que podemos celebrar hoy a causa de los esfuerzos valientes de nuestros antepasados: los de hace mas de 200 años que lucharon en aquella Batalla del Cayo de San Jorge; los de hace mas de setenta años que lucharon a través de la Depresión Global para exigir salarios mas dignos; los de hace mas 29 años como **George Price** y **Phillip Goldson** que lograron nuestra independencia política de la Gran Bretaña. Estos son algunos de nuestros héroes pero hay muchos más: **Leigh Richardson, Nicholas Pollard, Gwen Lizarraga, Cleopatra White, Simon Lamb** y muchos más, tantos que no cavarían mención en este discurso.

¿Por que quien es un héroe, después de todo? Acaso no es aquel que lucha por algo justo, por una causa mas grande que el? ¿Acaso no es aquel que se sacrifica para que otros puedan gozar de la meta obtenida? ¿No es aquel que sobresale en la situación difícil, siendo ejemplo a seguir? Si esto es ser héroe, y todas las personas que mencione, reúnen estos requisitos, entonces Belize esta abundantemente lleno de héroes: la madre que se sacrifica por sus hijos, el padre que trabaja arduamente para que sus hijos puedan tener un mejor futuro. Y como olvidar la maestra que va mas allá de trabajar sus ocho horas, que se queda en la clase en las largas horas de la noche? Y como el Policía que le es fiel a su credo de servir y proteger? El jornalero que da día a día, constantemente, da de si mismo, cumpliendo con su responsabilidad y deber – el también es ejemplo a seguir, y es, por eso un héroe.

Hoy podemos gozar diciendo que somos independientes y libres por los esfuerzos de muchas personas – todos héroes. Pero estemos consciente que esto no fue nada fácil: algunos héroes sufrieron burlas, críticas, dudas, y hasta enfermedades y encarcelamiento. No fue fácil, pero perseveraron y hoy tenemos un Belize libre y mejor, a causa de estos héroes.

¿Pero porque mencionar esto? Ustedes ya lo sabían, estoy seguro. Pues les ofrezco una razón: como esos héroes, nuestros antecesores, que luchaban por algo deseado (entonces no había Belize, por ejemplo), nosotros tenemos ante nosotros nuestros propios retos y la oportunidad de ser héroes. Si Belize es ahora políticamente independiente, a nosotros, ahora, nos toca impulsarla hacia adelante, en unidad. El sueño Beliceño no se terminó con la Independencia: comenzó. Ahora nos toca hacerlo mejor: mas prospero, mas unido, mas justo y equitativo, mas atento a los principios y fundamentos expuestos en nuestra constitución. Es nuestro día ahora y así como los héroes de antaño, hoy debemos luchar sin temor y con valentía, por Belize. Y Belize tiene muchos enemigos que no pierden tiempo luchando para verla caer. No podrán.

En términos tangibles, en Benque continúa nuestro inexorable viaje hacia nuestro destino: un pueblo prospero. Hoy podemos decir, a pesar de las criticas mas pésimas, que Benque Viejo Del Carmen ha avanzado a comparación de hace dos años. Antes no había una policlínica moderna, un biblioteca nueva, oficinas de Registro Electoral o de teléfono, como Telemedia. Hoy se ha embellecido el pueblo con los recursos municipales y se continúa el mejoramiento de nuestro salón de fiestas, la Cancha Marshalleck, con nuevos baños. Y hay más.

Le dejo al **Hon. Erwin Contreras** que les de las buenas noticias en lo que se refiere a la lucha por una sucursal bancaria así como lo de la oficina de terrenos. Pero si les digo, que la municipalidad y el, continuamos arduamente luchando para acezar los fondos del Banco Mundial para el programa de desarrollo de municipalidades beliceñas.

Después de más de 1000 horas de juntas, entrenamientos, seminarios y talleres, les puedo decir que Benque Viejo estará recibiendo \$800,000.00 BZD a través de este programa en Enero del 2011. El 3 de Marzo de este ano, ustedes acudieron a la Cancha para decidir como se gastaría este dinero: ahí, los Benquenos decidieron que la mayor parte se utilizaría para la rehabilitación de calles, drenajes y alguna porción, para le reconstrucción del Parque Coronación. El 25 de agosto, casi seis meses después, en consultación con los expertos del Banco Mundial, se hizo un análisis de calles a pavimentar y otros proyectos a seguir. Church Street, Burns Street, Churchill Street, y Victoria Street, algunas de las calles principales, fueron seleccionadas a base del estudio del experto del Banco Mundial.

