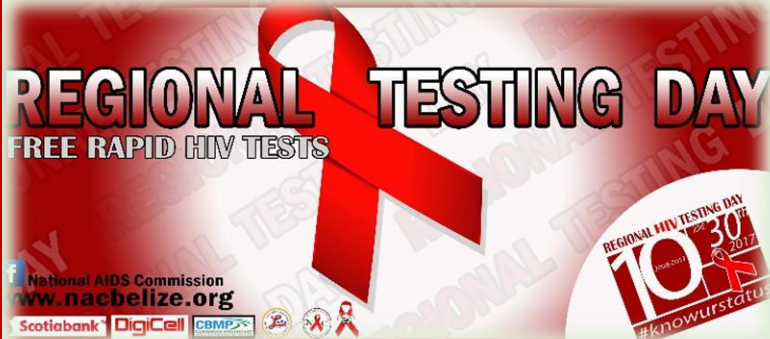




THE SECRETARIAT

“Giving Hope to People Living with HIV Through Dedicated Service”



Over the last 6 years, Belize has participated in the Caribbean Regional Testing Day initiative

led by the Pan Caribbean Partnership Against HIV/AIDS (PANCAP). In 2017, the region celebrated the *10th anniversary of Regional HIV Testing Day (RTD)*, with a goal of reaching 100,000 people tested throughout the Caribbean over the 10 years of the initiative. RTD has, to date, tested some 90,807 people and we are on track to meet the UNAIDS targets which lead to ending AIDS by 2030.

The NAC, as a part of this Public Private Partnership; in collaboration with Scotiabank, the Ministry of Health (MOH) and Belize Telemedia Ltd. once more proudly join PANCAP and twenty other countries in our region to celebrate *Regional Testing Day (RTD) on Friday, June 30th, 2017; under the theme: #knowurstatus!* This year we expanded the reach of the program by utilizing the following eight testing sites: *San Pedro Town (Central Park), Corozal Town (Central Park), Orange Walk Town (Central Park), Belmopan City (Scotiabank Parking), San Ignacio Town (Welcome Center), Dangriga Town (Courts parking Lot), Punta Gorda Town (Central Park) and Belize City (Scotiabank Regent St. Parking Lot).*

Besides targeting the eight above mentioned sites on June 30th for all day testing, the NAC and in collaboration with MOH engaged the Police Department, Coast Guard and Fire



Departments nationwide in our regionally recognized and awarded best-practice “On-site Testing Program”. This program, which ran from May 19th to June 26th, was designed to take the testing directly to these organizations and accommodate their busy schedules.

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In light of all this, Belize has been and continues to be a lead entity in the region in the promotion and implementation of this event. Nationwide 32,635 HIV tests were done in 2016, with the general scale up in services, and a reduction in the total number of new infections; Belize has seen an HIV prevalence rate of 1.2%, the lowest in years.

Of note is that Belize also launched a social media campaign utilizing local celebrities, partners, media personalities and community activists to engage in a simple but effective message... ***“Get Tested, Know Your Status!”***



RTD 2017 STATISTICS: 1601 Tests

San Pedro Town: 54 Corozal Town: 55 Orange Walk Town: 178 Belize City: 171
 Belmopan City: 122 San Ignacio Town: 228 Dangriga Town: 162 Punta Gorda Town: 78

On-site Testing Totals: 553

Regional Testing Day is a Caribbean initiative spearheaded under the guidance of the Pan Caribbean Partnership Against HIV/AIDS (PANCAP) with key sponsorship from Scotiabank and support from the Caribbean Media Broadcast Partnership on HIV/AIDS (CMBP). This year Belize recognizes Regional Testing Day under the theme: ***RU + UR- #knowurstatus!***

Launch of Children's Agenda 2017-2030



“If we don't stand up for children... then we don't stand up for much” – Marian W. Edelman.

