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STAR

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No. 418

Sunday, October 19, 2014

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Seeing Prison Walls This Christmas

SANIGNACIO, Cayo, Tuesday, October 14, 2014:

Two men, remanded to prison on a joint murder charge, will be returning to court on Tuesday, December 30.

Charged with the murder of **Kevin Andrew Taylor**, two Belizean laborers, **Tyron Rushford** (also known as **Tyron Gongora**) 32, from Blackman Eddy Village and **Brian Bell**, 25, from Unitedville Village, appeared in the San Ignacio courtroom of magistrate **Narda Morgan** on Tuesday,



Brian Bell, 25

October 14.



Tyron Rushford, 32

The charge against Rushford and Bell stems from an incident

which occurred at around 10:30 on the night of Friday, October 10, in a vacant lot near a shop in the village of Unitedville. The injured victim was rushed to the Western Regional Hospital in Belmopan by a female villager who lives near the crime scene. The victim, with stab wounds to the left side of the chest, lower portion of the back and left hand, was officially pronounced dead at 10:45 by the medical officer on duty at the hospital in Belmopan.

Gone To Jail On A Sex Charge

SANIGNACIO TOWN, Cayo, Tuesday, October 14, 2014:

A 19 year old man from Santa Familia village was sent to jail on an unlawful carnal knowledge charge.

Accompanied by her mother, a 12 year old girl reported to police that on September 29, the accused **Adrian Tun**, 19, a Belizean laborer from Santa Familia Village had sexual intercourse with her. The legally required medical examination confirmed that the child had been carnally known.

The investigation revealed that on September 28, the child was left in the care of a neighbor as the mother departed on a five day emergency trip to El Salvador. The mother had only gone for a day when it is alleged that the neighbors'



Adrian Tun, 19

19 year old son had sexual relations with the girl.

The accused appeared in court on Tuesday, October 14, 2014, where he pled not guilty and was remanded to prison.

The case was adjourned to Thursday, December 4, 2014.

Tricks or Treats

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DANNY HUNG PHOTOGRAPHY

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Allowing The Minority To Have Its Way

Success in politics is all about the mass participation of voters in the electoral process. Conventions are conducted to allow as many supporters as possible a first opportunity to elect the candidates they want to represent them in the ensuing round of elections.

Restricting the number of persons voting in a convention to a select very few is grossly unfair and disrespectful to voters and candidates alike as it presents obvious questions such as: Who selects the few voters that will make the decision for the masses? Are these special voters selected to favor one candidate over another? Were all candidates, or just the chosen ones, made aware of these special voters so as to afford them the opportunity to seek their support weeks before the convention? How do you allow less than two percent of the

voters in a constituency to make such an important decision for the majority?

This action is a blatant violation of life's basic principle of "*The minority can have their say but the majority will have its way*". In this case, "*The majority can have its say but a select minority will have its way.*"

In the San Ignacio/Santa Elena scenario, the opposition Peoples United Party allowed only 1.5% of the voting population to elect their municipal slate while the United Democratic Party polled over 25% of the electorate to elect the party's candidates.

In the Benque Viejo Town scenario, the opposition Peoples United Party selected a measly 2% of Benque voters to elect its slate as opposed to the United Democratic Party which last week attracted over 23% of the voters in Benque to vote for the candidates of their choice.

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Applications will be accepted to end October 24th, 2014 and you can send or drop off your cover application letter and resume to:

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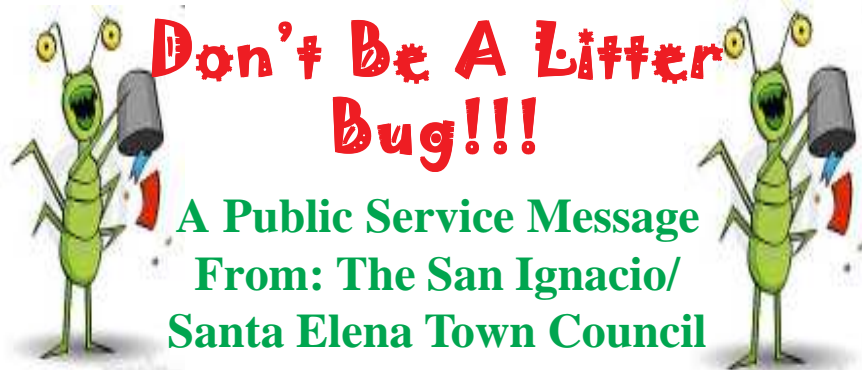
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Five Belizeans Honoured

Belmopan, October 15, 2014: Five distinguished Belizeans were honoured for their dedicated and outstanding services to their community. The presentations took place today at the Belize House in the City of Belmopan. The insignias were presented by



the Governor General of Belize H.E. Sir Colville Young on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen.

Receiving the insignia for Commander of the British Empire Award was **Dr. Ellsworth Grant**, for his contribution to Medicine. **Mr. Patrick Andrews** and **Mr. Stephen Duncan** received the insignia as Members of the British Empire for their contribution to Community and Banking. **Mrs. Crystal Vernon** received the insignia as Member of the British Empire for her contributions to Community Service; and **Mr. Francisco Woods** received the insignia as Member of the British Empire for his contributions to Community and Business.

Mennonite Family Morns Loss Of Child

BELMOPAN, Cayo, Monday, October 13, 2014: A freak accident in the Mennonite community of Spanish Lookout resulted in the death of a six year old boy. In a statement to the police, the child's father, **Walter Penner**, 35, naturalized Belizean laborer from Spanish Lookout, informed that at around 4:00 pm on Monday, October 13, accompanied by his four sons, ages 10, 9, 7 and 6, he was delivering a load of corn to Central Grain Dryers in Spanish Lookout. Penner told the police that he parked the tow head truck and trailer, as instructed, over

the storage pit. Leaving his four sons inside the truck, Penner exited the truck was in the process of opening the discharge outlets located under the trailer. He said that just as he was about to open the eighth outlet, he heard his son's cry and saw, among the corn, the exposed leg of

a child. With assistance from one of the workers the child was promptly taken out of the pit. According to Penner the child was still breathing when he was placed in the ambulance and rushed to the Western Regional Hospital in Belmopan where he was pronounced dead by **Dr. Chen**, the medical officer on duty at the time.

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*Two Reference.

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CSKC Invitational Anniversary Karate Championships

The Cayo Shotokan Karate Club (CSKC) celebrated its 24th Anniversary in a grand fashion on Saturday, 27th September, by hosting an International karate championship, where 60 athletes competed to represent their clubs and countries. For the entire event the auditorium at Sacred Heart College was filled with constant roars from

karate enthusiast and spectators. Still in the September patriotic mode our young athletes fought their hearts out to protect their home turf Belize, literally with blood, sweat and tears.

