

MYRNA KAYE MARIGOLD MANZANARES **THE LADY, LEGEND, LIFE, LEGAGY OF BELIZEAN BENEFACTOR**

BORN 31ST October 1946 MYRNA EMERGED FROM THE WOMB OF HER MOTHER IRIS ABRAHAM IN GALES POINT VILLAGE, MANATEE BELIZE DISTRICT. ON HER FATHER'S SIDE SHE WAS OF THE MCDONALD CLAN. I HAVE BEEN ASKED TO DELIVER THIS EULOGY TURNED MEMORIAL FROM AND ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF BELIZE. PREDECEASED BY HER MOTHER AND HER BROTHER WAYNE NEAL, MS MYRNA PASSED ON 21ST DECEMBER 2021.

SHE LEAVES TO CHERISH HER MEMORIES HER BELOVED DAUGHTER SHALINI MANZANARES AND SON ROBERT SPAIN AND GRANDCHILDREN ANSEL, NATHIFA, RAYZAUN, RENAE, AS WELL HER BROTHERS LANCE LOCKWOOD AND SELWYN TERRY, SEVERAL COUSINS NIECES AND NEPHEWS. THIS IS A PEOPLE'S SEND-OFF AS MS MYRNA IS SURVIVED BY THE PEOPLE AND NATION OF BELIZE.

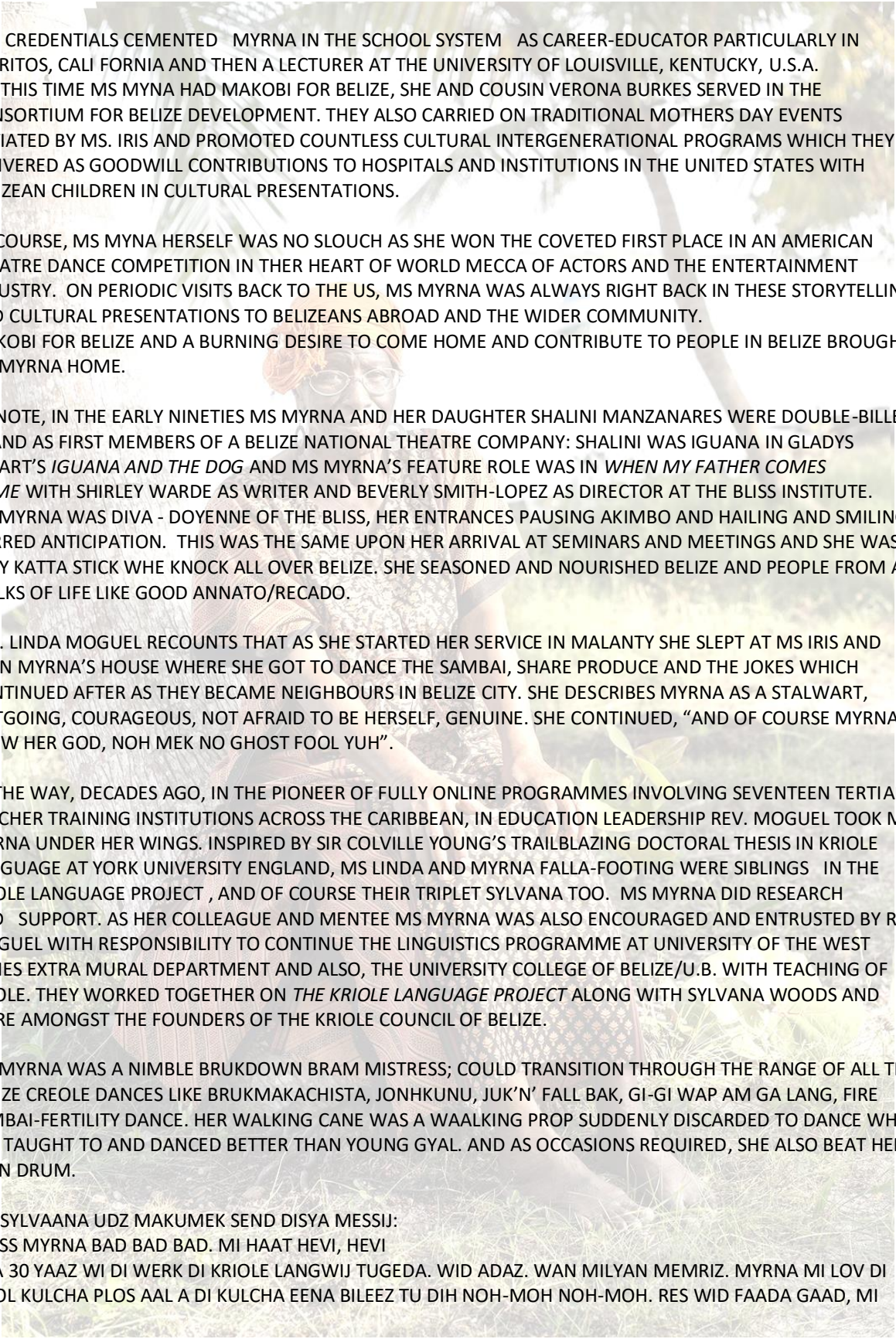
MYRNA WOULD HAVE HAD WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE AS A POET-PLAYWRIGHT'S MUSE, AND AS WELL BEEN AMUSED BY HIS WORDS HALF A MILLENIUM AGO: "ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE, AND ALL THE MEN AND WOMEN MERELY PLAYERS." SHE WOULD KRIOLLISE THAT TO "STAP YO RUGGUDUNGS!...CHANGE THAT ROUND! I ACT LIKE MESELF, THE PERSON I SEE EENA FIH MEE LOOKING GLASS." MS MYRNA PLAYED HER GOD-GIVEN ROLE TO THE FULLEST- TO NOH-MOH, NOH-MOH. BELIZEANS WOULD SAY SHE IS A WALKING YAAD THEATRE AND HUMANITARIAN. RELIANT ON THE BIBLE RATHER THAN THE MERE PHILOSOPHIES OF MEN, SHE WAS BLESSED WITH BIBLICAL THREE SCORE AND TEN PLUS BRAATA EVEN AS SHE SOJOURNED TO HER HEAVENLY STAGE.

