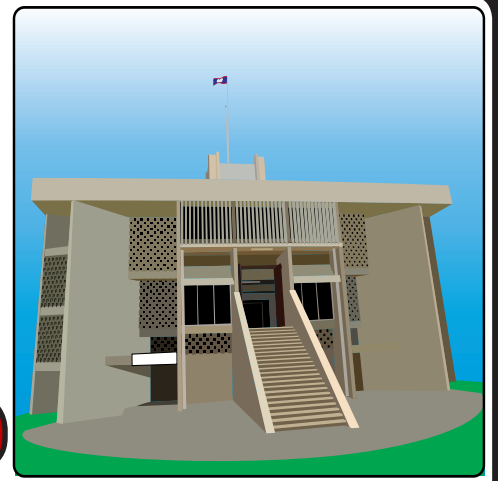




Capital Weekly

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



No. 016

Thursday, December 22, 2011

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“We Did It Our Way!” *Barrow’s Stand for Belize in 2011*

The front page of newspapers is normally reserved for the hottest news, sometimes gory, sometimes scandalous, but almost always negative. As you have figured out by now, it is our norm to depart from the norm.

This might not even be news anymore, but we are proud to report that in 2011, like never before, we Belizeans did things our way, under the leadership of Prime Minister Dean Barrow, as we took control of our most essential utilities, too long dominated by foreign business interest, enshrining it in our Constitution that majority ownership of Light, Water

Continued on Page 13



Prime Minister Barrow, thanking Belizeans for their support at the steps of the National Assembly on the day the Amendment was passed to Constitutionally enshrine public ownership of essential utilities

Light Up the Night: Belmopan Christmas Parade



See Pictorial on Center-Spread (Pages 10 and 11)

“...And There Was Light!” *Melvin ‘Flipping’ the Switch*



Story on Page 4

Editorial

Leadership Does NOT Have To Be Dictatorship

Different personalities display different styles of leadership. Some leaders believe that they must be boisterous and confrontational in order to achieve their objectives. By intimidating their followers and or employees, these individuals are certain that they will get maximum production.

I have observed different kinds of leaders. It is my firm belief that a leader in a community, a department, a school etc, can be very effective with a smooth persuasive and gentle leadership.

I recall two heads of department who were placed in charge of a government department; the same government department. Whenever there was weekend work to do, one of the boss men would instruct and dictate to the workers what he wanted to get done. He would offer pay to those that work. (Showing up on weekend was voluntary.) Boss man one would get very low turnout.

Boss man number two was gentle and smooth. He would let the workers feel like part-owners of the department. I can recall that one time he told the workers, "We need some work to get done this weekend, but there is no money in the department". All the workers, nevertheless, showed up on the weekend, and without pay.

Boss man number one wanted to know what was boss man number two's secret for getting the workers out on a weekend.

It should never be interpreted that because a leader is gentle and engaging, that he is a weak leader.

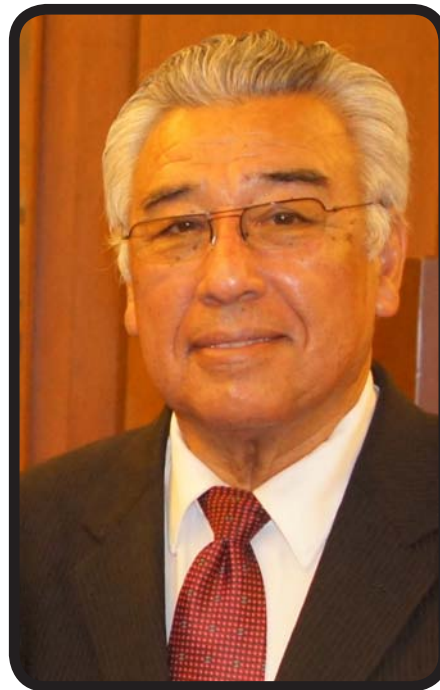
Likewise, many arrogant, dictatorial and confrontational leaders get very little achieved.

It's all up to you what kind of leader you want to be. What you cannot dictate is what kind of response you will get from those who will help to make you look good or bad.

What does all this have to do with Christmas? Nothing specifically. Just some good advice for all seasons.

Send comments to w.cut66@yahoo.com

Feliz Navidad



H.E. Rosendo Urbina

En esta
t e m -
p o r a d a
navideña cuando
esta gran nación y el
mundo celebran el
nacimiento de nues-
tro Cristo Jesús, va-
mos a unirnos como
hermanos y agradecer
al señor por esta vida

llena de paz y amor
que nos ha brindado.

Demos gracias
también por ser ciu-
dadanos de un país
tan lindo y pacifico
como lo es Belice.

Que el amor de
Dios nos siga brin-
dando amor paz y
armonía no solo en
esta navidad sino por
muchos años más.

Yo Rosendo
Chendo Urbina, mi
familia y el comité
del Orange Walk Sur
les deseamos a todo
Beliceños y especial-
mente a los residentes
de la área Sur de Or-
ange Walk, un a Feliz
Navidad y Prospero
Dos Mil Doce (2012).

