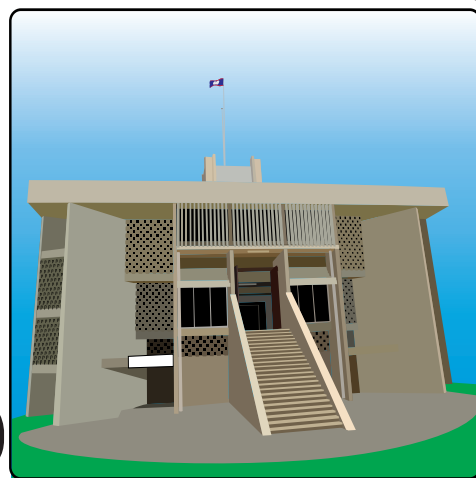




Capital Weekly

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



No. 020

Thursday, February 2, 2012

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“One Eye Water!”

General and Municipal Elections Same Day

Fonseca Calls for It, Barrow Calls It!



Francis Fonseca, Leader of the Opposition PUP has been calling for the elections to be called



Prime Minister Dean Barrow at Press Conference immediately following his announcement of the General Elections date

The PUP had been calling for it, and PM Barrow had been hinting at it. Well, on Tuesday of this week, the last day of January, the Prime Minister announced that the general elections will be on the same day as the municipal elections which by law were already fixed for March 7, 2012.

It's as we Belizeans like to say, “*One eye-water.*” The speculation is now over, and the only question that remains is, who will do the crying after the ballots are counted on March 7.

The Prime Minister made the announcement in a prepared statement to the

entire nation. By that time, he had already advised the Governor General to dissolve the

House of Representatives this coming Friday January 3, 2012 and, and set the general elections for March 7, 2012. Nomination day, he said, would be on February 17, 2012.

Following the announcement, the PM held a press conference at the Biltmore Plaza where the hall was filled to capacity with supporters and well-wishers of the UDP.

(The entire statement by the Prime Minister on his announcement of the general elections is reproduced on page 3)



Up front, UDP Ministers and Area Reps ready for the battle ahead

From the Desk of the Chairman

The Ballots will do the Talking



Delroy Cuthkelvin
Chairman, Editorial Board

With the expectations of early elections looming for some time now, the chattering over the airwaves, particularly on the morning talk-show circuit, has been on the increase for several weeks. And the date having now been announced, the chatter has grown exponentially over the past couple days, as would have been expected.

There isn't much, in our view, that can be achieved, at this late hour, which hasn't yet been achieved; and too much talk could almost be counter-productive to those who engage in it.

The Government of Prime Minister Dean Barrow had hit the ground running when it took office in 2008. Since then, it has steadily been implementing its agenda of national development with a pro-people focus, defending against all odds, the interest of the Nation and People of Belize.

All that this administration needs to do between now and the elections is to gently remind Belizeans of the things it has been doing, for whom it has been doing them, and against whom it has had to be fighting to get them done. Less words, more images, as a picture is worth a thousand words.

As to the band of criminals who seek to return to power, the more they talk, and the more they show their faces, the more Belizeans are reminded of the crimes they committed against all of us, and against generations of Belizeans yet unborn.

Enough said. Come Election Day, the ballots will do the talking!

Careful What You Ask For!

Is the Opposition Ready for Elections?



Hon. Francis Fonseca, Leader of the Opposition PUP
Still Calling for the Elections that have already been called

For some time now, the Opposition PUP has been calling for the government to call the elections (pardon our redundancy). Well, this week, their wish was granted as PM Barrow announced to the nation on Tuesday that he had advised the Governor General to dissolve the National Assembly this Friday and set the election date for March 7, 2012.

Everyone saw it coming; or maybe we should say, almost everyone, because it appears the PUP Opposition which had been calling so loudly for the elections was caught somewhat off-guard as the night following the announcement they began airing a new ad calling for the elections to be called.

The question is: how ready is the Opposition for the early elections for which they keep calling and which has already been granted? Judging from the continuing leadership crisis and stepping

down of standard-bearers, it doesn't appear the PUP is in much of a fighting form. Perhaps, they know something the rest of us don't.

As to the UDP, there is no doubt at all that the party's machinery is in top shape and all revved up.

To the PUP, we must say, be careful what you ask for; you might just get it. Indeed, you have!

Capital Weekly

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

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Statement by Prime Minister Dean Barrow on the Announcement of General Elections

(Belmopan, Tuesday, January, 31, 2012)

I have been proud and grateful to lead the United Democratic Party Government since February of 2008. And we have accomplished much in this first term. Acting always for the people and with the support of the people, our overall record is a stellar one.

Economic growth has been consistent and we have recorded gains every year but one. This has been despite the continuing global crisis, despite the vagaries of nature, despite freak storms and hurricanes, and despite the super bond.

We have given income tax relief to all employees on fixed salaries. And we have given GST and import duty relief to every single consumer. We have, for the first time in our nation's history, chartered comprehensive pro-poor and pro- people programmes.

These have included monthly cost-of-living allowances, subsidized food baskets, and cash transfers to thousands of families. We have awarded 300 dollar grants to first and second year high school students across the country; and educational opportunities have been expanded in unprecedented ways.

We have built a record number of new classrooms, given a record number of scholarships, and we have excelled at creating second-chance, remedial, vocational, and apprenticeship initiatives.

We have found resources to do new housing construction countrywide, and we have poured millions into home repairs and home improvement. In addition, we have written off almost fifteen thousand mortgages at the Ministry of Housing and the Social Security Board, allowing all those families burdened by repayment obligations to now own their homes free and clear.

We have pushed infrastructure development in a way that has never been seen in Belize; and our roads and bridges network, especially in the South and North, has immeasurably improved as a consequence. The key to unlocking the foreign funding for all this, has of course been the fact that we have returned our homeland to credibility and honest stewardship.

