

BELIZE

No. HR16/1/13

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, 15th July 2022

10:00 AM

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

6. Papers.

No. HR113A/1/13 - Supplementary Appropriation (No.1)
Schedule for Fiscal Year 2022/2023.

No. HR113B/1/13 - Central Bank of Belize Fortieth Annual
Report and Statement of Accounts for the
Year Ending 31st December 2021.

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

7. Presentation of Report from Select Committee.

No. HR116A/1/13 - Report from the Natural Resources and
Environment Committee on the Trade in
Endangered Species (CITES) Bill, 2022.

*(The Honourable Chairman of the Natural Resources and Environment
Committee)*

8. Questions to Ministers. (See Notice Papers Attached)

10. Statement by Ministers.

11. Personal Explanations.

12. Introduction of Bills.

**1. General Revenue Supplementary Appropriation
(2022/2023) (No. 1) Bill, 2022.**

Bill for an Act to appropriate further sums of money for the
use of the Public Service of Belize for the financial year
ending on the thirty-first day of March, two thousand and
twenty-three.

2. **Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters (Amendment) Bill, 2022.**

Bill for an Act to amend the Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters Act, Chapter 103:03 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020; to increase the statutory period for retention of records by reporting financial institutions; to impose civil sanctions on reporting financial institutions for failure to apply due diligence procedures on persons for providing false self-certifications; to provide a threshold for controlling persons; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

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

3. **Hotels and Tourist Accommodation (Amendment) Bill, 2022.**

Bill for an Act to amend the Hotels and Tourist Accommodation Act, Chapter 285 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020; to provide for the Minister to make regulations to adjust the rate of accommodation tax to encourage tourism among certain classes of persons; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

4. **Accommodation Tax (Remission of Arrears) Bill, 2022.**

Bill for an Act to provide for the remission of arrears of accommodation tax under the Hotels and Tourist Accommodation Act; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

(The Honourable Minister of Tourism and Diaspora Relations)

5. **The People's Constitution Commission Bill, 2022.**

Bill for an Act to provide for the establishment of a People's Constitution Commission to draft and guide the process of promulgating a new Constitution for Belize or amendments to the Belize Constitution; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

(The Honourable Minister of Public Service, Constitutional and Political Reform, Religious Affairs)

6. **Digital Government Bill, 2022.**

Bill for an Act to establish the E-Governance and Digitalization Department and provide for its powers, duties and functions; to promote and regulate the provision of electronic government (e-government) services; to enhance service delivery, citizen's access, and the efficiency and effectiveness of government administrative procedures; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

(The Honourable Minister of Public Utilities, Energy, Logistics and E-Governance)

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. Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan) -
Loan Commitment Under Bilateral Cooperation
Program (US\$75,000,000) Loan Motion, 2022.

Cabinet’s recommendation to be signified.

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

II BILL FOR SECOND READING

1. **Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) Bill, 2022.**

Bill for an Act to give effect to the provisions of the CITES on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora; to promote the management, conservation and protection of threatened and endangered species; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

*(The Honourable Minister of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and
Disaster Risk Management)*

III COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE ON BILLS

IV BILLS FOR THIRD READING



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

N O T I C E S O F Q U E S T I O N S A N D M O T I O N S

Q U E S T I O N S

[For Oral Answer]

Notice given on 8th July 2022.

- *1. Will the Prime Minister and Minister of Economic Development please update this Honourable House as to what his Ministry is doing to find solutions to the problems that are stalling the Waterloo Port Project proposal which, if approved will bring tremendous economic development to Belize?

- *2. Will the Minister of Rural Transformation update this Honourable House as to any flood mitigation plan to address this urgent problem in the rural areas as evidence by recent flooding in Corozal, Orange Walk and Toledo?

- *3. Will the Minister of Public Utilities update this Honourable House as to the plan to ensure that all rural areas, including the most remote have access to electricity and internet?

(The Honourable Leader of the Opposition)

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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**

1. **Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan) - Loan Commitment Under Bilateral Cooperation Program (US\$75,000,000) Loan Motion, 2022.**

**Notice given on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2022.**

**WHEREAS**, the Government of Belize, through its 2021-2025 Bilateral Program of Economic Cooperation and Development with the Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan), has received an offer of further financial support from the Government of that country;

**AND WHEREAS**, the offer of financial support is in the form of a long-term, low-interest Loan in the principal amount of **Seventy-Five Million United States Dollars (US\$75,000,000)**, to be provided by the Export-Import Bank of the Republic of China in Taiwan;

**AND WHEREAS**, the purpose of the Loan is to provide for general financing purposes;

**AND WHEREAS**, the terms and conditions of Loan Offer are as follows:

**Lender:** Export-Import Bank of the Republic of China (Taiwan);

**Loan Principal Amount:** **US\$75,000,000.00;**

**Disbursement Schedule:** To be disbursed in four (4) years with annual advance amounts as follows:

**2022 – US\$42 million;**

**2023 – US\$11 million;**

**2024 – US\$11 million;**

**2025 – US\$11 million;**

**Loan Term:** Twenty (20) years from the first disbursement of the loan, including three (3) years grace period;

**Repayment:** Thirty-three (33) consecutive, equal semi-annual installments of approximately Two Million Two Hundred and Five Thousand

Eight Hundred Eighty-Three United States Dollars (US\$2,205,883.00), AND one final installment of approximately Two Million Two Hundred and Five Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty-One United States Dollars (US\$2,205,861.00), commencing forty-two (42) months from the date of which the first Advance is made under the Agreement, and thereafter, on the last day of each successive six-month period;

**Rate of Interest:** Reference Rate based on the USD Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR), plus 0.2% and 1% per annum;

**AND WHEREAS**, under the provisions of section 7 (1) 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 borrowing;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that this Honourable House, being satisfied that the Loan proceeds would be utilized for the purpose stated above, approves and confirms that the Government of Belize may enter into a Loan Agreement with the Export-Import Bank of the Republic of China (Taiwan), on the terms and conditions set out above, and further authorizes the Minister of Finance to execute and deliver the said Loan Agreement and all other documents and agreements connected therewith.

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

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