ON THE LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL STAGE MS MYRNA WAS A RENOWN DRUMMER, DANCER, WRITER, INTERNATIONAL STORYTELLER, DRAMATIST, SOCIAL WORKER-ACTIVIST, COUNSELLOR, KRIOLLOGIST, CULTURAL CUSTODIAN, EDUCATOR'S EDUCATOR, HUMANITARIAN, IN SHORT, A TRUE-TRUE BELIZEAN BENEFACTOR. MAKUME MYRNA WAS A MAKUME/ FRIEND TO ALL. RITUAL SANKI SEGUE INTO LIVELY SAMBAI.

HER FAMILY SHARES THAT YOUNG MYRNA WAS QUITE A CHARACTER- A GIRL BEMBE WHO WRESTLED THE SCHOOL BOYS BECAUSE THEY TRIED TO EXCLUDE HER FROM PLAYING MARBLES AND GAMES-SHE WAS CHAMPION ON BOTH FRONTS. AND, SHE WOULD LATER WROTE AND PUBLISHED BOOK OF TRADITIONAL GAMES, ADVOCATED FOR CHILDREN'S OLYMPIAD OF TRADITIONAL GAME). SHE TOOK SOME SPANKING FROM HER MOTHER AFTER HER YOUNGER BROTHER TEASED AND TANTALISED HER CHALLENGED THAT HE COULD SET HER UP FOR LASHING AS SHE USED TO TELL HIM "STAP FALLA MIH ME DAH NOH YUH MA". SAME PERSON WHO HOMED MANY FOSTER CHILDREN IN HER UNOFFICIAL " CHILDREN'S HOME".

