

BELIZE

No. HR19/1/12

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, 22nd March 2018

10:24 A.M.

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Pursuant to the Order of the House on the 9th March 2018, the House met on Thursday, 22nd March 2018, in the National Assembly Chamber, Belmopan, at 10:24 A.M.

Members Present:

The Hon. Laura Tucker-Longworth, Speaker
The Rt. Hon. Dean O. Barrow (Queen's Square) Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Natural Resources
The Hon. Patrick J. Faber (Collet), Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Culture, Youth and Sports
The Hon. Erwin R. Contreras (Cayo West), Minister of Economic Development, Petroleum, Investment, Trade and Commerce
The Hon. John Saldivar (Belmopan), Minister of National Security
The Hon. Michael Finnegan (Mesopotamia), Minister of Housing and Urban Development
The Hon. Anthony Martinez (Port Loyola), Minister of Human Development, Social Transformation and Poverty Alleviation
The Hon. Manuel Heredia Jr. (Belize Rural South), Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation
The Hon. Rene Montero (Cayo Central), Minister of Works
The Hon. Wilfred P. Elrington (Pickstock), Minister of Foreign Affairs
The Hon. Pablo S. Marin (Corozal Bay), Minister of Health
The Hon. Hugo Patt (Corozal North), Minister of Local Government, Labour, Rural Development, Public Service, Energy and Public Utilities
The Hon. Edmond G. Castro (Belize Rural North), Minister of Transport and NEMO
The Hon. Dr. Omar Figueroa (Cayo North), Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, the Environment and Sustainable Development and Immigration and Deputy Speaker
The Hon. Frank Mena (Dangriga), Minister of State in the Ministry of Public Service, Energy and Public Utilities
The Hon. Beverly Williams (Belize Rural Central), Minister of State in the Ministry of Immigration
The Hon. Tracy Taegar-Panton (Albert), Minister of State in the Ministry of Investment, Trade and Commerce
The Hon. Elodio Aragon Jr. (Orange Walk East), Minister of State in the Ministry of National Security
The Hon. Dr. Angel Campos (Corozal South West), Minister of State in the Ministry of Health
The Hon. John Briceño (Orange Walk Central), Leader of the Opposition
The Hon. Cordel Hyde (Lake Independence)
The Hon. Francis Fonseca (Freetown)
The Rt. Hon. Said Musa (Fort George)
The Hon. Rodwell Ferguson (Stann Creek West)

The Hon. Jose Mai (Orange Walk South)
The Hon. Julius Espat (Cayo South)
The Hon. Kareem Musa (Caribbean Shores)
The Hon. Michael Espat (Toledo East)
The Hon. Florencio Marin Jr. (Corozal South East)
The Hon. Oscar Requena (Toledo West)
The Hon. Orlando Habet (Cayo North East)

Member Absent:

The Hon. Gaspar Vega (Orange Walk North)

MADAM SPEAKER in the Chair.

PRAYERS by Pastor Alvan Gentle Jr.

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEES

The Honourable Chairman of the Finance and Economic Development Committee:

- No. HR138/1/12 - Report from the Finance and Economic Development Committee on the Customs and Excise Duties (Amendment) Bill, 2018.
- No. HR139/1/12 - Report from the Finance and Economic Development Committee on the Central Bank of Belize (Amendment) Bill, 2018.

Reports were ordered to lie on the Table.

The Honourable Chairman of the National Security and Immigration Committee:

- No. HR140/1/12 - Report from the National Security and Immigration Committee on the Immigration (Amendment) Bill, 2018.
- No. HR141/1/12 - Report from the National Security and Immigration Committee on the Belizean Nationality (Amendment) Bill, 2018.
- No. HR142/1/12 - Report from the National Security and Immigration Committee on the Passports (Amendment) Bill, 2018.
- No. HR142A/1/12 - Report from the National Security and Immigration Committee on the Firearms (Amendment) Bill, 2018.
- No. HR143/1/12 - Report from the National Security and Immigration Committee on the Police (Amendment) Bill, 2018.