The clubs who participated were Kazoku Shotokan Karate Dojo of San Ignacio, Cayo Shotokan Karate Club-Belmopan, Poptun Shotokan Karate Club-Guatemala, El Salvador,

and host, Cayo Shotokan Karate Club-San Ignacio. At the end CSKC-Belmopan overwhelmingly won the championship by winning 11 golds, 12 silver and 16 bronze medals. Second Place was CSKC-San Ignacio with 6 gold, 4 silver, 2 bronze medals. Third place was Guatemala with 3 gold, 3 silver and 1 bronze medal.

Also present as invited guest, was **Sensei Oswalds Mata**, President of the Central American Karate Confederation (CCONDEKA) and Secretary General of the Central

American and Caribbean Karate Confederation (CCCK). **Sensei Mata** also did an inspection of venues, since Belize is task to host the Central American Karate Championships in February 2015.

Our greatest appreciation goes out to our sponsors Quality Poultry Ltd, Spanish Lookout Pharmacy, Midwest Steel, Sirrom Gas, Asha's Beauty Salon- San Ignacio, and Cahal Pech Village Resort.

**By: Herman Pastor Jr
President BKF**

People's Coalition Of Cayo

On 8th October, 2014, the Peoples' Coalition of Cayo (PCC) held its Annual General Meeting at the San Ignacio police station.

The out-going president, **Julian Sherrard** thanked the members for all of their work and he reminded them of some of their accomplishments of the past 12 months -

POLICE STATION IMPROVEMENTS

–Upgraded the video/audio camera (*Advanced Security & Equipment Ltd (ASE)*) - installed 2 a/c's (*BECOL*) – installed two doors

(*Cayo Neighbourhood Watch Association (CNWA)*) – new stand-by generator (*US Embassy*) - electric hand-dryer (*Benny's / Orange Gallery*) - new glass door at main entrance (*Peter's Glass Shop*) – installed “**Vicious Trace Call Phone System**” to trace prank and vicious phone calls (*SMART*) – flood lights outside main entrance (*Greg Shropshire*) – roofing material for eating area and generator shed (*Mary Loan*) – fitted food serving slots in jail doors (*Richard Zul*) –cleaned out the

septic tank blockages (*Julian Sherrard*) – new floor tiles (*Builder's Hardware*).

DONATIONS

–Dash cams installed in two vehicles (*US Embassy / ASE*) – paint for graffiti-removal project (*PCC members*) – two digital cameras (*Howard Holdham & CNWA*) – embroidery machine for sewing officer's names on shirts (*Police Eastern Division*).

ARRANGED PRESENTATIONS - The Director of Public Prosecutions (*DPP*) on 13th November 2013 and

Inspector Augustine of Jasmin Alert on 9th April 2014.

Elections then took place and a new board was installed: Chair – **Eduardo (Dito) Juan**; Vice-Chair – **Sherry Gibbs**; Secretary (*to be confirmed*); Treasurer – **Mary Loan**.

The PCC exists to advise, criticise and support the San Ignacio Police Formation and meets every second Wednesday of each month at the San Ignacio Police Station at 7pm. New members are always welcome and more information can be obtained from **Eduardo (Dito) Juan (662-5218)**, **Sherry Gibbs (664-1220)**, or **Julian Sherrard (625-1770)**.



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Rotary's Toilet Block Projects

Our motto for the Rotary Club of San Ignacio is 'Educating our Youth', and to that end we have concentrated on improving the sanitation and health of our schools in Cayo District as one of our major project.

Rotary Club of San Ignacio and our friends in Rotary Club of Reno Centennial Sunset wrote a Rotary Grant to help build a free standing Toilet Block for the Hills of Promise SDA school in Benque Viejo del Carmen.

This was made possible with the contribution from both Rotary Clubs, Rotary District 5190, Rotary District 4250 and the matching funds from Rotary International

This is 7th Toilet Block that Rotary Club of San Ignacio has built in Cayo, using the plans approved by the Ministry of Education and UNICEF. We use a local contractor who has become an expert in building these toilet blocks, always within the budget.

Hills of promise have population of about 600, consisting of students, teachers and staff. Total impact of



Hills of Promise Toilet Block

this facility will affect over 2400 peoples in the community.

This toilet block will have 4 toilets

and urinal for the boys, 5 toilets for the girls, and 2 toilets for the teachers. Teacher's toilets are large

enough for wheelchair access.

Last step of the project is the painting of the toilet block. Members of Rotary Club of San Ignacio and Rotary Club of Reno (Nevada, USA) and the staff of the school will paint the Toilet Block with the school colors.

The ceremony to turn over the toilet block to Hills of Promise is planned for October 17, 2014, with the members from Rotary Club of Reno and Rotary Club of San Ignacio present.

Rotary Club of San Ignacio has been approved for another grant for 3 new toilet blocks, with our friends in Rotary clubs in Alaska! One for St Ignatius High School, in Santa Elena, New Hope Government School in Duck Run I and Howard Smith Primary School in Benque Viejo del Carmen. We will start working on these projects after the rainy season end.



NOTICE

Dear Readers
& Contributors:

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We thank you
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Company: Belize Water Services Limited
Invitation for Bids (IFB)



Country: Belize

Project: Belmopan Sewer Expansion phase 1.2
NCB No: BWSL/1.2.7/NCB/2014/002

1. The *Government of Belize* has received a grant from the *Inter-American Development Bank* toward the cost of *Belmopan Sewer Expansion Project Phase 1*, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this *grant* to payments under the Contract for the *works listed below but not limited to*:

Upgrade of Wastewater Treatment Plant located in Belmopan:

- Construct Anaerobic Pond and
- Install Ultraviolet System as Tertiary wastewater treatment

2. The *Belize Water Services Limited* now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders to upgrade wastewater treatment plant located in Belmopan. The delivery/construction period is for six months from January to June 2015.

3. Bidding will be conducted through the *National Competitive Bidding (NCB)* procedures specified in the *Inter-American Development Bank's Policies for the Procurement of Goods and Works financed by the Inter-American Development Bank*, and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Bidding Documents.

4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from:

Mr. Trevor Garcia, Project Engineer
Belize Water Services
7 Central American Blvd.
First Floor, Room Number 208, Engineering
Belize City
Belize, C. A.
Email: IWSPPP.PMU@bwsll.com.bz

and inspect the Bidding Documents at the same address given above from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents in *English* may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written Application to the address below and upon payment of a non refundable fee of *BZ\$100.00*. The method of payment shall be cash.

