



Capital Weekly

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



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Onward and Upward!

GROWTH AND RECOVERY

A Good Budget, Says PM Barrow



No new taxes on the Belizean people! That was the promise Prime Minister Dean Barrow made weeks ago. And that is what he delivered last Friday, March 11, 2010 in his much anticipated budget presentation well into the fourth year of the current UDP administration.

No taxes on the Belizean people; but at long last (some would say), a modest increase in taxes collected from the foreign-owned oil company exploiting petroleum resources in Belize, Belize Natural Energy Ltd (BNE).

But the 2011-2012 Budget is not just about tax measures, new or not. At the heart of it is growth and recovery. According to the Prime Minister, the figures establish that Belizeans have seen much of both in the past year; and if the current projections hold, we will experience more growth and more recovery still in the year ahead.

Setting the stage for the unveiling of his government's new budget, the Prime Minister stated, "*Last year's Budget presentation was a sober affair, concerned with setting out a recovery roadmap, attended by some sacrifices that would guarantee us a return to growth and a measure of prosperity after the contraction of 2009. The short point to make now is that we have been successful. We are buoyed by a 2.4% GDP growth for the year that's ending, and a forecast of 3% for 2011/2012. In the circumstances, Mr. Speaker, you will forgive me if the tone of this beginning reflects a degree of satisfaction. But pretty much all we undertook to do last year, has been*

Prime Minister Dean Barrow delivering his Budget Speech last Friday in the National Assembly

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Editorial

Spare Us The Insult!



Delroy Cuthkelvin
Chairman, Editorial Board

As the Prime Minister presented his new budget last Friday it was another occasion upon which he and the nation were forced to confront the haunting reality of the enormous burden placed upon us by the reckless borrowing and squandering by the last administration, a burden which resides with us and will remain so for the next two decades or so. That heavy burden is, of course, being carried, for the most part, in the form of the infamous Super Bond.

While the burden itself is one that haunts the entire nation for the simple reason that it is all of us who must repay the enormous debt, there are some among us (namely those associated with the last administration, the legacy of which the Super Bond is), that are haunted and disturbed only by the fact that the rest of us are simply unable to forget whose actions it is that got us into this financial bind and are determined to ensure that they are never again allowed to repeat those actions.

Unable to escape

the glaring spotlight, they themselves have reacted by producing and placing an advert on national television reminding Belizeans of all the pressing needs the current government is finding it difficult to meet because of the huge amount of financial resources being swallowed up by the voracious Super Bond that they (the past administration) created.

In their haste to react, the producers and sponsors of the ad apparently neglected to realize that their advert would actually be confirming what the rest of us were already saying. It would have been funny if it weren't so serious, and so true.

This notion that a new administration, once it is elected, should completely forget the past and move on, is not only flawed, it is stupid. Stupid, of course, if it is bought by us who must continue to pay the debt for the costly "mistakes", make that "misdeeds" of the past.

Sold by those whose iniquity and irresponsibility of the past is costing the rest of us now and in the foreseeable future, it is disingenuousness and disdain of the highest order.

They're selling; we're not buying!

A word of advice to Whom It May Concern: enough injury has been done; now you would do well to spare us the insult.

It might be stupid but it's surely not funny. It is too serious to be—and much too true!

Onward and Upward!



Central Bank forecasts 3 percent growth in the new fiscal year

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done."

Accomplishments of the past year highlighted by the Prime Minister include social protection initiatives, the implementation of what he called "pro-poor policies", massive infrastructure improvement and the spinoff benefit of job-creation, the expansion of access to credit for small and medium enterprises particularly through the Development Finance Corporation (DFC), continuing strides in education and health, advances in agriculture leading to self-sufficiency and food security and private sector growth fuelled by cheaper credit.

The PM said that despite the new and not so new challenges, local and global, such as unstable oil prices, his government will press on with its national agenda for growth and recovery, while keeping its commitment to provide relief and assistance for the poorest of Belizeans.

"Even as we hope for a return to geopolitical and supply stability in the Middle East, this government will do its best to locally cushion the effects of the price spikes", the PM said. "But in any case, we press on with the flowering and articulation and implementation of our vision: increased infrastructure activity; continuing strides in education and health; advances in agriculture leading to self-sufficiency and food security; private sector growth fuelled by cheaper credit and no new taxes; improvement in law and order; and, above all, our mantra, our gospel, our talisman: ever greater investment in, compassion for, and protection of, the poor."

Commenting on the performance of the productive sector, the PM recounted the temporary setback by natural and man-made disasters.

"In October of last year, the much vaunted recovery of the Belizean economy was just beginning to hit full stride when Hurricane Richard dealt its blow to the central part of our country," he recalled. "And now, the world price of fuel has begun to escalate as a consequence of the speculation triggered by the uncertainties in the Middle East. Mr. Speaker, this is part of the context in which the Budget for the upcoming Fiscal Year must be placed."

The PM said the continuing effect of the world economic crisis on Belize's small open economy cannot be overstated, and that, inasmuch as activity is rebounding at the macro level, output in some economic sub-sectors such as construction, manufacturing and fishing, is still well below the pre-recession levels. Farmed shrimp

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Capital Weekly

*From the Heart of the Nation
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More “Cheese” from the “Oil”

Government Increases Excise Tax on Locally Produced Petroleum



Oil being pumped out of the ground by BNE in Spansih Lookout

It is one of the things most Belizeans, across all lines, political and otherwise seem to agree on—that the government and people of Belize are not getting anything close to our fair share of revenues from the sale of petroleum by the only company producing oil in Belize, a company that is foreign-owned.

While we all appreciate the Prime Minister’s argument that we wouldn’t want to overtax a fledgling petroleum industry and effectively kill the goose that’s laying the golden egg, from all indications the revenue sharing arrangement that has been in place since that company struck oil under the last administration is nothing but daylight robbery.

It might not be enough to satisfy the Belizean public that has long been clamouring for a fairer share of the oil revenues, but it’s certainly a welcoming step in the right direction, as the Prime Minister announced on Friday during his budget presentation that the government will be raising the rate of Excise Tax on Locally produced Petroleum from \$1.00 to 2.00 per barrel, in effect doubling the government’s take as far as the excise tax is concerned.

“Given what the sector is reaping from the recent spikes in international prices, we do not think that this is asking too much,” the PM stated. “The additional

yield is expected to be in the region of \$1.2 million dollars, and the proceeds will be applied to the new social protection program in the Cayo District, the home of B.N.E,” he added.

The PM also noted in his Budget presentation that the positive side of the recent spikes in world oil prices is that government will be collecting an additional 50% of the net take of Belize’s

crude when exported at a price in excess of 90 US Dollars per barrel. That is the threshold that was negotiated by the government back in 2008. Again it’s a threshold that most Belizeans believe does not represent the best deal for the government and country, allowing the company to continue getting away with profit margins that are much too excessive.

Here at this newspaper we understand the difficulties entailed in trying to renegotiate contracts. We also appreciate the need to provide attractive incentives for further oil exploration and the undesirability of overtaxing the fledgling petroleum industry, but like most Belizeans, we still have serious questions about whether we as a country and a people are getting our fair share of the revenues from our god-given resources which might be abundant, but finite. We want to encourage the Prime Minister and his Government to continue their efforts to secure a fairer share of those revenues. And if we must drill more to ensure a better life for all Belizeans, then drill on—in compliance with the established guidelines, environmental and otherwise, of course.



Oil being shipped away and sold abroad by BNE

Minister of Education and Youth Concludes Successful California Visit



L-R: Kim Hernandez - Program Coordinator, Carol Babb - Deputy Chief Education Officer, Hon. Patrick Faber - Minister of Education and Youth, William Lacy - Vice Provost, UC Davis, Adrienne Martin - Asst. Vice Provost, UC Davis, Hon. Roland Yorke - Consul General of Belize, Patrick Lambey - Facilitator, Patrick Tim Palacio - Facilitator.

Coordinated by the Consulate of Belize in Los Angeles, Honorable Patrick Faber, Minister of Education and Youth in Belize and Deputy Chief Education Officer, Mrs. Carol Babb concluded a statewide visit to California with some notable implications. The primary purpose of the visit was to meet with tertiary institutions to engage in relationship building, seek out educational partnerships and explore scholarship opportunities for students in Belize.

Departing on the morning of February 24th for Northern California, the delegation lead by Hon. Faber included his Deputy Chief Education Officer, Mrs. Babb, Consul General for Belize

Early Friday morning, the delegation, which also included Honorary Consul, Mrs. Linda Lewis-Brown met with representatives at the University of Southern California (USC), Occidental College and Charles Drew College of Medicine and Science. These meetings, all in the Los Angeles area, went exceptionally well and several areas for future collaboration were identified and discussed.

Charles Drew College expressed a willingness to proceed immediately with the necessary paperwork for establishing a partnership with institutions identified by the Ministry of Education. Particular interest was

weather to attend a public reception, coordinated by Ms. Theola Brookins, where the Minister socialized with members of the Los Angeles Belizean Community.