Our social justice and employment outreach, has also succeeded in attacking the



Prime Minister Hon. Dean Barrow

root causes of crime in Belize; and has produced the gang truce and the signal reduction in the murder rate that we are so thankfully witnessing now.

We have also enshrined nationalism as a paramount feature of our Constitution and our political culture. We have given the people control of their essential utilities. And as a result, everyone is now enjoying lower electricity rates, lower water rates and lower telephone rates.

This, together with the

policies, and some of them claim to have you on their side. We reject that and know they are wrong.

But as proof we want a clear reaffirmation now of the mandate for us to continue and expand our mission. We want you to arm us and support us so we can tell the world that there will be no turning back. That there will be no compromise of our political and Constitutional gains. That we will forge unwaveringly ahead in our crusade to produce development based on justice;

“We want both to consolidate and to strike out in new directions. We are confident that we have done well and have deserved your trust. But as we prepare to change gears and accelerate speed, there is only one way to know for sure. And that is to come back to you the people for your approval.”

restoration of integrity and accountability in governance, is perhaps the greatest jewel in the crown of UDP achievements.

It is on this basis of all this that I come before you at this time. You, the people of this country, are our comfort and our strength. You enable and empower us. You are also our monitors and our judges. Politically we answer only to you.

Still, the forces opposed to our nationalism and our social justice continue to fight. At home and abroad they assault our pro-poor and pro-people

financial uncompetitiveness; to lower interest rates and to establish a national bank; to rationalize the sugar and citrus industries for immediate viability and longer-term prosperity; and to realign existing ministries and create new ones in order to maximize efficiency.

Ladies and Gentlemen, you get the picture. We want both to consolidate and to strike out in new directions. We are confident that we have done well and have deserved your trust.

But as we prepare to change gears and accelerate speed, there is only one way to know for sure. And that is to come back to you the people for your approval.

Accordingly, I have today advised His Excellency the Governor General to dissolve the National Assembly with effect from this Friday, February 3. On that day, a writ will be issued appointing the 17th of February as nomination day, and fixing Wednesday, March 7, 2012 as the date for the next general election. We will thus have both the municipal and general election on the same day.

Now elections in this country are always hard-fought, costly, and by their very nature divisive. Having the two in one will thus save the taxpayer money, and mean a single, quick healing process. Whoever wins can then get on straightaway with the business of binding up wounds and uniting our country; of governing in the best interest of all Belizeans; of continuing to meet the challenges of the unfavourable international climate.

Ladies and Gentlemen, My Fellow Belizeans: I remind all of us that we have an enviable record for peaceful elections. I appeal to all political parties and candidates to ensure that we maintain that record.

The Public Officers that will oversee the process are professionals, and will guarantee that, as always, the elections will be free and fair. Of course, we will also be inviting international observers to come and help make sure of the integrity of our balloting.

As we prepare, then, to exercise once more this most sacred of all our political rights, the right to vote, I close by praying now, more than ever: God bless Belize!

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Grand UB Graduation

405 Newly Equipped Agents of Development



Vaneene Juan receiving award from UB Chairman Imani Fairweather

The University of Belize held its Fourteenth Commencement Exercises at 10 in morning last Saturday January 28, 2012, for students who have success-

were females and 133 males, representing 67 and 33 per cent respectively.

The Faculty with the highest number of graduates once again was the Faculty of Education and Arts

event was the Executive Chairman of the Belize Telemedia Limited (BTL) Mr. Nestor Vasquez who delivered the Feature Address. (That address is reproduced elsewhere in this publication).

President of the University of Belize, Dr. Cary Fraser, extended congratulations to all graduates for their dedication, commitment and achievement.

he remarked. "A society that fails to provide access to a dynamic and effective university education for its citizens is a society that will lose its way."

During the ceremony, several students received the University of Belize's official white, gold and purple honour chords. The *tri-cable white* honour chords are designed to honour those graduates with Cum Laude;



Over Four Hundred Graduates at last Saturday's Ceremony

The university plays a significant role in nation-building by educating and empowering students to become decision makers who can create opportunities for Belize's future generations, he said.

"It is in the University that we have to prepare our students and heirs to deal with a world that will differ significantly from the one into which they were born,"

gold honour chords designate graduates with Magna Cum Laude (great honour); and *purple* honour chords distinguish graduates with Summa Cum Laude the highest honour. The total number of honour graduates was 40.

The theme for this year's Commencement Exercises at the University of Belize was: "**GET INVOLVED...UBisforall of us.**"



An award presented by UB President Doctor Cary Frazer

fully completed their course of study at the University's Central Campus in the nation's capital, Belmopan.

The graduates received diplomas at the Associate, Bachelor, Certificate and Diploma levels.

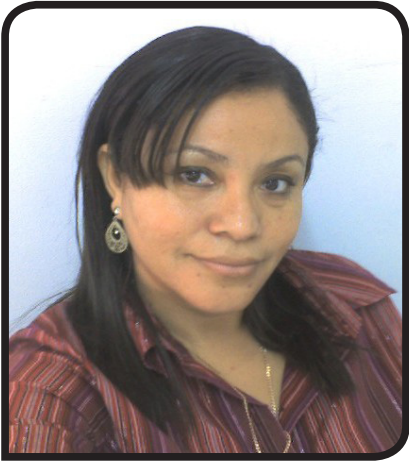
Of the total number of 405 graduates, 272

(FEA) with a total of 191, followed by the Faculty of Management & Social Sciences (FMSS) totaling 105, the Faculty of Science and Technology (FST) 76, and the Faculty of Nursing, Allied Health & Social Work (FNAHSW) with a total of 33.

