



# Capital Weekly

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



No. 041

Sunday, October 13, 2013

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**Special Feature: New Milestone for Belize Coastguard**

## Penner's Passport Predicament *Undermining Government's Development Agenda*

"Yes, I am the substantive minister. I can assure you that immigration has taken an inordinate amount of my time to deal with visas, to deal with permanent residence, to deal with the issuance of passport, to deal with nationality and we have many more reforms that we are bringing into place. But they require legal cases and all sorts of things, and it takes a bit of time to bring them in; in addition to the other work that I do."

Those are the words of the Substantive Minister of Immigration, Hon. Godwin Hulse, in an interview with Channel Five Television News this past week. Therein lies an important truth, which is that the current predicament in which the former Minister of State Hon. Elvin Penner finds himself, having been kicked out of Cabinet for his bad judgment in pushing through and approving a Belizean passport for an inter-



**Hon. Elvin Penner**  
*The Former Minister of State Engulfed in Passport Scandal*

national criminal who has never set foot in Belize, is costing not just the disgraced Minister of State, but the Substantive Minister and, indeed, the entire government an enormous amount of time and energy that could be better spent carrying out its development agenda. Ever since the story broke three weeks ago, the dominant news story on every newscast, radio and televi-



**Hon. Godwin Hulse**  
*The Substantive Minister of Immigration and Nationality*

sion, and the leading headlines on the front page of every newspaper has been about Immigration, Nationality and Passport. The story has eclipsed just about every thing else. Despite its best efforts, the government's development agenda, which has been an aggressive one, is receiving virtually no attention these days as every newscast and talk show in the

land, including those on the Government-friendly media, is devoted almost exclusively to this latest passport scandal.

With allegedly new and related evidence surfacing, large portions of the Immigration Department on lock down, and the criminal investigation into the matter having now commenced, one has to wonder how much longer this issue will continue to dominate the news, exhausting huge amounts of the Government and the Nation's time and energy.

We know it sounds a lot like commentary, but it is so true and so obvious we are certainly justified in reporting it as hard news, the fact that this scandal and everything related to it is eating up an inordinate amount of the nation's time and energy, and certainly undermining the Government's development agenda, hitherto one of the most aggressive ever.

## Vindicated!

Plus TV & Patrick Andrews Apologize to Hon. Saldivar



**Hon. John Saldivar**

In April of this year, Belmopan Area Representative and Minister of National Security Hon. John Saldivar took out a law suit against Plus TV and Patrick Andrews for defamatory remarks that Andrews allegedly made against Saldivar as a co-host of the Belmopan-based station's morning show, Rise and Shine. The comments made by

*Continued on Page 2*

## Belmopan Bandits Off to a Good Start

Report on Page 22



## From the Desk of the Chairman

### *The Cost of Corruption*



**Delroy Cuthkelvin**  
*Chairman, Editorial Board*

**O**ur headline story already declares it, but so salient a point it is, we feel compelled to reiterate. The scandal that broke and continues, apparently, to unfold within the Ministry and Department of Immigration and Nationality surrounding the issuance of at least one Belize passport to an undeserving and unqualified person, who has turned out to be an international outlaw, has imposed and continues to impose an enormous cost on the Nation.

In this kind of climate, there is always the possibility that, for good measure, a good deal of false allegations will be thrown into the mix for greater effect. Yet, there is no denying the fact that at the heart of the matter is Corruption, to whatever degree; and the truth is that Corruption, any amount of it, is too much, as the true cost of it is always multiplied a million times.

In this instance, we believe the greatest cost might prove to be the negative impact it can have on the government's ability to

remain focused on its development agenda which, again, has been one of the most aggressive ever to be undertaken by any Government in this Country.

A national bank just opened, a contract just signed for a model program that combines valuable new infrastructure with immeasurable youth development as a means towards further reducing their vulnerability to criminal activity, these being only a couple of the latest initiatives that emanate from and feed back into a progressive and comprehensive agenda of development that has people at the center and in every corner of it.

What makes all this possible is, of course, the underpinning good stewardship of an administration led by a Prime Minister who has been regarded as the personification of honest, transparent and accountable government. What it has also been, consequently, is effective government, the kind that has successfully steered a small and vulnerable economy through the turbulent waters of global recession, even as large and sophisticated economies have been going under or struggling to stay afloat.

Just when we seem to be well on our way to recovering from the unconscionable and corrupt self-serving schemes of those who led the last administration, here it goes again, corruption rearing its ugly head and threatening to destroy all we've toiled so hard to attain and regain.

Such is the cost of Corruption, the true extent of which we never know until we have to pay it in full.

# Vindicated!

## Plus TV & Patrick Andrews Apologize to Hon. Saldivar



*Plus TV Owner Louis Wade*



*Patrick Andrews*

*Continued from Page 1*

Andrews in December of 2012 were about the Minister's use of funds provided to him as part of the Prime Minister's now annual Christmas Cheers program to enable area representatives to assist their constituents during the yuletide season.

Andrews and Plus TV Owner Louis Wade initially refused to apologize when Saldivar threatened them with the law suit. Early this week, however, the two parties informed the court that they had reached an amicable settlement which would see Andrews and Wade offering Saldivar a public apology via the same airwaves on Plus TV.

Speaking with the media outside the Court, Hon. Saldivar commented, "The two defendants, Plus TV and Mr. Andrews had agreed to do an apology for the words that were uttered by Mr. Andrews on the Rise and Shine show; and we have agreed to accept that apology."

Asked if there would be any financial compensation, Saldivar responded, "Well from the onset, I had made it clear that this was about my reputation and defending my name. It wasn't about the money. I am not interested in getting any money from Plus TV and Mr. Andrews. They will however have to pay my lawyers the cost of bringing this case forward."

For his part, Plus TV Owner Louis Wade told the media, "I'm happy to say that today, just a few moments before they began to work out the file case management, that we were able to come to that final agreement and conclusion.

Let me take this opportunity to thank a group of residents from Belmopan who over

the last month have been working diligently to get both sides of the issue together so that we could have an amicable out of court solution."

When asked if he regretted what had occurred, leading to the law suit, Wade responded, "You know, Plus TV has made a commitment to the nation of Belize that we will deal with every issue that comes across our table. Plus TV has made a commitment that all of its programs are going to obey the law and as far as possible will ensure that what we say is factual and fear comment and that, most importantly, our hosts and our callers...are able to share their comments. And so essentially that is the atmosphere that we engender at Plus TV and I'm happy to say that that continues and will always continue."

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# Police Minister's Monthly Awards

## Southern Zone & Placencia Sub-formation Perform Best in September



**Hon. John Saldivar**  
Minister of National Security

Minister of National Security Hon. John Saldivar on Wednesday, October 9, presented his Monthly Awards for the zone and formation that performed the best in reducing major crimes during the month of September, 2013.

The Southern Zone, headed by Senior Superintendent of Police Robert Mariano, saw the greatest reduction in major crimes for the month of September; the Placencia Sub-formation performing the best in that region. Senior Su-

perintendent Mariano received from Hon. Saldivar a Cheque of \$1,000 for the performance by his zone, and a Certificate of Recognition on behalf of Inspector Mark Flowers who heads the Placencia Sub-Formation.

The Minister of National Security presented the awards at the start of his monthly meeting with zone, formation and branch commanders from around the country, conducted at the National Police Training Academy in Belmopan. The meeting was

chaired by Commissioner of Police Allen Whylie.

In his opening remarks, Commissioner Whylie noted that he was concerned that there has been some slippage in performance over the past couple months in some areas and he urged his formation commanders in those jurisdictions to reassess their strategies and step up their efforts to address the specific areas of concern.

In his remarks, Minister Saldivar reiterated the Commis-



**Mr. Allen Whylie**  
Commissioner of Police

sioner's concern and his exhortation to his commanders to re-evaluate their strategies and implement the necessary changes to address the situation.

Hon. Saldivar noted that while some areas were showing some slippage, Belize City has been performing very well of late. He commended the Officer Commanding Eastern Division, Assistant Commissioner Miguel Segura and his Precinct Commanders for their effective leadership which has been yielding the encouraging results.



**Senior Superintendent Robert Mariano Receiving Award for Best Performance by Southern Zone in the Month of September**

# Camalote Blazers Win Miley Garcia Softball Trophy Presentation by Ismael 'Miley' Garcia



**Camalote Blazers 2013 Champs**



**Melinda Blancaneaux, Most Home Runs - 4**



**Francine Salazar, Most Strike Outs - 28**

# Congratulations to the Winners!

# Rehabilitation - Participation - Transformation

## *Contract Signed for IDB-Funded Project Targeting Youths*



**T**he Ministry of Human Development, Social Transformation and Poverty Alleviation signed Contracts on Wednesday October 9, 2013 in the Altun Ha Room of the Radisson Fort George Hotel in Belize City. The contracts that were signed amount to BZ\$3,298,307.70 and were signed with two local contractors for infrastructure works under the Community Action for Public Safety (CAPS) Project.

The works comprise the construction of a Youth Center located at Gwen Lizarraga High School Compound in Belize City at a cost of BZ\$1,522,049.70 and the construction of a Dormitory Facility, Resource/Visitor's Center and Rehabilitation of the Sporting Grounds at the

Youth Hostel as well as the Rehabilitation of a Carpentry Building at the Youth Cadet at Mile 21 on the George Price Highway at a cost of BZ\$1,743,258.00.

The Community Action for Public Safety (CAPS) Project is a BZ\$10,000,000.00, four (4) year initiative financed through a Loan Agreement between the Government of Belize and the Inter-American Development Bank.

The Project's overarching objective is to contribute to the reduction of youth involvement in major violent crime in Belize City.

The specific objectives are to reduce youth involvement in criminal activities and youth violent behavior in the schools which are beneficiary of the program resources; to reduce recidivism

among youth in the intervened juvenile rehabilitation institutions; and to enhance the government's capacity to formulate and implement evidence-based policies on public safety.

