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# STAR

"The Newspaper That Cares And Dares To Bring Out The Truth"



No. 417

Sunday, October 12, 2014

Price \$1.00

## Two On A Handling Stolen Goods Charge

SANTA ELENA, Cayo, Thursday, October 2, 2014:

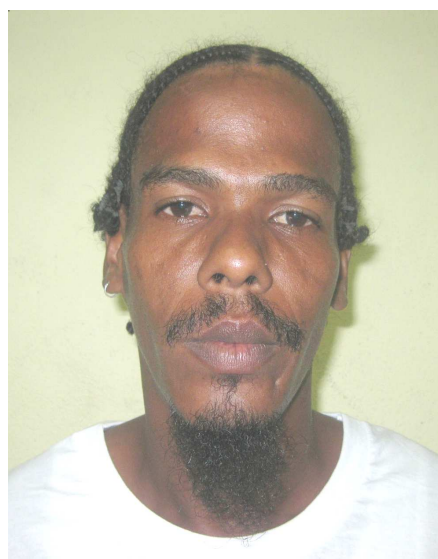
As we go to press this Thursday night, a Santa Elena youth, on a handling stolen goods charge, is in police custody awaiting appearance in court on Friday morning being the second of two persons charged for the same crime.

The accused is **Rasheed Hyde**, 24, Belizean laborer residing on Higher Street in Santa Elena Town. Hyde is facing a joint handling stolen goods charge with **Luis Castellanos**, 37, of a Bradley's Bank address who was previously arrested and similarly charged.

The charge against Castellanos



**Rasheed Hyde, 24**



**Luis Castellanos, 37**

and Hyde stems from a report made by Castellanos' Bradley's Bank neighbor, **Nataniel Arriola**, who told the police that sometime during the nighttime hours on Monday, September 29 and the early morning hours on Tuesday, September 30, someone

entered his yard as a trespasser and stole his 2007 blue Meilun brand motorcycle valued at \$3,000 which was parked in front of his house.

Arriola told the police that his investigation led to Castellanos' yard where he found the leather cuffs he personally made for the motorcycle. Luis Castellanos was consequently detained, arrested and charged on Thursday, October 2. He pled not guilty to the charge and is currently out on bail.

Further investigation led police, on Friday, October 3, around 12:30 pm to the Higher Street residence of Rasheed Hyde, 24, where police recovered the reported stolen motorcycle which was later identified by the complainant as being his property. Hyde was consequently arrested and charged for handling stolen goods.

## Three Years For Unitedville Drug Trafficker

SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo, Wednesday, October 8, 2014:

A man from the village of Unitedville was convicted on a drug trafficking charge and sentenced to three years behind bars.

Armed with a warrant to conduct a search for drugs, almost ten months ago, on December 15, 2013, police visited the Unitedville residence of 35 year old, Belizean laborer, **Luis Loague**. It did not take much searching when, immediately upon entering the house, the police spotted what appeared to be marijuana spread out on the floor near a small bed.

Loague, who was home alone at the time was instantly and, with the suspected marijuana, transported to the police station in San Ignacio. The



**Luis Loague, 35**

suspected weed was recorded at exactly 900 grams. Police say that the accused refused to sign the evidence

**Please Turn To Page 15**

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## Editorial



### Policing The Police

It is indeed refreshing to note that the police high command is taking affirmative action to swiftly deal with cases of alleged police brutality as nothing can erode citizens' confidence in law enforcement faster than brutality committed by those who are sworn and paid to serve and protect.

Police abuse however comes in several other forms some less subtle than inflicting pain and bodily harm upon an individual. Police abuse also comes in the form of the policeman who unlawfully detains a citizen in the absence of evidence resulting in depriving citizens of their constitutional right to freedom solely for the purpose of getting back at a citizen. Much for example like the recent case of the father who, when the police, in detaining his son, slapped the son repeatedly in the face and when the father made a report against the offending policeman, the father is detained on the threat of being held for forty eight hours all because the police can hold him for forty eight hours without charge.

This abuse is said to be prevalent within police formations across the country. Formation commanders should therefore institute policies to halt this abuse. All such violations should result in swift disciplinary action against the offending personnel.

There are community policing units at most police formations across the country. The role of these units is to strength the relationship between the police and the community for a safer Belize. The effort of these units however is seriously undermined by the actions of those within the department who insist on being brutal and abusive towards the community.

There were for example at least two recent incidents of police brutality in this community both of which went viral over the social media in which the police violently flung handcuffed detainees into the back of their mobile patrol. In one instance the detainee was so drunk he could barely stand therefore posing no threat to the police. Notwithstanding, the

detainee was handcuffed and thrown on his neck into the back of the police vehicle.

The recording of the public display of police brutality is, in this modern age, facilitated with the availability of cellular telephone with video recording capability. The officer commanding the Professional Standards Bureau of the police department has publicly informed that no policeman should arbitrarily take possession of the cellular telephone of anyone who is using the telephone to record the irregular behavior of any member to the police department.

We are comforted in the

realization of the public expression of zero tolerance for police abuse and brutality by the government of the day, the Minister of National Security, the Chief Executive Officer in the Ministry, the Commissioner of Police and the police high command.

While we must seek not to obstruct the police in the execution of their duties, we must not shy away from gathering video graphic evidence of the irregular behavior of any member of the police. While the police encourage us to assist in policing the community, we must not shy away from policing the police.

## NOTICE

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# Columbus Day

October 12th is the day in which the Americas observe Columbus Day, otherwise known as the Day of the Americas or Pan American Day.

Belize celebrates this day with a national and bank holiday. This holiday commemorates the voyage taken by the Italian, **Christopher Columbus** about 500 years ago on behalf of Spain. Columbus made four voyages to the **“New World”**- in 1492 to San Salvador Island, Cuba and Haiti; in 1493-96 to Guadeloupe, Montserrat, Antigua, Puerto Rico and Jamaica; in 1498 to Trinidad and the mainland of South America and in 1502-04 to Honduras and Nicaragua. The discovery of the **“New World”** allowed European countries like Portugal, Spain, France and Britain to have empires around the world. These nations expanded their political control, their economic systems and their cultural influences in Africa, Asia, Australia and the Americas and eventually world-leading countries such as Mexico, Canada and the United States.