Guest Speaker at the



Allie Yam receiving award from UB Chairman Imani Fairweather



By Zelda Hill

It was the German Reformer Martin Luther, who when asked at the Diet of Worms to reject the teachings of his books that were contrary to the erroneous beliefs of the church and state replied, "...to go against conscience is not safe. Here I stand; I can do no other. God, help me. Amen." At some point when we became aware of some grave error or injustice committed by another, we have asked the question, "How could he have done that; doesn't he have a conscience?" The actions of Adolf Hitler, Osama Bin Laden and perhaps some past or present political leader may have led us to conclude that some people have no conscience at all. While individuals or some in positions of leadership may rightfully seek the advice of religious or spiritual leaders before making major decisions, to believe that the Church alone is the conscience of the nation or that only certain groups of people can discern between right and wrong is erroneous. The notion of whether a judgment or action is wrong or right can be determined by the individual through his conscience. It is the first line of defense when faced with temptation and it never fails to convict us to do the right thing.

Faith Lift

Purging the Pathway to the Conscience

The conscience is that faculty common to all of us as free moral agents, which discerns between right and wrong and prompts us to choose right and refuse wrong. Every human action is done with the instinctive knowledge (**con** means 'with'; **science** means 'knowledge') of right and wrong, even if the individual has never seen a Bible or a moral code. The conscience also judges the mind and is a strong witness to our integrity or to our guilt. It is another proof of a Creator who has formatted His laws into the mind of man; one who continually speaks and guides us into making the right choices. But even as recipients of this unique design, God never intended to compel us to make the right choices. He also fashioned us with a 'free will', which is the ability to choose whether we will heed the conscience, do the right thing and please God, or whether we will ignore the conscience, give in to temptation and do wrong. But as Luther established, to go against conscience is never a safe decision.

Even after the conscience is disregarded and a wrong judgment has been made, the conscience continues to convict and accuse us introducing constant guilt which robs our peace of mind. The condition of the soul determines whether the pathway to

the conscience is clear for it to be heard or whether it will be hindered from its promptings. If there is no feeling of guilt or regret after we have erred, it is not because the conscience has ceased to operate or does not exist. When we continually ignore it, the conscience becomes useless as if scorched with a hot iron (1 Timothy 4:2), resulting in a hard heart that will produce evil tendencies and perversion, since our capacity to tell right from wrong will diminish. But no matter how grave the transgression, we don't have to live with a seemingly impaired conscience committing acts that are displeasing to God and injurious to man. Our Creator can cleanse the debris of the soul by His forgiveness and unplug the lines of communication to make audible and clear the voice of conscience. The soul is then revived and quickened to the inner tug of conscience, which must remain pure and clear to discern and defend the will of God.

To keep a clear conscience is never effortless since there are formidable forces which pressure us to resist its alerts. The lure of the world, the sinful nature

and the devil are sources of temptation, which work to impair its function. Temptations that rattle the conscience, especially those that claim to gratify the insatiable lusts for wealth, power and fame, have buffeted, weakened and tumbled many. The Scriptures warn us to be cognizant of temptations which aim to topple, humiliate and destroy us: "So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! (1 Corinthians 10:12)" It also assures us of God's help when we are tempted: "No temptation has seized you except what is common to man, and God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it. (1 Corinthians 10:12-13)." The way out of temptation begins with a conscience whose pathway has been purged and freed of any obstruction. Although temptations can be quite alluring, with God's help we never have to go against conscience and do what is wrong. And if we do, only God's forgiveness and the desire to live rightly before God can restore a clear conscience.

Capital Weekly

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



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Public Notice
January 19, 2012
YOUR BWS HARD AT WORK!



Millennium Goals Water Projects

BWS takes this opportunity to proudly inform its customers, especially those eagerly awaiting water in newly expanded areas, that we are diligently working to bring connections to your households. BWS has an aggressive expansion program aimed at delivering water to existing residences and residential developments.

The table below shows our recently completed as well as approved pending expansion works and projects.

District Area	Area / Description of Expansion	No. Of Households	Cost \$	Status
Belmopan	Camalote Village, Kaimat Street, Rose Garden Street, Suriname Street, Off Peru Street, Colombia Street, Rivera Road, George Price Boulevard	138	BZ\$91,110.57	Completed
	Iguana Street, Camalote Village, Entrepreneur Road, Hummingbird Highway, Roaring Creek, University Boulevard, Teakettle Village, Mountain View Area, Tulipan to Flor De Mayo Street, Roaring Creek Football Field, Another World Roaring Creek, Maya Mopan Area, Calle Las Americas, Panama to Calle Las Americas Layout	544	BZ\$424,898.52	Pending
San Ignacio/Santa Elena	Collins Boulevard, Hillview Area, Santiago Juan Layout, Daniel Pereira	108	BZ\$46,807.06	Completed
	Santa Cruz Area, Galvez Street, Martin Galvez Street	248	BZ\$122,901.59	Pending
Corozal	Rodney Moguel Area, Diego Street Extention	120	BZ\$60,119.58	Completed
	Santa Rita Road, Na Chan Can Street, Altamira Layout, Baeza Layout, Xaibe Village	92	BZ\$31,465.36	Pending
Orange Walk	West Trial Farm, Stadium Street	100	BZ\$110,100.00	Completed
	Rear Stadium-Iglesia De Dios	16	BZ\$13,085.75	Pending
Belize City/Rural	12 1/2 Miles Northern Highway, Lord's Bank, East Windmill Area, Vernin Leslie Crescent, Belama Phase 4, Superintendent Street, BDF Layout, Belize American Site, 4 Miles Western Highway	140	BZ\$61,085.83	Completed
	Coney Drive, 8 1/2 Miles Western Highway, 27 Hattieville/Bood Road, Ladyvillw, West Lake, Marage Road, Joy Avenue, Drift Wood Bay, Los Lagos, Tropical Park, Belama Phase 4	288	BZ\$147,368.50	Pending
Dangriga	1st Site, West Wagierale Area, Rivas Estate, Street of Melinda Road Monument Site	232	BZ\$142,328.72	Completed
	Monument Site	36	BZ\$40,382.48	Pending

