

**REPORT ON IMPROVING THE INVESTMENT CLIMATE AND
FASTTRACKING INVESTMENT THROUGH IMPROVED PUBLIC
AWARENESS AND DEFINED TURNAROUND TIME OF PROCEDURES**

**INVESTMENT POLICY AND COMPLIANCE UNIT (IPCU)
MINISTRY OF FINANCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND
INVESTMENT
BELMOPAN
BELIZE**

2021

ANNEX 1

Meeting Date	Ministry/ Department/ Agency	Processes	Estimated Turn Around Time (World Bank Report)	Current Turn Around Time	Short-Term to Medium Term Goal
September 2, 2021	Belize Tax Services	1. Register the company for business tax 2. GST Registration	1: Registering for Business Tax: 10 days 2. Registering for GST: 17 days to register for GST	1.: Registering for Business Tax: 3 working days 2. Registering for GST: 5 working days	1. To launch an Integrated Revenue Information System (IRIS) which is geared towards improving administration governance, operational processes, and technological infrastructure. Make it mandatory for all large taxpayers to file online effective October 4, 2021. The medium, small, and micro will be phased in over a period of time.

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September 1, 2021	Belize Companies & Corporate Affairs Registry and Corporate Affairs	1. Registration 2. Company Search 3. Changes in Particulars of Business Name 4. Annual Declarations 5. Annual Returns 6. Certificate of Good Standing 7. Changes in Business Transfer of Shares 8. Registration of 9. Mortgage or Charge 10. Voluntary Dissolution 11. Restoration of Company 12. Business Name search 13. Reservation of Business Name	7-10 business days for the individual processes listed in the aforementioned column	3 business days for the individual processes listed in the aforementioned column	1. Reduce procedures from 90% manual to 50% automated 2. Increase number transactions being processed in a day from 30 to 50 per day 3. The short term goal is to digitize 18,000 company files 4. The long term goal is to digitize all company files 5. Merging of the Belize International and Corporate Affairs Registry and the Belize Companies and Corporate Affairs Registry. 6. Create a single Companies Registry by the year 2022 7. Strengthen and improve the legal framework to

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		14. Duplicate of Certificate			conduct business in Belize (local and foreign companies) 8. Offer e-services to the public and automate operations by the year 2023 9. Improve the starting a business process by 10 ranking positions by the year 2024.

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September 8, 2021	Special Branch of Belize	Due Diligence/ Background Check	n/a	1 month	<p>Seek approval from the Commissioner of Police and the Ministry of Home Affairs to request for additional information from person(s) being vetted and include additional requirements for the Due Diligence process. Additional information requested will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●What is the connecting country? ●Is it a new business? ●Has the business already been established? ●Conduct an interview to get to know more about the

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					<p>person's character.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Get a local contact for the person being vetted. ●Get 2 local references for foreign investor. ●Vet the persons around the investor(s). ●Request for a police record from the person's home country. ●Check open sources of the person on the internet.

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September 9, 2021	Central Building Authority	1. Obtaining occupancy permit 2. Obtain permit to commence building works 3. Plan review and no-objection to building permit applications 4. Site inspections 5. Review and provide no objection to reports on safety of public buildings 6. Demolition of building 7. Enforce building regulations	1. 35 days 2. Not available 3. Not available 4. 1 Day 5. Not available 6. Not available 7. Not available	1. Structures 3,000 Sq. Ft. – 6-8 days. Any other – 10-14 days 2. Not available 3. Not available 4. 1 Day 5. Not available 6. Not available 7. Not available	Establish a department that deals with Local Building Units and Municipalities to track application progress

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		8. Issue permit of moveable buildings	8. Not available	8. Not available	
September 9, 2021	Ministry of Immigration	1. Temporary Residency Permit for Investors 2. Work Permits for technicians	1. Not Available 2. 24 Hours	1. Time to process residency is 4 Weeks (Indicated by the Ministry) 2. 24 hours	Develop a recruitment process similar to the US or Canada for migrant workers to help in the citrus and banana industries.

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September 14, 2021	Ministry of E-Governance	Digitize the government services	n/a	n/a	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish a Data Policy and Data sharing framework 2. Update E-Governance policy 3. Establish a government single window that lists all the services provided by each Ministry, how the services can be accessed and all the useful information for the services provided. 4. Digitize 50 - 75 priority Government services over the next 4 years.

