

**BELIZE**

**No. HR3/1/14**

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> May 2025

10:00 AM

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**ORDERS OF THE DAY**

- 1. Prayers.**
- 3. Announcements by the Speaker.**
- 7. Presentation of Reports from Select Committees.**

No. HR4/1/14	-	Report from the Finance and Economic Development Committee on the Customs and Excise Duties (Amendment) Bill, 2025.
No. HR5/1/14	-	Report from the Finance and Economic Development Committee on the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Bill, 2025.
No. HR6/1/14	-	Report from the Finance and Economic Development Committee on the Inter-American Development Bank - Third General Capital Increase in Authorized Capital Stock of the Inter-American Investment Corporation (IDB Invest) - Subscription Motion, 2025.
No. HR7/1/14	-	Report from the Finance and Economic Development Committee on the Subscription to Multilateral Investment Fund IV - Inter American Development Bank - Subscription Motion, 2025.

***(The Honourable Chairperson of the Finance and Economic Development Committee)***

No. HR8/1/14	-	Report from the Constitution and Foreign Affairs Committee on the Magistrate Court Bill, 2025.
No. HR9/1/14	-	Report from the Constitution and Foreign Affairs Committee on the People’s Constitution Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2025.

No. HR10/1/14 - Report from the Constitution and Foreign Affairs Committee on the Establishment of the National Assembly Staff Committee Motion, 2025.

*(The Honourable Chairperson of the Constitution and Foreign Affairs Committee)*

No. HR11/1/14 - Report from the Works Committee on the Belize Building (Amendment) Bill, 2025.

*(The Honourable Chairperson of the Works Committee)*

## 12. Introduction of Bills.

### 1. Central Bank of Belize (Amendment) Bill, 2025.

Bill for an Act to amend the Central Bank of Belize Act, Chapter 262 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020; to provide for the Director General of the Financial Services Commission to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Central Bank of Belize; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

### 2. Broadcasting Bill, 2025.

Bill for an Act to repeal and replace the Broadcasting and Television Act, Chapter 227 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020; to further establish and facilitate a modernised framework for the licensing and regulation of broadcasters; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

*(The Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Investment, Economic Transformation, Civil Aviation, and E-Governance)*

### 3. Bail Bill, 2025.

Bill for an Act to repeal and replace the Bail Reform Act, Chapter 100 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020; to reform the bail framework in the criminal justice system; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

### 4. Law Revision and Law Reform Bill, 2025.

Bill for an Act to repeal and replace the Law Revision Act, Chapter 3 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020; to modernize the system of revising, consolidating and editing the Laws of Belize; to establish an official Law Reform Commission to allow for the Laws of Belize to be reviewed and reformed on a systematic basis; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

**5. Civil Registry and Vital Statistics Bill, 2025.**

Bill for an Act to repeal and replace the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, Chapter 157 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020; to provide for the digitalization of the registry of births, deaths and other life events; to provide for the organizational restructuring of the Vital Statistics Unit; to convert the office into a Department to support the new business operations and functions; to provide for the registration and filing of life events; to provide for harsher penalties for offences; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

**6. National Assembly (Powers, Privileges, and Immunities) Bill, 2025.**

Bill for an Act to repeal and replace the Legislative Assembly (Powers and Privileges) Act; to declare and define certain powers, privileges and immunities of the National Assembly and of the members and officers of such Assembly; to secure freedom of speech in the National Assembly; to regulate admittance to the precincts of the National Assembly; to give protection to the persons employed in the publication of the reports and other papers of the National Assembly; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

*(The Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, Culture, and Immigration)*

**13. Motions relating to the Business or Sitzings of the House.**

**14. Public Business.**

**A. Government Business**

**[Resumption of the Debate on the General Revenue Appropriation (2025/2026) Bill, 2025]**

**1. General Revenue Appropriation (2025/2026) Bill, 2025.**

Bill for an Act to appropriate certain sums of money for the use of the Public Service of Belize for the financial year ending March 31, 2026.

*(The Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Investment, Economic Transformation, Civil Aviation, and E-Governance)*

**I COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY**

1. Draft Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for Fiscal Year 2025/2026. (Sessional Paper No. HR1/1/14 was presented on 12.05.25.)