Que dios los
bendiga. Gracias.

Another Year is Gone.
Another Year is come.
What's past we cannot
change; What's ahead,
we have no clue.

Yet, with new wisdom
acquired in 2011, and
enduring Faith in the
Almighty, We can
greet the Hope the
New Year offers,
and make the
best of it we can.

To all or readers:
**Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year.**

Capital Weekly

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

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The Prime Minister Christmas Message



*Hon. Dean Barrow
Prime Minister of Belize*

The usual good wishes that my family and I offer all our countrymen and women every Christmas, are this year mixed in with the thanks we give for the solidarity and support we have received from Belizeans over the last month and a half. Ever since the nation learned of my wife's cancer affliction, people's prayers and intercession have been non-stop. This has served not just greatly to comfort us, but as

a wonderful reminder of what Christmas is really about: individuals drawing closer to God and to each other in recognition of the supreme sacrifice of the Christ child, and what that has ever since meant for the ties of our common humanity.

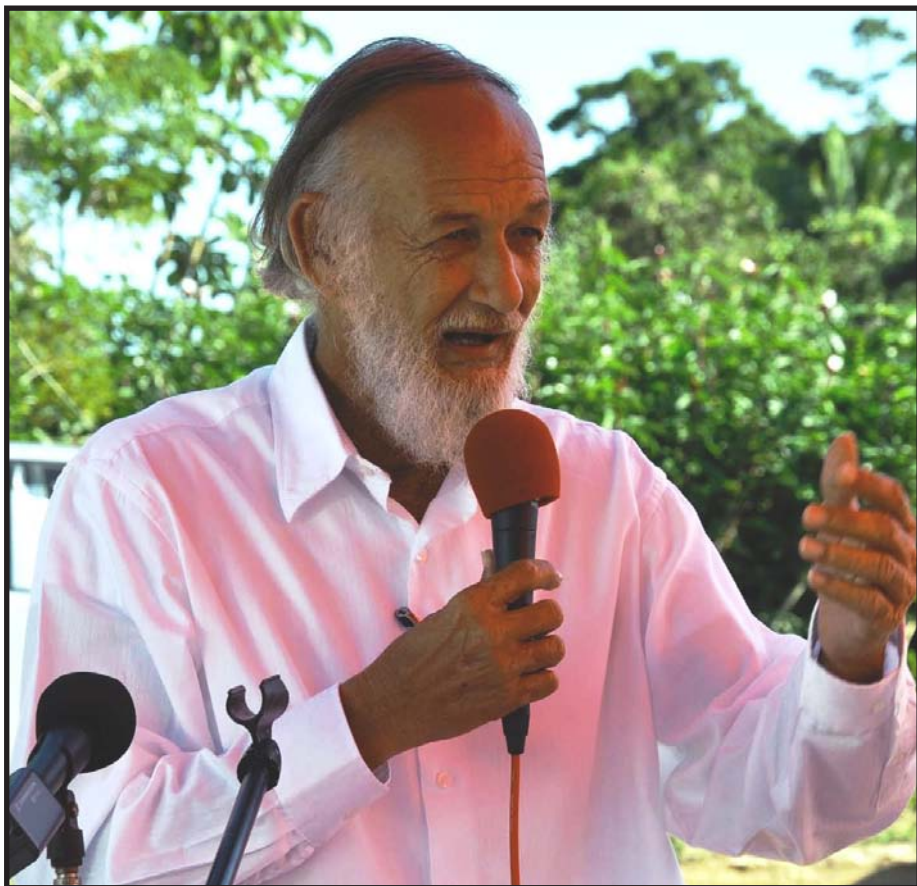
My Christmas hope, then, is for the star that lights Belize and all the world at this time, to be extra bright. May it bring good tidings and peace to everyone; but especially to those that are sick and in need. And let each of us that is able, personally reach out to the poor and the less fortunate. Let us, with kind words and good deeds, ensure that no Belizean is without the spirit and the good things of the season. Let us spread cheer in every corner of our beloved country.

To all in this great land, then, a blessed Christmas and a prosperous 2012.



“...And There Was Light!”

Melvin ‘Flipping’ the Switch in Maya Mopan



Hon. Melvin Hulse

Over 250 residents in the new site area of Maya Mopan Village in the Stann Creek District will have a bright Christmas and enjoy greater the Holiday cheer as a result of an electrification project, which was inaugurated Tuesday, December 19, 2011. The project also includes the supply of electricity to the new Independence Junior College building currently under construction.

The project was implemented by Belize Electricity Limited (BEL) under the auspices of the Social Investment Fund and financed by the Government of Belize through the Commonwealth Debt Initiative (CDI) to the sum of \$204,400.00.

The project in Maya Mopan included the provision for an overhead line extension consisting of six 45 ft. poles, nineteen 40 ft. poles, eighteen 30 ft. poles and the installation of 7-10 and 1-25 KVA 22KV 120/240 V pole mounted transformers to supply 96 lots in Maya Mopan. Forty five house-

holds have already been established in the area. Residents in the new site were responsible for the provision of the service entrance, installation of meters and electrical wiring to their homes.

