

CONSULATE NEWS

Consulate of Belize



State of California

NOVEMBER 01, 2009

A Bi-Monthly Publication

Volume I, Issue I

Consulate of Belize Mission Statement

The Office of the Consulate General of Belize in California officially represents the interests of the Government of Belize. The office has a commitment to safeguarding the rights of Belizeans; providing effective and efficient consular services; promoting tourism and trade; facilitating business development and investment; harnessing and channeling community resources; and supporting and encouraging activities to enhance quality of life for all Belizeans.

Consular Services

- Passports
- Visas
- Citizenship
- I.D Cards

In This Issue:

Investment Workshop	1
Belize Cancer Center, Dangriga	1
Ministry Profile Spotlight	2
The Belize Diaspora Project	2

Investment Workshop: Own a Piece of the Jewel

The Consulate of Belize, Los Angeles will be hosting a two-day workshop on investing in Belize on November 6-7, 2009. The workshop is aimed at giving Belizeans who live abroad an opportunity to partake in the economic development of Belize. By establishing an economic investment interest, native Belizeans living outside of Belize will have the opportunity that many non-Belizeans have enjoyed for years.

Presentations will be conducted by Beltraide, from the Ministry of Economic Development, Commerce & Industry, and Consumer Protection. Beltraide is the entity responsible for investments in Belize. They will be able to answer questions concerning the regulations and requirements for investors. The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries will be present to disseminate information on the formation of Cooperatives and Fish Farming. The Belize Cacao Growers Association will also be in attendance to make a presentation on the Belize Cacao industry, a lucrative investment product currently in Belize.

The presentations on establishing Cooperatives (Co-op) should be particularly interesting, as it was designed specifically with small investors in mind. Cooperatives give individuals the opportunity to pool their resources to come up with a principal investment.



Representatives from Belize Telemedia Limited (BTL) has been invited to present information on the availability of BTL shares. Attempts are currently being made to secure a presentation on the establishment of corporations.

The workshop will provide exciting new opportunities for Belizeans living abroad by establishing a relationship that goes beyond remittance to Belize. The Consulate is encouraging all Belizeans to attend. Encourage your families, friends and those you know who support us in the struggle for a better Belize. The Government of Belize is appreciative of all Belizean resources. Workshop Location: New Designs Charter School, 2303 Figueroa Way (23rd/Figueroa).

BELIZE CANCER CENTER, DANGRIGA

The Consulate of Belize and Blissfulsage Foundation hosted a reception benefiting the Belize Cancer Center-Dangriga. The center is located in Southern Belize at #11 Pine Street in Dangriga Town. The Cancer Center serves as a consultation and treatment facility for patients across the nation of Belize. "The mission of Belize Cancer Center Dangriga is to provide accessible and affordable cancer treatment services to persons and families living with cancer in Belize." Present statistics indicate that cancer is presently responsible for 12% of all deaths in Belize; all indications are, that statistic is currently on the rise. Most people diagnosed with cancer in Belize seek treatment abroad, which has crippling costs attached to it. Many Belizeans go untreated simply because they cannot afford to pursue treatment in Belize or outside the country. Patients may gain access to services at the Belize Cancer Center Dangriga via direct referral by a physician, referrals by the Belize Cancer Society, or simply on a walk-in basis.

The Center was opened in October 2008 after Dr. Ellsworth Grant, Dellone Pascascio, Dr. Peter Allen, Dr. Beatriz Thompson, Dr. Alba Mendez-Sosa, Dr. Melissa Espot, CMO Castillo and Sister Obi discussed establishment of a comprehensive approach to cancer care in Belize. Dr. Grant, an Oncologist and Ms. Dellone Pascascio, Chief Nursing Officer at Olive View—UCLA Medical Center, both native Belizeans, dedicated themselves to the establishment of the Belize Cancer Center Dangriga. Sister Carolyn Obi, Belize's only Chemotherapy Certified Nurse is on staff at the Belize Cancer Center. The center has established a partnership with Bristol University in the UK for 5th—Year medical students to perform a rotation for an elective study. Business Manager Alethea Rodriguez volunteers her time with the center. The center has its place in Belizean history as the first of its kind, dedicated entirely to the treatment of cancer patients. For donations to the Belize Cancer Center contact: bccdangriga@btl.net.





