

BELIZE

No.34/1/14

SENATE

Tuesday, 23rd July 2024

9:00 A.M.

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ORDERS OF THE DAY

1. Prayers.

2. Oath of Allegiance of a new Senator.

3. Announcement by the President.

4. Bills brought from the House of Representatives.

1. *Fiscal Incentives (Amendment) Bill, 2024;*
2. *Southern Deep Port Development Facility Bill, 2024;*
3. *Millenium Challenge Account – Belize Authority Bill, 2024;*
4. *National Security Council Bill, 2024;*
5. *Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2024;*
6. *Anti-Sexual Harassment Bill, 2024; and*
7. *Disabilities Bill, 2024.*

(Leader of Government Business)

6. Paper.

No. 82/1/14 - Public Utilities Commission (Request for Proposals) Regulations, 2024.

(Leader of Government Business)

13. Motions relating to the Business or Sitings of the Senate.

14. Public Business.

A. GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

I MOTIONS *(For Text of Motions see Notice Papers attached)*

1. Resolution Authorizing the Ratification by Belize of the Convention of the Latin American and Caribbean Space Agency (ALCE) Motion, 2024.
2. Resolution Approving the Re-Appointment of the Members of the Integrity Commission Motion, 2024.
3. Resolution Extending the Proclamation Declaring a State of Public Emergency in Certain Parts of Belize City and Certain Parts of the Cayo District Motion, 2024.
4. Inter-American Development Bank – Sustainable and Inclusive Urban Development Program – (US\$10 Million) Loan Motion, 2024.
5. Inter-American Development Bank – Improving Efficiency, Quality, and Access in Belize’s Health System – (US\$14 Million) Loan Motion, 2024.

(Leader of Government Business)

II BILLS FOR SECOND READING

III COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE SENATE ON MOTIONS AND BILLS

1. Trade Licensing Bill, 2022.

Bill for an Act to make provision for trade licensing; to repeal the Trade Licensing Act, Chapter 66 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

(Leader of Government Business)

IV BILLS FOR THIRD READING

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BELIZE

No.34/1/14

SENATE

Tuesday, 23rd July 2024

9:00 A.M.

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NOTICES OF QUESTIONS AND MOTIONS

MOTIONS

1. **Resolution Authorizing the Ratification by Belize of the Convention of the Latin American and Caribbean Space Agency (ALCE) Motion, 2024.**

WHEREAS, Belize signed the Convention of the Latin American and Caribbean Space Agency (ALCE), (hereinafter referred to as “the Convention”) on 7th May 2024, in Mexico City;

AND WHEREAS, the Convention establishes an international organization that will coordinate cooperation in space technology, research, exploration, and related applications that contribute to and strengthen the comprehensive and sustainable development of a regional space program that will benefit the peoples of Latin American and the Caribbean;

AND WHEREAS, the ALCE will enhance the region's capabilities in Earth observation systems for use in agriculture, natural disasters (droughts, floods, fires, hurricanes), security and surveillance, oceanography, meteorology, exploration of natural resources and urban intelligence and cartography;

AND WHEREAS, the Government of Belize is desirous of ratifying the Convention pursuant to Article 15 (2);

AND WHEREAS, section 61(A)(2)(a) of the Belize Constitution, as amended by the Belize Constitution (Sixth Amendment) Act (No. 13 of 2008), provides that the Senate shall authorize the ratification of any treaty by the Government of Belize;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that that this Senate authorizes the Government of Belize to ratify the Convention of the Latin American and Caribbean Space Agency (ALCE), a copy of which is hereto annexed.

2. **Resolution Approving the Re-Appointment of the Members of the Integrity Commission Motion, 2024.**

WHEREAS, section 3(1) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, Chapter 105 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020, provides for the establishment of a body to be known as the Integrity Commission which shall consist of a Chairperson, who shall be an attorney-at-law with not less than five years standing, and six other members who shall be persons of integrity and high national standing;

AND WHEREAS, it is further provided by sub-section (2) of that section that two members of the Integrity Commission shall be appointed by the Governor-General, acting in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister, given with the concurrence of the Leader of the Opposition, and the other members of the Integrity Commission, including the Chairperson, shall be appointed by the Governor-General, acting in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister given after consultation with the Leader of the Opposition;

AND WHEREAS, it is further provided by sub-section (3) of that section that at least one member of the Integrity Commission shall be a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Belize;

AND WHEREAS, the Honourable Prime Minister, after consultation with the concurrence of the Leader of the Opposition, as the case may be, intends to advise the Governor-General to re-appoint the following persons as members of the Integrity Commission for a further period of two (2) years with effect from 1st April 2024:-

