

BELIZE

No. HR6/1/13

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, 28th May 2021

10:00 AM

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ORDERS OF THE DAY

1. **Prayers.**
2. Oath of Allegiance of a New Member.
3. **Announcements by the Speaker.**
4. Bills brought from the Senate.
5. Petitions.
6. **Paper.**

No. HR25/1/13 - Acquisition of a New Passport System.
(The Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economic Development and Investment)
7. Presentation of Reports from Select Committees.
8. Questions to Ministers.
9. Requests for leave to move the adjournment of the House on definite matters of urgent public importance.
10. Statement by Ministers.
11. Personal Explanations.
12. **Introduction of Bills.**

1. **Income and Business Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2021.**

Bill for an Act to amend the Income and Business Tax Act, Chapter 55 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2011; to enhance Belize's competitiveness and stimulate renewed growth in the international financial services sector; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

(The Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economic Development and Investment)

2. **Court of Appeal (Amendment) (No.2) Bill, 2021.**

Bill for an Act to amend the Court of Appeal Act, Chapter 90 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2011; to expand the composition of the Court of Appeal; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

(The Honourable Minister of Education, Culture, Science and Technology)

13. **Motions relating to the Business or Sittings of the House.**

14. **Public Business.**

A. **Government Business**

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

1. Motion to Consider the Approval by the National Assembly of the Disposition of the Commerce Bight Port to Recological Systems Limited, 2021.

Cabinet's recommendation to be signified.

(The Honourable Minister of Public Utilities and Logistics)

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**NOTICES OF QUESTIONS AND MOTIONS**

**MOTION**

1. **Motion to Consider the Approval by the National Assembly of the Disposition of the Commerce Bight Port to Recological Systems Limited, 2021.**

**Notice given on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2021.**

**WHEREAS**, the former Minister responsible for ports, the then Honourable Edmond Castro, had, two days before the general elections, on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of November 2020, awarded a lease for the Commerce Bight Port to Recological Systems Limited (“Recological”) for a period of 25 years, and Standing Order 26 of the House of Representatives provides for a Motion to be moved with the permission of the Speaker;

**AND WHEREAS**, the Minister leased the said port for 25 years for the sum of \$5,000.00 upon grant and the annual sum equivalent of 1% of the gross revenue of the port during the preceding financial year;

**AND WHEREAS**, Recological has had no history of owning or managing any ports in Belize or elsewhere;

**AND WHEREAS**, the said port has been valued for a current value of \$3,750,000.00 and having an annual rental value of \$300,000.00;

**AND WHEREAS**, the Finance and Audit (Reform) Act prohibits the disposal of assets, which includes the leasing of public assets, in excess of \$2 million without obtaining the approval of the National Assembly within one month of its execution;

**AND WHEREAS**, the former Minister could not have placed a Motion for the approval of the leasing of the port to Recological for the approval of the National Assembly with the National Assembly having been dissolved on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of October 2020;

**AND WHEREAS**, as the current Minister responsible for the port, after conducting an internal enquiry, was only made aware that this lease was not tabled before the National Assembly, and I now wish to have the National Assembly resolve whether to approve the said lease;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Lease dated the 9<sup>th</sup> day of November 2020, of the Commerce Bight Port for 25 years for the sum of \$5,000.000 and 1% of its gross revenue for the preceding year, to Recological, be approved or disapproved, copies of the Lease and the Valuation Report are hereto annexed.

**Cabinet's recommendation to be signified.**

*(The Honourable Minister of Public Utilities and Logistics)*

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