MS MYRNA FROM IN HER MOTHER'S BELLY WENT TO "UNIVERSITY EN UTERO". AS HER BROTHER SAID "THE MENGO NEVA FALL FAR FROM THE TREE". HER MOTHER MS IRIS ABRAHAM WAS BESTOWED M.B.E FOR CONTRIBUTION TO WEAVING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DECADES BEFORE MS MYRNA'S SECOND-GENERATION RECEIPT OF ORDER OF BRITISH EMPIRE FOR CONTRIBUTION TO EDUCATION AND CULTURE. SHE STARTED ANGLICAN PRIMARY SCHOOL IN GALES POINT AND THEN TRANSFERRED TO BELIZE CITY. MYRNA PASSED AND WON HER HIGH SCHOLARSHIP, BUT HER EYEWAAATA USED TO DROP AS SHE WATCHED OTHERS WALKING TO SCHOOL UNIFORMED WITH SAME SCHOLARSHIP SHE WAS UNFAIRLY DEPRIVED OF. GALESPOINT SOAKED MS MYRNA INTO STORYTELLING OF HER GRANDPARENTS AND SAMBAI SHE LIVED AND LED HER TO RENOWN AS AN INTERNATIONAL FOLKLORIST/ STORYTELLER.

KNOWING SHE WAS SMART MYRNA AND STILL BEX, SHE WAS FORCED TO LEAVE BELIZE TO GET HER FURTHER EDUCATION, SHE DID NOT GET EVEN WITH A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA SHE WORKED HARD, APPLIED HER INTELLIGENCE AT VARIOUS INSTITUTIONS, AND GOT EVEN BETTER AND SECURED HER BACHELOR'S DEGREE FROM PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY. SHE CONTINUED TO BEAT BOOKS LIKE THE GOOMBEH DRUM AND EARNED HER MASTER'S DEGREE IN PSYCHOLOGY/ SOCIOLOGY FROM WELL-RANKED AND RESPECTED U.S.C. (UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA).



HER CREDENTIALS CEMENTED MYRNA IN THE SCHOOL SYSTEM AS CAREER-EDUCATOR PARTICULARLY IN CERRITOS, CALI FORNIA AND THEN A LECTURER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY, U.S.A. ALL THIS TIME MS MYNA HAD MAKABI FOR BELIZE, SHE AND COUSIN VERONA BURKES SERVED IN THE CONSORTIUM FOR BELIZE DEVELOPMENT. THEY ALSO CARRIED ON TRADITIONAL MOTHERS DAY EVENTS INITIATED BY MS. IRIS AND PROMOTED COUNTLESS CULTURAL INTERGENERATIONAL PROGRAMS WHICH THEY DELIVERED AS GOODWILL CONTRIBUTIONS TO HOSPITALS AND INSTITUTIONS IN THE UNITED STATES WITH BELIZEAN CHILDREN IN CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS.

OF COURSE, MS MYNA HERSELF WAS NO SLOUCH AS SHE WON THE COVETED FIRST PLACE IN AN AMERICAN THEATRE DANCE COMPETITION IN THER HEART OF WORLD MECCA OF ACTORS AND THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY. ON PERIODIC VISITS BACK TO THE US, MS MYRNA WAS ALWAYS RIGHT BACK IN THESE STORYTELLING AND CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS TO BELIZEANS ABROAD AND THE WIDER COMMUNITY. MAKABI FOR BELIZE AND A BURNING DESIRE TO COME HOME AND CONTRIBUTE TO PEOPLE IN BELIZE BROUGHT MS MYRNA HOME.

OF NOTE, IN THE EARLY NINETIES MS MYRNA AND HER DAUGHTER SHALINI MANZANARES WERE DOUBLE-BILLED IN AND AS FIRST MEMBERS OF A BELIZE NATIONAL THEATRE COMPANY: SHALINI WAS IGUANA IN GLADYS STUART'S *IGUANA AND THE DOG* AND MS MYRNA'S FEATURE ROLE WAS IN *WHEN MY FATHER COMES HOME* WITH SHIRLEY WARDE AS WRITER AND BEVERLY SMITH-LOPEZ AS DIRECTOR AT THE BLISS INSTITUTE. MS MYRNA WAS DIVA - DOYENNE OF THE BLISS, HER ENTRANCES PAUSING AKIMBO AND HAILING AND SMILING STIRRED ANTICIPATION. THIS WAS THE SAME UPON HER ARRIVAL AT SEMINARS AND MEETINGS AND SHE WAS AT EBRY KATTA STICK WHE KNOCK ALL OVER BELIZE. SHE SEASONED AND NOURISHED BELIZE AND PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE LIKE GOOD ANNATO/RECADO.

