

BELIZE

No. 7/1/13

SENATE

Wednesday, 31th August 2016

10:04 A.M.

Pursuant to the direction of Mr. President, in writing, dated 26th August 2016, the Senate met in the National Assembly Chamber in Belmopan on Wednesday, 31st August 2016, at 10:04 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 and
Minister of Natural Resources
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 A NEW SENATOR

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

Mr. President made the following announcement:-

“Honourable Members, by letter dated 26th August 2016, Cabinet’s recommendation has been signified to the following:

1. General Revenue Supplementary Appropriation (2015/2016) (No. 5) Bill, 2016;
2. General Revenue Supplementary Appropriation (2016/2017) Bill, 2016;
3. Central Bank of Belize (Amendment) Bill, 2016;
4. Treasury Bills (Amendment) (No.2) Bill, 2016;
5. Inter-American Development Bank – Solid Waste Management Project II Loan Motion, 2016;
6. Accession of Belize to the Constitutive Agreement of the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEL) Motion, 2016; and
7. Development Finance Corporation Line of Credit (\$5.0 Million) from the Social Security Board Motion, 2016.”

BILLS BROUGHT FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The Leader of Government Business and Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration signified his willingness to take charge of the following Bills:

1. General Revenue Supplementary Appropriation (2015/2016) (No. 5) Bill, 2016;
2. General Revenue Supplementary Appropriation (2016/2017) Bill, 2016;
3. Central Bank of Belize (Amendment) Bill, 2016; and
4. Treasury Bills (Amendment) (No.2) Bill, 2016.

The Leader of Government Business and Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration moved that the Bills be taken through all their stages forthwith.

Question put and agreed to.

PAPERS

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

- | | | |
|---------|---|---|
| 9/1/13 | - | Land Tax (Fourth Schedule Replacement) Order, 2016. |
| 10/1/13 | - | International Business Companies (Fees) (No. 2) Regulations 2016. |

11/1/13	-	Development Finance Corporation – Annual Report 2015.
12/1/13	-	Office of the Auditor General of Belize: Special Audit – Stamp Duty on Tickets, April 2007- July 2012.
13/1/13	-	Office of the Auditor General of Belize: Special Audit – Visa, Immigration and Nationality Department, for the period 2011 – 2013.
14/1/13	-	Office of the Auditor General of Belize: Special Audit – Nationality, Immigration and Nationality Department, for the period 2011 – 2013.
15/1/13	-	Office of the Auditor General of Belize: Special Audit – Passport, Immigration and Nationality Department, for the period 2011 – 2013.
16/1/13	-	Central Bank of Belize – Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for the Year 2013.
17/1/13	-	Central Bank of Belize – Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for the Year 2014.
18/1/13	-	Central Bank of Belize – Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for the Year 2015.
19/1/13	-	Supplementary Appropriation (No.5) Schedule for Fiscal Year 2015/2016.
20/1/13	-	Supplementary Appropriation Schedule for Fiscal Year 2016/2017.
21/1/13	-	Belize Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan 2016.
22/1/13	-	Belize Rural Financial Programme – Financial Statements - 31 st March, 2015.
23/1/13	-	Tax Information Exchange Agreement (Belize/ The Czech Republic) Order, 2016.
24/1/13	-	Tax Information Exchange Agreement (Belize/ Switzerland) Order, 2016.

After a brief discussion on Sessional Paper 9/1/13, papers were ordered to lie on the Table.

MOTIONS 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 MOTIONS

1. Protocol Amending the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), Motion, 2016.

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

WHEREAS, the Protocol amending the TRIPS Agreement (hereinafter called “the Protocol”) was done at Geneva on 6 December 2005 (WT/L/641);

AND WHEREAS, pursuant to paragraph 3 of the Protocol, on 26 November 2013 the WTO General Council extended the period for acceptance of the Protocol to 31 December 2015 (WT/L/899);

AND WHEREAS, in accordance with its paragraph 4, the Protocol shall enter into force in accordance with Article X:3 of the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization;

AND WHEREAS, the Senate of Belize has authorized the acceptance of the Protocol in accordance with section 61(A)(2)(b) of the Belize Constitution as amended by the Belize Constitution (Sixth Amendment) Act (No. 13 of 2008);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Belize, having considered and approved the Protocol hereby declares that Belize accepts the Protocol and undertakes faithfully to perform and carry out the stipulations contained therein.

