

BELIZE

No.9/1/14

SENATE

Wednesday, 8th September 2021

10:00 A.M.

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ORDERS OF THE DAY

1. Prayers.

2. Oath of Allegiance of a new Senator.

3. Announcements by the President.

4. Bills brought from the House of Representatives.

1. *Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2021.*
2. *Stamp Duties (Amendment) Bill, 2021.*
3. *Stamp Duties (Amendment) (No.2) Bill, 2021.*
4. *Tax Administration and Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2021.*
5. *Electronic Transfer of Funds Crimes Bill, 2021.*
6. *Electronic Transactions Bill, 2021.*
7. *Electronic Evidence Bill, 2021.*
8. *Data Protection Bill, 2021.*
9. *Public Sector Data Sharing Bill, 2021.*
10. *Immigration (Amendment) Bill, 2021.*
11. *Money Laundering and Terrorism (Prevention) (Amendment) Bill, 2021.*
12. *Court of Appeal (Amendment) (No. 3) Bill, 2021.*

(Leader of Government Business and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Immigration)

6. Papers.

- 11/1/14 - Social Security Board – Actuarial Valuation of the Social Security Scheme (at 31 December 2020).
- 12/1/14 - Social Security Board – Financial Statements for the Years Ended December 31, 2020 and 2019 and Independent Auditors’ Report.
- 13/1/14 - Civil Works Contract Agreements for Haulover Bridge Replacement Project.

(Leader of Government Business and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Immigration)

13. **Motions relating to the Business or Sitings of the Senate.**

14. **Public Business.**

A. GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

I MOTIONS (*For Text of Motions see Notice Paper attached*)

1. Resolution Authorizing the Ratification by Belize of the Agreement Between the Government of Belize and the Government of Hungary on the Mutual Visa Exemption for Holders of Diplomatic, Service and Official Passports Motion, 2021.
2. Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of Carbon Rights and Credits to the Belize Maya Forest Trust Motion, 2021.
3. Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of Carbon Rights and Credits to the Maya Forest Corridor Trust Motion, 2021.

(Leader of Government Business and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Immigration)

II BILLS FOR SECOND READING

III COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE SENATE ON MOTIONS AND BILLS

IV BILLS FOR THIRD READING

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NOTICES OF QUESTIONS AND MOTIONS

MOTIONS

1. **Resolution Authorizing the Ratification by Belize of the Agreement Between the Government of Belize and the Government of Hungary on the Mutual Visa Exemption for Holders of Diplomatic, Service and Official Passports Motion, 2021.**

WHEREAS, the Agreement between the Government of Belize and the Government of Hungary on the Mutual Visa Exemption for Holders of Diplomatic, Service, and Official Passports (hereinafter referred to as “the Agreement”) was signed on 28th May 2021, in Mexico City;

AND WHEREAS, the objective of the Agreement is to permit nationals of Belize and Hungary who hold valid diplomatic, service or official passports to enter, exit and transit through the territory of the other Party without a visa requirement and stay there for a period not exceeding ninety (90) days in any one hundred and eighty (180) day period;

AND WHEREAS, the Government of Belize is desirous of ratifying the Agreement pursuant to Article 16 of the Agreement;

AND WHEREAS, section 61(A)(2)(a) of the Belize Constitution, as amended by the Belize Constitution (Sixth Amendment) Act (No.13 of 2008), provides that the Senate shall authorize the ratification of any treaty by the Government of Belize;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate authorizes the Government of Belize to ratify the Agreement between the Government of Belize and the Government of Hungary on the Mutual Visa Exemption for Holders of Diplomatic, Service and Official Passports, a full text of which is hereto annexed.

2. **Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of Carbon Rights and Credits to the Belize Maya Forest Trust Motion, 2021.**

WHEREAS, section 22 of the Finance and Audit (Reform) Act, Chapter 15 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2011, requires that the Government shall, before disposing of any public assets with an aggregate value of or above two million dollars, obtain the approval of the National Assembly, to be signified by resolution made in that behalf and published in the *Gazette*;

AND WHEREAS, by an Agreement made on the 19th day of October 2020, (the “Original Agreement”), between the Government of Belize and The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the parties agreed to co-operate in promoting the long-term protection and

conservation of the natural resources of Belize, and in particular, its natural ecosystems, including flora, fauna, forest and wildlife therein;

AND WHEREAS, to that end, the Government and TNC have agreed to co-operate in the implementation of a strategy and mutual undertaking of the parties, whereby TNC will finance the acquisition of certain lands (“Conservation Lands”) in Belize to be held upon trust by the Belize Maya Forest Trust (the “Trustee”), a not-for-profit company, for the benefit of the Government and people of Belize for the protection and conservation of their natural ecosystems, flora, fauna and wildlife in perpetuity and the Government undertook to grant TNC through the Trustee, certain stamp duty and land tax exemptions for a period of 50 years, licenses and all carbon rights and credits associated therewith and proceeds of sale in respect thereof regarding the said lands to be held in trust by the Trustee for the sole use and benefit of the conservation, protection and maintenance of the Conservation Lands;