Meanwhile, the project for Independence Junior College included the provision for a line extension consisting of one 45 ft. pole, six 40 ft. poles, four 30 ft. poles and installation of a 25KVA 22KV 120/240 V pole mounted transformer to supply the Independence Junior College building under construction.

The Independence Junior College opened its doors in 2007 to some 27 students and caters for working individuals. All classes are held in the high school's classrooms from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., but there is the need to offer classes earlier in the day to provide for non-working students; hence, the construction of the new building, which will consist of 6 classrooms. The new facilities will enable the Junior College to carry out programs during the day and

free up the high school classrooms for the implementation of an adult education program to provide for students who did not complete their secondary education.

Maya Mopan Village is located in the southern region of the country in the Stann Creek District. It is a fast growing community with a current population of 842 people. The village was named after its inhabitants who are Mayas of Mopan descent.

It is a culturally homogenous indigenous community. Presently, the community has a water system, multipurpose building, school, several churches and a resource centre.

Prior to the project, electricity was only available in the older area of the village. Most of the villagers earn their living by working in the citrus, banana and shrimp industries.

The guest speaker at

the inauguration of the electricity project in Maya Mopan was Hon. Melvin Hulse, Minister of NEMO and Transport and Area Representative for Stann Creek West.

Other speakers included representatives of Belize Electricity Limited (BEL), the Social Investment Fund and Maya Mopan Village.

Information and Photos by Mike Hernandez Jr. (Sr J.P.) Director of Public Relations of the Social Investment Fund,

(An important footnote to this story is that when Hulse and the UDP left office in 1998, he had already installed light posts for this project. No progress was made in implementing the electrification of the site during the 10 years of the last administration. Since his return, Hulse has now ensured the completion of the project)



Emerson Spence of BEL

Empowering People with Land

Melvin Hulse Getting the Job Done



Hon. Melvin Hulse hands over land documents to a new land owner

Talk to anyone who knows the history of Stann Creek West. They will confirm to you that before Melvin Hulse, there was no such thing as land ownership in any significant and meaningful way to the common people. Prior to Hulse's entry into electoral representation in that constituency back in the late eighties-early nineties, the big, wealthy companies owned huge tracks of land and the regular folks had nothing. They and their families were beholden to these wealthy companies for which most of them worked. Sing the master's tune, remain slavishly loyal to him, or you're gone, evicted without notice from the premises you call home, but which was never, and would never be truly yours.

Then came Melvin Hulse, and suddenly people in Stann Creek Rural, now known electorally as Stann Creek West, began getting their leases and titles to their land. The suddenly became empowered and independent, being able to take their documents to the bank, own

their own farms, sell their produce for an income and send their children to school to become doctors, lawyers, accountants and engineers. It is no exaggeration to state that in most areas Hulse actually created villages where previously there were only 'estates'.

After he left politics in 1998, virtually nothing happened in Stann Creek West in terms of village expansion or issuance of land to the common people, although there were obscene land grabs by

successive PUP area representatives and a handful of well-placed individuals.

Since Hulse returned in 2008, he has been working tirelessly and lobbying funds from Cabinet and anywhere he can to pay for land acquisition and surveys in order to expand villages throughout the constituency and issue land particularly to first-time owners.

In one day, on Tuesday of this week, Hulse was able to hand out land docu-

ments to two hundred residents in four villages in the southern part of his constituency, 50 lots in Santa Rosa, 50 lots in San Roman, 100 lots in Red Bank and another 100 lots in Maya Mopan.

Lest you think this is any election gimmick, we must remind inform you that such issuance of land by Hulse to the people of Stann Creek has been ongoing ever since he returned to office in 2008, and the cumulative count for lots issued since then is well over a thousand.

And it continues, as Hulse says he is finalizing, even as we write, hundreds of other land documents for folks in many other villages throughout the constituency who will similarly be getting their land in the weeks and, months ahead.

Politics is too often a game of dependency and control. If there is one way to truly empower people, giving them dignity, independence and freedom from abuse and exploitation, it is through land ownership. In this respect, Melvin Hulse might not be as much a politician as he is a revolutionary and liberator.



Another new land owner receives his documents from Hon. Hulse



By **Zelda Hill**

While there exist diverse opinions on who the wise men were who paid homage to Jesus and gave Him gifts at His birth: whether Gentiles or dispersed Jews or which country they came from, the Bible clearly states that they were guided by a star which went before them until it came and stood over where the young child was (Matthew 2:9). As remarkable as the appearance and movement of the star was at that point in history, there existed the expectation that someone great was to appear in Judea.

To the wise men, this great person born was the King of the Jews and to the Jews; He would be a prince and a deliverer from the bondage of Roman rule. God had fulfilled His promise made centuries earlier that the Messiah would be born in the town of Bethlehem and time would reveal that this child born would become the greatest person to ever walk the face of the earth. To the Christian He is known as the Christ, our Deliverer, the Saviour of the world, Emmanuel, the incarnate God Himself. How reminiscent of God's character to keep His promise and to lead men to where its fulfilment was realized.

