



Belize Police Department Newsletter

Vol. 1, Issue 1, December, 2009

Highlighting the achievements of the Belize Police Department

Visit the Police Department on it's website www.belizepolice.bz for more interesting topics and news from around Belize.

Inside this issue:

Commissioner's Message	2
Letters to the Editor	2
Personnel & Welfare	3
Chaplain Corner	3
Community Policing	4
Law Enforcement Segment	5
Police Units	6
Crime Statistics	7
Crime Prevention Tips	7
Police in Training	7
Humour	8

Law Enforcement Segment

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER PROGRAM

The School Resource Officers Program is an initiative to act in anticipation of future causes of crime and violence in an effort to address the frequency of incidents in High Schools

Story on Page 5



Police Department Newsletter Editorial Staff

Editor in Chief:	Mr. Elodio Aragon, Jr. Sr. Supt of Police
Assist. Editor:	Ms. Inaldi Cardona, Web Content Manager
Contributors:	Mr. Crispin Jeffries, Commissioner of Police Mr. Douglas Hyde, Youth Program Coordinator
Desktop Publisher:	Mr. Jose Batty, Sgt. Of Police
Mail to:-	Belize Police Department Newsletter Editor National Police Headquarters P.O. Box: 245 City of Belmopan
Contact: E-mail :-	newsletter@police.net.bz
Web:	www.belizepolice.bz
Tel:	(501) 822-2220 - 23

TRANSFORMING THE BELIZE POLICE DEPARTMENT INTO A MORE EFFICIENT & EFFECTIVE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY



The Belize Police Department is made up of 1,261 police officers strong with various operational units, branches, police formations, sub-formations and several specialized units. The mere departmental structure and size, coupled with the demanding nature of police work makes the Police Department a very dynamic and challenging organization. The Police Department is continuously striving to improve its delivery of service to the general public, along with developing its police officers to meet the increasing and every expanding exigencies of law enforcement in Belize.

In May of this year the Ministry of National Security embarked on a process to transform the Belize Police Department, with direction taken from the 167 recommendations made by Mr. Harold Crooks in his report, 'Review of the Belize Police Department' tabled in November of 2008. The now Commissioner of Police Crispin Jeffries, was appointed, and the mandate was given to commence the restructuring and transformation of the Department. The Police High Command is to be restructured with one deputy Commissioner of Police and four Assistant Commissioners of Police. In that regards, the establishment of

three new Assistant Commissioners of Police was necessary, and the progress has been made to create and fill those positions. The end result of this, will see the Department having a total of five Assistant Commissioners of Police, that of ACP Operations, ACP Intelligence, ACP Management Services, ACP Crimes, and ACP Eastern Division, leaving the commissioner of Police and his Deputy to focus on Policy & Strategy. This restructuring of the department will ensure that there is more oversight, accountability, and shared responsibilities for the main areas of policing. It is also envisioned that with time the department will implement further restructuring to meet the challenges of policing in Belize, something that has already been conceived but requires the necessary funding.

Along with these significant restructuring of leadership in the Police Department and Commissioner's "Equip and Train" slogan, the department has began to see a more problem oriented and intelligence led policing focus being incorporated into the Belize Police Department. The transformation has begun, and there are some small but significant signs of progress.

These can be seen and measured by the results of the studies done to analyse the gaps and identify training, as well as other needs. The recommendations made in the Crooks report for the department to do more data mining was clearly the

Commissioner's Message



Often times the work of the police goes un-noticed, especially when families are fleeing the scourge of disaster or celebrating in the various seasons of the year; we, the Police Officers, are actively on duty making life safer for all Belizeans.

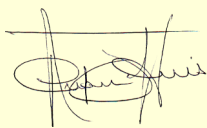
The Commissioner of Police saw this divide and the need for a police newsletter as an outlet to inform the public of the many unselfish and heroic acts of the police, whom at times have to deal with situations under extreme circumstances. In other words, it is our way of marketing the Belize Police Department.

In many cases, the police is highlighted in the media only when an act is committed that directly affects the citizenry. Such an act of crime or criminality makes headline in the media arena. Whenever, the Belize Police Department is in the news, which is a daily occurrence, it is to make news, that is, crime reporting. This is to say, that the many positive achievements of the Department are shrouded in the reporting of crime.

Conversely, there are between twenty to thirty responses made by the police on a daily basis, many of which, are foot, bicycle and other mobile patrols that are launched as part of our preventative measures. The house to house meet and greet being effectively carried out by the Community Policing Unit, the many interventions into domestic disputes, the police in school trying to be role models to young people and the list goes on. This article will not come to an end if all the positive sides of the Police Department are enumerated.

