

1.-(1) Belize shall be a sovereign democratic State of Central America in the Caribbean region.

(2) Belize comprises the land and sea areas defined in Schedule 1 to this Constitution, which immediately before Independence Day constituted the colony of Belize.

2. This Constitution is the supreme law of Belize and if any other law is inconsistent with this Constitution that other law shall, to the extent of the inconsistency, be void.

8867 Today. 8867 Tomorrow. 8867 Forever.



3. Whereas every person in Belize is entitled to the fundamental rights and freedoms of the individual, that

is to say, the right, whatever his race, place of origin, political opinions, colour, creed or sex, but subject to respect for the rights and freedoms of others and for the public interest, to each and all of the following, namely -

**CHARLES LESLIE JR | POLITICAL LEADER FOR BELMOPAN
- BELMOPAN PROGRESSIVE PLAN**



This progressive plan is dedicated with appreciation and reverence for:

The wisdom of the alternative movement, especially Philip Goldson, champion of Belize's post-independent alternative party movement. He warned us that an alternative party is needed because the 2 major parties are corrupt, and the time to save our country is before we lose it.



Preamble



My fellow Garden City Residents,

To build Belmopan, as your Area Representative I will focus on first building people. To build people, I will create jobs and entrepreneurship. To create jobs and entrepreneurship I will build the private sector. How do I build the private sector in Belmopan? I will focus on developing incentives, with strict enforcement, that will create a fair and level playing field which will progress towards a conducive business environment, where businesses will grow on merit, not political connections and favors. This will also assure quality.

Once you create such a conducive environment, business will grow. These business will create jobs. Jobs should be created by the private sector, not the public sector. Also, with these incentives, the private sector will be able to create quality and well paid jobs.

This is my holistic vision for Belmopan. Of course, I will work closely with the City Council and consensus will be garnered from the residents of Belmopan, whom I know are very intelligent and want to participate, but have not really gotten the full chance. That is self-evident when the current representatives did not to ask the people first if it would be a good idea to float a municipal bond. Why is this bothersome? It is bothersome, because floating a municipal bond is incurring debt. Debt has to be paid back. I will make sure you, the residents, are consulted for your input. We must all figure out how such a debt will be paid back. Are you willing to have an increase in your garbage fees? Are you willing to have trade license fees increased? Participatory Democracy is critical for a functioning and progressive capital city such as Belmopan. It may be painstaking at times, however, from personal experience, it is worth it. It creates ownership of ideas, which then transforms into reality, where it will create pride in you, the residents, for it will be a collective effort and achievement.

My name is Charles Leslie Jr. I declare my candidacy for Belmopan as a Belize Progressive Party political leader for this upcoming General Elections on November 4th, 2015. I know the time is short. It will be a challenge for me to meet everyone in Belmopan. Please feel free to call me at 610-1733, message me on Facebook www.facebook.com/CharlesForBelmopan, or email me at charleslesliejr@gmail.com, if you wish to know me better, to ask questions, and make comments and suggestions.

May God bless this beautiful Garden City. Belmopan has amazing residents, especially the young educated people that are not experiencing social justice. It is time our city reflect the residents' amazing qualities and it's full potential.

In service,

Charles Leslie Jr.

Belize Progressive Party

Political Leader

Belmopan Constituency

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What is an SEC (Special Economic Zone)?

Designating all of Belmopan an SEZ (Special Economic Zone) will allow us to create specific business, trade laws and investment incentives that would differ from the rest of the country. This would allow us to aim our SEZ to include, as is deemed mutually beneficial for Belmopan and investors: increased trade, increased investment, job creation and effective administration, which will encourage businesses to set up in the zone. Some of the policies and incentives that will be designed will be geared towards investing, taxation, trading, quotas, customs and labour regulations. Additionally, we may offer reasonable tax holidays or tax reductions.

Our SEZ will be designed to attract foreign direct investment (FDI). By being in our SEZ, investors will benefit by being able to produce and trade goods at a globally competitive price.

Vision:

Transforming the Capital City of Belmopan into a mecca for local and foreign investors, where we will have the most democratically managed, progress-oriented and economically viable constituency on mainland Belize by declaring Belmopan a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) where conducive investment incentives will be designed to attract the type of investment we need and want.

