

BELIZE

No. HR32/1/12

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, 4th December 2019

10:00 AM

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

10. Statement by Minister.

12. Introduction of Bills.

1. Deposit Insurance Bill, 2019.

Bill for an Act to provide for the establishment of a Deposit Insurance Corporation and a Deposit Insurance Fund for the protection of insured deposits against the risk of loss within an insured limit; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

2. International Banking (Amendment) Bill, 2019.

Bill for an Act to amend the International Banking Act, Chapter 267 of Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2011; to improve the measures for supervision and oversight of international banks; to enhance procedures for intervention in the affairs of and other resolution action in relation to international banks; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

3. Customs and Excise (Amendment) (No.2) Bill, 2019.

Bill for an Act to provide for the change of name of the Customs and Excise Duties Act to the Customs Act and to make consequential amendments to the Act to remove the provisions relating to excise duties; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

4. Supplies Control (Amendment) Bill, 2019.

Bill for an Act to amend the Supplies Control Act, Chapter 293 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2011; to increase the penalties that may be imposed on contravention of any subsidiary laws made under the Act; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

(The Right Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Labour, Local Government, Rural Development, Energy, Public Utilities, Public Service and Elections and Boundaries)

5. Chief of Defence Staff Bill, 2019.

Bill for an Act to provide for the appointment of a person to be the Chief of Defence Staff who shall be responsible for the co-ordination of activities as between the Armed Forces and the Ministry of National Security; for the establishment of the committee of the Chief of Defence Staff; to provide for the functions of the Chief of Defence Staff; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

6. Firearms (Amendment) Bill, 2019.

Bill for an Act to amend the Firearms Act, Chapter 143 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2011, to provide for new licensing fees; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

(The Honourable Minister of National Security)

14. Public Business.

A. Government Business

I MOTION *(For Text of Motion see Notice Papers attached)*

1. Inter-American Development Bank - Education Quality Improvement Program (EQIP) II (US\$10,000,000) Loan Motion, 2019.

Cabinet's recommendation to be signified.

(The Right Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Labour, Local Government, Rural Development, Energy, Public Utilities, Public Service and Elections and Boundaries)

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NOTICES OF QUESTIONS AND MOTIONS

M O T I O N

1. **Inter-American Development Bank - Education Quality Improvement Program (EQIP) II (US\$10,000,000) Loan Motion, 2019.**

Notice given on 29th November 2019.

WHEREAS, Belize, as 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 an Education Quality Improvement Program (EQIP) II designed mainly to improve the quality and gender equity of education at the primary and secondary levels, with a special focus on innovation in Science Technology Engineering Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) education;

AND WHEREAS, the general objective of the program will be pursued by achieving the specific objectives: (i) improve the quality of primary school teachers by expanding the inquiry-and-problem-based learning approach; (ii) improve the quality of secondary school teachers by improving teaching practices with a focus on student-centered science and mathematics learning; and (iii) promote gender-sensitive STEAM teaching;

AND WHEREAS, the Project comprises the following components: (i) Inquiry-and-Problem-based Learning in the Primary School Classroom which aims to roll out the EQIP to the fifty percent (50%) of primary schools that have not yet benefitted, bringing the coverage to one-hundred percent (100%) of primary schools nationwide; (ii) STEAM Learning Secondary School by creating a Belize STEAM Laboratory School to train teachers, model individualized instruction that centers around the student, and foster innovation and digital transformation in STEAM subjects; (iii) Evaluation by collecting and analyzing information about activities, characteristics and outcomes; and (iv) Project Management which aims to facilitate the execution of the Project by supporting project management;

AND WEREAS, the Bank has offered financing of up to US\$10,000,000 from its Ordinary Capital Resources for the said purpose 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\$256,410.25;
Purpose:	To execute a Program to improve the quality of the Education System in Belize;
Rate of Interest:	Lending Rate is based on the Single Currency Facility Loan with a LIBOR-Based Interest Rate;
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 authorisation 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 the execution of its Education Quality Improvement Program (EQIP) II to improve the quality and gender equity of education at the primary and secondary levels, with a special focus on innovation in Science Technology Engineering Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) education, 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, and further authorize the Minister of Finance to execute and deliver the said Loan Contract and all other documents associated therewith.

Cabinet’s recommendation to be signified.

(The Right Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Labour, Local Government, Rural Development, Energy, Public Utilities, Public Service and Elections and Boundaries)

