



BELIZE

**BELIZE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
AND INDUSTRY ACT
CHAPTER 308**

**REVISED EDITION 2011
SHOWING THE SUBSTANTIVE LAWS AS AT 31ST
DECEMBER, 2011**

This is a revised edition of the Substantive Laws, prepared by the Law Revision Commissioner under the authority of the Law Revision Act, Chapter 3 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2011.

CHAPTER 308

**BELIZE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
AND INDUSTRY**

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Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

CHAPTER 308

**BELIZE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
AND INDUSTRY**

21 of 2000.

[29th August, 2000]

Short title.

1. This Act may be cited as the Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry Act.

Interpretation.

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,

“the Chamber” means the Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry established under section 3 of this Act;

“Constitution” means the Constitution of the Chamber as set out in the Schedule to this Act;

“Government” means the Government of Belize;

“member” means a member of the Chamber;

“Secretary” means the Secretary of the Chamber.

Establishment of the Chamber.

3.—(1) There shall be established a body to be called “the Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry” which shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal, having capacity to purchase, take, hold and dispose of land and other property of whatever kind, to enter into contracts, to sue and be sued in the said name and to do all things necessary for the purposes of this Act.

(2) The persons who were members of the Chamber immediately before the commencement of this Act, and such persons as shall thereafter from time to time be duly admitted members thereof, shall comprise the membership of the Chamber.

4. Legal proceedings for and on behalf of the Chamber may be brought by the Secretary for the time being, and, in any legal proceedings against the Chamber, service of process on the Secretary shall be sufficient service.

Legal proceedings for and against the Chamber.

5.-(1) The Chamber shall be governed by its Constitution and rules set out in the Schedule to this Act, which Schedule shall be read and construed as an integral part of this Act.

Chamber to be governed by its Constitution.

(2) The Chamber may from time to time amend the Schedule by Order made by statutory instrument and published in the *Gazette*.

6.-(1) The objectives of the Chamber shall be,

Objectives and goals of Chamber.

- (a) to foster the economic growth and social well-being of Belize through the free-enterprise system at all levels by promoting and protecting both nationally and internationally, commerce, all sectors of industry and agriculture, including agri-business, tourism and manufacturing, the professions and the trades;
- (b) to continuously strive to enhance the Chamber's ability to better serve its members whilst operating as a self-sustaining non-profit, non-political organization.

(2) The goals of the Chamber shall be,

- (a) to encourage, enhance and promote an investment climate which is favourable to both local and foreign investors;
- (b) to continuously work towards the strengthening of the partnership between the public and private sectors, and the growth of private enterprise;
- (c) to promote and encourage commercial ventures and capital investment;

- (d) to promote the development of services, agriculture, tourism, fishing, forestry, industry, aquaculture, manufacturing and other related fields;
- (e) to undertake, promote and facilitate economic and financial studies as a guide to investment;
- (f) to consider, discuss and take action on questions directly or indirectly relating to or affecting commerce and industry generally, including promoting, supporting or lawfully opposing legislative or other concerns affecting the entire country;
- (g) to collect and distribute statistical and other information relating to commercial services, and the business, tourism, and manufacturing sectors, including the professions and the trades in Belize;
- (h) to foster and encourage co-operation among private, financial and non-governmental organizations in the development and use of their human resources to strengthen and improve the economic development of Belize;
- (i) to promote the development of export-oriented businesses so as to increase foreign earnings and aid growth;
- (j) to actively promote Belize abroad as an ideal country for foreign investment and a popular destination for tourists;
- (k) to promote and support the cultural and scientific advancement of Belize with due regard to the protection of the environment and the preservation and promotion of Belize's cultural heritage;

- (l) to liaise closely with the Government on matters of national importance and interest;
- (m) to promote and foster the tri-partite relationship with Government, Employers and Labour through active participation in and contribution to relevant representative organizations and bodies nationally and internationally.

(3) The objectives and goals of the Chamber shall also include any other objective or purpose which may from time to time be included in the Constitution of the Chamber.

7. In carrying out any of its goals and objectives, the Chamber may exercise all or any of the following powers,

Powers of the Chamber.