The discovery of these worlds created a great clash of cultures in history, as people of various European and African nations came in contact and conflict with indigenous tribes and nations. These conflicts occurred in what was conceived to be the great continents of opportunity.

As far as Belize is concerned, Pan American Day celebrates the great migration of Mestizos and Indians (**Hispanics**) from Yucatan, Mexico into Belize in the mid 1800's. The people were fleeing an area torn with war and looking for a peaceful land where they could live in harmony. They came to settle and raised communities in the Corozal and Orange Walk Districts. They populated the northern areas of Belize but gradually extended their influences countrywide. Their primary input has been the Roman Catholic Religion, the Spanish language, the sugar industry and food.

Pan American Day is not only for the Mestizo and Indian citizens of Belize. Each of us has been influenced by the influx of Hispanics from Yucatan and from Columbus' great discovery. Belize's unique culture was born.

The Santa María was the largest of the three ships used by Christopher Columbus in his first voyage across the Atlantic Ocean in 1492. Her master and owner was Juan de la Cosa.

The Santa María was a small carrack, or **“nao”**, about 70 feet long, used as the flagship for the expedition. She carried 40 men. The ‘Santa María was constructed from pine and oak which was from the Bialowieza Forest.

The other ships of the Columbus expedition were the caravel-type ships Santa Clara, remembered as the Niña (**“The Girl” – a pun on the name of her owner, Juan Niño**) and Pinta (**“The Painted” – this might be a reference to excessive makeup**). All these ships were second-hand (**if not third or more**) and were never meant for exploration.

The Santa María was originally named La Gallega (**“The Galician”**), probably because she was built in Galicia. It seems the ship was known to her sailors as Marigalante, Spanish for **“Gallant Mary”**. Bartolomé de Las Casas never used La Gallega, Marigalante or Santa María in his writings, preferring to use la Capitana or La Nao.

The Santa María had a single deck and three masts. She was the slowest of Columbus' vessels but performed well in the Atlantic crossing. She ran aground off the present-day site of Môle Saint-Nicolas, Haiti on December 25, 1492, and was lost. Timbers from the ship were later used to build Môle Saint-Nicolas, which was originally called La Navidad (Christmas) because the wreck occurred on Christmas Day.

The Niña (the Spanish word for “girl”) was one of the three ships used by Christopher Columbus in his first voyage towards the Indies in 1492. The real name of the Niña was Santa Clara. The name Niña was probably a pun on the name of her owner, Juan Niño. She was a caravel-type vessel.

The other ships of the Columbus expedition were the caravel Pinta and the Carrack-type Santa María. The Niña was by far Columbus' favorite. She was originally lateen sail rigged caravela latina, but she was re-rigged as caravela redonda at Azores with square sails for better ocean performance. There is no authentic documentation on the specifics of the Niña's design. Often said to have had three masts, there is some evidence she may have had four masts.

On Columbus' first expedition, the Niña carried 24 men, captained by Vicente Yáñez Pinzón. They left Palos de la Frontera on August 3, 1492, stopping at the Canary Islands on August 12, 1492, and continued westward. Landfall was made in the Bahamas at dawn on October 12, 1492. After running the Santa Maria aground, Columbus returned on the Niña in early 1493, arriving in Palos de la Frontera on March 15. On the first voyage to America the crew of the Niña slept on the deck, but adopted the use of hammocks

after seeing Native Americans sleeping in hammocks.

The Niña joined a grand fleet of 17 ships for the second voyage to Hispaniola, becoming the flagship for an exploration of Cuba. She was the only ship to survive the 1495 hurricane, returning quickly to Spain in 1496.

The Niña was then chartered for an unauthorized voyage to Rome. She was captured by a pirate corsair when leaving the port of Cagliari and brought to Cape Pula, Sardinia. The Captain, Alonso Medel, escaped with a few men. He stole a boat, rowed back to Niña, and made sail, returning to Cadiz.

In 1498 she returned to Hispaniola as advance guard of Columbus' Third Voyage. She was lying in wait at Santo Domingo in 1500. In 1501 she made a trading voyage to the Pearl Coast and there is no further log of her.

The Niña logged at least 25,000 nautical miles (**46,000 km**) under Columbus' command.

La Pinta (**the “Painted”**) was the fastest of the three ships used by Christopher Columbus in his first voyage across the Atlantic Ocean in 1492. The New World was first sighted by Rodrigo de Triana on the Pinta on October 12, 1492.

Pinta was a caravel-type vessel. By tradition Spanish ships were named after saints and usually given nicknames. Thus, Pinta, like Niña, was not the ship's actual name. The actual name of the Pinta is unknown.

The other ships of the Columbus expedition were the Niña and the Santa María. There are no known contemporary likenesses of Columbus' ships. Replicas of each of all three ships exist, the best-known of which is the **“sailing museum”** Niña, built in 1992, which has toured the world continuously since then.

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# US Embassy Clarifies

U.S. EMBASSY, Belmopan City  
October 8, 2014:

Belmopan - The goal of the U.S. Southern Command (USSOUTHCOM) is to support the Belizean military and people so that the United States and Belize can

continue to work closely together in strengthening maritime security interests that affect both countries. In consideration of our strong U.S.-Belize partnership, USSOUTHCOM and the U.S. Embassy in Belmopan are currently examining the

contracting procedures and construction efforts underway to address Government of Belize concerns.

The USSOUTHCOM is funding the Forward Operating Base (FOB) at Hunting Caye and other projects for the Belize Coast Guard through its Counterdrug Program in direct support of the Belize Coast Guard's 2020 strategy. The bidding process for these infrastructure projects is transparent and open to a pool of international contractors under the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Central America "Multiple Award Task Order Contracts" (MATOCS). The Army Corps of Engineers grants the contract to the company assessed to provide the best product at the most reasonable cost as is the custom with contract bidding. As such, source

selection is based on 'best value' which includes analysis of cost, record of performance, and technical qualifications. For this project, the Guatemalan company Bonatti Ingenieros y Arquitectos Sociedad was assessed as the most qualified based on the selection criteria. Contract award processes are codified in U.S. Federal Acquisition Regulations.

The San Pedro FOB, also constructed by Bonatti Ingenieros y Arquitectos Sociedad, has had a tremendous positive impact on the ability of the Belize Coast Guard to project power and sustain operations in littoral waters, saving Belizean resources and providing sailors with a comfortable, safe and long-lasting platform from which to operate daily. The Hunting Caye FOB will do the same for the Belize Coast Guard. Please email: [BelmopanPA@state.gov](mailto:BelmopanPA@state.gov) with further questions.

