

BELIZE

No. HR5/1/14

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, 12th September 2025

10:00 AM

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ORDERS OF THE DAY

- 1. Prayers.**
- 2. Oath of Allegiance of a New Member.**
- 3. Announcements by the Speaker.**
- 4. Bill brought from the Senate.**

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

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

6. Papers.

- No. HR18/1/14 - Report of the Auditor General for the year April 2015 to March 2016.
- No. HR19/1/14 - The Twenty-Second Annual Report of the Ombudsman of Belize for the period January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024.
- No. HR20/1/14 - Central Bank of Belize - Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for the Year 2024.
- No. HR21/1/14 - Central Bank of Belize - Revised Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for Fiscal Year 2025.

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

7. Presentation of Reports from Select Committees.

- No. HR22/1/14 - Report from the Finance and Economic Development Committee on the Gaming and Lotteries Control Bill, 2025.

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

No. HR23/1/14 - Report from the Education, Sports, and Housing Committee on the School Teachers' Pension (Amendment) Bill, 2025.

(The Honourable Chairperson of the Education, Sports, and Housing Committee)

12. Introduction of Bills.

1. Trade Licensing (Amendment) Bill, 2025.

Bill for an Act to amend the Trade Licensing Act, Act No. 19 of 2024; to further change the date of the entry into force of the Act to allow for further public sensitisation of the scope and nature of the Act; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

(The Honourable Minister of Rural Transformation, Community Development, Labour and Local Government)

13. Motions relating to the Business or Sittings of the House.

14. Public Business.

A. Government Business

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

1. Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) – Subscription Motion, 2025.

Cabinet's recommendation to be signified.

2. Taiwan International Cooperation and Development Fund – Program to Improve the Labour Force Participation and Employability in Belize – US\$7 Million - Loan Motion, 2025.

Cabinet's recommendation to be signified.

3. Inter-American Development Bank – Program to Improve the Labour Force Participation and Employability in Belize – US\$7 Million Loan Motion, 2025.

Cabinet's recommendation to be signified.

4. Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan) – Amendment No.1 to Loan Agreement No. 6020236013 – Loan Amendment Motion, 2025.

Cabinet's recommendation to be signified.

5. International Bank for Reconstruction and Development Through its International Development Association (IDA) – Belize Development Policy Credit With Catastrophe Drawdown Option – US\$20 Million – Loan Motion, 2025.

Cabinet's recommendation to be signified.

(The Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economic Development, Investment, Civil Aviation, and Immigration)

II BILLS FOR SECOND READING

1. 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.

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

2. School Teachers' Pensions (Amendment) Bill, 2025.

Bill for an Act to amend the School Teachers' Pensions Act, Chapter 42 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020; to give effect to the provisions of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Public Service Union of Belize, Belize National Teachers Union, Association of Public Services Senior Managers and the Government of Belize, 2021-2024, by clarifying that, for the purpose of calculating pension for teachers in government-aided schools, salary refers to the percentage of salary covered by grant-in-aid as established under the Education Act; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

(The Honourable Minister of Education, Science, and Technology)

III COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE ON BILLS

IV BILLS FOR THIRD READING

BELIZE

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ORDERS OF THE DAY

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS AND MOTIONS

MOTIONS

1. **Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) – Subscription Motion, 2025.**

Notice given on 14th June 2025

WHEREAS, Belize is a member of the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (the “Bank”);

AND WHEREAS, recognizing the major opportunities in development funding and initiatives that can be benefited as a voting member of CABEI, the Government of Belize in 2023, requested an increase in its participation share capital of the Bank;

AND WHEREAS, the Board of Governors of the Bank on 18th December 2023, adopted Resolution No. AG-19/2023, which approved an increase in Belize’s amount of its participation in the share capital of CABEI, to a total of 4,000 Series “B” Shares, consisting of 25% or 1,000 shares as Payable Capital and 75% or 3,000 shares as Callable Capital;

AND WHEREAS, in accordance with the terms of the aforementioned Resolution, Belize is required to subscribe to these 4,000 shares expressed in current United States dollars at the rate of US\$10,000 per share, amounting to a total of US\$40,000,000;

AND WHEREAS, also in accordance with the terms of the aforementioned Resolution, Belize is required to make payment of US\$10,000,000, being the Payable Capital portion of the Shares, in four annual, equal and consecutive installments of US\$2,500,000.

