

**BELIZE**

**No.35/1/14**

## **SENATE**

**Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> November 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. *General Revenue Supplementary Appropriation (2024/2025) Bill, 2024;*
2. *Customs and Excise Duties (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill 2024;*
3. *Movable Property Security Rights Bill, 2024;*
4. *Criminal Records (Rehabilitation of Offenders)(Amendment) Bill, 2024;*
5. *Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) Bill, 2024;*
6. *Finance Belize (Recognition and Exemption) Bill, 2024; and*
7. *Global Fund Privileges and Immunities Bill, 2024.*

***(Leader of Government Business)***

**6. Papers.**

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|-------------|---|---|
| No. 83/1/14 | - | Supplementary Appropriation Schedule for Fiscal Year 2024/2025.   |
| No. 84/1/14 | - | Central Bank of Belize – Forty-Second Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for the Year Ending 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2023. |
| No. 85/1/14 | - | Central Bank of Belize – Revised Estimates of Income and Expenditure for the year 2024.   |
| No. 86/1/14 | - | The Twenty-Second Annual Report of the Contractor General for the period April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024.                        |

- No. 87/1/14 - The Twenty-First Annual Report of the Ombudsman of Belize for the period January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023.
- No. 88/1/14 - Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) (No.2) Regulations, 2024.
- No. 89/1/14 - Electricity (Tariffs, Fees and Charges) (Amendment) (No.2) Byelaws, 2024.
- No. 90/1/14 - Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing – Civil Works Contract Agreement – Thomas Vincent Ramos Highway Upgrading Project (Mile 6 Hummingbird Highway to Hopkins Junction).
- No. 91/1/14 - Belize Social Investment Fund Audited Statements for the Fiscal Year ending March 31, 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. Caribbean Development Bank – Ninth Consolidated Line of Credit for the Development Finance Corporation – Loan and Guarantee Motion, 2024.
2. Resolution to Celebrate 35 Years of Diplomatic Ties with Democratic Taiwan Motion, 2024.
3. Resolution Authorizing the Ratification by Belize to the Administrative Commission of the Economic Cooperation Agreement between the Government of Belize and the Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan) Motion, 2024.
4. Resolution Authorizing the Accession by Belize to the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons Motion, 2024.
5. Resolution Authorizing the Ratification by Belize Relating to the Abolition of (or Exemption from) Visa Requirement for Holders of Diplomatic, and Official Passports between Belize and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Motion, 2024.
6. Resolution Authorizing the Ratification by Belize Relating to Visa Exemptions for Holders of Diplomatic, Official, Service and Ordinary Passports between Belize and the Republic of Benin Motion, 2024.
7. Resolution Authorizing the Ratification by Belize to the Status Protections Agreement for the Multinational Security Support Mission (MSS) to Haiti Motion, 2024.
8. Resolution Authorizing the Accession by Belize Relating to the Convention on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, Recognition, Enforcement and Co-Operation in Respect of Parental Responsibility and Measures for the Protection of Children (1996) Motion, 2024.

9. Resolution Recommending the Appointment of a Person to Act as Auditor General Motion, 2024.

*(Leader of Government Business)*

**II BILLS FOR SECOND READING**

**III COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE SENATE ON MOTIONS AND BILLS**

**IV BILLS FOR THIRD READING**



**BELIZE**

**No.35/1/14**

## **SENATE**

**Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

**9:00 A.M.**

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### **NOTICES OF QUESTIONS AND MOTIONS**

#### **MOTIONS**

1. **Caribbean Development Bank – Ninth Consolidated Line of Credit for the Development Finance Corporation – Loan and Guarantee Motion, 2024.**

**WHEREAS**, section 15(1) of the Development Finance Corporation Act, Chapter 279, Revised Edition 2020; provides that the Development Finance Corporation (the “DFC”) may, with the approval of the Minister of Finance, and subject to the principles of sound fiscal management, borrow sums domestically or internationally, for meeting any of its obligations or discharging any of its functions;

**AND WHEREAS**, section 15(4) of the Development Finance Corporation Act, as amended by the Development Finance Corporation (Amendment) Act, 2022 (Act No. 6 of 2022), further provides that the Aggregate Domestic Debt of or above Five Million Belize Dollars (BZ\$5,000,000) shall only be validly entered into pursuant to a Resolution of the National Assembly authorising the DFC to raise the loan or to borrow the money;

**AND WHEREAS**, the Caribbean Development Bank (the “Bank”) has offered a Line of Credit totaling Twenty Million United States Dollars (US\$20,000,000) to the DFC to assist in providing finance for priority sectors, such as MSME credit, student loans, low-income housing and energy efficiency and renewable energy;