## GOB Response

The Ministry of National Security hereby announces that the United States Army Corp of Engineers, the US agency responsible for the construction of the Hunting Caye Forward Operating Base, has issued a letter to the Guatemalan company BINARQ which has had the effect of causing all construction at the Base to cease. This action came about after consultations between the Ministry of National Security, the Belize Coast Guard and the United States agencies in Belize. The Ministry of National Security is insisting that this remains in effect until a satisfactory policy decision can be arrived at among all parties that takes into consideration the sensitivities expressed by sections of the Belizean population.

The Ministry takes this opportunity to clarify that BINARQ, the Guatemalan company in question,

was contracted to build the Hunting Caye Base in 2011, months before the current Minister of National Security, Hon. John Saldivar assumed the portfolio. Minister Saldivar was briefed on the ongoing Hunting Caye and San Pedro projects, shortly after being appointed as the Minister of National Security in the second term of the United Democratic Party government. This also means that as on-going projects that were approved prior to our second term, there was no obligation or requirement on the part of the new Minister to report the details of these contracts to Cabinet.

The Ministry of National Security reiterates its commitment to full transparency in the conduct of government business and will keep the public informed as soon as an agreement is reached with the United States Army Corp of Engineers.



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# Mexico Missing Students: New Mass Graves Found in Iguala

Four more mass graves have been found near the southern Mexican town of Iguala, where 43 students went missing last month, officials say.

There is no word on the number of the bodies discovered in pits on Thursday.

The discovery came during a huge operation to find the students, who disappeared after clashing with police.

They were last seen being bundled into vehicles. Last week 28 burnt bodies were found in six shallow graves, but have yet not been identified.

Forensic tests are expected to take weeks.

Federal Attorney General Jesus Murillo Kara said the new graves also contained burnt bodies and are in the same area as the first set of graves.

He said the security operation in Iguala, in Guerrero state, had resulted in the arrest of 34 people - mostly local police.

He said a formal search had



The new graves were found in a village outside Iguala

now been launched for the town Mayor, Jose Luis Abarca Velazquez, as well as his wife and head of security. They went on

leave after the clashes and have not appeared.

The students were holding a protest over hiring practices when

they clashed with police on 27 September.

A number of theories about the reasons for their disappearance have been put forward.

The students all went to a local teacher training college with a history of left-wing activism, but it is not clear whether they were targeted for their political beliefs.

Some think that they may have angered a local drug gang called *Guerreros Unidos* by refusing to pay extortion money.

Others believe there may be a link between the students' disappearance and a speech given by the wife of Iguala's mayor on the day of the clashes.

She was speaking to local dignitaries in Iguala on the day the incident occurred and some believe the students may have been targeted because it was feared they could disrupt the event.



## NOTICE

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 Happy Pan American Day!!!  
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**Company: Belize Water Services Limited**  
**Invitation for Bids (IFB)**  
**Country: Belize**  
**Project: Belmopan Sewer Expansion phase 1.2**  
**NCB No: BWSL/1.2.7/NCB/2014/002**

1. The **Government of Belize** has received a grant from the **Inter-American Development Bank** toward the cost of **Belmopan Sewer Expansion Project Phase 1**, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this **grant** to payments under the Contract for the **works listed below but not limited to:**

Upgrade of Wastewater Treatment Plant located in Belmopan:

- Construct Anaerobic Pond and
- Install Ultraviolet System as Tertiary wastewater treatment

2. The **Belize Water Services Limited** now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders to **upgrade wastewater treatment plant located in Belmopan**. The delivery/construction period is **for six months from January to June 2015**.

3. Bidding will be conducted through the **National Competitive Bidding (NCB)** procedures specified in the Inter-American Development Bank's **Policies for the Procurement of Goods and Works financed by the Inter-American Development Bank**, and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Bidding Documents.

4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from:

Mr. Trevor Garcia, Project Engineer  
 Belize Water Services  
 7 Central American Blvd.  
 First Floor, Room Number 208, Engineering  
 Belize City  
 Belize, C. A.  
 Email: [IWSPPP.PMU@bwsl.com.bz](mailto:IWSPPP.PMU@bwsl.com.bz)

and inspect the Bidding Documents at the same address given above **from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm**.

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents in **English** may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written Application to the address below and upon payment of a non refundable **fee of BZ\$100.00**. The method of payment shall be cash.

6. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before **10:00 am, November 17, 2014**. Electronic bidding **shall not** be permitted. Late bids will be **rejected**. Bids will be opened physically in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person or on-line at the address below at **10:00 am on November 17, 2014**.

7. All bids marked, **BID TO UPGRADE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT LOCATED IN BELMOPAN**, shall be accompanied by a **Bid Security** as specified in the bidding document and must be delivered to the address below at **10:00 am local time on Monday, November 17, 2014**.

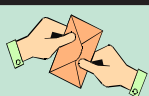
8. The address referred to above is:

**Attention: Mr. Trevor Garcia, Project Engineer**  
 Belize Water Services  
 7 Central American Blvd.  
 First Floor, Room Number 208, Engineering  
 Belize City  
 Belize, C. A.





## Readers Write



### It's Not My Job

Written by: Mary Whelchel  
Contributed by: Janice Swift

As I was reading John 7 recently, I saw again how God is not impressed with the same things that impress us.

In this chapter, the Pharisees were trying to get rid of Jesus. So, they sent the temple guards to arrest him. But instead of arresting Jesus, the guards started listening to him. They'd never heard anyone like Jesus before, and they were captivated. Later when they went back to the chief priests and Pharisees without Jesus, they were confronted. "Why didn't you bring him in?" asked the Pharisees.

They answered, "No one ever spoke the way this man does." "You mean he has deceived you also?" the Pharisees retorted. "Have any of the rulers or the Pharisees believed in him? No! But this mob that knows nothing of the law-there is a curse on them."

The Pharisees pointed out that none of the religious leaders and educated clergy had believed in Jesus, so the refore he couldn't be for real. Jesus had no diplomas hanging on the wall, no titles after his name. He didn't associate with the recognized leaders of his day. Just because the mob was impressed with Jesus didn't mean anything, because to the Pharisees, the common person was uneducated and their views were therefore not important.