This newsletter will allow readers a chance to submit letters to the editor on a monthly basis so we can have your views shared in an unbiased way.

We welcome you as readers, to the Belize Police Department Newsletter. May this newsletter be the first publication of many to come.



Crispin Jeffries, JP, LSM, DSM, OBE
Commissioner of Police



Letters to the Editor

The introduction of this monthly Belize Police Department Newsletter is a means to improve the Department's communication, and highlight the numerous achievements, activities and initiatives that the Police Department is undertaking, which for much of the time, is not highlighted by the media, thus little is known by the general public.

In an era where communities and the country is yearning for information, improved service and transparency, this newsletter is a step in the right direction. The Police Department is aware that it needs to share with the public its achievements, and successes, as much, as its shortcomings are highlighted by the media.

The segment "Letters to the Editor" will be an avenue for you the reader to comment and express yourself or opinion. It is also hoped that this section will enrich the newsletter and at the same time get positive response on issues that are of concern to you the reader, or to our police officers. So feel free to write to us via email or post at the address given on the front page.

TRANSFORMING THE BELIZE POLICE DEPARTMENT INTO A MORE EFFICIENT & EFFECTIVE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

stone that was left unturned, greater use of the Planning Performance Review and Inspection branch, and the establishment of the Police Central Criminal Statistical Unit (PCCSU), supported by the Information Technology Unit (PITU) and the Joint Intelligence Unit (JICC) made the mining possible. The review of records and stored data has provided us with a clear indication of the gaps, and what needs to be done by us, and others within the law enforcement environment to address the shortfall in the investigation and prosecution of cases; as well as those other areas in our system of management and leadership, that needs urgent attention and that will facilitate forward movement.

We saw the need to develop several pilot projects, that has in many ways, indicated steps to be taken to move forward. These include the investigation project aimed at improving the quality of our investigators and their case work. The prosecution project, aimed at the short fall in successful prosecution. The welfare project that is aimed at the condition of service, moral and discipline. The Training Project to build capacity and institutional strengthening. The asset management and court management project that is aimed at greater levels of accountability for exhibits, equipment and other resources. The communication project that is aimed at maintaining our operational communication capabilities and migrating to new technologies. The gun control project

Personnel & Welfare

Officer Of The Month Award

In an effort to recognize and reward officers who have distinguished him/herself through exemplary service and devotion to duty, the Belize Police Department has the honor of awarding the following officer with the Officer of the Month Award.

Cpl. # 723 Mario Salam of the Punta Gorda Police formation was awarded Officer of the Month for the month of November and was recipient of a monetary award of \$100 courtesy of Hon. Peter Eden Martinez.



Inauguration of the Newly Built Georgeville Village Police Sub-Station



On June 5th 2009 the Belize Police Department was the recipient of a newly built Ferro-concrete two Storey Building that will house the Georgeville Police Sub-Station. The Police Department held a Ceremony on site, with Minister of National Security, Hon. Carlos Perdomo, as the guest speaker, who gave an encouraging speech to the Police Officers, residents of the village and invited guests at the event. Commissioner of Police Mr. Crispin Jeffries gave his officers and the community a much welcomed pep talk. Resident Officer 2 I/C PC Jose Pinelo introduced his supporting Special Constables of the vicinity and shortly after, the ribbon cutting was done by the Hon. Carlos Perdomo, Minister of National Security.

Ms. Christine Hyde, Justice of the Peace and Village resident, thanked those who made it possible for such a Police Sub-station to have been built for the village and also pledged her support to the Police Officers, who will be working at the Station.



Police in Support of Ride Across Belize

Aside from the day to day policing activities, the Police Department engages in social and athletic events. Most recently, the Police Department sent out a team of four Police Officers in support of the 6th Annual Ride Across Belize Cycling event sponsored by Social Security Board in an effort to raise funds for Charity. The Ride Across Belize is one of the most high profiled fund raising event of which the Police is proud to be a part of. This simply goes to show that police officers are not only about preserving law and order, but also about showing support for events of humanitarian causes, whilst enjoying the ambiance of camaraderie on the road with those who enjoy helping in similar activities.