University of Belize



University of Belize



**The University of Belize
congratulates the January 2012
Graduating Class of more than 400**

special recognition to the top finishers:



Vaneene Juan
Bachelor Degree
English Education
Faculty of Education & Arts



Allie Yam
Diploma
Education Methodology
Faculty of Education & Arts



Jasmine Tzul
Associate Degree
Business Science
Faculty of Management & Social Sciences



Educating and empowering the nation's most cherished capital, our human resources, with knowledge and skills to become decision makers to create opportunities for the development of Belize and future generations.

***The University of Belize...
Empowering Minds! Fostering Innovation! Building Belize!***

“Success Is Not a Sometimes Thing It is an All The Time Thing”

(Main Address Delivered at 14th Commencement Exercise of the University of Belize)



Mr. Nestor Vasquez
Chairman of Belize Telemedia

I would like to start by saying that it is indeed an honor for me to be your invited guest speaker at today's Commencement Exercises. I must admit also that it feels good to be with you all today to extend my congratulations to the graduating class of 2012, the management, faculty and staff of the University of Belize.

As I reflect on the era when I went to high school I see the vast changes in Belize and in the world. In the nineteen forties, Belize did not have a University or sixth form, Belize was still a Colony known as British Honduras with a population of approximately 60,000.

Today we are a nation of some 313 thousand which has celebrated 30 years of independence and have had a university for over 2 decades. So it is fair to say that we have all come quite a long way in the past 60 years.

One year ago at the installation of the new President of UB, Dr. Cary Fraser pointed out and I quote “the University of Belize should be the foundation stone for the training of successive generations of leaders and of skilled people who can work to improve life for all Belizeans” end of quote. Ladies, gentlemen, graduates, let us all join in extending our congratulations to Dr. Fraser for appropriately pointing out what our goal should be, that you become our future leaders and be empowered with the necessary education and skills in order to ensure that though we are a small nation we will be prepared to take on Global Challenges.

Today technology is at the core of solving most of our problems. Technology has gone mainstream; those cell phones that all of you have are the products of decades of design, discovery and development. As computers, they are more advanced than anything that could have been conceived just 20 years ago.

The internet, also, has permeated our modern experience; it has blanketed the world in a single electronic fabric. Mobile Telephony and Information Communication Technologies are integral parts of our everyday life. It has created myriad new opportunities for individuals and the corporate world to do things differently. Today technology gives us the freedom to communicate, to shop, to bank, to entertain, to transact any business, anytime, anywhere. As Martin Luther King said in 1956, “Man's scientific and technological genius has been able to dwarf distances, place time in chains and carve highways through the stratosphere; through our scientific genius we have made the world a neighborhood.”

There is abundant proof of this at Belize Telemedia. Many of our managers have extended their

diagnosed by international specialists without having to leave their families or their hospital beds.

Enabling the delivery of ICT via this medium and other Broadband solutions of Telemedia, will significantly improve the delivery of the primary and secondary health care services.

In the same vein, I have been reliably informed that one of the priorities of this University is Online Distance Learning. I was pleased to learn this because I can tell you that whenever this University is ready to start this Project, Belize Telemedia will gladly assist the University of Belize. Infusing all aspects of the Education System with ICTs for improved delivery and learning is one of the priorities of our Government.

Actually we are in an era of achieving the highest rate of innovation in our country's history, because innovation is critical in this age of Technology and Globalization. As the Chairman of Belize's leading Telecommunications Company, I know that our initiatives in this area will continue to be our life's blood. So you too must be innovative in how you perfect and market your expertise in the work force because this is

of the Government and people of Belize. These Companies are all run and managed by Belizean Talent, Belizean Time, Belizean Energy and Belizean Experience. The only thing we need more of in that equation is Belizean Money. In October 2010 One thousand additional Belizeans invested in BTL Shares. Had it been ten thousand Belizeans we would have had a greater control in the Commanding heights of our Economy. This is just one example of the many I can cite that would give us greater participation in our own economy.

Re-acquiring control of those utilities was a difficult, much deliberated decision for Government. And just so, in your endeavors, you will encounter difficult situations and some will even appear impossible to overcome. Don't be intimidated by adversity, oftentimes they only seem difficult or appear impossible. Believe in yourself and tell yourself, “If it is difficult I will do it immediately and if it is impossible it will only take me a little longer.” Indeed, that philosophy has fuelled the engine of human progress.

So today I ask you to take up your leadership position and when doing so, remember – in the marketing parlance of a popular athletics brand: “Impossible is nothing.” Set a plan and visualize where you see yourself tomorrow; what do you need to achieve it? What steps must you take to get there?

But before you do so you must focus on yourself because all of you will be graduating with the same degree in different disciplines today and you will very likely be applying for some of the same jobs. You must ask yourself what will differentiate you from the rest of the applicants, what is your comparative advantage, what is the image you want to portray of yourself?

Success is not a sometimes thing. **IT IS AN ALL THE TIME THING.** You don't succeed once in a while, and you don't do things right once in a while; you must aim at doing right all the time. You will then find that success becomes a habit.

Closing Statement

I can see the excitement in your faces and I know you are rearing to go. Go for it and make UB PROUD, make your parents PROUD, and make Belize, this jewel of ours, even more PROUD.

“Success is not a sometimes thing. It is an all the time thing. You don't succeed once in a while, and you don't do things right once in a while; you must aim at doing right all the time. You will then find that success becomes a habit.”

education by electronically accessing accredited universities around the world, successfully keeping their jobs and families at home while earning their Bachelors, Masters and even Doctoral degrees online.