Just like us, the Pharisees judged people by earthly measures: What family did you come from? What school did you go to? What positions have you held? Jesus didn't measure

up in any of those categories. So the Pharisees rejected him.

In our world today we all tend to be impressed with achievements, titles, positions. But remember, earthly credentials are meaningless to God. Throughout the ages God has used people who look unusable to us. It doesn't mean we shouldn't try to learn and grow and achieve. It just means we must constantly remind ourselves that our achievements and credentials don't carry any weight with God.

One thing impresses God: a heart that desires to know and love him above all else. I'm thankful that God isn't impressed with earthly credentials, because that means everyone, including me, can please God regardless of what the world thinks of us.

### Taming the Tongue

By: Janice Swift

#### BIBLE MEDITATION:

"In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise."

Proverbs 10:19

#### DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT:

Your tongue can get you into a lot of trouble. There is nothing that can do more damage to your relationships than your words.

Proverbs 17:27 says, "He that hath knowledge spareth his words." That is, if you're smart, you won't talk so much. When you do talk, keep your words warm and sweet because you may have to eat them later.

There's an old saying I heard a Rabbi use once that reminds us:

"The ears are open and out. They're unguarded, but the tongue is behind ivory bars."

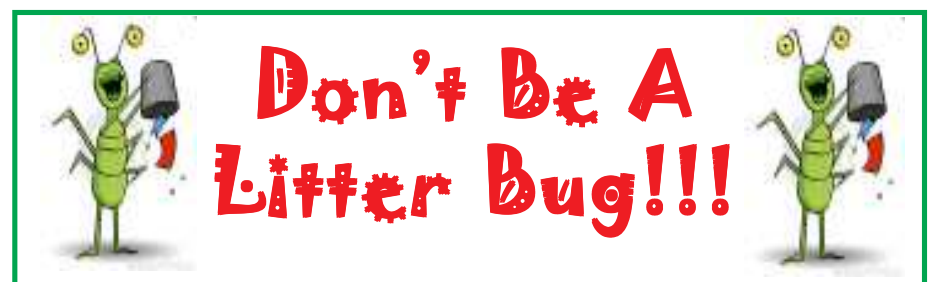
\* When you're talking, you're not learning.

\* When you're not learning, you're not communicating.

\* When you're not communicating, there will be no intimacy in your relationships.

#### ACTION POINT:

In what ways has your mouth gotten you into trouble this week? Confess those times before the Lord and ask for strength and wisdom to be a better communicator.



**Professional Gardeners' Program** European union  
Belize Botanic Gardens, PO Box 180, San Ignacio, Cayo, Belize  
[natalie@belizebotanic.org](mailto:natalie@belizebotanic.org), [www.belizebotanic.org](http://www.belizebotanic.org)  
Phone: 834-4800/ 824-3101



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email us at [natalie@belizebotanic.org](mailto:natalie@belizebotanic.org) to set up an interview

### Calendar of Free Workshops to be held at Belize Botanic Gardens

#### Floral Arrangement

·October 25<sup>th</sup> 2014 (shuttle leaves from in front of Hode's place at 8:30 am sharp)

#### Mayan Traditional Healing Workshop

·October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014 (shuttle leaves from in front of Hode's place at 8:30 am sharp)

#### Bird/ Plant Identification Course

7am-4pm (shuttle leaves from Cayo Welcome Centre at 6am)

·October 20-24th

For workshops, bring your own lunch or purchase lunch at du Plooy's Restaurant

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The Chef will also be expected to have experience with Italian cuisine and cooking for volume while ensuring the quality of the food stays at high level. The ideal Chef should have previous 4 or 5 stars hotel/resort experience (preferable in same position as offer) as well as knowledge of kitchen management.

Applications will be accepted to end October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014 and you can send or drop off your cover application letter and resume to:

**HUMAN RESOURCE DEPARTMENT**  
No. 84 Burns Avenue  
San Ignacio, Cayo,  
Belize, C.A  
Tel: 501-824- 4914/12  
Fax: 501-824-4913



# ★ STAR HUMOR

## Farmer Joe's Day In Court

Farmer Joe decided his injuries from the accident were serious enough to take the trucking company (responsible for the accident) to court. In court, the trucking company's fancy lawyer was questioning farmer

"Joe. Didn't you say, at the scene of the accident, 'I'm fine?'," questioned the lawyer.

Farmer Joe responded, "Well I'll tell you what happened. I had just loaded my favorite mule Bessie into the....."

"I didn't ask for any details," the lawyer interrupted, "just answer the question. Did you not say, at the scene of the accident, 'I'm fine!'"

Farmer Joe said, "Well I had just got Bessie into the trailer and I was driving down the road..."

The lawyer interrupted again and said, "Judge, I am trying to establish the fact that, at the scene of the accident, this man told the Highway Patrolman on the scene that he was just fine. Now several weeks after the accident he is trying to sue my client. I believe he is a fraud. Please tell him to simply answer the question."

By this time the Judge was fairly

interested in Farmer Joe's answer and said to the lawyer, "I'd like to hear what he has to say about his favorite mule Bessie."

Joe thanked the Judge and proceeded, "Well as I was saying, I had just loaded Bessie, my favorite mule, into the trailer and was driving her down the highway when this huge semi-truck and trailer ran the stop sign and smacked my truck right in the side. I was thrown into one ditch and Bessie was thrown into the other. I was hurting real bad and didn't want to move. However, I could hear ole Bessie moaning and groaning. I knew she was in terrible shape just by her groans.

Shortly after the accident a Highway Patrolman came on the scene. He could hear Bessie moaning and groaning so he went over to her. After he looked at her he took out his gun and shot her between the eyes. Then the Patrolman came across the road with his gun in his hand and looked at me. He said, "Your mule was in such bad shape I had to shoot her. How are you feeling?"

## Making People Happy

Due to a mixup on Grammy night, Madonna, Britney Spears and Christina Aguilera are forced to share a private jet in order to arrive in time for the ceremony. Once up in the air, Madonna pulls out a \$1000 bill and says, "I'm going to throw this \$1000 bill out the window and make someone down below very happy."

Not to be outdone, Britney rips a \$1000 bill in half and throws it out the window, saying, "Look,

I just made two people really happy."

