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**STAR**

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**No. 193**

**Sunday, July 19, 2009**

**Price \$1.00**

# MONEY MISSING FROM MANY PLACES

**SAN IGNACIO TOWN,  
Cayo, Friday, July 17, 2009:**

The news of late has been saturated with reports of alleged financial irregularities in public life.

It started out a few weeks ago with allegations of impropriety at Belize's flagship public health facility, the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital in Belize City, where, on the advice of the **Hon Prime Minister Dean Barrow**, a preliminary quick audit was conducted which, although concluded within the



**The Western Border Station in Benque Viejo**

one week timeframe allotted and the report submitted, it did not

point to any specific culprit.

The Hon Prime Minister has subsequently announced the formation of a full Commission of Inquiry along with a more comprehensive audit investigation to span 16 months before and 16 months after the installation of the current Board of Directors of the hospital.

Then came reports of alleged financial irregularities at City Hall in Belize City.

Acting on the advice of the Prime Minister, the Financial Regulator attached to City Hall, **Patrick Tillett**, who is said to have unearthed the alleged irregularities, has lodged a formal complaint with the police and the matter is under investigation.

Hot on the heels of the City



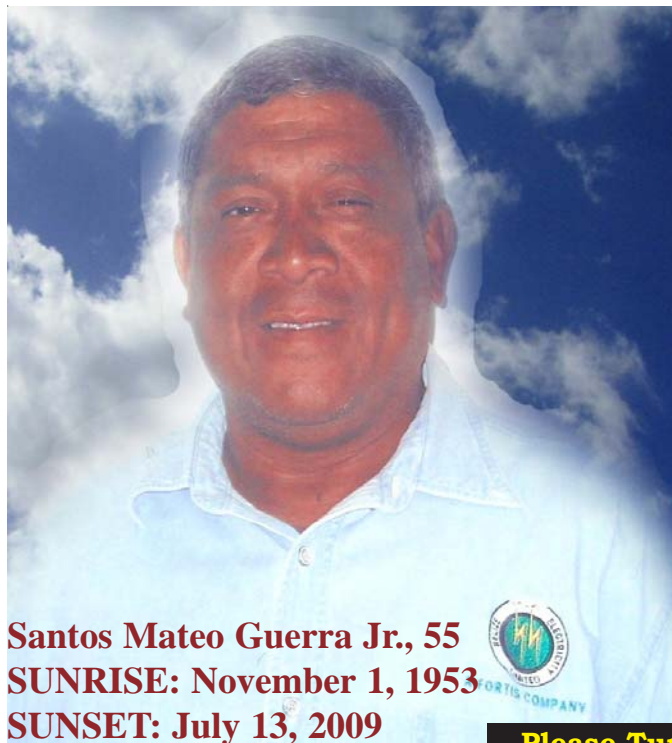
**The Accused, Julio Santos**

Council matter are reports of alleged financial hanky panky at Belize City Transport Department which is reportedly likewise under investigation.

Now the one that is taking the cake involves reports of financial irregularities at the Accountant General's Office in Belize City, specifically that section that handles pension payments. The Treasury employee at the center of the investigation is said to be Second Class Clerk,

**Please Turn To Page 2**

## "He Loved His Work" says B.E.L



**Santos Mateo Guerra Jr., 55  
SUNRISE: November 1, 1953  
SUNSET: July 13, 2009**

**SAN IGNACIO  
TOWN, Cayo,  
Thursday, July  
16, 2009:**

His face was synonymous with the Belize Electricity Board. The family and the community today laid **Santos Mateo "Matt" Guerra Jr.** to rest.

Mateo gave 31 years of diligent service to the

**Please Turn To Page 19**

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## MONEY MISSING FROM MANY PLACES

**Continued From Front Page**

Monica Escarpeta, who, in the preliminary stages, was transferred to another arm of the government service. However, as the sum of the alleged dishonesty began to multiply, the Public Service Commission was brought into the picture ordering that Escarpeta be suspended from all public service duties.

In confirming the report, Financial Secretary, **Joseph Waight**, informed that as time goes by the magnitude of the irregularity is growing as new discoveries are made. He informed that he expects criminal charges will be levied shortly against person(s) involved in the dishonesty.

Much closer to home is the alleged misappropriation of finances from the Western Border Management Agency in Benque Viejo.

While the rumor of missing funds began circulating since Friday, July 3, after the immediate termination of the services of the Agency's Site Manager, **Julio Santos**, it was not until about 10 days later, when the news hit the media on Tuesday and consequently the ears of the Hon. Prime Minister who ordered for the matter to be reported to the police for necessary investigation and possible criminal charges in the event of wrong doing.

And so it was that 13 days later on Thursday, July 16 **Gonzalo Rosado**, General Manager at the Western Border Management Agency visited the Benque Police Station and



**Gonzalo Rosado,  
General Manager,  
Western Border  
Management Agency**

reported that within a span of 4 days – between 14 and 17<sup>th</sup> June 2009 – a total of 6 cash deposits, totaling \$13,751.50, dispatched to Atlantic Bank in San Ignacio, were not credited to the Agency's account. The irregularity was reportedly noted when the reconciliation exercise was performed upon receipt of the Agency's bank statement at the end of June.

A release from the Border Management Agency informed that *“Upon further investigation, it was noted that the Site Manager for the Western Border, Mr. Julio Santos was the person assigned with the responsibility of making all bank deposits for the border station. As a consequence of this discovery, Mr. Julio Santos' employment with the Border Management was immediately terminated as of Friday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>.”*

The agency has since contracted the services of Belize City based Accountant, **Mrs. Maria Fernandez-Stuart** to, according to the Agency's release *“review the Agency's cash management procedures, to verify the missing funds, and to make recommendations to ensure avoidance of future*



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*breaches of the procedure.”*

While the police investigation gets underway, the search continues for Julio Santos, who, up to press time this Friday morning, remains outside the reach of the long arms of the law.

While he was never found guilty of any wrong doing, this same Julio Santos, was arrested and was at the center of the 2001 investigations into the disappearance of half a million dollars from Benque Viejo's Mount Carmel Credit Union.

By all indications it appears that the Hon Prime Minister is holding fast to his general

election campaign promise when he told the nation that *“In a United Democratic Party Government there will be no place for dishonesty in the handing of the people's money”*.

There are obviously some persons in public life who are not taking seriously these words. We hope that those entrusted with handling public finances and services will take heed and come to the realization that by his firm actions, in recent weeks, the Hon. Prime Minister is dead serious in his stance against dishonesty/corruption in public life.

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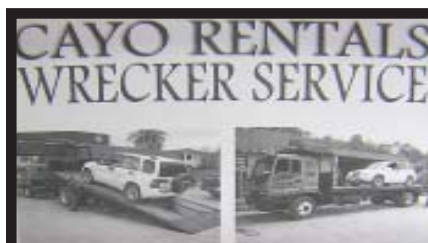
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dares to bring out the truth”*

**42A Western Highway,  
Santa Elena, Cayo,  
Belize, Central America**

**Publisher:** Alberto August  
**Editor:** Nyani Azueta-August  
**Circulation:** Errol Gonzalez

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## Readers Write

### Spanish Language Teachers In San Andres, Colombia

Dear Editor;

Greetings from San Andrés, Colombia.

Just sending this short note to inform STAR Readers that twenty (20) Spanish Language Teachers and Lecturers from English Caribbean Countries, including Suriname, are presently attending a Spanish Language Congress in San Andrés, Colombia.

The course is sponsored by Colombia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs in conjunction with the National University of Colombia.

The objective of the course is to help train Spanish language teachers of the English Caribbean, in the pedagogy for teaching Spanish as a foreign language.

The three participants proudly

representing Belize are: **Cesar Briceño**, Vice Principal of George Town High in the Stann Creek District; **Mrs. Araceli Obando** from Delille Academy in Dangriga Town; **Leo Antonio Obando**, Applied Linguist, from Stann Creek Ecumenical Junior College, Dangriga Town. The four weeks course began on July 6 and will end on July 31, 2009.

On behalf of all Teachers from the Caribbean in attendance, we extend a special Thank You to the Colombian Government for

financing the first course of its kind in Colombia.

To the people of Andrés we say, Thank You for your show of friendship and hospitality.

Leo Antonio Obando

## Representatives Of Taiwanese Publishing Company Visiting

**BELMOPAN, Monday, July 13, 2009:**

Arriving in Belize on Saturday, July 11, is a writer and photographer of one of the major publishing companies in the Republic of China (Taiwan), and the Executive Secretary of the Embassy of Belize to the Republic of China (Taiwan).

Sabine Chen, Tori Tseng and Ivy Lu, respectively are in Belize on a 10-day mission to collect material for a tour guide publication on Belize that would

be published in Chinese for the Asian traveler.

The publication will be the first of its kind for Belize, providing an in-depth introduction of the country's natural resources ... its people ... its landscape ... its culture.

The 200-page guide book will be edited and printed in Taiwan, with an initial publication of 2,000 copies to be distributed to local travel agencies, airline companies, and the media.

The guide will also be handed

out at tourism exhibitions in Taiwan.

This project is being implemented by the Embassy of Belize to the Republic of China (Taiwan) and the Belize Tourism Board, with funding from the Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan).