Y esto solo es el primer paso: para acezar los restantes \$1.7 millones, su municipio tiene que seguir el proceso del Banco Mundial de mejorar la capacidad institucional de la muni. Ahí, el rol de su alcalde y municipalidad es crucial: debemos continuar cooperando con el Banco Mundial, acudiendo a talleres y sometiendo los reportes requeridos. Y su municipalidad lo ha estado haciendo: es mas, es una de las mejores en seguir estos requerimientos. Quizás no sea coincidencia, pues, que nuestra habilidad para cooperar y exponer nuestra situación Benquena a la gente del Banco Mundial, nos haya obtenido el segundo lugar en términos de municipio que mas va a recibir ayuda monetaria solo detrás de la Ciudad de Belmopán.

Pero este dinero del Banco Mundial no es un cheque en blanco: ese tiempo se acabo en el 2008. Ahora todo requiere transparencia y practicas de gobierno responsable. Así como estamos publicando los reportes de la Feria y los reportes financieros municipales, así también requieren que las municipalidades hagan las cosas bien, y este municipio es uno de los mejore en este proceso.

Para retomar el punto del proceso a seguir en la edificación de un Belize mejor, así como los héroes de la independencia en 1981, hoy a nosotros benqueños nos toca seguir adelante en este proceso difícil pero meritorio. Con confianza, con paciencia, con determinación, con optimismo; con fe y esperanza debemos seguir adelante con el desarrollo del Benque. No es fácil, lo se, pero en este emprendimiento, en este viaje, se requiere de heroísmo: en las cosas pequeñas y las grandes. Ahí esta nuestro aporte: en apoyar en nuestras labores diarias haciéndolas bien. Al fin del día, nuestros esfuerzos colectivos harán la diferencia y podremos orgullosamente decir que si, vamos hacia un Belize mas unido, encaminado hacia el progreso verdadero.

Hermanos que tengan feliz día de la Independencia! Y Nuestra lucha sigue! Que viva Belize!

World Disasters Report 2010 "Focus On Urban Risk"

The International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC) warns against unacceptable levels of urban risk GENEVA, 21 SEPTEMBER:

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) today launched the *World Disasters Report* with a warning that 2.57 billion urban dwellers living in low and middle income nations are exposed to unacceptable levels of risk fuelled by rapid urbanization, poor local governance, population growth, poor health services and, in many instances, the rising tide of urban violence.

Much of this urban population is also particularly exposed to climate change. A key finding of the report is that between one-third and one-half of the population of most cities in low- and middle-income nations live in informal settlements and it is common in such cities for the local authorities to refuse to extend to them all the infrastructure and essential services that do so much to reduce disaster risk.

Existing measures of risk and vulnerability are criticized for undervaluing the impact of disaster losses on slum dwellers in favour of measuring the impact of disasters on large economies and major infrastructure where loss of life may be minimal but economic damage is considerable.

The report urges governments and NGOs to address the urban risk divide which exists between cities that are well-governed and well-resourced compared to those that struggle with a lack of resources, knowledge and will to ensure a well-functioning urban environment. Bekele Geleta, IFRC Secretary General, said: *"For the first time in human history more people live in towns and cities than in the countryside, but the world has not kept pace with this change. This is why more people live in slums or informal settlements than ever before and this will lead to more people being affected by urban disasters like the terrible earthquake which struck Haiti earlier this year."*

The report states that the root cause of why so many people are affected by urban disasters is that a billion people live in poor-quality homes on dangerous sites with no hazard-reducing infrastructure and no services. In any given year, over 50,000 people can die as a result of earthquakes and 100 million can be affected by floods and the worst-affected are most often vulnerable city dwellers.

"A very large deficit exists in the infrastructure and services that reduce disaster risk for much of

the population in Latin America, Africa and Asia," says Geleta. *"We must bridge this urban risk divide or it will be further exposed in a very cruel way by climate change in the coming years."*

A recurring theme of this year's report is that good urban governance is essential to ensuring people are empowered and engaged in the development of their urban environment and not marginalized and left exposed to disasters, climate change, violence and ill health. David Satterthwaite, *World Disasters Report* lead writer and Senior Fellow at the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), said: *"People living in well governed cities are among those who benefit from the world's best quality of life and highest life expectancies. Generally, the more urbanized a nation, the stronger its economy, the*

higher the average life expectancy and the literacy rate, and the stronger the democracy, especially at local level."