No. HR144/1/12 - Report from the National Security and Immigration Committee on the Crime Control and Criminal Justice (Amendment) Bill, 2018.

No. HR145/1/12 - Report from the National Security and Immigration Committee on the Protection of Witness Bill, 2018.

Reports were ordered to lie on the Table.

MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

The Right Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Natural Resources moved that at its rising today, the House adjourn to Friday, 23rd March 2018, at 9:00 A.M.

Question put and agreed to.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

A. Government Business

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

Madam Speaker made the following announcement:

“Honourable Members, the debate on the second reading of the General Revenue Appropriation (2018/2019) Bill, 2018, is about to be resumed.

Before we begin, I should like to draw Honourable Members’ attention to Standing Order No. 64, ‘Presentation and the second reading of the Appropriation Bill’, especially paragraph 5 which reads: *‘After the Motion for the second reading of the Appropriation Bill has been resumed, under paragraph 4 of this Standing Order, the debate shall be confined to the financial and economic state of the country and the general principles of Government policy and administration as indicated by the Appropriation Bill and the Estimates.’*

Members are therefore ask to confine their debate within the prescribed limits of the Standing Orders.

I would like to remind Honourable Members of other sections or parts of Standing Orders, specifically Standing Order No. 42 (b), which states that an Honourable Member shall maintain silence while another Member is speaking, and shall not interrupt, except in accordance with these Standing Orders. Honourable Members are fully aware of the need for the Chair to voice this at this time.

I would also want to remind visitors in the Galleries that they must preserve silence and must conduct themselves in a fit and proper manner during a Sitting.

We now have the resumption of the debate on the General Revenue Appropriation (2018/2019) Bill, 2018.”

(Resumption of the debate on the General Revenue Appropriation (2018/2019) Bill, 2018.)

(Suspension of the debate on the General Revenue Appropriation (2018/2019) Bill, 2018.)

In accordance with Standing Order 12 (8), the Right Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Natural Resources moved that the proceedings on the matter on the Order Paper be entered upon and proceeded with at the Sitting at any hour though opposed.

Question put and agreed to.

(Resumption of the debate on the General Revenue Appropriation (2018/2019) Bill, 2018.)

Meeting was suspended at 6:15 P.M. to Friday, 23rd March 2018, at 9:00 A.M.

Friday, 23rd March 2018

9:12 A.M.

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Members Present:

The Hon. Laura Tucker-Longsworth, Speaker

The Rt. Hon. Dean O. Barrow (Queen’s Square) Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Natural Resources

The Hon. Patrick J. Faber (Collet), Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Culture, Youth and Sports

The Hon. Erwin R. Contreras (Cayo West), Minister of Economic Development, Petroleum, Investment, Trade and Commerce

The Hon. John Saldivar (Belmopan), Minister of National Security

The Hon. Michael Finnegan (Mesopotamia), Minister of Housing and Urban Development

The Hon. Anthony Martinez (Port Loyola), Minister of Human Development, Social Transformation and Poverty Alleviation

The Hon. Manuel Heredia Jr. (Belize Rural South), Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation

The Hon. Rene Montero (Cayo Central), Minister of Works

The Hon. Wilfred P. Elrington (Pickstock), Minister of Foreign Affairs

The Hon. Pablo S. Marin (Corozal Bay), Minister of Health

The Hon. Hugo Patt (Corozal North), Minister of Local Government, Labour, Rural Development, Public Service, Energy and Public Utilities

The Hon. Edmond G. Castro (Belize Rural North), Minister of Transport and NEMO

The Hon. Dr. Omar Figueroa (Cayo North), Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, the Environment and Sustainable

Development and Immigration and Deputy Speaker

The Hon. Frank Mena (Dangriga), Minister of State in the Ministry of Public Service, Energy and Public Utilities

