

Young sailors stand on the shoulder of a Master and Commander: Charles Bartlett Hyde

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Contributed, Harbour Regatta Committee

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Apr. 10, 2024

Today we had forward to a man who gave much to the sport of sailing in Belize with his time and talents. The members of the Belize Harbour Regatta Committee were able to confer the honours of Charles Bartlett Hyde, and the Belize Sailing Association was established in 2010 with C.B. Hyde at the helm as the first chair of the association. Bartlett served until later served as Secretary under C.H. Hyde. Hyde would have been around 85 years of age at the time, but his knowledge, skills and passion were available to those who wished to launch a national sports organization in Belize.

Right Honourable Dean D. Barrow recognized that he spent many days visiting with C.H. and he was affectionately known, and he considered those days a master class showing the wealth of knowledge Hyde possessed. Rt. Hon. Barrow recalled that "CB served as the first



(right) Charles Bartlett Hyde

Master General of Belize, and he made a reputation for himself for being "INCORRUPTEBLE". Barrow opined that C.H.'s fervent honesty was beyond his sporting and sailing, but a general trait was likely a trait of his DNA.

Another key element was C.H. Hyde's ability to reach out to both sides of the political divide. Cabinet Secretary, Stuart L. White pointed out, "C.H. Hyde was the Speaker of the House at a time when Belize was seeking independence, and the PUP party had a strong presence in parliament and popular support outside. C.H. Hyde did his best to be impartial, and he was held in high regard by both sides of the House."

The flagship program C.H. helped to start was the Optimist sailing program. Commodore Alvin Adams of the Placencia Sailing Club shared that, "the Optimist sailing helped to jumpstart the Placencia Sailing Club." The Placencia Sailing Club remains the most active and competitive club in Belize. It is common knowledge within the sailing community that C.H. Hyde made important calls at crucial times to secure financial support and land a system due to non-profit sport organizations.

C.H. was pulled out of retirement to lend his efforts to sailing although maybe with

some trepidation on the part of his family. Maybe, it was because of the sea linked to family issues to Spanish Cay or the love of the sport of sailing. "Whatever his motivation, the Harbour Regatta Committee is grateful for his service and pleased that Charles Hyde, Master General of Belize, has been named the supreme governing sailing person in Belize."

"We were fortunate and honored to have had the opportunity to present the Lifetime Achievement Award to C.H. Hyde," said Col. "Bunny" Malpas, who presented the award at the 95th Burrell Bites Harbour Regatta. The award was accepted by Nelson Hyde, son of C.H. Hyde. Malpas continues to promote sailing and Belizean coastal culture through the Harbour Regatta and by supporting sailing clubs across Belize. In collaboration with the Belize Sea Scouts, Malpas continues to cultivate a big tent approach to the sailing community, where all are welcomed, and through the sport of sailing, present the values that have become synonymous with the name Charles Bartlett Hyde—sportsmanship. This entails honesty, integrity beyond reproach, respect for oneself and your competitors, and loyalty.

We bid farewell and following Seas to our venerable Captain!

Court rejects alleged utterance of Richard Bennett, charged with double murder



Richard Bennett

By Roy Davis (freelance writer)

BELIZE CITY, Wed. Apr. 10, 2024

In a ruling given on Tuesday, April 9, Justice Candace Norton rejected the alleged utterance of Richard Bennett, 26, who is charged with double murder. Police claimed that he took responsibility for the murders after he was shown a video footage.

According to the police, Bennett said, "That's me. I f---ed up," pointing to the person that was shown on the video footage.

At the scene date that was held on Monday, April 8, two police officers, Inspector Ismael Sanchez and Constable Gans, testified that Bennett made the utterance on March 16, 2023, the day after the incident. But they admitted that a Justice of the Peace or any attorney representing Bennett was not present when the utterance was made. They also admitted that they did not make any contemporaneous statement when the utterance was made.

Bennett testified at the scene date and denied that he made the utterance.

The incident occurred on March 17, 2023, at a home on Logwood Street.

The police reported that a man entered the house of Cynthia Comanque, 49, and shot her and Adem Garcia, 21, killing both of them.