"The crisis of urban poverty, rapidly growing informal settlements and growing numbers of urban disasters arises from the failure of governments to adapt their institutions to urbanization. It stems also in part from the failure of aid agencies to help them to do so – most aid agencies have inadequate or no urban policies and have long been reluctant to support urban development at a sufficient scale."

The report finds that forcible eviction is a constant threat to the urban poor. Large-scale evictions by public authorities displace millions every year, sometimes for re-development or beautification projects, or simply to target and remove what they consider

undesirable groups. The *World Disasters Report* points out that zoning and planning controls often exclude a large part of the urban population from legal land markets and advocates that building standards should be applied in a way that is appropriate to the local context including affordability and resistance to extreme weather. The location of cities will affect the types of climate hazards to which urban communities are exposed. Over half of 37 cities in Africa with more than 1 million residents are in the low-elevation coastal zone. A sea level rise of just 50 cm would lead to over 2 million people in Alexandria, Egypt, needing to abandon their homes. In the vulnerable east coast of Africa, potential costs of 10 per cent of GDP have been calculated to help vulnerable communities adapt to the consequences of climate change and the growing incidences of weather-related disasters.

PUBLIC NOTICE



SAN IGNACIO / SANTA ELENA BY-PASS

EIA LODGEMENT AND PUBLIC CONSULTATION NOTICE

The General Public is hereby advised that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has been submitted to the Department of the Environment (DOE) by the Ministry of Works for the San Ignacio / Santa Elena By-Pass. This EIA is for the proposed construction of a new high-level bridge across the Macal River, between Santa Elena and San Ignacio, Cayo District. The EIA will be reviewed by the National Environmental Appraisal Committee (NEAC) before a final decision is taken by the DOE.

The General Public is hereby informed that the EIA will be available for public review at the following locations: Santa Elena Library, San Ignacio Town Hall, Sacred Heart College Library, Benque Viejo Del Carmen Town Hall, and the Department of the Environment in Belmopan and at the DOE's website: www.doe.gov.bz.

Kindly be informed that a Public Consultation for the EIA will be held on Tuesday 28th September, 2010, at 6:30 pm at the San Ignacio Resort Hotel (Bedran Hall) in San Ignacio Town.

The General Public is invited to attend the Public Consultation.

Comments can be submitted on or before 4th October, 2010, to the Department of Environment (DOE) at 10/12 Ambergris Avenue, Belmopan; Fax: 822-2862;

Tel: 822-2542 or E-mail: envirodept@btl.net.

Eco Kids Summer Camp Winners

Cayo District, Belize – July 5th 2010:

The Lodge at Chaa Creek, Belize’s award winning eco resort is delighted to announce the winners of its Eco Kids Summer Camp Essay Competition.

Chaa Creek’s Eco Kids essay competition offered contestants a one week summer camp program inclusive of lodging at

the Macal River Camp, all meals plus snacks three times a day, daily scheduling of educational events, arts & crafts materials and t-shirt, camp counselors 24/7, and guided nature tours with licensed naturalist guides.

Many interesting essays were received but only those participants, who wrote the most captivating essays, explaining why they wanted to be an Eco

Velasquez Attacked, Robbed, Stabbed And Thrown In The River

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two male persons one of whom hit him in the forehead with a stone. He reportedly fell to the ground after which they proceeded to relieve him of the \$25 he had in the pocket of his pants.

After robbing him, one of the attackers reportedly took out a knife and inflicted the wounds after which they reportedly dragged him down the hill and dumped him into the Macal River. He floated under the bridge, made it to the other side where he reportedly held on to the shrub on the banks of the river for several hours until a

pedestrian passing on the bridge shortly after 4 o’clock on that Independence Day morning heard his cry for help. The pedestrian immediately contacted the police who arrived on the scene shortly thereafter and transported him to the San Ignacio Town Hospital. He was later transferred to the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital in Belize City in a critical condition. His condition has since been stabilized as he recuperates from the injuries.