The Hon. Beverly Williams (Belize Rural Central), Minister of State in the Ministry of Immigration

The Hon. Tracy Taegar-Panton (Albert), Minister of State in the Ministry of Investment, Trade and Commerce

The Hon. Elodio Aragon Jr. (Orange Walk East), Minister of State in the Ministry of National Security

The Hon. Dr. Angel Campos (Corozal South West), Minister of State in the Ministry of Health

The Hon. John Briceño (Orange Walk Central), Leader of the Opposition

The Hon. Cordel Hyde (Lake Independence)

The Hon. Francis Fonseca (Freetown)

The Hon. Rodwell Ferguson (Stann Creek West)

The Hon. Jose Mai (Orange Walk South)

The Hon. Julius Espat (Cayo South)

The Hon. Kareem Musa (Caribbean Shores)

The Hon. Michael Espat (Toledo East)

The Hon. Florencio Marin Jr. (Corozal South East)

The Hon. Oscar Requena (Toledo West)

The Hon. Orlando Habet (Cayo North East)

Members Absent:

The Hon. Gaspar Vega (Orange Walk North)

The Rt. Hon. Said Musa (Fort George)

MADAM SPEAKER in the Chair.

PRAYERS by Pastor Alvan Gentle Jr.

(Resumption of the debate on the General Revenue Appropriation (2018/2019) Bill, 2018.)

(Suspension of the debate on the General Revenue Appropriation (2018/2019) Bill, 2018.)

In accordance with Standing Order 12 (8), the Right Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Natural Resources moved that the proceedings on the matter on the Order Paper be entered upon and proceeded with at the Sitting at any hour though opposed.

Question put and agreed to.

(Resumption of the debate on the General Revenue Appropriation (2018/2019) Bill, 2018.)

After the debate thereon, question put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time and, pursuant to Standing Orders, committed to a Committee of Supply.

I COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Pursuant to Standing Orders, the House resolved itself into a Committee of

Supply and the Speaker ordered the withdrawal of visitors from the galleries.

MADAM SPEAKER left the Chair.

[In the Committee]

The Right Honourable D. O. Barrow (Minister of Finance and Natural Resources) in the Chair.

1. General Revenue Appropriation (2018/2019) Bill, 2018.

Schedule agreed to as follows:

SCHEDULE			
HEAD OF EXPENDITURE		MINISTRY DESCRIPTION	PROPOSED ESTIMATES
RECURRENT (PART I)			2018/2019
			BZ \$
11017-11021	11	OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL	457,202
12017-12138	12	JUDICIARY	10,061,754
13017-13048	13	LEGISLATURE	2,859,033
15017 - 15021	15	DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS	2,301,515
16017-16028	16	AUDITOR GENERAL	2,329,800
17017-17078, 25021, 31048	17	OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER	5,420,027
18017-18465, 23017-26711	18	MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND NATURAL RESOURCES	320,057,384
19017-19298, 30241	19	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	139,165,889
20017-20229, 30066-33021	20	MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AND HOME AFFAIRS	105,036,889
14058, 21017 - 21786, 25028	21	MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, YOUTH, SPORTS AND CULTURE	270,796,979
22017-22158, 22418, 28017, 23178 - 23338, 30258-30446	22	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES, FORESTRY, THE ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND IMMIGRATION	27,184,096
25017-25041, 26021	25	MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION	2,388,661
27017-27251, 25081, 30451,	27	MINISTRY OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION	16,106,057
17028-17058, 26088, 26031, 26088, 29208, 29188, 29198, 33102-33146, 33157-33228	28	MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	21,286,827
29017-29218	29	MINISTRY OF WORKS	21,257,899
31017-31058	31	ATTORNEY GENERAL'S MINISTRY	

