



National Assembly of Belize

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PRESS RELEASE

Happy International Day of Parliamentarism

--30th June 2021--The International Day of Parliamentarism is celebrated annually since 2018 on 30th June. The recognition of this day was established through a United Nations General Assembly resolution which is also the date that the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) was founded. The IPU, the largest global organization of national parliaments, celebrates 132 years. While the Belize parliament has membership in the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), ParlAmericas network of parliaments of the Americas and the Caribbean and FOPREL (Central American and the Caribbean Basin network of parliaments), Belize is not yet a member of the IPU but is working towards membership by next year.

Madam Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Valerie Woods, states "a robust and functioning parliament is the hallmark of a country's democracy in action. The day provides an opportunity to reflect on the work of our parliamentary institution. I am excited about the objectives ahead for the parliament from revising its Standing Orders, establishing a Code of Conduct, improving the administration of parliament and institutional strengthening of the parliamentary staff to working with the women in parliament who still number in the minority of our parliament, to being engaged with the public particularly the youth and NGOs on the work of Parliament and the critical role it plays in the nation's development".

Madam President of the Senate, Hon. Carolyn Trench-Sandiford, remarks "2021 represents 40 years of Independence and of our Parliament. As we calibrate the journey for the next generation, it is timely that we assess what has worked and what has not, such that we can deliver on the promise of our Constitution of a better quality of life for all Belizeans. Our Senate is committed to enhancing the knowledge and awareness of our rich history, and of the work we do through education, awareness, and outreach. This will ensure that the nation, particularly the next generation of legislators, is well-informed and very conversant with our distinct legislative identity in a parliament. We are also committed to modernizing the way we operate, to becoming more efficient, effective, and connected to the people we serve, and to leveraging our role in regional and global parliamentary dialogue, diplomacy, and networking to support the national development goals and aspirations of our people. We remain optimistic with the support of both houses of parliament and its members, there will be improvements".

30th June 2021


The parliament of Belize, the Legislature, consists of two Houses: the Senate (Upper House) and the House of Representatives (Lower House). The House of Representatives comprises 31 Members elected in the general elections under the provisions of the Representation of the People Act.

The House of Representatives is in its 13th parliamentary session since 1965 while the Senate is in its 14th session. In today's parliament, there are 4 women representatives in the House of Representatives, reflecting 13%. The 13 members of the Senate are nominated and appointed by the Governor General of Belize. The female Senators in the Senate, a total of 4, account for 30%.

There are universal democratic values and standards of best practice that parliaments around the world can use to strengthen the institution and make it more accessible to the wider public of the society. The parliament of Belize through its various Committees and its work with various parliamentary associations and networks continues to provide the space to all parliamentarians in accessing these opportunities to assist in their parliamentary duties.

For more information on the parliament of Belize, visit www.nationalassembly.gov.bz

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The image shows a circular official stamp of the National Assembly of Belize. The text around the perimeter of the stamp reads "NATIONAL ASSEMBLY" at the top, "BELIZE" in the middle, and "THE CLERK" at the bottom. Overlaid on the stamp is a handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "J. G. ...".