

BELIZE

No.7/1/14

SENATE

Friday, 4th June 2021

10:00 A.M.

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ORDERS OF THE DAY

1. Prayers.

2. Oath of Allegiance of a new Senator.

3. Announcements by the President.

4. Bills brought from the House of Representatives.

1. *Income and Business Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2021.*
2. *Court of Appeal (Amendment) (No.2) Bill, 2021.*
3. *Public Sector Emoluments and Allowances Reduction Bill, 2021.*

(Leader of Government Business and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Immigration)

6. Paper.

9/1/14 - Acquisition of a New Passport System.

(Leader of Government Business and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Immigration)

13. Motions relating to the Business or Sitzings of the Senate.

14. Public Business.

A. GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

I MOTIONS *(For Text of Motions see Notice Papers attached)*

1. Motion to Consider the Approval by the National Assembly of the Disposition of the Commerce Bight Port to Recological Systems Limited, 2021.
2. Resolution Approving the Appointment of Members of the Mines and Minerals Dispute Board Motion, 2021.

(Leader of Government Business and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Immigration)

II BILLS FOR SECOND READING

III COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE SENATE ON MOTIONS AND BILLS

IV BILLS FOR THIRD READING



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Friday, 4th June 2021

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NOTICES OF QUESTIONS AND MOTIONS

MOTIONS

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

WHEREAS, the former Minister responsible for ports, the then Honourable Edmond Castro, had, two days before the general elections, on the 9th 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 6th 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 9th 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.

2. Resolution Approving the Appointment of Members of the Mines and Minerals Dispute Board Motion, 2021.

WHEREAS, section 105 of the Mines and Minerals Act, Chapter 226 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2011, (hereinafter referred to as “the Act”) provides for the establishment of a Board for the purposes of determining all complaints, claims or disputes arising out of the provisions of the Act;

AND WHEREAS, this Board will be called the “Mining Conflict Resolution Board” (hereinafter referred to as “the Board”);

AND WHEREAS, section 106(1) of the Act provides that this Board shall consist of five persons to be appointed by the Minister for the time being responsible for mines and minerals (hereinafter referred to as the Minister) as follows—

- (a) the Registrar General or his nominee;
- (b) the Chief Magistrate;
- (c) one person representing the mining industry;
- (d) two persons approved by the House of Representatives by resolution;

AND WHEREAS, section 106(1)(d) of the Act further provides that two persons approved by the House of Representatives by way of resolution shall be appointed by the Minister;

AND WHEREAS, **MR. IAN GILLETT, licensed land surveyor**, and **MR. ARSENIO BURGOS, accountant**, both being duly qualified to be appointed as members of the Board, have been recommended by the Minister with responsibility for natural resources, mining and petroleum, and also for the time being responsible for mines and minerals, to be so appointed to the Board for a period of six months;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House having perused the curriculum vitae of both **MR. IAN GILLETT, licensed Land Surveyor**, and **MR. ARSENIO BURGOS, Accountant**, and being satisfied that both are fit and proper persons to be appointed as members of the Board under the Act, hereby approves the appointment of both **MR. IAN GILLETT, licensed Land Surveyor**, and **MR. ARSENIO BURGOS, Accountant**, as members of the Mining Conflict Resolution Board with effect from the 1st day of June, 2021.

(Leader of Government Business and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Immigration)