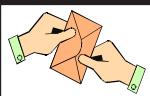
6. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before *10:00 am, November 17, 2014*. Electronic bidding shall not be permitted. Late bids will be **rejected**. Bids will be opened physically in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person or on-line at the address below at *10:00 am on November 17, 2014*.

7. All bids marked, **BID TO UPGRADE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT LOCATED IN BELMOPAN**, shall be accompanied by a *Bid Security as specified in the bidding document and must be delivered to the address below at 10:00 am local time on Monday, November 17, 2014*.

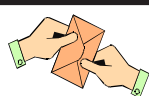
8. The address referred to above is:

Attention: Mr. Trevor Garcia, Project Engineer
Belize Water Services
7 Central American Blvd.
First Floor, Room Number 208, Engineering
Belize City
Belize, C. A.





Readers Write



What It Means To Be A Christian

Contributed By: Janice Swift

Luke 14:33 - *"Whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be My disciple."*

Three times over in this chapter, our Lord says these solemn words: *"he cannot be My disciple."* There are three conditions of discipleship. First, we must be prepared to put first things first; second, we must be willing to suffer daily crucifixion; third, we must be detached from all things, because attached to Christ. The conditions seem severe, but they must be fulfilled, if we would enter Christ's School.

Disciple stands for learner. Our Lord is prepared to teach us the mysteries of the Kingdom of God; but it is useless to enter His class unless we have resolved to do as He says. Put first things first. When our Lord uses the word hate, He clearly means that the love we are to have for Him is to be so much greater, that comparatively our natural affection will be as if it were hate. No one could have loved His Mother more than our Lord did. In His dying agony His special thought and care was for her, but on three different occasions He put her aside. We are

sometimes called to put aside those who are nearest and dearest, if their demands conflict with the claims of Christ.

The daily cross. In each of us there is the self-principle, and for each of us there is a perpetual necessity to deny self. Some talk about bearing the cross in a glib fashion, but its true meaning is shame, suffering, and sorrow, which no one realizes but God, and which perhaps strikes deeper down into the roots of our being as we grow older. There is an opportunity in your life, in respect to some person or circumstance, for an ever-deepening appreciation of union with Christ in His death, and for which you must be daily prepared to surrender your own way and will.

Renunciation. It may be necessary to surrender all we have for Christ, or it may be that He will ask us to hold all as a steward or trustee for Himself and others. No one can lay down the rule for another. The main point to decide is this: *"Am I willing to do what Christ wants me to do; to yield my will for Him to mould it, and my life for Him to work through it?"* If so, all else will adjust itself.

Honoring Our Parents Always

BIBLE MEDITATION:

"Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee." Exodus 20:12

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT:

Whether you are young or old, you can honor your parents. How? By showing respect. Leviticus 19:3 says, *"Ye shall fear every man his mother, and his father, and keep my Sabbaths: I am the LORD your God."* Now that word *"fear"* doesn't mean to quake in the presence of your parents. That is, you are to have a holy respect for your father and your mother.

You may say, *"But my parents are not worthy of respect."* With all due respect, you aren't either. None of us are worthy. Only perfect children can demand perfect parents, and no children are perfect. Our parents are imperfect. We are imperfect. But God is holy, and He says that we are to respect our parents.

ACTION POINT:

What's your relationship like with your parents? If you've been showing less than the type of biblical respect God requires, then begin today to turn that around for His glory!

Contributed by: Janice Swift

Leading Your Kids Through Their Fears

By: Lysa Terkeurst

Contributed by: Janice Swift

"Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

John 8:32 (NIV)

Tears. Wailing. Screaming. A full-blown meltdown.

When my youngest daughter, **Brooke**, was a baby this was often my reality when I tried to run errands with her. I can remember just trying to get to one more place, knowing we should have been home an hour earlier for her nap. But also knowing there were things that had to get done, I pressed on, hoping for the best.

Brooke, on the other hand, wanted to get out of that car, and she made sure everybody knew it. Whines quickly turned to screams.

My touch has always comforted Brooke. And while I couldn't do much to comfort her while driving, I would often reach my arm into the backseat and gently pat her leg. It took a few minutes, but eventually she'd settle down and reach her tiny hand out to hold mine.

When Brooke was older but still a young girl, she had a performance with her praise dance team from school. I couldn't wait to see Brooke perform these dances she'd been working on and talking about for weeks. But just a few minutes before the performance was about to begin, a very distraught Brooke made her way to the audience to find me.

With tears streaming down her cheeks, she explained that the teacher had moved her from the front row to the back row, and she didn't know the back row's part. I whispered, *"Honey, just watch the other girls for cues and follow in step. You know this dance, Brooke. You'll be fine."*

She sobbed back, *"I won't be fine if I mess up. And I know I'm going to mess up."*

That's when it occurred to me. She would need my touch to get through this fear.

But we both knew it wouldn't be possible for my arm to reach all the way up to the stage.

So I quickly whispered, *"Brooke, lock your eyes with mine, and I'll touch you with my smile. Don't look at anyone or anything else. It doesn't matter if you mess up. What matters is that you keep your eyes on me the whole time. We'll do this together."*

Quietly she asked, *"The whole time, Mommy?"*

"The whole time, Brooke," I replied as I watched my brave girl walk away to take her place in line.

Several times during the dance, Brooke fell out of step. She knew her steps weren't perfect, so her eyes brimmed with tears. But the tears never fell. With her eyes perfectly locked on my smiling face, she danced.

I smiled when her steps were right on track. I smiled when they weren't.

My smile was not based on her performance. My smile was born out of an incredible love for this precious, courageous little girl.

As she kept her attention focused solely on my smile and the touch of my gaze, it was as if the world slowly faded away and we were the only ones in the room.

This is the way God wants me to dance through life.

Though I can't physically see Him, my soul pictures Him so clearly. In my mind's eye He is there. The touch of His gaze wraps about me, comforts me, assures me, and makes the world seem strangely dim.

As long as my gaze is locked on His, I dance and He smiles.

The fear and anxiety go away. The snickers and jeers of others fade into the distance. And even my own stumbling doesn't cause the same feelings of defeat.

My steps so often betray the desire of my heart, but it is not my perfect performance that captures His attention. Rather, it is my complete dependence on Him that He notices.

He then whispers, *"Hold on to Me and what I say about you. For My words are the truth of who you are and the essence of what you were created to be."*

I imagine Him pausing and, with tears in His eyes and a crack in His voice, He adds, *"Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free"* (John 8:32).