This quote is a reflection of the National Committee for Families and Children (NCFC) continued commitment to creating a Belize where children and adolescents can grow, play, be safe, participate and become productive citizens. Thus, the bi-partisan signing of the new Children's Agenda 2017 – 2030 on May 15th was among the final steps leading up to the official launch. NCFC realizes that LIFE is a right of every child, not a special privilege for some. Hence, the 8th day of

June 2017 is living testament of Belize's commitment to the realization of international instruments such as the Convention on the Rights of a Child (CRC); and the advancement of all children regardless of their age, ethnicity, religion and gender. This new agenda is a results framework that looks at the development of children and adolescents aged 0-19 over the next fourteen (14) years.

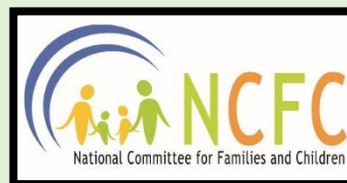
It focuses on the role of families and family-oriented policies in promoting education, safety, economic opportunity, and overall well-being of their members. In particular, the agenda is to raise awareness of the role of families in promoting early childhood education and lifelong learning opportunities for children and adolescents. This will be achieved through a strategic action plan that includes six (6) transformational goals and five (5) outcomes; with the overarching goal of having a community that is connected, respected and contributing positively to the development of all human beings.



The Children's Agenda 2017-2030 is grounded in the determination to make Belize the best place in which a child can grow. It reflects the firm belief and commitment to the fact that there is no alternative but to invest in an enabling environment which supports the fulfillment of children rights. Therefore, the embedded vision throughout this agenda is to have a nation where the rights of all children are respected, protected and fulfilled; where their voices are heard and they are supported to realize their maximum potential.



NCFC takes this opportunity to extend its gratitude and appreciation to all stakeholders, especially the children and adolescences who played an integral part in the process and completion of the Children's Agenda 2017-2030. We also take this opportune time to call on all stakeholders to commit to the values, principles and actions for a coordinated fulfillment of the goals and outcomes to make Belize the best place to raise a child.



MINISTER OF JUSTICE, JAMAICA, CALLS ON PARLIAMENTARIANS TO BE ADVOCATES FOR ENDING AIDS.

- Emphasized role of Faith Leaders and Political Leaders in supporting HIV+ People

The Pan Caribbean Partnership against HIV and AIDS (PANCAP) Regional Parliamentarians Forum, 30 - 31 May, Kingston, Jamaica, commenced with a stirring keynote address by the Hon. Delroy Chuck, Minister of Justice, Jamaica.



Minister Chuck addressed the need for parliamentarians to engage in more advocacy for People Living With and Affected by HIV and AIDS at the policymaking level.

'We, the parliamentarians need to act as advocates for people affected by HIV', stated Minister Chuck, 'we need to engage with all stakeholders, including the faith-based organizations to rethink some of the beliefs that isolate the key populations which are most affected by HIV transmission. We, the parliamentarians have an obligation to lead the way in protecting the weak and vulnerable'.

The Jamaican Minister of Justice underscored the high prevalence of HIV transmission among men who have sex with men (MSM), 'the high prevalence of HIV among this key population is very alarming and we must rethink how we deal with this key population. The continued spread of HIV within any population is a threat to public health. We must be cognizant of this and take urgent action. Parliaments must prioritise reducing stigma and discrimination toward people most vulnerable to HIV transmission'.

Minister Chuck emphasized the role of the faith-based community and urged the MPs and other stakeholders present to embrace the power of the religious community and utilize their influence to reach weak and vulnerable communities. ***'We must not underestimate the influence of faith leaders; this can be a powerful tool for ending HIV and AIDS. We, the parliamentarians can take the lead and join forces with key stakeholders to support people living with HIV and advocate for policies which seek to reduce HIV transmission and end deaths from AIDS'.***

The Minister's keynote address formed a significant segment of the opening ceremony of the PANCAP Regional Parliamentarians Forum, which is a platform for parliamentarians from across the Region to discuss their involvement in ending HIV and AIDS. Government ministers and members of the opposition participated.

Selected key population leaders from the Caribbean Vulnerable Communities Coalition (CVC), Caribbean Forum for Liberation and Acceptance of Genders and Sexualities (CariFLAGS), Caribbean Sex Work Coalition (CSWC), the Caribbean Network of People Living with HIV (CRN+) and UN partners also attended the Forum.