For further information on the Belize Tour Guide Publication project, please contact the Belize Embassy in the Republic of China (Taiwan) at email [novelo.efrain@yahoo.com](mailto:novelo.efrain@yahoo.com).

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## In Belize: 15 Confirmed Cases Of Influenza AH1N1

**BELMOPAN, Tuesday, July 14, 2009:**

The Ministry of Health informs the general public that as of July 14, 2009, there are fifteen (15) confirmed cases of Influenza A H1N1 in Belize.

The Ministry is still awaiting the result of twenty two (22) outstanding samples sent to the Caribbean Epidemiology Center (CAREC).

All fifteen positive cases came from the Corozal District and are

linked to the Corozal Free Zone. These cases have presented with mild flu-like symptoms and have recovered.

The Ministry of Health continues with its enhanced surveillance and health

education countrywide.

The general public is reminded to continue taking the necessary precautions which include the following:

A) Wash hands frequently and use disposable tissue when possible to cover nose and mouth when sneezing or coughing.

B) In public places ensure that door knobs, bathroom counters and other similar surfaces are cleaned on a regular basis with disinfectant.

Upon presentation of any flu-like sign or symptom the public is advised to visit the nearest health center or your health care provider.

The Ministry informs the public that there is no need at this time to limit any mass gatherings or travel plans.

## Santa Elena Library Taking On Climate Change

**BY: Orlando Pulido, Eve Computer Services**

**SANTA ELENA TOWN, Cayo, Thursday, July 16, 2009:**

The Santa Elena Town Public Library in the Cayo District is preparing for its yearly Summer Program.

This year, the one week educational program starts on July 20th and ends on July 24th 2009.

Some thirty six children, ages seven to thirteen, have already signed up for the program.

According to Librarian **Beatrice Moreno**, by the end of the five days of activities, participants will have an enhanced understanding of a

variety of concepts relating to Global Warming in Belize and around the World.

The Santa Elena Public Library is located on Carmen Street, next to the Santa Elena Public Basketball court.

It was built in 1997, with funding coming from the Baron Bliss Trust Fund and with assistance provided by the Government of Belize.

The Library has advanced to full Internet capability in recent years with additional equipment promised by the current Minister of Education, **Hon Patrick Faber**.

For more information, please, call Librarians **Ms. Eliodi Wagner** or **Ms Beatrice Moreno** at 804-3658 or by e-mail at [santaelenalibrary1@yahoo.com](mailto:santaelenalibrary1@yahoo.com)

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NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION,  
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BELIZE ELECTRIC COMPANY LIMITED (BECOL),  
hereby informs residents of San Ignacio, Santa Elena,  
Cristo Rey, Calla Creek,  
Bullet Tree, Santa Familia, Black Rock,  
and surrounding areas such as  
Negro Man, DuPlooy's and Chaa Creek,  
that the installation of the  
Early Warning Flood System  
for these areas is in its  
FINAL STAGE OF COMPLETION.**

**A test of the sirens will be conducted on  
TUESDAY, 21st JULY 2009  
between the hours of  
2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.**

**The General Public is therefore advised that  
THERE IS NO NEED TO BE ALARMED  
AS THIS WILL ONLY BE A PERIOD OF  
TESTING TO ENSURE THAT THE SYSTEM  
IS FUNCTIONING TO MAXIMUM STANDARDS.**

*Belmopan, Wednesday, July 15, 2009*





# President Zelaya Supporters Protest In Honduras

By Simon Gardner and Gustavo Palencia (Reuters)  
TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras, Thursday, July 16, 2009:

Supporters of ousted Honduran President Manuel Zelaya blocked key highways around the capital and elsewhere in the country on Thursday in protests demanding his reinstatement ahead of weekend mediation talks.

Watched by police in full riot gear, several hundred protesters congregated at entry points to Tegucigalpa, blocking the southern and northern road entrances. The protesters' leaders had threatened to try to blockade the capital and at least

one other major city in the poor Central American state.

Police also reported protest roadblocks at Comayagua in the center of the country, and at Copan in the west, both commercial highways that carry exports and imports to and from neighboring El Salvador.

Caretaker President Roberto Micheletti's administration, installed by Honduras' Congress after the June 28 coup that toppled Zelaya, stepped up security around the country and reimposed a night curfew late on Wednesday after leading pro-Zelaya activists vowed nationwide demonstrations.

The renewed protests, following a call by Zelaya for



"popular insurrection" to back his reinstatement, came two days before Costa Rican President Oscar Arias was due to host talks in his country between the rival sides in the Honduran crisis.

The coup and impasse in Honduras has posed a foreign policy test for U.S. President Barack Obama, who has sought to improve ties with Latin America. He has quickly condemned Zelaya's ouster as il-

legal but faces calls from Venezuela's leftist President Hugo Chavez, a vocal ally of Zelaya, to increase pressure on Micheletti to restore the deposed president.

About 300 pro-Zelaya protesters, many in red T-shirts and scarves and some wearing the cowboy hats that are common in rural Honduras, congregated by the northern highway into Tegucigalpa. "If we have to paralyze the country, we will," said Yadira Marroquin, 44, a hospital worker.

Pro-Zelaya demonstrations also took place at eastern and southern access points to the capital. Protesters blocked the southern entry highway with vehicles, witnesses said.

U.S.-backed mediator Arias is trying to broker a settlement between Zelaya, who demands that Micheletti comply with international calls for his immediate reinstatement, and the interim president.

Micheletti, who says the army lawfully removed Zelaya because he violated the constitution by seeking to lift limits on presidential terms, has ruled out Zelaya's restoration.

Juan Barahona, leader of the National Front for Resistance Against the Coup which is campaigning for Zelaya's return, said earlier his supporters would try to block highways into Tegucigalpa and the other main city, San Pedro Sula.

"We're going to hold two big demonstrations, taking over the roads to strike at the economy of the coup-supporting businessmen," he told Reuters by telephone.

Hector Ivan Mejia, spokesman for the Security Ministry of the interim administration, said security was being increased at strategic points across the Central American country, an exporter of bananas, coffee and textiles.

The country's coffee harvest is largely over, with the bulk of exports shipped, meaning road blockades would not affect coffee exports. The next harvest begins in October.

Since the coup last month, supporters of Zelaya have staged almost daily protests calling for his return but have not seriously threatened the interim government.

Please Turn To Page 12

## VACANCY Investment Officer Social Security Board



**DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS:** July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**ORGANIZATIONAL LEVEL:** Investment Officer

**DUTY STATION:** Belize City Branch Office

**REMUNERATION:** Technical Professional 2 Salary Scale

### QUALIFICATIONS

#### Education:

- . Bachelor's Degree in Accounting, Finance or Business Administration
- . Associate Degree in Business with a minimum of 4 years working experience in mortgages or credit management
- . Appraisal/valuation experience/training preferable

#### Skills:

- . Sound working knowledge of Social Security and its operations
- . Ability to thrive in a fast-paced, results-oriented environment
- . Excellent oral, written communication, and telephone skills
- . Computer skills – MS Word, MS Excel, MS Power Point, MS Access
- . A service-oriented mindset and a commitment to providing exceptional customer service
- . Good decision making skills

### COMPETENCIES

Applicant must possess excellent customer service skills, be assertive, confident and mature with a high degree of integrity, honesty and responsibility. Must also be able to work independently and in a team environment, be flexible, motivated and willing to take initiative. Knowledge of debt collection practices will be an asset.

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- . Contribute to process improvement and efficiencies
- . Other duties assigned from time to time

**Interested Applicants can send their application letter and updated curriculum vitae to:**

The Human Resources Manager  
Social Security Board  
Bliss Parade  
P. O. Box 18  
Belmopan, Cayo District  
Belize, Central America

# New Water Systems For Six Villages In Orange Walk & Toledo Districts

**BY: Mike Hernandez Jr. J.P.,  
Director Public Relations,  
Social Investment Fund  
BELMOPAN CITY, Monday,  
July 13, 2009:**

A series of unprecedented ground breaking ceremonies for the construction of new rudimentary water systems will be held this week in six villages located in the Orange Walk and Toledo districts.

Over 2,035 residents in Trio, Bladen, San Isidro and San Pablo villages in the Toledo District will soon have reliable potable water as part of the Banana Belt Clean Water project between the European Union and the Social Investment Fund, a statutory body under the auspices of the Ministry of Economic Development.

The project calls for the construction of new water systems in these villages, and to launch the construction of these projects, official ground breaking ceremonies will be held on Thursday, 16 July 2009 for the villages of Bladen, San Isidro and San Pablo. The project in Trio village is already underway.

The project scope calls for the construction of a 20,000 Ferro-concrete elevated water tank, a pump house and network of distribution pipes in each village.

These systems will have a new design with a stronger foundation, columns and beams to make them more resistible to earthquakes.

Combined, these systems will cost \$774,000 and will benefit some 420 families. The project will be financed by the European Union.

The targeted villages are poor communities, which experience critical water shortages especially during the dry season. The situation in these villages has continuously posed health hazards from water borne illnesses. The provision of potable water to these four communities is therefore considered urgent and beneficial to their social and economic development.

Meanwhile, official ground breaking ceremonies will also be held for the construction of new

rudimentary water systems in San Luis and Douglas/San Juan Villages in the Orange Walk District on Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2009.

Both projects will cost approximately \$516,000 and will be financed jointly by the Caribbean Development Bank and the Government of Belize through the Basic Needs Trust Fund.