Mission:

To development our Capital City into the exemplary participatory democratic community it should be, and will rival any other in modern participatory democratic system whereby the elected representative serves simply as a leader who is directing and implementing the wishes of the people they represent rather than making or imposing arbitrary decisions.

Brief History Of Belmopan

After Hurricane Hattie in 1962 destroyed approximately 75% of the houses and business places in low-lying and coastal Belize City, the government proposed to encourage and promote the building of a new capital city. This new capital would be on better terrain, would entail no costly reclamation of land, and would provide for an industrial area. In 1962, a committee chose the site now known as Belmopan, 51 miles west of the old capital of Belize City.

Work began in 1967. That is 48 years ago, and Belmopan the capital city of Belize is yet to realize its true potential, especially when it comes to developing its industrial area.

Restoring The Belmopan Dream:

Building the Economy and Creating Jobs by declaring Belmopan a Special Economic Zone (SEC)

1. Acknowledging With What We Have To Work

The world functions in a monetary based economic system. It takes money to do everything. Therefore, before we can address any of the issues affecting our capital city, we must first identify and solidify how we will generate the revenues that will be needed, without putting the city and its residents into further debt, and also avoid increasing the cost of living of the residents.

2. Declaring Belmopan an SEC (Special Economic Zone)

With the participation of skilled technocrats who will be advising myself and the Belize Progressive Party, and in participation with the Belmopan City Council, we will design mutually beneficial incentives to attract investment for industrialization and production. Each constituency will be addressed in the same strategic manner so that each work, and fit together, as well as complement each other as cogs in a well designed and oiled machine, do .

Do not forget, that the PUP and UDP councils and area representatives have had 48 years (34 years post-independence) and have been unable to cater to the business community, local and foreign, to give them something for which it is worth investing in Belmopan.

3. Revenue Windfall from the Economic Externalities of an SEC - Everything is connected

A. Health

If people are unhealthy, they will find it difficult to do much else. As the Area Representative and political leader for Belmopan, I will work with our Belize Progressive Party, so that we can make sure that the health system for Belmopan is upgraded and updated to handle the capacity as it is today, as well as to plan for the next 50 years of growth. Key items we will focus on is: providing free healthcare, free care for pregnant mothers where financial resources will be made available to assist them while they are developing a future Belizean in their bodies (this will be in conjunction with whatever pay they will receive from their employers), increased investment for our elderly, providing them with all the health service they need for free (our elderly are walking libraries, we have to protect their valuable knowledge, we will get as much of them on a Council of Elders so that we can record their valuable knowledge.)

B. Education

By committing to creating the conducive investment environment that will give us the resources so that we can make sure no child is left behind.

Belmopan is home to the national university's - University Of Belize (UB) - main campus. In 2011 UB was the

home to a clean energy solar project. The MOU stipulated that the power generated by the PV system will be sold to Belize Electricity Limited (BEL) and the gross proceeds from such sales will be transferred by way of a grant to UB. Also, GOB will transfer the ownership and management of the PV system after a period of ten years to UB free of cost. I will work with UB to expand this initiative city wide. Belmopan can and will be the green energy epicenter. Also, the BPP will expedite the net energy metering initiative, to be rolled out in Belmopan and then nationwide.

We will certainly be focused on working with UB in many other innovating projects.

C. Jobs! Jobs! Jobs!

Previous administrations haven't done much to create quality jobs. Lack of quality jobs is directly linked to crime and thus a security risk for all residents of Belmopan.

Declaring Belmopan an SEC with carefully crafted investor incentives, we will attract the type of investors we want, and these investments will rocket propel development in the area, and thus creating a significant amount of jobs for unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled workers, thus giving everyone the opportunity to find long-term employment, in an environment that will allow them to move from unskilled thru semi-skilled to skilled.

D. Public Safety and Crime

It has long been proven that crime is directly related to unemployment. Once we increase the employment rate, which will happen expeditiously after declaring Belmopan an SEC, we will have a natural decrease in crime. However, this does not mean we will reduce the size of the police force, on the contrary, we will make sure that our police officers get better equipped, trained and paid, so that we can be pro-active when it comes to crime and not re-active.

