

Motion to Seek to Move the Belize Advisory Council to Advise Her Excellency the Governor-General to Exercise the Prerogative of Mercy, 2022.

WHEREAS, the Belize Constitution empowers Her Excellency the Governor-General to exercise the prerogative of mercy;

AND WHEREAS, section 52(1) of the Belize Constitution provides that the Governor-General may grant a pardon, either free or subject to lawful conditions, to any person convicted of any offence;

AND WHEREAS, sub-section (2) of the said section 52 further provides that the powers of the Governor-General to grant a pardon under sub-section (1) shall be exercised in accordance with the advice of the Belize Advisory Council;

AND WHEREAS, while the Belize Constitution does not explicitly state that such power may be extended to post humous pardons or exonerations, it may be interpreted that the Governor-General has the power to issue a post humous pardon within the jurisdiction of her governance;

AND WHEREAS, Nora Parham was executed by British authorities under British law in a British colony, which subsequently was granted independence as the state of Belize;

AND WHEREAS, Belize chose to retain the British judicial system in which the exercise of the prerogative of mercy can be extended to persons posthumously as a way of redeeming or righting an injustice that was done in another generation;

AND WHEREAS, it is the desire of the present Government to correct the miscarriage of justice that resulted in the death by hanging of Nora Parham and bring closure to that “stain on our history”;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. Nora Parham be granted a posthumous pardon;
2. The sentence of death by hanging imposed on Nora Parham and executed on June 5, 1963, be revoked.