

BELIZE

No. HR23/1/13

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, 22nd March 2023

10:00 AM

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ORDERS OF THE DAY

1. Prayers.
3. Announcements by the Speaker.
7. Presentation of Reports from Select Committees.

No. HR159/1/13 - Report from the Finance and Economic Development Committee on the Customs Regulation Bill, 2023.

(The Honourable Chairman of the Finance and Economic Development Committee)

No. HR160/1/13 - Report from the Public Service, Labour, Industry and Trade Committee on the Supplies Control (Amendment) Bill, 2023.

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

13. Motions relating to the Business or Sitings of the House.
14. Public Business.

A. Government Business

[Resumption of the Debate on the General Revenue Appropriation (2023/2024) Bill, 2023]

1. General Revenue Appropriation (2023/2024) Bill, 2023.

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-four.

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

I COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

1. Draft Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for Fiscal Year 2023/2024. (**Sessional Paper No. HR150/1/13 was presented on 10.03.23.**)
2. Official Charities Fund Motion, 2023.
(referred 10.03.23)

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

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

1. Official Charities Fund Motion, 2023.
(referred 10.03.23)
2. Resolution to Support Democratic Taiwan Motion, 2023.

Cabinet's recommendation to be signified.

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

III BILLS FOR SECOND READING

1. Customs Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2023.

Bill for an Act to amend the Customs Regulation Act, Chapter 49 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020; to provide for measures to ensure compliance with the Financial Action Task Force Recommendations in relation to laws regarding anti-money laundering, combatting the financing of terrorism and combatting proliferation financing; to provide for the requirement to keep records; to provide for forfeiture of undeclared currency; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

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

2. Supplies Control (Amendment) Bill, 2023.

Bill for an Act to amend the Supplies Control Act, Chapter 293 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020; to provide for the power to issue of violation tickets for particular offences; to provide for the publication of the names and particulars of offenders; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

(The Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Food Security, & Enterprise)

IV COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE ON BILLS

V BILLS FOR THIRD READING

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NOTICES OF QUESTIONS AND MOTIONS**M O T I O N S****1. Official Charities Fund Motion, 2023.**

(referred 10.03.23)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this House approves the expenditure of \$2,385,089 from the Official Charities Fund as detailed in Appendix A of the Draft Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the year ending 31st March 2024.

2. Resolution to Support Democratic Taiwan Motion, 2023.**Notice given on 10th March 2023.**

WHEREAS, the year 2023 marks the 34th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between Belize and the Republic of China (Taiwan);

AND WHEREAS, Belize and Taiwan enjoy a close relationship based on the common values of democracy, freedom, and human rights;

AND WHEREAS, throughout the 34 years of friendship and alliance, Belize and Taiwan have continuously supported and helped each other and closely cooperated in numerous areas, ranging from diplomatic affairs, infrastructure, medical and public health, agriculture, environmental resilience, information and communication technology, to culture and education;

AND WHEREAS, all bilateral cooperation projects between Belize and Taiwan, including road construction, motor vehicle registration and license system, breeding sheep and goat production, urban resilience and disaster prevention, medical imaging system, women empowerment, mandarin teaching and talent cultivation are currently proceeding smoothly;

AND WHEREAS, the Honourable John Briceño, Prime Minister of Belize, and H.E. David Kuan-Chou Chien, former Ambassador of the Republic of China (Taiwan) to Belize, signed the Cooperation Agreement Regarding Construction of General Hospital for San Pedro Town, between the Government of Belize and the Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan), on 11 January 2023, for the health and wellness of the Belizean people;

AND WHEREAS, Taiwan is a faithful ally and development partner to Belize, and the generosity and contribution Taiwan made to other countries has shown that Taiwan is an indispensable part of the global community, and Taiwan can play, and has played a critical role in the world;

AND WHEREAS, Taiwan shows great courage and resilience in safeguarding its democracy and freedom in the face of provocative military activities from the People's Republic of China (PRC), which pose a serious threat to global security;

AND WHEREAS, Belize continuously extends unwavering support to Taiwan in safeguarding its democracy and freedom, as well as the self-determination for Taiwanese people, when Taiwan faces the military, political and economic coercion and the hegemonic threats from the People's Republic of China (PRC);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House:

Conveys its sincere welcome to H.E. Dr. Tsai Ing-wen, President of the Republic of China (Taiwan) and the delegation from Taiwan to visit Belize, to consolidate the diplomatic relations, partnership and friendship between the two countries;

Extends its commitment to the strong and healthy diplomatic bond between Belize and Taiwan and the close bilateral cooperation in multiple areas;

Reassure that the Governments of Belize and Taiwan will further deepen the diplomatic cooperation through the bilateral and multilateral channels of partnership, especially during Belize's Presidency Pro-Tempore (PPT) of Central American Integration System (SICA) as Taiwan is an important extra-regional partner of SICA;

Reaffirms to stand with the people and the Government of Taiwan in solidarity to secure Taiwan's democracy, freedom, human rights and self-determination, so as to maintain peace, stability and prosperity across the Taiwan Strait and in the region;

Calls on the international community to condemn any military threat, and other coercive actions that undermine Taiwan's sovereign integrity, democracy, freedom, human rights and self-determination; and

The House of Representatives expresses its full support of Taiwan's participation in ALL related international organizations, including the United Nations, the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL);

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be presented to President Tsai Ing-wen of the Republic of China (Taiwan) and to the office of the Prime Minister as a tangible token of the friendship expressed herein.

Cabinet's recommendation to be signified.

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

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