Police Association Election

On the 8th December 2009, the Belize Police Department, carried out elections countrywide to elect officers for the Police Association, as is mandated by section 34 of the Police Act and was revitalized as part of the new focus of the department, and based

on the recommendations by Mr. Harold Crooks in his report "Review of the Belize Police Department". The revitalization of this process will allow for representation of Police Officers in matters affecting their Welfare, and other issues of concern to them pertaining to the department. The association shall be an independent body comprising of Police Officers from various ranks in the Non Commissioned Officer (N.C.O.) bracket of the department. The election responsibility falls in the portfolio of Commander Personnel and Welfare.

In the next issue, we will bring to you the results of this significant election.



"In Everything Give Thanks"



Did you wake up today complaining and murmuring about your job, co-workers, your spouse, your children, your finances? If you did it is because you did not take the time to give God "thanks" for what you currently have. You see, we are blessed everyday. If we started making a list of blessings we would be quickly enlightened concerning just how good we really have it. The flesh looks for things to complain about, but the spirit searches for reasons to give God glory. There are many things to be thankful for if we decide we are going to be people who continually offer up thanksgiving. So stop complaining, and start praising God for the things you already have. Remember there are people out there who has it worst than you.

Verse for today: Hebrews 13:15 "Therefore by Him (Jesus Christ) let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name"

God bless you!



**Together - Lets Make
Belize Safer.**

Swearing - In of Volunteer Special Constables



On Saturday 7th November, Punta Gorda Town community witnessed the swearing-in of 39 newly appointed Special Constables, at a ceremony held at the Punta Gorda Police

Formation in that municipality. Present was the area representative, Hon Peter Eden Martinez, Minister of Rural Development and Social Transformation, who commended the Special Constables for taking up such a task, and assisting the Punta Gorda Police in the fight against crime. He also encouraged others in the community to join the Team of Volunteer Special Constables and pledged his support to the Officer in Charge, Mr. Robert Mariano, Superintendent of Police. Special Constable, Ms. Sherline Anderson in her speech, pledged to do her utmost best to assist, along with her other team members, to help in making Punta Gorda a safer place for all.



Volunteer Special Constable to Paid Special Constable

Mr. Alfredo SIERRA is a resident of Caledonia Village in the Corozal District, and was a Volunteer Special Constable in his village. SIERRA is an arduous and responsible worker, whose dedication and hard work has resulted in him being employed as a paid Special Constable, since then SIERRA was working along-side PC Guzman in the village of Caledonia and has gained the respect of villagers for his strong will to learn and dedication to duty. Officer Commanding Corozal asked him to join the team at the Corozal Town Police Station. He has since been assigned to work along with the Quick Response Team where he is presently performing his duties in an exemplary manner.



A QUICKIE FOR YOUR LAUGHING PLEASURE.

"The handcuffs are tight! the prisoner said, to the officer, to which the Officer answers, yes, because they're new. They'll stretch out, after you wear them awhile!"

Corozal Businesses Donate to Police

The Corozal Business Community donated to the Corozal Police, a brand new motorcycle, which will be used by the ZBLO Officers for effective and efficient response to the Public. The Corozal Police detachment wishes to thank the following businesses who made it possible:-

Social Security Board, Mr. Eumelio Reyes, Rapidito Loans, The Chinese Community, Las Vegas Casino, South End Neighbourhood Watch, People's Coalition Committee



Community Policing - Yabra's Feeding Program

The Community Policing Unit (CPU) is one of the finest Units of the Belize Police Department. Most recently, with the assistance from Youth for the Future and UNFPA, the Yabra's Youth Friendly and Community Drop-in-Center was created to assist the needy in the community, especially the children. The Community Policing Unit Feeding Program is called the Yabra Feeding Program and it aims to deal with several challenges and concerns of the community, however, its primary goal is to decrease the incidents of Primary School drop outs, and assist the needy children.

In the Port Loyola Area and its neighbouring communities, there are five (5) Primary Schools that the Police has since introduced the Feeding Program. These schools are Sister Clara Muhammad Community, St. John's Vianney, Queen Square Anglican Primary, St. John's Anglican Primary and James Garbutt Seventh Day Adventist Primary School. The Yabra's Feeding Program works in conjunction with the Ministry of Education School Act, which governs the school's academic calendar, thus the times when the feeding program starts and ends.



Law Enforcement Segment

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER PROGRAM

With more attention given to the safety of young people while they are at school, many communities are considering strategies which are intended to make schools a safer environment. Albeit statistics on crime and violence in schools convey that they are not necessarily occurring in greater numbers, there is, at a minimum, anecdotal evidence suggesting that the types of incidents taking place on school property may be more severe in nature and could be causing a negative impact on the educational systems at schools. Additionally, media coverage of daily and weekly tragic shootings that involves youths as victims or perpetrators, both in and out of schools, has given rise to the Belize Police Department's interest in establishing this proactive program named School Resource Officers Program (SRO).