His truth frees you from the chains of fear, doubt and despair. His truth frees me from feeling unable and inadequate. His truth washes over me as I whisper, *"I want to be a woman who says yes to God."*

And in that moment, with my eyes locked on His, I am.

Dear Lord, I want to hold onto You and what You say about me. Continue to show me Your truth today as I pursue You above all else. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

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*You never know how strong you
are until being strong is the
only choice you have.*

-Bob Marley

Belize and Guatemala Hold Successful Meeting of the Joint Commission in Guatemala

Belmopan. October 14, 2014:

The Belize-Guatemala Joint Commission met on 10 October 2014 in Guatemala City to discuss security concerns, including the recent incidents in the Caracol Archeological Reserve and reached 12 conclusions aimed at improving their effectiveness at combating illegal activities and transnational crime. Both sides held frank and open discussions on all security concerns and agreed to expand and strengthen cooperation.

The Belize delegation was headed by CEO in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs **H.E. Alexis Rosado**, and included **Sen. Lisa Shoman**, Representative for the Leader of the Opposition; **Gen. David Jones**, Commander of the Belize Defense Force; **ACPRussell Blackett** as Acting Commissioner of Police and Superintendent **Marco Vidal**, Head of Special Branch.

Each security agency had an opportunity to meet directly with their Guatemalan counterparts and agreed on a way forward for direct collaboration in respect of all security concerns, including coordinated operations among security agencies to combat illegal activities and transnational crime.

In this respect, Guatemala reaffirmed its willingness to cooperate and assist in the investigation of the most recent incidents.

The conclusions reached at the meeting of the Joint Commission were endorsed by CEO Alexis Rosado; **H.E. Carlos Raul Morales**, Foreign Minister of Guatemala; and witnessed by **H.E. Raul Lago**, Special Representative of the Secretary General of the Organization of American States.

The Belize-Guatemala Joint Commission, with the participation of the General Secretariat of the OAS, met to comply with Articles 17 and 20, paragraph I, of Section D of the Agreement on a Framework for Negotiations and Confidence-Building Measures between Belize and Guatemala dated September 7, 2005, as well as with the Roadmap signed on January 24, 2014, which provides for the expansion and strengthening of cooperation mechanisms, including coordinated operations among security agencies to combat illegal activities and transnational crime.

Agreed as follows:

1. Improve existing patrols and include joint coordinated military

patrols.

2. Establish intelligence sharing mechanisms among the various security agencies.

3. Hold joint and periodic cross-sectorial meeting to address security issues.

4. In view of the success of the development projects in Monte de los Olivos, foster and promote similar projects in other communities.

5. Conduct joint visits to neighboring communities in Belize and Guatemala to convey the commitment of both parties to improve the quality of life and community safety and to strengthen the friendly relations between neighboring towns as well as to protect the environment.

6. Identify mechanisms for direct contact among the various agencies and military forces in order to establish direct, free-flowing and ongoing communications to coordinate preventative measures, as well as rapid and effective responses in situations as necessary.

7. Belize and Guatemala pledge to improve cooperation in the areas of security, environmental protection and natural resources.

8. Guatemala reaffirmed its offer of cooperation to assist in the

investigation of the most recent incidents.

9. Both parties pledged to keep all sectors of society, especially the media, informed in order to convey to their respective citizens the importance of strengthening bilateral relations and to clearly communicate the positive aspects of the bilateral relationship.

10. Both parties reiterated their previous commitment to prudently address issues related to bilateral relations in respect of public statements and official communications in accordance with Annex C of the Agreement on a Framework for Negotiations and Confidence-Building Measures between Belize and Guatemala.

11. The representatives of the various agencies shall meet as soon as possible in order to identify and establish joint procedural protocols to promote better cooperation.

12. The OAS will facilitate and support the implementation of these activities and will seek to identify the funds needed to carry them out.

Signed in Guatemala City, on October 10, 2014

For Guatemala: **Carlos Raul Morales**, Minister of Foreign Affairs

For Belize: **Alexis Rosado**, CEO

For the OAS as Witness: **Raul Lago**, Special Representative of the OAS SG



HALLOWEEN PARTY

Friday October 31



Come one, come all, to the Greatest Halloween Party at D Catch!!

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PLEASE APPLY IN PERSON, WITH TWO RECENT LETTERS OFREFERENCE, AT THE SAN IGNACIO RESORT HOTEL BEFORE October 22, 2014.

★ STAR HUMOR ★

Never Satisfied

Two friends met in the street. One looked sad and almost on the verge of tears. The other man said, *"Hey my friend, how come you look like the whole world has caved in?"*

The sad fellow said, *"Let me tell you. Three weeks ago, an uncle died and left me 50-thousand dollars."*

"That's not bad at all..."

"Hold on, I'm just getting

started. Two weeks ago, a cousin I never knew kicked-the-bucket and left me 95-thousand, tax-free to boot."

"Well, that's great! I'd like that."

"Last week, my grandfather passed away. I inherited almost a million."

"So why are so glum?"

"This week - nothing!"

The End Is Near

Farmers Fred and Luke were fishing on the side of the road. They made a sign saying *"The End is Near! Turn yourself around now before it's too late!"* and showed it to each passing car.

One driver that passed didn't appreciate the sign and shouted,

"Leave us alone you religious nuts!"

All of a sudden they heard a big splash.

Fred grinned at Luke. *"Do you think we should just put up a sign that says: 'Bridge Out' instead?"*

Penny For Your Thoughts

After tucking their three-year-old child Sammy in for bed one night, his parents heard sobbing coming from his room.

Rushing back in, they found him crying hysterically. He managed to tell them that he had swallowed a penny and he was sure he was going to die. No amount of talking

was helping.

His father, in an attempt to calm him down, palmed a penny from his pocket and pretended to pull it from Sammy's ear. Sammy was delighted.

In a flash, he snatched it from his father's hand, swallowed, and then cheerfully demanded, *"Do it again, Dad!"*

Rest Stop Joke

I was coming back from visiting my son in my Miami and I stopped at a rest stop to use the bathroom. I just sat down on the toilet when I heard a voice coming from the stall next to mine, *"Hey! How's it going?"*

Although I was quite surprised, and I wasn't in the habit of conversing to the people next to me in the stall, I nevertheless answered him, *"I'm fine"* I said *"thanks for asking."*

A Joke Backfires

A preacher, who shall we say was *"humor impaired,"* attended a conference to help encourage and better equip pastors for their ministry. Among the speakers were many well known and dynamic speakers.

One such boldly approached the pulpit and, gathering the entire crowd's attention, said, *"The best years of my life were spent in the arms of a woman that wasn't my wife!"*

The crowd was shocked! He followed up by saying, *"And that woman was my mother!"* - The crowd burst into laughter and delivered the rest of his talk, which went over quite well.

