

**BELIZE**

**No. HR2/1/14**

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025

10:00 AM

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**ORDERS OF THE DAY**

1. Prayers.
2. Oath of Allegiance of new Member.
3. Announcement by the Speaker.
6. Papers.

No. HR1/1/14 - Draft Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for Fiscal Year 2025/2026.

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

No. HR2/1/14 - Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Regulation of Transport at Border Points) (Revised) (Amendment) Regulations, 2025.

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

**12. Introduction of Bills.**

**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.

**2. 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.

**3. Gaming and Lotteries Control Bill, 2025.**

Bill for an Act to repeal, replace and consolidate the Gambling Prevention Act, Chapter 109 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020, the Computer Wagering Licensing Act, Chapter 149 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020, the Lotteries Control Act, Chapter 151 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020, and the Gaming Control Act, Chapter 152 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

**4. 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)*

**5. 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)*

**6. 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)*

**7. Families Bill, 2025.**

Bill for an Act to repeal, replace, and consolidate the Family Courts Act, Chapter 93 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020; the Families and Children Act, Chapter 173 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020; and the Married Persons (Protection) Act, Chapter 175 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020; to provide for the establishment, constitution and jurisdiction of the Family Court; to provide for matters relating to families and children; to provide for matters relating to married persons; to provide for the welfare and protection of older persons; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

*(The Honourable Minister of Human Development, Family Support, and Gender Affairs)*

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

**14. Public Business.**

**A. Government Business**

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

**1. The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development - George Price Highway Project - (Belmopan to La Democracia Section USD\$13 Million) Loan Motion, 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.**

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

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

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

4. **Official Charities Fund Motion, 2025.**

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

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

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

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

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**ORDERS OF THE DAY**

**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS AND MOTIONS**

**MOTIONS**

1. **The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development - George Price Highway Project - (Belmopan to La Democracia Section USD\$13 Million) Loan Motion, 2025.**

**Notice given on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025.**

**WHEREAS**, the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (hereinafter referred to as “the Kuwait Fund”) provides support to Arab and other developing countries by providing concessionary financing and technical assistance for implementation of key development projects and programmes;

**AND WHEREAS**, the Government of Belize has requested assistance from the Kuwait Fund for partial financing of the Belmopan to La Democracia Section for the Rehabilitation works to be done under the George Price Highway Project (hereinafter referred to as “the Project”);

**AND WHEREAS**, this section of the Project will comprise the upgrading of the existing 29 km Road by increasing the carriageway width and shoulders to 3.65 meters and 1.5 meters wide on each side, respectively; the Project will see the paving of the entire road and shoulders with hot mix asphaltic concrete, and will include improved drainage, the replacement and rehabilitation of several main culvert structures and two (2) bridges, as well as 16 new bus lanes, safety provisions and new signage on the road;

**AND WHEREAS**, the Fund has approved an offer of a Loan in the amount of Four (4) Million Kuwaiti Dinars, equivalent to approximately US\$13 Million, to the Government of Belize to assist in the financing of the Belmopan to La Democracia Section of the Project;

**AND WHEREAS**, the approved funding will be used to finance 47% of the total amount needed for the entire civil works required under the Project;

**AND WHEREAS**, the Government of Belize will cover the remaining 53% of the total costs of the civil works for the Project, through counterpart contribution and the possibility of a second loan from the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development;

**AND WHEREAS**, the terms and conditions of the Kuwait Fund Loan Offer are as follows:

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| Lender:                | The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development;   |
| Loan Principal Amount: | Four Million Kuwaiti Dinars (or approximately US\$13 Million);   |
| Disbursement Schedule: | Withdrawals shall be made from time to time up to 31 <sup>st</sup> December, 2029;   |
| Loan Term:             | Twenty-one (21) years (5 years grace period plus 16 years repayment period);   |
| Grace Period:          | Five (5) years from effective date of the Loan Agreement;  |
| Repayment period:      | Repayment in thirty-two (32) equal semi-annual installments of approximately US\$407,612 commencing 1 <sup>st</sup> October, 2030.   |
| Purpose:               | To partially fund the upgrade of the Belmopan to La Democracia Section of the George Price Highway - making it climate resilient and in line with international standards, improving the accessibility and movement of people and goods along this corridor, increasing transport efficiency and reducing the potential occurrence of traffic accidents; |
| Rate of Interest:      | At a rate of Two percent (2.0%) per annum on the principal amount withdrawn and outstanding, and payable semi-annually on 1 <sup>st</sup> April and 1 <sup>st</sup> October of each year;  |
| Service Charge:        | At a rate of one half of one percent (1/2%) per annum on the principal amount of the Loan withdrawn and outstanding payable semi-annually on 1 <sup>st</sup> April and 1 <sup>st</sup> October of each year.   |

**AND WHEREAS**, under the provisions of section 7 of the Finance and Audit (Reform) Act 2005, the Government of Belize is required to obtain the prior authorization of the National Assembly, by way of a Resolution, for such a borrowing;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that this Honourable House, being satisfied that the loan proceeds would significantly contribute to the enhancement of a major road network in Belize and improve the economic and social development of the settlements along the George Price Highway, approves and confirms that the Government of Belize may enter into a Loan Agreement with the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development on the terms and conditions set out above, and further authorizes the Minister of Finance to execute and deliver the said Loan Agreement and all other documents associated therewith.

**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.**

**Notice given on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2025.**

**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.

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

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

**Notice given on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2025.**

**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.

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

**4. Official Charities Fund Motion, 2025.**

**Notice given on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2025.**

**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 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2026.

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

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

**Notice given on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025.**

**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.

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

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