

BELIZE

No. HR13/1/14

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, 4th June 2026

10:00 AM

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ORDERS OF THE DAY

1. Prayers.

3. Announcements by the Speaker.

6. Papers.

No. HR73/1/14 - Supplies Control (Prices) (Amendment)
(No.9) Regulations, 2026.

No. HR74/1/14 - Supplies Control (Prices) (Amendment)
(No.10) Regulations, 2026.

No. HR75/1/14 - Supplies Control (Prices) (Amendment)
(No.11) Regulations, 2026.

No. HR76/1/14 - Supplies Control (Prices) (Amendment)
(No.12) Regulations, 2026.

No. HR77/1/14 - Supplies Control (Prices) (Amendment)
(No.13) Regulations, 2026.

***(The Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Food Security, and New Growth
Industries)***

No. HR77A/1/14 - Electricity Licensing and Consent
Regulations, 2026.

(The Honourable Minister of Public Utilities, Energy and Logistics)

7. Presentation of Reports from Select Committees.

No. HR78/1/14 - Report from the Health and Human
Development Committee on the National
Health Insurance Authority Bill, 2026.

No. HR79/1/14 - Report from the Health and Human
Development Committee on the Domestic
and Intimate Partner Violence (Prohibition)
Bill, 2026.

***(The Honourable Chairperson of the Health and Human Development
Committee)***

No. HR80/1/14 - Report from the Constitution and Foreign Affairs Committee on the Caribbean Community (Free Movement and Contingent Rights) Bill, 2026.

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

12. Introduction of Bills.

1. Development Finance Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2026.

Bill for an Act to amend the Development Finance Corporation Act, Chapter 279 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020; to rename the Development Finance Corporation; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

2. National Security Council (Amendment) Bill, 2026.

Bill for an Act to amend the National Security Council Act, Act No. 15 of 2024; to provide for the mandatory security vetting of staff and other persons with access to sensitive information; to provide for the making of regulations in respect of security vetting; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

3. Belize International Financial Services Association (Amendment) Bill, 2026.

Bill for an Act to amend the Belize International Financial Services Association Act, Chapter 273 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020; to provide for the change of name of the Belize International Financial Services Association Act to the Belize Financial Industry Association Act; to provide for the change of name of the Association to the Belize Financial Industry Association; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

4. Alternative Sentencing (Amendment) Bill, 2026.

Bill for an Act to amend the Alternative Sentencing Act, Act No. 13 of 2024 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020; to expand the definition of offence; to amend provisions relating to community service orders, curfew orders, suspended sentences, probation orders and restitution orders; to repeal Schedule I; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

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

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

14. Public Business.

A. Government Business

I MOTIONS *(For Text of Motions see*

Notice Papers attached)

1. **International Development Association – Belize Early Childhood Development and Female Empowerment Project (US\$23.5 Million) – Loan Motion, 2026.**

Cabinet’s recommendation to be signified.

2. **Inter-American Development Bank – Contingent Loan for Natural Disaster and Public Health Emergencies – (US\$25 Million) – Loan Motion, 2026.**

Cabinet’s recommendation to be signified.

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

II BILLS FOR SECOND READING

1. **National Health Insurance Authority Bill, 2026.**

Bill for an Act to repeal the NHI provisions contained under Part VII of the Social Security Act, Chapter 44 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020, and place them under this Act; to establish the administrative framework and other necessary mechanisms to enable the provision of equitable, accessible, affordable and quality healthcare services to all eligible persons for the attainment of universal health coverage; to facilitate people-centred healthcare that meets the needs of the population; to promote efficiency in healthcare administrative operations; to enable sustainability through appropriate allocation of resources in healthcare, in collaboration with the Ministry responsible for health; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

2. **Caribbean Community (Free Movement and Contingent Rights) Bill, 2026.**

Bill for an Act to give effect to the decision of the Heads of Government of CARICOM to authorize nationals of the participating member states to enter, re-renter and remain freely within Belize in accordance with the provisions of the Protocol on Enhanced Cooperation; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