San Luis is located approximately 9 miles North West of Orange Walk Town. The work scope for the project in San Luis includes the construction of an elevated Ferro-concrete 20,000 gallon water tank, a pump house and the installation of some 12,000 feet of pvc pipes.

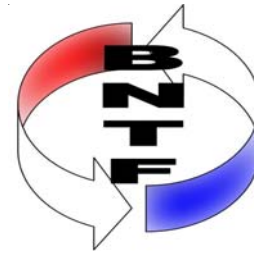
The new rudimentary water system in Douglas will be similar to the one in San Luis and will replace the current system, which is comprised of a deteriorated galvanized tank constructed in the later part of the 1970's. The new system and will also supply the nearby village of San Juan.

The new water systems in San Luis and Douglas/San Juan will benefit over 900 residents. All projects will be implemented by the Social Investment Fund.

Guest speakers at the ground breaking ceremonies in the Toledo District will include the **Hon Eden Martinez**, Minister of Human Development and Social Transformation and Area Representative for Toledo East, **Hon Gabriel Martinez**, Minister of Rural Development, representatives of the National Authorizing Office in the Ministry of Economic Development, the Social Investment Fund among other invited guests. Representatives of the European Union will also be present.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Prime Minister, **Hon Gaspar Vega**, will deliver the keynote address at the official ground breaking ceremonies for the San Luis and Douglas/San Juan water systems on Friday.

For further information please contact **Mike Hernandez Jr. J.P., Director Public Relations, Social Investment Fund at Tel: 822-0239 or email [mike.hernandez@sifbelize.org](mailto:mike.hernandez@sifbelize.org)**



## BASIC NEEDS TRUST FUND TENDER NOTICE

### Construction of Sunday Wood Rudimentary Water System, Toledo District

The Government of Belize has secured Grant No.GA23/BZE from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) towards the cost of Water Projects and intends to apply part of the Funds to cover eligible payments under the Contract for **Construction of Sunday Wood Rudimentary Water System, Toledo District.**

The Social Investment Fund, a Statutory Corporation, established under the Social Investment Fund Act No. 3 of 1996 and located at Constitution Drive, Belmopan City, Cayo District, hereby invites tenders from suitably qualified contractors for the construction of the following:

### CONTRACT #001.0408 of 2009: Construction of a Rudimentary Water System for Sunday Wood, Toledo District (Construction of tank, pump house and fence)

Construction of a 20,000 gallon ferro-concrete elevated water tank measuring approximately 20'x20'x9'4" elevated by concrete 18" columns 43' off the ground at the tank base. The footings are 7'x7'x18" and are a maximum of 7'-6" below ground level. The structure will be enclosed by a concrete/chain link fence with the perimeter measuring 200' with vehicular and pedestrian gates strategically placed for easy access; and construction of a concrete ground level pump house measuring 10'x10' together with a generator pad and a concrete/chain link fence with a perimeter measuring 300' with vehicular and pedestrian gates strategically placed for easy access.

Tender documents can be obtained from the Social Investment Fund as of Monday June 29, 2009 at the address below during the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. from Monday to Friday for a **NON-REFUNDABLE** fee of **BZE\$100.00 per package.**

Bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"Quotation for Sunday Wood RWS, Toledo District.**

ADDRESSED TO:

**The Executive Director  
Social Investment Fund  
Constitution Drive  
P.O. Box 459  
Belmopan City, Cayo District**

Tenders will be received at the above address no later than **2:00 p.m. on Friday, July 24, 2009.** A Public Opening will be held at the SIF Office in Belmopan at **2:15 p.m. on Friday, July 24, 2009.**

The Social Investment Fund will conduct a **pre-bid meeting at 2:00 p.m. on July 16, 2009 at the Office of the Social Investment Fund, Constitution Drive, Belmopan** with interested, eligible bidders, to explain the tender documents and address any queries.

The Social Investment Fund reserves the right to reject any or all tenders.



# ★ STAR HUMOR ★

## A Logical Response

At the cocktail party, one woman said to another, "Aren't you wearing your wedding ring

on the wrong finger?"

The other replied, "Yes, I am, I married the wrong man."

## Grandpa In The Nude

Tom came home last evening and found his 85 year old grandpa sitting on the porch, in the rocking chair, with nothing on from the waist down.

"Grandpa, what are you doing?" he exclaimed.

The old man looked off into the distance and did not answer him.

"Grandpa, what are you doing sitting out here with no pants on?" he asked again.

The old man slyly looked at him and said, "Well Son, last week I sat out here with no shirt on, and I got a stiff neck. This is your Grandma's idea!"

## The Best "Thank You" Of Them All

A husband and wife were involved in a terrible traffic accident. The wife's face was burnt severely.

The doctor told the husband they couldn't graft any skin from her body because she was too thin. He suggested that the husband donate some of his skin. However, the only suitable place was from his buttocks.

The husband agreed and requested that no one, not even

the wife, be told because it was a very delicate matter.

After the surgery was completed, everyone was astounded at the wife's new beauty.

She looked more beautiful than she ever did before! All her friends and relatives just ranted and raved at her new look!

She always wanted to thank her husband for the generous donation. One day when they

were alone she leaned over and said "Dear, I just want to thank you for everything you did for me! There is no way I could ever repay you!!!"

He replied, "Oh don't worry, Honey, I get enough thanks every time your mother comes over and kisses you on your cheeks!!!"

## **Butane Prices Up By \$5 Countrywide**

The Ministry of Economic Development informs of a \$5 countrywide increase in the retail price of the 100 lb cylinder of butane gas to take effect from Wednesday, July 15, 2009.

This increase, informs the Ministry, has become necessary due to an increase in the acquisition cost of the latest

shipment of butane.

The new prices now stands at \$98 in Belize City and Corozal; \$99 in Orange Walk; \$100 in Belmopan and San Ignacio; \$101 in Benque Viejo Town; \$102 in Stann Creek and \$103 in Toledo.

The release additionally informed that the new prices do not include delivery cost.

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## TOURISM NEWS

### COMING SOON!

#### Tour Guide Certificate Course

The Belize Tourism Board wishes to inform all interested Belizeans, of a Tour Guide Training Course tentatively scheduled to start in September. The course, being offered by the Belize Tourism Board, is designed to train participants in both theoretical and practical techniques of the profession. Classes will include basic swimming, snorkeling and boating skills.

Upon completion of the course, the Belize Tourism Board will certify each successful participant, making you eligible to apply for a tour guide license.

All prospective trainees are ask to register their interest at:

**VENUE LOCATION:** Caye Caulker  
**REGISTER AT:** Galeria Hicaco  
**CONTACT NUMBER:** 226-0178/668-3232  
**E-mail:** siwaban@gmail.com

(Ask for Ellen McRae or Morgan Carasco)



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# No Need To Be Alarmed - It's Just A Test Of The Emergency Warning System

**SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Thursday, July 16, 2009:**

The Government of Belize (GOB), in conjunction with the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) and the Belize Electric Company Limited (BECOL) informs of the testing of the siren for early flood warning.

The installation of the warning system is said to be in compliance with one aspect of the June 30, 2008 ruling of the Supreme Court of Belize specifically that aspect of the Environment Compliance Plan (ECP) dealing with the installation of a dam break warning system.

One component of the system is located at the fire station in San Ignacio Town. It consists of a siren with 8 horns sitting atop a pole behind the Fire Station and the switching component and communication system mounted on a wall inside the building.



**The set of 8 horns sitting atop a pole behind the Fire Station**

The switching component comes fully equipped with four 12 volts batteries which renders it independent of a continuous supply of electricity. It is also fitted with a base radio unit with direct

communication to the dam.

We were informed that the system is designed to automatically activate with any failure of the physical structure of the dam wall at Chalillo with a manual activation system in the unlikely event of the failure of automatic triggering system.

After approximately two months of installing the system, the authorities (GOB, NEMO & BECOL) informs that the equipment is now ready to be pressed into service and that final testing will be conducted between 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 21, 2009.

The authorities inform



**The switching component and communication system mounted on a wall inside the Fire Station**

all residents in the surrounding areas that there is no need for alarm during the period on Tuesday as it is only a test of the warning system.



## September Celebrations Committee

P.O. Box 325, Belize City, Belize \* Tel: 223-3342 \* Fax: 223-1943  
Website: <http://www.septembercelebrations.com>



### NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

**The September Celebrations Committee invites all Belizeans to submit recommendations for EVENTS** to be included on the official September Celebrations Calendar. All recommendations will be vetted and approved by the September Celebrations Committee. Suggestions should be submitted no later than **July 24th, 2009** and should be addressed to:

**Chairman  
September Celebrations Committee  
P.O. Box 325  
Belize City**

### NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

**The September Celebrations Committee announces this year's THEME Competition!**

All Belizeans, whether living at home or abroad, are invited to submit recommendations for the theme for this year's September Celebrations that will commemorate the **211th Anniversary of the Battle of St. George's Caye** and the **28th Anniversary of Belize's Independence**. The theme should reflect Belize's growth and development as a nation and be no more than 10 words.