2. Official Charities Fund Motion, 2025.

(referred 12.05.25)

*(The Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Investment, Economic Transformation, Civil Aviation, and E-Governance)*

## II MOTIONS *(For Text of Motions see Notice Papers attached)*

1. Official Charities Fund Motion, 2025.  
**(referred 12.05.25)**
2. Inter-American Development Bank – Third General Capital Increase in Authorized Capital Stock of the Inter-American Investment Corporation (IDB Invest) - Subscription Motion, 2025.  
**(referred 12.05.25)**
3. Subscription to Multilateral Investment Fund IV - Inter American Development Bank - Subscription Motion, 2025.  
**(referred 12.05.25)**
4. Establishment of the National Assembly Staff Committee Motion, 2025.  
**(referred 12.05.25)**

*(The Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Investment, Economic Transformation, Civil Aviation, and E-Governance)*

## III BILLS FOR SECOND READING

### 1. **Customs and Excise Duties (Amendment) Bill, 2025.**

Bill for an Act to amend the Customs and Excise Duties Act, Chapter 48 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020, to implement the eleventh phase of reduction of duties in accordance with the CARIFORUM-EU Economic Partnership Agreement; to implement the eleventh phase of reduction of duties in accordance with the CARIFORUM-UK Economic Partnership Agreement; to implement the second and third phase of reduction of duties in accordance with the Belize and the Republic of China (Taiwan) Economic Cooperation Agreement; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

### 2. **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Bill, 2025.**

Bill for an Act governing the insolvency of companies with mechanisms established for insolvent persons to enter into arrangements with their creditors, an administration procedure for companies, the receivership of companies and foreign companies, the liquidation of companies, foreign companies, limited partnerships and partnerships, the making of bankruptcy orders against individuals, the licensing and regulation of insolvency practitioners, the penalisation and redress of wrongdoing associated with insolvent persons, the disqualification of directors, the avoidance of certain transactions, cross border insolvency issues, netting and the establishment of a simplified insolvency procedure for eligible companies; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

*(The Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Investment, Economic Transformation, Civil Aviation, and E-Governance)*

**3. Magistrate Court Bill, 2025.**

Bill for an Act to repeal, replace, and consolidate the District Courts (Procedure) Act, Chapter 97 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020; the Summary Jurisdiction (Procedure) Act, Chapter 99 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020; and the Summary Jurisdiction (Offences) Act, Chapter 98 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020; to repeal, replace, and consolidate the provisions of the Inferior Courts Act, Chapter 94 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020, relating to the magistracy; to provide for the establishment, constitution and jurisdiction of the Magistrate Court; to regulate the practice and procedure before the Magistrate Court; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

*(The Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, Culture, and Immigration)*

**4. Belize Building (Amendment) Bill, 2025.**

Bill for an Act to amend the Belize Building Act, Chapter 131 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020; to make better provisions for regulating the construction, demolition and movement of buildings; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

*(The Honourable Minister of Infrastructure, Development, and Housing)*

**5. People's Constitution Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2025.**

Bill for an Act to amend the People's Constitution Commission Act, Act No. 28 of 2022; to extend the time for the Prime Minister to lay before the National Assembly the report of the Commission after receipt; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

*(The Honourable Minister of Indigenous, Constitutional and Religious Affairs, and Transportation)*

**IV COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE ON BILLS**

**V BILLS FOR THIRD READING**

**BELIZE**

**No. HR3/1/14**

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> May 2025

10:00 AM.

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**NOTICES OF QUESTIONS AND MOTIONS**

**MOTIONS**

1. **Official Charities Fund Motion, 2025.** (referred 12.05.25)

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** this House approves the expenditure of \$2,595,089 from the Official Charities Fund as detailed in Appendix A of the Draft Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the year ending 31st March, 2025.

**Cabinet’s recommendation to be signified.**

2. **Inter-American Development Bank – Third General Capital Increase in Authorized Capital Stock of the Inter-American Investment Corporation (IDB Invest) - Subscription Motion, 2025.** (referred 12.05.25)

**WHEREAS**, Belize is a member of the Inter-American Development Bank (**IDB**) (the “Bank”) and the Inter-American Investment Corporation (**IDB Invest**), both being institutions under the IDB Group;

**AND WHEREAS**, the Board of Governors of the **IDB and IDB Invest** on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2024, adopted Resolution CII/AG-5/24 which approved a US\$3.5 billion general capital increase in the authorized capital stock of the Bank, to enable the Bank to support a new business model for IDB Invest to carry out its developmental purpose and functions (GCI-III) (IDB Invest +);

