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Bricenos Party In Rome While Caneros Fight At Home



The Bricenos living the life in Italy

After all the promises they made, “John does not have the balls to stand with us caneros!”

While Briceno was on his way to meet the Pope in the Vatican, those were the words of a teenaged cane farmer’s daughter who spoke boldly and often at the gathering of Belize Sugar Cane Farmers Association members in front of the Sugar Industry Research and Development Institute’s headquarters in Buena Vista Village, Corozal as the crowd grew more frustrated with the lack of support coming from a government they supported overwhelmingly in the North.

As the farmers were protesting, the Briceno’s including wife and brother of the Prime Minister, were living it up in Italy. Briceno’s wife even posting on her Facebook page about how much fun she and her husband were having in Italy. The setting was quite the opposite back home as farmers were once again sidelined by a Prime Minister who preferred to be gallivanting rather than looking after the best interests of his people.

The farmers feel that this administration has betrayed them. The PUP was elected in seven of the eight constituencies of northern Belize and Briceno is Prime Minister of the most nortenos centric Cabinet in the country’s history. Yet, after more than three years in government, the administration has not been

able to broker an agreement with BSI that caneros believe is fair and meets their demand for transparency.

One canero said directly to Abelardo Mai, Ramiro Ramirez, Monchi Cervantez and other PUP officials present at the gathering, “We voted for you to fight for us... you keep making a lot of promises but if you can’t help us then just resign!”

The crowd grew angrier when they realized the Prime Minister had abandoned the effort to reach a solution and pictures surfaced of him and his wife dining in some foreign country. They decided to block the highway shortly after 2 p.m. on January 2, preventing motorists from leaving the Corozal District. Cane trucks, international and domestic buses, civilians and even emergency vehicles were held up on the road until after 6 p.m. when the caneros gave an



Abelardo Mai prevented from leaving

ultimatum to Mai. The ultimatum was to have an answer by midday Wednesday, January 3.

On Wednesday, the agitated crowd gathered in front of SIRDI again to await news from a meeting with government officials and BSCFA leaders. When that meeting concluded shortly after 1 p.m., Abelardo Mai informed the gathering that he was leaving to meet with the Prime Minister somewhere in Orange Walk. The crowd surrounded his vehicle to prevent him from leaving. They said he is not going anywhere until they get an answer. Mai, surrounded by police, begged for them to let him go and he will return by 3 p.m. with an answer. Enough cane farmers convinced their reluctant peers to let Mai go. Mai was allowed to go and shortly after the road was opened for all motorists to pass, except cane truck drivers.

Around the same time Mai was being surrounded by angry farmers, Briceno landed in Belize, a release said he cut his trip short to address the impasse. Speaking to reporters who cornered him at the PGIA, Briceno said he was disappointed to return because he felt they had an agreement heading into last weekend. He said he was on his way to a meeting with stakeholders with a proposal he has for them.

The livelihood of close to 5,000 farmers and their more than 40,000 family members, dependents and beneficiaries is at stake.

By 5p.m. a proposal was presented to the cane farmers and they flatly rejected it. They came with their own counter proposal which was to be delivered to BSI/ASR and the Government by Hugh O’Brian, CEO in the Ministry of Agriculture who has surfaced as a mediator.

By 7:30p.m. tires had been lit in the middle of the Philip Goldson Highway as the cane farmers continued to demonstrate their frustration against an uncaring government that has not helped them in getting an amicable resolution to the impasse.

The Guardian

Protecting Freedom Rights Democracy

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Cane Farmers Force Prime Minister Back Home

BSIL Agreement Proposal Rejected By Cane Farmers



Briceno cut his trip short

Intense pressure by cane farmers of the Belize Sugar Cane Farmers Association (BSCFA) have forced Prime Minister, Johnny Briceno to return back home.

A press release issued on January 2 announced that the Prime Minister took personal leave on December 29, 2023 to meet with Pope Francis.

Before leaving, Briceno thought that he had been able to negotiate a deal between the BSCFA and Belize Sugar Industries Limited (BSIL) on a production sharing agreement. Briceno then went on a honeymoon-like trip to Paris only to be cut short by discontent of cane farmers on Tuesday, January 2, when they blocked the Philip Goldson Highway at mile 66 as they were having a general meeting at the Sugar Industry Research and Development Institute (SIRDI) near Buena

Vista Village in Corozal.

Their discontent with BSIL-ASR continues and Briceno was forced back to the country on January 3. He was to have returned on January 7.

Cane farmers blocked the Philip Goldson Highway for 4 hours on Tuesday, January 2. And on Wednesday, January 3 they were at it again intermittently blocking the flow of traffic on the major artery. With negotiations taking place throughout the day, by 5 BSIL issued a proposal which was rejected by the farmers. The impasse continued even as Briceno himself got involved in the negotiations with no result. The cane farmers would stay at the SIRDI offices until around 7:30p.m. on Wednesday when they lit tires on fire to show their discontent. Negotiations are to continue on Thursday with none of the sides budging.



Philip Goldson Highway was blocked by cane farmers

Negotiations to solve an deadlock between the Belize Sugar Cane Farmers Association and Belize Sugar Industries Limited continue without any success.

There has been great back and forth between the two entities and by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, January 3, the Chief Executive Officer in the Ministry of Agriculture, Hugh Obrian, who is mediating between the two bodies, presented BSIL's latest proposal.

In essence, the miller is proposing that the farmers sign on to a one year agreement. In the agreement, there will be no charges of a throughput and terminal handling fees on the cane farmers in the first three months of the agreement. Within those three months, O'brian is supposedly to look at whether or not these fees are justified. If they are justified, the farmers would then have to pay. If they are not justified, the farmers would not have to pay. While the agreement would be initially for one year,

the proposal is that if there is no final resolution to the impasse between the two parties within the one year of the agreement, that the same agreement be renewed for a second year and possibly a third year.