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

2. **Inter-American Development Bank – Solid Waste Management Project II Loan Motion, 2016.**

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

WHEREAS, Belize being 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 in the execution of Solid Waste Management Project II;

AND WHEREAS, it is the intention of the Government to apply such financial assistance to reduce environmental pollution through the improvement of solid waste management practices in emerging tourism destinations in northern and southern Belize;

AND WHEREAS, such project will finance investments to improve solid waste transport, recovery, and final disposal in towns and villages in the Northern (Orange Walk and Corozal) and Southern (Stann Creek and Toledo) Corridors and in Belmopan, and to strengthen Solid Waste Management Authority as the lead agency in the waste management sector;

AND WHEREAS, it is intended that the execution of the project shall be carried out on behalf of the Government by the Solid Waste Management Authority, acting as Executing Agency;

AND WHEREAS, the Bank has offered the Government financing of up to US\$10,000,000 from its Ordinary Capital Resources in support of the Solid Waste Management Project II under the following terms and conditions:

Lender:	The Inter-American Development Bank;
Loan Principal Amount:	US\$10,000,000.00 Single Currency Facility Loan;
Disbursement Schedule:	Over a period of sixty (60) months from the date of signature of Loan Contract;
Loan Term:	Twenty five (25) Years inclusive of a sixty-six (66) month Grace Period on Principal Repayments;

Repayment Period:	To be repaid in 39 approximately equal, semi-annual, and consecutive installments of about US\$256,410.26;
Purpose:	To execute Solid Waste Management Project II;
Rate of Interest:	Lending Rate is based on the Single Currency Facility Loan with a LIBOR-Based Interest Rate plus the applicable lending spread for the Bank's ordinary capital loans, to be paid semi-annually beginning six months from date of signature of Loan Contract;
Credit Fee:	A Credit Fee will be 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 authorization 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 assist the Government of Belize in its endeavor to reduce environmental pollution through the improvement of solid waste management practices in emerging tourism destinations in northern and southern Belize, approve and confirm that the Government may enter into a Loan Contract with the Inter-American Development Bank on the terms and conditions set out above for financing the said Project, and further authorize the Minister of Finance to execute and deliver the said Loan Contract and all other documents associated therewith.

After the debate thereon, question put and agreed to.

- 3. Accession of Belize to the Constitutive Agreement of the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) Motion, 2016.

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

WHEREAS, in the year 1960, the Governments of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua signed a Constitutive Agreement establishing the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI);

AND WHEREAS, the aims of CABEI are to promote economic integration and balanced economic and social development of the Central American Region, which includes both the aforementioned founding countries as well as other non-founding regional countries;

AND WHEREAS, in November 2006, Belize was officially accepted as a Beneficiary Country (but not a Non-Founding Member) of CABEI, having fulfilled all the requirements of the Bank;

AND WHEREAS, Belize is now in a position to fully join CABEI as a Non-Founding Regional Member;

AND WHEREAS, in order to do so, Belize must first accede to the Constitutive Agreement (as amended) of CABEI;

AND WHEREAS, in doing so Belize would be recognizing all the immunities, exemptions and privileges of CABEI which are listed in the said Constitutive Agreement, including its preferred creditor status, and would be granting priority and preferential attention to debt related to the loans, guarantees and operations which CABEI may channel to the public sector of Belize;

AND WHEREAS, the Special Contributions made by Belize as a Beneficiary Country in the year 2006 in the form of Certificates of Participation shall be transformed to an appropriate number of Series "B" Capital Shares in the Bank;

AND WHEREAS, no further financial contributions will be required of Belize in this accession process;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this House being satisfied that it is in the beneficial interest of Belize to become a Non-Founding Regional Member of the CABEI, hereby authorizes the Minister of Finance to sign the required Instrument of Accession by Belize to the Constitutive Agreement of the Central American Bank for Economic Integration and all other related documents to give effect to such Accession.