AND WHEREAS, the remaining amount of US\$30,000,000, being the “Callable” Capital Stock, is payable when called by the Bank;

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 before subscribing to such shares and making such contributions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this Honourable House, being satisfied that the above-mentioned capital subscription would be beneficial to the interests of Belize, authorizes the Minister of Finance to sign an Instrument of Subscription and all other related documents to give effect to such capital subscription.

Cabinet’s recommendation to be signified.

2. Taiwan International Cooperation and Development Fund – Program to Improve the Labour Force Participation and Employability in Belize – US\$7 Million - Loan Motion, 2025.

Notice given on 3rd September 2025

WHEREAS, the Government of Belize, through its bi-lateral program of economic cooperation and development with the Government of the Republic of China (R.O.C.), Taiwan, receives ongoing financial support through loans and grants from the International Cooperation and Development Fund (ICDF) of the Republic of China (Taiwan) to fund different economic development initiatives of the Government of Belize;

AND WHEREAS, the Government of Belize has received an offer of financial support from the Taiwan ICDF in the form of a long term, low interest loan to provide joint financing to the Government of Belize for the execution of its Program to Improve the Labour Force Participation and Employability in Belize, (herein called “The Program”);

AND WHEREAS, the Program will consist of two components whose activities will (i) strengthen the Public Employment Service to promote access to labour markets, particularly targeting women, youth and migrants and (ii) increase the supply of relevant skills aligned with labour market needs;

AND WHEREAS, the proposed Program will be financed through this loan from the Taiwan ICDF in the sum of US\$7,000,000.00, along with an IDB direct investment loan in the sum of US\$7,000,000.00, and grant financing from the IDB in the sum of US\$1,000,000.00;

AND WHEREAS, it is intended that the execution of the Program shall be carried out, on behalf of the Government of Belize, by the Ministry of Finance, acting as Executing Agency;

AND WHEREAS, the terms and conditions of Loan Offer from the Taiwan ICDF are as follows:

Lender:	International Cooperation and Development Fund (Taiwan ICDF);
Loan Principal Amount:	US\$7,000,000.00;
Loan Term:	25 years (including grace period);
Grace Period:	5.5 years;
Purpose:	To assist in financing for the Project that will increase labour force participation, particularly among women, youth and migrants, while expanding their access to relevant and quality- focused skills development training;

Rate of Interest: 3% per annum (fixed);

Commitment fee: .75% per annum;

AND WHEREAS, under the provisions of section 7 (1) 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 borrowing;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House, being satisfied that the Loan proceeds would be utilized for the purpose stated above, approves and confirms that the Government of Belize may enter into a Loan Agreement with the International Cooperation and Development Fund (Taiwan, ICDF) 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 and agreements connected therewith.

Cabinet's recommendation to be signified.

3. Inter-American Development Bank – Program to Improve the Labour Force Participation and Employability in Belize – US\$7 Million - Loan Motion, 2025.

Notice given on 3rd September 2025

WHEREAS, Belize, as a member of the Inter-American Development Bank (the “Bank”), is eligible for development assistance in the form of loans, grants, and technical assistance from the Bank on such terms and conditions as may be agreed between Belize and the Bank from time to time;

AND WHEREAS, the Government of Belize has approached the Bank for financial assistance to execute a Program to improve the Labour Force Participation and Employability in Belize” (hereinafter called “the Program”);

AND WHEREAS, the Program will consist of two components whose activities will (i) strengthen the Public Employment Service to promote access to labour markets, particularly targeting women, youth and migrants and (ii) increase the supply of relevant skills aligned with labour market needs;