"What are you doing?" Asked the same voice.

To be honest I was a bit taken aback by the brazenness of this fellow, but I would never ignore anyone so I calmly answered, *"I'm relieving myself."*

Then I heard the same voice again, *"I'm going to have to call you back, some smart-aleck is answering all of my questions."*

The next week, the pastor decided he'd give this humor thing a try, and use that joke in his sermon. As he surely approached the pulpit that sunny Sunday, he tried to rehearse the joke in his head. It suddenly seemed a bit foggy to him.

Getting to the microphone he said loudly, *"The greatest years of my life were spent in the arms of another woman that was not my wife!"*

The congregation inhaled half the air in the room. After standing there for almost 10 seconds in the stunned silence, trying to recall the second half of the joke, the pastor finally blurted out, *"...and I can't remember who she was!"*

Locked Out

Two Washington politicians had locked themselves out of their car, and unfortunately some important papers they needed for a meeting were inside. *"Let's use a coat hanger to pull up the lock,"* suggested the first.

"Oh, no," argued the second. *"Someone might see us and think we were trying to break in."*

"Then we could use my

pocketknife to cut away the rubber around the window and stick our fingers through to pull up the lock."

"No, no! People would think we're too stupid to know how to use a coat hanger to open cars."

"Well, we'd better do something fast. The top's down and it's starting to rain."

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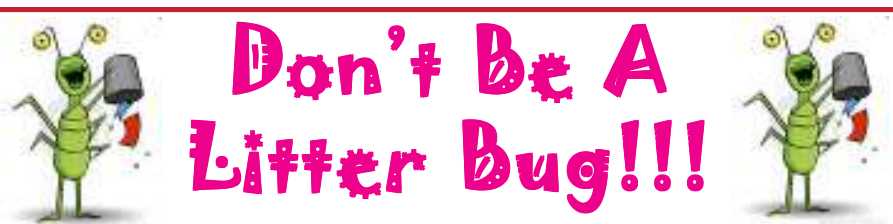
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Prime Minister Dean Barrow Signs \$67.5 Million Agreement with European Union

Belmopan. October 15, 2014:

Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, **Hon. Dean Barrow** has signed a 27 million Euro/ BZ\$67.5 million National Indicative Programme (NIP) for the period 2014 to 2020 with the European Commission designed to advance the activities of

European Commission Proposes the Lifting of Ban on Importation of Belize Fisheries Products into the European Union

Belmopan. October 16, 2014:

The European Commission has announced that it has proposed to the EU Council of Ministers that Belize be removed from the list of 'non-cooperating third countries' in the international fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. This decision was taken after Belize demonstrated that it had addressed its structural problems and showed its real commitment to tackling illegal fishing. The Commission notes that since Belize was identified as a 'non-cooperating third country' in March 2014, it has reformed its legal framework and has adopted a new set of rules for inspection, control and monitoring of vessels.

In particular, the Commission took into account the following measures adopted by Belize to strengthen the management regime for its high seas fishing fleet:

- (a) Enactment of a new High Seas Fishing Act;
- (b) Adoption of revised Regulations for the licensing, sanctioning, monitoring and surveillance of its high seas fishing fleet.
- (c) Adoption of a National Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing;
- (d) Implementation of a National Observer Program for its high seas fishing fleet;
- (e) Upgrade of its satellite based vessel monitoring system and the adoption of a new electronic catch reporting system;

The EU Council of Ministers is expected to meet on the 23 - 24 October, 2014 to consider the recommendations of the European Commission. After the Commission's recommendation is formally adopted by the

the Government of Belize in alleviating rural poverty in Belize.

Signing on behalf of the European Commission was the Commissioner for Development, Andris Piebalgs.

The Prime Minister indicated at the signing held in Washington,

D.C on Friday October 10th that this agreement funded under the European Development Fund (EDF II) is a signal of confidence by the European Union in the Government of Belize with respect to its development agenda.

Belizeans will benefit from the

The Prime Minister **Hon. Dean Barrow** has welcomed the decision of the European Commission and has reaffirmed his commitment to continue to take all necessary measures to eradicate the scourge of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

EDF 11 National Indicative Programme in the sectors of Energy and Health.

The Energy programme is aimed at the provision of energy and supporting services in rural areas. The Health programme is designed for improving the organization and management of the health services and the development of disaster resilient health infrastructure.

The signing of the NIP represents the long standing relationship between Belize and the European Union in Development Cooperation. This allocation of BZ\$67.5 million is doubled the amount of the previous EDF 10 Programme, and will continue to significantly contribute to the alleviation of rural poverty in Belize.



Professional Gardeners' Program

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 natalie@belizebotanic.org, www.belizebotanic.org
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European union

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Group 9 begins October 13th and will run until December 19th, 2014

All encouraged to apply

Classes include academic and practical work outdoors and run from Monday to Friday, 7 am to 4 pm.

APPLY NOW!! LIMITED SPACE.

Contact the office at BBG (Belize Botanic Gardens): Tel: 834-4800 or 824-3101 or email us at natalie@belizebotanic.org or shayla@belizebotanic.org to set up an interview on July 30th at the San Ignacio Library.



Calendar of Free Workshops to be held at Belize Botanic Gardens

Floral Workshop

9 am-2pm (shuttle to BBG leaves from Macal River Park by 8:30am)

- September 27th, 2014 (intro to floral arrangement)

Bird/ Plant Identification Course

7am-4pm (shuttle leaves from Cayo Welcome Centre at 6am)

- August 11th -15th
- September 15-19th
- October 6th-10th

For workshops, bring your own lunch or purchase lunch at du Plooy's Restaurant
 Call or email BBG for information on upcoming workshops.

Shingles

Shingles is a viral infection that causes a painful rash. Although shingles can occur anywhere on your body, it most often appears as a single stripe of blisters that wraps around either the left or the right side of your torso.

Shingles is caused by the varicella-zoster virus — the same virus that causes chickenpox. After you've had chickenpox, the virus lies inactive in nerve tissue near your spinal cord and brain. Years later, the virus may reactivate as shingles.

While it isn't a life-threatening condition, shingles can be very painful. Vaccines can help reduce the risk of shingles, while early treatment can help shorten a shingles infection and lessen the chance of complications.