**AND WHEREAS**, in accordance with Resolution CII/AG-5/24, Belize is required to subscribe to 130 new GCI-III shares for IDB Invest, expressed in United States dollars at the rate of US\$21,000 per share, amounting to a total of US\$2,730,000.;

**AND WHEREAS**, payment of these shares is to be done in equal, annual installments over a period of seven (7) years, commencing 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2025, with each annual installment payment totaling US\$390,000.;

**AND WHEREAS**, there is no specific provision in the International Financial Organizations Act, Chapter 265 of the Laws of Belize, or any other law to enable the Minister of Finance to subscribe to such shares or make such contributions;

**AND WHEREAS**, consequently, the Government of Belize is desirous of obtaining the approval of the National Assembly, by way of a resolution, for the subscription and payment of Belize’s additional GCI allocated shares of the IDB Invest;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that this Honourable House, being satisfied that the above-mentioned additional capital subscriptions would be beneficial to the interests of Belize in achieving better development outcomes, authorizes the Minister of Finance to sign the Instruments of Subscription, and all other related documents, and make payments before the indicated deadlines.

**3. Subscription to Multilateral Investment Fund IV - Inter-American Development Bank - Subscription Motion, 2025.**

(referred 12.05.25)

**WHEREAS**, Belize is a member of the Inter-American Development Bank (the “Bank”) and by virtue of its membership, Belize has the right to benefit from the Bank’s Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF) which was established for the purpose of supporting economic growth and poverty reduction in its member countries;

**AND WHEREAS**, there has been the successful establishment and implementation of MIF I, which was later replaced with MIF II and subsequently MIF III, which is currently ongoing and which was recently renewed until 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2026;

**AND WHEREAS**, the member countries of the Bank, in recognition of the vital role of entrepreneurial innovation in addressing development challenges, fostering opportunities for poor and vulnerable populations, catalyzing dynamic economic growth, mitigating climate change, and advancing gender equality and diversity in the Latin American and Caribbean region, agreed to the establishment of a fourth Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF IV), in the total sum of US\$400 million;

**AND WHEREAS**, the Board of Governors of the Bank on 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2024, adopted Resolutions AG-8/24, CII/AG-6/24, and MIF/DE-7/24), which approved the establishment of the MIF IV, which shall govern the assets and liabilities of the MIF III, and support the continuation of its activities through the purpose stated above;

**AND WHEREAS**, as per the norm, this replenishment of the MIF will be made up of contribution commitments by donor member countries of the Bank;

**AND WHEREAS**, Belize’s allocated contribution to MIF IV is US\$691,699.60 to be paid in three equal annual installments of US\$230,566.53, of which the first installment will be due and payable in July 2025;

**AND WHEREAS**, there is no specific provision in the International Financial Organizations Act, Chapter 265 of the Laws of Belize, or any other law to enable the Minister of Finance to make such contributions;

**AND WHEREAS**, consequently, the Government of Belize is desirous of obtaining the approval of the National Assembly by way of a resolution before making such contributions;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that this Honourable House being satisfied that the above-mentioned contributions to MIF IV would be beneficial to the interests of Belize, authorizes the Minister of Finance to sign an Instrument of Acceptance and Contribution, and all other documents associated therewith.

5. **Establishment of the National Assembly Staff Committee Motion, 2025.**

(referred 12.05.25)

**WHEREAS**, section 3 (1) of the National Assembly Staff Act, Chapter 14, Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020, establishes a National Assembly Staff Committee consisting of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, or in his absence the Deputy Speaker; three Members of the House of Representatives; the President of the Senate and one other Member of the Senate nominated by the Senate; and one Member of the staff of the National Assembly or one other person who is not a Member of staff of the National Assembly, nominated by the staff of the National Assembly;

**AND WHEREAS**, section 3 (1) (b) of the National Assembly Staff Act, Chapter 14, Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020, provides that the three Members of the House of Representatives forming part of the National Assembly Staff Committee shall be nominated by the House;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that this Honourable House hereby nominate the Honourable Dolores Balderamos Garcia, the Honourable Rodwell Ferguson, and the Honourable Tracy Panton, to be Members of the National Assembly Staff Committee.

*(The Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Investment, Economic Transformation, Civil Aviation, and E-Governance)*

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