- (a) providing assistance to businesses;
- (b) guaranteeing loans;
- (c) making funds available by borrowing from sources either in Belize or abroad and giving security for any loans obtained;
- (d) opening and operating bank accounts;
- (e) furnishing managerial, technical, and administrative services for enterprises in Belize;
- (f) investing funds and reserves of the Chamber in securities which may be determined by the Chamber;
- (g) acquiring, holding, taking or giving, on lease or hire, any immovable or movable property;
- (h) mortgaging, pledging and selling or otherwise disposing of, any immovable or movable property;

- (i) drawing, accepting or endorsing bills of exchange for the purposes of the affairs of the Chamber;
- (j) giving any guarantee or indemnity to, and entering into, any arrangements with, the Government, any local authority, body corporate or other person, in order to obtain any rights, concessions, and privileges which any be conducive to the attainment of any of the objectives of the Chamber;
- (k) making appropriate provision for the welfare of employees and former employees of the Chamber; and
- (l) doing any other thing which may be incidental or conducive to the carrying out of the Chamber's goals and objectives.

Establishment
of divisions and
chapters.

8.—(1) The Chamber may establish itself into such divisions as may be necessary for the expedient and effective carrying out of its goals and objectives.

(2) The Chamber may, with the approval of the general membership, establish chapters throughout Belize.

Repeals.

9. The Chamber of Commerce Act, Ch. 96 R.L.1958 is hereby repealed.

SCHEDULE

BELIZE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY ACT
Constitution and Rules of the
Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry
[Sections 2 and 5]

Article I

SECTION A

Name

The name of the organization shall be “The Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry”.

SECTION B

Division

The following are divisions of the Chamber,

1. The Trade Monitoring Unit (TMU).
2. The Product Marketing Division (PMD).

Article II

SECTION A

Objectives

1. To foster the economic growth and social well-being of Belize through the free-enterprise system at all levels, by promoting and protecting both nationally and internationally, commerce, all sectors of industry and agriculture, which include agri-business, tourism and manufacturing, services, the professions and trades.

2. To continuously strive to enhance the Chamber's ability to better serve its members whilst operating as a self-sustaining, non-profit, non-political organization.

SECTION B

Goals

1. To encourage, enhance and promote an investment climate which is favourable to both local and foreign investors.
2. To continuously work towards the strengthening of the partnership between the public and private sectors, and the growth of private enterprise.
3. To promote and encourage commercial ventures and capital investments.
4. To promote the development of services, agriculture, tourism, fishing, forestry industry, aquaculture, manufacturing and other related fields.
5. To undertake, promote and facilitate economic and financial studies as a guide to investment.
6. To consider, discuss and take action on questions directly or indirectly relating to or affecting commerce and industry generally, including promoting, supporting or lawfully opposing legislative or other concerns affecting the entire country.
7. To collect and distribute statistical and other information relating to commerce, services, all sectors of industry which include agri-business, tourism and manufacturing, the professions and the trades in Belize.
8. To foster and encourage cooperation among private financial and non-governmental organizations in the development and use of their human resources to strengthen and improve the economic development of the country.
9. To promote the development of exports so as to increase foreign earnings and aid growth.

10. To actively promote Belize abroad as an ideal country for foreign investment and a popular destination for tourists.

11. To promote and support the cultural and scientific advancement of the country with due regard to the protection of the environment and the preservation and promotion of the promotion of the country’s cultural heritage.

12. To liaise closely with the Government on matters of national importance and interest.

13. To promote and foster the tri-partite relationship with Government, Employers and Labour through the active participation in and contribution to the relevant representative organizations and bodies nationally and internationally.

Article III

The Executive Council

The Executive Council shall comprise of the following,

- President)
- Vice President (Commerce))
- Vice President (Services))
- Vice President (Industry)) OFFICERS
- Treasurer)
- Secretary)
- Immediate Past President)
- Five councillors)

The officers will hold office for one term (a term being the period from the date of the Annual General Meeting at which they were selected to the date of the second subsequent of the Annual General Meeting). They will be eligible to offer themselves to serve again in an officer position at the time of the next nomination for officer positions.

Except in the case of the President who will not be eligible to offer himself/herself to serve again in any other position on the new Council but shall become the holder of the Past President office on the Council.

The councillors will hold office for a period of one term and will be eligible for re-election.

Candidates for officer position will be selected and nominated by a Nominating Committee and will be ratified on at the next Annual General Meeting following the end of the term of the Executive Council.

Candidates for councillor position will be selected and nominated by a Nominating Committee and will be individually elected at the next Annual General Meeting following the end of the term of the Executive Council. Provided that, (10) ten candidates shall be nominated from which the five nominees receiving the highest votes shall be duly elected to the Council.

Officer and members of previous Councils shall be eligible for nomination after the end of this term provided that the candidate for President should not have held the position of President in any previous Council.

However, any Past President shall be eligible for nomination to a position as councillor but not as officer at the expiration of his/her term as Past President on the Council.

Candidates for councillors should be representative of the various economic sectors and should reflect a country-wide pool of representation.