Although God's methods of such guidance have been varied, it's an es-

tablished fact that the God of the Universe desires to connect and communicate with us, to make Himself known and to help us make the right decisions. Some people, realizing their need for understanding and guidance, seek intervention from the wrong sources. They look to people who fraudulently claim they can interpret "the messages" of the created stars and the universe and make grave decisions using horoscopes, old wives fables and superstitions to satisfy their yearning for direction in life. In their ignorance or refusal to seek God's guidance their desperate choices result in undesirable destinations, grave errors and disaster.

But God wants to lead us into a fulfilling life. His desire is for us to experience the best of knowledge, wisdom, joy, love and peace as we journey through earth and to prepare us for living in eternity with Him. To guide us in these times, He has made available the main instrument of such guidance, a road map, the Bible, and He has promised to dwell in those who desire to do His will, through the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Theologian, Reuben A. Torrey, concluded that "The Bible is a revelation from an infinitely wise God, made in a reasonable way, to reasonable beings." It is not a book that should be ignored or used for charms, magic spells and curses but we should use it obtain God's guid-

ance. The Bible does not only contain general principles but it has practical advice in its laws, historical books, books of wisdom and poetry, prophetic books, gospels and letters.

From beginning to end it highlights the consequences of errors made by characters such as Abraham, Moses, Solomon and David and reveals the benefits of making the right choices. It contains advice on a wide variety of issues: how to choose friends, how to train your children, how to spend money and how to choose a life partner. Indeed, no one who has willingly heeded the guidance of the Bible arrives at the end of their lifetime and say, "My life was a wasted life". On the contrary, I have heard them say, "if only I had used the Bible to guide me from my earlier years I would not have made foolish choices in life". In addition to the Bible, we have the promised Holy Spirit, the author of Scripture Himself.

The Holy Spirit, who dwells in those who believe in Jesus Christ and obey His teachings, influences our thoughts, attitudes, behavior, choices and actions so that what we do what

is right as judged by God and what pleases God. At times the decisions we make through the guidance of the Holy Spirit may not seem as 'the path of least resistance' or as in our best interest but we must be convinced that a loving and omniscient God will always lead us rightly. His paths may not be free from difficulties and challenges but even in those spots we will be strengthened and perfected.

We never have to wish for God to step from heaven, reveal Himself and show us what road to take or what decisions to make; He already has! Whether by a special star, by providence, by enlightenment, through dreams and visions, or through angels; from the beginning of time and down through the ages, our Creator, God, has guided.

In these times He continues to guide those who are willing to follow Him by the Bible and the Holy Spirit. As the wise men sought out the King and were guided to the right location, those who are wise still seek Him today and are guided through their earthly pilgrimage and even to the end.

Faith Lift

Does God Still Guide Us Today?

Capital Weekly

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

**Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year
From**



The Department of Transport

**THERE'S A THIN LINE
BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH.**

TRAFFIC SAFETY TIPS FOR DRIVERS

1. Check your motor vehicle to ensure that everything is in good working condition. Example – brakes, all lights, horn, wipers, tires, spare-tire, tire tools, oil, water, brake fluid & dash board gauges.
2. Ensure that your driver's license is valid and that your vehicle is licensed and insured.
3. Wear your seat belts at all times when on the highways. (It is an offence for drivers and front seat passengers not to wear seat belts on the highways).
4. Don't carry passengers in the back of open pickup trucks. (Vehicle only insured to carry amount of passengers as stipulated on certificate of registration/title).
5. Don't drive if you are consuming Alcoholic beverages or taking medication (drugs). Have designated driver (alcohol and drugs affect your vision and judgement).
6. Avoid making calls on cell phone when driving, it is best to pull off to the right to make calls or to answer your cell phone, don't text while driving.
7. Wear your helmet at all times when operating or being carried as a passenger on a motor cycle.
8. Only overtake if you have a clear view of the road ahead, never overtake around blind curves or when driving over a hill.
9. Drive within the speed limit at all times.
10. Obey all traffic laws and signs.

THINK! DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE



Deputy P.M. Gaspar Vega Holds Christmas Parties in O.W North

(Photos Provided by UDP National Coordinator Ruben Campos)



Christmas Greeting



As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord and the approach of a New year let us resolve to meet any new Challenges. May the unity of the Season cause us to embrace our Neighbours as our Family remembering that we are One people. Let us move forward knowing that Hope is the good common to all men.

Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year

To all residents of Belmopan

**From Mayor Simeon Lopez
The Councillors and Staff of
The Belmopan City Council**



Delroy Cuthkelvin
Chairman, Editorial Board

From the Desk of the Chairman

A Fitting Tribute at Christmas

In Belize, everyone celebrates Christmas. The question is, how many of us even pause to acknowledge, amid the merrymaking, who and what the season is all about.

The Bible warns us about, “having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof” (2 Timothy 3:5)

This week, we want to pay tribute to the Almighty, no less, who came to Earth and dwelt among us in order to deliver us from our sinful state; who allowed Himself to be put to death by humans in order to defeat Death for the benefit of all mankind.

