



National Assembly of Belize Office of the Clerk

P.O. Box 139, Belmopan, Cayo District, Belize Central America
Tel. (+501) 822-2141/2142 or 2144
E-mail: ClerkNA@bna.gov.bz
www.nationalassembly.gov.bz

REF: NAC/11/21-23 (25)

PRESS RELEASE

The Joint Public Accounts Committee holds its First Public Hearing

—**31st January 2023**— The **Joint Public Accounts Committee (JPAC)**, a Standing Committee of the House of Representatives, held its 7th Meeting and 1st Public Hearing yesterday, Monday, 30th January 2023, in the Committee Room of the National Assembly building in Belmopan.

During the Hearing, the Committee met with the newly installed Acting Auditor General, Mrs. Dorothy Bradley; the Financial Secretary, Mr. Joseph Waight; and, the Accountant General, Mrs. Teresita Miranda. The Committee examined the general findings of the Auditor General's Report for 2012-2013, including a Minority Report of the Public Accounts Committee prepared in 2018, outlining a list of recommendations to be considered by the National Assembly following the 2012-2013 Audit Exercise.

The Committee has agreed to meet again on the 20th February 2023, to continue the work of reviewing the the Auditor General's Reports for fiscal periods 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 with a view to provide a comprehensive list of recommendations to the National Assembly on its findings. It is important to note that the Audit Report of 2014-2015 is the latest report on file. The Members of JPAC are committed to working with the Auditor General and the other responsible entities to ensure that more timely and reliable reports are submitted for the review and consideration of the National Assembly in the interest of providing for greater transparency and accountability in both revenue collection and the use of public resources.

Members present at today's meeting were Hon. Tracy Panton, Chairperson, Hon. Julius Epat, Hon. Kareem Musa, Hon. Dolores Balderamos-Garcia, Senator Kevin Herrera, Senator Elena Smith, and Senator Janelle Chanona. Absent from today's meeting were Hon. Kevin Bernard and Hon. Hugo Patt.

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