Members may submit names of candidates, for election to the Executive Council, to the Nominating Committee, provided that such candidate has the support of ten financial members. Submissions must list the names

of the supporting members, provided that no submission may be made of candidates to officer positions from persons who have not served previously as councillors.

Nominations should safeguard the principle of ensuring the widest membership representation on the Council. This is the responsibility of the Nominating Committee.

The Nominating Committee will ensure that the principle of continuity is pre-served in all their deliberations when nominating replacements on the Council.

The name of candidates to councillor will be circulated to the general membership following a procedure of nominating twice the number of persons in relation to the number of places to be filled.

Where names have been submitted to the Nominating Committee under the above-mentioned procedure, such names, together with the names, of candidates proposed by the Nominating Committee, will be subject to voting by the membership at the Annual General Meeting.

Article IV

Chamber Committees

Appointment and Authority

Although the policy-setting authority is the Executive Council, the various activities and programmes of the Chamber will be carried out using Standing and Ad-Hoc Committees

SECTION A

Standing Committees

There shall be 10 Standing Committees as follows,

1. Nominating Committee.
2. Membership Development and Services Committee.
3. Business Development Committee.
4. Export/Import Committee.
5. Public Affairs/Government Relations Committee.
6. Finance Committee.
7. Community Services Committee.
8. Employers and Labour Relations Committee.
9. Management Committee.
10. Past Presidents Committee,

(i) The President with the approval of the Executive Council, shall appoint all Committee Chairpersons, save and except the Chairperson of the Management Committee who shall be the President.

(ii) Committee appointments shall be at the will and pleasure of the President and shall serve concurrent with the term of the appointing President unless a different term is approved by the Executive Council, save and except the Past

Presidents Committee which is a permanent Standing Committee the membership of which is regulated as hereinafter stated.

- (iii) Committees shall, where practicable, comprise at least one member of the Executive Council and members drawn from the Chamber's general membership. Members of the Chamber's executive staff may be appointed to serve as *ex officio* Committee members. Provided that the Management Committee shall comprise only officers of the executive and the immediate Past President and the Finance Committee shall comprise the Treasurer as Chairperson and the General Manager and Accountant as *ex officio* members.
- (iv) The Chairperson of the Committee, with the sanction of the Council, can expand that Committee by inviting other specialist persons not members of the Chamber to act as resource persons.
- (v) It shall be the function of Committees to make investigations, conduct studies and hearings, make recommendations to the Executive Council and to carry on such activities as may be delegated to them by the Council.

SECTION 1

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the Executive Council and will be drawn from the general membership. The Committee shall be comprised of three members.

The Nominating Committee shall be responsible for the nomination of the six officer positions and 10 candidates from which 5 will be elected to councillor positions.

The Nominating Committee shall present to the general membership no later than 21 days before the Annual General Meeting a list of the nominees for officer positions and a list of twice the number of candidates for councillor positions. Such candidates will be proposed to serve for the term of the Council and must be a financial member in good standing and must have agreed to accept the responsibility.

The Nominating Committee will accept write-in nominations submitted to it no later than 7 days before the Annual General Meeting.

The Nominating Committee will, at the end of the term of the Council, recommend replacement for the 6 officer positions. Such suggested replacements to be drawn from the existing officers and the complement of councillors.

Ad-Hoc Committees shall be discharged by the President when their work has been completed and their reports accepted or when, in the opinion of the Executive Council, it is deemed wise to discontinue the Committees.

SECTION 2

Membership Development and Services Committee

This Committee will be comprised of 5 members appointed in accordance with appointment procedures in Article IV, Section A (i) and (ii) and shall have responsibility,

1. to review the criteria for membership contribution and recommend modifications for ratification by the Executive Council;
2. to continuously review services offered to members;
3. to give guidance to the established staff in membership development.

SECTION 3

Business Development Committee

This Committee will be comprised of 5 members appointed in accordance with appointment procedures in Article IV Section A (i) and (ii) and shall have responsibility,

1. To promote business development both for the domestic and international markets in the traditional and non-traditional sectors of the economy, encourage the effort of aquaculture, industrial and manufactured products as well as services and the development of other industries such as tourism and offshore financial services;
2. To facilitate the execution of 1 above, the Chamber shall establish associations to be comprised of groupings from its membership with common interest and direction.