When the proposal was presented to the cane farmers, they resoundingly rejected it. They then gave O'brian a counter proposal which was presented by the cane farmers. One BSCFA member proposed that the agreement be for two years and that there be no throughput and terminal handling fees. They are also requesting that they be paid their Fair Trade premiums. Additionally they are requesting a commission of inquiry into BSIL's operations.

With that the situation continued in a deadlock.

By the end of the day, cane farmers lit two truck tires in the middle of the Philip Goldson Highway in front of the SIRDI offices at mile 66 signaling their resolve to have their demands met.

SSB Employees Call Out Preferential Treatment



SSB Inspectors demanded audience with General Manager

Twenty three employees of Social Security Board, members of the Christian Workers Union (CWU), made their way to the SSB offices in Belmopan on Tuesday, January 2 to request a meeting with the general manager, Deborah Ruiz. Those actions were followed on Wednesday by a nationwide go-slow in all the offices of the organization.

The employees have taken on this form of industrial action to show their discontent at the preferential treatment being shown by management to a

single individual who is not part of the union. The employees, specifically the inspectors, complain that they are subject to transfers every three years but there is one inspector who has remained at the same location for 9 years.

The Inspectors and the CWU view this matter as a subtle form of union busting as Ms. Daniels is not a member of the Union and this is perceived as special benefits that can come to those who do not join the union.

While the issue of the

(Continued on page 7)

Lazy Leadership To Blame For Cane Crisis Says UDP Party Leader



Hon. Dr. Shyne Barrow

Leader of the United Democratic Party, Hon. Dr. Shyne Barrow has called out the Briceno administration for the mishandling of the sugar industry crisis. Hon. Barrow held a press briefing on Wednesday, January 3 in which he stated that he could not understand why after three years there has been no long term solution to the problems of the sugar industry. He was categorical as he stated that lazy management of the country and incompetence are to blame.

He went on to say that added to that the situation is made even worse by the pathological lying by PUP members of the north to the cane farmers. He cited that members of the Briceno administration have consistently

lied to investors and have done nothing but set up everyone. He noted that they have given false promises to the cane farmers and they have proven to be the worst enemies of the cane farmers by these actions. He added that he could not understand how it was that the Prime Minister could have left the country to go to the Vatican when there was still the looming problem in the cane industry. The country has priorities, he said, and the sugar industry is one of those priorities that needs to be addressed.

Speaking on his position, Hon. Barrow made it clear that while there is always a need to reach a middle ground, his priority would always be the cane farmers and the Belizean people. Still he noted that Belize

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VACANCY NOTICE

A Port with a Global Perspective

Assistant Security Supervisor

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to fill the following post in the Security Department. In the Port's continued effort to promote diversity both males/females, able/ differently abled are encouraged to apply for the available post.

Reports to: Chief Security Officer

Summary of Responsibilities: Ensuring the safety and security of designated properties, assets, personnel, and visitors. Responsibilities include patrolling the premises, setting up security controls, monitoring property access, investigating suspicious behavior, and enforcing company policies.

Primary Responsibilities:

The Assistant Security Supervisor shall be responsible to the CSO for the performance of his shift; in particular he shall be responsible for the following functions:

- a) Assist with the supervision of a security shift as assigned by the CSO
- b) Assist with patrol and control pier, transit sheds, compounds, office and low berth etc.
- c) Control of Entry and Exit Points of Compounds
- d) Surveillance of cargo from ship to delivery
- e) Ensure that deposits to the bank are done safely
- f) Perform boarding of ships for security purposes under ISPS code.
- g) You are to be verse with the Port Surveillance System and Security Manual.
- h) Assist with training with all security personnel.
- i) Any other duties of a related nature that may be assigned from time to time.

18.2 Port facility personnel having specific security duties should have knowledge of ISPS Codes and receive training in some or all of the following as appropriate:

1. Knowledge of current security threats and patterns;
2. Recognition and detection of weapons, dangerous substances and devices;
3. Recognition of characteristics and behavioral patterns of person who are likely to threaten security;
4. Techniques used to circumvent security measures;
5. Crowd management and control techniques;
6. Security-related communications;
7. Operations of security equipment and systems;
8. Testing, calibration and maintenance of security equipment and systems;
9. Inspection. Control, and monitoring techniques, and
10. Methods of physical searches of persons, personal effects, baggage, cargo, and ship's stores.

Job Qualifications/Requirement:

- An Associate's Degree, with 3 years proven experience as supervisor or relevant role.
- Must possess a valid driver's license.
- Computer literate.
- Familiarity with company policies & legal guidelines of the field.
- Working Knowledge of public safety

Skills/Competencies:

- Excellent communication & interpersonal skills.
- Team oriented, ethical, and punctual (On Call)
- Outstanding organizational & leadership skills.
- Strong reporting skills
- Critical thinking skills

Compensation Package: Will be commensurate (in accordance with the Company's Salary Structure).

To apply: Provide updated resume, cover letter ([addressed to Human Resource Department](#)), copy of valid social security card, valid police report, name and phone number of two(2) previous employers.

Email to:

jobapplications@portofbelize.com

Closing date for receipt of applications is Friday, January 19, 2024.

Man Killed In Parking Lot Shootout



Trevor Brown

A shootout between two men in the parking lot of Thirsty Thursday's has resulted in one man losing his life and another with a gunshot injury to the head.

Surveillance footage of the incident in the early morning hours of New Year's eve shows as 28-year-old Trevor Brown was making his way out of the parking lot of the establishment when he became involved in an argument with some men after his vehicle bumped into a pickup truck that was parked in the lot.

