



National Assembly of Belize

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PRESS RELEASE

POST-ELECTION SEMINAR COMES TO A CLOSE

-Tuesday, 10th June 2025- The National Assembly of Belize has concluded the Post-Election Seminar (PES) hosted in partnership with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) and ParlAmericas. From the 4th to 6th June 2025, Parliamentarians from both the House of Representatives and the Senate participated in an intensive capacity-building program tailored to enhance their legislative effectiveness, oversight capabilities, and ethical leadership.

The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Valerie Woods, summarised the seminar saying, "The post-election seminar is very instructive, very informative, yes, of course, for new parliamentarians of both chambers, the House and the Senate, but also for returning parliamentarians, because it's an opportunity to be updated on best practises regarding parliamentary procedures, processes, the examples of how similar small parliaments are implementing or applying the principles of the Westminster model, and in very practical ways. So, it's really three days of diving into practical examples, day-to-day examples, that parliamentarians face, whether in the Senate or in the House."

When asked to provide some input on the seminar, Senator Janelle Chanona said, "These South-South cooperation approaches are critical to exchange of information on available resources, technology and knowledge parliamentarians can rely on to improve the quality of our work for and on behalf of the Belizean people. These opportunities to engage with Commonwealth colleagues are also important sources of motivation given the common scenarios and leadership cultures."

During the seminar, Members of Parliament engaged in practical sessions on conduct and ethics, the use of digital tools in parliaments, and effective functioning of Public Accounts Committees (PACs). These discussions were guided by experts and parliamentary leaders from Belize and other Commonwealth jurisdictions.

The Leader of the Opposition and Member for Albert, Hon. Tracy Panton said, "This has been an insightful, productive three days, a time to both learn and share with my Parliamentarian colleagues from both Chambers of the National Assembly, as we work together to strengthen our system of governance."

The final day of the seminar featured a roundtable on best practices in legislative oversight and a discussion on the evolving role of Parliament in addressing challenges such as public trust, transparency, and fiscal accountability.

In his closing remarks, the Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Marconi Leal Jr., said, "This seminar has been a space to reflect, to learn, and to connect, not just with the material presented, but with one another. We hope that what you have gained here will serve you well in your work, whether on the floor of the Chamber, in Committee, or in your outreach to the people of Belize."

The CPA and ParlAmericas have reaffirmed their commitment to supporting Belize's National Assembly and its Members through continued technical assistance, training opportunities, and regional exchanges.

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