The focus of the Forum was a discussion on the targets of the Political Declaration of June 2016 and the implications for parliaments in the Caribbean. Parliamentarians established the foundations for increased

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engagement with national parliaments and national Parliamentary Committees on Health/Social Protection and on Justice especially in countries such as Belize, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica and the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, which have higher HIV prevalence rates.

The Forum, which is funded by the Global Fund and facilitated by the PANCAP Coordinating Unit and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), formed part of a wider intervention programme created by PANCAP within its **Justice For All (JFA) Roadmap**. It is expected that the discussions between regional parliamentarians, civil society representatives and other stakeholders will result in the formation of strategic steps, which can be implemented by parliamentarians to increase advocacy for People Living With, and Affected by HIV at the highest level.

BELIZE CANCER SOCIETY & ATLANTIC INSURANCE COMPANY LTD: HEALTH & WELLNESS DAY 2017

The Belize Cancer Society (BCS) in collaboration with Atlantic Insurance Ltd hosted its first *Annual Community Health & Wellness Day* on May 31st, 2017 at the BCS Compound located on 2625 Mercy Lane Belize City from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm; under the theme: *The Best Prevention is Early Detection*.

The BCS and its social partners recognizes that the effects of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) play a critical and vital role on our communities and our Health Sector. It is up to us collectively to make a difference and spread the awareness of NCD's including Cancer to the Belizean populace.

The day provided free education and screening services to our local community, students and businesses as well as the following free services: blood pressure checks, kidney test, HIV/Aids testing, breast exams, pap smears, blood sugar tests, blood collection.

POSTER POSTS:

Movie Night
June 23, 2017
6:00 PM
DYS conference room
 #55 Regent Street
 Pay it No Mind: Marsha P. Johnson

MAY 17 INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA & TRANSPHOBIA
 A Worldwide Celebration of Sexual & Gender Diversities
IDAHOT BALLOON LAUNCH
WED. MAY 17TH, 2017
5:30PM
NATIONAL FLAG MONUMENT, BELIZE CITY
#IFED2017 #IDAHOT

MAY 17 INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA & TRANSPHOBIA
 A Worldwide Celebration of Sexual & Gender Diversities
 JOIN EMPOWER YOURSELF BELIZE MOVEMENT AS WE CELEBRATE IDAHOT & INTERNATIONAL FAMILY EQUALITY DAY 2017! *Love Makes A Family*
IDAHOT COCKTAIL
 TIME: 7PM - 12 MIDNIGHT
 DATE: MAY 21ST, 2017
 PLACE: BFLA HEADQUARTERS, 2621 MERCY LANE (behind Heritage Bank Ltd.)
PRIZES & GIVE-A-WAYS ALL NIGHT!!!
#IFED2017 #IDAHOT

unicef for every child
 National Parenting Taskforce Presents
DAD & I TALENT SHOW
Saturday June 24
Orange Walk Central Park
7:00 - 9:30 PM
Come & Support our dad & Child in action... Free Entrance!

11th ANNUAL TEAM RELAY TRIATHLON
Sunday July 2nd | 5:00 am
Register Your Team TODAY!
AGES 14-24
 To Register:
 Visit: BFLA @2621 Mercy Lane [Behind Nacho World]
 Call: 203-1018 or inbox: @YAM501

Get Tested!
REGIONAL HIV TESTING DAY
10th 2008-2017 **30th** JUNE 2017
#knowurstatus

REGIONAL HIV TESTING DAY
FREE RAPID HIV TESTS FROM 9AM - 3PM
10th 2008-2017 **30th** JUNE 2017
#knowurstatus
 For more information please contact the NAC Secretariat at: 223-7592/223-7594.
 San Ignacio Town (Welcome Center), Dangriga Town (Courts Parking Lot), Punta Gorda Town (Central Park), Belize City (Scotiabank Parking Lot, Regent St.), San Pedro Town (Lion's Den), Corozal Town (Central Park), Orange Walk Town (Central Park), Belmopan City (Scotiabank Parking Lot)

THE NATIONAL AIDS COMMISSION RECEIVES INNOVATIVE OUTREACH AWARD

The National AIDS Commission and Executive Director Enrique Romero were presented with the 10th Anniversary Regional Testing Day Innovative Outreach Award during the Regional Testing Day Awards Ceremony and Media Launch on Friday May 26th, 2017 at the Hilton Barbados Resort in Bridgetown Barbados.