**AND WHEREAS**, one of the conditions is that the Loan shall be guaranteed by the Government of Belize as per section 12(1) of the Loans (Caribbean Development Bank) Act, Chapter 74 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020, which provides, *inter alia*, that the Government may, in such manner and on such terms and subject to such conditions as may be agreed by it and the Bank, guarantee the discharge by a company of the company’s obligations under any agreement for borrowing from the Bank;

**AND WHEREAS**, section 7(6) of the Finance and Audit (Reform) Act, Chapter 15 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition, 2020, provides that before the Government offers any guarantee or some other form of security in support of any loan made directly to a private sector entity or statutory body by any public or private bank, financial institution or capital market in or outside Belize, the Government shall seek the approval of the National Assembly;

**AND WHEREAS**, the main terms and conditions of the Line of Credit are as follows—

Loan Amount:	US\$20,000,000 allocated as follows–  US\$18,000,000 from the Bank’s Ordinary Capital Resources (OCR);  US\$2,000,000 from the Bank’s Special Fund Resources (SFR);
Rate of Interest:	Interest shall be paid quarterly at the rate of 0.75% per annum on the amount of the SFR portion withdrawn and outstanding from time to time and at the rate of 5.60% per annum on the amount of the OCR portion withdrawn and outstanding from time to time;
Repayment Terms:	Sixty-eight (68) equal, or approximately equal, and consecutive quarterly installments on each due date, commencing on the first due date after the expiry of five (5) years after the agreement date;
Commitment Fee:	0.25% payable annually by the DFC on any undrawn amount of the OCR portion only. There will be no commitment fee for the SFR portion;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that this Honourable House, being satisfied that this Loan to the DFC would contribute to the social and productive sectors of Belize and impact poverty reduction by providing greater access to funding for key targeted sectors of the economy, (i) approves that the DFC may borrow the said sum of Twenty Million United States Dollars (US\$20,000,000) from the Caribbean Development Bank on the terms and conditions set out above, and further authorises the Board of Directors of the DFC to execute and deliver the Loan Agreement and other associated documents; (ii) approves that all principal, interest, fees, premiums and other charges under the loan shall be tax, fee, duty or charge exempt as provided for in the loan and guarantee agreements; and (iii) further approves and confirms that the Government may enter into a Guarantee Agreement with the Caribbean Development Bank on terms and conditions set out above, and further authorises the Minister of Finance to execute and deliver the said Guarantee Agreement and all documents associated therewith.

**2. Resolution to Celebrate 35 Years of Diplomatic Ties with Democratic Taiwan Motion, 2024.**

**WHEREAS**, on the 11<sup>th</sup> October 2024, marks the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between Belize and the Republic of China (Taiwan);

**AND WHEREAS**, Belize and Taiwan enjoy cordial relationship and share the common values of democracy, freedom, and human rights;

**AND WHEREAS**, throughout the 35 years of friendship and alliance, Belize and Taiwan have continuously supported each other and closely cooperated in areas of mutual interests, including climate change, health, agriculture, education and gender equality;

**AND WHEREAS**, all bilateral cooperation projects between Belize and Taiwan, including infrastructure development, enhancing digital literacy and accessibility, agricultural development, urban resilience and disaster prevention, metabolic chronic

disease prevention, women empowerment, mandarin teaching and talent cultivation are currently proceeding smoothly;

**AND WHEREAS**, following the successful state visit of H.E. Dr. Tsai IngWen, President of the Republic of China (Taiwan), to Belize in early April, 2023, further strengthened and expanded cooperation between the governments of Taiwan and Belize in infrastructure and medical care, low-income housing, and renovation of the National Assembly building, showcasing the strong partnership of the two nations;

**AND WHEREAS**, Taiwan not only is a faithful ally and development partner of Belize, but can contribute to addressing global challenges, making it a valuable member of the global community;

**AND WHEREAS**, on the 13<sup>th</sup> January 2024, Taiwan successfully concluded a smooth and well-conducted Presidential and Legislative election, demonstrating once again the strength of Taiwan's robust democratic system and electoral process;

**AND WHEREAS**, the Honourable John Briceño, Prime Minister of Belize, lead a delegation to attend the inauguration of H.E. Dr. Lai Ching-Te as the new President of the Republic of China (Taiwan) on the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024, demonstrating the commitment and support of the Government of Belize to the Government and People of the Republic of China (Taiwan);

**AND WHEREAS**, Belize, as a steadfast partner, continuously and unwaveringly supports Taiwan in safeguarding its democracy and freedom, as well as the self-determination for Taiwanese people, in the face of potential military, political and economic coercion and hegemonic threats from the People's Republic of China (PRC);