The establishment of the Community Policing Unit is to serve as a coordinating & implementing body for the Belize Police Department's Community Policing initiatives; as well as, for the provision of operational programs/activities in collaboration with the community and service providers of the government, private and NGOs sectors.

The School Resource Officers Program is an initiative to act in anticipation of future causes of crime and violence in an effort to address the frequency of incidents in High

Schools. The prerogative is to develop new innovative & creative programs in association with the community. The foundation of a successful community policing strategy is the close mutually beneficial ties between the Police and community members.



AIMS & OBJECTIVES

SROs are law enforcement officers from within the Belize Police Department assigned to schools in cooperative agreements with the Belize Association of High School Principals & the Ministry of Education. These officers are typically full-time, in-house school officers with police powers who

are employed directly by the Government of Belize.



We believe that crime & violence in schools reflects the violence from our

very own communities. What better way to enforce crime prevention in the communities? The SRO program will enforce crime prevention in schools and will symbolize a positive, meaningful School-law enforcement partnership that will also have its effect, in years to come, in the communities as well.

Furthermore, most Zone Beat Liaison Officers (ZBLOs) will tell you that they have prevented far more incidents from occurring than they have made actual arrests. "SROs typically focus their functions on the "Triad Model" consisting of law enforcement, student counselling, and law-related education. To fully understand this aspect of school safety, SROs and

school-law enforcement relationships must be viewed as the first-line of prevention, not as being punitive or prison-like." (NASRO – National Association for

School Resource Officers, Florida)

How does the School Resource Officers Program work?

SROs will focus & perform in three (3) areas within the schools, these areas are:

- Law Enforcement
- Teaching, and
- Student Counselling

Law Enforcement:

SROs will be dressed in their #1 uniform at all times to show their physical presence in the schools. The SROs will work alongside the schools administrators that includes principals, vice principals, school counsellors & teachers on regular school days and hours. SROs will act as a support to the administration especially in the execution and enforcement of school rules & regulations.

Referrals will be made to the respective unit of the Police Department whenever any minor or major crime is committed by a student or a faculty member. SROs will work from the

office of the Principal or Vice Principal of the school they are assigned to.

The SROs will conduct regular classroom visits to address safety issues, regular school bag searches to enforce school regulations & demonstrate a visual presence when students arrive and leave schools from the entrance & exit of the compound.

Teaching:

SROs will conduct & participate in daily classroom sessions at all levels within the school in areas of conflict resolution, drugs/abuse, children rights/responsibilities, gangs, abuses – sexual/physical/psychological, & respect for law, order & Police officers.

Surveys will be conducted with students regularly to assist in developing meaningful materials & adequate address of concerns, challenges and recommendations made by the schools. SROs will be able to have a one on one, group and/or classroom sessions with students on a daily basis to build positive communication & good rapport.

Counseling:

(The SROs will work closely with the Schools Guidance Counselors in addressing any task requiring their assistance with students or faculty. The SROs will identify and do referrals to the School Guidance Counselors when necessary. The SRO will assist students through counseling in law related problems and mediate in times of disputes. The imperative is

to suggest the resolution of conflicts in a peaceful manner.

There are four (4) outstanding benefits of the SROs program listed below:

1. Immediate and accessible presence of the Police to address the day to day incidents within the schools.
2. Enhance the reputation and enforce the capacity of Police officers with Juveniles.
3. Create and maintain closer and meaningful relationship with the schools' populations.
4. Enhance the Community Policing Unit rapport in communities.

The Belize Police Department through its Community Policing Unit have implemented & established a Pilot program of the School Resource Officer program in two of the Belize City's Secondary High Schools namely Wesley College & Maud Williams High School on October 5th 2009. The Ministry of Education along with the Belize Association of Principals of Secondary Schools & the Belize Police Department signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the School Resource Officer Program for the country of Belize on the 5th October, 2009 at the Yabra Community/Youth Friendly Drop-in-Centre.

Two trained, energetic and enthusiastic Women Police Officers, # 1062 Ms Stacy Smith & # 984 Ms Miriam Chun were recommended and selected to be the first SROs in the Belize District. W/ Sgt Dehanne Williams, Officer in Charge of Community Policing Unit directly supervise the WPCs while the Police Department's Youth Program Coordinator, Mr Douglas Hyde is responsible for the coordination, implementation and the monitoring & evaluation of the School Resource Officers Program's growth and development for future expansion.