The argument escalated with Brown pulling a firearm

and having an exchange of words with the men. He would attempt to drive off again only to step out of the vehicle and shooting at one of the men whom he had the argument with. There was an exchange of gunfire with the other shooter hiding behind Brown's vehicle and making his way around the vehicle and shooting Brown as he stood outside of his car.

Police have referred the matter to the Director of Public Prosecutions for further instructions as there are elements of self defense and it is likely that the killer will not be charged.

Killed In Front Of His Baby



Jorge Caceres

Police are investigating the murder of 38 year old Jorge Caceres who was shot and killed on Friday, December 29.

Caceres was standing outside his home on Madam Liz avenue sometime around 6p.m. with his pregnant girlfriend, his toddler child and other family members when a white vehicle slowly drove by. An occupant of the car fired multiple shots at Caceres injuring him. He was rushed

to the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital where he would later die of his injuries.

Caceres was an employee of the Leadership Intervention Unit. Police have not yet determined a motive but they believe that it could be related to his past. In the aftermath of the shooting, police moved in on the family home where they arrested two of Caceres' brothers in an effort to prevent any retaliation.



Elections & Boundaries Department
Old Land's Building
Market Square
P. O. Box 73
City of Belmopan



Telephone: 501-822-0525
Email: electbound@bt.net

Website: www.elections.gov.bz

Find us on "EBD Belize"

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CANCELLATION – CONCEPCION VILLAGE COUNCIL NOMINATIONS AND BY-ELECTION

The Elections and Boundaries Department hereby notifies villagers of Concepcion Village that nominations and election for the vacant post of **Member** of the Concepcion Village Council that are scheduled for **Sunday, 7th January 2024** and **Sunday, 14th January 2024** respectively have been cancelled.

~ End ~

SSB Employees Call Out Preferential Treatment

(Continued from page 4)

transfer is one concern the inspectors also have problems with the PERENSA Management Information System which they say is simply not working. Among other challenges, the system has resulted in the imposition of many late filing penalties against employers due to glitches in the system. Despite millions of dollars invested therein, the system is simply not working. Inspectors are recommending a return to the old system.

The PERENZA System, designed by a company named Davyn, was introduced about a year ago. It's usage however became mandatory in August, 2023.

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For Mayor



Victor Orellana



Beverley Hope



Jose Linarez



Paul Casey



Cristina Chacon



Leslie Zelaya

The Difference Is Clear



Johnny Briceño enjoying himself in Paris while cane farmers protested

While there is not much that we will yield to PM Johnny Briceño on, we certainly will bow to him whenever he utters the words that as Prime Minister

he is no Rt. Hon. Dean Oliver Barrow.

The Prime Minister's recent departure on personal leave ahead of a crucial industry crisis

has sparked heated discussions nationwide. Critics highlight his absence during a time of uncertainty in Belize's sugar industry, contrasting it with a pivotal moment in 2014 when former Prime Minister Rt. Hon. Dean Oliver Barrow swiftly returned home to address a similar situation.

On December 29, 2023, as Briceño embarked on personal leave en route to the Vatican City to meet with Pope Francis, concerns arose regarding his decision to depart amidst challenges facing the sugar sector, a key economic pillar for the country. The move drew comparisons to Barrow's actions in 2014, where he curtailed a trip to attend to a similar industry crisis, taking proactive steps to engage stakeholders directly.

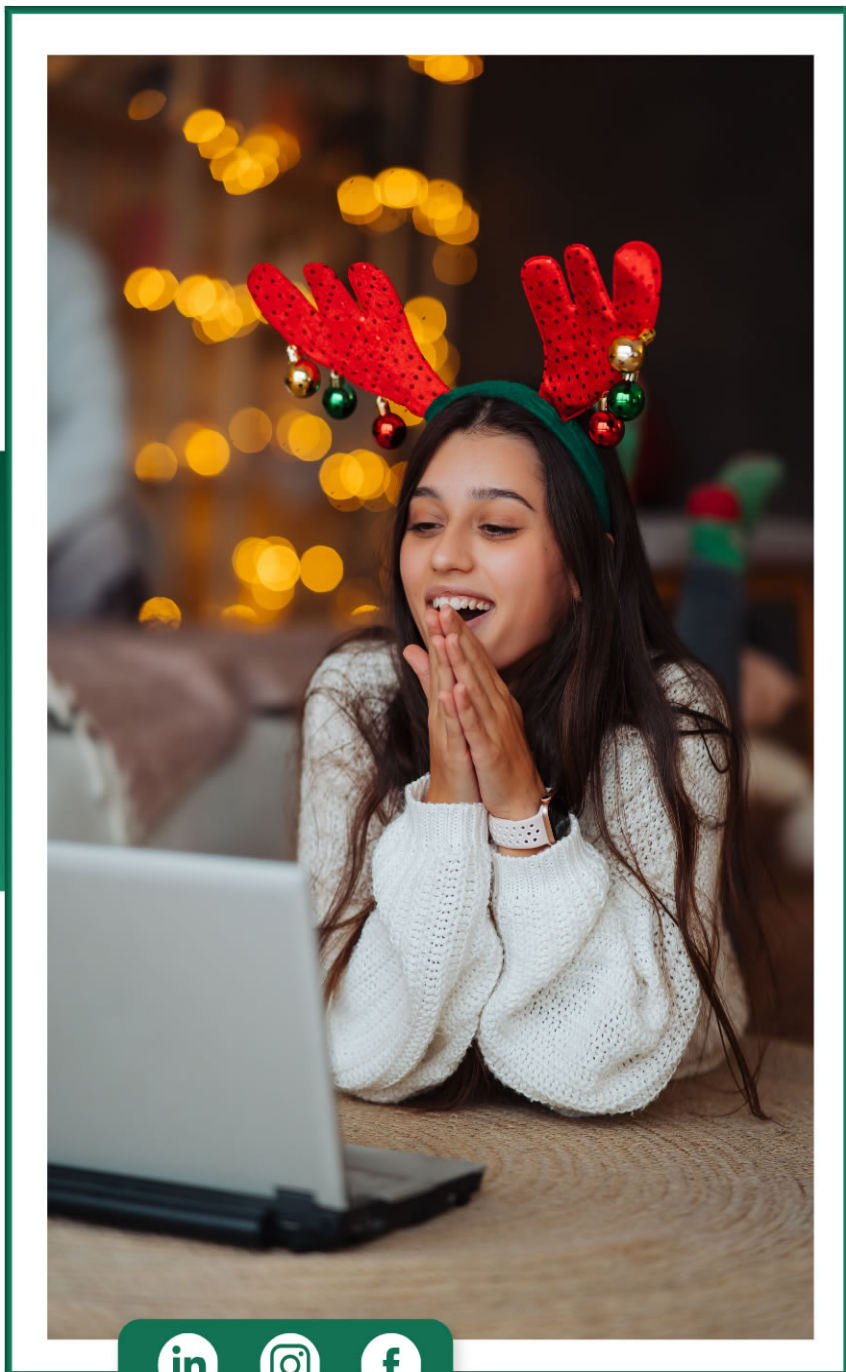
Critics have voiced dissatisfaction with Briceño's absence during this critical juncture, arguing that his departure reflects a lack of immediate attention to domestic issues. The juxtaposition with Barrow's response in 2014 has intensified