The project is comprised of three main components. The first component is School-Based Positive Youth Development with an allocation of US\$2.06 Million. The activities contemplated as part of this component will seek to counter factors associated with youth violence by improving learning and secondary education completion rates, and fostering positive behavior patterns among students and unattached youth in vulnerable communities.

The second component is Support for Juvenile Social Rehabilitation with an allocation of US\$ 1.9million.

The activities contemplated in this component will seek to improve prospects of at-risk youth and juvenile offenders social reintegration (an average of 270 per year), by reducing violent attitudes, and improving basic and vocational education levels among residents of youth rehabilitation institutions (the YC, the YH and the WYF).

The third and final component is Inter-agency Public Safety Management Information System (IPSMIS) with a allocation of US\$510,000.

The IPSMIS will gather, share, and analyze information to promote coordination among institutions. The IPSMIS will provide elements for making decisions and formulating and managing policies and strategies to deal with violence and crime.

# Strengthening Bi-lateral Cooperation

## Belizean and Guatemalan Electoral Authorities Meet



*Participants in the meeting: Mr. Bernard Q. Pitts, His Excellency Stuart Leslie, His Excellency Mr. James Murphy, His Excellency Alexis Rosado, His Excellency Raul Lago, Mrs. Magdalena Talamas, Mr. Sergio Benitez, His Excellency Carlos Raul Morales, Gen. Roberto Letona, Mrs. Maria E. Villagran, Ms. Josephine Tamai*

*Mrs. Maria Eugenia Villagran De Leon – President Of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal Of Guatemala and Ms. Josephine Tamai – Chief Elections Officer of Belize*

The highest electoral authorities of Belize and Guatemala met last Saturday, October 6, 2013 in San Ignacio, Belize under the auspices of the Organization of American States (OAS) to exchange information, experiences and best practices in electoral management; identify areas for inter-institutional collaboration; and further learn about the norms and processes in each country to conduct referendums.

Guatemala’s delegation was headed by the President of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, María Eugenia Villagrán de León, and Mr. Bernard Pitts, President of the Elections and Boundaries Commission, led the Belizean delegation.

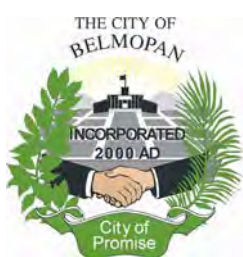
The meeting took place within the framework of the new confidence-building measures that both countries adopted last May with a view to improving the conditions necessary to establish a new date to hold the simultaneous referenda, which will determine if the territorial dispute between both countries is submitted to the International Court of Justice for final settlement.

This encounter, which was held on the symbolic date of October 6 – the date previously established for holding the referenda – counted on the participation of the CEO of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belize, Ambassador Alexis Rosado and

the Deputy Foreign Minister of Guatemala, Carlos Raúl Morales, who offered welcoming remarks. Ambassadors Stuart Leslie and James Murphy, of the Belizean Referendum Unit; Ms. Josephine Tamai, Chief Elections Officer of Belize; General Roberto Letona, Special Advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala, and His

Excellency Manuel Tellez, Ambassador of Guatemala in Belize were also present. The meeting was chaired by the Representative of the Secretary General of the OAS for Belize-Guatemala Affairs, Ambassador Raul Lago, who was accompanied by the Chief of the OAS Peace Fund, Magdalena Talamas and the Director of the OAS Office in the

Adjacency Zone, Sergio Benítez. The delegations expressed their deep satisfaction for the friendly and cooperative environment that prevailed throughout the exchanges and agreed to promote additional initiatives of a technical nature in the near future to continue strengthening the bilateral cooperation in electoral matters.



### PUBLIC NOTICE



The General Public is hereby advised that the Fourth Quarterly Meeting of the Belmopan Intoxicating Liquor Licensing Board for the year 2013 will be held at the Belmopan Lion’s Den on Wednesday October 23, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.

All applications must be submitted to the Belmopan City Council by Friday October 18, 2013. Any application received after this date will be subject to a Special Meeting fee of \$100.00.

All applicants are to apply in person or send an authorized agent. Please note that you are required to present a valid identification card. Any persons wishing to make representations to the Board are invited to attend.

**Clerk**

**Belmopan Intoxicating Liquor Licensing Board**



By Zelda Hill

Once upon a time, an aspiring, young and desperate nation was in deep trouble. Her people had been mistreated and enslaved and then, just when they thought it could not get worse, they found themselves wandering aimlessly in the hostile wilderness. They and their children were disgruntled and weary and they needed rest; a place that they could proudly call home.

They had been hearing from those that God spoke to, that up ahead there was that ideal place, a prosperous land which abound with much fruit, with pomegranates, and figs and grapes in clusters, a land flowing with milk and honey (Numbers 13:23-27). They would not only be blessed in every way but they would be able to be a blessing to other nations.

A few miles later, God Himself reiterated His uncomplicated offer: Choose between Life and Death; Obey God and only then you will prosper (Deuteronomy 30:19).

As individuals and collectively, we can never rebel against God's standards and flourish. After all, Israel had been witnesses to great signs and wonders and to what God had done in Egypt to Pharaoh so they knew His capabilities.

# Faith Lift

*...Only then will Belize Prosper!*

Through Moses, God advised they should make sure there was none among them whose heart turned away from the Lord their God to go and worship the detestable images and idols, the *gods* of those other nations. God warned that when they heard the words of the oath and still say, "I will be safe, even though I persist

racy can be distorted into an Egyptian-type war zone controlled by local or neighboring despots at a blink. And instead of executing our part of the covenant enshrined in the preamble to our Belize Constitution, we look to the sacred oil for salvation, which can vanish in one breath.

The patriotic angels that keep watch from proud

the love of money. Belizeans have been enticed and lured by these foreign *gods* of nations whose people have chosen to reject the timeless principles of God. He alone has the power to make Belize prosperous by the work of our hands and in the fruit of our womb, by the young of our livestock and by the crops of our land (Deuteronomy 30: 9-10).

When we choose God's standards, we choose Life; when we choose Life, we choose prosperity. But when we choose to disobey God's standards, we choose Death; when we choose Death, we choose destruction.

The crossroad is always a critical place to be. Every individual and every nation must at some stage in their journey of life, choose to obey or disobey God. As it was then for young Israel, heaven and earth remain as our witnesses to whatever choice we will make in the near future for us and for our Belizean children. And seeing the flock of foreign vultures that eagerly await our first step towards the road of death and our destruction, the plea and prayers of our Belizeans must get louder as we urge our leaders to choose the path of Life.

Our choice to obey God is Belize's only access to lasting peace and prosperity.

**"Every individual and every nation must at some stage in their journey of life, choose to obey or disobey God. As it was then for young Israel, heaven and earth remain as our witnesses to whatever choice we will make in the near future for us and for our Belizean children. And seeing the flock of foreign vultures that eagerly await our first step towards the road of death and our destruction, the plea and prayers of our Belizeans must get louder as we urge our leaders to choose the path of Life. Our choice to obey God is Belize's only access to lasting peace and prosperity."**

in going my own way", they would bring disaster on the watered land as well as the dry (Deuteronomy 29:17-19).

History and the current world events remind us of the choice Israel made and the resulting consequences. The fruits of woe harvested by a nation that disobeyed God and called evil, "good" (Isaiah 5:20) are still being consumed today by their descendants.

There are several nations, including ours, that are now in the same position as young Israel was then. Desperate, destitute and troubled, Belize stands at the graveled crossroad where God's offer of Life or Death glares from the billboard. Our "watered and dry lands" are at the brink of desolation. Our tranquil haven of democ-

Rio Hondo to Old Sarstoon, through coral isles over the blue lagoon are silently waiting for Belize to make her choice. They prune their wings and prepare for flight but would prefer to remain in defense of the leaders and people from a tiny Caribbean nation whose hearts could remain loyal to their God.

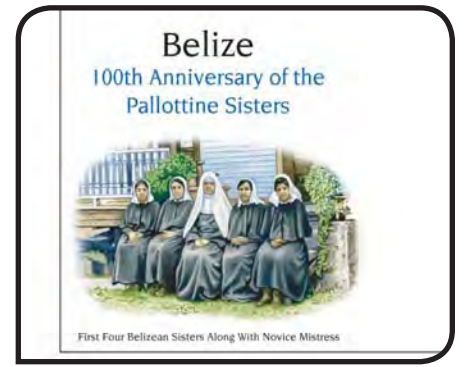
The detestable *gods* that Israel chose to obey then have been replaced in these modern times. They are now represented by carnality, sexual perversion and

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# New Commemorative Stamps

*“The 100th Anniversary of the Pallottine Sisters in Belize”*



The Belize Postal Service is pleased to announce the release of a new set of commemorative postage stamps. The new set of postage stamps is scheduled to be officially released on Wednesday, October 9, 2013 in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Pallottine Sisters in Belize. The release of the stamps forms a part of the Pallottine Sisters' Centennial Celebrations of their arrival to the shores of Belize.

On March 17, 1913, four German Pallottine Sisters challenged the boat ride from Belize City to San Ignacio where they landed on the banks of the Macal River. Their journey continued to Benque Viejo by horse and buggy, the only means of transportation in 1913. In Benque Viejo, the Pallottines planted the first seeds of evangelization, education, nursing, gardening and home skills. From these early seeds flourished 100 years of ministry to the country of Belize spanning the districts of Corozal, Orange Walk, Cayo, Belize and Toledo.

At its peak, 102 Belizean young girls answered the call and served in one or more of the 19 schools or hospitals staffed by the Pallottines.

The stamp issue is comprised of a set of three beautiful and historic stamps, in the values of \$0.25, \$0.60 and \$10.00, along with a First Day Cover valued at \$12.85. The \$0.25 stamp depicts the historical

landing of the Pallottine Sisters at the banks of the Macal River in San Ignacio, Cayo. The \$0.60 stamp depicts the Novitiate Nazareth Chapel in Toledo, while the \$10.00 stamp depicts the Pallottine

Sisters Centennial Logo. The stamps and First Day Covers will be on sale on all Post Office counters as of October 9, 2013.