In paying tribute to Him, we must also acknowledge those among us who have taken on the full-time mission of spreading his Gospel of Salvation to the ends of

the Earth, the Church.

2011, in Belize, was a year when the Church and its mission regained their relevance—to whatever extent they had lost it—in the lives of our People and Nation.

When the forces of evil sought to obstruct the Prime Minister and his Government’s efforts to enshrine in our Constitution public ownership of essential utilities—something virtually everyone conceded was a good thing in principle—it was the Church that intervened and saved the day, bringing reasoning and goodwill to the table.

Quite fitting, indeed, as that very Constitution is founded on the acknowledgment of the Supremacy of God, as stated in its preamble.

With some among us, emboldened by wealthy and powerful international organizations and leaders, now attempting to overturn the laws of the Land and the order of Na-

ture, it is the Church that has again stepped in to protect the interest of the Nation and its People, while others who should be at the forefront of the defence have been threading much too softly.

A most fitting intervention, again, as it is the Law of God, in the first place, that dictates how humans must live and conduct themselves; and it is his design and manual for the crowning work of Creation, Mankind, that ultimately, if some should have their way, we would thus be disregarding and setting aside in order to gratify and glorify those degenerate cravings.

Some of us are all too happy to acknowledge the good of the Church when its stand in favour of a righteous and noble cause conveniently coincides with our own goals and objectives. But when respected religious leaders attempt to pull us back on course where we have departed from

the straight and narrow in other respects, we are quick to spell out what, according to us, is the Church’s place.

We are certainly not without sin and, in any case, there’s no need to cast a stone. Suffice it to say, it is our fundamental position that God’s place, and hence, the Church’s place, cannot be limited or confined to any defined scope of issues or affairs. Whoever undertakes to prescribe such perimeters would, in effect, be practicing a form of godliness but denying the power thereof.

This Christmas, let’s put some of the merrymaking aside, if we must, in order to put Christ himself back into the whole exercise.

And, as we prepare to meet the New Year, let us resolve to allow him back into every aspect of our lives and our Nation’s affairs.

May your Christmas be merry and bright; but, most of all, let it be blessed!

Light Up The Night

Belmopan Christmas Parade

(The event took place Monday Night , December 19, 2011)



Light Up The Night

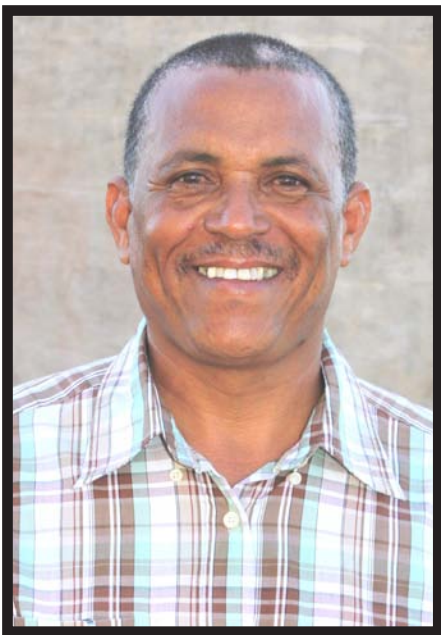
Belmopan Christmas Parade

(The event took place Monday Night , December 19, 2011)



Sports Update

-With Ismael "Miley" Garcia



*Ismael "Miley" Garcia
National Sports Coordinator
Ministry of Sports*

This column wishes all the many sports enthusiasts and athletes a very BLESSED CHRISTMAS and all the best in the NEW YEAR 2013.

The school year closed with the exciting finals of the National High Schools Basketball tournament held in San Pedro last weekend. In the female division the girls from St Catherine's got the best of their rivals Muffles College 30-13 to claim the National High Schools Female Basketball Championship. In the male division the boys from Sadie Vernon High School emerged victorious over the host team San Pedro by an impressive score of 82-68 right on the heels of having won the Central Division championship.

Coach Tarr tells us that he is impressed with the level of play displayed at this weekend's National High School finals. Congratulations to both high schools, their players, coaching staff, parents and school administration for supporting the tournament.

We congratulate the Belmopan City Volleyball

Association for the successful completion of the inter-departmental competition. In the Ministry's competition Immigration/Police defeated the Education/Public Service and Sports squad to become the inter ministerial CHAMPIONS.

In the competition between non-government firms and businesses, it was Social Security board defeating the competition from the Builder's Hardware/Courts to become CHAMPIONS of that competition. On Monday, December 18th the grand CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS for Belmopan may be determined between the top dogs from both the inter ministerial and non government firms and businesses.

In a monster match, up Social Security Board and Immigration/Police go into game two which could be the deciding game since Social Security Board has defeated Immigration/Police in game one of a best of three series. Once again we congratulate the Belmopan City Volleyball Association for the excellent organization of this tournament.

In football news two elections were held on Saturday for the members of the Football Federation of Belize (FFB). On Saturday morning Floyd Jones, the challenger, beat the incumbent Vice President of

the Belize District Football Association (BDFA) Michael Novelo, to become Chairman of the BDFA.

