

Hard Hitting Decision

The question isn't only to build or not to build the Chalillo Dam, but whether or not we can afford not to. Long after we are gone, the question of the Chalillo Dam (like Belize's Independence) will be an ongoing argument. A debate between those for development, in compliance with nature versus the blue-eyed environmentalist – locked into some foreign bank like BACONGO.

Belize's record on the environmental scene is not only healthy but has been acknowledged as a gift to the world. Our natural reserves and their ecosystems produce clean, fresh air for the world and in addition contribute to global cooling. Belize is a sanctuary blessed with an abundance of atolls, the world's second largest barrier reef and a plethora natural habitats. While the cities of the world have been covering their surfaces with concrete. Belize initiated its developmental process with the use of timber, indigenous materials such as pimiento and thatch and has gradually moved to the use of concrete for building. When it comes to taking care of the environment, we need no outsiders to tell us what to do.

The key issue in building the Chalillo Dam is that the watersheds in the world are vanishing. In fact, what the environmentalist have not told you is

that even Belize with its abundance rivers, lagoons and springs will loose it come the year 2020 – not withstanding this prediction; which comes from their own analyst on the World's U.N. Declaration 1990.

Belize is now in a unique position to prepare for the future and to carefully review its plans to meet our energy needs and accommodate development and foreign investments.

The question no longer is to build or not to build, but rather, could we

afford not to. What will our children say to us if we fail to seize this opportunity to preserve clean water for them? What will the rest of the world say about us if we fail ourselves knowing we knew better?

Imagine the cost of electricity without water, without fossil fuel, a clear reality come the year 2020. Imagine back to days of iron, fire hearth, kiss kiss, and mule and cart.

It is decision time! Time to put Belize's human resources and its future first. Ahead of party politics, ahead of blue-eyed lobbyists; ahead of those mixing mischief with knowledge. This is Belize, so let us think about our future, our children and generations to come. It is time to stop the rhetoric. Stop the demonstration, stop the madness and get on with the building of the darn dam.

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