

Government defends Hydro-dam

Contributed by
Public Relations Officer,
Macal River Chalillo Project

The Director of the Belize Zoo, Ms. Sharon Matola has launched an attack on a government plan for the consideration of alternative sources of electricity, including a proposal for a new dam in the upstream area of the Macal River known as Chalillo.

When consideration was being given to the second dam on the Macal, two sites were considered the upper Rubber Camp area and down stream at Chalillo. For both economic and environmental reasons and based on extensive studies, it was decided not to proceed with a dam at Rubber Camp. With that decision the habitats of a number of endangered species remain protected. These include a blind catfish, Morelet's crocodile, a river otter and the keel-billed Motmot. Initial studies also suggest that there will be very little impact on the Macaw colony in that area.

With regards to her reference to ecotourism, this area of the Chiquibul Forest is hardly accessible, and therefore does not in anyway contribute to this industry and will very unlikely become a beaten path for visitors. Even if the dam is built, the area will remain virtually inaccessible.

The Northern Biological Corridors and Protected areas of Belize, do not include the Chalillo and Rubber Camp areas.

What is true is that an area of the Chiquibul Forest has been recom-

ernment. It does not include the area which is being considered for the Macal River Chalillo Project.

The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, which was co-authored by Justin Jacobs and Anselmo Castaneda, recommends ways to conserve and use "sustainably", Belize biodiversity and natural resources in rational ways.

With further reference to the Scarlet Macaw parrots, very reliable scientific sources dispute Ms. Matola's claim that the Raspaculo area, which is in the same area of Chalillo (the Raspaculo is a branch of the Macal River), is the only breeding ground for this bird. Other sources say that "the population of Scarlet Macaw has increased dramatically, especially within the Northern Biological Corridors of Belize. This includes the Maya Mopan and Red Bank areas in the southern region of the country.

Ruins of the late great Maya civilization are scattered all over Belize. They are all protected under the Ancient Monuments and Antiquities Act. Furthermore, any small dam on the upper Macal River has absolutely no bearing on the Caracol Maya temple. This is far-fetched.

Belize Electricity Limited will also do another survey as it continues the Feasibility Study for the proposed dam and the completion of the Environmental Impact Assessment. These will be done within the guidelines of Belize's Environmental Protection Act, 1992 and the Environmental Protection Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 1995.

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cerned about environmental impact why is it that she is suggesting that this country, should continue to buy high prices electricity, from Mexico at U.S. 21 cents/kwh during peak hours?

She has not offered any other options for meeting Belize's growing demand for electricity to fuel the growth and development of this poor country.

We look forward to further consultations on this issues.

Ed. Note - this reply was edited

to take out the personal attacks on Ms. Matola, who did not launch any personal attacks at anyone involved with the project. Furthermore it is noted that when convenient Government officials or their political appointee refer to the 'Mexican power' as a good, cheap, and affordable deal. Recently Minister Ralph Fonseca had only praises about it. However, in this article Mexican power is described as 'high prices electricity.

FOR SALE

BY ORDER OF THE MORTGAGEES

ATLANTIC BANK LIMITED of Freetown Road, Belize City, hereby gives notice of its intention to exercise its Power of Sale as Mortgagee, under a Mortgage dated the 28th of July 1997 and made between ROMEL CAWICH and AICELA LUCIOLA CAWICH and ATLANTIC BANK LIMITED recorded at the General Registry in Volume 2 at folio 59. Atlantic Bank will at the expiration of two months from the date of the first publication of this notice sell the property described in the schedule hereto.

All offers to purchase the property must be made in writing to the undersigned:

THE SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO

All that piece or parcel of land situate at the corner of Queen Victoria Avenue and Cinderella Street in Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District, bounded on the North by property of Gospel Missionary Union, on the South by Cinderella Street, on the East by Queen Victoria Avenue, on the West by Government Layout and being more particularly described as follows: Starting from a concrete pillar at its north-eastern corner on a grid bearing of 202° 09' 04" for a distance of 62.69 feet to a concrete pillar thence on a grid bearing of 244° 30' 38" for a distance of 14.82 feet to a concrete pillar thence on a grid bearing of 286° 52' 12" for a distance for 145.32 feet to a concrete pillar thence on a grid bearing of 22° 05' 04" inches for a distance of 65.71 feet to a concrete pillar thence on a grid bearing of 104° 18' 47" for a distance of 156.22 feet back to the starting point and delineated on a Plan of survey of H.C. Fairweather, Chartered Land Surveyor, dated 20th April, 1995 and recorded at the Lands Registry Office of the Lands and Survey Department in Belmopan in Register 1 Entry 2336 TOGETHER with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon.

DATED the 3rd day of March, 1999.

Youngs Law Firm
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Attorneys-at-Law for
Atlantic Bank Limited