The other four members who were elected were members of the Michael Novelo slate. There were three (3) spoilt ballots so it is a wonder that Jones got nine (9) votes to Novelo's seven (7) votes in an election where sixteen teams voted.

The members who were elected were merely announced as winners but no numbers were given by the electoral commission.

Later the same day in Dangriga, Mr Leroy Romero and Mr Herman Pastor of the Electoral Commission, conducted elections for the Stann Creek District Football Association (SCDFA). Mr. Patrick Henry, Acting Director of the National Sports Council supervised this election and was involved in the count.

At the end of the counting it was the slate headed by Kenrick "Mugga" Flores that won four positions over incumbent Davis Marshall's slate. One member of the Nelson Moss slate "Strings" Castillo was also elected to make up the fifth member of the SCDFFA.

The election for the Corozal District Football Association was postponed for a second time, this time at the request of FIFA, according to an FFB release

of Friday, December 16th. Both the Electoral and Electoral Appeals Commission have rejected the slate of Mr Virgilio Acosta that wishes to challenge incumbent Frank Sutherland. This case, however, has been referred to FIFA since even the incumbent Corozal District Football Association President has written that there is no reason to disallow the slate and he believes the slate should be allowed to run. The Ministry and FIFA have been in contact and we await the outcome of this review by FIFA of the facts of this case.

So far the entire Belmopan slate of Mr Peter Alvarez was rejected as well as Marvin Ottley and his proposed Vice Chair for the Belize District and Mr Nelson Moss and his proposed Vice Chair for the Stann Creek District.

Elections for the top league are scheduled for December 28 and the two slates contesting in this branch of the FFB are headed by Sergio Chuc and Omario "Maito" Perdomo.

And in closing, we wish to highlight that the John Saldivar Cup, being played at the newly lit San Martin Football Field, is in full swing with night games on Tuesdays and Thursdays and all day on Sundays. We will have a detailed update on this competition in our next article.

**Read Capital Weekly Online
in Living Colours at:
belizenews.com/Capital Weekly**

“We Did It Our Way!”



A Belizean mother and grandmother thanking Mr. Barrow for Securing the Future for her children and grandchildren

Continued from Page 1

and Telecom will forever remain with the Government and People and Belize.

As PM Barrow put it in his presentation opening up the debate on the constitutional amendment that cemented it on October 21, 2011, it was “a watershed, and a kind of second coming of Belizean Independence.”

Indeed, it was history in the making; and Belizeans came out by the thousands to be a part of it. That moment was preceded by ninety days of public consultations that saw a similar outpouring of nationalism. Notwithstanding the threats and warnings from the formidable line-up of so-called learned and no-doubt well-paid attorneys, the Belizean public at large stuck to our guns and remained steadfast in our support for the position that it was time, overtime, that we took back control of what was ours, and should always be ours, placing it permanently in the highest law of the land that it would indeed always remain that way.

The sentiment was expressed in so many ways, with a colourful multiplicity

of styles and cultures, but the fundamental message was constant, that for the good of the nation, for the future of our children, and for our own wellbeing, it was time for us to retake permanent control of our essential utilities.

The outpouring of nationalism and public support all climaxed at the foot of the National Assembly on October 21, 2011 as PM Barrow was hailed as the “Father of Economic Independence” and “Belize’s 21st Century Liberator”. “Estamos Contigo, Señor Barrow”, some of the most vivid signs read in Spanish, meaning, “Mr. Barrow, we are with you!”

In a statement to the National Assembly, with the throng of supportive, nationalistic Belizeans chanting on the outside, Mr. Barrow declared, “My democratic convictions have obliged me to incline my head in the direction of those that genuinely still have reservations about the bill, but if I bow, I do not genuflect. They have had their say and we respect it. They must in turn not only respect but cede the day to the majority, the vast majority that supports and, indeed, rhapsodizes the victory. For this is ultimately, Mr.

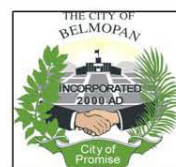
Speaker, a glorious hour, and testament to it, are the thousands of Belizeans out here at the steps of this National Assembly and overflowing inde-

pendence plaza. They bear celebratory witness and ecstatic acclamation to a foremost triumph of nationalism.

Mr. Speaker, it is to the people that we now give thanks; those inside this National Assembly and those outside this National Assembly; those at their farms, in their homes and at their work.

And so, Mr. Speaker, we go forward, secure in the knowledge that we are doing the right, buoyed by the cheering solidarity of the wave upon wave and the rank upon rank of those that have descended upon Belmopan this morning, and certain, Mr. Speaker, of the judgment of the posterity that in this story of the United Democratic Party, this shall have been our finest hour (applause).”

Indeed, under the leadership of Prime Minister Dean Barrow, 2011, perhaps more than any other year before it, goes down in history as the year when we Belizeans truly did it our way!