**Winner Receives \$1000 Cash Prize.**

Entries should be submitted by July 24th, 2009 to:

**Chairman  
September Celebrations Committee  
P.O. Box 325  
Belize City**



## Your Horoscope & Lucky Numbers

### ARIES

**March 22 to April 20**



Money comes in a bigger way. You could be excited about the goings on in your personal life. There could be a new relationship on the anvil but you also need to not appear overly interested. Try to postpone serious decisions for a while. **Lucky Numbers: 12, 34, 66.**

**Numbers: 06, 15, 72.**

### GEMINI

**May 22 to June 21**



You will try to make the best of the resources that are available to you. Play your cards right and your past efforts will bear fruit. Do not fall into the trap of seeking comfort in intimate relationships. Rely on trusted friends for emotional support. **Lucky Numbers: 05, 49, 87.**

### TAURUS

**April 21 to May 21**



You could be interacting with some really influential people and it opens up new doors. You are cautioned here though that any conflicts that you have now are likely to result in fractures in relationships. Travel for short distances is indicated. **Lucky**

### CANCER

**June 22 to July 23**



You are full of amazing ideas. You feel that you can achieve a lot if you follow your instinct. There could be some hurdle in the form of an envious senior who may not let your ideas transform into reality easily. Despite this, do not adopt a confrontational atti-

tude. There is reason to be wary. **Lucky Numbers: 02, 27, 93.**

### LEO

**July 24 to August 21**



There are many things that you are not aware of and it will do you good to look closely at the professional commitments that you have made. You could be negotiating through a challenging personal relationship where you do get to reach a settlement between you and your partner. There could be mild health related problems. **Lucky Numbers: 01, 32, 58.**

### VIRGO

**August 22 to September 21**



If you question too much, answers will be hard to come by. But there could be some really wonderful results for you as some divine-seeming interventions happen to resolve your worries. The contacts you make now will come in handy in helping you progress. Your personal life may suffer from a lack of quality time. **Lucky Numbers: 17, 54, 76.**

### LIBRA

**September 22 to October 23**



There could be some overwhelming changes at home and in your career. You have managed your life well so far and now is the time to move to a higher level. You need to throw away items that remind you of the past. Try to finish all financial deals before the week ends. **Lucky Numbers: 07, 53, 84.**

### SCORPIO

**October 24 to November 21**



You will become aware of a big change about to happen and will need to make a final decision about property. A short trip is foreseen. There could be a new contract signed at work. You could enter a new relationship on a personal level. **Lucky Numbers: 09, 31, 57.**

### SAGITTARIUS

**November 22 to December 21**



This week closes pending money matters. Personal life continues to be largely ignored as you have a lot to cope with professionally. Talks about a new job also will get completed. One source of income might close but the other comes to fruition. **Lucky Numbers: 03, 47, 73.**

### CAPRICORN

**December 22 to January 20**



This week sees you focusing on the self-image and resetting priorities. You'll also consider whether a close relationship is meeting your needs. In case you feel very committed and satisfied, you could even chalk up plans for a life together. **Lucky Numbers: 08, 36, 98.**

### AQUARIUS

**January 21 to February 19**



There may be money coming from sources you had least expected, especially through your creativity. Some sort of middleman, such as an agent, lawyer, representative, or broker may be very instrumental to your sudden luck. There is good news with regard to a property, or a family member. **Lucky Numbers: 04, 39, 92.**

### PISCES

**February 20 to March 21**



The coming weeks sees you focusing on home improvement. Also there will be many social commitments to honour. You could rub shoulders with some highly successful people and also start a new relationship on a romantic note. Communicating well will be the key to success in all relationships. **Lucky Numbers: 22, 51, 79.**



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**Deadline for Application: July 24, 2009**

**Please send application to:**

**Secretary  
Board of Governors  
Sacred Heart College  
P.O. Box 163  
San Ignacio**



# Most Of The Stolen Computer Equipment Returned To The Ministry of Education

**BELIZE CITY, Thursday, July 16, 2009:**

The office of the Belize District Education Center on Mahogany Street, Belize City was burglarized during the night on Tuesday, July 7, and the early morning hours of Wednesday, July 8, 2009.

Computer equipment valued

in excess of \$14,000.00 was stolen. Police investigations led to the recovery, on July 9, of most of the missing items and the arrest one Carlos Hall who was subsequently charged with handling stolen goods. A release from the Ministry of Education informs that *“contrary to reports in the media Mr. Hall was never*

*an employee of the Ministry of Education.”*

The release from the Ministry of Education further informs that on Thursday, July 16, 2009 officials from the Ministry of Education visited the Police Station where most of the stolen items were returned to them.

A release from the Police Press

Office informs that the Officer Commanding Belize City’s Eastern (Police) Division, Assistant Commissioner of Police, **David Henderson** *“expressed his gratitude and appreciation to the concerned public who provided the necessary information for the recovery of the items.”*

## Belize's Foreign Ministry Updated Comment On The Situation In Neighboring Honduras

**BELMOPAN CITY, Wednesday, July 15, 2009:**

Belize’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade today informed that the Government of Belize, concerned about the impasse that has characterized events after the overthrow of President **Manuel Zelaya Rosales** as the democratically elected and constitutional President of the Republic of Honduras on 28th June 2009, welcomes the efforts being made by all parties to ensure peace and

democracy in the region.

The mediation process being spearheaded by Nobel Laureate **Oscar Arias Sanchez**, President of the Republic of Costa Rica, is facilitating dialogue between the parties in Honduras, and it is very much hoped that progress can be achieved very soon.

The release further informs that these efforts are commendable and deserve the full support of the international community.

The Government of Belize is

hopeful that a solution to the impasse in Honduras can be found very soon through dialogue and wishes President Arias and the parties involved every success in their endeavors. The Government of Belize continues to monitor the situation closely and reiterates its full solidarity with the region in recognizing President Manuel Zelaya Rosales as the only democratically elected and constitutional President of the Republic of Honduras.

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## SOCIAL SECURITY BOARD TENDER

### Invitations to tender for the Construction and Expansion of the Existing Parking lot at the SSB Headquarters Office

1. The Social Security Board proposes to invite Bids at the end of July 2009 for the contract package for the construction and expansion of the parking lot for its Headquarters Office in Belmopan.
2. Joint ventures and partnerships including those between local firms will be considered.
3. Interested persons can pick up the plan and drawings along with the Bill of Quantities at the Headquarters Office in Belmopan from the Chief Executive Officer's office or from the General Manager, Finance.
4. All documents that are provided by the Social Security Board will be given for the non-refundable fee of \$250.00.
5. Deadline for the submission of tenders is Friday 24 July 2009, at 4:00 pm. Any tender received after this deadline will not be considered.

The Social Security Board will not defray any cost incurred by any tenderer. The Social Security Board does not bind itself to accept the lowest tender and reserves the right to accept or reject any tender, and to annul the process and reject all tenders, at any time prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected prospective contractor or any obligation to assign any reason for the rejection of any tender. Prospective tenderers must be in compliance with the requirements of Social Security Act, especially with respect to the payment of contributions, in order to be considered.

**MRS. MERLENE BAILEY MARTINEZ**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Social Security Board Bliss Parade,**  
**P.O. Box 18**  
**Belmopan**



# Michael Jackson - The Man In The Mirror

BY: Chris Hedges

In celebrity culture we destroy what we worship.

The commercial exploitation of Michael Jackson's death was orchestrated by the corporate forces that rendered Jackson insane.

Jackson, robbed of his childhood and surrounded by vultures that preyed on his fears and weaknesses, was so consumed by self-loathing he carved his African-American face into an ever changing Caucasian death mask and hid his apparent pedophilia behind a Peter Pan illusion of eternal childhood.

He could not disentangle his public and his private self. He became a commodity, a product, one to be sold, used and manipulated. He was infected by the moral nihilism and personal disintegration that are at the core of our corporate culture. And his fantasies of eternal youth, delusions of majesty, and desperate, disfiguring quests for physical transformation were expressions of our own yearning. He was a reflection of us in the extreme.

His memorial service—a variety show with a coffin—had an estimated 31.1 million television viewers. The ceremony, which featured performances or tributes from Stevie Wonder, Brooke Shields and other celebrities, was carried live on 19 networks, including the major broadcast and cable news outlets. It was the final episode of the long-running



**Michael Jackson** series. And it concluded with Jackson's daughter, Paris, being prodded to stand in front of a microphone to speak about her father. **Janet Jackson**, before the girl could get a few words out, told Paris to "*speak up.*"

As the child broke down, the adults around her adjusted the microphone so we could hear the sobs. The crowd clapped. It was a haunting echo of what destroyed her father.

The stories we like best are "*real life*" stories—early fame, wild success and then a long, bizarre and macabre emotional train wreck. **O.J. Simpson** offered a tamer version of the same plot. So does **Britney Spears**. Jackson, by the end, was heavily in debt and had weathered a \$22 million out-of-court settlement payment to Jordy Chandler, as well as seven counts of child sexual abuse and two counts of administering an intoxicating agent in order to commit a felony.

We fed on his physical and psychological disintegration, especially since many Americans are struggling with their own descent into overwhelming debt, loss of status and personal disintegration.

The lurid drama of Jackson's personal life meshed perfectly with the ongoing dramas on television, in movies and in the news. News thrives on "*real life*" stories, especially those

involving celebrities. News reports on television are mini-dramas complete with a star, a villain, a supporting cast, a good-looking host and a dramatic, if often unexpected, ending.

The public greedily consumed "*news*" about Jackson, especially in his exile and decline, which often outdid most works of fiction.