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September 14, 2021	Ministry of Public Utilities	<p>BEL</p> <p>1. Obtaining internal inspection and certification by PUC</p> <p>2. Submit application to BEL and await estimate</p> <p>3. Obtain external inspection by BEL</p> <p>4. Sign Supply contract, make payment and obtain external works from BEL</p> <p>5. Obtain meter installation and final connection by BEL</p> <p>BWSL</p>	<p>1. 3 calendar days</p> <p>2. 12 calendar days</p> <p>3. 1 calendar days</p> <p>4. 45 calendar days</p> <p>5. 1 calendar day</p>		<p>1. Develop a Standards and Labelling Project for Belize for the importation of equipment and electronics.</p> <p>Develop and launch a ticketing system for public transportation .</p> <p>2. Develop a Distributed Generation procurement procedure for roof top solar.</p>

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		6. Request water and sewage connection 7. Obtain site visit by the BWSL 8. Obtain water and sewage connection <u>Ministry of Public Utilities</u> 9. Grant Road Service Permit Exemption, specifically the BPOs, so long as employees are not charged to ride the bus. 10. Registration of vehicles for the transport of goods.	6. 1 day 7. 1 day 8. 27 days		

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		11. Granting of permits to transport industrial equipment.			
September 15, 2021	Department of the Environment	<p>1. Time to determine need for: Environmental Impact Assessment or Limited Level Environmental Study</p> <p>2. Environmental Compliance Plan</p>	1. Time to determine need for: Up to 14 working days	1. Time to determine need for: 14 working days	<p>1. Make legislative amendments to allow the NEAC to operate and efficiently as was originally.</p> <p>1. Establish legal and regulatory framework for radioactive waste via the Radiation and Safety and Security Act.</p> <p>2. Develop a list of hazardous waste, or e-waste that would not</p>

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					<p>qualify for Environmental Clearance due to our convention agreements.</p> <p>Develop guidelines for large scale developments so that the EIA process is well understood and remove some of the ambiguities found in the Schedules of the EIA Regulations.</p>

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September 16, 2021	Ministry of Natural Resources	1. Obtaining a lot plot 2. Conduct title search 3. Tax clearance stamped on the transfer instrument 4. Valuation of property by Valuation Department 5. Payment of Registration fees and Stamp Duties 6. Register the transfer at the Lands Registry	1. 14 days 2. 1 day 3. 8 days 4. 20 days 5. 2 days 6. 25 days	1. days 2. day 3. days 4. 20 days 5. days 6. 4 months	1. Update Landfolio software system from a 2.5 to a 7 version with the objective to simply processes. 2. Update front desk policy to improve customer service and to train staff on land registry. 3. Implement an online submission of surveys. 4. Implementation of online application for various services. 5. Digitization of Deeds books and records books for researchers to do online research.

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September 28, 2021	Mayor, San Pedro Town Council	<p>1. Trade License application and approval process</p> <p>2. Time of approval for building plans</p> <p>3. Time to register a Change of ownership by the Town/ City Council</p>	<p>1. Time to obtain a trade licence: 22 working days</p> <p>2. Time of approval for building plans: 35 days</p> <p>3. Time to register a Change of ownership by the Town/ City Council: 2 days</p>	<p>1. Time to obtain a trade licence: 2 weeks</p> <p>2. Time of approval for building plans: 2 weeks - 1 month depending on the size of the project</p> <p>3. Time to register a Change of ownership by the Town/ City Council: 2 days</p>	<p>1. Get updated maps of privately held land plots for businesses in San Pedro.</p>

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September 29, 2021	Ministry of Labour	1. Granting of work permits for specialized skilled labourers	3-4 weeks	7 working days	<p>1. Revising and reforming the trade license regime.</p> <p>2. Submit a Cabinet paper that will enable the fast-tracking and pre-approval of work permits for Incentive holders and their technical team without stepping foot in Belize.</p>

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September 30, 2021	Customs Department	1. Advance cargo manifest 2. Risk based system consignment 3. Administrative selectivity and administrative release of goods 4. Registering a DPA or FI with Customs	1. Time to process: 3-4 business days 2. Time to process: 3-4 business days 3. Time to process: 3-4 business days 4. Time to process: 1 day	1. Time to process: 3-4 business days 2. Time to process: 3-4 business days 3. Time to process: 3-4 business days 4. Time to process: 1 day	Conduct a Time Release study that will review the current processes and make policy recommendations to improve the overall turnaround time.