Today Belize Telemedia through the policy of the present Government is now bringing the benefits of this technology to the people of Belize. Government's promise to provide quality education to all Belizean Children is demonstrated with the fact that over 200 schools are presently being provided with free internet by BTL. In other areas such as health I can tell you that the KMH and Southern Regional Hospital have been connected via Internet to hospitals in the U.S.A so that Belizean patients can get

what will ultimately set you apart.

And we must believe ourselves to be distinctly capable and singularly equipped to confront and master the challenges of our time and times to come. My experiences has instilled in me the firm belief that Belizeans should be the ones in control of the commanding heights of the Economy. We can only accomplish this if we invest in Belize. How do we do this? We do so by investing what we have; our Talent, our Time, our Energy, our Experience and of course our Money. Put all of these to work here in Belize and you will be making a difference. Take for example the three essential utilities: Telephone, Electricity, and Water; we are fortunate that these are now back in the hands

The Prime Minister's Tour Continued in Guinea Grass, Orange Walk, Last Sunday



The Prime Minister's Tour Continued in Guinea Grass, Orange Walk, Last Sunday



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*Exotic Valentine
Getaway* to



Captain Morgan's Retreat
"Original Temptation Island"



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● Raffle will be drawn on February 15th

● Promotion not open to Telemedia employees

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PUBLIC NOTICE
Belize Water Services Ltd.
FEASIBILITY STUDY OF PLACENCIA
PENINSULA PILOT WASTEWATER
MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The General Public is hereby informed that the DRAFT FINAL REPORT of the Feasibility Study for the Placencia Peninsula's proposed Wastewater Collection and Treatment System prepared by Halcrow and funded by USTDA is available for public review.

The public consultation period will be from January 27th- February 15th, 2012. A Public Meeting will be held on February 16th, 2012 with BWSL, relevant department of the Government of Belize and Halcrow representatives to address any concerns or comments. The venue and time will be announced at a later date. Electronic copies of the report can be obtained from our Headquarters at the address below during normal working hours, and on BWSL's web site:
<http://www.bws.bz/PlacenciaProject/>

Project Management Unit
 Belize Water Services Ltd.
 # 7 Central American Blvd
 Belize City
 Email: IWSPPP.PMU@bws.com.bz



Tender for the Supply of Vehicles
The Belize National Sanitary Cattle Plan Project
Reference: EU/BNCSP/LO#02 OF 2012

The Government of Belize (GOB) has received financing from the European Union and intends to apply part of the proceeds to payments for the Contract for the Supply, Delivery and After-sale service of four (4) pickup trucks for the Belize National Sanitary Cattle Plan Project.

The goods to be supplied and delivered are:
3 Heavy Duty Pickup Trucks (manual transmission)
1 Heavy Duty Pickup Truck (automatic transmission)

The tender documents can be requested electronically from email address ssalazarcattlesweep@gmail.com.

Sealed tenders must be delivered to the Office of the Belize National Cattle Sanitary Plan Project located on The National Agricultural Showgrounds, Hummingbird Highway, Belmopan, Cayo District, telephone number 822-2143.

The deadline for submission of tenders is Monday, February 27, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. The Public Opening will follow at 1:10 p.m. on Monday, February 27, 2012. Interested tenderers or their representatives are invited to attend.

Electricity Rates Down!

Went in Effect February 1, 2012



Belize Electricity Limited's Technicians at work

Our headlined story in the most recent edition of **Capital Weekly** exhorted, "Quit the Quibbling. Just drop the Electricity Rates."

We are happy that the executives at BEL heard and heeded our call, which was really the call of the Belizean People. After initially questioning the PUC's decision, BEL last week indicated that it would not be submitting any

official objection to the prescribed 6.14 percent (almost 3 cents per kilowatt hour).

That being the case, the new rates went into effect on Wednesday of this week, February 1, 2012 as promised by Prime Minister Dean Barrow, whose administration had cleared the way for the immediate implementation through statutory instrument tabled in the National Assembly two weeks earlier.

Water Rates Going Down!

PUC Orders 7.2 Percent Reduction

And, before the reduction in electricity rates could take effect, the announcement came that water rates would be going down as well.

The first indication, more than a hint, came from Prime Minister Dean Barrow at a public rally in the village of Cristo Rey, Corozal two Sundays ago.

By Tuesday of last week the Public Utilities Commission had called a press conference to make the official announcement that water rates are to be reduced by 7.2%. In making the announcement, PUC Chairman John Avery noted that the decision was the result of a careful review of BWSL's financials, taking into consideration its investments, its expenses, its rate of return and other related factors.

The reduction of 7.2 percent will result in savings of 62 cents for consumers on the mainland which will drop from \$8.62 per one thousand gallons down to \$8.00. Meanwhile,



*John Avery
 Chairman of the PUC*

in San Pedro the cost will go from \$25.27 down to \$23.45.

Any objections to the new rates, the PUC says, would have to be made within 15 days after the date of the announcement, failing which the decision will become final on February 8, 2012 (next Wednesday).

Perseverance Pays off

Harmonyville Land Papers Processed



Nigel Petillo

Founder and President of BGYEA

It was two years ago that a group of Belizeans, led by Nigel Petillo, began their righteous quest to own a piece of 'the Jewel', having identified an area around Mile 42 on the Western Highway that could be subdivided in order to provide hundreds of

with members of the association and facilitated them in processing land documents for first-time landowners in phases One and Two of Harmonyville, as the new area has come to be known.