These associations may include but shall not be limited to,

Association of,

- (a) Importers.
- (b) Exporters.
- (c) Manufacturers and Producers.
- (d) Auto Dealers/Distributors.
- (e) Agri-business.
- (f) Agricultural Producers.
- (g) Small Business Enterprises.
- (h) Accountants.
- (i) Attorneys.
- (j) Bankers.
- (k) Engineers.
- (l) Insurance.
- (m) Financial Service Providers.
- (n) Office Communications/Computers.
- (o) Airline Services.
- (p) Brokers.
- (q) Computer (Electronic) Service Providers.
- (r) Furniture Manufacturers.
- (s) Publishers.
- (t) Employment and Training Services.
- (u) Environmental Firms.
- (v) Hoteliers.
- (w) Tour Operators.
- (x) Transportation.
- (y) Real Estate.
- (z) Trust Investment Advisors.
- (aa) Petroleum.
- (bb) Food and Beverage.

3. Associations will be constituted similar to Chamber Committees. However, an Association's membership will include all members of the Chamber concerned with the particular interest of such Association.

4. The Chairperson of the Association shall be appointed by the Chairperson of the Business Development Committee on the advice and agreement of the members of the Association.

5. The Chairperson of the Association or the Chairperson of the Business Development Committee or any three members of the Association may call a meeting of the Association at a place and time in accordance with the regulations set out in the Schedule hereafter.

6. The functions of the Associations will be to,

- (a) sensitize and keep the Executive Council of Chamber advised and appraised through the Business Development Committee of developments within the Association through regular reports by the Chairperson;
- (b) support the Executive Council in its lobbying efforts on their behalf with Government and other institutions;
- (c) create a focused forum for the exchange of information between Chamber Executive and the Association and its members;
- (d) liaise, coordinate and communicate through the Chamber with other similar Associations internationally;
- (e) create a dedicated environment for statistical and other data to facilitate the development of strategies for improved efficiencies and increased competitiveness within the Association's related sector.

SECTION 4

Export/Import Committee

This Committee will be comprised of 5 members appointed in accordance with appointment procedures in Article IV Section A (i) and (ii).

The functions of this Committee shall be to,

1. actively influence Government's decisions on tariffs and duties as they relate to commerce and industry;
2. actively address problems hampering the orderly and timely importation and exportation of goods and services into Belize.

SECTION 5

Public Affairs/Government-Relations Committee

This Committee will be comprised of 5 members appointed in accordance with appointment procedures in Article IV Section A (i) and (ii).

The functions of this Committee shall be to address issues relating to the economic development and the business climate of the country.

SECTION 6

Finance Committee

This Committee will be comprised of 5 members appointed in accordance with appointment procedures in Article IV Section A (i), (ii) and (iii).

The functions of this Committee shall be to,

1. review the annual budget and ensure that it is presented to the Executive Council for adoption no later than one calendar month following the end of the accounting period. Such Budget when adopted shall form the basis for all appropriations with respect to the Chamber's finances. It shall be the responsibility of the management to ensure that all appropriations are in accordance with the approved budget and any significant deviation must be notified to and sanctioned by the Executive Council. Any such misappropriation or deviation shall form the basis for disciplinary action against such responsible personnel;

2. ensure that monthly statements in accordance with the approved budget are presented to the Executive Council;
3. ensure that the General Manager has put in place adequate systems to safeguard the organization's assets and finances;
4. ensure that there are sufficient funds to run the organization and to take such steps as are necessary to ensure continued viability;
5. ensure that proper audit is done of the finances and operations of the Chamber.

SECTION 7

Community Services Committee

This Committee will be comprised of 3 members appointed in accordance with appointment in Article IV Section A (i) and (ii).

The functions of this Committee shall be to address issues and implement programmes relating to social community concerns.

SECTION 8

Employers and Labour Relations Committee

This Committee will be comprised of 5 members appointed in accordance with appointment procedures in Article IV Section A (i) and (ii).

The functions of this Committee will be to,

1. monitor the work of the tri-partite relationship with Government, Employers and Labour,

2. represent the Chamber through a member on the Labour Advisory Board;
3. represent the Chamber through a member on the Community Services Committee;
4. participate and report to the Executive Council on all developments with respect to Employers/Labour relations which may impact on business, whether these be local or international;
5. to organize and propose for all conferences, seminars, etc., whether local or international, which the Chamber may from time to time sponsor or be required to participate in;
6. promote the fullest co-operation between partners in the community;
7. work towards matching job opportunities with skills availability;
8. assist in human resources development ensuring emphasis is placed in the right areas to ensure balanced community development.

SECTION 9

The Management Committee

This Committee will be constituted as provided for in Article IV Section A (i), (ii) and (iii).

The functions of this Committee will be to,

1. provide general directions to the management on the daily running of the Chamber's operations;
2. act as a consultative body for the management on matters of urgent or special importance;

3. recommend personnel and employment policies for all employees of the Chamber to the Executive Council and recommend disciplinary action where necessary;
4. liaise with and receive reports from Chairpersons of other Committees for presentation to the Executive Council;
5. liaise with local media so as to stimulate public awareness of the issues as they relate to economic and social development and to motivate public support for these issues.

