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PRESS RELEASE

Ministry of Transportation Introduces First Electric Buses to National Highway

Belmopan, August 21, 2025.

The Ministry of Transportation yesterday signed an agreement with Westline Bus Company Ltd., launching a milestone initiative to introduce Belize's first three electric buses to the national highways.

This historic step continues the transformation of public transportation, prioritizing commuters with safer, cleaner, and more efficient travel for families, workers, and students across the country. Guided by Plan Belize, the Government is delivering real change that supports sustainable human development.

With the support of the European Union and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), this initiative lays the foundation for a stronger, more modern highway transport system that will further reduce Belize's carbon footprint and better connect communities utilizing renewable energy.

The process and timeline for the selection of Westline Bus Company Ltd., the successful bidder, is outlined below.

Overview of the Process:

- **August 26, 2024:** The first Expression of Interest (EOI) was launched and widely shared via social media, national news outlets, and radio stations. A video was also produced and publicized to explain the bidding process to operators. The EOI was formally shared with the Belize Bus Association (BBA) President for distribution to members. While the expected closure date was September 11, 2024, an extension was granted due to low interest and to reach more operators. The deadline was extended for an additional two weeks with a closure date of September 30, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.
- **September 2, 2024:** A letter was sent to all bus operators to attend a meeting to discuss the EOI, ticketing proposal, road service permits, bus inspection upgrades, and issues with bus terminals. A total of thirty-one bus operators attended the meeting, which was held at the Department of Transport conference room.
- **October 9, 2024:** A pre-bidding meeting was held with seven interested operators to provide details on the bidding process, its requirements, and to clarify any questions. Minutes from this meeting are available. The interested parties were informed that completed proposals were due November 15, 2024.

- **November 15, 2024:** The Ministry received three bids. However, none were deemed satisfactory following evaluation.
- **March 18, 2025:** The EOI was relaunched and published on official Government platforms. Copies were also shared directly with the BBA President, and Ministry officials followed up with individual operators to confirm receipt. A total of seven operators expressed interest via email.
- **April 4, 2025:** A pre-bid meeting was held with seven interested parties to provide additional guidance and clarification.
- **April 30, 2025:** The Ministry received four bids before the submission deadline.
- **May 12, 2025:** An evaluation committee reviewed the bids using the published criteria.
- **July 2, 2025:** Westline Bus Company Ltd. achieved the highest overall score in both technical and financial assessments and was recommended for the award of the management contract.
- **August 20, 2025:** Official signing of the management agreement between Westline Bus Company Ltd. and the Ministry of Transportation.

The evaluation committee comprised technical officials from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Ministry of Public Utilities, Energy, and Logistics, the Public-Private Partnership Unit (PPPU), and the Ministry of Transportation.

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