

BELIZE:

**STATUTORY BODIES (DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION)
ACT, 2017**

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No. 33 of 2017

I assent,

(SIR COLVILLE N. YOUNG)

Governor-General

31st March, 2017.

AN ACT to make provision, in furtherance of national development, for specified statutory bodies to be required to transfer to the Consolidated Revenue Fund, on a periodic basis, a fixed percentage of their revenue; and for purposes connected therewith or incidental thereto.

(Gazetted 1st April, 2017.)

BE IT ENACTED, by and with the advice and consent of the House of Representatives and Senate of Belize and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1. This Act may be cited as the

Short title.

STATUTORY BODIES (DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION) ACT, 2017.

Interpretation.

2. In this Act,

“development contribution” means the contribution referred to in section 3;

“Minister” means the Minister responsible for finance;

“revenue” in relation to a specified statutory body means the aggregate amount of the income of that body from the collection of taxes, fees, and any other levies and charges or other sources of income, but excluding funding from international organizations or funding entities, or funding from the Government;

“specified statutory body” means any of the following statutory bodies, namely,

- (a) Belize Agricultural Health Authority;
- (b) Belize Airports Authority;
- (c) Belize Tourism Board;
- (d) Belize Trade and Investment Development Service (BELTRAIDE);
- (e) Border Management Agency;
- (f) National Institute of Culture and History;
- (g) Protected Areas Conservation Trust;
- (h) Public Utilities Commission;
- (i) any other statutory body that the Minister, by order published in the Gazette, declares to be a specified statutory body for the purposes of this Act;

“statutory body” means a body established under any enactment to perform public functions, does not include a town council, city council or village council;

“year of assessment” in relation to any specified statutory body, means the calendar year that would coincide with the applicable year of assessment under the Income and Business Tax Act, if that body were taxable under that Act.

3. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary under any other law, there is hereby levied upon and payable by every specified statutory body a contribution to be known as a “development contribution” at the rate specified in section 4, on the revenue of the specified statutory body, whether received in Belize or elsewhere.

Development contribution.

4. (1) The development contribution is payable into the Consolidated Revenue Fund by each specified statutory body, at the rate of the prescribed percentage of the revenue of the body for each year of assessment.

Rate of development contribution.

(2) The development contribution is payable on a quarterly instalment basis for the periods, respectively ending on the 31st March, 30th June, 30th September and 31st December, in each year of assessment.

(3) In this section, “prescribed percentage” means ten per cent or such other amount as the Minister may, subject to affirmative resolution, prescribe, by Order published in the Gazette.

5. Each specified statutory body shall file with the Minister a return of revenue and development contribution payable thereon for each quarter by the 15th day of the month following the end of the quarter, or at such other times as may be specified, in such form as may be prescribed by the Minister and accompanied by payment of the estimated contribution due for that quarter.

Return to be filed.

Development contribution, recoverable as Crown debt.

6. (1) Sums due on account of development contribution shall be included among debts accorded priority under any law (including any law relating to the remedies of debenture holders and charges).

(2) The development contribution is a debt due to the Crown and recoverable as such in any court of competent jurisdiction or in any other manner provided by law.

Regulations.

7. (1) The Minister may make regulations generally for administering this Act.

(2) Without limiting the generality of the power conferred by subsection (1), regulations may be made under this section prescribing,

- (a) the forms, notices, returns, books, registers or other documents to be used and the particulars to be given in connection with this Act;
- (b) any fees payable for services performed under this Act;
- (c) all other matters and things which by this Act are required or permitted to be prescribed or which are necessary or expedient to be prescribed to give effect to this Act.