AND WHEREAS, the proposed program will be financed through an IDB direct investment loan in the sum of US\$7,000,000.00 from the Bank’s ordinary capital resources, and a non-reimbursable investment financing of US\$1,000,000.00 financed through IDB’s Grant Facility, as well as joint financing from Taiwan ICDF in the amount of US\$7,000,000.00;

AND WHEREAS, it is intended that the execution of the Program shall be carried out, on behalf of the Government, by the Ministry of Finance, acting as Executing Agency;

AND WHEREAS, the Bank has offered loan financing of up to US\$7,000,000.00 from its Ordinary Capital Resources for the said purpose under the following terms and conditions:

Loan Principal Amount: US\$7,000,000.00;

Disbursement Schedule: Over a period of five (5) years from the date of signature of the Loan Contract;

Loan Term:	Twenty-five (25) Years inclusive of sixty-six (66) months Grace Period on principal repayments;
Repayment Period:	39 approximately equal, semi-annual, and consecutive installments of about US\$179,487.18;
Rate of Interest:	Interest will be charged on the daily outstanding balance of the loan, as per the SOFR-Based Interest Rate, plus the applicable lending spread for the Bank's ordinary capital loan;
Credit Fee:	A Credit Fee will be charged on the undisbursed loan balance at a percentage to be established by the Bank on a periodic basis, not exceeding 0.75% per annum;

AND WHEREAS, under the provisions of section 7 (2) 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 improve the quality of the labour force in Belize, approves and confirms that the Government may enter into a Loan Contract with the Inter-American Development Bank on the terms and conditions set out above, and further authorizes the Minister of Finance to execute and deliver the said Loan Contract and all other documents associated therewith.

Cabinet's recommendation to be signified.

4. Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan) – Amendment No.1 to Loan Agreement No. 6020236013 – Loan Amendment Motion, 2025.

Notice given on 3rd September 2025

WHEREAS, the Government of Belize, through its bi-lateral program of economic cooperation and development with the Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan), requested and received financial support in 2019 from the Government of that country, to finance the Upgrading of the Corozal to Sarteneja Road and the Construction of the Pueblo Nuevo and Laguna Seca Bridges;

AND WHEREAS, such financial support was in the form of a long-term, low- interest Loan in the principal amount of Fifty Million United States Dollars (US\$50,000,000.00) for which a Loan Agreement was signed on 19th August 2019, between the Government of Belize and the Export-Import Bank of the Republic of China (as the Lender);

AND WHEREAS, despite delays due to weather and other reasons beyond the reasonable control of the parties, the upgrading of the Corozal to Sarteneja Road and the construction of the Pueblo Nuevo and Laguna Seca Bridges are expected to be completed by the end of September 2025.

AND WHEREAS, the Government of Belize, in light of the extended time for completion and of an abundance of caution, requested from the Lender, (i) a second extension to the commitment period of the Loan for the undisbursed balance from 31st May 2025, to 31st December 2025, and (ii) a six-month suspension on the

start date for the principal repayments of the Loan, from 22nd July 2025, to 22nd January 2026;

AND WHEREAS, the Export-Import Bank of the Republic of China (Taiwan), has approved the Government of Belize's request for an extension of the Commitment Period, as well as for the suspension of the start date for the principal repayments, under the terms and conditions set out in Amendment No. 1 to the Loan Agreement as follows:

Lender:	Export-Import Bank of the Republic of China (Taiwan);
Extension of Commitment Period:	<i>Seven (7) months:</i> from 31 st May 2025, to 31 st December 2025;
Suspension of Principal Repayment start date:	<i>Six (6) months:</i> from 22 nd July 2025, through 21 st January 2026, with the first repayment date being 22 nd January 2026;
Repayment terms:	Thirty (30) consecutive, semi-annual principal payment installments comprising of twenty-nine (29) installments of US\$1,666,667.00 and one (1) installment of US\$1,666,657.00, payable 22 nd January and 22 nd July of each year, commencing 22 nd January 2026 and ending 22 nd July 2040;
Interest Payments:	Shall continue as per the Loan Agreement, on the same interest rate, and shall not be affected by the extension or the suspension;

AND WHEREAS, the Government of Belize is required to obtain the prior authorization of the National Assembly, by way of a Resolution, for such Amendment;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House, being satisfied that this Amendment is necessary for the effective completion of the Project, approves and confirms that the Government of Belize may enter into Amendment No. 1 to Loan Agreement 6020236013 with the Export-Import Bank of the Republic of China (Taiwan) on the terms and conditions set out above, and further authorizes the Minister of Finance to execute and deliver the said Loan Amendment Agreement and all other documents and agreements connected therewith.