REV. LINDA MOGUEL RECOUNTS THAT AS SHE STARTED HER SERVICE IN MALANTY SHE SLEPT AT MS IRIS AND THEN MYRNA'S HOUSE WHERE SHE GOT TO DANCE THE SAMBAI, SHARE PRODUCE AND THE JOKES WHICH CONTINUED AFTER AS THEY BECAME NEIGHBOURS IN BELIZE CITY. SHE DESCRIBES MYRNA AS A STALWART, OUTGOING, COURAGEOUS, NOT AFRAID TO BE HERSELF, GENUINE. SHE CONTINUED, "AND OF COURSE MYRNA KNEW HER GOD, NOH MEK NO GHOST FOOL YUH".

BY THE WAY, DECADES AGO, IN THE PIONEER OF FULLY ONLINE PROGRAMMES INVOLVING SEVENTEEN TERTIARY TEACHER TRAINING INSTITUTIONS ACROSS THE CARIBBEAN, IN EDUCATION LEADERSHIP REV. MOGUEL TOOK MS MYRNA UNDER HER WINGS. INSPIRED BY SIR COLVILLE YOUNG'S TRAILBLAZING DOCTORAL THESIS IN KRIOLE LANGUAGE AT YORK UNIVERSITY ENGLAND, MS LINDA AND MYRNA FALLA-FOOTING WERE SIBLINGS IN THE KRIOLE LANGUAGE PROJECT , AND OF COURSE THEIR TRIPLET SYLVANA TOO. MS MYRNA DID RESEARCH AND SUPPORT. AS HER COLLEAGUE AND MENTEE MS MYRNA WAS ALSO ENCOURAGED AND ENTRUSTED BY REV. MOGUEL WITH RESPONSIBILITY TO CONTINUE THE LINGUISTICS PROGRAMME AT UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES EXTRA MURAL DEPARTMENT AND ALSO, THE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF BELIZE/U.B. WITH TEACHING OF KRIOLE. THEY WORKED TOGETHER ON *THE KRIOLE LANGUAGE PROJECT* ALONG WITH SYLVANA WOODS AND WERE AMONGST THE FOUNDERS OF THE KRIOLE COUNCIL OF BELIZE.

MS MYRNA WAS A NIMBLE BRUKDOWN BRAM MISTRESS; COULD TRANSITION THROUGH THE RANGE OF ALL THE BELIZE CREOLE DANCES LIKE BRUKMAKACHISTA, JONHKUNU, JUK'N' FALL BAK, GI-GI WAP AM GA LANG, FIRE SAMBAI-FERTILITY DANCE. HER WALKING CANE WAS A WAALKING PROP SUDDENLY DISCARDED TO DANCE WHICH SHE TAUGHT TO AND DANCED BETTER THAN YOUNG GYAL. AND AS OCCASIONS REQUIRED, SHE ALSO BEAT HER OWN DRUM.

DR. SYLVAANA UDZ MAKUMEK SEND DISYA MESSIJ:
I MISS MYRNA BAD BAD BAD. MI HAAT HEVI, HEVI
OVA 30 YAAZ WI DI WERK DI KRIOLE LANGWIJ TUGEDA. WID ADAZ. WAN MILYAN MEMRIZ. MYRNA MI LOV DI KRIOL KULCHA PLOS AAL A DI KULCHA EENA BILEEZ TU DIH NOH-MOH NOH-MOH. RES WID FAADA GAAD, MI

FAREVA FREN. AHN GAAD BLES YU PRESHOS DAATA SHALINI, YU PRESHOS SON ROBERT, YU BREDDA DEHN, PLOS AALA GALZ PT., AAL AH YU FAAMLI MYRNA GYAL, NUF RESPEK.

