

BELIZE

No. HR14/1/13

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, 13th May 2022

10:00 AM

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ORDERS OF THE DAY

1. **Prayers.**

3. **Announcements by the Speaker.**

6. **Papers.**

No. HR107/1/13 - Lotteries Control (Amendment) Regulations, 2022.

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

No. HR108/1/13 - Civil Works Contract Agreements for the Caracol Road Upgrading Project – Lots 2A, 2B and 2C.

(The Honourable Minister of Infrastructure Development and Housing)

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1. **Belize Companies Bill, 2022.**

Bill for an Act to repeal, replace and consolidate the International Business Companies Act, Chapter 270 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020, and the Companies Act, Chapter 250 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020; to further establish and facilitate a modernized framework for the registration, operation and regulation of companies; and to provide for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

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

2. Senior Courts Bill, 2022.

Bill for an Act to repeal and replace the Supreme Court of Judicature Act, Chapter 91 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020, and the Court of Appeal Act, Chapter 90 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020; to provide for new positions within the judiciary to assist in the functioning and administration of the Senior Courts; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

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

3. Trade Licensing Bill, 2022.

Bill for an Act to make provision for trade licensing; to repeal the Trade Licensing Act, Chapter 66 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

(The Honourable Minister of Rural Transformation, Community Development, Labour and Local Government)

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

14. Public Business.

A. Government Business

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

1. International Bank for Reconstruction and Development - Belize COVID-19 Response Project – (US\$6.2 Million) Loan Motion, 2022.

Cabinet’s recommendation to be signified.

2. International Bank for Reconstruction and Development - Climate Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture Project – (US\$25 Million) Loan Motion, 2022.

Cabinet’s recommendation to be signified.

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

3. Motion to seek to move the Belize Advisory Council to advise Her Excellency the Governor-General to exercise the Prerogative of Mercy, 2022.

Cabinet’s recommendation to be signified.

(The Honourable Minister of Human Development, Families and Indigenous

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NOTICES OF QUESTIONS AND MOTIONS**MOTIONS**

1. **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development - Belize COVID-19 Response Project – (US\$6.2 Million) Loan Motion, 2022.**

Notice given on 28th April 2022.

WHEREAS, Belize being a member of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (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 to implement Belize’s Covid-19 Emergency Response Project to be undertaken by the Ministry of Health;

AND WHEREAS, this Project will finance (1) the purchasing of Covid-19 vaccines; (2) deploying these vaccines to the Belizean population; and (3) strengthening the capacity of Belize’s health system emergency response in accessing ancillary supply kits, personal protective equipment and medical supplies; broadening an outreach program to provide integrated essential health services; capacity building to strengthen infection control and waste management practices; digitizing data reporting systems in outreach areas; supporting Covid-19 immunization campaigns; and acquiring medical equipment to strength Covid-19 case management;

AND WHEREAS, the Bank has offered financing of up to **US\$6,200,000** for the said purpose under the following terms and conditions:

Lender:	The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development;
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Loan Principal Amount:	US\$6,200,000.00;
Disbursement Schedule:	Over a period of two years, from the date of signature of the Loan Contract, up to 31 st August 2024, (four months after the closing date of 30 th April 2024);
Loan Term:	Eighteen (18) years inclusive of a forty-eight (48) month Grace Period on Principal Repayments;
Repayment Period:	To be repaid in 28 approximately equal, semi-annual, and consecutive installments of about US\$221,428.57, on 15 th April and 15 th October in each year;
Purpose:	To support the Government of Belize's Covid-19 Response Project in the acquisition and deployment of Covid-19 vaccines and enhance the capability of Belize's healthcare system to respond to health emergencies;
Rate of Interest:	Reference Rate based on the USD Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR) plus the variable spread or such rate as may apply following a conversion; the Rate is currently at about 0.28% but will be fixed on date of signing;
Front End Fee:	One quarter of one percent (0.25%) per annum on the unwithdrawn loan balance;

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 authorization 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 its continuous efforts to contain and mitigate the spread of, and deaths caused by, COVID-19, and strengthen the ability of the health system to respond to future health emergencies, approves and confirms that the Government may enter into a Loan Contract with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development on the terms and conditions set out above, and further authorizes the Minister of Finance to execute and deliver the said Loan Contract and all other documents associated therewith.