Billed as "a conversation with the Minister," the Honorable Faber joined a group of young Belizean American professionals and graduate students at a Sunday morning breakfast meeting. The discussions were centered on the establishment of an effective mentorship program between high school students in Belize and young adults living abroad. At the conclusion, the Minister, impressed with those in attendance commented, "I am particularly pleased and encouraged by the fact that we have obvious leaders in this group who want to give back and make a difference for Belize."

On Sunday afternoon, the delegation returned to the auditorium of Christ the Good Shepherd for a town hall meeting, where Hon. Faber gave an overview of the visit. He spoke on Government of Belize initiatives and detailed the Ministry of Education's programs on Teacher Training, Quality School Initiative and Removal of Corporal Punishment from classrooms. Belizean folk singer, Brad Pattico performed live

and disc jockey music was provided by Logan Systems. The town hall meeting was broadcast live by <http://belizemix.com/>

Commenting on the attendance of both public events Consul General Yorke remarked, "I am particularly pleased with the turnout for both events, it is a direct result of the level of interest this present government is exhibiting in the value of Belizeans living abroad and the role they play in the future development of Belize."

The final stop on the five-day visit concluded with an action oriented meeting with Directors of The Rock Church in San Diego. It was agreed upon that a delegation will be visiting Belize in late March to conduct a needs assessment prior to engaging into any action steps in its relationship with Belize.

Speaking of his visit, Minister Faber commented, "things went well. I have no doubt that we will see measurable results. The relationship we are seeking is a reciprocal one, where not only Belizean students will benefit, but where these institutions can come to Belize and learn from the archeological sites and marine environments we have; we insist upon a reciprocal relationship."



Town Hall Meeting at Christ the Good Shepherd Auditorium

in Los Angeles, Hon. Roland Yorke, and program coordinator Kim Hernandez, a volunteer at the Consulate. They were later joined by facilitators Patrick Lambey and Tim Palacio, both of Sacramento.

Discussions were held with Drexel University Center for Graduate Studies in Sacramento, University of California at Davis and Patten University in Oakland. Administrators from each of the universities expressed positive interests in building relationships with their respective institutions and the Ministry of Education in Belize. The private institutions were particularly interested in beginning the necessary groundwork for setting guidelines in place to create partnerships.

paid to nursing and pharmacological training for Belizean students.

Later that evening, Belizean Americans braved the storming



Pictured L-R with Mrs. Carol Babb, Ms. Kim Hernandez, Hon. Patrick Faber and Hon. Roland Yorke are Belizean-American Mentors: Kevin Brown, Ashley Williams, Claude Beeks, Shantel Martinez, Sherese Neal, Shasta McKenzie, Zabada Brown, Dorian Dreher, Jovern Johnson, Mathew Morris, and Michell Graham.

Less Tax on Imported Fuel

Government Removes GST at the Pump



GST no longer charged on fuel at the pump

While the spike in fuel prices means more profits for Belize's fledgling oil industry, it means, and has been converting to higher prices for us at the pumps. In his budget speech last Friday, Prime Minister Barrow announced a new measure that should bring some relief in his respect. Here is the full text of the Prime Minister's statement on the new measure:

"When this administration took office some three years ago, one of our first budgetary actions was to remove the Revenue Replacement Duty on imported fuels. We replaced this with a lower, and fixed, rate of import duty. Under this new regime, changes in the acquisition costs were

expected to pass through fully to the consumer with no price distortion arising from variability in government taxes.

However, with the recent huge jump in the world prices for fuel, there has been an unintended gain to Government through the GST. Because this is an ad valorem (or percentage) tax, the GST yield increases as a consequence of the spike in acquisitions costs.

Mr. Speaker, we will put an end to this. Effective today, we will sign into law a Statutory Instrument that will zero-rate the GST on gasoline, illuminating kerosene and diesel.

In its place, we will increase the Import Duty

on gasoline and diesel by a fixed, specific-rate amount. This amount will not be what the GST currently is, at over 100 US dollars a barrel, but rather what the GST take was when world oil prices were in the US\$85 per barrel range.

In effect Mr. Speaker, the Government will no longer gain (however slightly) from any rise in international oil prices. To repeat, we are in fact rolling back the effective tax a little by import duty substitution at a rate equivalent to the GST position that existed in the middle of last year, as opposed to the higher GST position that obtains now.

But we go further, Mr. Speaker, for we will not apply the make-up import duty to

illuminating kerosene. This is mainly used by the poor and is currently imported duty free. So we will now remove the GST from kerosene and replace it with nothing. Therefore, from here on out, illuminating kerosene will be free of both Import Duty and GST!

But we go further still. There is a shipment of fuel due today and the pump prices were to increase by about 1.20 BZ per gallon for gasoline and 1.00 Bz for kerosene and diesel. What government will do is, as I indicated, remove the GST. But for this shipment alone we will not impose the substitute import duty. We will therefore make a huge revenue sacrifice.

But I caution that this is a one-time-only gesture. When the shipment after this arrives around the last week of March, it will be subject to the new import duty in lieu of GST. And recall that while this new regime will offer some relief by way of duties lower than the GST, we will not any longer be able to avoid some massive increases due to the spiralling international price that we can't control.

Of course, we continue to hope that the acquisition costs will come back down and stabilize. But in the meantime, and by way of doing the very best we can, government absorbs for this shipment a loss of about 1 million dollars."

The statutory instrument effectuating the new measure was signed the same day the Prime Minister presented his new budget, last Friday March 11, 2011.

Onward and Upward!

Continued from page 2

production, he noted, has not shown any great signs of recovery, and Government is still challenged with providing ever more resources to fight the heightened criminality and social disruption that mushroomed as one consequence of the crisis.

Hurricane Richard, he recounted, caused severe damage and dislocation to agriculture, housing stock, electricity and road infrastructure in the Belize, Stann Creek and Cayo Districts.

"It is a matter of proud record that Government immediately made resources available for the clean-up, rehabilitation and rebuilding following the hurricane", the PM remarked. "It is also a matter of record that once again a natural disaster brought Belizean resilience to the fore, produced another small triumph of perseverance. As just one example, I cite the story of citrus. Despite significant hurricane crop losses, the industry picked itself back up; and is on track for one of



Income taxes from local petroleum sector amounted to 45.3 Million in the 2010-2011 fiscal year

the best years, production wise and price wise, in recent memory."

As to the figures supporting the PM's own assessment of the economy's performance in 2010-2011, those will no doubt be fully fleshed out in the debate which takes place on Thursday and Friday of next week.

Those figures include a Primary Surplus of 1.73% of GDP

and an overall deficit of 2.44% of GDP. This overall deficit of \$69.2 million and the amortization requirement of a further \$60.9 million are projected to be financed by \$52.5 million in external loan disbursements and \$77.6 million drawn from the domestic banking system, the PM said.

Total revenue, he said, is projected at \$739.8 million, which is \$49.3 million below the figure that had been budgeted, the shortfall being largely in taxes on Goods and Services, estimated to come in at some \$32.1 million below budget. This is notwithstanding the increase in rates of the General Sales Tax (from 10.0% to 12.5 %) which took effect at the beginning of the fiscal year, he noted. The gap, he explained, is partly due to the widening of the zero-rated basket of consumer goods, but also to a decline in taxable imports.

On the other hand, Taxes on Income and Profits were essentially on target, the PM said, reflecting a strong performance from the local petroleum sector. Income taxes from this sector alone amounted to \$45.3 million dollars, with a further \$16.4 million estimated from related Royalties, Production Sharing, and Working Interest inflows, he noted.

Taxes on International Trade and Transactions are projected at \$163.5 million or 7.0% below budget, primarily due to a \$7.7 million fall in import duties, the PM said, and Capital Revenue is expected to come in at \$4.1 million (compared to a budgeted figure of \$4.8 million), arising mostly from purchases of crown land under lease-hold arrangements.

"We understand that in these difficult economic times, there is a limit to increasing tax rates before we run the risk of

encountering decreasing marginal returns; and more importantly, before such taxes become a disincentive to investment and growth.", the PM commented. "Therefore, our effort and attention must focus on improved administration and stepped-up collection and not on any new taxes."

The PM reported that, as anticipated, the government's access to grant resources over the past year narrowed considerably, the figure for grant inflows projected at \$12.8 million, or about 56.9% of budget.

While the pace of execution locally is still too slow, the bureaucratic delays on the part of some donor agencies also account for this shortfall, the PM said. But he hastened to add that he is pleased to report that many of the kinks at the donor level have now been ironed out, and that he anticipates a substantial improvement in grant disbursements in the upcoming fiscal year. He said his government also expects to gain access to an entirely new source of bi-lateral support in the coming year.

Total expenditure for fiscal year 2010/2011 is projected to be \$821.8 million, which is 6.2% below budget, as recurrent expenditure came in some \$21.2 million under budget, while capital expenditure was \$33.3 million under budget. The fall in the recurrent expenditure can be attributed, the PM said, mainly to a lower Wages and Salaries outturn compared to the budgeted figure.