**(Press Release from the Belize Postal Service)**

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**POLICY OBSERVATORY PROJECT MANAGER**

Belmopan: 1

The position is for a contractual period of 12 months with an initial contract of six months.

**Qualifications:**  
Selected candidate will hold a post-graduate degree in social sciences, economics, policy or development studies or related academic fields with experience in – senior level management positions.

**Salary:** \$52,000 for project period

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

Belmopan: 1

**Department:** Office of the Provost  
**Skills/Qualifications:**

1. Minimum of Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, Management or related field.
2. Minimum of 4 years' experience as Secretary I or equivalent.
3. Able to take minutes, and working knowledge of MS Word/Excel/Powerpoint/Project

If you have any questions regarding this vacancy kindly contact Ms. Kimberlee Chanona at [kchanona@ub.edu.bz](mailto:kchanona@ub.edu.bz)

**POLICY OBSERVATORY PROJECT ADMINISTRATOR**

Belmopan: 1

The contractual period is 12 months, with location at the Policy Observatory Office.

**Qualifications, Skills and Experience:**

- Minimum: undergraduate degree in Business Administration with certification in accounting preferred.
- Five years of proven, successful experience in administration and management of accounts.
- Demonstrated, strong project management skills.
- Ability to analyze and interpret data.

**Salary:** \$24,000 for the 12 month contractual period

**SYSTEM ADMINISTRATOR**

Belmopan: 1 | Belize City: 1

**Knowledge and Skill Requirement:**

- A Bachelor's Degree in Information Technology Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA™), Microsoft Certified IT Professional (MCITP): Server Administrator or comparable education.
- Two years' experience as a Network Administrator or Systems Administrator.
- Responsibilities may require evening and weekend work in response to needs of the systems being supported.

### TO APPLY

Kindly view full job description and apply online at [www.ub.edu.bz](http://www.ub.edu.bz) under About UB, opportunities/vacancies (<http://www.ub.edu.bz/university/jobs.php>).

Please upload a cover letter, curriculum vitae, copies of relevant degrees and certificates, transcript of highest degree and 2 reference letters.  
\*Project Manager and Administrator:  
3 reference letters

You must forward a valid Police Record to:  
Human Resource Director  
University of Belize  
Hummingbird Avenue  
Belmopan City

**POLICY OBSERVATORY PROJECT DEADLINE TO APPLY**

**OCTOBER 11, 2013**

If you have any questions kindly contact Ms. Teneshia Lambey at [tlambey@ub.edu.bz](mailto:tlambey@ub.edu.bz)

**OTHER OPPORTUNITIES DEADLINE TO APPLY**

**OCTOBER 27, 2013**

If you have any questions kindly contact Ms. Dora Najarro at [dnajarro@ub.edu.bz](mailto:dnajarro@ub.edu.bz)



## SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND (SIF)

### JOB VACANCY



The Social Investment Fund (SIF) is an autonomous institution responsible for delivering basic services and infrastructure to the poor and most vulnerable, and for promoting community participation in development projects utilizing non-governmental organizations, community organizations and local decentralized agencies. The SIF would like to recruit an individual who is dynamic and committed to fill the following post:

#### Executive Director

SUPERVISOR: CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD

SUPERVISES: MANAGERS OF ALL UNITS WITHIN THE FUND

#### JOB SUMMARY:

The Executive Director will be responsible for the effective management of the Social Investment Fund's programmes and projects. Through the Chairperson, the Executive Director will report to the Board of Directors on the day-to-day operations of the Fund. The Executive Director will be responsible for establishing and maintaining contact with the relevant government ministries, national and international NGOs, donor and other collaborating agencies.

#### QUALIFICATIONS:

- Masters' Degree in Business Administration, Management or a related field and minimum of five (5) year's experience in project management;
- OR
- Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Management or a related field and eight (8) year's experience in project management.
- Experience in managing rural development programs or projects funded by international development organizations.

#### DUTIES:

1. Day to day administration of the Social Investment Fund (SIF) in accordance with the objectives and provisions of the SIF ACT and as so directed by the Board of Directors, in accordance with the said ACT;
2. Ensuring that all the Fund's staff, projects and activities are always in compliance with the policies and guidelines established by the Board;
3. Proposing for consideration and approval by the Board, policies regulations and procedures concerning the programme, projects and activities of the Fund;
4. Submitting, on a timely and regular basis, narrative and financial reports to the Board which will detail all the current and planned activities of the Fund;
5. Representing the Fund, nationally and internationally, to government, NGOs, donor and other agencies;
6. Establishing and maintaining contact with government ministries, external agencies, local authorities, community and business groups.
7. Directing the planning, implementation, monitoring and internal evaluation of the programme, projects and activities of the Fund;
8. Coordinating the activities of all the Fund's unit, including the provision of technical assistance and staff training.
9. Oversee the financial activities of the Fund including fund raising, budget planning and management;
10. Proposing to the Board, expenditures or investments outside the approved budget for its approval.
11. Assume responsibility for the fund's assets assigned to him/her for the execution of his/her duties.
12. Any other related duties that may be delegated by the Board.

PROPOSED SALARY: Commensurate with qualifications and experience.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: October 30, 2013

APPLICATIONS ADRESSED TO:

Chief Executive Officer

Ministry of Finance and Economic Development

Sir Edney Cain Building

Ground Floor, Right Wing

City of Belmopan, BELIZE

*Applications should be clearly labelled:- Application for the Post of Executive Director – Social Investment Fund.*

## Belmopan Active Youth get \$200,000 from US Embassy



*Signing for the Grant, Joseph Boski, Grants Program Officer for the United States Embassy and Mrs. Anna Banner Guy, President for BAY*

A signing ceremony was held in late September at the United States Embassy in Belmopan for the establishment of a grant project for youth drug prevention for Belmopan and surrounding communities. The project is being funded by the United States Embassy Belmopan and will be implemented by the Belmopan Active Youths (BAY), a youth organization established in April 2012.

Signing for the grant, which is valued at US\$100,000, were Mr. Joseph Boski, Grants Program Officer for the United States Embassy and Mrs. Anna Banner Guy, President for BAY. The grant funds for youth drug prevention program will be utilized for the following activities:

- Forty-five (45) youth leaders from Belmopan and the surrounding area trained in peer drug education.
- Four (4) high schools in the Belmopan and surrounding area receive peer drug free education via drama/dance skits and songs from the BAY Group leaders (targeting approximately 2,000 students).
- Three hundred sixty (360) out-of-school youths between ages 13-18 will be educated on the

dangers of drugs via twelve (12) BAY Lock-In weekend programs.

- Five hundred (500) high school aged youth from Belmopan and the surrounding area pledge to remain drug free.

- Anti-Drug sports competitions with over three hundred (300) youths participating.

- Six (6) branches of the Bay Youth group created in the surrounding Belmopan with the objective of educating other youth on the dangers of drugs.

- Six (6) parks rehabilitated as drug free zones with accompanying drug free paraphernalia.

BAY is comprised of more than eighty (80) youths from Belmopan and its surrounding areas. Since its inception, the group has assembled and trained a marching band which won third place in the national band competition last year, its first year in competition. Additionally, the organization has developed a dance group and has spearheaded a community park rehabilitation project.

The grant project has commenced in October 2013 and is expected to conclude in July 2014. The Belmopan Active Youths have expressed heartfelt thanks to the United States Embassy for their partnership in the effort to combat drug use in the community.

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# Would Red Sox vs. Dodgers World Series Matchup Stop TV Ratings Nightmare?

(EXCERPT FROM BLEACHER REPORT: WRITTEN BY ZACHARY D. RYMER)

There's plenty of star power to go around between the Red Sox and Dodgers. The Red Sox have a couple of superstars in David Ortiz, Dustin Pedroia and Jacoby Ellsbury, and the Dodgers have a couple of their own in Clayton Kershaw, Hanley Ramirez and Yasiel Puig.

They also have the high-priced Carl Crawford and Adrian Gonzalez, with high-priced Andre Ethier possibly able to play every day by the time the World Series rolls around. High-priced Matt Kemp is injured, but his handsome-enough-for-Rihanna mug will be there for the cameras.

Both the Red Sox and Dodgers also have narratives working for them. The Red Sox went worst to first in 2013, and notably helped pick the city of Boston up following the tragedy of the Boston Marathon bombings back in April. The Dodgers, meanwhile, have been rescued and reinvigorated by former NBA star Magic Johnson and his merry troupe of deep-pocketed business partners. But every good drama needs some good action to appeal to everyone. In the case of the World Series, that means good baseball. The Red Sox and Dodgers could play some of that.

Put them in the World Series, and you'd get arguably MLB's best pitching staff (Dodgers) going up against unquestionably MLB's best offensive club (Red Sox). But since the Dodgers can also hit a little bit and the Red Sox can also pitch a little bit, it's hardly out of the question that a series between the two would need the full allotment of seven games. That would make an already-attractive match-



David Ortiz of Boston Red Sox



Yasiel Puig of L.A. Dodgers

up even more attractive. After all, the last time a Game 7 was played in the World Series was in 2011, and it was the top-rat-

ed World Series game in seven years. Go ahead and root for your team, my fellow baseball fans. Or, if your team

is out of the running, go ahead and root for whichever World Series matchup you think will provide the best baseball.

But if you're tired of hearing about how nobody likes baseball anymore because of *the slide*, then you should be rooting for the Red Sox and Dodgers. Put the two of them in the World Series, and ratings could enjoy a veritable explosion.

And that, of course, would make things really awkward for those who want to believe baseball is a dying sport.



## Request for Proposals for Electricity Generation Belize, 2013 (RFPEG Belize 2013)

The **PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION (PUC)** and the **MINISTRY OF ENERGY, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND PUBLIC UTILITIES (MESTPU)** of **BELIZE** hereby serve notice of the official launch of **RFPEG Belize 2013** on **October 7, 2013**.