E. Housing Program

Declaring Belmopan an SEC will translate into more residents making more money and being able to afford to build their own homes, it will also translate into more people moving to Belmopan to find better jobs, and thus will need housing. We will identify land for short, medium and long term future expansion. Each housing expansion will be properly planned and developed with all necessary infrastructure first and foremost i.e. proper roads, drainage, utilities, and all necessary civic organizations.

F. Current Housing Rentals

We will also make sure that all current housing rentals are held to strict regulations, especially those that are rented to students. We want our students to be able to learn while living in affordable and comfortable dwellings, on par with international housing standards.

G. Sports

Fortunately, there are several projects taking place with our sporting facilities, unfortunately, they are being done via debt. With the revenues flowing into the coffers from investors and development due to Belmopan being declared an SEC, we will be able to expand to all areas of Belmopan, without further debt burden. We will promote traditional and non-traditional sports to be available to students and the community at large. We will have year round competitions within Belmopan and at the national and international level.

Maintenance: We will be able to afford to also maintain and continue to improve our sporting facilities to attract international sporting events, again, without further debt burden.

H. Utility Sustainability

Currently Belize as a nation produces only .02% alternative energy. Haiti produces more energy than us.

We will develop an alternative energy program for Belmopan, as pointed out with the University of Belize. To start with, the BPP will introduce a net energy metering initiative in conjunction with our state-owned BEL, which will allow and make it feasible for homeowners and the industrial park to install solar and other alternative energy systems. All taxes and duties will be exempted so that it is affordable and subsidized by the City and Central Government, so that we can provide cheap, renewable energy for homes as well as businesses.

In other words, we will fully support green programs and renewable energy.

I. Property Taxes, Trade & Liquor License

On September 16, 2015 Mayor of Belmopan, Khalid Belisle, informed Love FM that “We do have some three point one million dollars outstanding in property fees only in the City of Belmopan. We are now aggressively pursuing the collection of those arrears.”

There are 3 contributing factors as to why people may not be paying their property taxes:

1. Depressed local and national economy.
2. Cronyism.
3. Lost of respect and confidence in the municipal and constituency government representation.

We will with the City Council to make sure that our tax system is fair, equitable and transparent.

We will work with the City Council to develop an open book transparency policy to the public, whereby they can have access to view how taxes are being utilized.

This will help to rebuild the trust of property tax payers, and encourage them, in an amiable way, to pay their taxes, instead of the coercion tactic that is being used. I remind all property owners that this must be a mutual

respect, I kindly note that the taxes are necessary for the proper operation of our capital city.

We will work with the City Council to update and make fair our Trade License schedule.

We will work with the City Council, with the input from the residents, to make sure that Liquor License will only be issued to establishments that fall within the commercial zones. Bars/nightclubs in residential area will not be supported. This goes against proper zoning, and noise pollution is one of the most harmful pollution that has been identified across the world. Current bars/nightclubs in residential zones will be removed and assisted to be relocated in the commercial zones

J. Sewer Infrastructure

Sewer infrastructure will be expanded to include all existing and new construction. We will recycle black water and use solid waste for gardening and clean land fill in low lying areas and where necessary.

K. Traffic and Infrastructure

We will develop and implement conditions to reduce traffic congestion and speeding, and create safer conditions for pedestrians and drivers alike.

Complete the debt-funded project of the current Area Representative. We will stay true to developing Belmopan as a safe, pedestrian –friendly city, where all the necessary internationally utilized systems are implemented, both for pedestrians and vehicular traffic, all paid for by revenues generated from the SEC initiative and not debt.

Development standards and specifications for motor vehicle size and usage.

Ensure that our streets and infrastructure are up to international standards to meet for safe pedestrians and vehicles use.

Most of all, transparent tendering process for infrastructure projects to ensuring value for money.