Symptoms

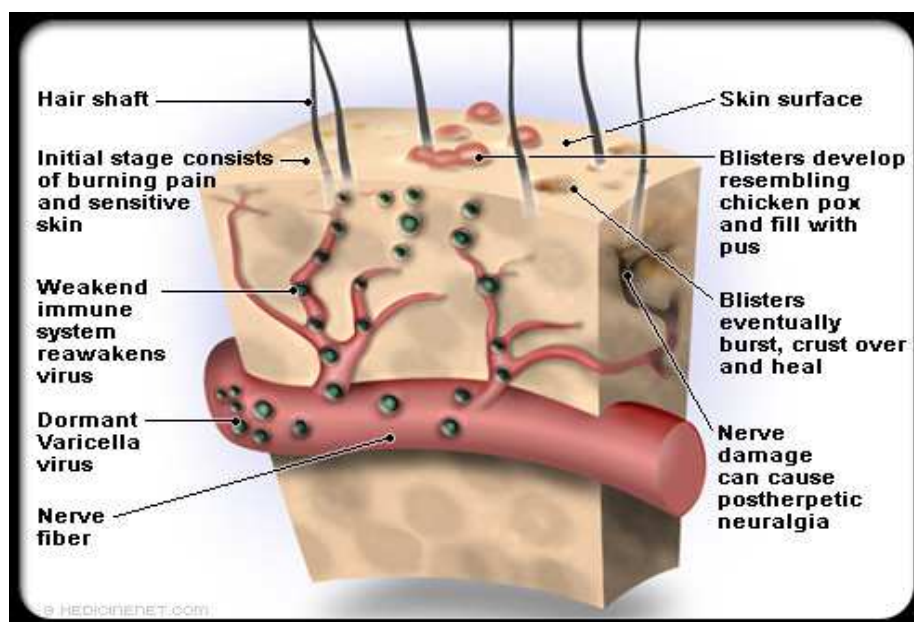
The signs and symptoms of shingles usually affect only a small section of one side of your body. These signs and symptoms may include:

- * Pain, burning, numbness or tingling
- * A red rash that begins a few days after the pain
- * Fluid-filled blisters that break open and crust over
- * Itching

Some people also experience:

- * Fever and chills
- * General achiness
- * Headache
- * Fatigue

Pain is usually the first symptom of shingles. For some, it can be



intense. Depending on the location of the pain, it can sometimes be mistaken for a symptom of problems affecting the heart, lungs or kidneys. Some people experience shingles pain without ever developing the rash.

Most commonly, the shingles rash develops as a stripe of blisters that wraps around either the left or right side of your torso. Sometimes the shingles rash occurs around one eye or on one side of the neck or face.

When to see a doctor

Contact your doctor promptly if you suspect shingles, but especially in the following situations:

- * The pain and rash occur near an eye. If left untreated, this infection can lead to permanent eye damage.
- * You're 65 or older, which increases your risk of complications.
- * You or someone in your family has a weakened immune system (*due to cancer, medications or chronic illness*).

trigger shingles.

* **Medications** - Drugs designed to prevent rejection of transplanted organs can increase your risk of shingles — as can prolonged use of steroids, such as prednisone.

Prevention

Two vaccines may help prevent shingles — the chickenpox (*varicella*) vaccine and the shingles (*varicella-zoster*) vaccine.

Chickenpox vaccine

The varicella vaccine (*Varivax*) has become a routine childhood immunization to prevent chickenpox. The vaccine is also recommended for adults who've never had chickenpox. Though the vaccine doesn't guarantee you won't get chickenpox or shingles, it can reduce your chances of complications and reduce the severity of the disease.

Shingles vaccine

The Food and Drug Administration has approved the use of the varicella-zoster vaccine (*Zostavax*) for adults age 50 and older. Like the chickenpox vaccine, the shingles vaccine doesn't guarantee you won't get shingles. But this vaccine will likely reduce the course and severity of the disease and reduce your risk of postherpetic neuralgia.

The shingles vaccine is used only as a prevention strategy, however. It's not intended to treat people who currently have the disease. The vaccine contains live virus and should not be given to people who have weakened immune systems.

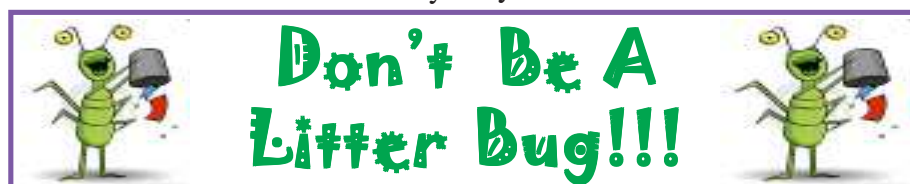
* The rash is widespread and painful.

Risk Factors

Anyone who has ever had chickenpox can develop shingles. Most adults in the United States had chickenpox when they were children, before the advent of the routine childhood vaccination that now protects against chickenpox.

Factors that may increase your risk of developing shingles include:

- * **Age** - Shingles is most common in people older than 50. The risk increases with age. Some experts estimate that half the people who live to the age of 85 will experience shingles at some point in their lives.
- * **Diseases** - Diseases that weaken your immune system, such as HIV/AIDS and cancer, can increase your risk of shingles.
- * **Cancer treatments** - Undergoing radiation or chemotherapy can lower your resistance to diseases and may



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Social Investment Fund provides easier access for 200 students from 11 remote Rural Communities to enhanced Secondary Vocational Education

BELMOPAN Wednesday 15 October, 2014:

Over **200** students from 11 remote villages in the Toledo District will now have easier access, and enhanced quality Secondary Vocational Education thanks to the construction of Corazon Creek Technical High School Extension built by the Government of Belize at a cost of \$595,895.00 with funds financed through a grant from the Caribbean Development Bank under the Basic Needs Trust Fund Sixth Programme (BNTF 6).

Students from the 11 remote villages - Corazon Creek, Graham Creek, Mabilha, Dolores, Crique Sarco, San Benito Poite, San Lucas, Santa Teresa, Conejo Creek, Otoxha, and Sunday Wood will now have the opportunity to obtain a quality secondary education in Business, Academics/ Sciences of Vocational Training in their new three-classroom single storey ferro-concrete school extension which provides a unique teaching and learning environment.

New modern school building with floor area of 3,250 sq. ft. consisting of three classrooms 25ft x30 ft. with movable partition walls & includes solid timber doors, aluminum louvered window and security grilles.

The school project was implemented by the Social Investment Fund (SIF) as part of its mandate to work in line with the Government's strategy to address the basic needs of Belizeans, in particular in the area of education by investing in the youth, the country's leaders of tomorrow by equipping them with skills and competencies to expand and create socio-economic opportunities in pursuit of accelerating sustainable development in Belize.