Under the **RFPEG Belize 2013**, the PUC and the MESTPU are inviting suitably qualified persons and companies, not limited to the country of Belize, to submit proposals to establish electricity generation and/or supply facilities to be connected to the National Electricity System of Belize to satisfy public demand for electricity services within the country for the next 15 years.

**RFPEG Belize 2013** seeks to add cumulative totals of some **60 MW of Firm Capacity (Base and/or Intermediate Load Duty)** and some **15 MW of Solar and/or Wind Generation Capacity** to the National Electricity System of Belize over the next 10 years.

Additional information and relevant procedures for participation in **RFPEG Belize 2013** are available on the PUC Website at [www.puc.bz](http://www.puc.bz) or by direct request by email to [rfpeg2013@puc.bz](mailto:rfpeg2013@puc.bz) effective October 7, 2013.



## SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND (SIF) JOB VACANCY



The Social Investment Fund (SIF) is an autonomous institution responsible for delivering basic services and infrastructure to the poor and most vulnerable, and for promoting community participation in development projects utilizing non-governmental organizations, community organizations and local decentralized agencies. The SIF would like to recruit individuals who are dynamic and committed to fill the following posts:

**Job Title: Technical Officer – Water & Sanitation Specialist**

Supervisor: Technical Unit Coordinator

Job Summary:

The Technical Officer – Water & Sanitation Specialist will be stationed at the SIF's headquarters in Belmopan and is supervised by the Technical Unit Coordinator. The officer will conduct project appraisal, implementation, supervision, monitoring, and evaluation of projects submitted to the SIF on behalf of eligible communities.

Qualifications:

A Bachelor's Degree in or a working knowledge of Civil Engineering or Water Resources Management with a minimum of five (5) years experience in the design and supervision of community development civil works particularly water systems and sanitary facilities. The candidate must be computer literate with a working knowledge of word processing, spreadsheet, computer-aided design, and project scheduling applications.

Duties:

- Perform duties being knowledgeable of the procedures and guidelines of the SIF;
- Organize and supervise community needs and assets assessments;
- Conduct technical assessments of project proposals including field and desk appraisals for presentation to the Board of Directors and Project Steering Committee;
- Conduct technical evaluation of bids for the execution of works and supply of goods and evaluate proposals for the provision of services;
- Design and prepare construction drawings, specifications, cost estimates, and bills of quantities;
- Conduct technical reviews of projects;
- Monitor and supervise the work of contractors and consultants to ensure that services rendered to the SIF are in accordance with the terms and conditions of their respective contracts and to ensure that works are completed in accordance with the drawings and specifications;
- Verify payment claims submitted by contractors and consultants;
- Coordinate and supervise the participation/works done by the community;
- Conduct/coordinate training programs related to projects submitted by communities and/or organizations;
- Strengthen collaborative efforts with relevant Ministries, and Non-Governmental Institutions;
- Report to the Technical Unit Coordinator on the progress of assigned projects being considered and financed by the SIF;
- Assist in ensuring that project document files for assigned projects contain all required documentation;
- Perform any other duties required for the effective functioning of the Organization.

Job Requirement: The person must possess a valid driver's license for manual transmission vehicle.

Salary: Negotiable based on experience and qualifications.

**Job Title: Technical Officer (Community/Institutional Development)**

Supervisor: Technical Unit Coordinator

Supervises: Field Officer (Northern Region)

Job Summary:

The Technical Officer (Community/Institutional Development) will be stationed at the Fund's headquarters in Belmopan and supervised by the Technical Unit Coordinator. The officer will conduct project appraisal, supervision, and monitoring and will serve as a resource person for the SIF in conducting social and institutional appraisals. The officer will also be responsible for coordinating the activities of the Field Officer in assessing community needs and assets and in conducting activities aimed at strengthening beneficiaries.

Qualifications:

A Bachelor's Degree in Social Science is required. Relevant experience in this field will be considered. The candidate must be computer literate with working knowledge of word processing and spreadsheet applications.

Duties:

- Perform duties being knowledgeable of the procedures and guidelines of the SIF;
- Organize and supervise community needs and assets assessments;
- Conduct desk and field appraisals for eligible project submitted by communities and/or organizations;
- Conduct project supervision and monitoring;
- Verify payment claims submitted by contractors and consultants;
- Prepare appraisal reports for presentation to the Board of Directors and the Project Steering Committee;
- Coordinate and supervise the participation/works done by the community;
- Conduct/coordinate training programs related to projects submitted by communities and/or organizations;
- Strengthen collaborative efforts with relevant Ministries and Non-Governmental Institutions;
- Report to the Technical Unit Coordinator on the progress of assigned projects being considered and financed by the SIF;
- Assist in ensuring that project document files for assigned projects contain all required documentation;
- Perform any other duties required for the effective functioning of the Organization.

Job Requirement: The person must possess a valid driver's license for manual transmission vehicle.

Salary: Negotiable based on experience and qualifications.

**Job Title: Technical Officer - Engineer/Architect**

Supervisor: Technical Unit Coordinator

Job Summary:

The Technical Officer – Engineer/Architect will be stationed at the SIF's headquarters in Belmopan and supervised by the Technical Unit Coordinator. The officer will be responsible for the technical appraisal, design and supervision of projects, ensuring they conform to the specifications established by the SIF.

Qualifications:

B.Sc. Degree in Civil Engineering or Architecture with at least three (3) years of experience in the preparation of designs and estimates and supervision of civil works projects. The candidate must be computer literate with a working knowledge of word processing, spreadsheet, computer-aided design, and project scheduling applications.

Duties:

- Perform duties being knowledgeable of the procedures and guidelines of the SIF;
- Organize and supervise community needs and assets assessments;
- Conduct technical assessments of project proposals including field and desk appraisals for presentation to the Board of Directors and Project Steering Committee;
- Conduct technical evaluation of bids for the execution of works and supply of goods and evaluate proposals for the provision of services;
- Design and prepare construction drawings, specifications, cost estimates, and bills of quantities;
- Conduct technical reviews of projects;
- Monitor and supervise the work of contractors and consultants to ensure that services rendered to the SIF are in accordance with the terms and conditions of their respective contracts and to ensure that works are completed in accordance with the drawings and specifications;
- Verify payment claims submitted by contractors and consultants;
- Prepare design and budget changes in projects that may arise during evaluation – implementation;
- Report to the Technical Unit Coordinator on the progress of assigned projects being considered and financed by the SIF;
- Assist in ensuring that project document files for assigned projects contain all required documentation;
- Perform any other duties required for the effective functioning of the Organization.

Job Requirement: The person must possess a valid driver's license for manual transmission vehicle.

Salary: Negotiable based on experience and qualifications

**Job Title: Technical Officer – Junior Engineer**

Supervisor: Technical Officer – Engineer/ Architect

Job Summary:

The Technical Officer – Junior Engineer is responsible for the technical appraisal, design and supervision of projects under the supervision of the Technical Officer – Engineer/ Architect. The officer will be responsible for the technical appraisal, design and supervision of projects, ensuring they conform to the specifications established by the SIF.

Qualifications:

B.Sc. in Civil Engineering or Architecture

Duties to be performed under the supervision of a Technical Officer-Engineer/Architect:

- Perform duties being knowledgeable of the procedures and guidelines of the SIF;
- Organize and supervise community needs and assets assessments;
- Conduct technical assessments of project proposals including field and desk appraisals for presentation to the Board of Directors and Project Steering Committee;
- Conduct technical evaluation of bids for the execution of works and supply of goods and evaluate proposals for the provision of services;
- Design and prepare construction drawings, specifications, cost estimates, and bills of quantities;
- Conduct technical reviews of projects;
- Monitor and supervise the work of contractors and consultants to ensure that services rendered to the SIF are in accordance with the terms and conditions of their respective contracts and to ensure that works are completed in accordance with the drawings and specifications;
- Verify payment claims submitted by contractors and consultants;
- Prepare design and budget changes in projects that may arise during evaluation – implementation;
- Report to the Technical Unit Coordinator on the progress of assigned projects being considered and financed by the SIF;
- Assist in ensuring that project document files for assigned projects contain all required documentation;
- Perform any other duties required for the effective functioning of the Organization.

Job Requirement: The person must possess a valid driver's license for manual transmission vehicle.

Salary: Negotiable based on experience and qualifications

Closing Date for Applications: October 30, 2013

Applications Addressed to: Acting Executive Director, Social Investment Fund, Constitution Drive, Belmopan City, BELIZE

*Applications should be clearly labeled indicating the position being applied for.*

# New Markets for Independence & Benque Viejo

## Belize Government & European Union Sign Contract

**T**wo contracts were signed on Wednesday October 2, 2013 signaling the start of construction for new Markets in Independence Village and Benque Viejo del Carmen Town. The works, funded by the Government of Belize and a grant from the European Union (EU), as part of the Belize Rural Development Project II (BRDP II), will be executed through contracts with Jebco Construction Limited. Construction is expected to be



*Signing the Contract: Bryan Mena, Managing Director of Jebco Construction Limited; CEO in the Ministry of Economic Development Mrs. Sharman Hyde; and Jesús Orús Báguena, Head of Operations of the EU Delegation to Belize*

markets across Belize is being addressed, in particular for those being constructed or upgraded using grant resources from the European Union namely Independence, Benque, Belmopan and Punta Gorda.

The Benque Viejo Market will be a 6000 square foot plaza, divided into two main connected sections; one for 6 Fruit and Vegetable stalls and the other for 12 Arts and Crafts stalls. All stalls will have access to potable water. Clients of the market will enjoy easy movement with concrete sidewalks and walkways as well as 3800 square



*Handshake following the signing of the contract: Bryan Mena, Managing Director of Jebco Construction Limited and CEO in the Ministry of Economic Development Mrs. Yvonne Hyde*



*Handshake following the Signing of the Contract: Bryan Mena, Managing Director of Jebco Construction Limited and Jesús Orús Báguena, Head of Operations of the EU Delegation to Belize*

completed within a 10 month period at a cost of BZE\$649,060 for the Benque Viejo Market and BZE\$650,787 for the Independence Village Market.