Expenditure on Goods & Services was down slightly from budget at \$160.4 million compared to a budgeted figure of \$168.3 million. But within this figure there continued to be upward pressures on expenditure on utilities and on supplies, particularly medical and fuel supplies, the PM said.

Total capital expenditure is projected at \$121.4 million, which is 21.5% below budget, including an un-programmed outlay of \$10.0 million in loan support to Belize Sugar Industries Limited. Development expenditure on Capital II (locally funded) is estimated at 59.7 million, while expenditure on Capital III Projects (foreign funded) will be in the region of \$45 million or about \$38 million below budget, the PM reported.

Mr. Barrow noted that at the end of December 2010, the Central Government's External Debt stood at BZ\$1,885.9 million, which is a slight increase of some \$3.4 million over the beginning of the year. Key disbursements, he said, came from the Republic of China (BZ\$20 million),

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Utilities Commission (PUC)

In exercise of the powers conferred upon it by Section 19(12) of the Belize Telecommunications Act, No. 16 of 2002, and Section II(3) of the Telecommunications (Licensing Classification, Authorization, and Fee Structure) Regulations, 2002, and all other powers thereunto enabling, the Public Utilities Commission (PUC; the Commission) serves Notice this day, March 3, 2011, that the Class Licenses granted to the following entities have been cancelled effective February 21, 2011.

- a) Cyberbel**
- b) Internet Solutions of Belize**
- c) Satellite Connections**
- d) @applied Technology Co. Ltd.**
- e) Full Contact Ltd.**
- f) Clear Contact Ltd.**
- g) Myeuz.net**

As a consequence these former license holders are not authorized to provide telecommunications services in Belize.

Building for the Future

Ground Broken for Bus Terminal in Independence



Honourable Melvin Hulse delivering the main address at the Ground-Breaking ceremony for the Independence Bus Terminal

Anyone who has followed the political career of Stann Creek Area Representative Melvin Hulse will know that he has a long track-record of consistently breaking new ground.

Hulse was the first, and remains the only UDP Area Representative

the Constituency of Stann Creek West has ever had.

He is the political leader who first brought electricity, water and telephone services to most villages in the constituency during the last UDP term, a mission he says he has returned to complete.

It is his leadership under the previous UDP Administration, and the current, that has executed massive expansion and provision of house lots in villages throughout the constituency, again something that is continuing even as we speak and write.

It was only fitting, then, for Hon. Melvin Hulse to be a key participant in ground-breaking ceremonies last week for the construction of the first bus terminal ever to be constructed in a village. That village is, of course, Independence in Stann Creek West, Hulse's Constituency.

The project will see the construction of a modern bus terminal complex to serve as a hub for bus services to residents of Independence and surrounding villages.

It is being funded by the European Union Banana Support Program and executed through the Ministry of Economic Development and the Ministry of Rural Development.

Other leaders taking part in the ground-breaking ceremony included Minister of Human Development and Social Transformation and Area Representative for Toledo East

Hon. Eden Martinez, European Union Representative Cossimo Lambert, Independence Village Chairman Albert Leslie, Project Director for the EU Banana Support Program Keith Henderson, and Ministry of Rural Development Representative Mr. Dale Banner.

Mr. Banner noted that such a terminal will quickly become an economic zone, with vendors being organized to take advantage of the opportunities, taxi operators also benefiting economically, and a good number of jobs being created overall.

Area Representative Hon. Melvin Hulse, for his part, emphasized the need to push development in a manner that anticipates and spurs growth and expansion, especially in a village like Independence which he says is poised to evolve into a town in the not so distant future.

It is a fact that is more than evident, and the construction of a full-fledged bus terminal there is perhaps the first official confirmation of this.

Hulse and the current administration must indeed be commended for their vision, as by all indications, they are truly building for the future.



Groundbreaking ceremonies for the Independence bus terminal, featuring Hon. Melvin Hulse, Hon. Eden Martinez and Village Chairman Albert Leslie

Sports Update

With *Ismael "Miley" Garcia*



Ismael "Miley" Garcia
National Sports Coordinator
Ministry of Sports

The Interdepartmental **D o m i n o e s** Tournament came to a resounding conclusion on Thursday, 3rd March at the E&L Sports Bar in Belmopan. The Police Team had built up an incredible momentum bringing the crowd to its feet when suddenly they came to a screeching halt and failed to get a conviction at 2977 points. This was 23 points away from the finish line but the Fire and Fisheries' Department combined Team blazed past them by scoring 36 and then 59 points to take the Grand Prize with a score of 3003 points. On hand to present the \$2000 cheque was the CEO in the Ministry of the Public Service, Mr. Charles Gibson who deputized for Hon John Saldivar.

In speaking to Minister Saldivar he commented that the tournament had really yielded the desired results. Men and women from across

the various Ministries came together every Tuesday and Thursday evening in a spirit of competition and friendship. As the Minister noted, these interdepartmental tournaments help to build bridges between public officers, which leads to greater

productivity in the public sector when there needs to be inter-ministerial exchanges on projects. It was at times fierce across the domino board but always pleasant at the end of every game. The Minister congratulates the Fire/Fisheries Department, CHAMPIONS of this year's Domino Tournament.

Speaking of inter-ministerial collaboration, plans are moving ahead swiftly for the refurbishing and retrofitting of the Belize City Center. The Ministries

of Foreign Affairs, Works and Sports are involved in the diplomatic, technical and organizational aspects of this project. Built in 1979, the Belize City Center has seriously deteriorated to a present state where it can no longer hold events on the first floor that cater to more than one thousand (1000) persons. (The designed maximum capacity is three thousand

many sporting federations as possible to encourage greater collaboration between the various disciplines and the National Sports Council. Major events should return to the Belize City Center also once this undertaking is completed.

Three technical visits have been carried out by Mexican and Belizean engineers from the Ministry of Works and the



The Belize City Center to be repaired and restored

(3000) persons.) Now thanks to a new Government initiative, and the cooperation of the Mexican government, the facility will receive the much needed attention it deserves.

The details of the project will be further publicized but at this time we do know that the leaking roof will be repaired, the bleachers restored, and rotting elements will be completely replaced. The improvements should also see much more space made available on the ground floor to accommodate offices for as

detailed evaluation reports have been prepared. It is anticipated that these works will commence no later than June of this year. The Belize City Center currently hosts the offices of the National Sports Council as well as several sporting and other organizations. Once the work commences these offices will be temporarily displaced, but the benefits to be derived from the improvements to the Center will far outweigh the temporary inconvenience.

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in Living Colours at:
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Onward and Upward!



After-School Programs receive more funding in the new budget

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the Inter-American Development Bank (BZ\$10.1 million), and the Caribbean Development Bank (BZ\$26.5 million). But repayments to these institutions were of an almost similar level, he noted.

Also at the end of December 2010, the Central Government's Domestic Debt amounted to \$367.8 million, an increase of 14.9% for the calendar year, he reported. The increase was due, he said, to the issuance of new government securities amounting to \$140 million. But some 65% of the proceeds were

used to effect a reduction in the Government's overdraft account at the Central Bank of Belize, the PM added.

Turning to the national debt situation, the PM reported that interest paid on Central Government's Debt is projected at \$118.3 million, almost exactly the budgeted provision. Of this amount, some \$66.0 million, or about one half of it, was paid as interest on the so-called "Superbond" left behind by the Musa Administration, he said.

The PM recalled that the bond stepped up from 4.25% to 6.00% last August, and he reminded the nation that we must brace for a further increase in 2012, at which time the rate will rise to 8.5%. This, he noted, will require an annual interest outlay of close to \$95 million per annum thereafter.

"The situation then becomes even more unbearable in 2019," he alarmed, "when the grace period on the repayment ends. At that time we will be required to pay an additional \$110 million in amortization in the first year alone."

Notwithstanding the enormous challenges, the PM affirmed that his government will surge ahead with its national agenda for growth and development. At the centre of that agenda are Poverty Reduction and Social Protection, Citizen Security, Education, Health, Physical Infrastructure, Home Improvement and Low Income construction.

Elaborating on the poverty reduction and social protection measures, the PM said his government repeats, with no apology and with much pride, that its pro-poor programmes are the centrepiece of its social campaign, its mandate of egalitarianism. "We are therefore replenishing our funding for the food support programme that we started on Southside Belize City", the PM stated. "But we are going further now. We are expanding it to the Northside of the old capital; and rolling it out to the Cayo District where it will serve, principally, the disadvantaged residents of the twin towns. Altogether then, we will provide 2.5 million dollars over the coming year to help meet the cost of living," the PM said. The Conditional Cash Transfer initiative is of countrywide application, and there is 4 million for that, he said.

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Just the facts!

Tropical Gaming Company of Belize Limited shares some Quick Lotto facts:

- ✓ **The Lotto Jackpot prize has BEEN AS HIGH AS \$182,500.00**
- ✓ **Lotto contributes to the Belizean economy in several material ways:**
 - **It pays 12.5% of its gross sales to the Government!**
 - **It pays Business Tax.**
 - **It pays commissions to its agents:**
 - **It withholds & remits to GOB 15% from all prizes paid out!**
 - **It paid a total of \$1,474,519.00 in prizes last year!**

Lotto:
Easier to understand!
Easier to play!
Easier to win!

