

**BELIZE**

**No. HR18/1/13**

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> October 2022

10:00 AM

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**ORDERS OF THE DAY**

**1. Prayers.**

**3. Announcements by the Speaker.**

**6. Paper.**

No. HR128/1/13 - Annual Report of the Development Finance Corporation for the year 2021.

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

**7. Presentation of Reports from Select Committees.**

No. HR129/1/13 - Report from the Constitution and Foreign Affairs Committee on the Senior Courts Bill, 2022.

No. HR130/1/13 - Report from the Constitution and Foreign Affairs Committee on the Belize Constitution (Twelfth Amendment) Bill, 2022.

No. HR131/1/13 - Report from the Constitution and Foreign Affairs Committee on the People's Constitution Commission Bill, 2022.

*(The Honourable Chairman of the Constitution and Foreign Affairs Committee)*

No. HR132 /1/13 - Report from the Public Service, Labour, Industry and Trade Committee on the Patents (Amendment) Bill, 2022.

No. HR133/1/13 - Report from the Public Service, Labour, Industry and Trade Committee on the Non-Governmental Organisations (Amendment) Bill, 2022.

*(The Honourable Chairman of the Public Service, Labour, Industry and Trade Committee)*

**10. Statement by Ministers.**

**12. Introduction of Bills.**

**1. Customs and Excise Duties (Amendment) Bill, 2022.**

Bill for an Act to amend the Customs and Excise Duties Act, Chapter 48 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020; to implement the Customs and Excise Tariff and Trade Classification based on the 2022 version of the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System; to implement the ninth phase of reduction of duties in accordance with the CARIFORUM-EU Economic Partnership Agreement; to implement the ninth phase of reduction of duties in accordance with the CARIFORUM-Uk Economic Partnership Agreement; to implement the first phase of reduction of duties in accordance with the Belize/Taiwan Economic Cooperation Agreement; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

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

**2. Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2022.**

Bill for an Act to amend the Marriage Act, Chapter 174 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020; to provide for the late filing of marriages; to empower the Registrar to make regulations for the late filing of marriages; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

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

**13. Motions relating to the Business or Sitings of the House.**

**14. Public Business.**

**A. Government Business**

**I MOTION *(For Text of Motion see Notice Papers attached)***

**1. 2018 General Increase in Authorized Capital Stock of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Finance Corporation Motion, 2022.**

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

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

## II BILLS FOR SECOND READING

1. **Belize Constitution (Twelfth Amendment) Bill, 2022.**

Bill for an Act to amend the Belize Constitution, Chapter 4 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020; to establish the Senior Courts of Belize; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

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.

3. **Patents (Amendment) Bill, 2022.**

Bill for an Act to amend the Patents Act, Chapter 253 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020; to remove the seat of Registrar of Intellectual Property from the Solicitor General; to provide for the appointment of a Registrar of Intellectual Property; to provide, in the interest of administrative and operational efficiency, for the offices of Patent Examiners, Patent Officers, Trade Marks Supervisor and Trade Marks Examiners; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

4. **Non-Governmental Organisations (Amendment) Bill, 2022.**

Bill for an Act to amend the Non-Governmental Organisations Act, Chapter 315 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020; to provide for the appointment of a Registrar of Non-Governmental Organisations; to provide for the appointment of a Deputy Registrar of Non-Governmental Organisations; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

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

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, and Religious Affairs)*

**III COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE ON BILLS**

**IV BILLS FOR THIRD READING**



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**NOTICES OF QUESTIONS AND MOTIONS****MOTION**

1. **2018 General Increase in Authorized Capital Stock of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Finance Corporation Motion, 2022.**

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

**WHEREAS**, Belize is a member of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) (the “Bank”) and the International Finance Corporation (IFC), both being institutions under the World Bank Group;

**AND WHEREAS**, the Board of Governors of the IBRD on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018, adopted Resolution No. 663 (“2018 General Capital Increase (GCI)”) and Resolution No. 664 (“2018 Selective Capital Increase (SCI)”) which approved an increase in the Authorized Capital Stock of the Bank, to enable the Bank to support additional lending for development priorities of its member countries;

**AND WHEREAS**, similarly, Resolutions No. 271 and 272 were also adopted in 2018, which approved an increase in the Authorized Capital Stock of the IFC;

**AND WHEREAS**, in accordance with Resolutions 663 and 664, Belize is required to subscribe to 53 allocated GCI shares and 7 allocated SCI shares for the IBRD, 2 expressed in United States dollars at the rate of \$120,635 per share, amounting to a total of US\$7,238,100;

**AND WHEREAS**, in addition, and in accordance with Resolutions 271 and 272, Belize is required to subscribe to 382 allocated GCI shares and 578 allocated SCI shares for the IFC, expressed in United States dollars at the rate of \$1,000 per share, amounting to a total of US\$960,000;

**AND WHEREAS**, Belize is required to make payment in the amount of US\$2,289,397.70, for the IBRD and IFC additional capital shares, which represents the “Paid-In” Capital Stock for the IBRD and the total amount for the IFC;

**AND WHEREAS**, the total remaining amount of US\$5,908,702, is in “Callable” Capital Stock, and is payable if/when called by the Bank;

**AND WHEREAS**, the payment deadlines for the “Paid-In” Capital Portion of US\$2,289,397.70 are as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023, for IBRD (SCI and GCI shares), totaling US\$1,329,397.70;
- 15<sup>th</sup> April 2023, for IFC SCI shares, totaling US\$578,000;
- 15<sup>th</sup> April 2025, for IFC GCI shares, totaling US\$382,000;

**AND WHEREAS**, there is no specific provision in the International Financial Organizations Act, Chapter 265 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, or any other law to enable the Minister of Finance to subscribe to such shares or make such contributions;

**AND WHEREAS**, consequently, the Government of Belize is desirous of obtaining the approval of the National Assembly, by way of a resolution, for the 3 subscription and payment of Belize’s additional GCI and SCI allocated shares of the IBRD and IFC;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that this Honourable House, being satisfied that the above-mentioned additional capital subscriptions would be beneficial to the interests of Belize in achieving better development outcomes, authorizes the Minister of Finance to sign the Instruments of Subscription, and all other related documents, and make payments before the indicated deadlines, to give effect to both the IBRD and IFC capital subscriptions.

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

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