The Belize Rural Development Project II aims to promote broad based rural economic growth and reduce the incidence of poverty in rural communities of Belize. The BRDP II, which has funded, and will continue to fund, a variety of projects over a period of eight (8) years since its signature in February of 2014, has a total value of EURO €15,960,000 or approximately BZD \$40 Million.

The markets in Independence and Benque will provide farmers, agro processors and agribusiness small enterprises with an enabling environment for

commerce' thereby enhancing farmer incomes and provide new sources of employment and income generation for members

of these communities. Under the Belize Rural Development Project II, the proper and effective management of

feet of green space including trees and other landscaping which is to be undertaken.

The Independence Village Market will be divided into two separate buildings for market stalls including meat and fish stalls. The buildings will be retrofitted with the standard electrical and plumbing fixtures. 275 square yards of stamped concrete walkways will interlace the market buildings and parking area allowing for superior convenience and appeal.

CEO in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development and National Authorising Officer, H.E. Yvonne Hyde and Jesús Orús Báguena, Head of Operations of the EU Delegation to Belize were present at the Ceremony.



*Benque Viejo Mayor, Miguel Velasquez; Bryan Mena, Managing Director of Jebco Construction Limited; and Emilio Zabaneh, Representative (Councillor) of Independence Village Council*



# A New Milestone for the Belize Coastguard

## Graduation Ceremonies for Coastguard SEAL Team 001



Colonel (Ret.) George Lovell - CEO, Ministry of National Security

**E**stablished just over seven years ago, the Belize Coastguard has quickly grown into an exceptionally skilled, highly equipped force;

inaugurated in late September.

Graduation ceremonies for Coast Guard SEAL TEAM 001 were held September 25, 2013. The Team of 8 underwent 12 weeks of rigorous training. They are the cream of the crop, having been selected from among an initial intake of 19 officers. They were pushed to extreme limits, being subjected to grueling physical and mental torture.

Speakers at the ceremony included, for the United States, Colonel John Poast, Deputy Commander, Special Operations, Command South; and Commodore Lenway, Senior Officer, Navy Seal, Team 4. Speaking for Belize were Coastguard Commander Admiral John Borland; and CEO in the Ministry of National Security,



Major (Ret.) Errol Robateau of the Salvation Army - Invocation

and the force has just moved up yet another level, having just established the Coastguard SEAL,



Invited Guests, including US Charge d' Affaires Margaret Hawthorne, British High Commissioner Sir Peter Hughes and H.E. Joe Mena

Colonel (Ret.) George Lovell who delivered the Keynote Address.

Addressing Coastguard Seal Team 001, Admiral Borland said, "You now belong to a distinguished family of special operating forces, an achievement which is uncommon among the common men.

But as they say, the reward for your hard work is always more hard work. You are now responsible to set the standards by which the coastguard will operate. You have to remain sharp, focused; maintaining that operational readiness and situation awareness that sets you apart from everyone.

As you transition into operations, you will be tested, but nothing will compare to



Rear Admiral John Borland Commander, Belize Coastguard

then he reaches out, goes up to the group and then pushes it back down. So now we have here Commander Monts and Commander Rizzy, for the commanders of the seals, and all those fine young men that came down here and provided that



The Crazy 8 - Belize Coastguard SEAL Team 001

what you have been through."

Speaking about the fruitful partnership between his Government and Belize, United States Colonel John E. Poast, Deputy Commander, Special Operations, Command South commented on the factors that were taken into consideration when they made the decision to assist in this regard.

"What is within our lane, what are the things we can do to help meet the Admiral's vision? And honestly the first one was that we can help them develop this Seal capability. So I go to Uni-Forth and say, hey, this is something we want to do. So

training for the two graduations today. And that all culminated

*Continued on Page 13*



LTJG Alma Pinelo Master of Ceremonies



# A New Milestone for the Belize Coastguard

## Graduation Ceremonies for Coastguard SEAL Team 001



**Colonel John Poast,**  
Deputy Commander, Special  
Operations, Command South

*Continued from Page 12*

in where we are now with three months of training, a month of adja-set; the boats working with the seals so that they have that understanding and that cohesion and ultimately leading to

vision and that somebody was Admiral Borland. And I want to thank you for bringing that vision to my attention, and I want to thank you for bringing me back here to see it come to its fruition.”

In delivering his keynote address, Colonel George Lovell explained the context within which the first Coastguard SEAL Team was established, outlining the significant steps from conception to realization:

“The Formation of the SEALS is another effort to maintain our operational readiness in the changing environment.

The Coastguard SEALS was formed as a result of increased hostile encounters with armed groups that were not

could easily have been lost on the friendly force side. The Ministry of National Security and the United States Military Liaison Office supported the formation of a naval special warfare unit which later evolved into the Coastguard SEALS. Training started with USSOF in October 2012 for 3 Months. This was followed by a visit from the team form SOC South which actually laid the foundation for the evolution of the SEALS.

A Visit from Commander SOC South General Mulholland confirmed that they were fully in support of our program. Lieutenant Pat Melim and a team of instructors arrived at the end of June and the course started with 19 persons on July1; and by the end of week three there were 8.



**Commodore Lenway**  
Senior Officer, US Navy Seal

ny was held at the Coastguard Headquarters at Mile 5 on the George Price (Western) Highway. Master of ceremonies was LTJG Alma Pinelo of the Coast-



*The Guard of Honour Mounted by the Belize Coastguard*

your graduation. So while moving parts and pieces, it always starts with somebody having a

afraid to engage patrols in a fire fight. These was equally armed and equipped as the patrols carrying similar weapon systems, ammunition and tactical gear. The regular Coastguard units weren't exactly prepared for this type of engagement and thus the requirement for a naval operating force.

The concept for the special naval force was developed some two and a half years ago but did not receive any real attention until August 2012 following a brutal fire fight in northern ambergris where, had it not been for the leadership of the patrol commander, lives



*Certificates presented by Colonel George Lovell & Colonel John Poast*

This 8 made it all the way to end of hell week and became known as the ‘Crazy 8’”

The graduation ceremo-

guard, and the Blessings of the Almighty were invoked by Major (Ret.) Errol Robateau of the Salvation Army.



**LTJG Gregory Soberanis**  
Sings the Coastguard Song



*Certificates presented by Colonel George Lovell & Colonel John Poast*

# Keynote Address - Coastguard SEAL Graduation

“Constantly Changing for Operational Effectiveness on an Ever-Changing Landscape”

I would like to start off my remarks here today with a quote from Captain Alfred Thayer Mahan. Alfred Mahan in one of the earliest of the many magazines articles that flowed from his pen after 1890, wrote: “*The stoppage of commerce compels peace*”.

The economic strangulation of the enemy from the sea by the assertion of overbearing power at sea drives the enemy from it. This statement had given rise to the notion that “*Control of maritime commerce through command of the sea is the primary function of navies*”.

Distinguished Guests, we are here today to participate in yet another milestone in the achievements of the Belize Coast Guard. The Graduation of Belize’s first SEAL trained seamen.

Seven years ago the Coast Guard Service was launched with high expectations of becoming one of the branches of the security forces of Belize.

We have seen a gradual and continuous development of the Coast Guard into a reputable service. We can now boast that it have some of the very best trained, disciplined and motivated men and women, who strive on the core values of Courage, Commitment, and Respect; and above all, they have remained dedicated to duty.

I will confess that there is the odd occasion when poor judgment on the part of individuals sometimes cause us to question this, but generally, they continue to perform high risk maritime operations along our coast, and continue to demonstrate that the Coast Guard Ser-



*Colonel (Ret.) Geroge Lovell - CEO, Ministry of National Security Delivers Keynote Address - Graduation for Coastguard Seal Team 001*

vice is an essential element in providing the stability that is required to sustain tourism and the fishing industries; industries that are vital to the eco-

note that Mahan’s teaching of the protection of one’s commerce, is very much central to the Belize Coast Guard Strategic Mission.

The Coast Guard contin-

**“It is pleasing to note that through the leadership of Admiral John Borand, we are making every effort to maintain our operational effectiveness abreast of the ever changing landscape. The Formation of the SEALS is another effort to maintain our operational readiness in the changing environment.”**

conomic development of Belize.

The protection of Belize’s Maritime spaces and commerce from threats, both foreign and domestic, through the provision of maritime security, safety and protection of our people, industries and natural resources is the Belize Coast Guard Strategic Mission. It is encouraging to

ues to dominate our maritime spaces, creating the environment that is conducive for these industries to flourish. They are certainly getting better at the economic strangulation of those undesirable elements, from our

sea space, by the assertion of their overbearing power at sea.

It is not an easy task, since, those that opposes our security Forces are determined to carry out their illicit activities and the fact that they are constantly changing and finding new ways to counter our efforts. It is for this reason that the Coast Guard must continue to grow and develop, into the type of organization that is capable of dealing with these ever increasing and changing threats, in a manner that will allow them to be effective in conducting their activities and ensuring operational success of this Organization.

It is pleasing to note that through the leadership of Admiral John Borland, we are making every effort to maintain our operational effectiveness abreast of the ever changing landscape.

The Formation of the SEALS is another effort to maintain our operational readiness in the changing environment. The Coastguard SEALS was formed as a result of increased hostile encounters with armed groups that were not afraid to engage patrols in a fire fight. These were equally armed and equipped as the patrols carrying similar weapon systems, ammunition and tactical gear. The regular Coastguard units weren’t exactly prepared for this type of engagement and thus the requirement for a naval operating force.

The concept for the special naval force was developed some two and a half years ago but did not receive any real attention until August 2012 following a

*Continued on Page 15*



*Members of Belize Coastguard SEAL Team 001 and other Officers who received Training in Special Warfare Operations*



*Certificates presented by Colonel George Lovell & Colonel John Poast*

# Keynote Address - Coastguard SEAL Graduation

“Constantly Changing for Operational Effectiveness on an Ever-Changing Landscape”

*Continued from Page 14*

brutal fire fight in northern ambergris where, had it not been for the leadership of the patrol commander, lives could easily have been lost on the friendly force side.