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

4. Development Finance Corporation Line of Credit (\$5.0 Million) from the Social Security Board Motion, 2016.

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

WHEREAS, section 15(1) of the Development Finance Corporation Act, 2009 (No. 1 of 2009), provides that the Development Finance Corporation (DFC) may, with the approval of the Minister of Finance, borrow sums domestically or internationally, as required by it for meeting any of its obligations or discharging any of its functions;

AND WHEREAS, subsection (4) of the said section 15 further provides that an aggregate domestic debt in excess of BZ\$5.0 million shall be subject to the prior approval of the National Assembly;

AND WHEREAS, the Social Security Board (SSB) has offered to lend to the DFC, the sum of BZ\$5.0 million to enable the DFC to on-lend to various sectors of the Belizean economy, namely, productive, micro, small and medium enterprises;

AND WHEREAS, the purpose of the DFC is to expand and strengthen the economy of Belize by providing funding on an economically sustainable and environmentally acceptable basis to those individuals or groups of individuals seeking financing for specifically approved purposes, and who would otherwise be unable to fund their requirements from other sources on reasonable terms and conditions;

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

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| (a) Amount: | BZ\$5,000,000.00; |
| (b) Loan Term: | One year with an option to extend to 18 months; |
| (c) Interest Rate: | Interest shall be paid at 3.5% per annum on outstanding principal loan balance; |
| (d) Repayment: | Interest is to be paid quarterly after first disbursement of loan funds;

The principal balance is to be repaid in full at the expiration of 12 months from the date of first disbursement, or at the expiration of 18 months, if extension of the loan term is requested and approved; |
| (e) Fee: | A commitment fee of ½% of the loan amount of \$5,000,000.00, i.e.\$25,000.00 is to be paid upon acceptance of this agreement and at the end of one year after first disbursement, 2% of funds not drawn down; |

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House, being satisfied that the Line of Credit from the SSB to the

DFC will contribute to the DFC's efforts to expand and strengthen the economy of Belize by providing funding to small and medium enterprises for the purposes aforesaid, approves that the DFC may borrow the said sum of BZ\$5,000,000.00 from the SSB on the terms and conditions set out above, and further authorizes the Board of Directors of the DFC to execute and deliver the Loan Agreement and all other documents associated therewith.

After the debate thereon, question put and agreed to.

II BILLS FOR SECOND READING

1. General Revenue Supplementary Appropriation (2015/2016) (No.5) Bill, 2016.

The Leader of Government Business and Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration moved that the above-mentioned Bill be read a second time:

Bill for an Act to appropriate further sums of money for the use of the Public Service of Belize for the financial year ending on the thirty-first day of March, two thousand and sixteen.

After the debate thereon, question put and agreed to.

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

2. General Revenue Supplementary Appropriation (2016/2017) Bill, 2016.

The Leader of Government Business and Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration moved that the above-mentioned Bill be read a second time:

Bill for an Act to appropriate further sums of money for the use of the Public Service of Belize for the financial year ending on the thirty-first day of March, two thousand and seventeen.

(Suspension of the debate on the General Revenue Supplementary Appropriation (2016/2017) Bill, 2016.)

In accordance with Standing Order 10 (8), the Leader of Government Business and Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration 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 and continuation of the debate on the General Revenue Supplementary Appropriation (2016/2017) Bill, 2016.)

After the debate thereon, question put and agreed to.

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

3. **Central Bank of Belize (Amendment) Bill, 2016.**

The Leader of Government Business and Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration 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 Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2011, to increase the authorised capital of the Central Bank of Belize to twenty million dollars, to specify the paid up capital as ten million dollars, to raise the limit of the amount represented by Treasury Bills, Treasury Notes or securities that may be held by the Bank at any one time and to expressly provide for the extension of the ancillary powers of the Bank; 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, was committed to a Committee of the whole Senate.

4. **Treasury Bills (Amendment) (No.2) Bill, 2016.**

The Leader of Government Business and Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration moved that the above-mentioned Bill be read a second time:

Bill for an Act to further amend the Treasury Bills Act, Chapter 83 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2011, to raise the limit of principal sums represented by Treasury Bills and Treasury Notes outstanding at any one time; 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, was committed to a Committee of the whole Senate.

III COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE SENATE ON MOTIONS AND BILLS

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 Motions referred to it and, thereafter, in accordance with Standing Order 54, into the Committee of the whole Senate to examine and consider the Bills that were read a second time.

(In the Constitution and Foreign Affairs Committee)

MR. PRESIDENT in the Chair.

1. **Protocol Amending the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Motion, 2016.**

Motion in its entirety agreed to.