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| i. | Mrs. Andrea McSweeney-McKoy
(Attorney at law with not less than five years standing) | – | Chairperson |
| ii. | Mr. George Swift
(Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Belize) | – | Member |
| iii. | Ms. Katherine Meighan | – | Member |
| iv. | Mrs. Zoe Roberson-Zetina | – | Member |
| v. | Mr. Ricardo Moguel | – | Member |
| vi. | Ms. Payal Ghanwani | – | Member |
| vii. | Mr. Jaraad Ysaguirre | – | Member |

AND WHEREAS, section 61A(2)(c) of the Belize Constitution provides that the Senate shall approve the appointment of the members of the Integrity Commission;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable Senate, being satisfied that the persons the Honourable Prime Minister intends to advise the Governor-General to re-appoint as members of the Integrity Commission are persons of integrity and high national standing, hereby approves the re-appointment of the following persons as members of the Integrity Commission for a further period of two (2) years with effect from 1st April 2024:-

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|------|---|---|-------------|
| i. | Mrs. Andrea McSweeney-McKoy
(Attorney at law with not less than five years standing) | – | Chairperson |
| ii. | Mr. George Swift
(Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Belize) | – | Member |
| iii. | Ms. Katherine Meighan | – | Member |
| iv. | Mrs. Zoe Roberson-Zetina | – | Member |
| v. | Mr. Ricardo Moguel | – | Member |
| vi. | Ms. Payal Ghanwani | – | Member |
| vii. | Mr. Jaraad Ysaguirre | – | Member |

3. Resolution Extending the Proclamation Declaring a State of Public Emergency in Certain Parts of Belize City and Certain Parts of the Cayo District Motion, 2024.

WHEREAS, section 18(2) of the Belize Constitution provides that the Governor-General may, by proclamation which shall be published in the Gazette, declare that a state of public emergency exists for the purposes of Part II of the Constitution;

AND WHEREAS, section 18(4) of the Belize Constitution provides that a proclamation made under section 18(2) may be made so as to apply only to such part of Belize as may be specified in the proclamation;

AND WHEREAS, in exercise of the powers vested in the Governor-General by the above-mentioned provisions of the Belize Constitution, the Governor General declared and proclaimed that effective June 24, 2024, a public emergency exists in certain parts of Belize City and certain parts of the Cayo District, as specified in Schedule I and II of the Proclamation Declaring a State of Emergency in Certain Parts of Belize City and Certain Parts of the Cayo District;

AND WHEREAS, section 18(5) of the Belize Constitution, provides that a proclamation made by the Governor-General for the purposes of and in accordance with section 18 of the Constitution shall, unless previously revoked, remain in force for a period not exceeding one month; but may be extended from time to time by a resolution passed by the National Assembly for further periods, not exceeding in respect of each such extension a period of twelve months; and may be revoked at any time by a resolution of the National Assembly;

AND WHEREAS, it is necessary and expedient that the said Proclamation should be extended for a further period of two months;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House extends the Proclamation Declaring a State of Emergency in Certain Parts of Belize City and Certain Parts of the Cayo District made by the Governor General on 24th June 2024, for a further period of two months.

4. Inter-American Development Bank – Sustainable and Inclusive Urban Development Program – (US\$10 Million) Loan Motion, 2024.

WHEREAS, Belize, as a member of the Inter-American Development Bank (the “Bank”), is eligible for development assistance in the form of loans, grants, and technical assistance from the Bank on such terms and conditions as may be agreed between Belize and the Bank from time to time;

AND WHEREAS, the Government of Belize has approached the Bank for financial assistance to execute a “Sustainable and Inclusive Urban Development Program” that will contribute to the sustainable urban development of municipalities in northern Belize, including Corozal, Orange Walk and San Pedro, Ambergris Caye (hereinafter called “the Program”);

AND WHEREAS, the Program will consist of two components whose activities will (i) improve access to selected urban services; (ii) support local economic growth; and (iii) facilitate the social and economic integration of vulnerable populations, such as migrant population and women;

AND WHEREAS, the proposed program will be financed through an IDB direct investment loan in the sum of US\$10,000,000, and a non-reimbursable investment financing of US\$2.5 million, financed through IDB’s Grant Facility;

AND WHEREAS, it is intended that the execution of the Program shall be carried out, on behalf of the Government, by the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development & Investment, acting as Executing Agency;

AND WHEREAS, the Bank has offered financing of up to US\$10,000,000.00 from its Ordinary Capital Resources for the said purpose under the following terms and conditions:

Lender: The Inter-American Development Bank;

Loan Principal Amount: US\$10,000,000.00;