The MNS and the USMLO supported the formation of a naval special warfare unit which later evolved into the Coastguard SEALs. Training started with USSOF in October 2012 for 3 Months. This was followed by a visit from the team from SOC South which actually laid the foundation for the evolution of the SEALs. A Visit from Commander SOC South General Mulholland confirmed that they were fully in support of our program.

Lieutenant Pat Melim and a team of instructors arrived at the end of June, and the course started with 19 persons on July 1; and by the end of week three there were 8. This 8 made it all the way to the end of hell week and became known as the ‘Crazy 8’.

The first five weeks were a real test which culminated with hell week where the students were on their feet enduring the harshest of conditions and physical exhaustion. They slept only 4 hours in this week, and were constantly exposed to arctic conditions. This ice torture was something that brought out the best in everyone. Each person was tested to the limits of human endurance, fatigue and pain. But in the end, each person became someone new - a better person, a braver and stronger warrior.

Throughout the 12 weeks there was no getting away from the

log PTs, 2 mile ocean swims, daily 4 mile runs and 1,500 meter pool swims, a distance that we would never have done in our previous lives. Lt. Melim and chief Martinez set the pace for this event and led by example as they always do.

Today, the Crazy 8 are in a different place. They are at a different level of combat readiness and situational awareness. They are operators that can be trusted with any mission under any condition. They are simply an instrument of power that can be brought to bear anywhere within the spectrum of conflict.

Congratulations on your outstanding achievement. Congratulations are also due to the graduating class of JCETs who trained the Special Boat Teams (SBTs). Congratulations to the men of SEAL team 18 who were completely professional and outstanding instructors, and to the instructors of SBT 22 who

**“Today, the ‘Crazy Eight’ are in a different place. They are at a different level of combat readiness and situational awareness. They are operators that can be trusted with any mission under any condition. They are simply an instrument of power that can be brought to bear anywhere within the spectrum of conflict.”**

did an outstanding job training our boat crews. To the ADU who are also graduating 6 of their members as a part of the SBT training, congratulations! They all deserve our applause.

Looking forward, we will see the conduct of the second



*Commodore Lenway, Senior Officer, US Navy, presents a gift to Belize Coastguard Commander Rear Admiral John Borland*

SEAL’s training in mid January 2014. We are hoping to have twice the number of sea men and women graduating at the end of that course. The construction of the operating base in San Pedro Ambergris Town is near completion, and that is scheduled for inauguration in October, 2013. The new operational base at Hunting Caye is scheduled for comple-

The United States Government; in particular the United States Military Group here in Belize and the US Southern Command for providing needed crew, equipment, capacity building of our Coast Guard personnel and the mentor-ship that is certainly needed in developing this young organization.

The Officers and Men and Women of the Coast Guard who, over the years, have proven to be the sterling example of a professional uniform organization. I urge you to continue to control our maritime commerce with courage, commitment and respect. Continue to be like your motto says, ‘*Utrinque Paratus*’ (ready for anything).

I would also like to acknowledge the support that the Government and People of Belize continue to give. Without that will and support the many successes would not have been achieved. To all those who have contributed in any way to the achievements and successes of the Belize Coast Guard, a sincere thank you! I thank you for your attention.



*Commodore Lenway presents gift to Admiral John Borland*



*Commissioner Allen Whyllie and Members of the Anti-Drug Unit who received Training in Special Warfare Operations*

# Double Victory for UB Jaguars

## Male & Female Win ATLIB Softball



*The Lady Jaguars Softball Team of the University of Belize*



*The jaguars Male Softball Team of the University of Belize*

The University of Belize women won the National Softball Championship tournament organized by the Association of Tertiary level Institutions of Belize (ATLIB) at the Governor General's field in Belmopan on Saturday, October 5.

In Game 1, the UB Lady Jaguars spanked the Independence Junior College Predators 8-2. IJC's Veleesha Taylor's struck out 2 batters, and gave up only one hit, but she walked 9 batters. Danalee Burns, Deanna Garbutt, Rochelle Orellano, Karlene Lewis and Aleesha Taylor scored in the 1st inning. Judy Soberanis, Lewis and Aleesha Taylor crossed the plate in the 2nd; the UB girls left 3 runners on base.

IJC's Sylvia Cabral scored in the 1st inning and Briana Leslie scored in the 2nd. UB's Desiree Hulse struck out 2 batters and walked 5, while UB made 2 errors, but IJC left 2 runners on base.

In Game 2, the Ecumenical Junior College girls squeezed out the IJC Predators 8-7. IJC's Shannae Garcia's gave up 3 hits, walked 3 batters and struck out one. Susie Cabral, Nellie Arana and Melanie Acosta crossed the plate when Jackiva Murillo hit a home run in the 1<sup>st</sup> inning; and Acosta, Arzu, Murillo and Shirley Castillo scored in the 3rd inning.

IJC's Nellie Arana struck out 4 batters, gave up 2 hits and

walked 6 batters while the rest of EJC made 4 errors. Brianna Leslie and Veleesha Taylor crossed the plate in the 1st inning. Garcia and Monica Mckoy scored in the 2nd inning, and Taylor, Emrice Linarez and Garcia scored in the 3rd inning. The IJC girls left 2 runners on base.

In Game 3, the UB Lady Jaguars hammered the EJC girls 16-1. EJC's Nellie Arana gave up 13 hits and walked 2 batters, while the rest of the EJC diamond made 3 errors, allowing Burns, Soberanis, Orellano, Lewis and Monique Tablada to score in the 1st inning. Burns, Deanna Garbutt, Orellano, Tablada and Alesha Taylor scored in the 2nd inning when Karlene

Lewis homered. UB's Desiree Hulse gave up 3 hits and walked 2 batters, and the rest of UB made 2 errors, but left EJC's 2 runners on base, and only Jacklaine Arzu scored for EJC.

Soberanis hit a home run in the 3rd inning, and Burns, Garbutt, Taylor and Louise Rodriguez came off the UB bench to score in the 3rd for the 16-1 win.

The University of Belize Male Jaguars were similarly victorious in the National Softball Championship Tournament organized by the Association of Tertiary level Institutions of Belize (ATLIB) at the Governor General's field in Belmopan on Saturday, October 5. The UB men won both their games,

hammering the EJC men 7-2 and walloping the IJC men 15-8. Edwin Alvarado and Nick Chang scored 4 runs each, while Sean Rivero scored twice and Deandre Flowers, Alvin Tillett, Allen Armstrong, Kieron Fuller and Davin Cayetano each scored once in the 6th inning.

The IJC men had led 5-3 after Jose Urbina, Justin Schluckeliss, Dane Cabral, Davin Interiano and Tyrell flowers scored in the 2nd inning, but the UB men took over the lead in the 4th inning when Urbina and Schluckeliss scored again. Only Lloyd Coe scored for IJC in the fifth, as UB went on to win when they scored seven runs in the sixth inning. The IJC men walloped EJC 10-1.

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# Local Government Symposium 2013

## *The Role of Elected Officials in Local Economic Development*



**T**he role of local governments at the town and village council levels are becoming increasingly vital these days as we seek to deepen and broaden our democracy and as we endeavor to develop our communities in ways that are relevant and truly responsive to the needs and desires of our people at every level.

Towards this overall end, a Local Governance Symposium was held two Mondays ago in Belize City. It was sponsored by the Caribbean Local Economic Development Project, CARILED, which is an organization dedicated to spurring economic growth in the Caribbean by creating the right atmosphere and putting setting up mechanisms for small business. The Symposium was attended by Mayors and other essential personnel from municipal governments around the Country.

Speaking about what was being learnt at the symposium, Minister of Local Government, Hon. Godwin Hulse stated, "Many people start businesses,

many of them romantic. A lot of them failed because there is no proper structure. We have a good idea, we are excited about it, we run with it and then we crash."

"One of the ways we needed to do this was to create an institutional structure to support the small entrepreneur. Today's program is to help to inform elected officials of that role because that way businesses pay more taxes - the town and city council get more taxes. They are able then to better improve their municipality and so it's a win-win for everybody."

He spoke of the overall objectives and plan into which this particular program fits:

"Through the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, there are several things running at the same time and we are trying to marry them. There is the BRADS program, there is the Rural Development Program, there is the Rural Finance Program; there is the CARILED program. And so we've tried to marry all these initiatives so we don't have du-

plication and cross-purpose of interests, and that has been a challenge for us. So the CARILED program is basically focusing on how we get the capacities within the institutions, and that is where the funding is going. We in the Ministry don't have a handle on the amount of money because it is a payment from CARILED managed by CARILED."

Keynote Speaker at the Symposium was Mr. Michael Thompson, a City Councilor from Toronto, Canada. Mr. Thompson stated:

"There is a need for government to be able to collect more revenues to be able to deliver the services that are needed. And part of what we are doing here today is to look at how businesses can work with government to create synergy so that government and businesses can actually increase both the investment opportunities and the opportunities in terms of where businesses can generate more revenues and equally governments can also generate more revenues.

So by working together, there is great synergy and opportunities for both to get what they want—businesses to see lower taxes, seeing more investment taking place; government being able to see more revenues because if you can create more businesses, you can look at reducing taxes because you have a greater capacity to actually tax as opposed to a more narrow capacity.

So when you have fewer businesses that you are taxing and you need more resources, you have to naturally increase the tax rates in order to collect more revenues. So, if you create more business opportunities and more wealth is created, government can naturally then reduce the actual factor of the tax increase; and that is part of the exercise that we are hoping to go through to create more investment, more opportunities so that in fact you can actually reduce taxes and see an increase in revenues."

The Symposium was conducted at the Radisson Fort George Hotel in Belize City.