AS A CULTURAL CUSTODIAN MS MYRNA'S LIFEWORK CARRIED THE KRIOLE CULTURE AS IT CEMENTS AT THE CORE OUR ONE BELIZEAN IDENTITY. AS A MATTER OF FACT, THERE IS RECOUNTING WHERE AT AN ACADEMIC CONFERENCE THAT MS MYRNA SAT AT A TABLE WITH TWO BELIZEAN AND TWO FOREIGN PHDS ANTHROPOLOGISTS AND GAVE THEM A LECTURE ON WHY THE KRIOL OF BELIZE ARE ACTUALLY THE INDIGENOUS KRIOL OF BELIZE. SHE SINGLE-BENK DOUBLE BENK TRIPLE BENK THEN FOUR TIME BENK THEM NOT THE OTHER WAY AROUND- AND TO THEIR AGREEMENT AND DELIGHT. SHE WAS A FOUNTAIN OF KNOWLEDGE AND WISDOM, IN FACT, MANY ACADEMICS SOUGHT HER OUT, THEY WOULD ARRANGE TO MEET HER EARLY MORNING AND BEFORE YOU KNEW IT, THOSE MORNINGS TURNED INTO SEVERAL MORNINGS WITH RESEARCHERS SHADOWING HER DAILY ACTIVITIES.

THAT WAS ONLY THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG SINCE SHE ALSO PRESENTED AT MANY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES IN REPRESENTATION OF BELIZEAN KRIOL CULTURE AND IN REPRESENTATION OF BELIZE. SHE GOT THE HISTORY RIGHT AS SHE WOULD EXCLAIM THAT WE HAFTU TEACH OUR CHILDREN OUR HISTORY INCLUDE THE FUFU DUCUNU MORTER AND PESTLE AND BRING ALL OF OUR BELIZEANS TO OUR TRUE- TRUE HISTORY ...AFRICAN KRIOLE HISTORY THE JADE HEAD... IS OLMEC AFRICAN, PYRAMIDS AND LAMANI DAH WE UNNUH DIH LUK PAHN AGAIN

THE MARIMBA INSTRUMENT AND MUSIC...THE ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE-AFRICAN-KRIOL CHUKMOUT ONE CULTURAL CONNECTIVITY OF KRIOLE WHICH CEMENTS AAL AH FI WI BELIZEAN IDENTITY. MS MYRNA WAS INTUITIVE AND A NATURAL TEACHA. IN MAKING PRESENTATIONS SHE COULD HOLD THE ATTENTION OF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS TO PRESCHOOL PICKNEY ALL THE SAME: DIFFERENT AGE, VARYING MESSAGE, SAME EXTENDED ATTENTION SPAN.

I DON'T KNOW WHERE SHE FOUND THE TIME BUT I AM NOT EXAGGERATING WHEN I SAY SHE WAS A SERVANT AND A BENEFACTOR:

MYRNA KAYE MARIGOLD MANZANARES LONGSTANDING SERVICE IN VARIOUS CAPACITIES INCLUDED TO THESE ORGANISATIONS:

EDITORIAL BOARD JOURNAL OF BELIZEAN STUDIES AT ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

BELIZE ORGANISATION FOR WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT (BOWAND)

PRIDE BELIZE

BELIZE NATIONAL THEATRE COMPANY

THE CONSORTIUM FOR BELIZEAN DEVELOPMENT

BELIZE KRIOL COUNCIL- PAST PRESIDENT/ CULTURAL ATTACHE

BELIZE ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS

BELIZE DIABETES ASSOCIATION

BELIZE FAMILY LIFE ASSOCIATION

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF BELIZE

UNIVERSITY OF LOIUSVILLE

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB OF BELIZE

THE LIBRARY

DOCEN OF BELIZE CREOLE MUSEUM & GALLERY

WILSHIRE EBELL THEATRE

BELIZE HISTORY ASSOCIATION - WHERE SHE WAS A FOUNDING MEMBER

INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE NETWORK[Text Wrapping Break]

VISITORS TO HER HOME WERE STRUCK THAT HER HUMBLE HOME WAS WALLPAPERED WITH AWARDS SUCH AS:

VICTOR DRU INTERNATIONAL WILSHIRE EBELL THEATRE FIRST PLACE PERFORMING ARTS NATIONAL DANCE ARTS SOCIETY U.S.A.