LIVE UP: The Caribbean Media Alliance presented awards to 21 individuals and 12 organizations as part of its continued promotion of its unique media brand, addressing HIV and issues of human rights and social justice in the Caribbean. The awardees hail from: St. Lucia, Jamaica, Belize, Haiti, Barbados, Antigua and Barbuda, Trinidad and Tobago, St. Kitts-Nevis, Dominica and the British Virgin Islands.

The NAC would like to thank all its partners and stakeholders for their tireless dedication and work over the years. Without you this would not be possible.



UN Secretary-General & PANCAP Director visit Belize

Dr. Edward Greene, United Nations Secretary-General Special Envoy for HIV in the Caribbean and Mr. Dereck Springer, Director of the Pan Caribbean Partnership Against HIV and AIDS (PANCAP) meeting with Mrs Laura Longworth (Chairperson, NAC) to engage in high level discussion with policy makers, Faith-Based organizations and the Civil Society Organizations around the principles of the PANCAP Justice for All Programme (JFA), and the 2016 UN High Level Political Declaration.



The current JFA Roadmap includes the UNAIDS 90-90-90 treatment target to help end the AIDS epidemic. Contained in 15 actionable recommendations which fall under five major areas:

- Focusing on family life and those in need.
- Identifying strategies for prevention, including sexual and reproductive health and rights and age-appropriate sexual education.
- Highlighting the need for access to treatment and to affordable medicine as a human right.
- Emphasizing women's and girls' empowerment, including reducing gender based violence.
- Eliminating AIDS-related stigma and discrimination including modifying punitive laws.

Dr Greene also used this opportunity to discuss the ‘Every Caribbean Woman Every Caribbean Child Initiative’ (ECWECC) - the regionally specific program of work that emerged directly from the United Nations Secretary-General’s Every Woman Every Child flagship program. ECWECC aims to enhance the health, wellbeing and empowerment of women, girls and adolescents through:

- Eliminating gender-based violence.
- Reducing the rates of teenage pregnancies.
- Preventing cervical cancer.
- Reducing people trafficking, with special reference to girls.
- Making the Caribbean the first region in the world to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV.



The World Youth Conference 2017 (WYC'17) will convene

200-250 national, regional and international youth leaders under the theme: *"Globally running to 2030, Becoming Sustainably Strong"*. To bring the voice of youth into a transnational deliberation on how to make the post-2015 development agenda a reality, WYC' 17 will convene a Youth Conference on *November 6th – 9th, 2017* in the Central American and Caribbean nation of Belize. The Conference will be organized by the Department of Youth Services in collaboration with The Ministry of Education, Youth Sports and Culture and the Government of Belize. WYC2017 is a timely response stemming from dialogue out of the global and international commitments that have been made, such as the:



- The World Youth Conference 2016- New Delhi, India
- CHOGM Youth Forum 2015- St. Paul’s Bay, Malta
- 9th UNESCO Youth Forum 2015- Paris, France
- World Youth Conference 2014- Colombo, Sri Lanka



The Conference seeks to affirm the promotion of meaningful participation, the realization of rights and the integral development of young people represents some of the biggest



challenges that need to be tackled along with the priority areas of the United Nations World Program of Action for Youth (WPAY). Additionally, to recognize the active role that young people are playing in social mobilizations in many regions of the world and their willingness to assume responsibilities in the economic, social and political agendas in their countries and regions. It also looks at identifying courses of

priority action as agreed upon during the deliberations of the Ministers responsible for youth, young people, representatives of Governments, youth-led organizations, non-governmental organizations, and other development partners, in the process of mainstreaming youth in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The four thematic areas for the Conference discussion include: *Climate Change and Environmental Action, Economic Empowerment, Well-being/ Humanity and Social Justice and Equity.*



Registration for the conference closes on July 31st 2017 and interested persons can email us at wycbze2017@gmail.com , visit our website at <https://www.wyc2017.com/> , like us on Facebook at World Youth Conference Belize 2017 <https://www.facebook.com/wycbze2017/> or check the Instagram page out at handle @wycbze2017.