# OVER \$700,000 IN GRANTS

## PACT Awards Funds for Small, Medium and Large Projects



**Joel Verde of Sarteneja Alliance for Conservation and Development (SACD) receives from Doctor Windell Parham their grant for System level planning and collaboration for increased management effectiveness within the Northern Belize marine system**

On Monday, October 7, 2013, PACT held a Grant Award Ceremony at the House of Culture in Belize City, where it awarded \$736,769 in new project grants. Research Grants as well as Small, Medium-Sized

Areas Promotion and Development, and Environmental Education and Awareness as follows.

Recipients of Research Grants were Mr. Alex Anderson (\$20,000.00) for Baseline Popu-

Wilber Martinez (\$20,000.00) for The Ecology and Conservation of the Baird's Tapir (*Tapirus Bairdii*) in Central Belize.

Small grants were awarded to Sarteneja Alliance for Conservation and Development (SACD) (\$60,000) for System level planning and collaboration for increased management effectiveness within the North-

capities for Effective Protected Areas Management.

Mr. Anderson's research on the Queen Conch is expected to produce baseline assessment of current conch distribution, abundance, and size structure at Turneffe Atoll Marine Reserve, as well as a monitoring plan that will describe where and how many conch



**Anthony Hislop of APAMO receives from Doctor Windell Parham their Large Grant of \$384,071 for Strengthening Institutional Capacities for Effective Protected Areas Management**

ern Belize marine system; and Sarteneja Fishermen Association (SFA) which is receiving \$35,608 for Promoting Lionfish as an Alternative Fisheries Target Species within Belize's marine reserves and surrounding areas.

Receiving Medium-Sized Grants were Belize Fisheries De-

transect samples will need to be completed to enable detection of specified levels of change in conch stock abundance.

Mr. Martinez's research on the Baird's Tapir will be conducted within Belize's Central Biological Corridor and is expected to determine conservation needs and habitat



**Miguel Alamilla of Belize Fisheries Department receives from Doctor Windell Parham their Medium-Sized Grant of \$199,500 for the Hol Chan Marine Reserve Management Zone Expansion Project**

and Large Grants were awarded for projects under the themes of Protected Areas Management and Conservation, Protected

lation Abundance Estimate and Development of a Monitoring Plan for Queen Conch at Turneffe Atoll Marine Reserve; Mr.



**Wilber Martinez receives from Doctor Windell Parham his small grant for Ecology and Conservation of Baird's Tapir in Central Belize**

partment (\$199,500) for the Hol Chan Marine Reserve Management Zone Expansion Project.

Finally, a Large Grant was awarded to the Association of Protected Areas Management Organization (APAMO), which is receiving \$384,071, for Strengthening Institutional Ca-

requirements for this globally endangered species.

The successful capture of Tapirs for deployment of radio collars will provide ecological data that currently does not exist in Belize and is very limited in the region.

*Continued on Page 19*



**Leomir Santoya of the Sarteneja Fishermen Association (SFA) receives from Doctor Windell Parham their Small Grant of \$35,608 for Promoting Lionfish as an Alternative Fisheries Target Species in Belize's marine reserves and surrounding areas**

# OVER \$700,000 IN GRANTS

## PACT Awards Funds for Small, Medium and Large Projects



Wilber Martinez, recipient of small grant for Ecology & Conservation of Baird's Tapir in Central Belize, addresses the gathering



Recipients of Grants with CEO Doctor Parham, Hon. Lisel Alamilla and other Officials of the Ministry of Environment and Fisheries

Continued from Page 18

The Sarteneja Alliance for Conservation and Development project aims to achieve, by the end of 2015, strengthening of the management of Corozal Bay Wildlife Sanctuary as an integral part of a collaborative

partnership with adjacent marine protected areas as part of the Northern Coastal Complex. It will produce a revised management plan that incorporates system-level priorities.

The Sarteneja Fishermen Association project aims to re-

duce the threat of lionfish invasion in marine protected areas by creating an active fishery for invasive lionfish that provides Sarteneja with an economically attractive alternative to traditionally-targeted commercial fisheries accessible through-

out the year. It is expected that by 2014, community awareness would have been increased and twenty fishers are harvesting lionfish for sale to the Northern Fishermen's Cooperative. In addition, a feasibility study of local production of value-added lionfish products and local market expansion will be completed.

The Belize Fisheries Department project focuses on expanding enforcement capacity and environmental monitoring activities as well as the inclusion of new zones into education and research programs in the Hol Chan Marine Reserve.

The project aims to conserve a representative sample of the Belize coastal zone through responsible and sustainable management actions that will enhance the biological and socio-economic integrity of the area.

The Association of Protected Areas Management Organization project aims to improve management effectiveness of co-managed protected areas through the enhancement of 6 CBOs' capacity in financial management, strategic planning, implementation and marketing by September 2014; increasing stakeholder communities' ownership and support through their involvement and participation in the development and implementation of marketing strategies; and strengthening of APAMO's partnership with the regulatory agencies as well as its supporting role to its membership.

PACT has congratulated the grantees and says it is confident that these grants will have great impacts on conservation in Belize and thanks all recipients for their hard work and commitment to their respective protected areas.



### 11<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL OOCUR CONFERENCE

*Challenges to Regulatory Power in Borderless Societies*

Radisson Fort George Hotel, Belize City

November 6-8, 2013



The **Organization of Caribbean Utility Regulators (OOCUR)** and the **Public Utilities Commission (PUC)** are pleased to announce that Belize will host the **11<sup>th</sup> Annual OOCUR Conference** to be held November 6-8, 2013, at the Radisson Fort George Hotel in Belize City, under the theme: "*Challenges to Regulatory Power in Borderless Societies*".

The annual conference is a key tool for achieving OOCUR's objectives to foster and promote transparent and stable utility regulation through autonomous and independent regulators in Caribbean and associated countries; to undertake research and training for the further improvement and development of its members; and to facilitate better understanding of regulation issues and promote the sharing of information and experience among its members.

Topics to be covered over the three day conference will include issues and new developments critical to utility operation and regulation that impact the economic and social development of the countries and peoples represented by the members of OOCUR.

OOCUR and the PUC hereby extend an invitation to all Belizeans, particularly those involved in the electricity, telecommunications and water & sewerage sectors, to attend the conference and take advantage of this opportunity to become active participants in setting the stage for future innovation and improvement in utility regulation in Belize and the wider Caribbean.

To register to attend the **11<sup>th</sup> Annual OOCUR Conference**, please visit [www.puc.bz](http://www.puc.bz) or contact the PUC at 41 Gabourel Lane, Belize City, by email at [ooocregistration@puc.bz](mailto:ooocregistration@puc.bz), or by telephone at 223-4938. The deadline for registration is 5:00pm on Thursday, October 31, 2013

Registration fees are: US\$1,000.00 for non-members  
US\$500.00 for members

In order to encourage greater local participation, the PUC is offering to pay 50% of the registration fee for up to 15 Belizeans wishing to attend on an as-needed and first come/first serve basis. Belizeans wishing to take advantage of this offer by the PUC should contact the PUC by email at [ooocregistration@puc.bz](mailto:ooocregistration@puc.bz) before October 24, 2013, to present their justification for receiving this subsidy.

For more information, please contact the PUC or view updates on the PUC website at [www.puc.bz](http://www.puc.bz); and for additional general information on the conference, please visit the OOCUR website at [www.oocur.org](http://www.oocur.org).

# SICA on Money Laundering & Drug Trafficking



*All the Judges and Judicial Officers from all the Countries participating in the SICA Sponsored Conference*

**M**oney Laundering and Drug Trafficking were the main issues discussed at a meeting of judges and judicial officers from Central American nations convened this past Monday, October 7 in Belize City.

The meeting was sponsored by the Central American Integration System or, as it called in Spanish, El Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana (SICA). The judges and judicial officers attending were from Nicaragua, Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic and Belize.

They were educated on the methods and schemes of money laundering and drug trafficking, activities which are prevalent in Central America.

In an interview with the local media, the Chief Justice noted, "In the last few decades trafficking in illicit drugs has become a plaque in our societies in Latin America

and the Caribbean. Belize has certainly not escaped this pestilence. Although each of our respective countries has deployed individual strategies to combat this state of affairs, there has been (if we wish to be frank) limited success." Indeed following at the heels of drug trafficking have

been the crimes often associated with money laundering. The judiciary of Belize has recognized the need for training in these areas of concern."

As one SICA Representative put it, "This project has as its main objective to design and execute a master plan for profes-

sional training with the aim of improving the technical capacities of all operators of the justice sector and security in Central America for combating organized crime."

The meeting was conducted at the Radisson Fort George Hotel in Belize City.



**BELMOPAN ACTIVE YOUTHS**  
*Educate. Engage. Empower.*

## Terms of Reference

**Project:** Drug Demand Reduction Project  
**Title:** Project Director  
**Duration:** 1 year (October 2013 – November 2013)

### Project Description/Background:

Belmopan Active Youths (BAY) is the recipient of a US Department of State grant to establish a Drug Demand Reduction Project for the BELMOPAN area and surrounding communities. The twelve (12) month project is expected to affect almost six hundred (600) in- and out-of-school youth through educational campaigns, training workshops and engagement in other positive recreational activities to encourage and produce drug-free communities.

### Project Description/Background:

The Project Director assumes overall responsibility for the successful implementation of project activities and the achievement of planned project outputs. He/she oversees the day-to-day implementation of the project and is responsible for both organizational and substantive matters. The Project Director reports to the BAY Executive and the Grantor.