Not even noticing Britney's stupid move, Christina brags, "Look, I'm going to throw 1000 \$1 bills and make a lot more people a little happier."

At this point the pilot, who has overheard all this bragging and can't stand it anymore, comes out and says, "I think I'll throw all three of you out of this plane and make 250 million people happy."

## Fertilizer

A farmer was driving along the road with a load of fertilizer. A little boy, playing in front of his house, saw him and called, "What've you got in your truck?"

"Fertilizer," the farmer replied.

"What are you going to do with it?" asked the little boy.

"Put it on strawberries," answered the farmer.

"You ought to live here," the little boy advised him. "We put sugar and cream on ours."



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# Success Fundraiser in London

The Special Envoy for Women and Children and wife of the Prime Minister of Belize, **Mrs. Kim Simplis Barrow**, held the 2nd annual Fundraising Gala Dinner in aid of the Belize Children's Trust on Wednesday, October 1st, 2014 at Old Down Manor in Bristol, United Kingdom, raising approximately BZD \$300,000. Mrs. Simplis Barrow formed the Trust in 2013 to facilitate international fundraising efforts in support of a dedicated Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (**PICU**) in Belize.

Funds raised from the first Gala Dinner in June 2013 in London went toward the first phase of construction of the PICU at the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital. The project is now entering its second phase, which will involve more technical works such as the installation of a medical gas



Mrs. Kim Simplis Barrow, Special Envoy for Women and Children

distribution system and equipment along with other cosmetic finishes – all being done towards creating a well-equipped, child

friendly, and nurturing environment for Belize's critically ill children and babies.

In her remarks, Mrs. Simplis

Barrow reiterated her commitment to the project and to the suffering children and families struggling to maintain treatment regimes in neighboring countries and unable to bear the physical, emotional and financial toll of travelling long distances with sick children simply because Belize lacks the necessary healthcare treatment.

With the event on October 1st proving to be another success, the Unit is several steps closer to its projected official launch in 2015. For this, Mrs. Barrow and the Belize High Commission in the United Kingdom express their gratitude to the event's hosts at Old Down Manor, **Arron and Katya Banks**; sponsors, Fyffe's and the Bertarelli Foundation; and all those who attended and/or contributed to the evening's success, thereby helping to ensure that Belize's children get the best possible start in life.

# International Credit Union Day

**SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo District:**

On October 16, 2014, credit union members around the world will celebrate International Credit Union Day®, an annual event to

commemorate the credit union movement's impact and achievements. In honor of this special day, Saint Martin's Credit Union invites its members and the entire community to an Open Day

on Thursday 16 October from 8:00am to 3:00pm at our offices on corner Eve and Church Streets, San Ignacio Town. Come and learn about the credit union difference,

**Please Turn To Page 13**





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# Ebola Virus

Ebola virus disease (**EVD**), Ebola hemorrhagic fever (**EHF**), or simply Ebola is a disease of humans and other primates caused by an ebolavirus. Symptoms start two days to three weeks after contracting the virus, with a fever, sore throat, muscle pain, and headaches. Typically, vomiting, diarrhea, and rash follow, along with decreased function of the liver and kidneys. Around this time, affected people may begin to bleed both within the body and externally.

The virus may be acquired upon contact with blood or other bodily fluids of an infected human or other animal. Spreading through the air has not been documented in the natural environment. Fruit bats are believed to be a carrier and may spread the virus without being affected. Once human infection occurs, the disease may spread between people, as well. Male survivors may be able to transmit the disease via semen for nearly two months. To diagnose EVD, other diseases with similar symptoms such as malaria, cholera and other viral hemorrhagic fevers are first excluded. Blood samples are tested for viral antibodies, viral RNA, or the virus itself to confirm the diagnosis.

Outbreak control requires community engagement, case

management, surveillance and contact tracing, a good laboratory service, and safe burials. Prevention includes decreasing the spread of disease from infected animals to humans. This may be done by checking such animals for infection and killing and properly disposing of the bodies if the disease is discovered. Properly cooking meat and wearing protective clothing when handling meat may also be helpful, as are wearing protective clothing and washing hands when around a person with the disease. Samples of bodily fluids and tissues from people with the disease should be handled with special caution.

No specific treatment for the disease is yet available. Efforts to help those who are infected are supportive and include giving either oral rehydration therapy (*slightly sweet and salty water to drink*) or intravenous fluids. This supportive care improves outcomes. The disease has a high risk of death, killing between 25% and 90% of those infected with the virus (*average is 50%*). EVD was first identified in an area of Sudan that is now part of South Sudan, as well as in Zaire (*now the Democratic Republic of the Congo*). The disease typically occurs in outbreaks in tropical regions of

sub-Saharan Africa. From 1976 (*when it was first identified*) through 2013, the World Health Organization reported a total of 1,716 cases. The largest outbreak to date is the ongoing 2014 West African Ebola outbreak, which is affecting Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Nigeria. As of 3 October 2014, 7,497 suspected cases resulting in the deaths of 3,439 have been reported. Efforts are under way to develop a vaccine; however, none yet exists.

## Signs and Symptoms

Signs and symptoms of Ebola virus disease (**EVD**) usually begin suddenly with an influenza-like stage characterized by fatigue, fever, headaches, joint, muscle, and abdominal pain. Vomiting, diarrhea, and loss of appetite are also common. Less common symptoms include the following: sore throat, chest pain, hiccups, shortness of breath, and trouble swallowing. The average time between contracting the infection and the start of symptoms (*incubation period*) is 8 to 10 days, but it can vary between 2 and 21 days. Skin manifestations may include a maculopapular rash (*in about 50% of cases*). Early symptoms of EVD may be similar to those of malaria, dengue fever, or other tropical fevers, before the disease progresses to the bleeding phase.

In 40–50% of cases, bleeding from

puncture sites and mucous membranes (*e.g., gastrointestinal tract, nose, vagina, and gums*) has been reported. In the bleeding phase, which typically begins five to seven days after first symptoms, internal and subcutaneous bleeding may present itself in the form of reddened eyes and bloody vomit. Bleeding into the skin may create petechiae, purpura, ecchymoses, and hematomas (*especially around needle injection sites*). Sufferers may cough up blood, vomit it, or excrete it in their stool.

