

**BELIZE**

**No. HR31/1/12**

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> October 2019

10:00 AM

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**SUPPLEMENTARY**

**ORDERS OF THE DAY**

8. **Questions to Ministers. (See Notice Paper Attached).**

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**S U P P L E M E N T A R Y**

**NOTICES OF QUESTIONS AND MOTIONS**

**Q U E S T I O N**

**[For Oral Answer]**

Notice given on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

- \*1. On 25 March, 2019, in response to a question to the Minister of Works wherein I asked: “Considering that at a previous house meeting the Minister of Works stated that the reason for the cost over run for the improvement of the George Price Highway (Western Highway) was due in part to land compensation, which the Prime Minister supported when he said in this House on 23rd November 2018: “You know how it is, Madam Speaker. You believe that in acquiring properties that you need in order to widen the roadway that you can negotiate reasonable prices from the landowners. Of course, it never, ever turns out that way.” In light of this statement, can the Minister of Works please inform this Honourable House if the negotiations with respect to these land acquisitions have been completed? And will the Minister of Works also provide this Honourable House with a list of those with whom Government is negotiating or has agreed to pay such compensation and how much has been agreed to be paid to each person or entity?”

Considering that the Minister of Works did respond in writing stating, and I quote “As it relates to compensation payments, Madam Speaker, I want to inform the Honourable Leader of the Opposition that payments are made not only for land acquired for the improvement of the road alignment, but we have also paid compensation to persons affected by the projects (i.e. vendors who were using the road reserve as their means of livelihood,) and will also be funding the acquisition of land and construction of a new Police Station for Roaring Creek, since the current building will have to be demolished to facilitate the approach to the new bridge. In total, we will be acquiring 19 parcels. The total we expect to spend on all the activities previously mentioned is estimated at BZ\$1,807,407.40. This amount is subject to change however depending on the outcome of our negotiations. I will be happy to

share the detail breakdown of the entire project financing with the Leader of the Opposition if he so wishes.”

In light of this response, will the Minister of Works please provide this Honourable House with the list of those with whom Government is negotiating or has agreed to pay such compensation and how much has been agreed to be paid to each person or entity?

*(The Honourable Member for Orange Walk Central)*

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