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

3. **Domestic and Intimate Partner Violence (Prohibition) Bill, 2026.**

Bill for an Act to recognise the right of all persons to live free of domestic violence and intimate partner violence; to expand the powers of the court to make orders to support survivors; to increase accessibility to justice services; to fulfil Belize’s commitments under International

Conventions for all persons to live free of violence; to repeal the Domestic Violence Act, Chapter 178 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

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

III COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE ON BILLS

IV BILLS FOR THIRD READING

BELIZE

No. HR13/1/14

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, 4th June 2026

10:00 AM

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S U P P L E M E N T A R Y (1)

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS AND MOTIONS

M O T I O N S

1. **International Development Association – Belize Early Childhood Development and Female Empowerment Project (US\$23.5 Million) – Loan Motion, 2026.**

Notice given on 26th May 2026.

WHEREAS, Belize as a member of the World Bank Group is eligible to receive development assistance through the International Development Association (“IDA”), a member of the World Bank Group which provides concessional financing and grants to eligible countries to support poverty reduction, sustainable development, and priority social and economic development programs;

AND WHEREAS, the Government of Belize approached the IDA for concessional financing to support the **Belize Early Childhood Development and Female Empowerment Project**, which seeks to improve access to quality Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) and expand female employment opportunities in ECCE and other sectors (hereinafter called “the Project”);

AND WHEREAS, on 6th April 2026, the IDA agreed to extend to Belize concessional loan financing in the amount of Twenty-Three Million Five Hundred Thousand United States Dollars (US\$23,500,000) to assist in financing the Project and to provide a Rapid Response Option in the event of an eligible crisis or emergency;

AND WHEREAS, the Project is also supported by grant financing from the Early Learning Partnership Multi-Donor Trust Fund in the amount of One Million Two Hundred Eighty Thousand United States Dollars (US\$1,280,000.00);

AND WHEREAS, this Project will consist of two (2) main components whose activities will increase access to quality, inclusive early childhood care and education in targeted areas, including the construction, equipment and furnishing of new and additional preschool classrooms, improvements to existing preschool services, support for early development centers, EDC grants, ECCE practitioner stipends, and an impact evaluation related to childcare services, women's economic empowerment and child development outcomes;

AND WHEREAS, the Project will also support system-wide capacity, coordination and sensitization for the promotion of ECCE and female employment, including the strengthening of frameworks, standards, tools, referral mechanisms, information systems, data communication systems, skills development,

entrepreneurship, business development, private sector engagement, and related sensitization activities;

AND WHEREAS, the Project will include a Contingent Emergency Response component to provide immediate response to an Eligible Crisis or Emergency, as needed;

AND WHEREAS, the execution of the Project shall be carried out, on behalf of the Government, by the Central Executing Unit of the Ministry of Finance, acting as the Implementing Agency, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and the Ministry of Human Development, Family Support and Gender Affairs;

AND WHEREAS, the IDA has offered total loan financing of up to **US\$23,500,000** under the following terms and conditions:

Lender:	The International Development Association (IDA), a member of the World Bank Group;
Loan Principal Amount:	US\$23,500,000.00;
Purpose:	To improve access to quality early childhood care and education and female employment opportunities in ECCE and other sectors, and, in case of an Eligible Crisis or Emergency, to respond promptly and effectively to it;
Disbursement Schedule:	Over a period of five years, from the date of signature of the Loan Contract, up to 30 th June 2031;
Loan Term:	Forty (40) years, inclusive of a ten (10) year grace period on principal repayments, ending in October 2065;
Repayment Period:	To be repaid in 60 semi-annual installments on 15 th April and 15 th October of each year, at 1% of the principal amount from 15 th April 2036 to 15 th October 2045, and at 2% of the principal amount from 15 th April 2046 to 15 th October 2065;
Repayment Percentage:	The Payment percentage will be 1% value of the financing commitment for the first ten (10) years, and thereafter at 2% value of the financing commitment for the final twenty (20) years;
Commitment Charge:	One half of one percent (1/2 of 1%) per annum on the unwithdrawn financing balance;
Service Charge:	The greater of (i) the sum of three-fourths of one percent per annum plus

the Basis Adjustment to the Service Charge; and (ii) three-fourths of one percent per annum on the withdrawn credit balance;