UPDATE ON THE BELIZE MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT FOR THE CITY OF BELMOPAN



Under the World Bank Infrastructure Project four(4) streets will be rehabilitated in the City of Belmopan: One-Way Street adjacent to bus terminal, Nim Li Punin Street, Racoon Street, Hummingbird Drive (a portion)

The following have been accomplished in regards to the project:

- The project has been approved by the Project Steering Committee (PSC).
- The Subproject Agreement has been signed. This agreement outlines the respective responsibilities, rights and obligations of the Social Investment Fund and the Belmopan City Council.
- The Belmopan City Council has deposited an amount equal to 1% of the estimated cost of the project as a counterpart contribution.
- Anthony Thurton and Associates, an engineering consultancy firm, have been hired to prepare the designs, costs estimates and technical specifications for the four streets and work have begun on the designs etc. which is expected to be completed by the end of January 2012.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

Mr Ernest Raymond, Project Co-ordinator, Belize Municipal Development Project, Constitution Drive, Belmopan Tel: 822-0239/0508 or via email: ernest.raymond@sifbelize.org or Cell No. 610-1836. Website: www.sifbelize.org



Mensaje Navideño del Primer Ministro



*Hon. Dean Barrow
Primer Ministro de Belize*

Los buenos deseos que de costumbre mi familia y yo les ofrecemos a nuestros compatriotas cada Navidad, este año están mezclados con agradecimiento por la solidaridad y el apoyo que hemos recibido de Beliceños a través de las últimas seis semanas. Desde que la nación supo del padecimiento de cancer de mi esposa, las oraciones e intercesiones por parte del pueblo no han cesado. Esto ha servido grandemente no solo para consolarnos, sino también como un maravilloso recordatorio de lo que es Navidad

en realidad: individuos acercándose más a Dios y uno al otro en reconocimiento del supremo sacrificio del niño Cristo, y de lo que eso ha significado desde entonces para los lazos de nuestra común humanidad.

Mi esperanza Navideña, entonces, es que la estrella que ilumina Belize y todo el mundo en este tiempo, que sea aún más resplandeciente. Que traiga buenas nuevas y paz a todos; pero especialmente a aquellos que se encuentran enfermos y en necesidad. Y que cada uno de nosotros que puede hacerlo, personalmente ayude a los pobres y los menos afortunados. Con palabras bondadosas y buenos hechos aseguremos que ningún Beliceño se halle sin el espíritu y las buenas cosas de la temporada. Seamos nosotros portadores de alegría en cada rincón de nuestro amado país.

A todos, entonces, en esta gran nación, Feliz Navidad y próspero 2012 (dos mil doce).



Another New School In the South

Groundbreaking in Sunday Wood, Toledo



Breaking Ground, Hon. Eden Martinez, flanked by Joseph Cayetano of R. C. Schools' Management and Daniel Cano of SIF

Sunday Wood Village, one of the most remote communities in the Toledo District, will soon have a new school building. The school project was launched during a ground breaking ceremony last Thursday at the project site in Sunday Wood Village.

The project is being implemented by the Social Investment Fund at an approximate cost of \$422,000 and financed by the Government of Belize through a loan from the Caribbean Development Bank.

The project intends to provide a one story reinforced-concrete building 25ft wide by 120 ft long including a 6ft verandah. The works include construction of three (25ft x 30 ft) classrooms with two movable partitions, a male and female bathroom block and a principal's office. The foundation will be designed for a two storey building in anticipation of future expansion. All internal and external walls will be plastered and painted.

The building will include solid timber doors and aluminium louvered windows. Provisions of electrical, plumbing, water supply and waste water systems in accordance with the regulation of respective authorities will be included in the project. Furniture and a solar panel system will also be incorporated. The building will be used as a shelter in the event of an emergency.

The southern region of Belize has traditionally been considered the most under-resourced part of the country. The Toledo District, where the target com-

munity is located, has 46% of its population living in poverty. Sunday Wood Village was established in 1984 by Ketchi Mayas and has a population of approxi-

mately 358. Most of the villagers depend on subsistence farming. Their main crop is rice, which is sold at the Rice Mill in Big Falls. The farmers also cultivate beans and corn for family use.

The Sunday Wood RC school is a multi-grade school and has an enrollment of 107 students and 21 pre-school children. There is one main concrete building which houses Infant 2 and Standards 1 & 2. The wooden building which houses standards 3, 4,5 and 6 is in a deteriorating condition. There is no ceiling on this building which creates an uncomfortable environment due to excessive heat during the dry months. The zinc on the roof is dilapidated causing children to get wet when it rains. The thatch roof building which houses the pre-school and infant 1 is also in poor condition.

The guest speaker at the project launching was Hon. Peter Eden Martinez, Minister of Human Development and Social Transformation and Area Representative for Toledo East. Other speakers included Mr Joseph Cayetano, Assistant Local Manager for RC Schools in the Toledo District, representatives of the Ministry of Education and the Social Investment Fund as well as the Sunday Wood Village Council and the Village Alcalde.