In "*Fahrenheit 451*," Ray

Bradbury's novel about a future dystopia, people spend most of the day watching giant television screens that show endless scenes of police chases and criminal apprehensions. Life, Bradbury understood, once it was packaged, scripted, given a narrative and filmed, became the most compelling form of entertainment. And Jackson was a great show. He deserved a great finale.

Those who created Jackson's public persona and turned him into a piece of property, first as a child and finally as a corpse encased in a \$15,000 gold-plated casket, are the agents, publicists, marketing people, promoters, script writers, television and movie producers, advertisers, video technicians, photographers, bodyguards, recording executives, wardrobe consultants, fitness trainers, pollsters, public announcers and television news personalities who create the vast stage of celebrity for profit.

They are the puppet masters. No one achieves celebrity status, no cultural illusion is swallowed as reality, without these armies of cultural enablers and intermediaries. The producers at the Staples Center in Los

**Please Turn To Page 13**

## President Zelaya Supporters Protest In Honduras

**Continued From Page 6**

### OFFER TO STEP DOWN

Micheletti late on Wednesday repeated an offer to step down to promote a peaceful solution, but only on condition that Zelaya did not return to office.

Foreign governments fear that if Saturday's mediation talks in the Costa Rican capital fail, what is already the worst political crisis in Central America since the Cold War could escalate into wider tensions and confrontation.

In Bolivia, leftist Latin American presidents met with Zelaya's foreign minister on Thursday to show support.

"*This coup won't last. This coup will fail,*" Bolivian President **Evo Morales** said alongside Honduran Foreign Minister **Patricia Rodas** and allies that included Venezuelan President **Hugo Chavez** and the presidents of Ecuador and Paraguay, **Rafael Correa** and Fernando Lugo, respectively.

The Organization of American States, which suspended Honduras from membership on July 4, said on Wednesday it would keep up pressure on the coup leaders, while supporting dialogue to end the crisis.

Zelaya, who says the coup was a power grab by rich political elites who oppose him, has said Saturday's talks are the last chance for the interim government to reinstate him immediately.

Arias has invited delegations representing Zelaya and Micheletti to the talks. But a spokesman for Arias said on Wednesday it was not envisaged the two leaders would take part personally. They declined to meet face-to-face in initial discussions last week.

(Additional reporting by Juana Casas, Esteban Israel in Tegucigalpa, Terry Wade in La Paz; John McPhaul in San Jose; writing by Pascal Fletcher; Editing by Frances Kerry)

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## Michael Jackson - The Man In The Mirror

**Continued From Page 13**

Angeles made sure the 18,000 attendees and the television audience (*even the BBC devoted three hours to the tribute*) watched a funeral that was turned into another maudlin form of uplifting popular entertainment.

The memorial service for Jackson was a celebration of celebrity. There was the queasy sight of groups of children, including his own, singing over the coffin.

Magic Johnson put in a plug for Kentucky Fried Chicken. Shields, fighting back tears, recalled how she and a 33-year-old Jackson—who always maintained that he was straight—broke into Elizabeth Taylor's room the night before her last wedding to *"get the first peek of the [wedding] dress."* Shields and Jackson, at Taylor's wedding, then joked that they were *"the mother and father of the bride."* *"Yes, it may have seemed very odd to the outside,"* Shields said, *"but we made it fun and we made it real."*

There were photo montages in which a shot of Jackson shaking hands with **Nelson Mandela** was immediately followed by one of him with **Kermit the Frog**.

Fame reduces all of the famous to the same level. Fame is its own denominator. And every anecdote seemed to confirm that when you spend your life as a celebrity you have no idea who you are.

We measure our lives by these celebrities. We seek to be like them. We emulate their look and behavior. We escape the messiness of real life through the fantasy of their stardom.

We, too, long to attract admiring audiences for our grand, ongoing life movie. We try to see ourselves moving through our lives as a camera would see us, mindful of how we hold ourselves, how we dress, what we say.

We invent movies that play inside our heads with us as stars. We wonder how an audience would react. Celebrity culture has taught us, almost unconsciously, to generate interior personal screenplays. We have learned ways of speaking and thinking that

grossly disfigure the way we relate to the world and those around us. Neal Gabler, who has written wisely about this, argues that celebrity culture is not a convergence of consumer culture and religion so much as a hostile takeover of religion by consumer culture.

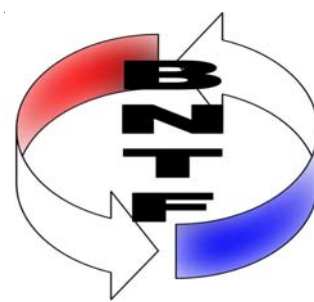
Jackson desperately feared growing old. He believed he could control race and gender. He transformed himself through surgery and perhaps female hormones from a brown-skinned African-American male to a chalk-faced androgynous ghoul with no clear sexual identity. And while he pushed these boundaries to the extreme, he did only what many Americans do.

There were 12 million cosmetic plastic surgery procedures performed last year in the United States. They were performed because, in America, most human beings, rich and poor, famous and obscure, have been conditioned to view themselves as marketable commodities. They are objects, like consumer products. They have no intrinsic value. They must look fabulous and live on fabulous sets. They must remain young. They must achieve notoriety and money, or the illusion of it, to be a success. And it does not matter how they get there.

The moral nihilism of our culture licenses a dark voyeurism into other people's humiliation, pain, weakness and betrayal. Education, building community, honesty, transparency and sharing are qualities that will see you, in a gross perversion of democracy and morality, ridiculed and voted off any reality show. Fellow competitors for prize money and a chance for fleeting fame elect to *"disappear"* the unwanted. In the final credits of the reality show *"America's Next Top Model,"* a picture of the woman expelled during the episode vanishes from the group portrait on the screen.

Those cast aside become, at least to the television audience, nonpersons. Celebrities who can no longer generate publicity, good or bad, vanish. Life, these shows teach, is a brutal world of unadulterated competition and

**Please Turn To Page 14**



## BASIC NEEDS TRUST FUND TENDER NOTICE

### Construction of Rudimentary Water Systems, Belize

The Government of Belize has secured Grant No.GA23/BZE from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) towards the cost of Water Projects and intends to apply part of the Funds to cover eligible payments under the Contract for **Construction of Rudimentary Water System in San Felipe, Orange Walk District, and Construction of RWS for Corozalito/St. Anne's/ Santana, Belize District.**

The Social Investment Fund, a Statutory Corporation, established under the Social Investment Fund Act No. 3 of 1996 and located at Constitution Drive, Belmopan City, Cayo District, hereby invites tenders from suitably qualified contractors for the construction of the following:

**CONTRACT #001.0404 of 2009: Construction of a Rudimentary Water System for San Felipe, Orange Walk District (Construction of tank, pump house and fence) AND CONTRACT #001.0403 of 2009: Construction of RWS for Corozalito/St. Anne's/Santana, Belize District (Construction of tank, pump house and fence)** includes:

Construction of a 20,000 gallon ferro-concrete elevated water tank measuring approximately 20'x20'x9'4" elevated by concrete 13" columns 43' off the ground at the tank base. The footings are 6'x6'14" and are a maximum of 6' below ground level. The structure will be enclosed by a concrete/chain link fence with the perimeter measuring 300' with vehicular and pedestrian gates strategically placed for easy access; and construction of a concrete ground level pump house measuring 10'x10' together with a generator pad and a concrete/chain link fence with a perimeter measuring 120' with vehicular and pedestrian gates strategically placed for easy access.

Tender documents can be obtained from the Social Investment Fund as of Monday June 29, 2009 at the address below during the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. from Monday to Friday for a **NON-REFUNDABLE** fee of **BZE\$100.00 per package.**

Bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"Quotation for San Felipe RWS, Orange Walk OR Quotation for Construction of RWS for Corozalito/St. Anne's/Santana, Belize District.**

ADDRESSED TO:

**The Executive Director  
Social Investment Fund  
Constitution Drive  
P.O. Box 459  
Belmopan City, Cayo District**

Tenders will be received at the above address no later than **2:00 p.m. on Friday, July 24, 2009.** A Public Opening will be held at the SIF Office in Belmopan at **2:15 p.m. on Friday, July 24, 2009.**

The Social Investment Fund will conduct a **pre-bid meeting at 2:00 p.m. on July 16, 2009 at the Office of the Social Investment Fund, Constitution Drive, Belmopan** with interested, eligible bidders, to explain the tender documents and address any queries.

The Social Investment Fund reserves the right to reject any or all tenders.



## Michael Jackson - The Man In The Mirror

### Continued From Page 13

constant quest for notoriety and attention. And life is about the personal humiliation of those who oppose us. Those who win are the best. Those who lose deserve to be erased. Those who fail, those who are ugly or poor, are belittled and mocked. Human beings are used, betrayed and discarded in a commodity culture, which is pretty much the story of Jackson's life, although he experienced the equivalent of celebrity resurrection.

This has been very good for his music sales and perhaps for his father's new recording company, which Joe Jackson made sure to plug at public events after his son's death. Compassion, competence, intelligence and solidarity are useless assets when human beings are commodities. Those who do not achieve celebrity status, who do not win the prize money or make millions in Wall Street firms, deserve their fate.