			5,069,819
23308, 24017, 24048, 28048, 32017, 32028	32	MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PETROLEUM, INVESTMENT, TRADE AND COMMERCE	11,727,007
33017-33051	33	MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT	1,829,415
14017-14148, 35017-35037, 34048-34081, 36028	35	MINISTRY OF LABOUR, LOCAL GOVERNMENT, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC SERVICE, ENERGY AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	28,079,341
30011-30051, 30331	38	MINISTRY OF DEFENCE	57,938,100
TOTAL RECURRENT (PART I)			1,051,353,694

SCHEDULE			
HEAD OF EXPENDITURE		MINISTRY DESCRIPTION	PROPOSED ESTIMATES
CAPITAL II (PART II)			2018/2019
11017-11021	11	OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL	14,000
12017-12138	12	JUDICIARY	20,000
13017-13048	13	LEGISLATURE	12,575
17017-17078, 25021, 31048	17	OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER	30,000
18017-18465, 23017-26711	18	MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND NATURAL RESOURCES	15,740,838
19017-19298, 30241	19	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	2,535,000
20017-20229, 30066-33021	20	MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AND HOME AFFAIRS	555,000
14058, 21017 - 21786, 25028	21	MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, YOUTH, SPORTS AND CULTURE	2,334,100
22017-22158, 22418, 28017, 23178 - 23338, 30258-30446	22	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES, FORESTRY, THE ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND IMMIGRATION	5,623,573
25017-25041, 26021	25	MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION	736,000
27017-27251, 25081, 30451,	27	MINISTRY OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION	6,255,000
17028-17058, 26088, 26031, 26088, 29208, 29188, 29198, 33102-33146, 33157-33228	28	MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	690,000
29017-29218	29	MINISTRY OF WORKS	13,840,000
31017-31058	31	ATTORNEY GENERAL'S MINISTRY	575,460
23308, 24017, 24048, 28048, 32017, 32028	32	MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PETROLEUM, INVESTMENT, TRADE AND COMMERCE	2,762,288
33017-33051	33	MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT	196,000

14017-14148, 35017-35037, 34048-34081, 36028	35	MINISTRY OF LABOUR, LOCAL GOVERNMENT, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC SERVICE, ENERGY AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	8,925,114
30011-30051, 30331	38	MINISTRY OF DEFENCE	1,076,000
TOTAL CAPITAL II (PART II)			61,920,948

SCHEDULE			
HEAD OF EXPENDITURE		MINISTRY DESCRIPTION	PROPOSED ESTIMATES
CAPITAL III (PART III)			2018/2019
17017-17078, 25021, 31048	17	OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER	254,100
18017-18465, 23017-26711	18	MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND NATURAL RESOURCES	3,050,000
19017-19298, 30241	19	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	450,000
14058, 21017 - 21786, 25028	21	MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, YOUTH, SPORTS AND CULTURE	9,927,113
22017-22158, 22418, 28017, 23178 - 23338, 30258-30446	22	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES, FORESTRY, THE ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND IMMIGRATION	14,566,149
25017-25041, 26021	25	MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION	4,994,167
27017-27251, 25081, 30451,	27	MINISTRY OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION	1,456,000
	28		
29017-29218	29	MINISTRY OF WORKS	45,381,000
23308, 24017, 24048, 28048, 32017, 32028	32	MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PETROLEUM, INVESTMENT, TRADE AND COMMERCE	8,701,840
14017-14148, 35017-35037, 34048-34081, 36028	35	MINISTRY OF LABOUR, LOCAL GOVERNMENT, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC SERVICE, ENERGY AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	4,363,767
TOTAL CAPITAL III (PART III)			93,144,136

CAPITAL TRANSFERS AND NET LENDING (PART IV)

18	MINISTRY OF FINANCE	2,298,624
TOTAL CAPITAL TRANSFER AND NET LENDING (PART IV)		2,298,624

AMORTIZATION (PART V)	
18	MINISTRY OF FINANCE
	92,711,964
TOTAL AMORTIZATION (PART V)	
	92,711,964
GRAND TOTAL	
	1,301,429,366

Clauses 1 to 3 agreed to.

