



# National Assembly of Belize

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### PRESS RELEASE

#### **Senior Staff of Parliament attend Public Accounts Committee Workshop for Clerks and Officials in the United Kingdom**

**—7<sup>th</sup> December 2022— Mrs. Clarita Pech, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly, and Ms. Mary August, Parliamentary Officer 1, have joined Senior Clerks of some thirty-two Legislatures from Africa, Asia-Pacific, the Americas, Caribbean and Europe Region and the UK Overseas Territories in a Public Accounts Committee (PAC) Workshop for Clerks and Officials in London, UK. The three-day workshop which is being hosted by the UK Parliament and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK (CPA UK) opened on Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022, in Westminster, London.**

The objective of the workshop is to allow collaboration between delegates and colleagues from the different regions, discussing responses to shared challenges faced by PACs. It is also a space for clerks and officials to share experiences, examine existing practices and find new approaches to the financial scrutiny work of PACs.

Sessions are being delivered by professionals and technical staff who work directly with PACs, not just in the UK but in other Caribbean countries as well. Some of the topics being discussed include the relationship of PACs with the Supreme Audit Institution and Government, communicating the work of PACs, the handling of confidential information using a case study of a situation that the UK PAC faced, building consensus and writing reports, following up effectively the recommendations of PACs, building relationships with Members, managing backlogs, prioritizing with limited resources, and building confidence and assertiveness.

On Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022, the participants also toured the Palace of Westminster and had the opportunity of observing a live feed of the UK PAC Inquiries on the Bounce Back Loans Scheme: Follow-up and on the BEIS Annual Report and Accounts at the Portcullis House.

The CPA UK is meeting the costs of travel and accommodation for the two senior staff of parliament, who are both scheduled to return to Belize on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

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