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that this Honourable House:

Celebrates the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between Belize and Taiwan and extends its commitment to the strong partnership and close bilateral cooperation in areas of mutual interests;

Congratulates Taiwan's successful democratic election and the inauguration of Dr. Lai Ching-Te, the new President of the Republic of China (Taiwan), and reaffirms solidarity to stand with the people and government of Taiwan to safeguard Taiwan's democracy, freedom, human rights and self-determination, critical to maintaining peace, stability and prosperity across the Taiwan Strait and in the region;

Expresses its full support for Taiwan's participation in ALL related international organizations, including the United Nations, the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL);

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be presented to President Lai Ching-Te of the Republic of China (Taiwan) and to the office of the Prime Minister of Belize as a tangible token of the friendship expressed herein.

3. **Resolution Authorizing the Ratification by Belize to the Administrative Commission of the Economic Cooperation Agreement between the Government of Belize and the Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan) Motion, 2024.**

**WHEREAS**, the Economic Cooperation Agreement (ECA) between the Government of Belize and the Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan) was signed on the 19<sup>th</sup> January 2024;

**AND WHEREAS**, the purpose of this Agreement is to further strengthen the economic and trade relations between both nations and the desirability of dynamic and balanced economic trade relations based on mutual benefits;

**AND WHEREAS**, Article 43 of the Agreement outlines the functions of the Administrative Commission, including the critical responsibility of approving and adopting rules of procedure necessary for the effective implementation of the Economic Cooperation Agreement;

**AND WHEREAS**, the Administrative Commission as by Decision No.1 agreed to the Rules of Procedures of the Administrative Commission of the Economic Cooperation Agreement (ECA) between the Government of Belize and the Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan);

**AND WHEREAS**, the Government of Belize is desirous of ratifying the Rules of Procedures pursuant to paragraph 13;

**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 or accession to any treaty by the Government of Belize;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that this Senate authorizes the Government of Belize to ratify the Rules of Procedures of the Administrative Commission of the Economic Cooperation Agreement (ECA) between the Government of Belize and the Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan), a copy of which is hereto annexed.

**4. Resolution Authorizing the Accession by Belize to the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons Motion, 2024.**

**WHEREAS**, the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons which entered into force on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2017, (hereinafter referred to as “the Convention”);

**AND WHEREAS**, the purpose of this Convention is to promote, protect and ensure the recognition and the full enjoyment and exercise, on an equal basis, of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of older persons, in order to contribute to their full inclusion, integration, and participation in society;

**AND WHEREAS**, in accordance with Article 38 regarding “Reservations”, Belize considers it necessary to make a reservation in relation to Article 26 paragraph 2 (a) of this Convention, which reads as follows:

*“The Government of Belize is not yet in a position to make the required and necessary adjustments to the measures to be taken in accordance with Article 26 paragraph 2 (a) and therefore facilitation with respect to buildings, transport and road networks are not yet at the desired level of the Convention.”;*

**AND WHEREAS**, the Government of Belize is desirous of acceding to the Convention pursuant to Article 37;

**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 to any treaty by the Government of Belize;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that this Senate authorizes the Government of Belize to accede to the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons, a copy of which is hereto annexed.

**5. Resolution Authorizing the Ratification by Belize Relating to the Abolition of (or Exemption from) Visa Requirement for Holders of Diplomatic, and Official Passports between Belize and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Motion, 2024.**

**WHEREAS**, Belize signed an Agreement with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the 18<sup>th</sup> September 2024, relating to visa exemptions for holders of diplomatic and official passports;

**AND WHEREAS**, the purpose of this Agreement is to strengthen and further develop friendly and cooperative relations between both countries and to promote travel for holders of Diplomatic and Official passports between both countries;

**AND WHEREAS**, holders of the passports of either Party shall be exempt from visa requirements to enter, exit, transit and stay in the territory of the host Party for a period not exceeding ninety (90) days, whether in one or multiple periods from the date of first entry;

**AND WHEREAS**, the Government of Belize is desirous of ratifying the Agreement pursuant to Article 11;

**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 or accession to any treaty by the Government of Belize;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that this Senate authorizes the Government of Belize to ratify the Agreement between the Government of Belize and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan relating to visa exemptions, a copy of which is hereto annexed.