SAVE THE DATE: Launch of the Redesigned PANCAP Website will be LIVE streamed from the CARICOM Secretariat on the **PANCAP Facebook page** from **10:00 Hours (10:00AM), Friday, July 7, 2017.**



Launching of Daring and Innovative Ad.

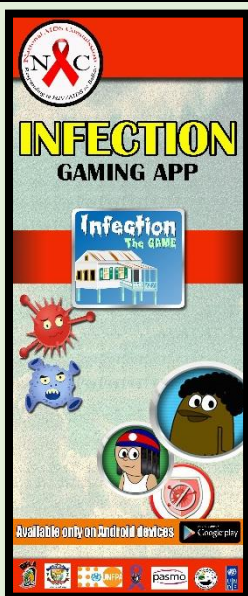
The NAC in collaboration with Scotiabank, Belize Telemedia Ltd and The Love Foundation, launched a daring and innovative HIV awareness and testing advertisement on June 15th, 2017.

The ad is a cheeky look at the taboos that still exist within the Belizean society in relation to sex, sexual behaviours and HIV/AIDS transmission. Ultimately the ad is a positive reminder that we must all get tested regularly, know our status and be honest with ourselves and our partners in order to have lasting relationships.

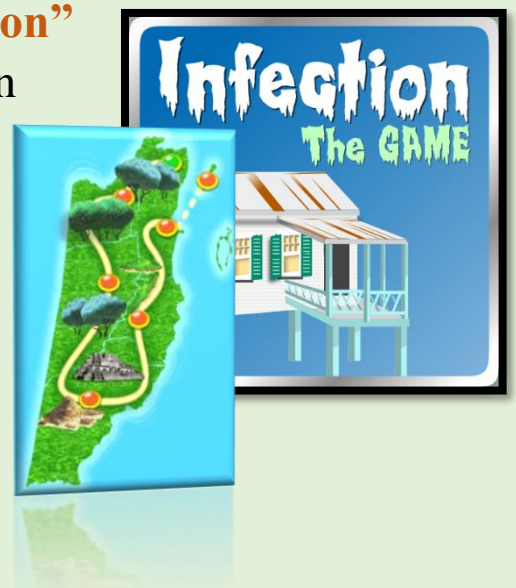
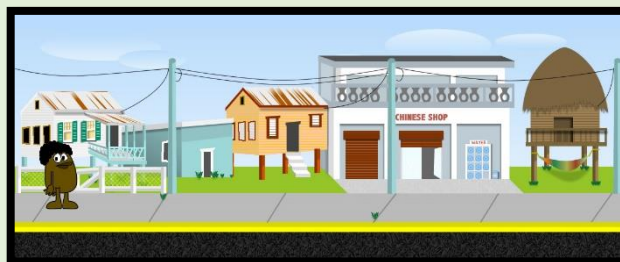
The ad has gained an immediate following on Facebook and went viral within the first two hours of being posted. “The Wedding Conundrum” ad was aired on the major local TV stations leading up to RTD 2017 and the NAC intends to continue airing it throughout the year as the message is universal and relevant. The ad can be found on the NAC Facebook page as well as our website (www.nacbelize.org).



The NAC would like to thank all its partners and sponsors who made this ad a reality and the social media followers who made it a hit. A messages resonate with the audience we hope to create the behaviour change needed to affect the change we need in our country. Continue looking forward to more dynamic, hard-hitting, creative and relevant messaging from the NAC as we continue to response to HIV/AIDS in Belize.



DOWNLOAD the FREE **“Infection”** gaming app for android devices on Google Play Store.



Visit us @: www.nacbelize.org or on Facebook at National AIDS Commission