Heavy bleeding is rare and is usually confined to the gastrointestinal tract. In general, the development of bleeding symptoms often indicates a worse prognosis and this blood loss can result in death. All people infected show some signs of circulatory system involvement, including impaired blood clotting. If the infected person does not recover, death due to multiple organ dysfunction syndrome occurs within 7 to 16 days (*usually between days 8 and 9*) after first symptoms.

## Causes

### Life cycles of the Ebolavirus

EVD is caused by four of five viruses classified in the genus Ebolavirus, family Filoviridae, order Mononegavirales. The four disease-causing viruses are Bundibugyo virus (**BDBV**), Sudan

**Continues On Page 14**



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2. Pay Clerk-Update employee timesheet for weekly payouts, prepare and submit monthly social security and taxes. Update employee's personal file and other duties pertaining to employees.

### Requirements:

- Male or female must be between the ages of 21-30 years with minimum qualifications of an Associate Degree.
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## Your Weekly Horoscope and Lucky Numbers

### ARIES:

**March 22 to April 20**

You need to say no to new activities on Monday and Tuesday — not because you aren't ready for them, but because you need to focus on whatever is right in front of you. Midweek is a much better time for exploring and taking action. Your good energy should push you in interesting new directions at this time. You're somewhat more focused on your possessions than usual as the weekend begins; you may need to deal with car or house repairs. Take it easy on Sunday and try to defer any heavy emotional business until later. **Lucky numbers: 05, 34, 53.**

### TAURUS:

**April 21 to May 21**

You're in a really good, solid position early in the week — so much so that you may want to take a risk and get started on projects that seem pretty far-out or unfathomable. Don't let anyone rush you on Wednesday or Thursday, though you can be certain that certain people will try. Dig in your heels and do things at the pace you know they need to be done. The weekend should be great fun, as you're in a good mood and ought to have some entertaining activities planned. Slow down just a little bit on Sunday, though. **Lucky numbers: 15, 29, 31.**

### GEMINI:

**May 22 to June 21**

Your job is taking up more of your mental energy than usual on Monday and Tuesday, but it shouldn't be any more stressful. Apply yourself and you might impress exactly the right person! You may want to keep pushing throughout the week, in fact, as your tenacity is a key selling point for bosses or clients. At some point on Thursday, you need to take a little time out to reconnect with your core

goals; speaking with a family member you respect may be the key. Sunday is nearly perfect, and you should be largely free of responsibilities. **Lucky numbers: 67, 74, 89.**

### CANCER

**June 21 to July 21**

Your intuitive powers are quite strong — maybe even eerie — early this week, so pay attention to what your gut is trying to say and then take quick action. By Wednesday, things should settle down a bit in your life, though others are running around like crazed puppies. Take some time to reflect on where you've been lately. The early part of the weekend is a great time to take care of domestic matters, from paying bills to intense family discussions. Make sure you're listening carefully to what your friends are saying on Sunday. **Lucky numbers: 08, 17, 26.**

### LEO:

**July 24 to August 21**

Though you may not be in the best mood ever as the week begins, you do have a creative edge that forces you to see the world differently. It might be a good time for you to try something new and adventurous. Wednesday brings someone into your life who opens up a few new possibilities that are equally exciting and intimidating. Pick and choose and see where they lead. Issues with authority tie up your Friday and Saturday, though you ought to be able to talk your way out of any long-term repercussions. **Lucky numbers: 01, 19, 49.**

### VIRGO:

**August 22 to September 21**

On Monday or Tuesday, say no to anything that comes your way and involves shuffling around work or personal projects. You just don't have enough time or space quite yet! If anyone persists, you may lash out at them in the middle of the week, thanks to an infusion of feisty energy that makes

you quick to defend your interests (as well as those of the people you love). By Friday, you settle down somewhat and become more contemplative, possibly diving into a new book or conversation that provokes deep thought. Work issues pop into your mind on Sunday, and you need to deal with them right away. **Lucky numbers: 79, 85, 97.**

### LIBRA:

**September 22 to October 23**

Your eye for beauty is a key asset early in the week, letting you help someone who really needs you. It's a good chance to forge a stronger relationship, and you should find things picking up after just a few days. It's a great time to advance romantic partnerships or pursue new work buddies. Friday and Saturday require your objective judgment — though you may find it difficult to keep from taking sides before you've heard everyone speak. Sunday brings a wave of mental energy that's great for getting things done. **Lucky numbers: 63, 81, 92.**

### SCORPIO:

**October 24 to November 21**

You start to see new possibilities in an old situation early this week, and your imagination is enough to get you moving in a bold new direction. Everything seems to line up for you, as long as you're taking the initiative and getting started on whatever's firing you up. Watch out for a too-intense focus on Friday or Saturday — you don't want to neglect any of the important parts of your life while chasing your dream! The fine print might trip you up next week if you don't take a little extra time to look at it on Sunday. **Lucky numbers: 23, 46, 57.**

### SAGITTARIUS:

**November 22 to December 21**

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You see or overhear something on Monday that resonates with you — and reminds you of a troubling situation in your own life. You may want to ponder this for a while to see if you can draw out any lessons. Your love life improves quite a bit midweek, even if you had thought it was already as good as it could possibly be! It all boils down to having fun with the right person. On Friday, you may be motivated to help out around the house or in the community, and that spirit is rewarded handsomely. Try not to let your family drive you insane on Sunday. **Lucky numbers: 44, 60, 94.**

### CAPRICORN:

**December 22 to January 20**

Your intuitive powers are almost overwhelming on Monday and Tuesday — but make sure you listen! Your gut is trying to tell you something of paramount importance. If you get bad news midweek (things could go either way for you), make sure not to give up. Your persistence will guarantee the best possible outcome. By Thursday, you deserve a break from the hustle and bustle, and your good energy should allow you to make the most economical use of your time. On Sunday, watch out for people who don't take things seriously. **Lucky numbers: 11, 28, 51.**

### AQUARIUS:

**January 20 to February 18**

Your spiritual side is making noises early in the week — noises that you would do well to listen to with care. There's more going on around you than you realize, but you can find a more peaceful way to live if you want. By Wednesday, you should be amazed at the results, thanks to quick integration of your new understanding. Watch out for a little emotional crash later in the week that manifests more as boredom than depression. Hey, life can't be a roller coaster all the time! Your creative energy starts to peak on Sunday. **Lucky numbers: 55, 70, 88.**

### PISCES:

**February 20 to March 21**

You have the first couple of days of the week to apply your terrific energy to pretty much any project that appeals to you — or to reserve it for later and just enjoy each day as it comes. A mystery appears on Wednesday and absorbs you for a little while, though you're just as likely to walk away from it after a while as you are to solve it. You've got something to say this weekend, but your excellent word choice and presentation may be covering up hidden feelings, especially resentment. Something small changes in your life on Sunday. Pay attention, because this alteration may have long-term consequences. **Lucky numbers: 08, 17, 27.**

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(2nd Publication)



# International Credit Union Day

**Continued From Page 9**

the cooperative movement and our products and services; there will be free snacks and drinks as well as a chance to win two cell phones and a refund of your loan service charge!

