

"I HAVE A DREAM...FOR BELIZE!"

*By: Elvis J.E.G. Usher of Dangriga Town, Stann Creek District
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Beloved Belize,

The soil is soaked in your tears. Where is your smile? It was brightest... when The Battle was won, when Emancipation was proclaimed, when you embraced numerous orphans from weary travel, and when political Independence was secured. Yet, why do you keep your hands behind you as your children act like crabs in wet buckets, constantly pulling down each other as they trample domestic success?

You cry now, but you won't hang your head in shame forever; for as sure as the rising sun, He will ease your pain and guide your children on the right paths, for I have a dream...

Tengo un sueno (Spanish), that one day one will be proud of their ethnicity without trespassing into ethnocentrism and paramountly taking pride in their unique identity, that is Belizean.

A ga wa jreem (Creole), that today's parents bethink the proverb: It takes a village to raise a child; so children will grow to be fruitful citizens rather than undisciplined, force-ripened mangoes.

Yan in nubul (Mopan Maya), that one day individuals will be elected based on the 'content of their character' rather than their party affiliation.

Gawenaditina (Garifuna), that leaders will agree to re-divide the constituencies so as to allow equal representation and re-design respective laws – equivalent to America's – entitling each district to their hard-earned financial allotment, rather than robbing them and allowing parts of you to develop on the expense of others.

And I have a dream that 'no longer shall we be hewers of wood' but engage in more manufactured exportation so as to now secure economic independence.

And when this happen Belize, when your children decide to mentally unchain themselves and start making a cultural shift, then the redolence of national happiness, justice and prosperity will pervade your length and breadth, for ALL!