### Key Functions and Responsibilities:

The Project Director will perform the following functions:

- Supervises and ensures the timely implementation of the project relevant activities as scheduled in the working plan
- Prepares a detailed work plan for the project
- Develops the scope of the work and TORs and other procurement documentation required to identify and facilitate recruitment of experts and consultants
- Supervises individuals who are recruited to provide technical assistance.
- Organizes and supervises workshops and training needed during the project
- Liaises with the relevant institutions and organizations and disseminate information relevant to the project
- Control the expenditures and otherwise ensure adequate management of resources provided for the project
- Prepares quarterly progress reports for the project to be submitted to the Grantor
- Identifies and ensures synergy of the project with other relevant ongoing/new projects
- Collaborates with all relevant stakeholders

# Health Minister Attends PAHO Directing Council Meeting



*Belize's Minister of Health. Honorable Pablo Marin among Health officials from other nations who attended the countries the delegates from at the Council in Washington*



*Belize's Minister of Health. Hon. Pablo Marin at the Conference in Washington*

**M**inister of Health Hon. Pablo Marin was among health officials that agreed to a plan of action that seeks to reduce premature deaths due to non-communicable diseases (NCDs) by 25% by the year 2025. The joint plan of action was approved by the 52nd Directing Council of the Pan American Health Organiza-

tion (PAHO) that convened last week in Washington D.C. It calls for policies to promote prevention and control of NCDs and reduce their risk factors. Under the joint plan of action, health officials agreed to

specifically promote prevention of NCDs beyond health, expand and provide universal access to health services for NCDs, reduce tobacco intake by 30%, promoting healthy diets to reduce the impact on children, and improve the surveillance of risk factors among others for NCDs.

Member countries pledged to give priority to NCDs in their health development agendas to implement and achieve the planned goals.

PAHO provides technical cooperation to countries to help strengthen and monitor the progress to achieve the planned goals.

Cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular disease and chronic respiratory disease are the leading NCDs and have been found to be related to a common set of risk factors.

Minister Marin returned to Belize over the past weekend.



**BELMOPAN ACTIVE YOUTHS**  
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- Any other duties as may be required by the project

**Preferred qualities:**

- Consistently approaches work with energy and a positive, constructive attitude
- Demonstrates strong oral and written communication skills
- Builds strong working relationships with stakeholders
- Remains calm, in control and good humored even under pressure
- Demonstrates openness to change and ability to manage complexities
- Outstanding time-management, organizational, communication and interpersonal skills
- A demonstrated ability in managing projects and partnerships

**Required qualifications and experience:**

- Bachelor's degree/Associate's degree in public administration, management, social sciences or area relevant to the project and/or with at least 2 years of experience in project management
- Prior experience with youth engagement project
- Demonstrated ability in liaising and co-operating with all project partners including government officials, NGOs and youth organizations
- Excellent computer literacy (i.e. word, excel, powerpoint) and good knowledge of social media
- Fluency in written and spoken English, knowledge of Spanish will be an asset

Salary will be based on qualifications and experience.

Please submit your application with resume and copies of certification and two (2) reference letters to [belmopanactiveyouths@gmail.com](mailto:belmopanactiveyouths@gmail.com).

Deadline for submissions is **Friday, October 18, 2013.**

# BDF leads Belikin Cup Football

## Belmopan Bandits Off to a Promising Start

The Belize Defence Force are leading the Belikin Cup Premier League of Belize tournament after bombing Verdes 2-0 at the Carl Ramos Stadium in Dangriga last Saturday, October 5. Carlton “Fubu” Thomas struck the first goal, and Vallan Symns converted a penalty for the 2-0 victory.

The Belmopan Bandits also enjoyed a 4-1 win over San Ignacio United at the Isidoro Beaton Stadium in Belmopan on Saturday night; Elroy Kuylen scored a hat trick and Deon McCaulay added a 4th goal.

The Paradise Freedom Fighters drilled FC Belize at the Toledo Union Field in Punta Gorda Town on Sunday afternoon. Franz Vernon scored the first goal, Lisbey Castillo added a second and Franz Vernon returned to score a third goal to complete the 3-0 rout.



The BDF's Carlton "Fubu" Thomas on the ball



The BDF's Vallan Symns scored the First Goal

the goal to make it 2-0 in the 44th minute.

The Police striker Evan Mariano got sent off with a red card for a hand ball infraction. Clifton West finally put the Police on the scoreboard when he recovered the rebound off BDF goalie William Johnson, who had stopped a shot by Harrison “Kafu” Roches.



Deon McCaulay of the Belmopan Bandits



Elroy Kuylen of the Belmopan Bandits scored 3 goals

The Belize Defence Force had upset the defending champs Police United when the tournament kicked off at the Isidoro Beaton Stadium on Saturday night, September 28.

BDF's Shane “Chucky” Flores intercepted a pass between Police midfielders Amin August Jr. and Cristobal Gilharry and set table for John “Bull” King to embarrass Police goalie Jamie Brooks with the B.D.F's 1st goal in the 14th minute.

B.D.F's Stephen Martinez beat Brooks to the ball on a pass to center from Ambrose Thomas and blasted a shot through the players in front of

West's right-a-way right foot shot narrowed the deficit to 2-1 in the 83rd minute. Leonard Valdez put the BDF 3-1 win on ice when he embarrassed Jamie Brooks with a 3rd goal in injury time.

Fans were disappointed by a scoreless draw between the



Dalton Eiley of the Belmopan Bandits

defending champs of last year's closing season the Belmopan Bandits and FC Belize at the MCC garden in Belize City. Man of the Match, FC Belize's goalie Glenford Chimilio stopped 2 penalty tries by the Bandits' top striker Deon McCaulay, and frustrated the best efforts of Elroy Kuylen, Dennis Serano,

Jerome “Jaro” James and Deris “Columbia” Benavides, who all got off shots at goal. FC Belize found themselves down to 10 men after the referee sent off George Estrada with a red card; but the game ended 0-0 at the long whistle.

San Ignacio United hosted the Paradise Freedom Fighters for a 2-2 draw at the Norman Broaster Stadium on Sunday. Franz Vernon scored the Paradise Freedom Fighters first goal in the 4th minute and added a 2nd goal in the 55th minute. San Ignacio's Leary Simon scored in the 65th minute and Roy Cano delivered the equalizer in injury time.

(This past weekend, the Belmopan Bandits, playing at home, defeated San Ignacio United 4 - 1 . They now have a total of 4 points . This coming Sunday, the Bandits play Paradise Freedom Fighters at the Toledo Union Field.

# Telemedia are National Softball Champions

## Roaring Creek Grace Kennedy Take Second Place



National Softball Champions 2013 - Belize Telemedia



Second Place - Roaring Creek Grace Kennedy

**B**elize Telemedia repeated as back to back national champs while Roaring Creek Grace Kennedy placed 2nd when the Belize Softball Federation held its 14th National Women's Softball Championship at the home of softball at the Roger's Stadium in Belize City on Sunday, September 29.

Roaring Creek's pitcher Leyandra Guy had led the Grace Kennedy girls to a 4-2 win over the Cayo district champs, Camalote Blazers, in Game 2 Friday night, while pitcher Francine Salazar struck out 6 batters and walked 2.

Roaring Creek also won Game 4 of the tournament 11-4 over Double Head Cabbage Mel's United by mercy rule in the 6th inning on Saturday morning. Leyandra Guy struck out 6 batters and walked 2, while the Roaring Creek girls collected 12 hits off Annette Morey's pitching.

Roaring Creek suffered its first loss 7-10 to the defending champs Telemedia, led by pitcher Mary Flowers in Game 7 on Saturday's night. Roaring Creek pitcher Ayannah Smith struck out 2 batters, walked 9 and gave up 9 hits.

The Grace Kennedy girls came roaring back out of the losers' circle in Game 9, when the Roaring Creek girls sent home the Fresca Lady Rebels, 5-1.

In Game 10, Roaring Creek forced the finals to a 2nd final when pitcher Ayannah Smith struck out 3 batters and walked five to secure a 7-5 upset over Telemedia. Roaring Creek's Stephanie Francis and Karlee Bradley came home in the 1st inning, but Telemedia's Lydia Cacho, Ruth Lamb, Martha Rhys and Elaine Humes came home in the 2nd inning to lead 4-2. Roaring Creek's Stephanie Francis, Greta Davis, Shadalee Ho and Myralee came home in the 3rd inning to lead 6-4 and Francis crossed the plate again in the 6th for the 7-5 win.

In Game 11, Belize Tel-

media' won 8-1 by mercy rule against Roaring Creek as winning pitcher Kenisha Sutherland struck out 3 batters. Roaring Creek's pitcher Leyandra Guy walked 4 batters and gave up 7 hits, while Roaring Creek made 14 errors. Cacho came home in the 1st inning, and Rhys and Christine Jacobs came home in the 5th inning. Sutherland gave up 7 hits, the Telemedia made 3 errors, but only Greta Davis scored for Roaring Creek in the 6th inning. Telemedia's Kaylie Macfadzean, pinch-running for Ruth Lamb, came home in the 6th inning, and she was followed by Sutherland, Rhys, Cacho and

Earlene Belisle for the 8-1 win.

In Game 1 Friday evening, Fresca Lady Rebels won 17-8 against Flowers Bank Easy Does It. Pitcher, Lanisha Jones, struck out 7 batters; and the Flowers Bank diamond made 17 errors, allowing the runs to score. Flowers Bank's Margaret Hendy also struck out 3 batters but walked 2.

In Game 3 on Saturday morning, Telemedia won 13-0 by mercy rule against Fresca Lady Rebels in the fourth inning. Telemedia's Kenisha Sutherland struck out 3 batters while the Rebels made 18 errors.

In Game 5, the Lady Rebels handed the Camalote Blazers their ticket home: 5-3. Lanisha Jones struck out 2 batters and the Rebels made 5 errors, while Francine Salazar struck out 4 batters and walked 2.

In Game 6, Flowers Bank's Margaret Hendy struck out two batters, as she handed the Mel's United their ticket home: 23-10.

In Game 8 on Sunday morning, Fresca Lady Rebels handed Flowers Bank Easy Does their ticket home: 9-0 by mercy rule.

The National Olympic and Commonwealth Games committee's President Hilly Martinez, an ISF Hall of Famer, presented the championship, 2nd place and 3rd place team trophies to the winners, as well as individual medals.



National Olympic and Commonwealth Games committee's President Hilly Martinez presented the trophies



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