

**BELIZE**

**No. HR7/1/13**

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2021

10:00 AM

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**SUPPLEMENTARY (1)**

**ORDERS OF THE DAY**

**10. Statement by Ministers.**

**12. Introduction of Bills.**

**1. Tax Administration and Procedures (Amendment) Bill, 2021.**

Bill for an Act to amend the Tax Administration and Procedure Act, Act No. 8 of 2019; to authorize the Director General to publish the names of tax defaulters in the Gazette and any local newspaper; to amend the general provisions of Part X Criminal Proceedings pertaining to the prosecution of tax offences; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

**2. Governor-General (Conditions of Service) (Amendment) Bill, 2021.**

Bill for an Act to amend the Governor-General (Conditions of Service) Act, Chapter 7 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2011; to provide for health insurance coverage for the Governor-General; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

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

**3. Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) Bill, 2021.**

Bill for an Act to amend the Misuse of Drugs Act, Chapter 103 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2011; to establish licensing, registration and operational requirements for the cultivation, processing, distribution and delivery of cannabis products for adult use; to provide for the Minister to make regulations for the monitoring and enforcement of any Regulations to the Act; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

*(The Honourable Minister of Home Affairs and New Growth Industries)*

4. **Electronic Evidence Bill, 2021.**

Bill for an Act to make provision from electronic evidence; to repeal the Electronic Evidence Act, Chapter 95:01 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2011; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

*(The Honourable Minister of Youth, Sports and E-Governance)*

14. **Public Business.**

A. **Government Business**

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

- 1. Resolution to amend the Schedule to the Governor-General (Conditions of Service) Act, Chapter 7 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2011, Motion, 2021.

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

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

- 2. Belize House of Representatives Resolution on Palestine Motion, 2021.

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

*(The Honourable Minister of Home Affairs and New Growth Industries)*



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**S U P P L E M E N T A R Y ( 1 )**

**NOTICES OF QUESTIONS AND MOTIONS**

**M O T I O N S**

1. **Resolution to amend the Schedule to the Governor-General (Conditions of Service) Act, Chapter 7 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2011, Motion, 2021.**

**Notice given on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021.**

**WHEREAS**, section 3(2) of the Governor-General (Conditions of Service) Act provides that the House of Representatives may, by resolution, amend the Schedule increasing the salary and duty allowance of the Governor-General;

**AND WHEREAS**, the salary of the Governor-General currently stands at the rate of \$52,848.00 per annum and the duty allowance stands at the rate of \$2,400.00 per annum;

**AND WHEREAS**, the salary and duty allowance of the Governor-General has not been increased since the entry into force of the Act on 5<sup>th</sup> July 1989;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that this Honourable House amends the Schedule to increase the salary of the Governor-General to \$75,000.00 per annum and the duty allowance to \$12,000.00 per annum.

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

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

2. **Belize House of Representatives Resolution on Palestine Motion, 2021.**

**Notice given on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021.**

**WHEREAS**, bearing in mind that in 1948 more than seven hundred thousand Palestinians were forced to leave their homeland in consequence of acts of ethnic cleansing, including terrorist acts that wiped out entire villages, and that there has been a continuing policy of ethnic cleansing carried out by the State of Israel;

**AND WHEREAS**, deeply concerned at the consistent refusal of Israel to comply with UN General Assembly Resolution 194 of 1948, which recognized the right of return of the expelled Palestinians;

**AND WHEREAS**, conscious of the fact that for 73 years the UN has repeatedly condemned Israel's illegal annexation of occupied Palestinian territory and violations of the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people, while Israel has ignored even relevant binding resolutions issued by the United Nations Security Council;

**AND WHEREAS**, deeply concerned about Israel's brutal suppression of Palestinian popular resistance against the forcible removal of Palestinian families from their homes in East Jerusalem to make space for more illegal settlements;

**AND WHEREAS**, appalled by the latest Israeli military assault, in May 2021, on Gaza, a territory of 141 square miles housing over 2 million Palestinians, 80% of whom are refugees driven from their homes in other parts of Palestine, resulting in the killing of at least 240 Palestinian civilians, including 66 children of Gaza, leaving all 2.1 million people facing shortages of water and power, while the bombings destroyed or damaged over a thousand homes;

**AND WHEREAS**, considering that, in 2018, the Israeli parliament passed a "Basic Law" which states that the State of Israel is the nation-state of the Jewish people and that the fulfilment of the right of national self-determination in the State of Israel is unique to the Jewish people, thereby institutionalizing the de facto apartheid practiced by the Israeli state;

**AND WHEREAS**, mindful that, in 2010, the International Committee of the Red Cross stated that "the whole of Gaza's civilian population is being punished for acts for which they bear no responsibility; the closure therefore constitutes a collective punishment imposed in clear violation of Israel's obligations under international humanitarian law";

**AND WHEREAS**, mindful that, in 1984, Belize became a party to the Fourth Geneva Convention, which states at Article 49 that "the Occupying Power shall not deport or transfer parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies," and that Israel has violated this Convention, various UN Security Council resolutions, international human rights law and international humanitarian law by transferring over 600,000 Israelis into the Occupied Palestinian Territories and declaring its intention to continue to create more settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories;

**AND WHEREAS**, recognizing that Belize has the international obligation to condemn apartheid and any support or assistance toward the maintenance of apartheid anywhere;

**AND WHEREAS**, recalling the unequivocal support of Belize for the right of the people of Palestine to exercise freely and without fear their right to self-determination;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that this Honourable House resolves:

1. That Israel's regime of systemic oppression of the Palestinian people constitutes a regime of settler colonialism and apartheid;
2. That the Government should support efforts of the UN investigation of Israeli apartheid;
3. To urge the Government to support by all means at its disposal the International Criminal Court's investigation and prosecution of individuals responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in the Occupied Palestinian Territory;
4. To call for an immediate end to Israel's illegal 14-year blockade of Gaza, which constitutes a form of collective punishment and a grave violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention as well as international human rights and international humanitarian law;
5. That the Government should ensure that Belize complies with its obligation under international law to contribute to lawful and effective measures, including targeted sanctions, aimed at ending Israel's grave violations of international humanitarian law and Palestinian human rights;
6. This Parliament therefore calls on Government to put an end to any kind of military, police training or security exchange or trade with Israel; and
7. To call on the Government to adopt measures to ensure that businesses operating in Belize do not engage in or profit from Israel's human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, and to support annual updates of the UN database of companies involved in business with Israel's illegal settlements.

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

*(The Honourable Minister of Home Affairs and New Growth Industries)*

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