Look out for some more Lotto facts next week!

Onward and Upward!

Continued from page 9

In addition, the government is also starting a brand new intervention this year, under which it will give child care subsidies to working families nationwide, the PM informed.

As it relates to Citizen Security, the PM said his government will provide more resources for community action and participation in citizen security. RESTORE Belize is being fully funded and will continue to coordinate activities of government agencies as well as work with the private sector in providing opportunities for young adults and youth at risk, he said, and government will provide more support to the street patrols and crime prevention activities of our security services, while holding the Police Department to the need for internal reform.

In Education, indisputably one of the areas in which the Barrow administration has excelled, the PM affirmed that his government will continue the implementation of reforms for education financing to ensure more access and equity in the education system, particularly at the secondary school level. Greater emphasis will be placed on teacher education and certification, he said. In addition, a major new focus will be placed on child-care and early childhood education, and in this context the child care subsidy is of special importance, he explained. It will benefit the children directly, he said, but also provide time and opportunities for mothers to take up employment and engage in income-generation activities, knowing that quality care is in the meantime being provided for their children.

In Health, the PM said his government will protect the level of funding for the NHI and will also provide for increases in enrolment of persons in the Southern Districts. *"We will provide the counterpart resources to complete investments in health facilities, particularly in the regional hospitals and feeder polyclinics. At the same time, we will continue to support the provision of kidney dialysis treatment at the KMH and the La Loma Luz Hospital in conjunction with the international medical services organization, WORTH,"* the PM informed.

Infrastructure is another area in which this government has bragging rights, particularly when contrasted with the dismal performance of the last administration which ran up an unprecedented bill of over TWO



In the new budget, Health remains a high priority

Billion (with a B) with hardly a thing on the ground to show for it. PM Barrow reaffirmed his government's belief in infrastructure development not only for its own sake but as a means of creating employment.

"Thus, we will continue to expand and upgrade the primary and secondary road network throughout Belize," the PM said. *"At the same time, we are allocating as much resources as we can muster for the all-important maintenance of streets and drains in our cities and main towns. Significant sums will therefore be allocated for the upgrading of the Toledo District highway to the Guatemalan Border;*

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT
Belmopan Bus Terminal, City of Belmopan, Belize C.A.

Tel: 501- 822-2038 Fax: 501- 822-3317

E-mail- departmentoftransport@yahoo.com



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

The Department of Transport advises members of the public of the following aids to traffic safety:-

- 1) Put on lights when travelling on roads at night and during early morning, late evenings and conditions of dust, mist, fog and rain.
- 2) Don't drive on the wrong side of the road
- 3) Don't overtake going up a hill or any incline
- 4) Don't over take when you cant see clearly ahead
- 5) Try to stop driving in the middle of the road
- 6) Make sure vehicle rear lights are working
- 7) Heavy equipment, houses and other oversized items cannot be transported nor can big farm tractors and other farm equipment be driven on roads after 6:00pm.

The Transport Board hereby serves notice to all interested bus operators of the available schedule now in the Northern Zone as detailed below. Interested Operators are hereby encouraged to submit Road Service Application to any of the Department of Transport Offices Countrywide no later than Monday 28th February, 2011.
(Ministry of Transport, Communications and National Emergency Management)

NORTHERN ROUTE - BELIZE CITY TO SANTA ELENA FINAL FEBRAURY 16, 2011

SN	Name of Bus Line	Belize City	Maxboro	Sandhill	Maskall	Biscayne/Gardenia	Crooked Tree	Guinea Grass	Orange Walk	Sarteneja	Corozal	Santa Elena	Remarks
1									06:00 AM		07:30 AM		
2									06:15 AM		07:45 AM		
3									06:30 AM		08:00 AM		
4		05:30 AM							07:00 AM		08:30 AM		
5		06:00 AM							07:15 AM		08:15 AM		Express
6									07:15 AM		08:45 AM		
7		06:00 AM							07:30 AM		09:00 AM		
8		06:30 AM							08:00 AM		09:30 AM		
9		07:00 AM							08:30 AM		10:00 AM		
10		07:30 AM							09:00 AM		10:30 AM		
11		08:00 AM							09:30 AM		11:00 AM		
12		08:30 AM							10:00 AM		11:30 AM		
13		09:00 AM							10:15 AM		11:15 AM		Express
14		09:00 AM							10:30 AM		12:00 MD		
15		10:00 AM							11:30 AM		01:00 PM		
16		10:30AM								1:30PM	1:00PM		
17		11:00 AM							12:15 PM		01:15 PM		Express
18		11:00 AM					12:30PM						
19		11:30 AM							01:00 PM		02:15 PM		
20		12:00 PM							01:30 PM		02:45 PM		
21		12:00 PM								3:00PM			Sarteneja
22		01:00 PM							02:30 PM		03:45 PM		
23		1:30PM			2:30PM								
24		01:30 PM							02:45 PM				Orange Walk Only
25		01:30 PM							03:00 PM		04:30 PM		
26		2:00PM								5:00PM			Sarteneja
27		02:00 PM							03:30 PM		04:45 PM		
28		02:30 PM							04:00 PM		05:15 PM		
29		03:00 PM							04:15 PM				Orange Walk Only
30		03:15 PM							04:45 PM		06:00 PM		
31		03:30 PM							04:45 PM				Orange Walk Only
32		03:30 PM			05:00 PM								
33		04:00 PM							05:30 PM		06:45 PM		
34		4:30PM							05:45 PM				
35		04:45 PM							06:00 PM				Orange Walk Only
36		04:45 PM						06:30 PM					
37		05:00 PM					6:30PM						
38		05:00 PM							06:15 PM				Orange Walk Only
39		05:00 PM							06:15 PM		07:15 PM		Express
40		5:00PM							06:15 PM				
41		5:00PM								8:00PM			
42		05:00 PM							06:30 PM		07:45 PM		
43		05:15 PM							06:30 PM				Orange Walk Only
44		05:15 PM							06:30 PM				Orange Walk Only
45		05:15 PM							06:30 PM				Orange Walk Only
46		05:15 PM						06:45 PM					
47		05:15 PM							06:45 PM		08:00 PM		
48		05:15 PM				6:30PM							
49		5:30PM					7:00PM						
50		5:30PM	6:30PM										
51		05:30 PM		06:30 PM									
52		05:30 PM			07:00 PM								
53		05:30 PM							06:45 PM				Orange Walk Only
54		05:30 PM							06:45 PM				Orange Walk Only
55		05:30 PM							06:45 PM				Orange Walk Only
56		05:30 PM							07:00 PM		08:15 PM		
57		05:45 PM							07:00 PM				Orange Walk Only
58		06:00 PM							07:15 PM		08:15 PM		Express
59		06:30 PM							08:00 PM		09:15 PM		
60		7:00PM		8:00PM									
61		07:00 PM							08:30 PM		09:45 PM		
62		07:30 PM							09:00 PM		10:15 PM		
63		8:00PM	9:00PM										
64		9:15PM			10:15PM								

NORTHERN ROUTE : SANTA ELENA TO BELIZE CITY FINAL FEBRUARY 16, 2011

SN	Santa Elena	Corozal	Sarteneja	Orange Walk	Guinea Grass	Crooked Tree	Biscayne/Gardenia	Maskall	Sandhill	Maxboro	Belize City	Remarks
1				4:30AM							5:45AM	
2	03:15 AM	03:30 AM		04:45 AM							06:15 AM	
3						05:00 AM					06:00 AM	
4					05:00 AM						06:15 AM	
5					05:30 AM						06:30 AM	
6								05:00 AM			06:30 AM	
7								06:00 AM			07:30 AM	
8								7:00AM			8:30AM	
9				5:00AM							6:15AM	
10				5:00AM							6:15AM	
11				5:00AM							6:15AM	
12			3:30AM								6:30AM	
13				05:15 AM							06:30 AM	
14				05:15 AM							06:30 AM	
15	03:45 AM	04:00 AM		05:15 AM							06:45 AM	
16				5:30AM							6:45AM	
17				5:30AM							6:45AM	
18				05:30 AM							06:45 AM	
19		04:30 AM		05:30 AM							06:45 AM	Express
20				05:45 AM							07:00 AM	
21				5:45AM							7:00AM	
22										6:00AM	7:00AM	
23									6:00AM		7:00AM	
24						06:00 AM					07:15 AM	
25				6:00AM							7:15AM	
26				06:00 AM							07:15 AM	
27							06:30 AM				07:15 AM	
28										6:30AM	07:30 AM	
29				06:30 AM							07:45 AM	Non-Stop
30			04:30 AM								07:45 AM	
31	04:45 AM	05:00 AM		06:15 AM							07:45 AM	
32									7:00AM		8:00AM	
33						7:00AM					08:15 AM	
34	05:15 AM	05:30 AM		06:45 AM							08:15 AM	
35	05:45 AM	06:00 AM		07:00 AM							08:15 AM	Express