debate on effective leadership strategies in handling national crises.

However, supporters of Briceño defend his decision, citing the need for global engagements and diplomatic efforts. They emphasize the Prime Minister's commitment to international relations and advocate for a broader perspective, arguing that Briceño's engagement with global leaders could bring long-term benefits to Belize.

This incident has reignited political tensions, with opposition voices recalling past events where the People's United Party (PUP) allegedly intervened in similar crises. Some suggest that the opposition's previous actions might have contributed to the current challenges faced by the industry.

The nation awaits a swift resolution to the sugar industry's uncertainties, while the debate on leadership approaches and priorities in times of crisis continues to resonate among Belizeans.



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Teenage Girl Scolds Ministers



Young lady chiding ministers

The sugar industry once again finds itself in turmoil with the Belize Sugar Cane Farmers Association and the Belize Sugar Industries Limited being unable to reach an agreement for the delivery of sugar cane to the mill. And in the midst of it, there was a meeting of the BSCFA on January 2 at the offices of the Sugar Industry Research and Development Institute where farmers had the opportunity to brace their representatives on their inaction to help resolve the matter.

It was in the midst of it all that a teenage girl stepped forward and without fear, scolded 4 of the 7 PUP representatives of the northern districts that were at the meeting. Among those were Minister of agriculture,

Jose Abelardo Mai and Minister of Defense, Florencio Marin Jr. Also present were Elvia Vega, and Ramiro Ramirez.

Speaking to those at the head of the meeting the young lady stated, "El prometio tantas cosas para nosotros y no ha cumplido nada. Si ustedes van a venir a darnos sus palabras vean que lo cumplan, y aqui estamos los caneros y les estamos poniendo la presion a ustedes y ustedes pueden seguirlo. Ya que mister John no tiene los huevos para caminar con nosotros, ponganselo ustedes si tienen, no como otras personas."

(translation) "He promised us so many things and he has not made good on anything. If you are going to give us your word



Abelardo Mai and Florencio Marin Jr had no response

make sure that you honor it. We the cane farmers are here and we are putting the pressure on you and you can follow through. Since mister John does not have the balls to walk with us you put them on since you have, not like other persons."

Truer words could not have been spoken and as the young lady spoke those at the head table could have turned to dust to be blown away in the wind. This brave young lady spoke what every cane farmer felt-betrayal and lack of support by those whom they elected. The reaction of Mai and Marin Jr. said it all, there was nothing that they could say to respond to the young lady. After all, after the elections of 2020, those who became representatives simply

abandoned the people to take on lofty offices and began the process of enriching themselves.

It has been three years since these representatives assumed power and in that time they have done absolutely nothing to aid in the plight of the cane farmers. It had to take a very young girl to speak truth to power and those at the head could only hang their heads in shame.

We take time to commend the young lady's actions and as the demonstration by the cane farmers progressed into a second day on Wednesday, January 3, she has remained an active participant along with other farmers. Proof of her conviction that the farmers deserve better and they expect real representation from those who were elected.

NOTICE

FLASH DIAL INVESTMENTS LIMITED ("the Company")

Notice is hereby given that the Company has been dissolved and struck off the Belize Companies & Corporate Affairs Registry with effect from **December 29th, 2023.**

**Orion Corporate & Trust Services Ltd.
Registered Agent**

STATUTORY NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE ESTATE of Marilyn Dawson, deceased of Gardenia Village, Belize District, Belize.

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 36 of the Administration of Estate Act, Chapter 197 of Laws of Belize that all creditors and other persons having any claims and demands upon or against the Estate of Marilyn Dawson, deceased of Gardenia Village, Belize District, Belize, who died on the 31st of December, 2022 and in whose estate Grant of Administration has been granted to Melvin Eric Dawson of Gardenia Village, Belize District, Belize, should lodge claims or demands in writing with said Melvin Eric Dawson of Gardenia Village, Belize District, Belize on or before the expiration of three months from the first publication hereof and notice is also hereby given that at the expiration of the said three months the said Melvin Eric Dawson shall proceed to distribute the assets of the said Marilyn Dawson, deceased, amongst the beneficiaries entitled thereto, having regard only to claims and demands of which she shall then had notice.