San Ignacio are following several leads but to date an arrest is yet to be made.

Kid, were chosen as winners.

The essays were divided in two winning categories – Eco-greenies (7-11 years), and Eco Saplings (12-15 years) Essays were judged on creative subject content, structure and grammar.

The essays were posted on the Chaa Creek Travel Blog and a special Chaa Creek committee selected the winning essays.

The lucky winners are:

Hannah William Age 10

Alice Koltchev Age 12

Nino Moreno Age 11

Magdalena Gray Age 9

Angel Castillo Age 13

Janel Rodriguez Age 14

Alyssa Coleman Age 12
About the Eco Kids Summer Camp

The Chaa Creek Eco Kids Summer Camp is a week long program to educate children about biodiversity, natural resource conservation, the ancient Maya, traditional healing, and the three “R’s” **Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.**

The Program aims to instill memorable values that will have an impact on the way children conduct their lives, their relationship with our fragile earth and the sustainable development of our future.



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Belize City Outlet
1 ½ Mls Northern Highway
P.O.Box 1413 Belize City
Phone: (501) 223-1643
Fax: (501) 223-1659

Belize Water Services Limited invites applicants to fill the following vacancy at our **Belize City Head Office.**

VEHICLE UNIT SUPERVISOR: Supervise vehicle unit personnel and activities of the Vehicle Unit.

VEHICLE UNIT SUPERVISOR	
<p>DUTIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Responsible for compiling and maintaining the information associated with the Vehicles Unit; liaise with all departments with regards to vehicle usage, vehicle inspections and other vehicle related matters that arise.• Manage vehicle maintenance scheduling.• Supervise clerks assigned to the Vehicle Unit.• Prepare and submit computer generated daily, weekly and monthly reports as required.• Develop work policies and procedures for efficiency and effectiveness• Other duties as assigned from time to time.	<p>EDUCATION and EXPERIENCE:</p> <p>Academic/Experience requirements include the completion of an Associate’s Degree in Mechanical or Electrical Engineering with three or more years experience as a Supervisor. Experience in vehicle management will be an asset. Must possess a valid driver’s license and be able to drive vehicles with manual transmission. Must be computer literate.</p> <p>BENEFITS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pay Scale \$19,600 to \$36,700. Starting salary is dependent on education level and experience. <p>After successful completion of probationary period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pension Plan• Medical, Dental and Vision Insurance Plan

If you are interested in progressing with us please send your application letter with your detailed curriculum vitae giving your current position by 6th October, 2010 to:

Human Resources Manager
Belize Water Services Limited,
P.O. Box 150, Central American Boulevard, Belize City, Belize
E-mail: haydon.brown@bwsl.com.bz

Note: Only qualified candidates will be acknowledged.

Belize Water Services Limited invites applicants to fill the following vacancy at our **Belize City Head Office.**

STORES SUPERVISOR: Supervise stores personnel and activities of the Stores Department.

STORES SUPERVISOR	
<p>DUTIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Will be responsible for compiling and maintaining the accounting information associated with the Stores Unit. Liaise with all departments with regards to inventory usage and indicate re-order points• Supervise clerks responsible for stores issues and receipts and inventory maintenance• Prepare and submit daily, weekly and monthly reports• Perform annual/monthly physical inventory counts• Develop work policies and procedures for efficiency and effectiveness• Other duties as assigned from time to time.	<p>EDUCATION and EXPERIENCE:</p> <p>Academic/Experience requirements include the completion of a Bachelor’s Degree in Accounting or Professional Qualification in Inventory/Stores management with two or more years experience as an Accounting Supervisor or an Associate’s Degree with four or more years experience as an Accounting Supervisor. Must have experience in inventory management. Must possess a valid driver’s license and be able to drive vehicles with manual transmission. Must be computer literate.</p> <p>BENEFITS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pay Scale \$26,200 to \$53,900. Starting salary is dependent on education level and experience. <p>After successful completion of probationary period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pension Plan• Medical, Dental and Vision Insurance Plan

If you are interested in progressing with us please send your application letter with your detailed curriculum vitae giving your current position by 6th October, 2010 to:

Human Resources Manager
Belize Water Services Limited,
P.O. Box 150, Central American Boulevard, Belize City, Belize
E-mail: haydon.brown@bwsl.com.bz

Note: Only qualified candidates will be acknowledged.

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