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PRESS RELEASE

Prime Minister Convenes Special Cabinet Meeting on Procurement Best Practices and Legislative Compliance

Belmopan, July 8, 2026.

Prime Minister, Honourable John Briceño, chaired a special meeting of the Cabinet on Tuesday, July 7, 2026, attended by all Ministers and their respective Chief Executive Officers. The dedicated session featured in-depth presentations from the Financial Secretary, the Contractor General, and the Auditor General on procurement best practices, followed by comprehensive discussions on the legislative framework governing public procurement.

The gathering of the full Cabinet, alongside the administrative heads and accounting officers of every ministry, underscores the Administration's firm commitment to strengthening governance, enhancing transparency, and ensuring strict adherence to the country's procurement laws.

During the session, the Financial Secretary outlined the fiscal and economic imperatives for efficient public procurement, while the Contractor General presented on national best practices, common irregularities, and practical steps to achieve value for money. The Auditor General provided an evidence-based review of recurring audit findings and highlighted opportunities to tighten internal controls across all government entities.

Prime Minister Briceño described the meeting as a critical component of the government's ongoing public sector transformation agenda.

The discussions centred on the key provisions of the Finance and Audit Reform Act (FARA), the Stores Orders and their accompanying regulations. Cabinet members and Chief Executive Officers engaged in candid dialogue on improving compliance, streamlining approval processes, and eliminating bureaucratic delays that can lead to cost overruns or procedural breaches.

Among the immediate outcomes of the meeting was a directive by the Prime Minister for the Ministries of Finance and the Public Service to

collaborate with the Offices of the Contractor General and the Auditor General to design a mandatory, continuous professional development programme on procurement procedures for all Ministers, CEOs, Financial Officers, and senior procurement officers. Additionally, a technical working group will be established to review and recommend any necessary legislative amendments to strengthen the procurement regime against malpractices.

The Office of the Prime Minister reaffirms that similar high-level oversight sessions will continue across the public service to foster a culture of responsible decision-making, continuous improvement, and effective service delivery.

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