

BELIZE

No. 6/1/13

SENATE

Monday, 15th August 2016

10:05 A.M.

Pursuant to the direction of Mr. President, in writing, dated 11th August 2016, the Senate met in the National Assembly Chamber in Belmopan on Monday, 15th August 2016, at 10:05 A.M.

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Members Present:

Senator, the Honourable Lee Mark Chang – President
Senator, the Honourable Godwin Hulse – Leader of Government Business
and Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration
Senator, the Honourable Dr. Carla Barnett – Vice-President and Minister
of State in the Ministry of Finance
Senator, the Honourable Vanessa Retreage – Attorney General
Senator, the Honourable Macario Coy Sr.
Senator, the Honourable Stephen Duncan
Senator, the Honourable Aldo Salazar
Senator, the Honourable Michel Chebat – Temporary
Senator, the Honourable Valerie Woods
Senator, the Honourable Paul Thompson
Senator, the Honourable Markhelm Lizarraga
Senator, the Honourable Rev. Ashley Rocke
Senator, the Honourable Elena Smith

Member Absent:

Senator, the Honourable Eamon Courtenay

MR. PRESIDENT *in the Chair.*

PRAYERS *by Rev. Ashley Rocke.*

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE OF NEW SENATORS

The Clerk administered the Oath, in accordance with section 65 of the Belize Constitution, to new Senator, the Honourable Vanessa Retreage, and to the temporary Senator, the Honourable Michel Chebat.

**MOTION RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTINGS OF THE
SENATE**

The Leader of Government Business and Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration moved that, at its rising, the Senate adjourn to a date to be fixed by the President.

Question put and agreed to.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

A. GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

I MOTION

1. **Motion Approving the Appointment of Mr. Douglas Singh as Chairman, Elections and Boundaries Commission, 2016.**

The Leader of Government Business and Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration moved:-

WHEREAS, subsection (1) of section 88 of the Constitution of Belize provides that there shall be an Elections and Boundaries Commission which shall consist of a Chairperson and four other members who shall be persons of integrity and high national standing;

AND WHEREAS, it is further provided by subsection (2) of that section that the Chairperson and two other members of the Elections and Boundaries Commission 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 the remaining two members 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, provided that in the process of consultation with the Leader of the Opposition for the appointment of the Chairperson, the Prime Minister shall use his best endeavors to secure the agreement of the Leader of the Opposition;

AND WHEREAS, it is further provided by subsection (4) of that section that if any member of the Commission dies or resigns, the Governor-General shall appoint another person in his place in the same manner in which such member was appointed;

AND WHEREAS, MR. BERNARD Q. A. PITTS, S.C., CBE, who was appointed as Chairperson of the Elections and Boundaries Commission for a period of five (5) years on the 15th May, 2012 is now deceased;

AND WHEREAS, the Prime Minister, after due consultation with, and having used his best endeavours to secure the agreement of, the Leader of the Opposition, intends to advise the Governor General that **Mr. DOUGLAS SINGH**, be appointed

as the Chairperson of the Elections and Boundaries Commission for a period of five (5) years with effect from 1st January, 2016;

AND WHEREAS, subsections (2)(c) and (3) of section 61A of the Constitution of Belize provide that a member of the Elections and Boundaries Commission can only be validly appointed with the prior approval of the Senate;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable Senate, being satisfied that **Mr. DOUGLAS SINGH** is a person of integrity and high national standing, approve his appointment as the Chairperson of the Elections and Boundaries Commission for a period of five (5) years with effect from 1st January, 2016, in accordance with the abovementioned provisions of the Constitution of Belize.

After the debate thereon, Motion was referred to the Constitution and Foreign Affairs Committee for examination, consideration and report.

II COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE SENATE ON MOTION

In accordance with Standing Order 68A, the Senate, without question put, resolved itself into the Constitution and Foreign Affairs Committee, a Committee of the whole Senate, to consider the Motion referred to it.

(In the Constitution and Foreign Affairs Committee)

MR. PRESIDENT in the Chair.

1. **Motion Approving the Appointment of Mr. Douglas Singh as Chairman, Elections and Boundaries Commission, 2016.**

Motion in its entirety agreed to.

Motion to be reported back to the Senate for adoption without amendment.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

A. GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

III MOTION

(Adoption of Motion)

1. **Motion Approving the Appointment of Mr. Douglas Singh as Chairman, Elections and Boundaries Commission, 2016.**

The Leader of Government Business and Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration reported that the Constitution and Foreign Affairs Committee met and considered the above captioned motion and has agreed for it to be adopted without amendment.

Question put and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

The Senate adjourned at 10:30 A.M. to a date to be fixed by the President.

PRESIDENT

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