Dated this 15 day of December, 2023

Melvin Eric Dawson
Administrator for the Estate of
Marilyn Dawson

Let Them Eat Bread

“Let them eat cake” is the most famous quote attributed to Marie-Antoinette, the queen of France during the French Revolution that occurred in the waning years of the Eighteenth Century. As the story goes, it was the queen’s callous response upon being told that her starving peasant subjects had no bread to eat. Since cake is far more expensive than bread, the anecdote has been cited as an example of Marie-Antoinette’s obliviousness and lack of concern to the conditions and daily lives of ordinary people.

Similarly, in an ironic and weird yet sick twist but which might be typical as Johnny Briceno and the BLU PUP always turn everything on its head, their apparent lack of a response to the sugar shortage and the difficulty that Belizeans had in scrambling and trying to get sugar to make Christmas cakes is “Let them eat bread.” By so doing, they seem to be hell bent on trying to mimic or channel Marie-Antoinette.

Giving further rise to this PUP view of “Let them eat bread” is the recent and unsustainable bread subsidy, agreed to by this hypocritical government, which is just a phony attempt to curry favor with the voters since we

all know that subsidy to bakers will evaporate and disappear immediately after the municipal elections next year. We can all recall that just like before the last municipal elections, three years ago, when the PUP refused to say that they would cut public officers’ salaries but then, immediately after the election, that is exactly what happened. We can all expect no less than for the bread subsidy to go that same BLU PUP way as well.

Despite all the hardships that Belizeans face under this BLU PUP Briceno government, the least of which would be having to eat bread instead of cake, we can nevertheless still be thankful for so much. However, one thing that we cannot be thankful for is to have them as the government. Yes, we are thankful of the democracy and grateful for the democratic process but, we sincerely believe that the country is best served with the BLU PUP and Johnny Briceno as His Majesty’s loyal opposition.

Belizeans, at the next available opportunity, let us start to use the machinery of democracy that is at our disposal to send Johnny and his BLU government where they rightfully belong – in opposition.



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NOTICE

SAGICOR LIFE INC.

Juliana Guerra of Loma Luz Hospital, Santa Elena, Cayo District, Belize has made sworn deposition that Policy No. **F01178428** issued by Sagicor Life Inc. has been declared lost. **Dated January 2 nd , 2024**

By Order
Andrew Greaves
Corporate Secretary

NOTICE

LEETEK TECHNOLOGY CORP. ("the Company")

Notice is hereby given to all interested parties that **LEETEK TECHNOLOGY CORP.** re-registered under the Belize Companies Act, 2022, commenced dissolution on **December 30th, 2023**, and **Ms. Wen-Chun Lin**, of 4F, No. 30, Ln. 513, Ruiguang Rd., Neihu Dist., Taipei City 114697, Taiwan, is the **Liquidator** of the Company. Any claims against the Company should be forwarded to the Liquidator (Email: wen021101@yahoo.com.tw or Telephone Number: 0937-025-506) by **January 29th, 2024**.

Orion Corporate & Trust Services Ltd.
Registered Agent

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to all interested parties that the below-captioned Company has commenced dissolution on 18th day of December, 2023.

Name of the Company	Registration No.	Former IBC No.
SIENA GLOBAL INC.	000009924	176598

The liquidator is Martin Alonso Pérez Pérez of Torres de las Américas, Tower B, Floor 4, Office 402, Panama, Republic of Panama, email: info@faroconsultancy.com, phone number: +507 215-1545.

Any claims against the Company should be forwarded to the liquidator within Thirty (30) days from commencement.

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Major Environmental Damage In Seine Bight



New land is being created



No retaining structures are in place

Environmentalists in the village of Seine Bight are becoming more and more concerned over a development that

to extract 2,500 cubic yards dug from a boat docking area, “the extracted material shall be used SOLELY for the filling of low

to be used, that coastal structures need to be erected. There is also

create new land in contravention of the mining permit.

R. Q. P. No. 05 of 2023

CONDITIONS RELEVANT TO REGISTERED QUARRY PERMIT NO. 05 OF 2023 ISSUED TO PETER WEST II ON THE 6TH OF FEBRUARY 2023.

1. Total volume of sand, silt and mud to be extracted shall not exceed **two thousand five hundred (2500) cubic yards** of material. The materials should be extracted from the deepening of a boat slip and from a burrow site with dimensions **100' x 80' x 8'**, delineated by UTM Co-ordinates: **N1835499, E0355159**; as shown on the attached sketch plan/map.
2. The extracted materials shall be used **SOLELY** for the filling of the low-lying areas within property lines of **Peter West II**, being Parcel No. 670, Placencia North Registration Section in the Stann Creek District.
3. Method of extraction shall involve the use of an excavator for the creation of a boat slip. This is to ensure a uniform depth of extraction and minimal environmental damage.
4. All volumes of material extracted shall be recorded in an Official Logbook by the Permit Holder and reported to the Inspector of Mines upon completion of operations under Registered Quarry Permit No. 05 of 2023.
5. Containment structures **SHALL** be created around the fill sites in order to minimize the effects of run-off of spoils and waters from the extracted materials. Run off from the extracted material should not go directly in the lagoon.