In an interview with the Belmopan-based national television station Plus TV, Petillo stated, "This weekend, members of Harmonyville, phase one and two, signed their lease application forms. They also signed their purchase price forms. The government has agreed to charge a thousand dollars per acre at Harmonyville, where each person will be paying a thousand dollars. The Minister was even nice enough to say that there can be a payment plan to facilitate the grass-root members who find it real challenging to acquire that thousand dollars by the bulk. That



First-time landowners line up to get their paper-work done

residential and agricultural lots.

Although the prospects didn't seem particularly promising from the start, they pressed on and soon secured an understanding, in principle, from form no less that the Prime Minister that the government would do its best, within the confines of the law, to facilitate them.

There were many hurdles along the way, but the group, now known as the Belize Grass-roots Youth Empowerment Association (BGYEA), persevered.

Their perseverance has finally paid off, as last Saturday in front of the Ministry of Lands Department in Belmopan, personnel from the department teamed up

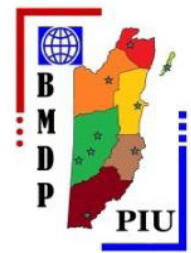
is just the beginning, before those papers are handed out. I met with the Commissioner earlier today and we agreed on a date - the 18th February, where the Minister will personally be handing out those leases to our members at a ceremony which we will be having."

Nigel Petillo and members of his group have expressed their appreciation to PM Hon. Dean Barrow and Minister of Lands Hon. Gaspar Vega for responding to their needs and affording them the opportunity to own a piece of land and participate fully in the nation's development.

Indeed, their perseverance has paid off, and to Petillo and BGYEA we say, RESPECT!



BGYEA members and Ministry personnel facilitating the process



BELIZE SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND BELIZE MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT CONSULTANCY - DEVELOPMENT OF MUNICIPAL GROWTH PLANS (MGP's) FOR THE MUNICIPALITIES OF COROZAL, ORANGE WALK, BENQUE VIEJO, SAN IGNACIO & SANTA ELENA, BELMOPAN, DANGRIGA AND PUNTA GORDA, BELIZE

Loan No: 7958-BZ

Sub-Project ID No: 7958-BZ/CH

Expressions of Interest

The Government of Belize (GOB) has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contract for DEVELOPMENT OF MUNICIPAL GROWTH PLANS (MGP's) FOR THE MUNICIPALITIES COROZAL, ORANGE WALK, BENQUE VIEJO, SAN IGNACIO & SANTA ELENA, BELMOPAN, DANGRIGA AND PUNTA GORDA, BELIZE

The project comprises small-scale infrastructure improvements; capacity building for the municipality councils; technical assistance to central government in municipal management; and project management and administration. GOB has appointed the Belize Social Investment Fund (BSIF) as the implementing agency for the project.

The consulting services for this assignment under the Quality Cost Based Selection shall carry out the development of municipal growth plans (MGP's) for the municipalities of Corozal, OrangeWalk, Benque Viejo, San Ignacio & Santa Elena, Belmopan, Dangriga and Punta Gorda, Belize. The indicative implementation period for the consultancy is April, 2012 - April, 2013. BSIF hereby invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments completed, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, current involvement in relevant projects, etc.).

In submitting their Expressions of Interest, applicants should be aware that they will be assessed, *inter alia*, based on the following areas: technical competence (number of similar projects previously completed and level of comparable responsibility / experience), qualifications and experience (professional qualifications of staff and experience on similar assignments), local and regional experience on similar assignments, financial capability and existing commitments. Consultants may associate to enhance their qualifications. All information must be submitted in English.

Following the assessment of submissions, a short-list of not more than six applicants will be provided with Requests for Proposals including terms of reference and invited to submit technical and financial proposals. BSIF will not be bound to assign any reason for not short-listing any applicant and will not defray any costs incurred by any applicant in the preparation and submission of Expressions of Interest.

A consultant firm will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers*, May 2004 (revised up to January 2011).

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the email address below

One (1) original and two (2) hard copies of the Expression of Interest must be delivered by 4:00 p.m., 29th February, 2012 to:

**Procurement Officer
Belize Social Investment Fund
Belize Municipal Development Project
3rd Floor, PAPT's Building
Constitution Drive
Belmopan
Belize, Central America
lemuel.palacio@sifbelize.org**

The sealed envelope containing the Expression of Interest must include the name and address of the applicant and should be clearly marked:

"Expressions of Interest: Consultancy Services - Development of Municipal Growth Plans (MGP's) for the Municipalities of Corozal, Orange Walk, Benque Viejo, San Ignacio & Santa Elena, Belmopan, Dangriga and Punta Gorda, Belize.

Haunted by their Past!

Francis Fonseca and PUP want us to Forget

There's an old creole proverb which goes, "The man weh shit pan beach forget it, but the man weh walk eena it remember it."

It's not the most palatable language for mass media absorption, but it's the only way we can rationalize the attitude of Francis Fonseca and the PUP when they tell us we should forget the past and focus on the future. That's what the opposition leader told Belizeans in his address rebutting Prime Minister Barrow's announcement of the General Elections. "This Election is not about the past", he said, "It's about the future."

True, elections are always about the future. But this one, we contend, is also about the past, especially since the people trying to get back into office are the very same ones who left us in a mess four years ago; a mess that is still costing us millions today. How can Belizeans forget the past, when it is costing us so much right now, and will cost us so much more in the future?

Consider, for example, the infamous Super Bond, which is the amalgamation of various bad-loans incurred by the last PUP administration that earned the reputation of abusing public funds to underwrite the most insane and unsound (not to mention, corrupt) private ventures. This very month of February, the 20th to be exact, that Superbond will be costing us over \$33 Million Belize Dollars. And by August of this year, when the next semi-annual payment is due, we will have to fork up 47 Million all at once, as the interest would have increased from 6% to 8.5%.