L. Family Life

Belmopan lacks a soul. There is no central area. We will create unique investment incentives for the triangulated area between Social Security, Civic Center, Belmopan Comprehensive School and Governor General field. We will turn it into a special area for activities, sports and shopping. We will issue 15 year leases for public land, and allow businesses to build as part of an overall plan. An affordable monthly rental fee will be charged for upkeep.

M. Arts and Culture

Why reinvent the wheel when we can improve it. We will work with NICHE to turn the current compound into a state of the art museum. Belmopan is the capital city and is geographically centrally located; what better location

to have such an institution to showcase all the joys and wonders of our beautiful Belize.

From this location we will support, preserve and develop our diverse ethnic cultures, customs and arts.

Also, support art for all ages through workshops, festivals in cuisine, clothing, traditions and customs.

N. Garbage Collection & Recycling

We will immediately implement a garbage recycling system.

We will recycle all organic material (tree limbs etc) and turn it into mulch and sell it to farmers at an affordable rate, this revenue stream will then be used to immediately reduce the cost of garbage collection rate for all residents.

A plastic recycling system will be identified and implemented.

O. Tourism

Belmopan, the capital city of Belize has many fantastic services and tourist attraction in the city and surrounding areas. Belmopan is an amazing destination to develop as a bonafide tourist destination.

There are many hotels and resorts; restaurants and eateries offering rich Belizean, ethnic and international cuisines; and the city is centrally located to many of the most popular tourist attractions in Belize, such as the world famous Nohoch Che'en Caves Branch Reserve, the St. Herman's Blue Hole National Park and the Guanacaste National Park, to name a few.

Making it easy for visitors to find out what to do in Belmopan, such as where to eat, where to stay and where to go, will be one of our main priorities, for this will bring more foreign currency into the city and create even more jobs and development. To start this initiative, we will, in conjunction with the City Council, BTIA and BTB, establish an official Tourism Center for visitors.

**THIS PROGRESSIVE PLAN WAS DESIGNED BY CHARLES LESLIE JR. - POLITICAL LEADER FOR BELMOPAN -
AND RATIFIED BY THE EXECUTIVE OF THE BELIZE PROGRESSIVE PARTY**

I take this opportunity to thank everyone for taking the time out to review my and the Belize Progressive Party's Belmopan Progressive Plan. This is a doable and accomplishable plan. We can create a robust capital city with the revenues necessary to take care of and keep updating, improving and upgrading the city and especially the lives and livelihood of all residents, without having to place ourselves in further debt, by immediately declaring Belmopan a Special Economic Zone (SEC). Last, but certainly not least, every single initiative, incentive and plan will be in conjunction with the City Council and presented to the residents in detail, and nothing will happen without the ratification and blessings of the residents of Belmopan. NOTE: this document is not exhaustive and is considered a living Belmopan Progressive Plan.



BELIZE
PROGRESSIVE PARTY
8867

BUILD PEOPLE
=
BUILD A NATION
=
REAL PROGRESS

CHARLES LESLIE JR. ✓

For
BELMOPAN
8867 today | 8867 tomorrow | 8867 forever

Greetings business owners of Belmopan,

To make good on my promise to stimulate the local economy, instead of t-shirts, banners, brochures etc... for my campaign, I have opted to print redeemable business cards.

During election time thousands of flyers and brochures are made. Most of which ends up in a trash can. I asked myself - why not do something different? Something that would, in a sense, recycle these pieces of paper and benefit everyone in the community - businesses and residents?

Therefore I take this opportunity to ask you, the business community, to participate in this collective stimulus initiative by making each one of my business cards redeemable at your place of business for whatever you wish. It could be a percentage discount on a service, product, meal, a free drink... Whatever you wish. You give me nothing, you lose nothing, the customer gains value for money, and your business get free marketing and an influx of clients shopping at your place of business.

Each business whom wish to participate in this stimulus initiative, simply need fill out the form below, or email me at charleslesliejr@gmail.com or call me at 610-1733 with the offer for which you would like to have the card redeemable at your place of business. Each business will be listed on my Facebook page at www.facebook.com/CharlesforBelmopan and www.travelbelmopan.org (a special button will be placed on the Home page and navigation for easy identification.)

Let's grow Belmopan together.

<http://tinyurl.com/StimulateBelmopan>