



National Assembly of Belize

Office of the Clerk

P.O. Box 139, Belmopan, Cayo District, Belize Central America

Tel. (+501) 822-2141/2142 or 2144

E-mail: ClerkNA@bna.gov.bz

www.nationalassembly.gov.bz

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PRESS RELEASE

The National Assembly extends its condolences on the passing of former Speaker Hon. Charles Bartlett Hyde

—**3rd April 2024**— Hon. Valerie Woods, Speaker of the House of Representatives and Hon. Carolyn Trench-Sandiford, President of the Senate, extend their deepest condolences to the family of former Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Charles Bartlett Hyde on his passing on Tuesday, 24th March 2024.

Hon. Charles Bartlett Hyde served as Speaker of the House of Representatives from 30th November 1979 to 9th November 1984. He presided over the House during the pivotal period when Belize was on the precipice of Independence. He had the most difficult task of guiding parliament during this transition and ensuring that it was seamless despite the turbulent circumstances. Tensions were understandably high during this time, debates were fervoured, but Hon. Hyde managed to "*maintain an image of absolute impartiality,*" when having to make tough decisions that were necessary but perhaps, not popular. In 1977, during the birthday of Queen Elizabeth II on her Silver coronation anniversary, Hyde was made a member of the Order of the British Empire. In 1998, he would be made a *Commander* of the Order of the British Empire.

One of the many achievements of his illustrious career as Speaker of the House of the Representatives, includes the implementation of the Radio Belize broadcast of the House meetings and debates. He stated that it was, "*desirable that the public at large hear what their representatives had to say on matters which concerned them.*" Apart from his contributions in Public Service, namely his elevation to Postmaster General in 1961, Hon. Hyde was truly an avid and record-breaking sportsman, excelling in football, basketball, cricket, tennis, and long jump. He led an exemplary life, etched in perpetual excellence, no matter the arena.

Even after retirement, Hon. Charles Bartlett Hyde maintained a rigorous schedule, being appointed to fourteen important boards/committees, among them: Chairman of the Judicial and Legal Commission, Chairman of the Tourist Board, Chairman of the Public Services Commission, Chairman of the National Sports Council and the Stamp Advisory Committee, where he continued to promote Belize's people, culture, history, flora and fauna to the world through our stamps.

The legacy of Hon. Charles Bartlett Hyde lives on through his countless contributions to Belize's development in diverse areas and fields. Our condolences are sincere and our admiration and gratitude unending.

May his soul rest in peace and rise in glory.

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