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

2. **Accession of Belize to the Constitutive Agreement of the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) Motion, 2016.**

Motion in its entirety agreed to.

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

(In the Committee of the whole Senate)

MR. PRESIDENT in the Chair.

1. **General Revenue Supplementary Appropriation (2015/2016) (No. 5) Bill, 2016.**

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Schedule agreed to.

Bill to be reported back to the Senate without amendment.

2. **General Revenue Supplementary Appropriation (2016/2017) Bill, 2016.**

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Schedule agreed to.

Bill to be reported back to the Senate without amendment.

3. **Central Bank of Belize (Amendment) Bill, 2016.**

Clauses 1 to 4 agreed to.

Bill to be reported back to the Senate without amendment.

4. **Treasury Bills (Amendment) (No.2) Bill, 2016.**

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Bill to be reported back to the Senate without amendment.

5. **Immigration (Amendment) Bill, 2016.**

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Bill to be reported back to the Senate without amendment.

6. Passports (Amendment) Bill, 2016.

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Bill to be reported back to the Senate without amendment.

7. Refugees (Amendment) Bill, 2016.

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Bill to be reported back to the Senate without amendment.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

A. GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

IV MOTIONS

(Adoption of Motions)

1. Protocol Amending the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Motion, 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.

2. Accession of Belize to the Constitutive Agreement of the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) Motion, 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.

V REPORTING AND THIRD READING OF BILLS

1. General Revenue Supplementary Appropriation (2015/2016) (No.5) Bill, 2016.

The Leader of Government Business and Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration reported that the Committee of the whole Senate has considered the above-mentioned Bill, clause by clause, and has agreed upon it without amendment.

Whereupon the Senator moved that the Bill be read a third time.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

2. **General Revenue Supplementary Appropriation (2016/2017) Bill, 2016.**

The Leader of Government Business and Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration reported that the Committee of the whole Senate has considered the above-mentioned Bill, clause by clause, and has agreed upon it without amendment.

Whereupon the Senator moved that the Bill be read a third time.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

3. **Central Bank of Belize (Amendment) Bill, 2016.**

The Leader of Government Business and Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration reported that the Committee of the whole Senate has considered the above-mentioned Bill, clause by clause, and has agreed upon it without amendment.

Whereupon the Senator moved that the Bill be read a third time.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

4. **Treasury Bills (Amendment) (No.2) Bill, 2016.**

The Leader of Government Business and Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration reported that the Committee of the whole Senate has considered the above-mentioned Bill, clause by clause, and has agreed upon it without amendment.

Whereupon the Senator moved that the Bill be read a third time.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

5. **Immigration (Amendment) Bill, 2016.**

The Leader of Government Business and Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration reported that the Committee of the whole Senate has considered the above-mentioned Bill, clause by clause, and has agreed upon it without amendment.

Whereupon the Senator moved that the Bill be read a third time.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

6. **Passports (Amendment) Bill, 2016.**

The Leader of Government Business and Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration reported that the Committee of the whole Senate has considered the above-mentioned Bill, clause by clause, and has agreed upon it without amendment.

Whereupon the Senator moved that the Bill be read a third time.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

7. **Refugees (Amendment) Bill, 2016.**

The Leader of Government Business and Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration reported that the Committee of the whole Senate has considered the above-mentioned Bill, clause by clause, and has agreed upon it without amendment.

Whereupon the Senator moved that the Bill be read a third time.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

B. Private Member's Business

I MOTION

1. **Motion for the appointment of a Special Select Committee to investigate the issuance of nationality, visas and passports in the Ministry of Immigration.**

Senator Michel Chebat moved:-

WHEREAS, Standing Order 69 of the Senate Standing Orders provides for the appointment of a Select Committee other than Standing Committees by order of the Senate which shall specify the terms of reference of the Committee, including its composition;

AND WHEREAS, section 61(A)(2) of the Constitution of Belize, Chapter 4 of the Laws of Belize, sets out the powers and functions of the Senate as including “(d) instituting and conducting enquiries and investigations on any matter of public interest or importance, including inquiries into mismanagement or corruption by persons in central government or public statutory bodies;” and “(e) receiving, reviewing and reporting on annual reports and other reports of the Auditor General, the Contractor General and the Ombudsman and instituting and conducting inquiries, investigations and hearings in relation thereto; and “(g) requiring the attendance before it of any Chief Executive Officer in a Government Ministry in respect of any matter of which he has knowledge by virtue of his office, or in respect of anything related to his office and the due execution of his duties; and (h) requiring the attendance before any Committee of the Senate, of any

