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Tyranny!

City of Belmopan, September 5, 2013

Belize is rapidly sliding down a slippery slope of dictatorship. Belizeans can now see that the coun-

try is led by a dangerous regime that believes the democratic authority given to them through elections gives them the right and might to

do whatever they want. What took place at the National Assembly in Belmopan on Wednesday, September 4th, 2013 is evidence that Belize's democracy is under attack.

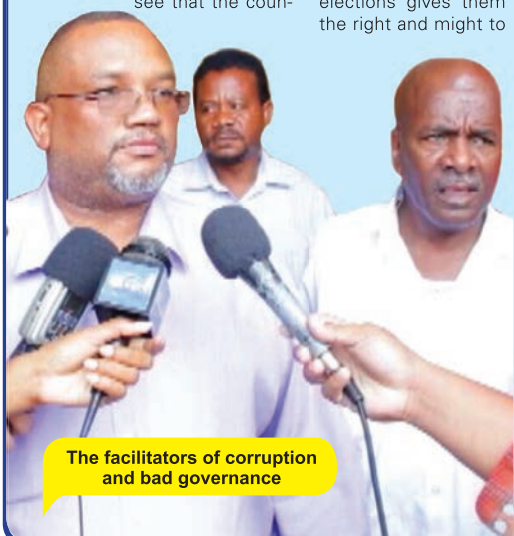
The Barrow Administration is making every effort to not be placed under the light of transparency and accountability. It governs in darkness and makes decisions in darkness. This is the reason the UDP rulers have stifled the work of the Public Accounts Committee and have resisted the Chairman's recommendations for the body to go under reform.

The tyranny of the UDP was in full display on Wednesday. PAC Chairman Hon. Julius

Espat's attempt to democratize the Committee was sabotaged viciously. The Chairman had called a meeting to

which the public was invited. But the UDP members who are the majority: John Saldivar, Michael Finnegan, Erwin Contreras and Herman Longworth blocked the public's participation with armed police officers standing at the doors. No member of the public was allowed to enter and witness the

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The facilitators of corruption and bad governance



The advocates of CHANGE AND REFORM



Blinded by UDP incompetence

Donovan's sixth sense of direction has been turned upside down by the UDP City Council

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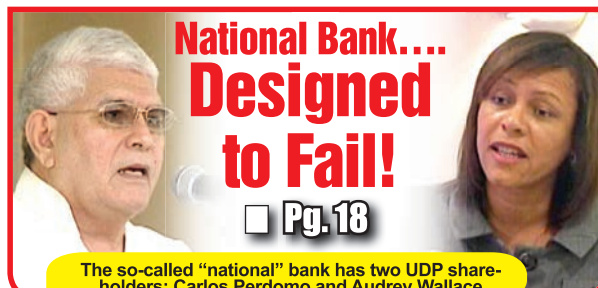
PUP Leader brings HOPE to Cayo Northeast

■ Pg. 10

Hon. Francis Fonseca giving a warm embrace to a Cayo resident. Flanked by Landy Habet

NICH CLUELESS ABOUT GARINAGU RITES

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National Bank.... Designed to Fail!

■ Pg. 18

The so-called "national" bank has two UDP shareholders: Carlos Perdomo and Audrey Wallace

PABLO MARIN MUST RESIGN

NEW
HARTThe CONTAINER
unloaded

Belize City, September 3, 2013
By Alberto Vellos

The Container has landed. No, not of Rosewood, neither freshly cut nor burnt. Not even zero-rated stuff called food like Ramen or Grace Chicken Sausage shipped to a rich country of poor people. On Friday September 6th at 10am when this CONTAINER is unveiled it will invite and envelope the curious students of St. John's College on a strange but necessary journey.

The publication titled **"landings new art + ideas from the caribbean and central america 2000/2010"** to be unveiled first in Belize by its publishers five-o-one art projects and the Image Factory Art Foundation, involves the work of dozens of visual artists and writers mostly from the Caribbean and Central America who participated in the **landings** project – a series of outstanding art events that started with **landings**1st in 2004 up to the finale, **landings**TEN, in 2009.

The CONTAINER Collection seeks to immortalize and preserve the art and ideas that made up the **landings** project as well as other art projects as far back as 2000. It does this by reproducing the wide array of work in an impressively designed 464 page hard cover book coordinated by Joan Duran and edited by Tristan Donald, Yasser Musa and Marisol Rodríguez.

Starting at ZERO

"Every now and then we have to refresh and reset ourselves... this is a perfect opportunity with the presentation of this effort... having an artefact"—Yasser Musa

The CONTAINER Collection takes us back to ZERO. This was an important stage in Belize's development of arts.

"We always start at zero... when the CONTAINER was empty," explained Image Factory's Yasser Musa.

In 2000 under the leadership of Joan Duran a team of young Belizean artists banded together and launched the internationalisation of Belizean art through the exhibit **ZERO new Belizean art** in Mérida, Yucatán, México. The attempt was a success and the tour then moved to Cuba, Spain, Portugal, Guatemala, Venezuela, Dominican Republic, and ended in Mexico City at the end of 2002.

Before **ZERO**, the work of artists was like counting negative integers, almost reeling back with every step and serving in deficiency of purpose. But once they came together, it paved the way for something much greater.

What came afterwards were not just tangible representations of their skills and creativity, but a stirring translation of ideas and cultural, philosophical, religious and even political statements. The history of our region has demonstrated how powerful this can be.

For the artists to have produced art and ideas for the past twelve

years, their efforts represent a manifestation of freedom.

"We don't have to be apologetic anymore or explain ourselves. The only thing that is of concern to us as artists right now is that we have a voice and that we use our voice in a very useful, social and organised way instead of individualistic," he added.

The language of art

To think that art is simply creating something and putting it on display is shallow. The concept accepted by the Landings group was that as artists



they would freely speak of thoughts and ideas, at times even interpret and respond to crises or whatever issues exist.

"Art is part of the human spirit that can see through a lot of bull shit," Yasser reminded us.

Since 2000, a lot has happened in Belize. Re-elections, protests, change of government, escalating murders, increasing unemployment and poverty, etc. etc. A lot more has happened in the region. Artists, then, ought to have been busier than attorneys and politicians.

The Big Book...Big Ideas

The idea of working on the CONTAINER came up almost a year before

landingsTEN three years ago.

Joan Duran explained that the purpose was philosophically simple: **"scan where we are, where we live"**

While it is an opportunity to take a look at where artists are in terms of their constant language with society, it will also allow some time to consider where artists must now focus to enhance their role.

This challenge is an awesome one. In this day and age of chemical-weapon attacks, threats of war, MTV, Facebook, uprisings and coups, we can only anticipate the kind of work and effort that will fill up the next edition of the CONTAINER.