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ORANGE WALK DISTRICT - VILLAGE SCHEDULE								Final - 16 Feb, 2011
OW East	4:30AM	Sarteneja	OWK			12:00MD	OWK	Sarteneja
	5:30AM	Sarteneja	OWK			3:45PM	OWK	Sarteneja
	6:30AM	Sarteneja	OWK			5:00PM	OWK	Sarteneja
	7:30AM	Sarteneja	OWK			6:30PM	OWK	Sarteneja
	12:15PM	Sarteneja	OWK			7:00PM	OWK	Sarteneja
	5:45AM	Little Belize	OWK			10:00AM	OWK	Little Belize
	11:00AM	Little Belize	OWK			3:15PM	OWK	Little Belize
	5:45AM	Little Belize	OWK	TUE to THU		02:15 AM	OWK	Little Belize
	05:00 AM	Progreso	OWK			11:00 AM	OWK	Progreso
	6:30AM	Progreso	OWK			01:30 PM	OWK	Progreso
	1:00PM	Progreso	OWK			5:00PM	OWK	Progreso
	4:30PM	Progreso	OWK			6:30PM	OWK	Progreso
	6:00AM	Progreso	OWK	via Caledonia		4:30PM	OWK	Progreso
	07:00 AM	San Estevan	OWK			07:30 AM	OWK	San Estevan
	08:00 AM	San Estevan	OWK			05:00 PM	OWK	San Estevan
OW West	05:00 AM	Indian Church	OWK			05:30 PM	OWK	Indian Church
	06:00 AM	Shipyards	OWK			11:00 AM	OWK	Shipyards
	01:00 PM	Shipyards	OWK			04:00 PM	OWK	Shipyards
	05:00 AM	Indian Creek	OWK	via Shipyards		04:00 PM	OWK	Indian Creek
	06:30 AM	Guinea Grass	OWK			10:00 AM	OWK	Guinea Grass
	12:45PM	Guinea Grass	OWK			03:30 PM	OWK	Guinea Grass
	4:30PM	Guinea Grass	OWK			05:30 PM	OWK	Guinea Grass
	04:00 AM	San Felipe	OWK			10:00 AM	OWK	San Felipe
	06:00 AM	San Felipe	OWK			01:00 PM	OWK	San Felipe
	06:00 AM	San Felipe	OWK			02:30 PM	OWK	San Felipe
	06:30 AM	San Felipe	OWK			04:00 PM	OWK	San Felipe
	07:00 AM	San Felipe	OWK			05:30 PM	OWK	San Felipe
	06:00 AM	A. Pine Ridge	OWK			11:00 AM	OWK	A. Pine Ridge
	12:30 PM	A. Pine Ridge	OWK			5:00PM	OWK	A. Pine Ridge
	06:15 AM	Yo Creek	OWK			12:00 PM	OWK	Yo Creek
	07:30 AM	Yo Creek	OWK			05:00 PM	OWK	Yo Creek
OW NW	06:30 AM	Sta Cruz	OWK			09:30 AM	OWK	Sta Cruz
	10:45 AM	Sta Cruz	OWK			12:30 PM	OWK	Sta Cruz
	11:00AM	Sta Cruz	OWK			3:30PM	OWK	Sta Cruz
	02:00 PM	Sta Cruz	OWK			04:30 PM	OWK	Sta Cruz
	04:00 PM	Sta Cruz	OWK			05:30 PM	OWK	Sta Cruz
	05:00 AM	San Antonio	OWK			08:00 AM	OWK	San Antonio
	09:00 AM	San Antonio	OWK			12:00 PM	OWK	San Antonio
OW North	06:00 AM	Douglas	OWK			10:00 AM	OWK	Douglas
	07:00 AM	Douglas	OWK			04:00 PM	OWK	Douglas
	01:00 PM	Douglas	OWK			05:30 PM	OWK	Douglas
	06:00 AM	San Pablo	OWK			06:30 AM	OWK	San Pablo
	06:30 AM	San Pablo	OWK			07:30 AM	OWK	San Pablo
	07:00 AM	San Pablo	OWK			08:00 AM	OWK	San Pablo
	08:00 AM	San Pablo	OWK			10:00 AM	OWK	San Pablo
	08:30 AM	San Pablo	OWK			11:00 AM	OWK	San Pablo
	09:00 AM	San Pablo	OWK			12:00MD	OWK	San Pablo
	01:00 PM	San Pablo	OWK			03:30 PM	OWK	San Pablo
	02:00 PM	San Pablo	OWK			04:00 PM	OWK	San Pablo
	04:00 PM	San Pablo	OWK			05:00 PM	OWK	San Pablo
	5:00PM	San Pablo	OWK			05:30 PM	OWK	San Pablo
	06:00 PM	San Pablo	OWK			06:45 PM	OWK	San Pablo
	07:00 AM	San Roman	OWK			05:00 PM	OWK	San Roman
	06:45 AM	San Juan	OWK			04:45 PM	OWK	San Juan
OW South	05:00 AM	Carmelita	OWK	every 1/2 hour				
	06:00 PM							
	7:00AM	Carmelita	Chan P Ridge	OWK		11:00AM	OWK	Chan P Ridge Carmelita
	05:30 AM	Maskall	Sta Marta	OWK		12:30PM	OWK	Sta Marta Maskall

Onward and Upward!

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of the money will be spent on home improvement and home repairs," the PM explained, "but we do expect some limited amount of new construction. Of course, the funds will be disbursed as completely free grants to recipients," he added.

Those are, in human terms, the objectives and goals the government is determined to achieve in the year ahead. But, as we all know, hardly a thing can be achieved without the money to back it up.

Turning to the draft estimates for the new fiscal year, the PM reported that those estimates have been prepared on the assumption that nominal GDP (Gross Domestic Product) will grow, in real terms, by about 3% over the fiscal year. This reflects projected increases in electricity generation, retail trade, tourism services, transportation, and agricultural production, as well as strong public sector investment activities, he said.

"We are also assuming a moderate overall increase in food prices," the PM said. "For the proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2010-2011, we have set a preliminary target for the Primary Surplus of 2.23% of GDP, and a target for the Overall Deficit of 1.57% of GDP," he added.

Total Revenue and Grants are estimated at \$843.6 million, an increase of \$91.0 million over the expected outturn for last fiscal year, the PM explained. Total Expenditure is estimated at \$890.0 million. Taken together, the result is an overall deficit, before Amortization, of \$46.4 million, equal to the 1.57% of GDP, he noted.

The provision for amortization payments has increased slightly to \$63.0 million which, when added to the Overall Deficit, results in an Overall Financing Requirement of \$109.4 million, he explained.

This financing requirement will be met from draw-downs of approximately BZ\$62.5 million in project-related external loans committed to fund the Capital III Program and a drawdown of BZ\$15.0 million from the IDB,

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中華民國駐貝里斯大使館

EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN)

(1) TaiwanICDF Scholarship Program 2011

The Embassy of the Republic of China (Taiwan) is pleased to announce the offer of **TaiwanICDF (International Cooperation and Development Fund) Scholarship Program** at undergraduate or graduate level for qualified Belizeans. These scholarships are for enrollment at universities in Taiwan, commencing in September 2011. Programs offered include:

1 National Pingtung University of Science and Technology (NPUST) <u>Masters and Ph.D. Programs in Tropical Agriculture</u> <u>Undergraduate Program in Tropical Agriculture</u>	April 30, 2011 April 30, 2011
2 National Chengchi University (NCCU) <u>International Undergraduate Program in Business Administration (IUP in BA)</u> <u>International Masters in Business Administration (IMBA)</u>	March 31, 2011 March 31, 2011
3 National Tsing Hua University (NTHU) <u>International Master Program in Information Systems and Applications</u> <u>International MBA in Technology Management</u>	March 15, 2011 March 15, 2011
4 National Taiwan Normal University (NTNU) <u>Graduate Institute of International Human Resource Development (IHRD)</u>	April 8, 2011
5 National Yang Ming University (NYMU) <u>Master's and Ph.D. Program in International Health</u>	April 30, 2011
6 National Taiwan Ocean University (NTOU) <u>International Master's Program in Marine Sciences and Resource Management</u>	April 30, 2011
7 National Central University (NCU) <u>International Master's Program in Environment Sustainable Development</u>	April 29, 2011
8 Kun Shan University of Technology (KSU) <u>International Undergraduate and Master's Program in Mechanical Engineering</u>	April 30, 2011
9 National Sun Yat-sen University (NSYSU) <u>International Masters Program in Electric Power Engineering (IMEPE)</u>	April 30, 2011
10 Yuan Ze University (YZU) <u>International Master Program in Industrial Engineering and Management</u>	April 15, 2010
11 National Taipei University of Nursing and Health Science (NTUNHS) <u>International Nursing Master of Science Program</u> <u>International Health and Nursing Administration Undergraduate Program</u>	April 30, 2011 April 30, 2011
12 National Taiwan University (NTU) <u>Agricultural Economics Master Program</u>	April 30, 2011
13 National Cheng Kung University (NCKU) <u>International Graduate Program in Civil Engineering and Management</u>	March 20, 2011
14 Ming Chuan University (MCU) <u>Undergraduate Program in International Trade and Management</u>	April 30, 2011
15 Kaohsiung Medical University (KMU) <u>Master Program in Clinical Medicine</u>	April 30, 2011
16 Taipei Medical University (TMU) <u>International Master's Program in Health Care Administration</u>	April 8, 2011
17 Taipei National University of the Arts (TNUA) <u>International Master of Fine Arts Program in Cultural Creative Industry (IMFA)</u>	April 30, 2011