Bill to be reported back to the House without amendment.

2. Official Charities Fund Motion, 2018.

The Right Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Natural Resources moved:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this House approves the expenditure of \$2,352,589 from the Official Charities Fund as detailed in Appendix A of the Draft Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the year ending 31st March, 2019.

Question put and agreed to.

The Chairman left the Chair.

MADAM SPEAKER in the Chair.

**REPORT AND THIRD READING OF GENERAL REVENUE
APPROPRIATION (2018/2019) BILL, 2018**

1. General Revenue Appropriation (2018/2019) Bill, 2018.

The Right Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Natural Resources reported that the Committee of Supply had gone through the Bill clause by clause, and directed him to report same without amendment.

Whereupon, the Right Honourable Prime Minister moved that the Bill be read a third time.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

II MOTIONS

1. Official Charities Fund Motion, 2018.

(referred 9th March 2018)

The Right Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Natural Resources moved:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this House approves the expenditure of \$2,352,589 from the Official Charities Fund as detailed in Appendix A of the Draft Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the year ending 31st March, 2019.

Question put and agreed to.

III BILLS FOR SECOND READING

1. **Central Bank of Belize (Amendment) Bill, 2018.**

The Right Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Natural Resources moved that the above-mentioned Bill be read a second time:

Bill for an Act to amend the Central Bank of Belize Act, Chapter 262 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2011, to make additional provision in relation to the entities with whom the Central Bank of Belize may engage in foreign exchange transactions; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly, read a second time and, pursuant to Standing Orders, committed to a Committee of the whole House.

2. **Customs and Excise Duties (Amendment) Bill, 2018.**

The Right Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Natural Resources moved that the above-mentioned Bill be read a second time:

Bill for an Act to amend the Customs and Excise Duties Act, Chapter 48 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2011, to implement the Customs and Excise Trade Classification based on the Harmonised System of Classification Version 2017; to implement the fourth phase of reduction of duties in accordance with the Economic Partnership Agreement, to vary the rates of excise duty on certain items; to increase the scope of items subject to excise duty; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly, read a second time and, pursuant to Standing Orders, committed to a Committee of the whole House.

3. **Immigration (Amendment) Bill, 2018.**

The Right Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Natural Resources moved that the above-mentioned Bill be read a second time:

Bill for an Act to amend the Immigration Act, Chapter 156 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2011, to provide, as a companion

measure to amendments to the Belizean Nationality Act, Chapter 161, for the bifurcation of functions related to immigration and nationality services, to regularize the use of the term used to describe the head of the government department responsible for immigration; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

After the debate thereon, question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly, read a second time and, pursuant to Standing Orders, committed to a Committee of the whole House.

4. Belizean Nationality (Amendment) Bill, 2018.

The Right Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Natural Resources moved that the above-mentioned Bill be read a second time:

Bill for an Act to amend the Belizean Nationality Act, Chapter 161 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2011, to provide, as a companion measure to amendments to the Immigration Act, Chapter 156, for the bifurcation of functions related to nationality and immigration services; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly, read a second time and, pursuant to Standing Orders, committed to a Committee of the whole House.

5. Passports (Amendment) Bill, 2018.

The Right Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Natural Resources moved that the above-mentioned Bill be read a second time:

Bill for an Act to amend the Passports Act, Chapter 164 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2011, to provide for the bifurcation of functions related to nationality and immigration services; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly, read a second time and, pursuant to Standing Orders, committed to a Committee of the whole House.

6. Firearms (Amendment) Bill, 2018.

The Honourable Minister of National Security moved that the above-mentioned Bill be read a second time:

Bill for an Act to amend the Firearms Act, Chapter 143 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2011; to establish a framework for an heirloom firearm licence; to provide for facilitating the deposit of a firearm for safe keeping in a police station; to provide for new and

updated fines and fees; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly, read a second time and, pursuant to Standing Orders, committed to a Committee of the whole House.