Minister of Government;”

AND WHEREAS, the Auditor General has, in her Special Audit of the Immigration and Nationality Department on Nationality, Visas and Passport for the Period of 2011-2013, made public disclosure as to the finding of certain improprieties and irregularities in the processing and issuance of nationality, visas and passports issued by the Ministry of Immigration and Nationality;

AND WHEREAS, such public disclosures and public allegations are a matter of public importance and require that the Senate exercise its power and fulfill its function under the Constitution of Belize to conduct an enquiry into and investigate any and all irregularities in the issuance of nationality certificates, passports and visas, including an inquiry into any mismanagement or corruption in the Ministry of Immigration and Nationality by any persons in central government or public statutory bodies in relation to the same;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Senate shall approve the appointment, pursuant to Standing Order 69, of a Special Select Committee of the Senate with the following terms of reference and composition:

1. TERMS OF REFERENCE:

- A. To investigate and inquire into all policies, processes, procedures and in the issuance of nationality, visas and passports in the Ministry of Immigration and Nationality and to investigate any and all irregularities and improprieties as well as any and all wrongdoing, mismanagement or corruption in the issuance of Belizean nationality, passports and visas for the period January 1st, 2011 - December 31st, 2013;
- B. To require the attendance before the Committee of the Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Immigration and Nationality, pursuant to section 61A(2)(g) of the Constitution of Belize;
- C. To require the attendance before the Committee of those Ministers named by the Auditor General in her Special Audit of the Immigration and Nationality Department on Nationality, Visas and Passports for the Period of 2011-2013;

- D. To require the attendance before the Committee of the Director of Immigration and all such public officers in the Ministry of Immigration and Nationality, pursuant to Standing Order 72(3) of the Senate Standing Orders, as well as for the production of all relevant papers and records of the Ministry of Immigration as may be necessary to conduct its enquiry and investigation;
- E. To examine all such persons required to attend before the Committee as witnesses, pursuant to Standing Order 72 of the Senate Standing Orders;
- F. To hold and conduct its sittings and meetings in public save for sittings which are held only for the purpose of deliberation of the matters which are the subject of the Committee which shall be held in camera;
- G. To deliberate on the matters before it in private sittings of the Committee; and
- H. To issue a report thereon to the Senate;

2. COMPOSITION OF SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE:

- A. The Special Select Committee shall be comprised of 5 Senators being one from the Senators appointed by the Government, one from the Senators appointed by the Leader of the Opposition and the three Senators appointed by the Social Partners;
- B. The Senators who are members of the Special Select Committee shall, at the first meeting of the Committee, elect a Chairman of the Committee;
- C. The Quorum of the Committee shall be three.

Motion was seconded by Senator Elena Smith.

(Suspension of the debate on the Motion for the appointment of a Special Select Committee to investigate the issuance of nationality, visas and passports in the Ministry of Immigration.)

In accordance with Standing Order 10 (8), the Leader of Government Business and Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration 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 and continuation of the debate on the Motion for the appointment of a Special Select Committee to investigate the issuance of nationality, visas and passports in the Ministry of Immigration.)

After the debate thereon, question was put and a division was requested by Senator Michel Chebat.

The Senators voted as follows:

Senator Godwin Hulse	-	No	Senator Dr. Carla
Barnett	-	No	
Senator Vanessa Retreage	-	No	
Senator Macario Coy Sr.	-	No	Senator
Stephen Duncan	-	No	Senator Aldo Salazar
	-	No	Senator Michel Chebat
Aye			
Senator Valerie Woods	-	Aye	
Senator Paul Thompson	-	Aye	
Senator Markhelm Lizarraga	-	Aye	
Senator Rev. Ashley Rocke	-	No	
Senator Elena Smith	-	Aye	

Thereon, the result was that seven (7) Senators voted “No” and five (5) Senators voted “Aye”.

The Motion was not approved.

ADJOURNMENT

The Senate adjourned at 5:45 P.M. to a date to be fixed by the President.

PRESIDENT

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