Cabinet's recommendation to be signified.

5. **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development Through its International Development Association (IDA) – Belize Development Policy Credit With Catastrophe Drawdown Option – US\$20 Million – Loan Motion, 2025.**

Notice given on 3rd September 2025

WHEREAS, Belize being a member of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (the "Bank"), is eligible for development assistance in the form of loans, grants, and technical assistance from the Bank on

such terms and conditions as may be agreed between the Government of Belize and the Bank from time to time;

AND WHEREAS, in 2024, the Bank offered the Government of Belize the opportunity to access a Catastrophe Deferred Drawdown Option (Cat-DDO) to enhance Belize's crisis preparedness and prevention by providing a contingent financing line that offers immediate liquidity to address shocks related to natural disasters and public health emergencies caused by a biological event;

AND WHEREAS, in an effort to receive approval for this Cat-DDO funding, the Government over the past year began engaging in several reform initiatives demonstrate its commitment to improve disaster preparedness and climate resilience; and strengthen financial protection to improve the country's ability to respond to shocks;

AND WHEREAS, after recognizing Belize's actions to successfully commit to the reform initiatives, in July 2025, the Bank approved for Belize to access the Cat-DDO, in the form of a concessional financing in the amount of US\$20 million, which will be expeditiously disbursed in the event of a natural disaster or health related emergency, providing the Government with critical liquidity to respond. The Cat-DDO disbursement will be immediate and flexible once the event occurs.

AND WHEREAS, the total loan financing allocated through the IBRD will be as follows:

1. US\$5 million loan funds - financed from resources of Belize's country allocation under the International Development Association (IDA) (which is a development finance institution of the WB group);
2. US\$10 million loan funds - financed from the Global & Regional Opportunities Window (GROW);
3. US\$5 million loan funds - financed from the Crisis Response Window (CRW);

AND WHEREAS, it is intended that the implementing agency for the Cat-DDO will be the Ministry of Finance, on behalf of the Government of Belize;

AND WHEREAS, the Bank has offered the Government of Belize a total loan financing of **US\$20 million** under the following terms and conditions:

Lender:	The International Development Association (IDA) of the IBRD;
Purpose:	To address the immediate country liquidity needs in the aftermath of natural disasters and health-related emergencies caused by a biological event, and enhance Belize's crisis preparedness and prevention;
Disbursement Schedule:	Immediately following a natural disaster or health emergency occurring within a period of three (3) years;
Loan Term:	Forty (40) years, inclusive of a ten (10) year grace period on principal repayments;

Repayment Period	<p>Upon disbursement, principal amount to be repaid in approximately sixty (60) semi-annual, and consecutive installments payable on 15th April and 15th October of each year, commencing 10 years after the date of the Financing Agreement, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 installments of US\$200,000 commencing 15th October 2035, to 15th April 2045; • 40 installments of US\$400,000 commencing 15th October 2045, to 15th April 2065;
Service Charge:	A Service Charge of 1.48% is applicable upon sums disbursed;

AND WHEREAS, under the provisions of section 7 (2) 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 financing would significantly assist the Government of Belize to be able to quickly access funding to respond immediately to severe or catastrophic natural disasters or public health event emergencies and contribute to alleviating the impact of these events on the country's public finances, approves and confirms that the Government may enter into a Financing Agreement with the International Development Association of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development on the terms and conditions set out above, and further authorizes the Minister of Finance to execute and deliver the said Financing Agreement and all other documents associated therewith.

Cabinet's recommendation to be signified.

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