PEACE CORP RECOGNITION FOR HER WORK IN TRAINING

UNIVERSITY OF BELIZE RECOGNITION FOR CONTRIBUTION / DEDICATION TO CULTURAL AWARENESS
BELIZE CREOLE MUSEUM & GALLERY COMMENDATION
MERIRH'S MINISTRY
BELIZE FAMILY LIFE ASSOCIATION

AMONGST THE LIST WAS HER ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE,
AS WELL AS HER WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD IN CULTURE GIVEN TO HER BY NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF CULTURE
AND HISTORY NICH AND HER DESIGNATION AS ARTIST EMERITUS BY THE GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE.
YES, MS MYRNA WAS A BELIZEAN BENEFACTOR. HOW DO WE MEMORIALISE THE LADY LIFE LEGEND OF MS
MYRNA MANZANARES?

OUR BELIZEAN PEOPLE AT HOME AND ABROAD THINK IT BEST TO MEMORIALISE INSTEAD OF EULOGISE. WHAT
FITTING RESPECT AND TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY AND LEGACY. BOOM AND CHIMING IN WITH OFFICIAL
SENTIMENT, THE GOOMBEH DRUMS FROM GALES POINT TALKING, SIGNALLING, RESONATING THROUGHOUT
BELIZE AND FROM ABROAD, LOUD AND CLEAR MESSAGE FROM ITS EPICENTRE GALES POINT WHERE THE PEOPLE
HAVE SENT HER TO REPRESENT THEIR ONGOING LEGACY.
THAT THE WICK ON COTTONWICK STREET BE KEPT ONGOING ALIGHT WITH MS MYRNA'S SAMBAI SPIRIT AND
DEDICATION AND THAT HER HUMBLE HOME REMAIN HER HOME A HOUSE OF HERITAGE.

M – is for **Lady Myrna**, One of God's Beautiful Black Belizean Queens! And for her **Magnificent** Spirit in being a
Kriol Kultural Ambassador! Historian! Educator! Poet! Author! And Counselor!

Y – is for **Yielding** herself to God's purpose for her life and for knowing Him as her Lord and Personal Saviour!

R – is for her **Regal and Royal** Spirit that **Resonated** from within in everything Lady Myrna did; and for her **Return** to
God's Heavenly Kingdom to praise and worship her Heavenly Father!

N – is for **Never** forgetting who she was and whose she was! And for living life to the fullest with passion and purpose
and for **Never** doubting the Still Small Voice of God within her!

A – is for **Accepting** who God created her to be! **An Amazing** Belizean Legend! **A** Loving Daughter! Wife! Mother!
Grand-Mother! Sister! Aunt! Cousin! And Friend!

**We all loved her, but God loved her more. SHE PASSED ON TO HER HEAVENLY HOME ON 21ST DECEMBER, 2021.
May Lady Myrna rest in God's everlasting arms in Peace and rise in Glory with her Ancestors! May God
continue to bless each of you with Strength of Spirit at this difficult time.
YOU WALK GUD GUD PAN THIS EARTH MS MYRNA, NOW SLEEP GUD GUD EENA HEAVEN.**

**A Tribute for Lady Myrna Manzanares
To: Her Entire Families and Friends
From: The Belize Creole Museum and Gallery
Written by: Mrs. Flora Anderson-Chestnut on December 27, 2021
"Your name is perfume poured out!" Song of Solomon 1:3
"The Father and I are one!" John 10:30
(Scripture for Lady Myrna's date of birth – October 30th - 10:30)**