



Conflict in San Miguel

Editor Sir,

On April 8 the Alcalde of San Miguel, Toledo, arrested two of the Minister Marcial Mes' supporters for acting without authority. Within a few minutes, Mes arrived on the scene and ordered his men's release.

Sometime earlier, during a public meeting the people of San Miguel Village rejected a proposed Hydro-Maya project and expressed their disapproval of a plan to lease 250 acres of nearby land to an American named Mark Tippet.

Our Alcalde's Association and other NGO's who are opposed to the lease, sent off reports to the Prime Minister in which they said the people were against the lease. Upon hearing of this Minister Mes sent off two of his supporters to our village to take a public opinion poll. That's when the men were arrested and the Minister intervened.

How can the Minister of Culture promote culture when he harasses our Alcalde for doing his job to restore peace to the community.

Now Minister Mes is upset with our Alcalde because he stands firm with the people in rejecting the 250 acre lease of land.

During his campaign, Minister Mes did not tell us he would harass village leaders.

We need our land for our children and their children to come.

Signed: Ricardo

Cheap power

Dear Editor,

In answer to my friend Emory King's letter last week on cheap electric power, let me point out that at this point there is no proof whatsoever that the dam can provide us with cheap power.

A thorough survey of all alternate energy possibilities, including biomass power from our two sugar factories, before proceeding with the dam could quickly bring a halt the present ridiculous argument waging poverty against the environment and visa versa.

Signed: Meb Cutack

A fundamental intrusion

Editor Sir,

Thank you for your recent editorial concerning the new curfew law.

As a U.S. businessman who is seriously looking into moving to Belize with my family, I find this new development alarming! What are you building, Belizeans? A society of free and responsible men and women, or a nation of slaves?

While some Belizeans may consider this new regulation a minor curtailment of children's rights, it sounds to me like an insidious attack on parental rights.

My family and I were planning to come to Belize in the next two months. Now, I'm really going to have to step back and take a second

four boys to be responsible men, and not slaves of the state.

How many other strong and free men, who could really be a benefit to Belize, will make a similar decision when they learn that Belize is no longer really a free country in one of the most basic premises of freedom - the right to freely move about?

Signed: Dr. Mark Ludwig
President American Eagle Publications, Inc.

In support of Matola

Dear Mr. Editor,

News Editor Nigel Avilez's article last week entitled "Dam Opposition Weakened by Extremism" was very disappointing in several respects, not the least being its implied labelling of the two persons who have become the chief spokespersons for and against this part of the country's hydro-electric energy programme.

Sharon Matola, Director of the Belize Zoo, he labelled a "perceived extreme environmentalist," using some of the buzzwords of pro-development people worldwide to discredit serious attempts to question projects that threaten to harm a country's environment.

Norris Hall, Public Relations Officer for the Chalillo Project, on the other hand, he described as "known to be an environmentalist," in effect attempting to preempt Ms. Matola's credentials in that area.

Mr. Avilez offered no proof of either assertion, nor even examples, using instead the proven journalistic approach of proof by repetition.

I can't speak for anyone else, but I for one am far more willing to put credence in the information put forward by Ms. Matola whose tract record in this area has been consistent, professional and credible over the years, than in the information offered by Mr. Hall who has proven that it is possible to make the 180-degree switch from environmental columnist to developer's shill as quickly as you can say "general elections" or "big bucks."

Hopefully, Mr. Avilez's next article on this subject will come after more careful research and after he has looked at "perceptions" on both sides of this most important project facing our country.

Signed: Cassandra De la Cruz

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