One notable feature of the school building is a solar power system - providing 120V electricity to power all electrical fixtures

The structure of the building is constructed with reinforced concrete masonry block walls, reinforced concrete beams and columns, concrete roof with parapet wall, a reinforced concrete floor slab, solar panels to electrify electrical fixtures, plumbing fixtures, and a septic tank with a septic drain field. In addition, the structure is equipped with school furniture, male and female student bathroom facilities, male and female teachers' bathroom facilities, a storage room, and a 6 ft. verandah.



Hon. Santiago Castillo, SIF's Executive Director, Mr. William Lamb Jr. along with the Principal at the time Mr. Diego Bol

Over the years since the school opened its doors three years ago, Corazon has established a successful agriculture program that can serve as a model for other schools across the country.

In recognizing the critical importance of education the community provided and delivered bush sticks for construction as part of their contribution to the school's extension project.

Speakers at the inauguration of the School Extension will include Minister of Education, Youth and Sports, **Hon. Patrick Faber, Hon Santiago Santino Castillo**, Minister of State, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development with responsibility for the Social Investment Fund, the Executive Director of Social Investment Fund, **Mr. William Lamb Jr.**, the school's Principal, and **Mr. Macario Coy** among others.

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Your Weekly Horoscope and Lucky Numbers

ARIES:

March 22 to April 20

You're prone to gaffes and slips of the tongue early this week, so whenever possible, it's a great idea for you to slow down and think things through before speaking. Still, you can recover from almost anything. Wednesday and Thursday see you returning home in some way — maybe visiting your hometown, maybe working from home part-time. You feel confident, if not entirely comfortable at first. Seize the day this weekend and try something really daring, like starting your own business or asking out someone you find intimidating. **Lucky numbers: 17, 26, 47.**

TAURUS:

April 21 to May 21

Avoid signing anything binding early this week. It may come back to bite you, it may not, but you will be wondering for a long, long time, and that's just not worth it for you. You should get a lot more information on Wednesday and Thursday once you make your feelings known, and that should decide the matter once and for all. You should spend more time with friends and family this weekend, though things are not perfectly comfortable. Attachment is important

for you and for them, so make it happen! **Lucky numbers: 01, 64, 95.**

GEMINI:

May 22 to June 21

Exciting discussions fill your days early this week, so you should expect fun and good ideas to flow freely. Bring others into the fold if they seem to be hanging back — there's no need to exclude anyone! Possessions and other physical objects seem to cause trouble of their own volition on Wednesday and Thursday, but it's just your mind filling in weird explanations for everyday behavior. Try to just get on with it! This weekend is perfect for trying out new ideas and taking action in new ways. **Lucky numbers: 33, 49, 56.**

CANCER

June 21 to July 21

Nobody seems to be telling you what to do — or not to do — on Monday or Tuesday, but that doesn't mean you can get away with anything. You can get a bit of what you want, but not everything. The spotlight is on you midweek, but it should be almost overwhelmingly positive, and you should find that people are much more willing to talk up your obvious strengths. Shopping can be fun this weekend, but when you find something you love, make sure that you

can afford it before dropping cash or plastic on it. **Lucky numbers: 72, 85, 99.**

LEO:

July 24 to August 21

You're more thoughtful than usual on Monday and Tuesday, so see if you can get yourself to focus on that one big issue that's been troubling you and your friends for so long. You might come up with a hot idea! The timing couldn't be better, as the middle of the week is perfect for taking new action and you are itching to go. Friday brings great energy your way, whether or not you managed to pull off your coup earlier, and you ought to be able to push forward with any romantic or personal project that feels right to you. **Lucky numbers: 22, 53, 69.**

VIRGO:

August 22 to September 21

Work is on your mind more than almost anything else Monday and Tuesday, and even if it's covering up something else, the timing is right — you can make amazing progress if you apply yourself. Your social energy is powered up by the most important people in your life midweek, and it's the perfect time for parties or just mingling with friends. Your plans this weekend should work perfectly, and you can also look forward to your next big adventure, so get to work figuring that one out. **Lucky numbers: 07, 19, 29.**

LIBRA:

September 22 to October 23

The week begins with chatter about changes or new ideas that popped up over the weekend, and you may need to lead the conversation if you want people to adopt your point of view. Progress isn't likely on Wednesday or Thursday, and while that may upset you a bit inside, try not to let it show for now. You may delay things even more! Focus on the long-term this weekend, or you might miss out on a big social opportunity. It's not the biggest deal in the world, but you should be open to almost anything at this time. **Lucky numbers: 04, 13, 38.**

SCORPIO:

October 24 to November 21

Avoid taking risks on Monday and Tuesday — they're much less likely to pay off for you. That's not to say you've got bad luck, because playing it safe works out quite well. Use your good energy midweek to discover some new restaurant or band that you've never heard of. You're much more likely to stumble upon cool stuff! The weekend kind of belongs to other people, so fade into the background and see if you can just enjoy living on the periphery for a while. You're back in the spotlight soon! **Lucky numbers: 05,**

15, 36.

SAGITTARIUS:

November 22 to December 21

You've got to make sure that you're sticking with your schedule early this week, busy as it may be. You should have plenty of energy for it all, so don't worry too much about exhaustion. Your friends and family are quite important to you on Wednesday and Thursday — more so than usual, even! Let them know what they mean to you and include them in as much as you can. Your less obvious advantages pop up this weekend and help you to win over almost anyone to your side. Don't be shy about showing off! **Lucky numbers: 09, 18, 21.**

CAPRICORN:

December 22 to January 20

You're feeling the need to exercise your brain somewhat on Monday and Tuesday — but not so much that you end up exhausted! Walk that fine line until you see what you need to do next. Your good social energy makes the middle part of the week fun and a lot more inviting to those you know well, so it's a good time for a dinner party or some other small gathering. You just aren't sure what's going on this weekend, though, as it seems that you've been exchanged for someone else in the cosmic lottery. Whether it's good luck or bad, it doesn't feel like yours. **Lucky numbers: 02, 35, 43.**

AQUARIUS:

January 20 to February 18

Romantic energy fills you up early this week, so you should take time out to be with your sweetie — or make sure that you're as available as can be to the singles in your neck of the woods. You can make any moment sizzle! Wednesday and Thursday bring you back down to earth, and you should find several mundane problems facing you at home and at work — fix them up and move on to the next in assembly line fashion. You need to watch out for possible contradictions or paradoxes this weekend, as they trip you up far more than usual. **Lucky numbers: 37, 45, 68.**

PISCES:

February 20 to March 21

Communication is somewhat more difficult than usual for you on Monday and Tuesday. But if you can avoid getting into technical details and focus instead on feelings and impressions, than you should be able to get your ideas across. Enjoy the mystery that comes your way midweek — it's more interesting than all the boring certainties you've been dealing with recently. You may never get the answer, but you don't mind. Work issues may pop up on Friday and follow you into the weekend — one coworker in particular is causing problems. **Lucky numbers: 77, 87, 92.**

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Ebola Crisis: US Says Cuban Medical Support 'Welcome'

Cuba is a "welcome" addition to the fight against Ebola, a senior US official has said.