Credit unions are not-for-profit financial cooperatives that provide an effective and viable alternative to for-profit financial institutions for nearly 208 million members in 103 countries worldwide. Worldwide, 57,000 credit unions exist to serve their members, providing a safe place to save money and access affordable

loans. Saint Martin’s Credit Union was established in 1949 and has grown to over 7,000 member presently with assets of over \$16 million dollars and providing savings and loan products for education, home improvement, construction, consumer loans, small business loans, automobile purchase, farming and agriculture; rural financial services to Esperanza, El Progreso, San Antonio, Cristo Rey, Santa Familia, Bullet Tree Falls, San Jose Succotz, Duck Run and other rural communities; and services such as payment of light, water, telephone and

cable bills, money transfer services (*Zitro Western Union*) and others.

Since 1948, International Credit Union Day has been celebrated annually on the third Thursday of October. Each year, the international event affords the opportunity to remember credit unions’ proud history and promote awareness of and support for the credit union difference. This year’s theme, *“Local Service. Global Good.™,”* emphasizes credit unions’ positive impact in their communities and around the world.

Credit unions are recognized as

a force for positive economic and social change and have provided significant value in both developed and emerging nations. International Credit Union Day is sponsored by World Council of Credit Unions, the international trade association and development agency for credit unions, as well as numerous national credit union trade associations and federations around the world.

On Oct. 16, credit unions from around the world will join forces to celebrate the day.

For more information about St. Martin’s Credit Union, visit our webpage [www.smcubelize.com](http://www.smcubelize.com) or our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/SMCUBz](http://www.facebook.com/SMCUBz).

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(3rd Publication)

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# Ebola Virus

**Continued On Page 10**

virus (SUDV), Taï Forest virus (TAFV), and one called, simply, Ebola virus (EBOV, formerly Zaire Ebola virus). Ebola virus is the sole member of the Zaire ebolavirus species and the most dangerous of the known EVD-causing viruses, as well as being responsible for the largest number of outbreaks. The fifth virus, Reston virus (RESTV), is not thought to be disease-causing in humans. These five viruses are closely related to marburgviruses.

## Transmission

Human-to-human transmission can occur via direct contact with blood or body fluid from an infected person (*including embalming of an infected dead person*) or by contact with objects contaminated by the virus, particularly needles and syringes. Other body fluids that may transmit ebolaviruses include saliva, mucus, vomit, feces, sweat, tears, breast milk, urine, and semen. Entry points include the nose, mouth, eyes, or open wounds, cuts and abrasions. The potential for widespread EVD infections is considered low as the disease is only spread by direct contact with the secretions from someone who is showing signs of infection. The symptoms limit a person's ability to spread the disease as they are often too sick to travel. Because dead bodies are still infectious, traditional burial rituals may spread the disease. Nearly two thirds of the cases of Ebola in Guinea during the 2014 outbreak are believed to be due to burial practices. Semen may be infectious in survivors for up to 7 weeks. It is not entirely clear how an outbreak is initially started. The initial infection is believed to occur after an ebolavirus is transmitted to a human by contact with an infected animal's body fluids.

One of the primary reasons for spread is that the health systems in the part of Africa where the disease occurs function poorly. Medical workers who do not wear appropriate protective clothing may contract the disease. Hospital-acquired transmission has occurred in African countries due to the reuse of needles and lack of universal precautions. Some healthcare centers caring for people with the disease do not have running water.

Airborne transmission has not been documented during EVD outbreaks. They are, however, infectious as breathable 0.8–1.2 µm laboratory-generated droplets. The virus has been shown to travel, without contact, from pigs to primates, although the same study failed to demonstrate similar

transmission between non-human primates.

Bats drop partially eaten fruits and pulp, then land mammals such as gorillas and duikers feed on these fallen fruits. This chain of events forms a possible indirect means of transmission from the natural host to animal populations, which has led to research towards viral shedding in the saliva of bats. Fruit production, animal behavior, and other factors vary at different times and places that may trigger outbreaks among animal populations.

## Reservoir

Bushmeat being prepared for cooking in Ghana, 2013. Human consumption of equatorial animals in Africa in the form of bushmeat has been linked to the transmission of diseases to people, including Ebola.

Bats are considered the most likely natural reservoir of EBOV. Plants, arthropods, and birds were also considered. Bats were known to reside in the cotton factory in which the first cases for the 1976 and 1979 outbreaks were observed, and they have also been implicated in Marburg virus infections in 1975 and 1980. Of 24 plant species and 19 vertebrate species experimentally inoculated with EBOV, only bats became infected. The absence of clinical signs in these bats is characteristic of a reservoir species. In a 2002–2003 survey of 1,030 animals including 679 bats from Gabon and the Republic of the Congo, 13 fruit bats were found to contain EBOV RNA fragments.[36] As of 2005, three types of fruit bats (*Hypsignathus monstrosus*, *Epomops franqueti*, and *Myonycteris torquata*) have been identified as being in contact with EBOV. They are now suspected to represent the EBOV reservoir hosts.

Antibodies against Zaire and Reston viruses have been found in fruit bats in Bangladesh, thus identifying potential virus hosts and signs of the filoviruses in Asia.

Between 1976 and 1998, in 30,000 mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and arthropods sampled from outbreak regions, no Ebola virus was detected apart from some genetic traces found in six rodents (*Mus setulosus* and *Praomys*) and one shrew (*Sylvisorex ollula*) collected from the Central African Republic. Traces of EBOV were detected in the carcasses of gorillas and chimpanzees during outbreaks in 2001 and 2003, which later became the source of human infections. However, the high lethality from infection in these species makes them unlikely as a natural reservoir.