Scholarship recipients will be provided with a round trip airfare, housing, tuition fees, credit fees, insurance, textbook costs, and a monthly allowance which varies for different study programs. Applicants need fill out and submit **two (2)** different application forms: **(1) Application for the TaiwanICDF Scholarship**, and **(2) University Application** for intended program of study. For the TaiwanICDF Scholarship Application form, visit the link to the online application: "<http://www.icdf.org.tw/TSP/Register.aspx>". Please fill out the first page of the application form and print it out and sign it. For the university application and TaiwanICDF Medical Report forms for intended program of study, visit the link: <http://www.taiwanembassy.org/BZ>, go to "News and Activities">"Press Release" to download all the documents. For further information on the programs: <http://www.icdf.org.tw/ct.asp?xItem=5600&ctNode=30109&mp=2>

Duration of Scholarships:

The award period varies for different study program as follow:

Undergraduate program: maximum 4 years.

Master program: maximum 2 years.

Doctor Program: maximum 3 years.

Eligibility Requirements: Applicant must meet all of the following criteria:

1. Be Belizean citizens (Overseas Chinese and Taiwanese nationals are not eligible).
2. Is not current recipient of a scholarship or subsidy being offered by any other government agencies or educational institutions in Taiwan.
3. For undergraduate programs, must possess a senior or vocational high school diploma; for graduate programs, must possess an undergraduate or graduate degree relevant to the intended area of study.
4. Be in good mental and physical health.
5. Be under the age of 50.

Required Documents: (1 original + 1 copy)

A complete application includes the following materials:

- Completed TaiwanICDF Scholarship Application Form
- Completed application forms for the intended program of study.
- TaiwanICDF Medical Report within 3 months, including a HIV test (see the requirements of respective University).
- Photocopy of the highest-level diploma certified by the Ministries of Education and Foreign Affairs in Belmopan.
- Original complete grade transcripts duly certified by the Ministries of Education and Foreign Affairs in Belmopan.
- Study and research plan.
- Three (3) letters of recommendation
- Autobiography and resume
- Copy of passport

Deadlines:

All required documents must be completed electronically or in typewritten format and submitted in **DUPLICATE in a 10" X 13" sized envelope specifying intended program of study, no later than the deadline date specified for each program above**, to Embassy of the Republic of China (Taiwan), #20 North Park Street, Belize City. **Late and incomplete applications will not be considered.**

For further information please contact Mr. John Chang, Embassy of the Republic of China (Taiwan), #20 North Park Street, Belize City. Tel: 227-8744, 223-1862 or e-mail at embroc@btl.net.

中華民國駐貝里斯大使館

EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN)

(2) Taiwan Scholarship Program 2011

The Embassy of the Republic of China (Taiwan) is pleased to announce the **Taiwan Scholarship Program 2011**. This scholarship will allow six (6) Belizeans to attend undergraduate or graduate program of their choice at universities in Taiwan starting from academic year 2011 (commencing in September 2011). A Mandarin Language Enrichment Program (LEP), if necessary, may be included to improve the recipients' language abilities. Scholarship recipients will be provided with a round trip economy class airfare, and a monthly stipend of NT\$30,000 (approximately US\$930) to cover the costs of tuition, board and lodging, books and medical insurance.

Duration of Scholarships:

The award period varies for different study program as follow:

1. Undergraduate program: maximum 4 years.
2. Master's program: maximum 2 years.
3. Doctoral Program: maximum 3 years.
4. LEP Program: maximum 1 year.

For any combination of these study programs, the length of the total award for each recipient is a maximum of **five years**. The LEP study must be undertaken **in the first year** if it is to be included in the total award period of the recipients' choosing.

Eligibility Requirements:

An applicant must meet all of the following criteria:

- Be of good moral character and in excellent mental and physical health.
- Be Belizean citizens and are neither overseas Chinese nor Taiwanese nationals.
- Must possess a high school diploma or higher.
- Must be between the ages of 18 and 30 (born between January 1, 1981, and June 30, 1993).
- Is not currently enrolled at an educational institution in Taiwan for the same study program that he/she intends to take for a Taiwan Scholarship.
- Is not an exchange student in accordance with a cooperation agreement between an international university/college and an educational institute in Taiwan at the time of receiving a Taiwan Scholarship.
- Is not applying for a study program leading to the same-level degree as previously undertaken under the Taiwan Scholarship Program.
- Has not received Taiwan Scholarship for a total of 5 or more years.
- Has not previously had an award revoked either under the Taiwan Scholarship Program or the program "Ministry of Education Huayu Enrichment Scholarship".
- Is not a current recipient of a scholarship or subsidy being offered by any other government or educational institutions in Taiwan.

Required Documents:

A complete scholarship application includes the following materials:

- A completed Taiwan Scholarship application form.
- Medical Report for Taiwan Scholarship (issued within the past 3 months)
- Photocopy of the highest-level diploma and an original complete grade transcript both certified by the Ministries of Education and Foreign Affairs in Belmopan.
- Supporting admission application material (e.g. photocopy of completed application form of a university/college in Taiwan).
- *NOTE: LEP applicants must submit documents for admission not only to a Mandarin Training Center, but also to the next-stage university/college. The exact academic years that applicants would be enrolled full-time at these two institutions must be clearly specified on these documents. The study periods for these two programs must be consecutive.*
- Photocopy of a certificate of the acceptable levels of Chinese language proficiency, if Mandarin will be used for instruction on class.
- *NOTE: LEP applicants do not need to submit this document.*
- Three (3) letters of recommendation.
- Photocopy of passport or other nationality certificates.

***Please note that applicants need to apply by themselves for admission to a university/college of their choice before the deadline for application for the university/college. Selection priority of this scholarship will be given to those who have successfully secured admission to a university/college. Candidates will be disqualified if they fail to pass the application review process of the respective schools.**

Deadlines:

Submit the above documents **no later than April 30, 2011** to Embassy of the Republic of China (Taiwan), #20 North Park Street, Belize City. **Late and incomplete applications will not be considered.** For further information please contact Mr. John Chang, Embassy of the Republic of China (Taiwan), #20 North Park Street, Belize City. Tel: 227-8744, 223-1862 or e-mail at embroc@btl.net.

Taiwan Scholarship Application Form and Medical Report may be obtained at the link: <http://www.taiwanembassy.org/BZ>, go to "News and Activities">"Press Release" to download all the documents. For general information on the Taiwan Scholarship visit the websites: <http://tsps.shu.edu.tw/index.php?lang=E> or <http://english.moe.gov.tw> or <http://www.studyintaiwan.org>

Onward and Upward!



More allocations in the new budget for construction of new school buildings like those in Bella Vista and San Isidro for which ground was broken last week under the Social Investment Fund Program

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being the Second Tranche of the Social Sector Support Policy-Based Loan, a Drawdown of BZ\$20 million from the Republic of China (ROC), and moderate amount of domestic financing of approximately \$12.0 million from the government's own account balances currently held on deposit in the Central Bank and commercial banks in Belize, the PM explained.

Ambitious goals and generous investments, indeed, but Prime Minister Barrow was quick to contrast the targeted spending by his government with the reckless borrowing and wanton squandering that occurred under the last administration. "You will see that we continue to finance our capital program largely through borrowings from bilateral and multilateral sources. These loans are on highly concessionary terms, with lower-than-market interest rates and long repayment periods," the PM explained. "It is through a judicious mix of fiscal prudence and borrowing restraint that we plan to gradually improve our debt ratios, further accumulate reserves and ultimately regain access to the international credit market on much improved terms. The attainment of this objective would provide many valuable options to Belize when the time comes to begin the amortization of the "SuperBond" in 2019," the PM said.

If we might add some commentary of our own here, the PM's reference in his budget presentation to the Super Bond was no doubt discomfiting, as it always is, to members on the opposition side of the house, particularly to former PM Musa under whose watch the reckless borrowing and spending of the last administration occurred, and perhaps to a lesser extent, Mark Espat who now wants to be Prime Minister, but who back then was the man that masterminded the creation of the Superbond, a creature conceived in all the bad debts that resulted from the reckless borrowing and spending.

Delving deeper into the details and the numbers, the PM outlined the estimates of Recurrent Expenditure for the upcoming fiscal

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Public Notice Public Utilities Commission (PUC)



On January 31, 2011, the Public Utilities Commission (PUC), issued an Initial Decision in respect of the 2011 Annual Review Proceeding (ARP) conducted for Belize Water Services Limited (BWSL).