Disbursement Schedule:	Over a period of five (5) years from the date of signature of the Loan Contract;
Loan Term:	Twenty-five (25) Years inclusive of sixty-six (66) months Grace Period on Principal Repayments;
Repayment Period:	To be repaid in 39 approximately equal, semi-annual, and consecutive installments of about US\$256,410.25;
Purpose:	To execute a Program that through sustainable infrastructure interventions will improve access to urban services, such as public spaces, drainage, water supply and pavement, for the citizens of Northern Belize;
Rate of Interest:	Interest will be charged on the daily outstanding balance of the loan, as per the SOFR-Based Interest Rate, plus the applicable lending spread for the Bank's ordinary capital loans;
Credit Fee:	A Credit Fee will be charged on the undisbursed loan balance at a percentage to be established by the Bank on a periodic basis, not exceeding 0.75% per annum;

AND WHEREAS, under the provisions of section 7(2) of the Finance and Audit (Reform) Act, 2005, the Government of Belize is required to obtain the prior authorisation of the National Assembly, by way of a Resolution, for such a borrowing;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House, being satisfied that the Loan proceeds would significantly improve the livelihood of the citizens in the targeted communities including the social and economic integration of migrants, as well as uplift the tourism potential in the communities, approves and confirms that the Government may enter into a Loan Contract with the Inter-American Development Bank on the terms and conditions set out above, and further authorizes the Minister of Finance to execute and deliver the said Loan Contract and all other documents associated therewith.

5. Inter-American Development Bank – Improving Efficiency, Quality, and Access in Belize's Health System – (US\$14 Million) Loan Motion, 2024.

WHEREAS, Belize, as a member of the Inter-American Development Bank (the "Bank"), is eligible for development assistance in the form of loans, grants, and technical assistance from the Bank on such terms and conditions as may be agreed between Belize and the Bank from time to time;

AND WHEREAS, the Government of Belize has approached the Bank for financial assistance to execute a Program whose objective will be to "Improving Efficiency, Quality, and Access in Belize's Health System" (hereinafter called "the Program");

AND WHEREAS, the Program will consist of two components whose activities will (i) improve the efficiency and quality of healthcare delivery and (ii) improve access to key healthcare services throughout the country by enhancing access to outpatient, inpatient and long-term care;

AND WHEREAS, the proposed program will be financed through an IDB direct investment loan in the sum of US\$7,000,000 from the Bank's ordinary capital resources, a direct investment loan in the sum of US\$7,000,000 from resources of the Korea Infrastructure Development Co-Financing Facility for Latin American and the Caribbean (KIF), and a non-reimbursable investment financing of US\$3,360,000 million, financed through IDB's Grant Facility;

AND WHEREAS, it is intended that the execution of the Program shall be carried out, on behalf of the Government, by the Ministry of Health and Wellness, acting as Executing Agency;

AND WHEREAS, the Bank has offered a total financing of up to US\$14 million (US\$7,000,000.00 from its Ordinary Capital Resources and US\$7,000,000 from the Korea Infrastructure Development Co-Financing Facility for Latin American and the Caribbean), to execute a Program that will improve the efficiency, quality and access of healthcare services across the country, under the following terms and conditions:

A – Funds from the OCR of the Inter-American Development Bank:

Loan Principal Amount:	US\$7,000,000.00;
Disbursement Schedule:	Over a period of five (5) years from the date of signature of the Loan Contract;
Loan Term:	Twenty-five (25) Years inclusive of sixty-six (66) months Grace Period on principal repayments;
Repayment Period:	39 approximately equal, semi-annual, and consecutive installments of about US\$179,487.18;
Rate of Interest:	Interest will be charged on the daily outstanding balance of the loan, as per the SOFR-Based Interest Rate, plus the applicable lending spread for the Bank's ordinary capital loan;
Credit Fee:	A Credit Fee will be charged on the undisbursed loan balance at a percentage to be established by the Bank on a periodic basis, not exceeding 0.75% per annum;

B – Funds from Korea Infrastructure Development Co-Financing Facility for Latin American and the Caribbean, through the IDB:

Loan Principal Amount:	US\$7,000,000.00;
Disbursement Schedule:	Over a period of five (5) years from the date of signature of the Loan Contract;
Loan Term:	Twenty-five (25) Years inclusive of eighty-four (84) months grace period on principal repayments;
Repayment Period	36 approximately equal, semi-annual, and consecutive installments of about US\$194,444.44;
Rate of Interest:	Interest will be charged at a rate of 1.3%;
Other Charges:	A Facility Loan Charge will be charged at zero point one per cent (0.1%) of the loan amount;

AND WHEREAS, under the provisions of section 7(2) of the Finance and Audit (Reform) Act, 2005, the Government of Belize is required to obtain the prior authorisation of the National Assembly, by way of a Resolution, for such a borrowing;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House, being satisfied that the Loan proceeds would significantly improve the health of the population in Belize, approves and confirms that the Government may enter into a Loan Contract with the Inter-American Development Bank on the terms and conditions set out above, and further authorize the Minister of Finance to execute and deliver the said Loan Contract and all other documents associated therewith.

(Leader of Government Business)