Rapid Response Option

The Financing Agreement includes provisions for the Rapid Response Option and, upon the occurrence of an Eligible Event and issuance of a Government Declaration, the possible one-time activation of principal and/or interest payment deferral;

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 assist the Government of Belize in improving access to quality early childhood care and education, supporting female employment opportunities, strengthening related systems and services, and enabling prompt and effective response in the event of an Eligible Crisis or Emergency, approve and confirm that the Government may enter into a Financing Agreement with the International Development Association on the terms and conditions set out above, and further authorize the Minister of Finance to execute and deliver the said Financing Agreement and all other documents associated therewith.

Cabinet’s recommendation to be signified.

2. **Inter-American Development Bank – Contingent Loan for Natural Disaster and Public Health Emergencies – (US\$25 Million) – Loan Motion, 2026.**

Notice given on 26th May 2026.

WHEREAS, Belize as a member country of the Inter-American Development Bank (“the Bank”) is eligible to receive financing in support of national development priorities, including fiscal resilience, disaster risk management, emergency preparedness, and public health response;

AND WHEREAS, Belize is highly exposed to natural hazards and public health emergencies, including hurricanes, excess rainfall, earthquakes, wildfires, droughts, pandemics, and epidemics, which may place significant pressure on the public finances of the country and require immediate access to stable and cost-efficient financing;

AND WHEREAS, the Government of Belize has approached the Bank for contingent financing to support the **Contingent Loan for Natural Disaster and Public Health Emergencies**;

AND WHEREAS, the purpose of the Contingent Loan is to contribute to alleviating the impact that a severe or catastrophic natural disaster or public health event could have on the country’s public finances;

AND WHEREAS, this proposed Contingent Loan will amend and replace, in its totality, the Contingent Loan for Natural Disasters Emergencies in the amount of US\$10 million, signed on 18th September 2019, and provides for additional financing;

AND WHEREAS, the execution of the Project shall be carried out, on behalf of the Government, by the Ministry of Finance, acting as the Executing Agency;

AND WHEREAS, the Bank has offered contingent loan financing of up to Twenty-Five Million United States Dollars (US\$25,000,000.00) under the following terms and conditions:

Lender:	The Inter-American Development Bank;
Loan Principal Amount:	US\$25,000,000.00;
Purpose:	To alleviate the impact of severe natural disasters and public health events in Belize;
Loan Term:	Twenty-five (25) years from the date on which the first disbursement of the Contingent Loan occurs for each Eligible Event;
Coverage Period:	The coverage period shall be five (5) years from the effective date of the Contract and, at the request of the Borrower and at the discretion of the Bank;
Disbursement Schedule:	Disbursements shall be made only upon the occurrence of an Eligible Event and the fulfilment of the applicable conditions for disbursement;
Repayment Period:	To be repaid in sixty-six (66) semi-annual, consecutive, and approximately equal installments from the date on which the first disbursement of the Contingent Loan resources occurs for each Eligible Event;
Rate of Interest:	The loan will bear interest at a variable rate equal to the applicable SOFR-Based Interest Rate, which is currently 3.6%, plus the applicable lending spread of the IDB's ordinary capital loans, payable semi-annually on the outstanding loan balance;
Drawdown Fee:	Paid only if the loan is drawn; a one-time fee of 0.50% on the total amount disbursed for each Eligible Event;

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 borrowing;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House, being satisfied that the Contingent Loan will significantly assist the Government of Belize in strengthening the country's fiscal resilience and capacity to respond promptly and effectively to severe or catastrophic natural disasters and public health emergencies, approve and confirm that the Government may enter into the Amendatory and Additional Financing Contract with the Inter-American Development Bank for the **Contingent Loan for Natural Disaster and Public Health Emergencies**, on the terms and conditions set out above, and further authorize the Minister of Finance to execute and deliver the said Loan Contract and all other documents associated therewith.

Cabinet's recommendation to be signified.

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