R. Q. P. No. 05 of 2023

9. No waste shall be deposited in the area during mining operations of Permit Holder.
10. If new lands are to be created; if coastal structures are to be erected; or if any portion of the 66' reserve is to be reclaimed or utilized; the Permit Holder shall obtain the prior, written approval from the Ministry of Natural Resources, Petroleum & Mining.
11. If mangroves are to be cut, the Permit Holder shall obtain the necessary Permits from the Forest Department, prior to cutting such mangroves.

Point 10 states what is to be done if new land is created

Point 2 states that extracted material should be used for filling low-lying areas

is taking place in the Coco Plum area of the village. According to information supplied to the Guardian Newspaper, a developer has been granted a mining license

lying areas within the property lines.”

The permit further specifies that if new land is to be created or part of the 66 foot reserve is

stipulation that written approval needs to be obtained from the Ministry of Natural Resources, Petroleum and Mining before new land is created.

The concern at the moment is that the developer has far exceeded the volume of extraction and has dug in excess of 45 thousand cubic yards. What’s more is that the material is being used to

With the development taking place, there are those who say that it is being carried out without supervision from the Ministry of Natural Resources and the developer is doing as he pleases. What’s more is that there is large volumes of silt that is being placed into the lagoon creating possible environmental damage.

ANGELIE PEREZ **JASON STAINE** **VICTOR MIGUEL** **HORACE ALFORD**

LEON GUILD **ALISHA CRAIG** **BRIAN AUDINETT**

TYRONE LOURIANO **SAMSON JACOBS** **TATTIYANNA YOUNG**

NELMA MORTIS
MAYORAL
CANDIDATE

VOTE
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UDPT11
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UNITED DEMOCRATIC PARTY



Kendle Esquivel | Marina Gongora | Adelaida Tuyu | **ENRIQUE "WICO" CARBALLO** *Mayoral Candidate* | Yara Villeda | Vanessa Urbina | Carlos Diaz

✓ VOTE UDP 7

YOUR CHOICE IS YOUR VOICE

ORANGE WALK TOWN COUNCIL / 2024-2027

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CANDIDATE | KATHY BURNS
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CANDIDATE | KARL "HG" CABRAL
COUNCILLOR
CANDIDATE | **FRANKLIN "KRANKA" POLONIO**
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CANDIDATE

"MEK WI TEK BAK PG FI WE"

NEW VISION - NEW ENERGY - NEW HOPE

VOTE UDP 7 PUNTA GORDA TOWN

UDP
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MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS 2024

UDP
#Better for Belize

Your Horoscope

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 19

As the new year begins, you might not exactly have high hopes when it comes to love. You may feel a little more negative about romance than usual. Maybe you're just being realistic. Your ability to see your current romantic situation (or lack thereof) for what it truly is, rather than what you wish it could be, is so stark that there's just no room for fantasy. At least you won't waste energy on delusional thinking! Denial is not a word in your present vocabulary, and this doesn't have to be a bad thing. In fact, it'll probably save you from a lot of heartache.

Taurus Apr 20 – May 20

A storm is brewing in your love life. Single and ready to mingle? Your year might begin with disappointment, as you learn that a friend doesn't want to pursue a romantic relationship with you. Don't see it as rejection -- see it as redirection. If you're in a relationship, then you and your spouse or partner might be addressing some difficult financial news together as the new year begins. Perhaps your sweetheart finds out that they're going to lose their job. Another possibility is that your special someone is handling some other type of stress and it's affecting their desire in the bedroom. Handle with care.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 20

Buckle up, Gemini! Whether single or coupled, this week is going to be a rocky ride. As 2024 begins, your partner could begin questioning their commitment to your relationship. Mercury turns direct in your partnership sector on Monday, and on the same day, Venus will square Saturn. It's all too possible that your partner will want to be single. You won't be pleased -- especially because you may not truly understand why they had a change of heart. If you're single, you might feel that there's no time to date while you're busy pursuing a career goal or opportunity. Give yourself some time before returning to the romantic playing field.

Cancer Jun 21 – Jul 22

Love might feel like more of a battlefield than ever as 2024 begins. On Thursday, assertive Mars enters your partnership sector. This could spark more conflict between you and your sweetheart than usual. You and your lover will need to decide if you still have the same desires and goals for the future of your relationship. If not, what's next? Can you get back to being on the same page? If you're single, you might feel like relationships are more trouble than they're worth. You may notice that all of your friends who are in a relationship are having trouble. You'll pass on the drama.

Leo Jul 23 – Aug 22

A false start in love might leave you feeling lonelier than usual as the new year begins. You may have believed that someone had a crush on you -- this person may have even sent you all of

the clear signals to indicate this. Unfortunately, there's a high chance that they will either change their mind or decide to go in a different direction with someone else and leave you hanging. You're allowed to be upset, but be wary of letting this put a damper on your entire outlook on love. Any such rejection in romance should be temporary. You'll be back to wearing your crown in no time!

Virgo Aug 23 – Sep 22

If you think your love life is going to be a snooze fest in 2024, think again! You're about to enjoy a cosmic boost that's meant to make you smile. On Thursday, sexy Mars enters your 5th House of Love and Pleasure for the first time in nearly two years. This will bring you a cycle of enhanced focus on love and sex -- as well as an increased ability to achieve whatever it is you desire the most. Presently paired up? Take advantage of this energy by leaning into steamy moments with your sweetheart. Even if you aren't in a relationship, you can still look forward to any dry spell being over.

Libra Sep 23 – Oct 22

Love can sometimes feel like a full-time job. This week, if you're in a romantic relationship, you're almost definitely going to be doing overtime in order to "earn your keep." Venus in your message sector will make a harsh square to Saturn, now in your work sector, on Monday. This might leave you feeling like your current partnership is more of a thankless job than anything else. If you are feeling underappreciated, it's time to let your partner know. Single? An office romance that has potential might be blocked due to circumstances beyond your control. Circumstances like the scheduling department, for one thing. Tread carefully!