The cult of self, which Jackson embodied, dominates our culture. This cult shares within it the classic traits of psychopaths: superficial charm, grandiosity and self-importance; a need for constant stimulation, a penchant for lying, deception and manipulation; and the incapacity for remorse or guilt.

Jackson, from his phony marriages to his questionable relationships with young boys, had all these qualities. This is also the ethic promoted by corporations. It is the ethic of

unfettered capitalism. It is the misguided belief that personal style and personal advancement, mistaken for individualism, are the same as democratic equality. It is the celebration of image over substance.


We have a right, in the cult of the self, to get whatever we desire. We can do anything, even belittle and destroy those around us, including our friends, to make money, to be happy and to become famous.

Once fame and wealth are achieved, they become their own


justification, their own morality. How one gets there is irrelevant. It is this perverted ethic that gave us Wall Street banks and investment houses that willfully trashed the nation's economy, stole money from tens of millions of small shareholders who had bought stocks to finance their retirement or the college expenses of their children. The heads of these corporations, like the winners on a reality television program who lied and manipulated others to succeed, walked away with hundreds of millions of dollars in compensation and bonuses.

The ethic of Wall Street is the ethic of celebrity.

The saturation coverage of Jackson's death is an example of our collective flight into illusion. The obsession with the trivia of his life conceals the despair, meaninglessness and emptiness of our own lives. It deflects the moral questions arising from mounting social injustice, growing inequalities, costly imperial wars, economic collapse and political corruption. The wild pursuit of status, wealth and fame has destroyed our souls, as it destroyed Jackson, and it has destroyed our economy.



# SEPTEMBER CELEBRATIONS COMMITTEE



## ANNOUNCES ITS CARNIVAL SONG COMPETITION

**All Belizean Musicians** are invited to enter this year's **Carnival Song Competition** in conjunction with the 28th Anniversary of Belize's Independence and the 211th Anniversary of the Battle of St. George's Caye song competition. The winning song will be featured throughout the September Celebrations activities.

**Rules & Regulations:**

- Contestants must be nationals of Belize.
- The organizers, judges and their families are **not** eligible to enter the contest.
- Topics can focus on St. George's Caye day and/or Belize's Independence.
- Songs must be **NEW** and **ORIGINAL** pieces, created to instill patriotism and a sense of national pride.
- Songs can be in any language but each entry must be accompanied by its English translation.
- Entry packages must include a lyrics sheet and an audio recording for each song.
- Professional recording are not required; once submitted, tapes, CDs and lyric sheet becomes the property of the September Celebrations Secretariat.
- 9 Finalists will be selected by the committee and will be required to perform **LIVE** rendition at the Finals.
- Songs making it to the semi-finals will be uploaded onto the September celebrations website at [www.septembercelebrationsbze.com](http://www.septembercelebrationsbze.com) at which point the general public will be able to listen to all 9 songs and then vote for their favorite song.
- Songs must not be longer than five (5) minutes.
- August 15th has been set as the date for the live performance at the House of Culture. The final selection committee will be comprised of 5 judges, however the highest and lowest scores of all participants will be discarded at the time of judging.
- Selected songs will be recorded for the production of a September Celebrations CD.

**Winner will receive:**  
**1st Place - \$3000 and a Trophy**  
**2nd Place - \$2000 and a Trophy**  
**3rd Place - \$1000 and a Trophy**

**Entries should be submitted by July 15th, 2009 to:**  
**Chairman**  
**September Celebrations Secretariat**  
**P.O. Box 325**  
**Belize City**

**Entries will be judged based on:**

- Audience Appeal
- Musical Arrangement
- Vocal Quality
- Lyrical Content
- Stage Presence

P.O. Box 325, Belize City, Belize • Tel: 223-1910 Ext. 255 • Fax: 223-1943 • Website: <http://www.septembercelebrations.com> • Email: [septembercelebrationsbze@yahoo.com](mailto:septembercelebrationsbze@yahoo.com)

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## What You Should Know About Dengue and Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever

Over the past several days we have seen the Vector Control vehicle spraying around town. In the absence of any official announcement the presence of Dengue is said to be on the increase. It is in this light that we bring you the fact on the flu as provided by the World Health Organization:

### THE KEY FACTS

- Dengue is a mosquito-borne infection that causes a severe flu-like illness, and sometimes a potentially lethal complication called dengue haemorrhagic fever.
- Global incidence of dengue has grown dramatically in recent decades.
- About two fifths of the world's population are now at risk.
- Dengue is found in tropical and sub-tropical climates worldwide, mostly in urban and semi-urban areas.
- Dengue haemorrhagic fever is a leading cause of serious illness and death among children in some Asian countries.
- There is no specific treatment for dengue, but appropriate medical care frequently saves the lives of patients with the more serious dengue haemorrhagic fever.
- The only way to prevent dengue virus transmission is to combat the disease-carrying mosquitoes.

Dengue is a mosquito-borne infection that in recent decades has become a major international public health concern.

**Dengue haemorrhagic fever** (DHF), a potentially lethal complication, was first recognized in the 1950s during dengue epidemics in the Philippines and Thailand.

Today DHF affects most Asian countries and has become a leading cause of hospitalization and death among children in the region.

There are four distinct, but closely related, viruses that cause dengue. Recovery from infection by one provides lifelong immunity against that virus but confers only partial and transient protection against subsequent infection by the other three viruses.

There is good evidence that sequential infection increases



the risk of developing DHF.

The spread of dengue is attributed to expanding geographic distribution of the four dengue viruses and their mosquito vectors, the most important of which is the predominantly urban species *Aedes aegypti*.

A rapid rise in urban mosquito populations is bringing ever greater numbers of people into contact with this vector, especially in areas that are favourable for mosquito breeding, e.g. where household water storage is common and where solid waste disposal services are inadequate.

### TRANSMISSION

Dengue viruses are transmitted to humans through the bites of infective female *Aedes* mosquitoes.

Mosquitoes generally acquire the virus while feeding on the blood of an infected person. After virus incubation for eight to 10 days, an infected mosquito is capable, during probing and blood feeding, of transmitting the virus for the rest of its life. Infected female mosquitoes may also transmit the virus to their offspring by transovarial (*via the eggs*) transmission, but the role of this in sustaining transmission of the virus to humans has not yet been defined.

Infected humans are the main carriers and multipliers of the virus, serving as a source of the virus for uninfected mosquitoes.

The virus circulates in the blood of infected humans for two to seven days, at approximately the same time that they have a fever; *Aedes* mosquitoes may acquire the virus when they feed on an individual during this period. Some studies have shown that monkeys in some parts of the world play a similar role in transmission.

### CHARACTERISTICS

Dengue fever is a severe, flu-like illness that affects

infants, young children and adults, but seldom causes death. The clinical features of dengue fever vary according to the age of the patient. Infants and young children may have a fever with rash. Older children and adults may have either a mild fever or the classical incapacitating disease with abrupt onset and high fever, severe headache, pain behind the eyes, muscle and joint pains, and rash.

Dengue haemorrhagic fever (DHF) is a potentially deadly complication that is characterized by high fever, often with enlargement of the liver, and in severe cases circulatory failure.

The illness often begins with a sudden rise in temperature accompanied by facial flush and other flu-like symptoms. The fever usually continues for two to seven days and can be as high as 41°C, possibly with convulsions and other complications.

In moderate DHF cases, all signs and symptoms abate after the fever subsides. In severe cases, the patient's condition

may suddenly deteriorate after a few days of fever; the temperature drops, followed by signs of circulatory failure, and the patient may rapidly go into a critical state of shock and die within 12 to 24 hours, or quickly recover following appropriate medical treatment.

### TREATMENT

There is no specific treatment for dengue fever.

For DHF, medical care by physicians and nurses experienced with the effects and progression of the complicating haemorrhagic fever can frequently save lives - decreasing mortality rates from more than 20% to less than 1%. Maintenance of the patient's circulating fluid volume is the central feature of DHF care.

### IMMUNIZATION

There is no vaccine to protect against dengue. Although progress is underway, developing a vaccine against the disease - in either its mild or severe form - is challenging.

Despite these challenges, two vaccine candidates have advanced to evaluation in human subjects in countries with endemic disease, and several potential vaccines are in earlier

**Please Turn To Page 16**

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# From Congressman Elect To Fugitive

By Ken Ellingwood

MEXICO CITY, Thursday, July 16, 2009:

Congressman-elect **Julio Cesar Godoy** is suspected of helping protect La Familia, accused of killing 16 officers recently. That has brought pressure on his half-brother, Michoacan Gov. **Leonel Godoy**.

Last week, Julio Cesar Godoy was a congressman-elect. This week, he is a fugitive.

Mexican authorities say Godoy, a half-brother of Michoacan state Gov. Leonel Godoy, helped provide protection for La Familia, the drug-trafficking gang that has waged war on federal police across the state in recent days, killing at least 16 officers.

Officials have an arrest warrant but apparently can't find the younger Godoy, an attorney who was elected to Congress on July 5 as a candidate of the left-leaning Democratic Revolution Party, or PRD.

Feeling political heat, Gov. Godoy on Wednesday called on his sibling to turn himself in and confront the accusations. Godoy said his half-brother lived in a modest house, drove a used Volkswagen and showed no signs of links to organized crime. The two last spoke weeks ago, the governor said. *"He has to present his evidence if he is innocent,"* Godoy said in a radio interview. *"If he is guilty, let them punish him with the full weight of the law."*

The younger Godoy has not been seen in public since the campaign closed July 1. He didn't show up to vote on election day nor, after his victory, to collect the official notification that he had been elected to Congress.

