

BELIZE

No.2/1/15

SENATE

Friday, 30th May 2025

9:00 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.

General Revenue Appropriation (2025/2026) Bill, 2025;

2.

Customs and Excise Duties (Amendment) Bill, 2025;

3.

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Bill, 2025;

4.

Magistrate Court Bill, 2025;

5.

Belize Building (Amendment) Bill, 2025; and

6.

People’s Constitution Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2025.

(Leader of Government Business)

6.

Paper.

No. 1/1/15

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Draft Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for Fiscal Year 2025/2026.

(Leader of Government Business)

13.

Motions relating to the Business or Sitzings of the Senate.
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.

2. Inter-American Development Bank – Third General Capital Increase in Authorized Capital Stock of the Inter-American Investment Corporation (IDB Invest) - Subscription Motion, 2025.
3. Subscription to Multilateral Investment Fund IV - Inter-American Development Bank - Subscription Motion, 2025.
4. Official Charities Fund Motion, 2025.
5. Establishment of the National Assembly Staff Committee Motion, 2025.
6. Resolution Authorizing the Ratification by Belize of the Agreement Between Belize and the Benelux States on the Exemption from Visa Requirements for Holders of Valid Diplomatic Passports Motion, 2025.
7. Resolution Authorizing the Ratification by Belize of the Agreement Between Belize and the Benelux States (The Kingdom of Belgium, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and The Kingdom of the Netherlands) on the Readmission of Persons Residing without Authorization Motion, 2025.

(Leader of Government Business)

II BILLS FOR SECOND READING

III COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE SENATE ON MOTIONS AND BILLS

IV BILLS FOR THIRD READING

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BELIZE

No.2/1/15

SENATE

Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> May 2025

9:00 A.M.

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NOTICES OF QUESTIONS AND MOTIONS

M O T I O N S

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

|                               |                                                                                    |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Lender:</b>                | The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development;                                     |
| <b>Loan Principal Amount:</b> | Four Million Kuwaiti Dinars (or approximately US\$13 Million);                     |
| <b>Disbursement Schedule:</b> | Withdrawals shall be made from time to time up to 31 <sup>st</sup> December, 2029; |

|                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Loan Term:</b>        | Twenty-one (21) years (5 years grace period plus 16 years repayment period);                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Grace Period:</b>     | Five (5) years from effective date of the Loan Agreement;                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Repayment period:</b> | Repayment in thirty-two (32) equal semiannual installments of approximately US\$407,612 commencing 1 <sup>st</sup> October, 2030;                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Purpose:</b>          | 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; |
| <b>Rate of Interest:</b> | 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;                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Service Charge:</b>   | 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, a copy of which is hereby annexed.

**2. Inter-American Development Bank – Third General Capital Increase in Authorized Capital Stock of the Inter-American Investment Corporation (IDB Invest) - Subscription Motion, 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 10th 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, a copy of which is hereby annexed.

### **3. Subscription to Multilateral Investment Fund IV - Inter-American Development Bank - Subscription Motion, 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, a copy of which is hereby annexed.

**4. Official Charities Fund Motion, 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.

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

**WHEREAS**, section 3 (1) of the National Assembly Staff Act Chapter 14 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2011; establishes a National Assembly Staff Committee consisting of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, or in his/her 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) (c) of the National Assembly Staff Act, Chapter 14 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2011; provides that the President of the Senate and one other member of the Senate nominated by the Senate, shall form part of the National Assembly Staff Committee;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that this Senate nominate **Senator the Honourable Brittney Galvez**, to be a member of the National Assembly Staff Committee.

**6. Resolution Authorizing the Ratification by Belize of the Agreement Between Belize and the Benelux States on the Exemption from Visa Requirements for Holders of Valid Diplomatic Passports Motion, 2025.**

**WHEREAS**, Belize signed the Agreement between Belize and the Benelux States on the exemption from visa requirements for holders of valid diplomatic passports on the 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025, in Brussels, Belgium (hereinafter “the Agreement”);

**AND WHEREAS**, the purpose of this Agreement is to strengthen and further develop friendly and cooperative relations among the countries;

**AND WHEREAS**, within the framework of this Agreement, holders of valid diplomatic passports will be exempted from visa requirements to enter the territories of any of the other Parties to the Agreement;

**AND WHEREAS**, the Government of Belize is desirous of ratifying the Agreement pursuant to Article 12;

**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 this Senate authorizes the Government of Belize to ratify the Agreement between the Belize and the Benelux States on the exemption of visa requirements for holders of valid diplomatic passports, a copy of which is hereto annexed.

7. **Resolution Authorizing the Ratification by Belize of the Agreement Between Belize and the Benelux States (The Kingdom of Belgium, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and The Kingdom of the Netherlands) on the Readmission of Persons Residing without Authorization Motion, 2025.**

**WHEREAS**, Belize signed the Agreement between Belize and the Benelux States (the Kingdom of Belgium, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the Kingdom of the Netherlands) on the Readmission of Persons Residing without Authorization on the 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025, in Brussels, Belgium (hereinafter “the Agreement”);

**AND WHEREAS**, the purpose of this Agreement is to promote cooperation and communication between the Parties, to better execute the laws and regulations on the circulation of persons, underscoring the obligation of a Party to readmit its nationals, notwithstanding the legal migration status;

**AND WHEREAS**, the Agreement is a pre-requisite for the Agreement on the exemption of visa requirements for holders of valid diplomatic passports between Belize and the Benelux States;

**AND WHEREAS**, the Parties’ interest in fulfilling the obligation under international law to readmit their own nationals, in particular Article 12, paragraph 4 of the International Convention of Civil and Political Rights;

**AND WHEREAS**, the Government of Belize is desirous of ratifying the Agreement pursuant to Article 19;

**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 this Senate authorizes the Government of Belize to ratify the Agreement between the Belize and the Benelux States on the Readmission of Persons Residing without Authorization, a copy of which is hereto annexed.

*(Leader of Government Business)*

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