There were no objections made by BWSL or any interested parties in regards to the Initial Decision.

Therefore, as required by Section 32 of the Water and Sewerage (Tariffs) Byelaws (Statutory Instrument No. 67 of 2002), the PUC hereby serves Notice this day, March 3, 2011, that it has adopted the said Initial Decision as the Final Decision in respect of the 2011 ARP for BWSL.

The Final Decision approves that there be no adjustments to the Schedules, Business and Investment Plan, the regulated parameters, or the rates, tariffs, fees and charges, as approved in the Belize Water Services Limited 2009 Full Tariff Review Proceeding Final Decision (Amended).

Consequently, the rates, tariffs, fees and charges approved in the Final Decision for the 2009 Full Tariff Review Proceeding (FTRP) for the Annual Tariff Period (ATP) of April 1, 2011, to March 31, 2012, will remain in effect.

The full texts of the 2009 FTRP Final Decision and the 2011 ARP Final Decision are available for viewing at the office of the Public Utilities Commission, 41 Gabourel Lane, Belize City, and on the PUC website, www.puc.bz.

Issued by the Public Utilities Commission March 03, 2011

Belmopan City Council Donates To St. Martin's Government School



City Administrator Denton Belisle handing over jerseys to the female football team along with their coach Shoutina Gomez and team Captain and goal keeper Dina Martinez



City Administrator Denton Belisle hands over cheque to School Principal Loretta Thompson, City Councillor and School Teacher Pita Balona standing beside her in support

On Monday March 7th, 2011 the Saint Martin's Government School received two much needed gifts from the Belmopan City Council.

Mr. Denton Belisle, the City Administrator along with Councillor Pita Balona (also a teacher at the said school) visited the school and presented the principal, Ms. Loretta Thompson with a donation of five hundred dollars and a first-time set of spanking new Football Jerseys.

The Jerseys is for the Female Football Team who will again participate in the 2011, National Primary School Football Competition. Saint Martin's Government School Female Team was the 2010 Cayo District Champions and represented the Western Region in the National Competition.

The team along with their coach, Ms. Shoutina Gomez and its captain, Dina Martinez (goal keeper) were also present to receive the donation.

The check of \$500 was presented to Ms. Thompson for the Library Expansion Project which will provide an additional seating area outside the library for the students.

The money will be used to purchase the building material while some of the parents of the students attending the school have volunteered to do the actual construction themselves.

This project is expected to be completed within a week.

The principal on behalf of the teachers and students of Saint Martin's Government School expressed her heartfelt thanks to the Mayor and his Council for the timely donations.

Belmopan City Council Incentive Package 2011/2012

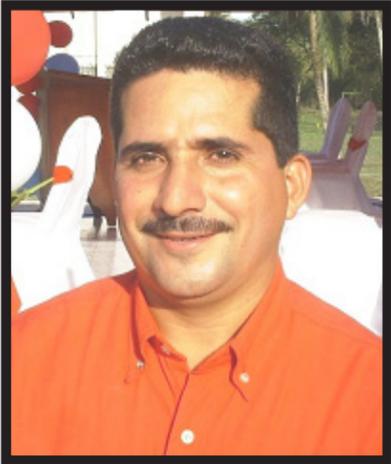
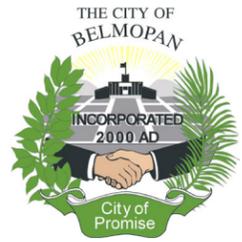
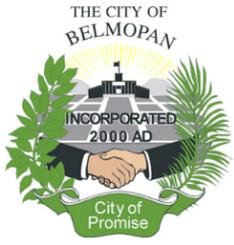
As of January 1, 2011, Property Owners in the City of Belmopan are eligible to participate in the following discount package:

- **25% Discount for full payment of 2011/12 Property fees made ON or BEFORE January 31, 2011.**
- **20% Discount for full payment of 2011/12 Property Fees between February 1 and February 15, 2011.**
- **15% Discount for full payment of 2011/12 Property Fees between February 16 and February 28, 2011.**
- **10% Discount for full payment of 2011/2012 Property Fees between March 1 and March 31, 2011**
- **5% Discount for full payment of 2011/12 Property Fees between April 1, 2011 and December 31, 2011.**

N.B. Senior Citizens (65 yrs or older) are eligible for an additional 5% discount for properties on which they reside.

***For more information visit your Belmopan City Council Offices at 36/38 Trinity Bld., Belmopan
Or call: 822-2271, 822-2319 or 802-3679***

Belmopan City Council



Amilcar Umana
(The New Deputy Mayor)



Mayor Simeon Lopez



Olga Myers
Councillor



Victor Perdomo
Councillor



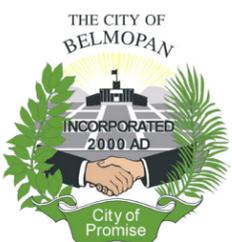
Shanna Banner
Councillor



Pita Balona
Councillor

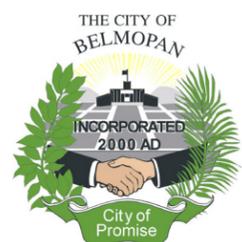


Pedro Carrillo
Councillor



BELMOPAN CITY COUNCIL

PRESS RELEASE



At a meeting of the Belmopan City Council held on Thursday, March 3, 2011, Mr. Amilcar Umaña was elected as the new Deputy Mayor of Belmopan for 2011-2012. He succeeds Mr. Victor Perdomo who held the post for three successive terms from 2008 to 2011.

Mr. Umaña is a well-known educator who has taught at the Belmopan Comprehensive School since 1991 in the subject areas of Mathematics, General Science and Information Technology. He has served as an Examiner for in the field of Information Technology for the Caribbean Examinations Council. He has also co-authored a series of books on Information Technology used in high schools in Belize.

Mr. Umaña graduated *summa cum laude* from the University of Belize in 2003 with a Bachelors Degree in Information Technology. He is presently pursuing a Masters Degree in his field of specialization from the Universidad Tecnologico de Monterrey and Carnegie Mellon University.

In addition to his functions as Deputy Mayor, Mr. Umaña also holds the portfolios of Youth, Sports, Recreational Planning & Development and Parks & Playgrounds. He is a skilled football player who is still active in over-35 competitions in Belize and abroad.

The Mayor, Councillors and Workers of the Belmopan City Council wish him every success in his new assignment.

Onward and Upward!



In virtual reality, the new Macal River Crossing in Cayo to be constructed in the new fiscal year

Continued from page 15

year (2011/2012), spelling out where the money is expected to come from.

The draft estimates of Revenue and Grants, he said, are comprised of \$784.0 million in Recurrent Revenue, \$5.3 million in Capital Revenue and \$54.3 million in Grants. Recurrent Revenue is made up of \$687.3 million in Tax Revenue and \$96.8 million in Non-Tax Revenue.

The rise of \$48.4 million in Recurrent Revenue over last year's outturn is attributed, he explained, to a \$16.0 million rise in taxes on Income & Profits attributed to an estimated \$5.5 million increase in revenue from the petroleum sector (including an estimated \$2.0 million from the Petroleum Supplemental Tax); the expected collection of some \$3.5 million in arrears of withholding taxes from the telecommunications sector; and increased collections from continuing improvements in tax auditing and assessments; a \$34.8 million rise in Import Duties reflecting both an increase in taxable imports and the shifting of consumption taxes to direct tax on fuel; an increase of \$4.6 million from loan repayments to Government; and a new inflow of \$1.2 million following an increase in Excise Tax on locally produced crude oil.

Capital Revenue is estimated to increase only modestly by \$1.1 million to \$5.3 million from the sale of crown land and disposal of unserviceable items, the PM informed.

For the upcoming year, he explained, the government is being greatly helped by new grant resources in the sum of US \$20 Million under

an economic program which we have initiated with the Russian Federation. This is an exciting development, he said, marking the start of an outreach to a country that has not traditionally been within our foreign policy contemplation. The PM informed that he has been invited, and plans to travel to Moscow in June, for discussions on ways to strengthen this fledgling framework for bilateral support, and that funds from this program will be used to support both our Capital II and Capital III Budgets, as well as to cover a portion of the Hurricane Richard rehabilitation expenses incurred in the fiscal year that has just come to an end. When added to the traditional sources of grant aid, mostly from the European Union and the Caribbean Development Bank, and to a number of small programs funded by various United Nations Agencies, the PM said these new inputs should increase the grant portion of the budget to \$54.3 million in the upcoming year.

Spending in the budget is traditionally separated into three portions: *Recurrent Expenditure*, which is the routine cost of running the country and providing basic services for the Belizean population; *Capital Two*, which covers new investment in projects and programs funded by the government itself; and *Capital Three*, which is foreign-funded investment in such projects and programs.

With respect to the recurrent side of the budget, the PM reported that Draft Estimates propose a total of \$729.6 million, up from an outturn of \$700.4 million the year before. The proposed increase of \$29.2 million reflects the steady upward pressure on the wage bill due to annual salary increments, the filling of vital posts especially in the area of public safety, and the contracting of technical and executive staff, he said.