Authorities, who did not specify when the arrest order was granted, announced the allegations Tuesday as part of the investigation into a string of attacks in Michoacan against federal police officers since Saturday. The attacks, including the slayings of 12 federal officers whose bodies were dumped near a highway, appeared to be in retaliation for the arrest of **Arnoldo Rueda Medina**, described as one of the gang's top three figures.



Since the arrest Saturday of **Arnoldo Rueda Medina**, suspected of being a leader of the La Familia drug cartel, 16 federal police officers have been killed

PHOTO: Gregory Bull / Associated Press

Officials say Saul Solis, a failed Green Party candidate for Congress, is also being sought for his alleged role as liaison between the crime group and officials and businessmen in Michoacan.

The allegations add new force to concerns over how thoroughly drug traffickers have infiltrated Mexico's political system, especially in smuggling crossroads such as Michoacan. *"Cartels like La Familia are*

*born, grow and reproduce thanks to narco-politics, thanks to the complicity of those in power and the cloak of impunity that protects them,"* columnist Ricardo Aleman wrote Wednesday in El Universal newspaper.

The charges against Julio Cesar Godoy brought fresh pressure on his half-brother. Gov. Godoy, a member of the same political party, already faced questions after the state's

attorney general and other aides were among 30 local and state functionaries arrested in May over suspected ties to La Familia.

The governor has dismissed the arrests as an election-season stunt by the administration of Mexican **President Felipe Calderon**, of the conservative National Action Party. And he rejected fresh calls to resign. *"I won't give them the pleasure,"* Godoy said on Wednesday.

**Monte Alejandro Rubido**, a national security spokesman, said that a senior gunman arrested in the recent attacks revealed details about La Familia's structure. He said Julio Cesar Godoy and Solis worked for the group's alleged operations chief, Servando Gomez Martinez, who lives in Michoacan.

A man who said he was **Gomez Martinez** phoned a public affairs television show in Michoacan on Wednesday and called on Calderon to reach an accord with La Familia.

Hours later, Interior Minister **Fernando Gomez Mont** rejected the purported overture, saying Mexico would not negotiate with any criminal group.

## What You Should Know About Dengue and Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever

Continued From Page 15

stages of development.

The World Health Organization provides technical advice and guidance to countries and private partners to support vaccine research and evaluation. Prevention and control

At present, the only method of controlling or preventing dengue virus transmission is to combat the vector mosquitoes.

In Asia and the Americas, *Aedes aegypti* breeds primarily in man-made containers like earthenware jars, metal drums and concrete cisterns used for domestic water storage, as well as discarded plastic food containers, used automobile tyres and other items that collect rainwater. In Africa the mosquito also breeds extensively in natural habitats such as tree holes, and leaves that gather to form "cups" and catch water.

In recent years, *Aedes*

*albopictus*, a secondary dengue vector in Asia, has become established in the United States, several Latin American and Caribbean countries, parts of Europe and Africa. The rapid geographic spread of this species is largely attributed to the international trade in used tyres, a breeding habitat.

Vector control is implemented using environmental management and chemical methods. Proper solid waste disposal and improved water storage practices, including covering containers to prevent access by egg-laying female mosquitoes are among methods that are encouraged through community-based programmes.

The application of appropriate insecticides to larval habitats, particularly those that are useful in households, e.g. water storage vessels, prevents mosquito breeding for several weeks but

must be re-applied periodically. Small, mosquito-eating fish and copepods (*tiny crustaceans*) have also been used with some success.

During outbreaks, emergency vector control measures can also include broad application of insecticides as space sprays using portable or truck-mounted machines or even aircraft.

Regular monitoring of the vectors' susceptibility to widely used insecticides is necessary to ensure the appropriate choice of chemicals. Active monitoring and surveillance of the natural mosquito population should accompany control efforts to determine programme effectiveness.

For more information contact: WHO Media centre Telephone: +41 22 791 2222 E-mail: [mediainquiries@who.int](mailto:mediainquiries@who.int)





## **SOCIAL SECURITY BOARD TENDER**



### **Prequalifications of Contractor For the construction of a building for the Punta Gorda Branch Office Toledo District Financed by the Social Security Board**

1. The Social Security Board proposes to invite Bids in the latter part of August 2009 for the construction of its Punta Gorda Branch Office, from its register of prequalified contractors whose firms belong to the country of Belize. It is expected that construction will commence sometime in October 2009.
2. Joint ventures and partnerships including those between local firms will be considered.

### **DESCRIPTION OF WORK**

3. The works consist of the construction of a two storey reinforced concrete and blocks structure as offices for the Punta Gorda Branch of the Social Security Board. It will include offices, conferences room, lavatories, security fence, mechanical and electrical services and other facilities, for a total area of 7300 sq. ft.
4. Firms applying to be prequalified for carrying out the works will be evaluated, inter alia, on the basis of experience, availability of plant, financial position, bank credit, previous performance and organizational capability.
5. Pre qualification Application forms and questionnaires can be obtained at the SSB Head Office in Belmopan as (of 13 July 2009 at 8:30 am) at the following address. All documents that are provided by the Social Security Board will be given for the non-refundable fee of \$500.00.

**Mrs. Irene Cruz**  
**Social Security Board, Belize**  
**Bliss Parade**  
**Belmopan, Cayo District**  
**Belize, Central America**  
**Tel: 501-822-2163 Fax: 822-3331**  
**Email: [icruz@socialsecurity.org.bz](mailto:icruz@socialsecurity.org.bz)**

6. Prequalification Form and Questionnaire must be competed and enclosed in a sealed envelope and clearly marked on the top "PREQUALIFICATION APPLICATION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF PUNTA GORDA BRANCH OFFICE" and returned not later than 4:00 p.m. local time on 24 July 2009.

**Any tender received after this deadline will not be considered.**

The Social Security Board will not defray any cost incurred by any tenderer. The Social Security Board does not bind itself to accept the lowest tender and reserves the right to accept or reject any tender, and to annul the process and reject all tenders, at any time prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected prospective contractor or any obligation to assign any reason for the rejection of any tender. **Prospective tenderers must be in compliance with the requirements of Social Security Act, especially with respect to the payment of contributions, in order to be considered.**

**MRS. MERLENE BAILEY MARTINEZ**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Social Security Board**  
**Bliss Parade, P.O. Box 18**  
**Belmopan, Belize**



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Jose Marin, Manager

## LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE

Notice is hereby be given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that HERMAIN TZIB is applying for a PUBLICAN SPECIAL LIQUOR LICENSE for the year 2009 to operate THE SWAMP located in the village of Bullet Tree Falls in the Cayo District.

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## SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND TENDER NOTICE

Construction of Rudimentary Water Systems, Toledo District  
(Construction of Tank and Pump House with Fence)

The Government of Belize has secured Grant No.9366/BEL (Europe AID/126752/D/ACT/BZ) from European Union (EU) towards the cost of Water Projects and intends to apply part of the Funds to cover eligible payments under Contracts for the **Bladden Rudimentary Water System Construction, San Isidro Rudimentary Water System Construction and San Pablo Rudimentary Water System Construction, Toledo District.**

The Social Investment Fund, a Statutory Corporation, established under the Social Investment Fund Act No. 3 of 1996 and located at Constitution Drive, Belmopan City, Cayo District, hereby invites tenders from suitably qualified contractors for the construction of the following:

CONTRACT #001.0405 of 2009: Bladden Rudimentary Water System (Construction of Tank and Pump House with Fence)

CONTRACT #001.0406 of 2009: San Isidro Rudimentary Water System (Construction of Tank and Pump House with Fence)

CONTRACT #001.0407 of 2009 San Pablo Rudimentary Water System (Construction of Tank and Pump House with Fence)

**Works include:** construction of a 20,000 gallon ferro-concrete elevated water tank measuring approximately 20'x20'x9'4" elevated by concrete 18" columns 43' off the ground at the tank base. The footings are 7'x7'x18" and are a maximum of 7'- 6" below ground level. The structure will be enclosed by a concrete/chain link fence with the perimeter measuring 200' with vehicular and pedestrian gates strategically placed for easy access; and construction of a concrete ground level pump house measuring 10'x10' together with a generator pad and a concrete/chain link fence with a perimeter measuring 300' with vehicular and pedestrian gates strategically placed for easy access.

Tender documents can be obtained from the Social Investment Fund as of Monday, June 29, 2009 at the address below during the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. from Monday to Friday for a **NON-REFUNDABLE** fee of **BZE\$100.00 per package.**

Bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"Quotation for Bladden RWS Construction OR Quotation for San Isidro RWS Construction OR Quotation for San Pablo RWS Construction.**

ADDRESSED TO:

**The Executive Director  
Social Investment Fund  
Constitution Drive  
P.O. Box 459  
Belmopan City, Cayo District**

Tenders will be received at the above address no later than **2:00 p.m. on Friday, July 24, 2009.** A Public Opening will be held at the SIF Office in Belmopan at **2:15 p.m. on Friday, July 24, 2009.**

The Social Investment Fund will conduct a **pre-bid meeting at 2:00 p.m. on July 16, 2009 at the Office of the Social Investment Fund, Constitution Drive, Belmopan** with interested eligible bidders to explain the tender documents and address any queries from interested eligible bidders.

