

Designate New Holidays and Special Days Motion, 2021.

WHEREAS, Standing Order 26 of the House of Representatives provides for a Motion to be moved with the permission of Madam Speaker;

AND WHEREAS, Belize is a free, democratic and independent nation thanks to the sacrifice and service of many people, but more particularly the Right Honourable George Price, Father of the Nation;

AND WHEREAS, we believe that it is right and proper to honour the Father of the Nation, the Right Honourable George Price, by designating his birthday, the 15th day of January, as a public and bank holiday to memorialize his sacrifice and efforts in the achievement of this great nation's independence;

AND WHEREAS, today Belize is a beautiful tapestry of peoples of diverse ethnicities and cultures;

AND WHEREAS, we wish to mark the importance of the emancipation of slaves in Belize on the 1st day of August 1834, when many of the ancestors of our fellow Belizeans of African descent were freed from their shackles who continued in their service as free persons to build what is today this great nation;

AND WHEREAS, history records that the people of Belize, including the indigenous people of Belize, were never conquered by the Spanish, and as such, we wish to celebrate their heritage and also the cultural diversity of the great people of Belize, by either removing the 12th day of October as Columbus Day and re-designating that day, and establishing a committee to do so and to review all other public and bank holidays;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. The 15th day of January shall be a public and bank holiday in honour of the late, the Right Honourable George Price, the Father of the Nation, and be celebrated as George Price Day;
2. The 1st day of August shall be a public and bank holiday to mark the importance of emancipation of the slaves in Belize and be celebrated as Emancipation Day; and
3. The 12th day of October shall no longer be celebrated as Columbus Day and is to be re-designated by a committee to be formed to review the same and all holidays.