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 21

Will this love connection or potential lover help you get ahead? That's a question you're more likely to ask yourself this week -- and if the answer is no, you should reevaluate whether or not you even want to keep putting your energy into this relationship. That may sound opportunistic and perhaps a little bit cold, but you're just keeping it real. As you consider any new resolutions or recent goals, you're also contemplating your current alliances and whether they are furthering your goals or hindering them. Anyone hindering has to go and you'll have no trouble cutting the fat from your life now.

Sagittarius Nov 22 – Dec 21

You might head into this year feeling like you've had a personal awakening. Mercury turns direct in your sign on Monday, turning on the light in your mind. Once you understand what you actively want out of life, you'll recognize what's truly important. As a result, you'll have a much more realistic handle on what you want in matters of the heart. If a current situation doesn't support your core

needs, you're ready to let it go. If single, you're set on making sure your personal foundation is rock solid before you get into your next relationship. You'd rather be alone than in the wrong company.

Capricorn Dec 22 – Jan 19

You might need to swallow a hard pill relating to your love life -- but once you do, you'll realize that the medicine was for your own good. Sure, a depressing thought about your love life might materialize, but if it does happen, don't believe that any pessimism actually caused the trouble. What's more likely is that your stark capacity to see the reality of a situation made it impossible for you to continue tolerating it. Fortunately, you can make proactive changes in your life after Thursday when Mars enters your sign. By then, you'll have the courage to do what you knew needed to be done all along.

Aquarius Jan 20 – Feb 18

This isn't the week to expect friends to lift you up -- especially if you're feeling down about your love life. Venus will be at a difficult angle to Saturn on Monday. As a

result, you might be feeling less lovable. If you're having trouble in a relationship, talking to a friend about it may only make you feel worse. Whether they're caught up in their own problems or upset with you for another reason, peers aren't likely to provide you with the support you're hoping for. If you're single, a friend might inadvertently make you feel defective for currently being uncoupled. Don't believe it for one second! You'll get through this, Aquarius.

Pisces Feb 19 – Mar 20

You're in danger of rejecting love this week without even realizing it. Venus is at the top of your chart, which makes love a more visible energy in your life. Despite this beneficial factor, be wary! On Monday, Venus will also stumble into a difficult square to Saturn, the planet of blockages. Since Saturn is now in your sign, this could incite a case of "ugly duckling syndrome" where you feel unable to see your own lovability. As a result, if someone tries to love you, you may reject it outright or refuse to believe it's true. Don't entertain the lies your insecure self tells. Let love in.

Liquor License Notice

Notice is hereby given that under the **Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150** of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2023, that **Edilto Romero** is applying for the renewal of a **Publican Special Liquor License** for the year 2024 to operate "**Cantina La Addictiva**" located at located at the corner #18th and Domingo Cruz Street in San Ignacio Town, Cayo District.

Notice is hereby given under the **Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150** of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2023, that **Toni Emmanuel** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** for the year 2024 to be to be operated at "**T&C Grocery**" located in Sarawee Village, Stann Creek District

Notice is hereby given under the **Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150** of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2023, that **Jasmine Godinez** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** for the year 2024 to be to be operated at "**Blue Thatch Cool Spot**" located in Silk Grass Village, Stann Creek District

Notice is hereby given under the intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2023, that **Ana Williams** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** for the year 2024 to be to be operated at "**A and W Restaurant and Bar**" located in Georgville Village, Cayo District.

Notice is hereby given under the intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2023, that **Margarita Vanegas** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** for the year 2024 to be to be operated at "**Hyde's Supermarket**" located in Buena Vista Village, Cayo District.

Notice is hereby given under the intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2023, that **Olga and James Molina** is applying for a **Malt and Cider Liquor License** for the year 2024 to be to be operated at "**Hidden Spring**" located at 7 miles, Cayo District.

Notice is hereby given under the intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2023, that **Kenny Paul Mangar** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** for the year 2024 to be to be operated at "**Illusions Bar and Grill**" located at 68 George Price Highway, Cayo District.

Notice is hereby given under the intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2023, that **Shelmadene Aloma Ifield** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** for the year 2024 to be to be operated at "**Leo's Sports Bar and Grill**" located at 68 George Price Highway, Cayo District.

Notice is hereby given that under the **Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150** of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2023, that **B Mart LLP** is applying for the renewal of a **Shop Liquor License** for the year 2024 to operate "**B Mart LLP**" located at located at the corner Juliet Soberanis St. and Philip Goldson Highway in Belize City, Belize District.

Notice is hereby given that under the **Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150** of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2023, that **Beatriz Zuniga** is applying for the renewal of a **Publican Special Liquor License** for the year 2024 to operate "**Bryndis**" located in Cowpen Village, Stann Creek District.

Talking A Little Bit Too Soon



Chester Williams

Liquor License Notice

Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2023, that **MD. Palash Mamun** is applying for the renewal of a **Shop Liquor License** for the year 2024 to operate "**Victoria Grocery Store**" located at 112 Barrack Road Belize City, Belize District.

-Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2023, that **Celea Jimenez** is applying for the renewal of a **Shop Liquor License** for the year 2024 to operate "**Tienda Comedor Celea**" located in Pomona Village, Stann Creek District.

Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2023, that **Yue Shao Ruan** is applying for the renewal of a **Convenience Store Liquor License** for the year 2024 to operate "**R & I Snack Shop**" located at 7680 Fabers Road Belize City, Belize District.

Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2023, that **Mark Sosa** is applying for the renewal of a **Publican Special Liquor License** for the year 2024 to operate "**Milo's Sports Bar**" located at 11 Miles Philip Goldson Highway, Ladyville Village, Belize District.