Students of Sunday Wood anticipating their new building



Two young and proud students displaying their Belizean Flag

(Information and photos by Mike Hernandez, Jr. (Sr. J.P.) of Social Investment Fund)

Not Enough - But Appreciated

Area Representatives Offer Help for Christmas



Hon. Edmund Castro delivering goods and calendar to an appreciative resident of Belize Rural North



Hon. Edmund Castro delivering a package of goods to another villager of Belize Rural North

We know some have been criticizing the initiative by Prime Minister Barrow to make some funds available to Area Representatives to provide a little assistance for the

Christmas holidays, a time of the year, when family and friends come together, when everyone is a little more generous than usual, when much more food and necessities are consumed.

We note that the people complaining are not those being assisted; which leads us to conclude that the help, though small it might appear to those who don't need it, is very

much appreciated by those who *do* need and receive it; which, we must also conclude, is the whole point of the exercise, if there's any point to be made.

Continued on Page 17



Hon. Edmund Castro delivering goods and calendar to a hardworking villager of Boston Village



Hon. Edmund Castro delivering goods and calendar to a hardworking villager of Crooked Tree village

Not Enough - But Appreciated

Area Representatives Offer Help for Christmas



Four appreciative villagers of Hopkins Village, thankful and proud to be remembered at Christmas by their Area Representative for Stann Creek West, Honourable Melvin Hulse



Hon. Hulse sent trucks full of goods to over 2,000 families

Continued from Page 16

True elections might be near, but that by itself is not enough to conclude that this is any election gimmick, as in all fairness to the Barrow administration, this yuletide gesture fits easily into the line-up of pro-poor programs being administered throughout the year and ever since it came to office.

Two of the Area Representatives that have made maximum use of this particular initiative are Belize Rural North's Edmund Castro and Stann Creek West's Melvin Hulse. They both issued modest food baskets and bags to over 2,000 residents in their

respective constituencies over the past few days leading up to Christmas.

In the case of Hulse, he sent two truck-loads of food stuff to distribute to residents in Stann Creek West.

Edmund Castro, for his part, readily conceded on national television that the funds made available to him are far less than necessary to meet the needs of his constituency, especially at Christmas time. He has neverthe-

less tried his best to spread it around to make a difference, while he tries to secure additional resources.

In accordance with that famous parable from the world's greatest teacher, whose birth we celebrate at Christmas, these area reps would certainly not have their talents taken away. Indeed, the un-maximized talents from others might well be taken away and added to theirs.





BELIZE NATURAL ENERGY CHARITABLE TRUST

May you have peace and goodwill
not only at this time of year,
but all year through.
Our best wishes for
Happy Holidays
and a
Prosperous New Year

- Student Loans
- Educational Infrastructure Projects
- Social Environmental Initiatives
- Capacity Building Programs

From:

The Board of Trustees,
General Manager & Staff



Make Belize Proud!

Darnell Barrow- Man to Watch (Krem New Year's Cycling Classic)



Darnell Barrow, at the Center of Attention

By Raynord Garbutt

Darnell Barrow, a name that Belizeans had on their minds and in their hearts as they remained glued to their radio listening to the 83rd Annual Cross Country Cycling Classic, hoping that this time a Belizean at the end of the race would be wearing the most coveted prize, the garland. But it was not to be, at least not this time.

Luis Santizo, the Guatemalan took our dream away by winning the race. Belizeans don't look at that race as a setback to young Darnell Barrow, but as a mental victory for this budding superstar in Belizean cycling.

Since the 83rd Cross Country, Darnell has proven to be Belize's most consistent rider. Finishing 5th in the Cross Country was the

start of a new era for Darnell. Dedication and hard work: he has proven that by winning several of the Sat-

urday races, and most recently the Banana Classic.

In an interview following the race, he said the

reason he won it was that he rode a smart race. So as you can see, over the months after losing the Cross Country that most Belizeans felt he should have won, Darnell has matured. He knew exactly what to do in the break.

The next big test coming up for Darnell will be the January 1st KREM Cycling Classic. This is one of the races that attracts a large contingent of international riders, who brings with them major competition to our local riders.

Be that as it may, I am going out on a limb to predict that Darnell will not only do well in this one, but that he will win it, and make Belize proud.

Good luck, Darnell; Go make Belize Proud!

Look out for my next instalment when I will recap the results of the January 1st, 2012 Race.

Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year, Belize.



Two foreign riders taking first and second places at the finish of Last New Year's Race



The Board, Management and Staff of

Belize Water Services Limited

Wishes Everyone, especially our Customers

A Joyous Holiday Season And a *New*

Year filled With Love, Peace and Good Health



All of our Offices countrywide will be closed during the Christmas Holidays as follows:

| | CLOSED | RE-OPEN |
|----------------------------|--|---|
| All Offices Countrywide | Friday 23 rd December, 2011 at 4:00p.m. | Wednesday 28 th December, 2011 at 8:00a.m. |
| | Thursday 29 th December, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. | Tuesday 3 rd January, 2012 at 8:00am |
| Belize City Office | Wednesday 28 th December, 2011 at 4:00pm | Tuesday 3 rd January, 2012 at 8:00am |

Normal Offices will resume on January 3rd, 2011 at 8:00a.m.
Any problems or leaks please call hotline at 0-800-BWS-LEAK or
0-800-CALL-BWS.