The provision for Pension and Gratuities has also been increasing gradually, reaching \$48.9 million

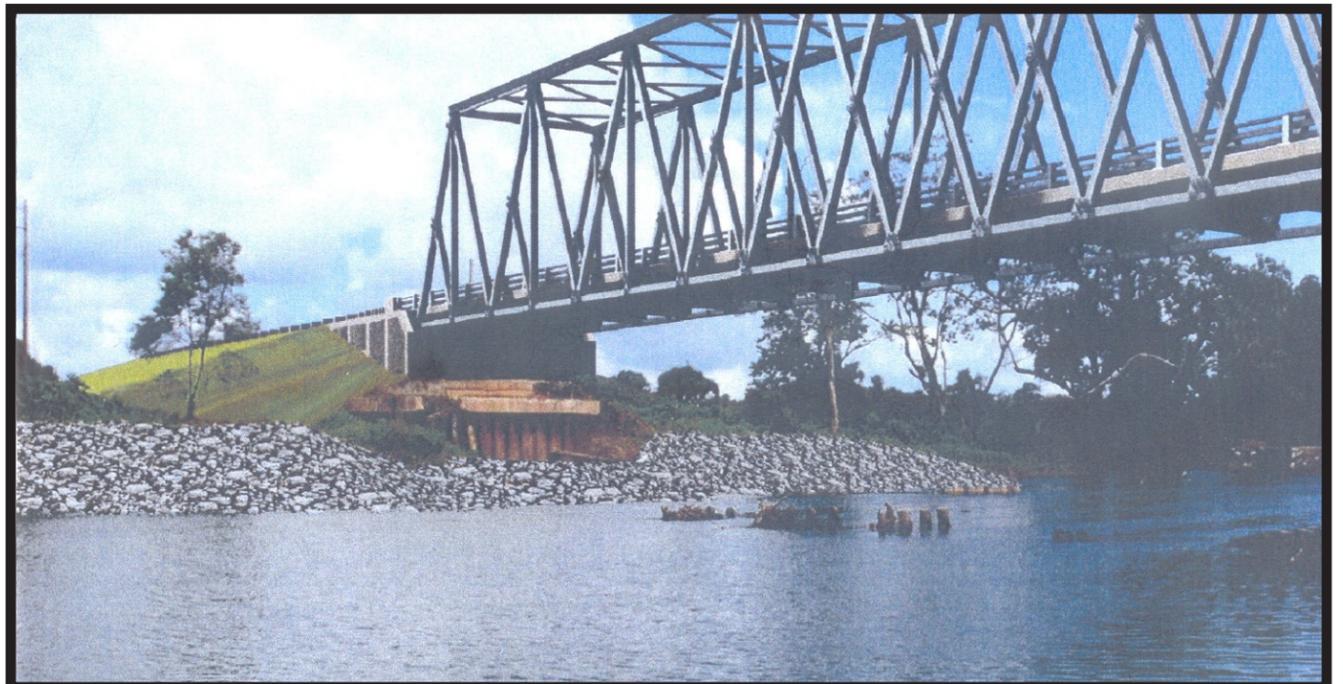
for the new fiscal year, he explained. And he informed that the government is in the process of undertaking a comprehensive review of the public and government pension systems through a technical cooperation grant from the IDB, he explained.

Government is also proposing an allocation of \$167.9 million for Goods & Services and \$100.3 million for Subsidies & Current Transfers to cover essential material and supplies for Health and Education; to meet grants to educational institutions; to pay for food and fuel for the Police Department and the Belize Defence Force and other Government departments; and to meet the cost of the ever-growing utility bills, particularly the bills for street lighting, the PM said.

In the Recurrent Budget, he said, the government is proposing \$112.1 million to meet interest payments on our debt obligations for the year. The amount required is slightly less than last year's estimate and reflects a slight lowering of interest rate on domestic debt instruments and overdraft facilities, he explained. This, the PM said, is just a temporary respite, as in August 2012 the interest on the "Superbond" will reach 8.5%, and the Government will have to provide an additional \$28 million per annum to meet the interest on this single debt obligation.

Again, another mention of the Super Bond must have caused further discomfort for those on the other side of the House—and it should—but the truth is that no genuine budgetary exercise can be undertaken by any administration in any year from now until 2029 without consciously considering and factoring in the Super Bond which will continue to represent an enormous and recurring demand

Continued on page 19



Project for a new Kendall Bridge already underway, will continue in the new fiscal year

Onward and Upward!



More school buildings like this one in Hope Creek will be constructed in the new fiscal year

Continued from page 18

on the government's finances until that year (2029) when its repayment is scheduled to be completed.

"Although not shown explicitly in the recurrent budget, we have to provide an additional sum of \$63 million to meet debt amortization payments," the PM explained. *"This represents a priority call on Government's resources, and when added to the Overall Deficit of \$46.3 million, it results in an Overall Financing Requirement of \$109.4 million,"* he said.

On the Capital side of the new budget, the Prime Minister said the government is proposing to allocate \$160.4 million of investments in new projects and programs in the upcoming fiscal year. The locally funded Capital II Program is estimated at \$ 48.2 million while the externally funded Capital III Program will receive an allocation of \$107.3 million, he said.

The fairly substantial rise in the Capital III Program, the PM explained, is as a result of the increase in secured financing of grant and loan resources.

"We expect that this will result in an acceleration of ongoing projects as well as the commencement of several major new projects," the PM explained. *"To move the process along, we have established a number of project steering committees to monitor and support the various project execution units in the implementation ministries. We will also give heightened priority to providing the required local counterpart resources in a timely manner,"* he added.

"In the Capital II and Capital III Programs, it bears repeating that we have set aside over \$15.0 million in programs aimed at providing direct assistance to the poor and to the socially marginalized," the PM stated. He took the opportunity to

highlight those programs once again, which include \$4.0 million for the Conditional Cash Transfer Program; \$2.4 million for Food Pantry Programs in Belize City and in the Cayo District; \$5.0 million to support Child Care Initiatives particularly in the Northern, Southern and Belize Districts; and \$4.4 million for countrywide Home Improvements and Home Repair for low income families.

In the Capital III (externally funded) program, the PM said provisions are being made for the commencement of several new Projects and Programs, including \$3 Million from the CDB to commence work on a new Macal River Crossing; \$3 Million from the Russian Federation Grant for Rural Electrification; \$9 Million from the OPEC and the Kuwait Fund for the Big Falls to Guatemala Border Road; \$5 Million from CABEI for the Border Crossing facilities at Santa Elena, Corozal; \$3 Million from the Russian Federation Grant for Agricultural Support to small farmers (including citrus, papaya, and cashew farmers);

and \$4 Million from OPEC for Phase Two of the Southside Poverty Alleviation Programme.

The PM said a token provision is also being made for three new programs that have been approved by the IDB, and which are expected to commence later in the upcoming fiscal year. These, he said, include the Community Action for Public Safety; a Water and Sanitation Project for the Placencia Peninsula, and a new Belize City Flood Mitigation Project.

In addition to these new Projects, the PM reminded the nation of the continued implementation of priority projects currently underway, including \$5 Million for the World Bank funded Municipal Development Project, \$5 Million from the CDB for the Kendal and Mullins River Bridges; \$5 Million this year from the EU for the Sugar Support Programme, \$5 Million from the IDB and OFID Fund for the Solid Waste Management Project; \$5 Million from the IDB for the Sustainable Tourism Project; and \$8.5 Million from CDB for the BNTF and the Social Investment Fund.



New building at Georgetown Technical High, a testament to this government's budgetary commitment to continue investing heavily in Education

The Budget is about money and figures, but beneath the figures and above them is the people whose lives it is intended to improve, and the nation which the overall vision embodied in that budget is intended to develop.

After laying out the hard facts and figures, the Prime Minister concluded his presentation in that spirit of human and national development which the budget is all about.

"I observe that this presentation has been as economical as I could have made it.

But there has been no need to buttress the facts, gild the lily. For this is a good Budget, Mr. Speaker, positioning us on the recovery path and hastening the pace of development and equity.

Still, there are those that will come in thirteen days time to assassinate truth and eviscerate principle.

Well let them do their worst, Mr. Speaker. They can never prevail. For this Budget is anchored in, and vindicated by, my belief in the Belizean nation: in the flash and splendour of our talent; in our capacity for hard work; in our creativity and adaptability; in the fundamental soundness of our economy. I believe, above all, in the fullness of our compassion, the fastness of our safety net, the oneness of our people.

Mr. Speaker, what a difference a year makes! Inspired by the return to growth and the credo I have just set out, this government now confidently takes the Belizean agenda forward. We have turned things around and once more are free to fly. So,

Mr. Speaker, it is onward and upward: to consolidation, to expansion and to that great triumph which we have always known to be the inevitable destiny of our beloved Belize."



2011 Belize Math Olympiad

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Special Thanks to All who made this year's

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