Transmission between natural reservoir and humans is rare, and outbreaks are usually traceable to a single case where an individual has handled the carcass of gorilla, chimpanzee or duiker. Fruit bats are also eaten by people in parts of West Africa where they are smoked, grilled or made into a spicy soup.

## Prevention

The risk of transmission is increased among those caring for people infected. Recommended measures when caring for those who are infected include isolating them, sterilizing equipment and surfaces, and wearing protective clothing including masks, gloves, gowns, and goggles. If a person with Ebola dies, direct contact with the body of the deceased patient should be avoided.

In order to reduce the spread, the World Health Organization recommends raising community awareness of the risk factors for Ebola infection and the protective measures individuals can take. These include avoiding contact with infected people and regular hand washing us-

ing soap and water. Traditional burial rituals, especially those requiring washing or embalming of bodies, should be discouraged or modified. Social anthropologists may help find alternatives to traditional rules for burials. Airline crews are instructed to isolate anyone who has symptoms resembling Ebola virus disease.

Ebolaviruses can be eliminated with heat (*heating for 30 to 60 minutes at 60 °C or boiling for 5 minutes*). On surfaces, some lipid solvents such as some alcohol-based products, detergents, sodium hypochlorite (*bleach*) or calcium hypochlorite (*bleaching powder*), and other suitable disinfectants at appropriate concentrations can be used as disinfectants.

In laboratories where diagnostic testing is carried out, biosafety level 4-equivalent containment is required, since ebolaviruses are World Health Organization Risk Group 4 pathogens. Laboratory researchers must be properly trained in BSL-4 practices and wear proper personal protective equipment.

## Quarantine

Quarantine, also known as enforced isolation, is usually effective in decreasing spread. Governments often quarantine areas where the disease is occurring or individuals who may be infected. In the United States, the law allows quarantine of those infected with ebolaviruses. During the 2014 outbreak, Liberia closed schools.

## Contact Tracing

Contact tracing is regarded as important to contain an outbreak. It involves finding everyone who had close contact with infected individuals and watching for signs of illness for 21 days. If any of these contacts comes down with the disease, they should be isolated, tested, and treated. Then repeat the process by tracing the contacts' contacts.

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# Two Bullet Tree Men Jailed For Two Months

SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo, Monday, October 6, 2014:

A Bullet Tree man and youth are cooling their heels in prison after being sentenced to two months jail time on a joint wounding charge.

The case against the convicts,

Melvin Quischan, 21, who told the court that he is employed as a security guard, and Sergio Cocom, 34, laborer, both Belizeans residing in Bullet Tree falls village, stems from a report made against them at around 7:30 pm on Saturday, October 4, by

fellow villager, Omar Cruz, 40, Belizean farmer.

In the report to police the complainant informed that he visited Max store in the village where he purchased a soft drink when he was attacked by Quischan and Cocom

both of whom he has known for many years. Cruz told the police that Quischan stabbed him with a small knife to the the back and left side of the chest while Cocom slammed him in the face with a beer bottle from which he emerged with a cut wound to the left side of the face.

Police promptly rounded up the two accused men and transported them to the police station in San Ignacio where they were formally arrested and jointly charged for wounding Omar Cruz. They spent the remainder of the weekend in custody and appeared in the courtroom of magistrate Narda Morgan on Monday, October 6, where they pled guilty to the charge. They were sentenced to 60 days imprisonment.

# Three Years For Unitedville Drug Trafficker

Continued From Front Page

envelop and after being administered the mandatory caution, he chose to remain silent.

On a single drug trafficking charge, the accused made a first appearance in court the following

day, Monday, December 16 where he pled not guilty to the charge. He has since been free on bail. After several adjournments the matter was finally concluded with a guilty verdict on Wednesday, October 8. Then came the slammer when

magistrate Narda Morgan ordered the forthwith payment of a ten thousand dollar fine along with a three year prison sentence. In default of payment of the fine the convict will spend an additional three years in jail.



Company: Belize Water Services Limited  
 Invitation for Bids (IFB)  
 Country: Belize  
 Project: Belmopan Sewer Expansion phase 1.1  
 NCB No: BWSL/1.1.6/NCB/2014/001



1. The *Government of Belize* has received a grant from the *Inter-American Development Bank* toward the cost of *Belmopan Sewer Expansion Project Phase 1.1* , and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this *grant* to payments under this Contract *for the works listed below but not limited to:*
  - Install Sewer Force Main
  - Install Sewer Gravity Main
  - Install Sewer Pumping Station
  - Install service connections etc...
2. The *Belize Water Services Limited* now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for *installation of sewer pumping station, sewer force main, gravity main and service connections in East Piccini Area of Belmopan*. The delivery/construction period is *for six months from January to June 2015*.
3. Bidding will be conducted through the *National Competitive Bidding (NCB)* procedures specified in the *Inter-American Development Bank's Policies for the Procurement of Goods and Works financed by the Inter-American Development Bank*, and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Bidding Documents.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from:  
**Mr. Trevor Garcia, Project Engineer**  
**7 Central American Blvd.**  
**First Floor, Room Number 208, Engineering**  
**Belize City**  
**Belize, C. A.**  
**Email: [IWSPPP.PMU@bws.com.bz](mailto:IWSPPP.PMU@bws.com.bz)**

and inspect the Bidding Documents at the same address given above from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents in *English* may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written Application to the address below and upon payment of a non refundable fee **BZ\$100.00**. The method of payment shall be *cash*.
6. Bids marked, must be delivered to the address below at or before **10:00 am, November 17, 2014**. Electronic bidding *shall not* be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened physically in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person or on-line at the address below at **10:00 am on November 17, 2014**.
7. All bids marked, **BID FOR INSTALLATION OF SEWER PUMPING STATION, SEWER FORCE MAIN, GRAVITY MAIN AND SERVICE CONNECTIONS IN EAST PICCINI AREA OF BELMOPAN**, shall be accompanied by a *Bid Security*, as specified in the bidding document and must be delivered to the address below at **10:00 am local time on Monday, November 17, 2014**.
8. The address referred to above is:  
**Attention: Mr. Trevor Garcia, Project Engineer**  
**Belize Water Services Limited**  
**7 Central American Blvd.**  
**First Floor, Room Number 208, Engineering**  
**Belize City**  
**Belize, C. A.**





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