Consulate of Belize

4801 Wilshire Blvd.
Suite 250
Los Angeles, California 90010

Tel: 323-634-9900
Fax: 323-634-9903
E-mail: belizeconsulate@sbcglobal.net
www.consulateofbelizelosangeles.org
www.consulateofbelizelosangeles.com

Hours of Operation

Monday to Thursday
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (PST)
Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (PST)

The office is closed Saturdays, Sundays and on Belizean and American Holidays. Please leave a message and your call will be returned within 24 hours of the first business day.

Consulate Staff

Hon. Roland H. Yorke
Consul General

Mrs. Carolyn McKenzie
Vice Consul/Executive Assistant

Mrs. Irene Wu
Vice Consul

Mrs. Dellone Pascascio
Hon. Consul (Designate)

Mrs. Tricia Jones-Logan
Receptionist/Secretary

Newsletter Contributors

Hon. Roland Yorke
Kim Hernandez
Helen Laurie

DEATH REGISTRY

The Consulate of Belize is encouraging Belizean Families to visit the office to register the death of Family members. It is crucial to keep a record of our love ones who passed outside of our homeland. Their memories will live on with us forever.

Registration must be done in person at the Consulate of Belize. No telephone or e-mail submissions will be accepted. Registration must be accompanied by a signature.

MINISTRY PROFILE SPOTLIGHT

Ministry of Finance—The Prime Minister, Hon. Dean O. Barrow is responsible for the Ministry of Finance. Departments that comes under this Ministry are, Treasury, Customs, General Sale Tax, Income Tax and Audits. The Ministry of Finance is the only Ministry responsible for exemptions. The finance Ministry is responsible for all budget estimates for the country, which must be done annually.

Mission Statement: Our mission is to advise on, coordinate and implement the Government’s economic and fiscal policies and programs including the generation and allocation financial resources to provide appropriate public services and to contribute to the overall development of Belize .

Website: <http://www.mof.gov.bz/default.asp>



THE DIASPORA PROJECT

Officials are in the discussion process for setting up a Belizean Diaspora Project. The project aims are two fold: (1) to get a sense for the amount of Belizeans that are currently residing outside of the country, and (2) to identify their field of profession.

Identifying the number of Belizeans who are residing outside the borders of Belize is not a new idea. A project encouraging Belizeans abroad to register with Belizean Embassies world wide has been in place for a few years now. Typically, especially those in the U.S. have been reluctant to register. The cooperation of the Belizean population is strongly needed and encouraged to accomplish this goal.

Identifying Belizean professionals may be a more easily achievable goal. It is the belief that once the mechanisms are in placed and individuals become aware, registration would be forthcoming. By identifying professionals, the ultimate goal is not only to harness the resources, but for GOB and private enterprise in Belize to first

approach Belizean professionals to fill available positions.

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Wilfred Elrington and Belize Ambassador to the United States H.E. Nestor Mendez have addressed Belizeans in Florida, Washington, New York and Los Angeles about the present administration’s desire to reach out to Belizeans abroad.

Belizeans in the United States are strongly encouraged to register with the Embassy of Belize in Washington, the Consulate of Belize in Los Angeles and the Belize Mission in New York. All the information gathered is protected by privacy rights. Accurate determination of the Belizean population in the U.S. will allow the Government of Belize, non-governmental organizations and Belizean Americans to become better advocates on behalf of our nation and people.

Registration may be completed in person, online or U.S. mail. Name, city and state are required. The profession field is optional, but strongly recommended.