

# **Appendix V**

## **(Lagniappe<sup>16</sup>)**

### **Visit to San Pedro**

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This is a commonly-used term in Trinidad and Grenada to mean a little something extra.

Meanings from an American dictionary: chiefly Southern Louisiana and South-east Texas - something given with a purchase to a customer by way of compliment or for good measure;  
a gratuity or tip.

Etymology from an American dictionary: derived from the French "*la*" and the Spanish American "*fiapa*", which is a variant of "*yapa*" from Quechuan (a language spoken by people from the Andes)

## Visit to San Pedro

As indicated in Appendix IV, hurricane force winds were not experienced on the mainland of Belize. The offshore islands did experience a hurricane, although there were no instrumental records of the wind speeds at the level of the built environment. In order to obtain some insight as to the vulnerability of Belizean buildings to hurricane winds it was considered desirable to make a brief visit to San Pedro on one of the affected islands, Ambergris Caye. The trip was made in the afternoon of 29 November. What follows is a pictorial essay of the visit, supplemented by a few words.

*Photo 01* shows the PAHO team which made a separate visit to San Pedro on the same day. The team included (from left to right) Mr Rony Maza (PAHO, Belize), Dr Claude de Ville de Goyet, Dr Dana van Alphen and Dr Graciela Uriburu.

An aerial view of the offshore islands is in *Photo 02*. General aerial views approaching San Pedro are in *Photos 03 & 04*. Damage and destruction to a variety of buildings can be seen in *Photos 05 to 13*. Disasters have a human face too (*Photos 14 & 15*).

The unsuitability of asbestos cement and clay tiles for roofs is illustrated in *Photos 16 & 17*. Nevertheless, such materials were being salvaged for repairs (*Photo 17*) and were being imported for rebuilding (*Photo 18*). Asphalt shingles (*Photo 19*) have also proven to be very vulnerable to high winds. It is interesting to note that the USA trade association for asphalt shingles does not recommend their use in severe hurricane zones. Nevertheless its members are happy to sell their products to the Caribbean. Repairs and rebuilding were in progress (*Photos 20 & 21*) or already completed (*Photo 22*).

The electric distribution system suffered significant (but preventable) damage. Materials for rehabilitation are shown in *Photo 23*.

The Fire Brigade station under construction (*Photo 24*) is not being provided with wall reinforcement in accordance with the Belize Building Standards, referenced in Section 3.5.3 of the main report.