Speaking of which, we must remind you that, notwithstanding the enormous burden we've been bearing over the past few years, it is only the interest that we have been paying up to this point, and that is all we'll continue to pay up until 2019.

Imagine how much more painful it will be when payments on the principal kick in. That will first happen on August 20, 2019 when the first bullet payment on the principal becomes due. That bullet payment, combined with the continuing payment on the interest, will take the debt servicing up to over 100 Million every six months.

In other words, when combined with the continued payments on the interest, those bullet payments (to repay the principal) would take the annual debt servicing payments up to over 200 Million a year, since such payments must be made, not once, but twice every year.

As Prime Minister Hon. Dean Barrow recently noted, the government's External Debt now stands at around 1.9 Billion; and out of that total figure, the Super Bond inherited from the Said Musa administration is responsible for as much as 1.1 Billion (with a B).

In other words, the Super Bond left behind by the last administration is actually responsible for almost 60 percent of the entire External Debt.

All this, the current Prime Minister notes, is the result of reckless borrowing, the monies from which were never spent on the people to improve their quality of life, or on the country's infrastructure. And now, he says,

the fact that his government must find millions every six months to repay those debts means that it is being deprived of much needed revenues to invest in the people and infrastructure of the Country.

Members of the former administration which created the Super Bond contend that they borrowed to stimulate growth and develop the country. But that claim is evidently not in sync with widespread public opinion of how the country's finances were run under the Musa administration from 1998 until 2008.

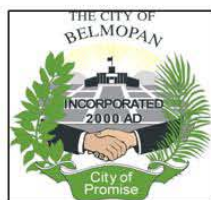
Those were the days when the former Minister of Finance who calls himself a "financial



Hon. Francis Fonseca
Leader of the PUP Opposition

engineer" was boasting about what he called "growth economics".

While there was some unsustainable increase in economic activity, what grew most of all was
(Continued on Page 17)



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 Punit 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

Superbond Strikes Again!

Another 33 Million Gone!



Said Musa, the man who carried the name of Prime Minister when the National Debt got out of hand



Ralph Fonseca, the man who ran the country's finances, first as Minister of Budget, then as Minister of Finance



Mark Espat, the Architect of the Superbond, recently served as Party Leader for a few days



Francis Fonseca, was Attorney General under the Musa Government, now wants to be Prime Minister

February 20, 2012:

The Government and People of Belize have to find \$33 Million to make another instalment on the repayment of the Superbond left behind by the last PUP administration.

August 20, 2012:

We will have to find another \$47 Million as the interest on the Superbond jumps from 6 percent up to 8.5 percent

August 20, 2019:

Repayments go up to \$100 Million every Six Months (200 Million a year), as we start making Bullet Payments on the principal, while continuing to pay off the interest

August 20, 2029:

By the time we're finished paying off the Superbond, it would have cost us \$1,588,590,700 (1.5 Billion with a B)

We Cannot Forget The Past
When We Are Paying In The Present
And Will Continue to Pay in the Future

Always on the Wrong Side

Lisa Shoman Represents UNIBAM



Lisa Shoman

Some people seem to have a knack for always finding themselves on the wrong side of every issue. Such seems to be the case with the 'learned' PUP attorney Lisa Shoman.

Shoman has aspirations to lead the people of this Country, yet she has consistently taken positions that put her in clear opposition to the desires and interest of the Belizean people.

When the Court ordered the late Harry Courtenay to repay 3.34 Million to SSB for shares never obtained in BECOL, Shoman came along and as attorney for SSB, informed the court that SSB had no intentions to enforce the judgment to recover the People's money.

When the current administration was seeking to enshrine in the Constitution majority ownership of essential utilities by the Government and People of Belize, Shoman was front and center among those opposing it, obviously defending the interest of Lord Ashcroft.

Now, UNIBAM is seeking to overturn laws against sexual behavior which 99.9 percent of Belizeans are clearly and strongly opposed to. Guess which side of the case Lisa Shoman is representing in Court? You guessed it right: the wrong side, once again.

Nothing personal, Lisa, but if you truly aspire to lead the People of this Country, you will have to learn to put special interests aside and start standing up for what's good and right for the People of Belize.

(The constitutional challenge filed by UNIBAM to legalize homosexuality in Belize returned to the Supreme Court on Monday of this week for the preliminary hearing. Shoman was joined by Simeon Sampson, the attorney hitherto most renowned for helping convicted murderers to escape the gallows. The Judge presiding over the case, Justice Michelle Arana, said judgment on the matter would be delivered at a later date.)

Haunted by their Past!

Francis Fonseca and PUP want us to Forget

(Continued from Page 15)

the National Debt, the result mostly of excessive commercial borrowing at high interest rates with short maturity periods.

As it turned out, it wasn't too long before that excessive borrowing presented a hindrance to the said PUP administration, and in order to create some breathing room for themselves and their free-spending policies, they decided to postpone the burden by amalgamating all the burdensome debts into one giant Super Bond.

While it was former Minister of Finance Ralph Fonseca, authorized by the then Prime Minister Said Musa, whose "growth economics" grew the national debt to uncontrollable levels, the man who master-minded the creation of the Super Bond was actually the former Tourism Minister, later the Minister of National Development; the same man who recently held the post of party leader for a few days.

And the man who was leader for three years prior to that, John Briceno, was at that time Musa's Deputy Prime Minister, and also a member of a Cabinet Committee

tasked with overseeing the financial policies of the government after it became accepted within the administration that Fonseca's "growth economics" policies had spun out of control and could have led to the party's political ruin.

That cabinet committee, however, proved futile as Fonseca continued to have his way, and the rest is now history.