7. Police (Amendment) Bill, 2018.

The Honourable Minister of National Security moved that the above-mentioned Bill be read a second time:

Bill for an Act to amend the Police Act, Chapter 138 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2011; to bring the Police Act into conformity with the Public Service Regulations and to strengthen disciplinary control of persons holding or acting in offices in the security services; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly, read a second time and, pursuant to Standing Orders, committed to a Committee of the whole House.

8. Crime Control and Criminal Justice (Amendment) Bill, 2018.

The Honourable Minister of National Security moved that the above-mentioned Bill be read a second time:

Bill for an Act to amend the Crime Control and Criminal Justice Act, Chapter 102 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2011; to make provision for better maintenance of public safety and order through discouraging membership of criminal gangs and the disruption and suppression of criminal gang activity; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

After the debate thereon, question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly, read a second time and, pursuant to Standing Orders, committed to a Committee of the whole House.

9. Protection of Witness Bill, 2018.

The Honourable Minister of National Security moved that the above-mentioned Bill be read a second time:

Bill for an Act to provide for the protection of witnesses in criminal proceedings, by enhancing the ability of a witness to give testimony in a judicial proceedings and to cooperate with law enforcement authorities; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly, read a second time and, pursuant to Standing Orders, committed to a Committee of the whole House.

IV COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE ON BILLS

Pursuant to Standing Orders, the House, without question put, resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House to consider the Bills that were read a second time and Madam Speaker left the chair.

[In the Committee]

The Deputy Speaker in the Chair.

1. Central Bank of Belize (Amendment) Bill, 2018.

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Bill to be reported back to the House without amendment.

2. Customs and Excise Duties (Amendment) Bill, 2018.

Clauses 1 to 3 agreed to.

Bill to be reported back to the House without amendment.

3. Immigration (Amendment) Bill, 2018.

The Long Title agreed to with the following amendments:

In the Long Title, insert immediately after the words “Belizean Nationality Act, Chapter 161,” the words “and the Passports Act, Chapter 164”.

Clauses 1 to 11 agreed to.

The Schedule agreed with the following amendment:

Delete the heading “(Section 7)” and substitute therefor the words “(Section 10)”.

Bill to be reported back to the House with amendments.

4. Belizean Nationality (Amendment) Bill, 2018.

The Long Title agreed to with the following amendments:

In the Long Title, insert immediately after the words “Immigration Act, Chapter 156,” the words “and the Passports Act, Chapter 164”.

Clauses 1 to 8 agreed to.

Bill to be reported back to the House with amendments.

5. Passports (Amendment) Bill, 2018.

The Long Title agreed to with the following amendment:

In the Long Title, insert immediately after the words “to provide” first occurring the words “, as a companion measure to amendments to the Immigration Act, Chapter 156, and the Belizean Nationality Act, Chapter 161”.

Clauses 1 to 3 agreed to.

Bill to be reported back to the House with amendment.

6. Firearms (Amendment) Bill, 2018.

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Clause 3 agreed to with the following amendments:

In paragraph (a), proposed subsection (2),

- (i) In paragraph (d), under the heading “Farmer Gun Licence”, delete the figures “\$250.00” in the column “NON-BELIZEAN, NON-CARICOM NATIONAL, OR FOREIGN COMPANY” and substitute therefor the figures “\$25.00”.
- (ii) In paragraph (h), under the heading “Heirloom Firearm Licence”, insert immediately under the figures “\$300.00” and “\$600.00” the following:

“One-time fee not requiring renewal”

Clauses 4 to 6 agreed to.

Clause 7 agreed to with the following amendments:

1. Renumber clauses 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13, as clauses 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 respectively.
2. Insert next after clause 6 the following as clause 7 –

“Repeal and replacement of section 8.

7. The principal Act is amended by repealing section 8, and replacing it with the following –

Duration of licences.