This SRO initiative has been well received, and it is envisioned that this program will be expanded to more schools in the near future.



Police Central Criminal Statistic Unit (P.C.C.S.U.)

The Belize Police Department, as of November 2009, has created a **Police Central Criminal Statistic Unit (PCCSU)**, which will assist in the collation and dissemination of police statistics country-wide. The unit is presently located at the National Police Headquarters and is headed by Detective Corporal of Police Alex Valladares. Corporal Valladares's professional skill in the statistical and analytical field has been gained after attending multiple international and local statistical seminars, and eight years of working experience with crime statistics. He has recently returned from San Salvador, El Salvador, after attending a one week statistical seminar namely SEPOLCAC (*Sistema Estadístico de Policía de Centro América y el Caribe*) held from the 9th to the 13th November, 2009. Attached also to the Unit are Detective Constable Emil August (who also participated in the seminar in San Salvador) and Joseph Cano. The Police Administration is presently considering additional personnel to be recruited into the Unit, as the need arises.

Crime Analysis is essential in Policing as commonalities in crime indicate a trend, and trends, may well indicate possible solutions. Successful decisions are based in knowing where we were, where we are, and where we need to go. The P.C.C.S.U. supports a number of departmental functions, including patrol deployment, special operations, investigations, planning and research, crime prevention, and administrative services. Three immediate functions of the P.C.C.S.U. are:

- Preparing monthly, quarterly, or annual reports (including statistical reports) for the department.
- Providing database querying, statistics, and other types of law enforcement information on demand.



Continues on Page 7

- Preparation of charts, graphs, and reports for Senior Officers presentations, or local media (s)

This unit will also be responsible to facilitate statistical data locally, regional and internationally. The establishment of the Police Central Criminal Statistics Unit is a major step in the right direction and will no doubt enhance our law enforcement efforts. It is also a major achievement in regards to the Crooks Report Recommendations, and will usher in a more research and problem oriented police department; something that is necessary in meeting the present and future challenges of law enforcement in Belize.

Crime Statistics

CATEGORY	JAN-MAR	APRIL-JUNE	JUL-SEPT.	OCT	TOTAL
MAJOR CRIMES					
AGG. BURGLARY	5	15	17	8	45
BURGLARY	326	302	314	86	1028
CARNAL KNOW	5	5	13	3	26
MURDER	28	24	23	8	83
RAPE	9	6	1	3	19
ROBBERY	159	137	138	24	458
THEFT	371	327	343	90	1131
UNLAWFUL CARN.	7	12	4	1	24
TOTAL	910	828	853	223	2814



Crime Prevention Tips

If going shopping, never go alone always walk in pairs or more.

Never carry large sums of money in your purse.

If you have a licensed firearm, never leave it in your car.

If jogging at night, always have someone you trust go along.

Leaving your home for a few hours, then never leave your curtains drawn, and always leave a radio or small TV on to deter criminals from trying to enter your home.

Never, Never leave valuable possession in your car un-attended.



Police in Training



INTERNATIONAL TRAINING

16 Officers attended the seminar .

G.R.E.A.T Training For Police Officers



Eight Officers attended a course coordinated by the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) that was held in San Salvador, El Salvador. The course is part of a gang reduction program, with the acronym (G.R.E.A.T.) or **Gang Resistance Education and Training**, the officers who attended are:- from left to right

Front: WPC's Miriam Chun, Cheryl Lanza, Stacy Smith and Desiree Bowen.

Back: PC Bani Shol, Cpl. Elroy Carcamo, PC's Josue McKoy and Ryan Timmons.

Public Order Training

The Service of International Technical Cooperation of the French Police, invited the Belize Police Department to attend a Regional Training that was held in El Salvador for the **Maintenance and Re-Establishment of Public Order**, ASP Ralph Moody attended.

LOCAL TRAINING

Community Policing Training

On 10th November, the Community Policing Unit held a three days seminar that was held at the Police Training Academy. The purpose of the seminar was to discuss issues such as the Importance of Engaging the Community, Identifying and Resolving Community Problems, and Police-Community based partnership.

Scenes of Crime Advance Course

On 9th November, the Belize Police Department held a two weeks Advance Scenes of Crime Training Course for Police Officers at the National Police Training Academy. The course was to assist Police Officers with the tools in handling a crime scene as the first responders. The course was conducted by Manager of the Scenes of Crime Unit, Mr Gaspar Sanchez, and his staff.