The Crown is being represented by Senior Crown Counsel Paula Fergaese, while Bennett is being represented by attorney Leery Barner.

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and retrieved.

Video footage is being reviewed at this time along with fingerprints which were gathered at the scene.

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THE BELIZE TIMES

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Voluntary National Review (VNR) Youth Conference Adolescent and Youth take the stage for national dialogue on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 Agenda

People, Planet, Peace, Prosperity, and Partnership

APRIL 06, 2024: The Government of Belize, through the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Climate Change in partnership with the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Transport, and the UN System, is hosting the first-ever National Youth Conference on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), anchored on the Voluntary National Review (VNR).

The VNR is a process by which countries take stock and assess progress and challenges in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda. As part of its follow-up and review mechanisms, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development encourages member States to conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels, which are country-led and country-driven. In keeping with this guidance, Belize is preparing to deliver the 2024 VNR that will assess all 17 SDGs. This report is expected to assess the progress in the implementation of the SDGs using the relevant SDGs indicators, to fulfil the reporting commitment, to identify gaps in implementation, to strengthen and promote the need for monitoring, evaluation, and reporting and to address the Private Sector Investment Programmes (PSIP) alignment with SDGs.

Hon. Danilo Mellet, Minister of Sustainable Development and Climate Change highlighted that "Our journey has been only one comprehensive assessment so far: the 2017 Voluntary National Review (VNR), which reviewed only 4 out of the 17 SDGs. We continue to contribute to the shaping of Belize's 2nd VNR report, which will now encompass all SDGs. This review process also integrates the valuable lessons learned from our first VNR experience, including the application of a whole-of-society approach to ensure no one is left behind, with particular emphasis on the crucial role of young people as stakeholders in this process. Belize stands resolute in its commitment to these goals, striving not only for their attainment but also for their seamless integration into the very fabric of our nation's development. Our 2nd Medium-Term Development Strategy, when Belize 2022-2026, stands as a testament to these overarching pledges fully aligned with the 17 Development Goals."

With over 60 per cent of the population comprised of persons under the age of thirty (30), this initiative is a participatory feature of the ongoing 2024 VNR process that seeks to incorporate the voices of adolescent and youth. Discussion for the on-day event will be anchored in the five pillars of People, Planet, Peace, Prosperity, and Partnership. The conference is also being used as a platform to initiate continuous engagement and participants will develop an action plan to further mobilize young people to advocate for and monitor SDG goals through community engagement and using digital and SMS polls on the U-Report Platform.

Hon. Rodwell Ferguson, Minister of Youth, Sports and Transport envisioned that "it is imperative for governments,



development partners, and influencers to work jointly that promote the development and human rights of young people in Belize. Hence, my government commits to the development of a Youth Policy. Providing a formal space for youth involvement, increasing the resources for investment in young people."

UNICEF Representative for Belize, Alison Parker on behalf of the UN system, emphasized the significance of adolescent and youth engagement in high-level national processes. "Last year, national clubs and development partners crossed the half-way point to address the SDGs, with an urgent call for multilateralism to drive results. This consultative conference is therefore timely as it affords the opportunity for us to again listen, absorb and reflect on stakeholders' feedback and realistic perspectives, and rapidly assess the progress towards the 2030 Agenda. Now more than ever, the UN is invested in partnerships that accelerate efforts for children, adolescents and young people, to meet the commitments to the next generation."

The empowerment of young people is not just beneficial but essential for sustainable development. Their inclusion in decision-making processes ensures that policies and initiatives are reflective of their needs and aspirations, enhancing the relevance and effectiveness of sustainability efforts. Learning more about the SDGs can help young people develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills. They must have a deeper understanding of how the world works and be aware of all complex interplay between the various social, economic, and environmental factors contributing to national challenges.

16-year-old Mariana Deleon summarized with "Congratulations to the Government of Belize and the United Nations for including the voices of our young persons in this process through empowerment and responsibility in meeting the Sustainable Development Goals forward."

The 2024 VNR Report will also serve to inform the necessary adjustments to be made to the current medium-term development strategy, #PlanBelize 2022-2026 to be more impactful and effective in its efforts to build a more democratic, inclusive, sustainable, and resilient Belize and to ensure no one is left behind.

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