8.– (1) Subject to subsection (2), a licence granted under this Act shall be for such period not exceeding three years as may be approved by the Commissioner, but may be renewed subject to such conditions and on payment of such fees as may be prescribed.

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply in relation to a licence for an heirloom firearm, which type of licence does not require renewal.”.”.

Renumbered Clauses 8 to 14 agreed to.

Bill to be reported back to the House with amendments.

7. Police (Amendment) Bill, 2018.

Clauses 1 to 8 agreed to.

Clause 9 agreed to with the following amendments:

In the proposed section 24, subsection (8), delete the words “a suitably qualified person delegated by the Commissioner” and substitute therefor the words “or a person delegated by the Commissioner whom the Commissioner determines to be suitably qualified for the purpose”.

Clauses 10 to 19 agreed to.

Bill to be reported back to the House with amendments.

8. Crime Control and Criminal Justice (Amendment) Bill, 2018.

Clauses 1 to 4 agreed to.

Bill to be reported back to the House without amendment.

9. Protection of Witness Bill, 2018.

Clauses 1 to 37 agreed to.

Schedules One and Two agreed to without amendment.

Bill to be reported back to the House without amendment.

MADAM SPEAKER in the Chair.

V BILLS FOR THIRD READING

1. Central Bank of Belize (Amendment) Bill, 2018.

The Right Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Natural Resources reported that the Committee of the whole House has gone through the Bill, clause by

clause, and directed him to report same without amendment.

Whereupon the Right Honourable Prime Minister moved that the Bill be read a third time.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

2. Customs and Excise Duties (Amendment) Bill, 2018.

The Right Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Natural Resources reported that the Committee of the whole House has gone through the Bill, clause by clause, and directed him to report same without amendment.

Whereupon the Right Honourable Prime Minister moved that the Bill be read a third time.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

3. Immigration (Amendment) Bill, 2018.

The Right Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Natural Resources reported that the Committee of the whole House has gone through the Bill, clause by clause, and directed him to report the same with amendments.

Whereupon the Right Honourable Prime Minister moved that the Bill be read a third time.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

4. Belizean Nationality (Amendment) Bill, 2018.

The Right Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Natural Resources reported that the Committee of the whole House has gone through the Bill, clause by clause, and directed him to report the same with amendments.

Whereupon the Right Honourable Prime Minister moved that the Bill be read a third time.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

5. Passports (Amendment) Bill, 2018.

The Right Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Natural Resources reported that the Committee of the whole House has gone through the Bill, clause by clause, and directed him to report the same with amendments.

Whereupon the Right Honourable Prime Minister moved that the Bill be read a third time.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

6. Firearms (Amendment) Bill, 2018.

The Honourable Minister of National Security reported that the Committee of the whole House has gone through the Bill, clause by clause, and directed him to report the same with amendments.

Whereupon the Honourable Minister of National Security moved that the Bill be read a third time.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

7. Police (Amendment) Bill, 2018.

The Honourable Minister of National Security reported that the Committee of the whole House has gone through the Bill, clause by clause, and directed him to report the same with amendments.

Whereupon the Honourable Minister of National Security moved that the Bill be read a third time.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

8. Crime Control and Criminal Justice (Amendment) Bill, 2018.

The Honourable Minister of National Security reported that the Committee of the whole House has gone through the Bill, clause by clause, and directed him to report the same without amendment.

Whereupon the Honourable Minister of National Security moved that the Bill be read a third time.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

9. Protection of Witness Bill, 2018.

The Honourable Minister of National Security reported that the Committee of the whole House has gone through the Bill, clause by clause, and directed him to report the same without amendment.

Whereupon the Honourable Minister of National Security moved that the Bill be read a third time.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

ADJOURNMENT

The Right Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Natural Resources moved that the House be adjourned.

After debate thereon, question put and agreed to.

The House adjourned at 11:26 P.M. to a date to be fixed by the Speaker.

Speaker.

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