**6. Resolution Authorizing the Ratification by Belize Relating to Visa Exemptions for Holders of Diplomatic, Official, Service and Ordinary Passports between Belize and the Republic of Benin Motion, 2024.**

**WHEREAS**, Belize signed an Agreement with the Government of the Republic of Benin on the 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024, relating to visa exemptions for holders of diplomatic, official, service and ordinary passports;

**AND WHEREAS**, the purpose of this Agreement is to strengthen and further develop friendly and cooperative relations between both countries;

**AND WHEREAS**, within the framework of this Agreement, exemption from visa requirements shall mean exemptions from visa application procedures and related fees and shall exclude the right to work;

**AND WHEREAS**, nationals of either Party holding diplomatic, official, service or ordinary passports may enter, leave, transit and stay without a visa requirement for a period not exceeding ninety (90) days;

**AND WHEREAS**, the Government of Belize is desirous of ratifying the Agreement pursuant to Article 14;

**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 or accession to any treaty by the Government of Belize;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that this Senate authorizes the Government of Belize to ratify the Agreement between the Government of Belize and the Government of the Republic of Benin relating to visa exemptions, a copy of which is hereto annexed.

**7. Resolution Authorizing the Ratification by Belize to the Status Protections Agreement for the Multinational Security Support Mission (MSS) to Haiti Motion, 2024.**

**WHEREAS**, Belize signed the Status Protections Agreement for the Multinational Security Support (MSS), (hereinafter referred to as “the Agreement”) to Haiti on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024;

**AND WHEREAS**, the purpose of this Agreement is to facilitate support to the Government of Haiti and the Haitian National Police in restoring order, peace and security in connection to the Multinational Support Mission (MSS) in Haiti;

**AND WHEREAS**, the United Nations Security Council authorized the MSS in its resolutions 2699 (2023) and 2751 (2024);

**AND WHEREAS**, the Agreement grants the MSS mission and its personnel or contractors privileges, immunities, facilities, or concessions as those that apply in the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations (1946);

**AND WHEREAS**, the Government of Belize is desirous of ratifying the Agreement pursuant to Article 10 (5);

**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 or accession to any treaty by the Government of Belize;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that this Senate authorizes the Government of Belize to ratify the Status Protections Agreement for the Multinational Security Support (MSS) to Haiti, a copy of which is hereto annexed.

**8. Resolution Authorizing the Accession by Belize Relating to the Convention on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, Recognition, Enforcement and Co-operation in Respect of Parental Responsibility and Measures for the Protection of Children (1996) Motion, 2024.**

**WHEREAS**, Belize is desirous of acceding to the Convention on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, Recognition, Enforcement and Co-operation in Respect of Parental Responsibility and Measures for the Protection of Children (1996), hereafter the (1996 Hague Convention);

**AND WHEREAS**, the purpose of this Convention is to cover a broad range of civil measures to protect children in cross-border situations and uniform rules that prevent conflicting decisions, enable cross-border co-operation between authorities, and secure the recognition and enforcement of measures among Contracting Parties;

**AND WHEREAS**, in accordance with Article 60 regarding “Reservations”, Belize considers it necessary to make reservations in relation to Article 54 (2) and Article 55 which reads as follows:

*Article 54: In accordance with Article 60, paragraph 1 and Article 54, paragraph 2, Belize objects to the use of French translations of communications sent to the Central Authority of Belize. Belize further adds that any communication to the Central Authority of Belize shall be in the original language and shall be accompanied by English translations;*

*Article 55: In accordance with Article 60, paragraph 2 and Article 55, paragraph 1, Belize reserves the jurisdiction of its authorities to take measures directed to the protection of property of a child situated on its territory and reserves the right not to recognize any parental responsibility or measures in so far as it is incompatible with any measure taken by its authority in relation to that property;*

**AND WHEREAS**, the Government of Belize is desirous of acceding to the Agreement pursuant to Article 58;

**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 or accession to any treaty by the Government of Belize;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that this Senate authorizes the Government of Belize to accede to the 1996 Hague Convention for the Protection of Children, a copy of which is hereto annexed.

**9. Resolution Recommending the Appointment of a Person to Act as Auditor General Motion, 2024.**

**WHEREAS**, section 109(2) of the Belize Constitution provides that, if after the 15<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2002, the office of the Auditor-General is vacant or if the holder of that office is for any reason unable to exercise the functions of his office, the Governor-General, acting on the recommendations of both Houses of the National Assembly contained in resolutions passed in that behalf, may appoint a person to act as Auditor-General;

**AND WHEREAS**, the office of the Auditor-General has been vacant since 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that this Honourable House recommends that **MS. MARIA RODRIGUEZ** be appointed to act as Auditor-General for a period of **four (4) months** with effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> day of September 2024.

**(Leader of Government Business)**

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