10 Police Officers from various detachments attended the course.

Residential Sergeant Course

This Sergeant course was held at the National Police Training Academy from the 24th to 27th November, 2009, where 37 Non-Commissioned Officers (Sergeants) were lectured in the following subjects:-

Proper Delegation
Crime Statistics
Leadership
Discipline
Briefing and Debriefing
Terms of Reference
Community Policing
Police/Ombudsman Relation
The role of supervision
Station Management
Charge Register and Summaries

This Sergeant course will be held again shortly in order to facilitate other Non-Commissioned Officers the same opportunity to better understand, and improve their roll and function in the Belize Police Department.



TRANSFORMING THE BELIZE POLICE DEPARTMENT INTO A MORE EFFICIENT & EFFECTIVE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

that is aimed at violent crime reduction, and the availability of illegally possessed firearms, along with the control of importation and sale of firearms and ammunition; and the destruction of firearms. The infrastructure project aimed at the improvement of police facilities, work environment and equipment. The vehicle fleet management project aimed at medium and long term operational mobility to include the challenges faced in the transportation of prisoners country wide.

The access to specific data on crime, criminals, court case results and the custody and movement of convicted and remanded persons, along with movement of deportees and transient criminals is being exploited. The use of improved storage and retrieval system, and dedicated analysts to develop the intelligence needed that makes our response well coordinated and timely, thus effective in producing encouraging results, as we expand on our effort to reduce crime.

We are doing more research to study and track the success rate at criminal investigation and prosecution both at the summary and indictable level. This process, as it expands, will allow us to see which officers are doing well, and those that are not. We are now at a point where we can clearly see the weaknesses and strengths, the shortfalls and opportunities, not only by mere perception or citizens' opinion, but by hard data, and research that is ultimately leading to the full implementation of intelligence led policing. Our operations project is focused on strategic deployment and the use of human and material resources to address the aspects of road policing and preventative patrols in rural and cross border areas. Also it would look at tourism policing, community policing and domestic violence, drug interdiction and human trafficking.

Today we continue to improve and are a more focused organization that is working hard, becoming innovative to reduce gun-related crime and the murder rate, and other major crimes. This undertaking comes with many challenges, especially with scarcity of resources and the urgent need for more training along with the consolidation of lessons learnt from training received.

From the numerous offers and courses received, police officers at both the senior and junior ranks of the department have received training in leadership, management, supervision and administration, both at the local and international level. Our junior ranks have also been receiving numerous training courses at the local level that will ensure that the Police Department's goals of improved ser-

vice delivery and professional service is achieved.

We are embarking on numerous other initiatives such as the creation of a Fusion Center, for better intelligence gathering capabilities and a more cohesive information sharing within the law enforcement environment. The department has also seen the need to established a Road Policing Mandate that will assist greatly in ensuring that our national highways and roads are safer, and that the department is able to counter transient criminals who use our roads and highways.

With the transformation of the Police Department and the commitment of its personnel to change, it is envisioned that the general public will receive measurable benefits. The Department is being compelled to be more proactive than ever, more accountable and smarter. These attributes will in the short and long term, result in improvement of the Department and the professionalization of its officers.

We are more than ever convinced that while there are those that will be around for their self interest there will always be greater numbers that will win for the greater good of all. The duty of the men and women of the Belize Police Department is to ensure that Belize continues to be that safe and tranquil place of democracy, where the rule of law prevails.

As we stride towards these goals and face the challenges, we thank those many regional and local donors, especially the US Embassy in Belize, who have continued to show and give unwavering support especially in the area of training. While the request for support is and will always be out there, we are urgently in need of the wealth of experience gathered over the years by those who have served in the law enforcement and other professional areas to help in the struggle to keep Belize safe. Offers of assistance and support in skills and labour, as well as material, will always be greatly appreciated.

We thank you for your time spent and the consideration and criticism given that has kept us honest and productive. It is with your vigilance that we can be made to do better.

Humour of the Month

A Cop stops a man for going the opposite way on a one way street. The officer approaches the driver, who was apparently drunk and the officer said "Sir, didn't you see the arrow", and he replied, "no officer!, not even the Indians".

A criminal is arrested and brought before the judge, whom had told him before, that he did not want to see him in his court ever again. The judge upon seeing the criminal, said "didn't I tell you I never wanted to see you again in my court", and he replies, "yes, your honor, I told the officer the same thing and he still brought me".