Cabinet's recommendation to be signified.

2. **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development - Climate Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture Project – (US\$25 Million) Loan Motion, 2022.**

Notice given on 28th April 2022.

WHEREAS, Belize being a member of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (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 to implement a Climate Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture Project to be undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture, with the assistance of the Belize Social Investment Fund;

AND WHEREAS, this Project will provide funding for support to agriculture producers, with an emphasis on individual small holder farmers who are transitioning to more commercial production, while also supporting more established commercial farmers and farmer associations that wish to adopt climate smart practices to improve the sustainability of their enterprises; thus, the project will entail (i) capacity building for key public agricultural institutions, so that these are equipped to support a transition to more resilient, productive, and green agricultural development; and (ii) financing (using matching grants) for the adoption of improved practices and know-how by agricultural producers, as well as for collective/shared technologies and assets;

AND WHEREAS, the Bank has offered financing of up to **US\$25,000,000** for the said purpose under the following terms and conditions:

Lender:	The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development;
Loan Principal Amount:	US\$25,000,000.00;
Disbursement Schedule:	Over a period of five years, from the date of signature of the Loan Contract, up to 31 st July 2027 (four (4) months after the closing date of 31 st March 2027);
Loan Term:	Eighteen (18) years inclusive of a forty-eight (48) month Grace Period on Principal Repayments;
Repayment Period:	To be repaid in 28 approximately equal, semi-annual, and consecutive installments of about US\$892,857.14, on 15 th April and 15 th October of each year;
Purpose:	To increase agricultural productivity and the adoption of climate-smart agricultural approaches among project beneficiaries; and respond effectively to an eligible crisis or emergency event;
Rate of Interest:	Reference Rate based on the USD Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR) plus the variable spread or

such rate as may apply following a conversion; the Rate is currently at about 0.28% but will be fixed on date of signing;

Commitment Charge: One quarter of one percent (0.25%) per annum on the unwithdrawn loan balance;

Front End Fee: One quarter of one percent (0.25%) of the loan amount;

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 authorization 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 its efforts to create a more productive and resilient agricultural system via capacity building and investments that can sustain rural transformation towards climate smart agriculture, approves and confirms that the Government may enter into a Loan Contract with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development on the terms and conditions set out above, and further authorizes 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 Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economic Development and Investment)

3. Motion to seek to move the Belize Advisory Council to advise Her Excellency the Governor-General to exercise the Prerogative of Mercy, 2022.

Notice given on 22nd March 2022.

WHEREAS, the Belize Constitution empowers Her Excellency the Governor-General to exercise the prerogative of mercy;

AND WHEREAS, section 52(1) of the Belize Constitution provides that the Governor-General may grant a pardon, either free or subject to lawful conditions, to any person convicted of any offence;

AND WHEREAS, sub-section (2) of the said section 52 further provides that the powers of the Governor-General to grant a pardon under sub-section (1) shall be exercised in accordance with the advice of the Belize Advisory Council;

AND WHEREAS, while the Belize Constitution does not explicitly state that such power may be extended to post humous pardons or exonerations, it may be interpreted that the Governor-General has the power to issue a post humous pardon within the jurisdiction of her governance;

AND WHEREAS, Nora Parham was executed by British authorities under British law in a British colony, which subsequently was granted independence as the state of Belize;

AND WHEREAS, Belize chose to retain the British judicial system in which the exercise of the prerogative of mercy can be extended to persons posthumously as a way of redeeming or righting an injustice that was done in another generation;

AND WHEREAS, it is the desire of the present Government to correct the miscarriage of justice that resulted in the death by hanging of Nora Parham and bring closure to that “stain on our history”;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. Nora Parham be granted a posthumous pardon;
2. The sentence of death by hanging imposed on Nora Parham and executed on June 5, 1963, be revoked.

Cabinet’s recommendation to be signified.

(The Honourable Minister of Human Development, Families, and Indigenous Peoples’ Affairs)