The Social Investment Fund reserves the right to reject any or all tenders.



## "He Loved His Work" says B.E.L

**Continued From Front Page**

electricity company.

The boy from Cristo Rey Village, with only a primary school education, started at the very bottom of the ladder, as an ordinary laborer with a machete in his hand cutting the bushes growing along the distribution lines.

Over the years, hard work and dedication paid off as he climbed the ladder to the position of Line Supervisor in San Ignacio.

Having gone through the mills, Matt knew it all and so none were the employees under his supervision who could pull a fast one on him.

The crowded wake on Tuesday and Wednesday nights along with a packed church on Thursday evening for the funeral service, was a clear indication that Mateo was a well known and liked member of the community.

Without much ado, we publish the family eulogy delivered in church by **Rodney Baird**, BEL Superintendent, West Zone

*"We are gathered here today to celebrate the life of a beloved son, father, brother, grandfather and husband, Santos Mateo Guerra Jr. known as Mateo or Matt.*

*Mateo was the third child born child of Eloisa and Mateo Sr. He was born in the village of Cristo Rey, here in the Cayo District. As a boy, he attended primary school at the Cristo Rey village school but never got the opportunity to get a high school education due to financial constraints. Therefore after primary school, Matt along with his brother Jesus entered into the field of work. He first started at 'Tabacal' San Miguel Farm, near Esperanza Village. They later moved to Mountain Pine Ridge with the late Robert Belote's Minter Naval Stores where he worked as a pine resin extractor after which he moved to the northern village of Guinea Grass in the Orange Walk District where he labored as a cane cutter.*

*In 1976, at the Blue Angels Night Club in San Ignacio Town, love struck him. It was at this famous night club where he got brave and asked his now wife, Dora out. Around that same time, he started working*

*in line clearance for the electricity company. As the years went by and electricity services advanced, so did Matt. He began moving up the ladder from line clearance, to pole planting, to apprentice linesman 1 then 2, to line supervisor and to line supervisor for the West Zone.*

*Mateo dedicated his life to the electricity company. With every power failure Mateo was out the door on the way to investigate the cause and to restore power as soon as possible. Rain or shine, holidays or weekends, Matt was always there.*

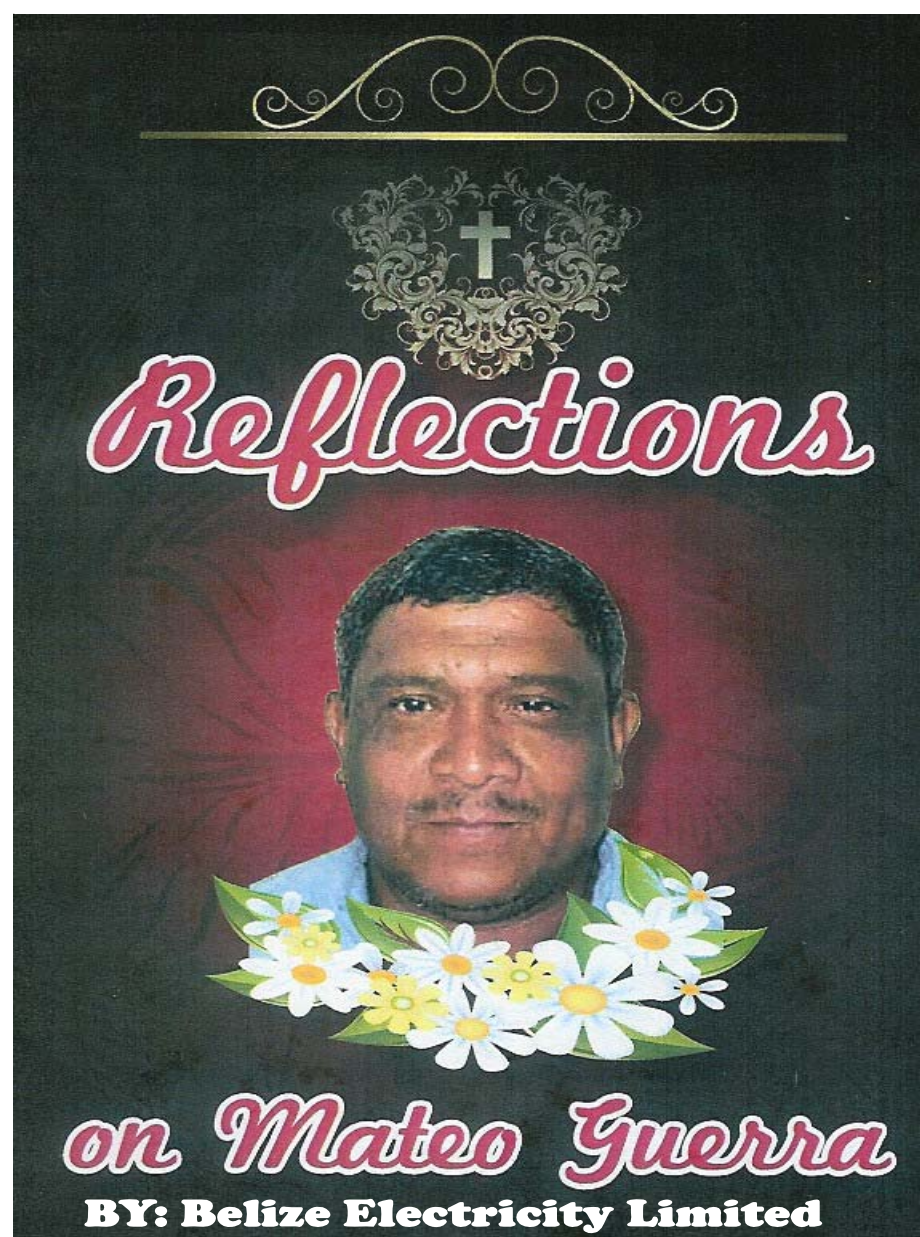
*On the weekends, he enjoyed his farm along with his boys and his father. He showed his boys the art of castrating, butchering, ham making and even roping the cows despite he had to throw several shots in the coral because he always missed. The fun memories of Matt and his dogs Suelly and Rex, Suelly surprised him with 5 puppies last year on his birthday.*

*His real enjoyment was his 3 grandchildren: Tamarie, Tyler and more recently baby Brandi. He spent time after work relaxing, watching cartoons with his grandkids. He enjoyed going to the farm, river and fishing. He had an amazing relationship with his little brother, Doyo. Despite the fact that Mateo never had a high school education, he pushed to ensure his kids did. Most of his kids have excelled beyond the college level. Guys continue to make your daddy proud.*

*Mateo along with his wife Dora had a blessed marriage. They both enjoyed dancing the marimba, cobias and hitting a little cervecita and even a little vodka together. Their marriage produced five children: Rene, Alfred, Arleni, Michelle and Carlo.*

*On June 28<sup>th</sup> 2009, while seeing his son, Rene, off at the airport on his return to the University in Costa Rica, Matt started to feel ill. He was admitted to La Loma Luz Hospital then later to Belize Healthcare Partners. On Monday 13<sup>th</sup> of July at 10:00 p.m., he passed away quietly inside the Intensive Care Unit at the hospital.*

*Mateo is predeceased by his*



*mother Eloisa and one sister Angela. He is survived by his wife Dora, children (three sons and 2 daughters): Rene, Alfred, Arleni, Michelle and Carlo, daughters-in-law: Lily Tzul and Phylisa Bennett, sons-in-law: Danny Tejeda and Greg Canto, 3 grandchildren: Tamarie, Tyler and Brandi. He is also survived by his father Mateo Sr., brothers: Eleodoro, Jesus, Gilberto, Carlos, Eduvijes, and sisters: Eloisa and Olivia. Rest in peace Matt; Rest in peace.*

On the professional side, the guys at Belize Electricity Limited (BEL) knew him best and so they prepared the following reflections on the life a dearly departed colleague. It reads as follows:

*On Monday, July 13, 2009 Belize Electricity Limited (BEL) lost one of its employees, Mateo Guerra. He passed away ten days after being admitted to the Belize Healthcare Partners Limited. At the time of his passing, Mateo was employed as a Line Supervisor at the Company's San Ignacio Branch.*

*At the inception of his career, that is on March 1, 1978, Matt, as he was affectionately called, commenced working as a General Assistant with Belize Electricity Board, now Belize Electricity Limited.*

*During his employment with*

*BEL (thirty-one long years), he attended numerous in-house training sponsored by BEL, including the Merchant NRECA "Power Line Job Training and Safety Program", for which he received a Certificate of Achievement – Level 1, and the Lineman Live Line Training. Matt worked mainly in the Transmission & Distribution Department in various capacities.*

*During his tenure with BEL, Matt proved to be a capable, versatile, and willing employee and he worked his way up the career ladder from an entry-level position to Line Supervisor, the post he held until his untimely death.*

*Matt was a hard working, diligent and conscientious employee who loved his work. He knew that his work was demanding and he met those challenges well as can be attested by his many colleagues and peers. He never shrunk from responsibilities but took them in strides. He was a great team player who could be relied on whenever his assistance was needed whether during or after normal working hours. Matt was usually knowledgeable and resourceful. He always tried to maintain a positive work environment for those working under his charge.*



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