

Human Development to explore community-based alternative to custodial sentence.

BELMOPAN, Wed. Mar. 17

The Ministry of Human Development, Women and Youth (with the support of VSQ) is holding a conference, "Strengthening Alternatives to Custody," at the Fiesta Inn on March 25, 1999. The conference will review and inform on developments in penal reform and alternatives to custody (in Belize, the Caribbean and other developing countries), with the aim of formulating an action plan to tackle the problem of youth crime and a rising prison population.

Experience and expertise will be drawn from the relevant Government and non-governmental agencies in Belize, as well as from an international penal reform group and a U.K. practitioner who has pioneered a community service scheme in Zimbabwe. Conference participants have been invited from a wide range of agencies concerned with criminal justice. They will be instrumental in making recommendations for a plan of action to strengthen community involvement in the punishment and rehabilitation of its offenders.

The ultimate outcome of the conference should be the alleviation of prison overcrowding by the provision of a coordinated programme of community-based penalties. This should be effective in reducing crime and creating stronger, safer communities.

-press release-

National Security clamps down on deportees

BELIZE CITY, Fri. Mar. 12

In a further effort to fight crime, the Ministry of National Security and Immigration will enforce a 1998 law which places certain restrictions on Belizeans who are deported from other countries for committing serious criminal offences. The new policy takes effect today, March 12, 1999.

Under the Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1998, every deportee may be required by the Commissioner of Police to report to the police daily or at specified intervals; not change his residence without prior notification to the Commissioner of Police; not associate with any criminal gang; and comply with any other requirements specified by the Commissioner.

In pursuance of this law, the Belize Police Department has prepared a monitoring programme for deportees. Under this programme, every deportee will be issued with a reporting Sheet containing his full personal details which the deportee will carry with him at all times. There will also be maintained at National Police Headquarters and at

BACONGO advises national referendum for Chalillo Dam Scheme

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Mar. 18

The Belize Alliance of Conservation NGOs (BACONGO) held an extraordinary meeting to discuss the merits and concerns of the proposed Chalillo Dam Scheme on March 18, 1999.

Having discussed, at length the available information and considering the concerns raised by its member agencies, and in keeping with sustainable development principles, BACONGO proposes the following:

The Government of Belize and the Belize Electricity Limited (BEL) must take the responsibility to inform the general public, and to ensure that

opportunity for public participation and opinion is realized according to the Environmental Impact Assessment regulations of 1995. BACONGO stands ready to help facilitate a BEL-sponsored national public forum on the proposed Chalillo Dam and sustainable renewable energy options for Belize.

Factual documentation on the technical, environmental, social and economic aspects of all levels of the project must be made available to all concerned agencies in Belize, as well as the general public.

The Government of Belize should conduct a vigorous and comprehensive review of all the alternatives for generating energy from sustainable renewable resources before any option is undertaken.

Since the proposed Chalillo Dam Scheme would have a tremendous impact at a national level, the Government of Belize should put this issue to a national referendum as prescribed by the Referendum Act of 1999.

BACONGO reminds the Government and the public that Belize is a signatory to several international conventions and treaties which commit our nation to follow sound conservation and sustainable development practices.

-press release-

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all District Police Stations, a Deportees Register.

The deportees who violate the above policy or other requirements laid down by the Commissioner of Police shall commit an offence, and may be fined up to one thousand dollars or imprisoned for a period of up to one year.

These measures will assist in preventing criminal activities by the deportees, particularly from the United States.

PUBLIC AUCTION SALE: CHATTELS

BELIZE CITY

March 12, 1999