A state department spokesman said the Cuban government was doing more than many others to contain the disease. "We welcome their support," she said.

The US has maintained an embargo on Cuba for more than five decades.

Last month, Havana announced it would send about 450 medical and

governments.

Health ministers from Venezuela, Nicaragua, Bolivia and Ecuador are expected to attend to discuss how to bolster the region's response to the Ebola crisis.

So far the outbreak has killed about 4,500 people, mostly in Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone.

On Wednesday the head of a United Nations agency said a food crisis could soon hit the affected West African states.



The disease has killed about 4,500 people so far, mostly in Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone

support staff to the region.

The BBC's Will Grant in Havana said that Cuba already had a tradition of sending its doctors and nurses to Africa before the recent Ebola outbreak.

Cuban officials are hosting a regional summit on the virus next week involving left-wing Latin American

Kanayo Nwanze, president of the UN's International Fund for Agriculture, said farmers in Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia had abandoned their crops because of fear of catching the disease.

The World Health Organization said on Thursday that a major Ebola outbreak in the West was unlikely.

Colombia Gang Behind Venezuela Lawmaker Serra's Murder

President Maduro promised to track down those behind Mr Serra's murder.

Robert Serra and Maria Herrera were stabbed to death in Caracas.

Mr Maduro said Mr Serra's bodyguard had confessed to conspiring with a Colombian gang to kill the member of the National Assembly.

The president also said that there had been a series of attempts to kill other top socialist party officials.

Mr Maduro had previously blamed "ultra-right" opposition groups in Venezuela and in neighbouring Colombia for the

confessing to the murder. In it, the man said that he was convinced by someone he refers to as "the Colombian" to "get rid" of Mr Serra.

A surveillance video showed four men entering the home of Mr Serra, while two other suspects were said to be waiting in getaway cars.

Two suspects, one of them Mr Serra's bodyguard, have so far been arrested and the president said he would "get to the masterminds of Serra's murder inside or outside of the country".

He said that in the days after Mr Serra's murder there had also been attempts on the lives of the president of the National Assembly, Diosdado Cabello, and that of the education minister, Hector Rodriguez.

Of the unnamed paramilitary group he has blamed for the attacks he said: "Their motivation, their inspiration, their preparation, their funding aims to destabilise the country and it is part of a series of crimes that they have planned and we have managed to foil them in time."

However, he did not give any further details of the alleged attempted attacks on Mr Cabello and Mr Rodriguez.

Critics of Mr Maduro have accused him of exaggerating the threats in order to justify the arrest of opposition activists.



Robert Serra

murder.

At 27, Robert Serra was one of the youngest members of the National Assembly

The brutality of the murder shocked Venezuelans.

In a news conference on Wednesday he gave more details of the evidence he said had emerged since.

He played an out-of-focus video of a man apparently



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Cruise Ship Passenger Quarantined

Belmopan. October 16, 2014:
 The Government of Belize was contacted today by officers of the US Government and made aware of a cruise ship passenger considered of very low risk for Ebola. The passenger had voluntarily entered quarantine on board the ship and remains free of any fever or other symptoms of illness. The Ebola virus may only be spread by patients who are experiencing fever and symptoms of illness and so the US Government had emphasized the very low risk category in this case. Nonetheless, out of an abundance of caution, the Government

of Belize decided not to facilitate a US request for assistance in evacuating the passenger through the Phillip Goldson International Airport.

The GOB reassures the public that the passenger never set foot in Belize and while we remain in close contact with US officials we have maintained the position that when even

the smallest doubt remains, we will ensure the health and safety of the Belizean people. The Prime Minister has called a press conference tomorrow morning to further address any concerns that may arise from this event



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I, **Nadya Nal**, hereby gave notice that I have applied to the Magistrate Court, at one of it's sitting in San Ignacio during the month of October 2014, for a certificate to be granted to me under the Moneylenders Act, Chapter 260 to authorise me to carry out business as a moneylender in the name of **CASH GENIE** located at **#1 George Price Avenue, Santa Elena Town in the Cayo District.**
(1st Publication)



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 Invitation for Bids (IFB)
 Country: Belize
 Project: Belmopan Sewer Expansion phase 1.1
 NCB No: BWSL/1.1.6/NCB/2014/001



- The *Government of Belize* has received a grant from the *Inter-American Development Bank* toward the cost of *Belmopan Sewer Expansion Project Phase 1.1* , and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this *grant* to payments under this Contract *for the works listed below but not limited to:*
 - Install Sewer Force Main
 -Install Sewer Gravity Main
 -Install Sewer Pumping Station
 -Install service connections etc...
- The *Belize Water Services Limited* now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for *installation of sewer pumping station, sewer force main, gravity main and service connections in East Piccini Area of Belmopan.* The delivery/construction period is *for six months from January to June 2015.*
- Bidding will be conducted through the **National Competitive Bidding (NCB)** procedures specified in the Inter-American Development Bank's *Policies for the Procurement of Goods and Works financed by the Inter-American Development Bank*, and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Bidding Documents.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from:
Mr. Trevor Garcia, Project Engineer
7 Central American Blvd.
First Floor, Room Number 208, Engineering
Belize City
Belize, C. A.
Email: IWSPPP.PMU@bwsl.com.bz

and inspect the Bidding Documents at the same address given above from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

- A complete set of Bidding Documents in *English* may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written Application to the address below and upon payment of a non refundable fee **BZ\$100.00.** The method of payment shall be *cash.*
- Bids marked, must be delivered to the address below at or before **10:00 am, November 17, 2014.** Electronic bidding *shall not* be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened physically in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person or on-line at the address below at **10:00 am on November 17, 2014.**
- All bids marked, **BID FOR INSTALLATION OF SEWER PUMPING STATION, SEWER FORCE MAIN, GRAVITY MAIN AND SERVICE CONNECTIONS IN EAST PICCINI AREA OF BELMOPAN,** shall be accompanied by a *Bid Security, as specified in the bidding document and must be delivered to the address below at 10:00 am local time on Monday, November 17, 2014.*
- The address referred to above is:
Attention: Mr. Trevor Garcia, Project Engineer
Belize Water Services Limited
7 Central American Blvd.
First Floor, Room Number 208, Engineering
Belize City
Belize, C. A.



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