AND WHEREAS, by virtue of an agreement supplemental to the Original Agreement made between the Government and TNC dated the 31st day of August 2021, (the “Supplemental Agreement”), TNC has agreed, among other things, that land taxes shall apply to the Conservation Lands and that, after certain acquisition costs, endowment costs and management costs are reimbursed, the Government shall have the exclusive right to determine the use and disposition of such excess or surplus amount of proceeds of sale of the carbon rights and credits associated therewith;

AND WHEREAS, by virtue of the Constitution of Belize, carbon rights and credits associated therewith are vested in the Government of Belize and therefore constitute public assets;

AND WHEREAS, the carbon rights and credits associated therewith in connection with the Conservation Lands which the Government agreed to transfer to the Trustee pursuant to the Original Agreement, as amended by the Supplemental Agreement, has an aggregate value in excess of two million dollars;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House approves the Government of Belize to transfer to the Belize Maya Forest Trust the carbon rights and credits associated therewith in connection with the Conservation Lands for the sole use and benefit of the conservation, protection and maintenance of the Conservation Lands **PROVIDED THAT** after certain acquisition costs, endowment costs and management costs are reimbursed in accordance with the terms of the Original Agreement as amended by the Supplemental Agreement, the Government shall have the exclusive right to determine the use and disposition of such excess or surplus amount of proceeds of sale of the carbon rights and credits associated therewith.

3. Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of Carbon Rights and Credits to the Maya Forest Corridor Trust Motion, 2021.

WHEREAS, section 22 of the Finance and Audit (Reform) Act, Chapter 15 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2011, requires that the Government shall, before disposing of any public assets with an aggregate value of or above two million dollars, obtain the approval of the National Assembly, to be signified by resolution made in that behalf and published in the *Gazette*;

AND WHEREAS, by an Agreement made on the 19th day of October 2020, between the Government of Belize and Global Wildlife Conservation, (now called “Re: Wild”) (“the Principal Agreement”), the parties agreed to co-operate in promoting the long-term protection and conservation of the natural resources of Belize and, in particular, its natural ecosystems, including flora, fauna, forest and wildlife therein;

AND WHEREAS, to that end, the Government and Global Wildlife Conservation, (now called “Re: Wild”), have agreed to co-operate in the implementation of a strategy and mutual undertaking of the parties, whereby Re: Wild will finance the acquisition of certain

lands (“Conservation Lands”) in Belize to be held upon trust by the Maya Forest Corridor Trust (“the Trustee”), a not-for-profit company, for the benefit of the Government and people of Belize for the protection and conservation of their natural ecosystems, flora, fauna and wildlife in perpetuity and the Government undertook to grant Re: Wild through the Trustee, certain stamp duty and land tax exemptions for a period of 50 years, licenses and all carbon rights and credits associated therewith and proceeds of sale in respect thereof regarding the said lands to be held in trust by the Trustee for the sole use and benefit of the conservation, protection and maintenance of the Conservation Lands;

AND WHEREAS, by virtue of an agreement supplemental to the Principal Agreement made between the Government and Re: Wild dated the 31st day of August 2021, (the “Supplemental Agreement”), Re: Wild has agreed, among other things, that land taxes shall apply to the Conservation Lands and that, after certain acquisition costs, endowment costs and management costs are reimbursed, the Government shall have the exclusive right to determine the use and disposition of such excess or surplus amount of proceeds of sale of the carbon rights and credits associated therewith;

AND WHEREAS, by virtue of the Constitution of Belize, carbon rights and credits associated therewith are vested in the Government of Belize and therefore constitute public assets;

AND WHEREAS, the carbon rights and credits associated therewith in connection with the Conservation Lands which the Government agreed to transfer to the Trustee pursuant to the Principal Agreement, as amended by the Supplemental Agreement, has an aggregate value in excess of two million dollars;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House approves the Government of Belize to transfer to the Maya Forest Corridor Trust the carbon rights and credits associated therewith in connection with the Conservation Lands for the sole use and benefit of the conservation, protection and maintenance of the Conservation Lands **PROVIDED THAT** after certain acquisition costs, endowment costs and management costs are reimbursed in accordance with the terms of the Principal Agreement, as amended by the Supplemental Agreement, the Government shall have the exclusive right to determine the use and disposition of such excess or surplus amount of proceeds of sale of the carbon rights and credits associated therewith.

(Leader of Government Business and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Immigration)

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