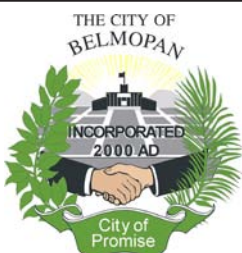
But, so much for the history! What most preoccupies Belizeans in the present is the fact that we must find 33 Million Belize Dollars to pay in less than three week's time, and we will have to find many millions more until we finish paying off that Super Bond in 2029.

By then the Super Bond would have cost us **\$1, 588,590,700**, or to put it another way, over **1.5 Billion**, with a **B**.

Tell me, how can we forget the past, when it is costing us so much in the present, and will continue to cost us so much more in the future?

Perhaps the Honorable Francis would like us to also forget that he is a Fonseca. We'll keep trying, Honorable Francis, but that's a little difficult.

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



BELMOPAN CITY COUNCIL INCENTIVE PACKAGE 2012/2013



As of January 1, 2012, Property Owners in the City of Belmopan are eligible to participate in the following discount package:

- **25% Discount for full payment of 2012/13 Property fees made ON or BEFORE January 31, 2012.**
- **20% Discount for full payment of 2012/13 Property Fees from February 1 and February 28, 2012.**
- **15% Discount for full payment of 2012/13 Property Fees from March 1 and March 31, 2012.**

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 Boulevard, Belmopan City
Or call: 822-2271, 822-2319 or 802-3679**

Training for a Living in St Ann's

Twenty Residents Graduate from SIF-Funded Program



Graduates pose for the camera along with their trainers, Hon. Edmond Castro and SIF's Daniel Cano

A group, comprised of 19 women and a man, hailing from four villages along the Old Northern Highway in the Belize District received certificates during a brief ceremony held on Saturday 28th January in St Ann's Village after completing a seven-month intensive skills training course in the areas of sewing, fruit processing and business management.

The training, which took place from July 2011 to January 2012, was implemented by the Social Investment Fund and financed

by the Government of Belize at a total cost of \$30,706.38 through a loan from the Caribbean Development Bank.

The training also included the provision of equipment such as sewing machines, an industrial stove, refrigerator, sewing materials and kitchen supplies to the Hidden Beauty Women's Group of St. Ann's Village, whose members comprised the majority of the trainees. However, representatives of Santana, Lucky Strike and Maskall villages also attended the training.



Course participants display their sewing products



Hon Edmond Castro delivering a Special Address

The project aimed to empower the participants to earn an income in an area where cruise ship tourists visit the nearby archaeological site of Altun Ha on a weekly basis. The training was held at the St Ann's Resource Centre, which was refurbished in 2010 to make way for productive activities and serve as a hurricane shelter.

The sewing, business management and fruit processing courses were conducted by Margaret Manzanarez, Dana Rhamdas and Beverly Brown respectively. The trainers are certified and experienced Belizean instructors.

Hon Edmond Castro, Area Representative for Belize

(Continued on Page 19)

Training for a Living in St Ann's

Twenty Residents Graduate from SIF-Funded Program



Course participants display the dresses made during their sewing course



Daisy Flowers, course participant and Chairlady of St Ann's Village, displays the processed products produced during the training

(Continued from Page 18)

Rural North, delivered a special address during the ceremony. He then joined Mr Daniel Cano, Executive Director of the Social Investment Fund in the presentation of certificates to the participants. Other speakers at the ceremony included course participants Michelle Aldana, Daisy Flowers and Leslie Pascasio, the only male among the group, who gave their views on the training and stressed that Belizeans can eat healthy using fruits and vegetables from their own backyard. Mr Glen Buckhalter, Program Organizer for Evangel Credit Union, delivered the keynote address in which he urged graduates to aim high by

marketing their products both locally and internationally.

St. Ann's Village is a community located on the Old Northern Highway between the well known communities of Santana and Maskall. It borders Santana at Mile 33 and Maskall at Mile 38. There is little documented history of St. Ann's but locals claim that it has been in existence since the 1920's when logging and chicle production were at their peak. During the 1950's parcels of land were distributed for agricultural purposes and

by 1965 a community center was constructed in the Village.

A number of fruits are grown in St Ann's and surrounding, villages including mangoes, cashew, papayas, pineapple, golden plums and supa, some grown all year round and other seasonally. Hence, there is potential for fruit processing.

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



Hon. Edmond Castro enjoys a light moment with Mr. Leslie Pascasio, the only male among the group, who received his certificate in fruit processing

UNITED DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Belmopan City Council Candidates

March 2012



Simeon Lopez – Mayoral Candidate

Educator for 40 years; Graduate of Western Australia School of Advanced Education- Perth Australia; Resident of Belmopan for 38 years; Completing second term as Mayor of Belmopan.



Joel Westby

Educator and community activist. Presently teaching at Kuxlin Ha Government School (Maya Mopan). Has worked with the Red Cross, HelpAge and Cancer Society and has served as an officer in the Volunteer Battalion of the Belize Defence Force. Internationally accredited softball umpire and current Chief Umpire for softball in the country of Belize.



Anna Guy

Community activist. A part of her neighborhood committee spearheading neighborhood initiatives and advocating for progress. Owner of Emjay's Beauty Salon.



Amilcar Umaña

Educator at the Belmopan Comprehensive School since 1991 and head of the Information Technology department for the past nine years. Graduate of the University of Belize with summa cum-laude distinction. CXC examiner since 1998 and co-author of five computer textbooks; presently pursuing double Masters Degree in Information Technology.



Steven W. O'Brien

Certificate in Economics, Sixteen years experience in Accounting and Management of Food, Beverage, Construction and Tourism Industries, Community Organizer, Sports Organizer, Social and Cultural Activist.



Tita Balona

Primary school teacher at St. Martin's Primary School in Salvapan, Belmopan. Currently pursuing a degree in primary education at the University of Belize.



Victor Perdomo

Businessman. Currently pursuing a Law Degree. Served as Deputy Mayor and councillor for two terms.