Notice is hereby given under the intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2023, that **Josephine Gongora** is applying for a **Malt and Cider Liquor License** for the year 2024 to be to be operated at "**Hide Away Bar**" located in Unitedville Village, Cayo District.

Notice is hereby given under the intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2023, that **Henriette Teck** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** for the year 2024 to be to be operated at "**Party Bar**" located in Bullet Tree Falls Village, Cayo District.

Notice is hereby given under the intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2023, that **Windell Humes** is applying for a New **Restaurant Liquor License** for the year 2024 to be to be operated at "**Ladyville Cool Spot**" located at #7 Mitchell Estate Ladyville Village, Belize District.

Notice is hereby given under the intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2023, that **Nelson Gallardo** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** for the year 2024 to be to be operated at "**Westar Restaurant & Bar**" located at Mile 49 George Price Highway, Cayo District.

Notice is hereby given under the intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2023, that **Nelson Gallardo** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** for the year 2024 to be to be operated at "**Westar Truck Stop**" located at Mile 49 George Price Highway, Cayo District.

Notice is hereby given under the intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2023, that **Toni Emmanuel** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** for the year 2024 to be to be operated at "**T&C Grocery**" located at Sarawee Village, Stann Creek District

Notice is hereby given under the intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2023, that **Maria Lazo** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** for the year 2024 to be to be operated at "**Mexicana**" located at Sarawee Village, Stann Creek District

Recently, in a series of media interviews, Commissioner of Police, Chester Williams in his usual boastful way, claimed that it was thanks, primarily to him, that he is perched to set a record in terms of the number of murders committed this year. In fact, Chester oddly claimed that he managed to keep the number of murders under 100...almost as if it is he who is personally committing them and so can then limit them if he so chooses or is it that he has a knob or a button to dial them down at will?

And then the loosed-tongue Commissioner did not stop there but, besides brazenly and unashamedly trying to shamelessly snatch all the credit for himself, he also tried to sycophantically toss some of the undeserved credit to his political masters, Minister of Home Affairs, Kareem Musa, and Prime Minister, Johnny Briceno.

After hearing his chest thumping, most citizens were left wondering whether Chester was not talking a little bit too soon with his boasting and perhaps he would have been better served if he had waited at least until the 1st January to try to do his self-declared victory lap. Most rational people wonder why he didn't wait until after the New Year as the bloody news after both the Christmas and New Year's weekends was just a very sad litany of murders, attempted murders and shootings, all of which simply underscored the fact that no empty and hollow recitation of statistics in the world or any attempt to try and claim some decades old record can make crime-weary and on edge citizens feel any safer.

What Chester and his BLU PUP masters have failed to realize is that these crimes, gang and murder issues are generational – they took decades to evolve and develop and they will take many years, not just 2 or 3 to solve. All that Chester and this government did was inherit, rename, rebrand and build on the inter sectoral approach and programs started under the UDP. We can all remember CYDP, Restore Belize, the tireless efforts in education and sports, especially on the Southside of Belize City by the previous government.

One blatant example of snatching and claiming a UDP

initiative as theirs is the Frank Lizama Skills Training Center in the Collet Division, named after former UDP Mayor Frank Lizama which apparently the desperate PUP have now barefacedly hijacked the program and renamed the building as the late Mayor Lizama's name can no longer be seen on the building. Rebranding and maybe slightly tweaking a program or an approach is not equivalent to starting that initiative.

Similarly, Chester himself inherited many innovations put in place by former Commissioner of Police Allen Whyllie such as the precinct structure just to name one.

Having local precincts brings an integrated policing approach closer to the community as well as reduces police reaction time to crime and incidents. That program and many others in the Police Department predated Chester and his self-aggrandizement.

Additionally, Commissioner Williams boasted about the success of cameras and getting more in the future. What he failed to point out that this is another initiative of the previous UDP government that they are trying to build on.

Further, the Commissioner praised the work of the National Forensics Science Service which again is a UDP initiative as we can recall former PM, Rt. Hon Dean Barrow, coining the phrase "CSI Belize" on at least one occasion when significant funds were secured for its development.

Chester and the BLU PUP may just be reaping the first fruits of the work done under the past governments to harness this vexing problem that has plagued the country for decades. This benefiting from the seeds sown over the past several years and claiming it as theirs is typical of this government and is tantamount to the PUP professional ribbon cutters that love to piggy back on UDP programs and initiatives and then claim full credit while having nothing at all to show for themselves. However, let them be warned not to toot their horns too soon or too loudly because we can all recall several occasions previously when the murder rate plunged for a given year only to rebound with a vengeance the following year.

Let us hope, for the sake of our country, that this is not the case and that the programs and initiatives sown by the UDP in the past have finally taken a hold

UNITED DEMOCRATIC PARTY



Armando Vasquez | Melanie Mena | Villma Vellos | **RICARDO "RICK" AKE** | Shajira Sajja | Benjamin Acosta | Austin Pate

RICARDO "RICK" AKE
Mayoral Candidate



"BIG CHALLENGES, REAL SOLUTIONS"

COROZAL TOWN COUNCIL / 2024-2027

UNITED DEMOCRATIC PARTY

BETTER FOR BENQUE



George Iglesias | Angel "Colitas" Rodriguez | Sandra "Sandy" Torres | **Marco Tesucum** | Maria "D.C" Martinez | Jorge "Crab" Moralez | Oscar "Rene" Kuylen

Marco Tesucum
Mayoral Candidate



"UN PUEBLO UNIDO, UN PUEBLO PROSPERO"

BENQUE VIEJO TOWN COUNCIL / 2024-2027