



National Assembly of Belize

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PRESS RELEASE

PARLIAMENTARY REVIEW CONSULTANCY

16th April 2024 - The National Assembly of Belize with the assistance of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Belize has embarked on the implementation of suggested reforms cited in the first Administrative Review of the Belize parliament. This review was made possible through the collaboration with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) and the efforts of the Presiding Officers of the National Assembly of Belize.

As part of this effort, the National Assembly has concluded a week-long series of meetings with Mr. Anthony Staddon, a UK-based consultant contracted by the UNDP, to assist the National Assembly in addressing some of the reforms. Mr. Staddon was also a member of the CPA team who worked on the 2019 assessment of the benchmarks for democratic legislatures for the Belize parliament.

During the consultation, meetings were held with various stakeholders including media houses, the Deputy Clerk, the Staff of the National Assembly, the People's Constitution Commission (PCC) Secretariat, the UNDP, the Constitution and Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives, the Deputy Financial Secretary, the Auditor General, the President and Members of the Senate, the Honourable Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Members of the National Assembly Staff Committee. Virtual meetings were also held with various international partners and parliamentary associations who have worked with the National Assembly of Belize. The meetings provided stakeholders with the space to explore challenges and experiences in their interactions with the National Assembly of Belize and to discuss some suggested solutions.

Based on the feedback of these meetings and further discussions, a review of available reports from the National Assembly and best practices from other parliaments, the consultant is expected to deliver a proposed Outreach and Education Strategy for the Parliament, a Strategic Plan for the National Assembly Staff Committee, and a 5-year Resource Mobilization and Partnership Plan.

The consultant's work concludes in June 2024. The work of this consultancy is made possible through the technical and financial assistance of the UNDP Belize and is part of the ongoing initiative undertaken through the 2021 Declaration of Intent signed between the National Assembly of Belize and the UN Belize office.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

BELMOPAN

16th April 2024.

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