SECTION 10

Past Presidents Committee

This Committee will be constituted as provided for in Article IV Section (A) and shall be comprised of (3) three Past Presidents, including the immediate Past President and the (2) two previous predecessors.

The functions of this Committee shall be to,

1. govern and have oversight functions over the Trade Monitoring Unit;
2. act as an Advisory Body to the incumbent President and the Executive Council;
3. form part of the Trustee Body in the Board of Trustees;
4. represent the Chamber and deputize for the Executive Council both nationally and internationally when requested by the incumbent President on the advice of the Executive Council.

SECTION B

Ad-Hoc Committees

The President may appoint such Ad-Hoc Committees and their Chairpersons as may be deemed necessary to carry out the programmes of the Chamber. Committee appointments shall be at the will and pleasure of the President and shall serve a maximum term concurrent with the term of the appointing President.

SECTION C

Limitation of Authority

No action by any Committee or any Executive Council member shall be binding upon, or constitute an expression of the policy of the Chamber until it shall have been approved or ratified by the Executive Council.

*Article V**Divisions*

SECTION A

The Trade Monitoring Unit (TMU)

This Division will be governed by a TMU Committee composed of members of the Past Presidents Committee and the incumbent President of the Executive Council.

The Chairperson of the Committee will be the Chairperson of the Past Presidents Committee.

There shall be an Executive Officer and staff who shall be responsible for the day to day operations of the Unit.

The Executive Officer shall report to the Committee and shall attend all Committee meetings.

The Committee shall be responsible to the Executive Council of the Chamber that shall determine its direction, including the approval of the Unit's budget.

The functions of the Unit shall be determined by the Committee and shall include but shall not be limited to,

1. monitoring and reviewing the various trade agreements to which Belize is a signatory;
2. monitoring and reviewing the performance of Belize business in these special markets;
3. representing through a member, the Chamber in all seminars, conferences and fairs relating to trade to which the Chamber commits;
4. participating in, as Chamber's private sector representative, all trade negotiations in which the private sector is involved;
5. representing the Chamber on all trade and investment organizations such as (BELTRAID) Belize Trade and Investment Development Service;
6. keeping relevant trade statistics on movement of Belizean products in and out of the country and the movement of products into the country from special and other markets;
7. updating and sensitizing members on trade regulations relevant to their products, including all aspects of trade protocols and disseminating relevant trade information to members;
8. liaising with relevant public sector officials regarding changes and updates in policies and practices in the field of trade, investment, services, etc;

9. advocating on behalf of members through the relevant mechanism the settlement of trade disputes;
10. making representations to the Government on behalf of the business community on policy matters relating to commerce, trade and the development of infrastructure and services relevant to these sectors;
11. promoting high-level public/private sectors, inbound/out-bound trade missions.

SECTION B

Product Marketing Division (PMD)

This Division will be governed by a Product Marketing Technical Support Committee. This Committee will be made up of three members of the Executive Council (one of whom would be Chairperson), two public sector representatives (from the relevant Ministries) and three private sector representatives.

The PMD will be responsible for the development of the handicraft industry countrywide and for the marketing of handicraft and other products.

The main functions of the PMD Technical Support Committee will be to provide guidance to the Division.

Article VI

SECTION A

District Chapters

The Chamber may establish and maintain district chapters in a city or town where there is an excess of 30 financial members in such geographical area and where there is a request petitioned by such membership for a

branch or chapter of the Chamber. All such chapters will be accountable to the Executive Council of the Chamber.

SECTION B

Appointment and Authority

The Executive Council shall make regulations for the proper operation of such chapters, including rules and procedures for the selection of officers, regulation of finances and procedures at meetings.

SECTION C

Limitation of Authority

No action by any chapter or their officers shall be binding upon or constitute an expression of the policy of the Chamber until it shall have been approved or ratified by the Executive Council. The Executive Body of a chapter may be dissolved by the Chamber's Executive Council if it is determined that a chapter is not functioning within the guidelines of the Executive Council.

Article VII

SECTION A

Board of Trustees

There shall be a Board of Trustees in which shall be vested the assets of the Chamber and which shall hold them on behalf of the membership and shall have full authority and responsibility over their determination.

The Board shall comprise of (4) four Past Presidents in succession and the incumbent President. The senior Past President shall be the Chairperson of the Board. The Chairperson shall rotate out after each election of a new President to the Executive Council.

On the event of voluntary resignation, death or incapacity due to illness of one of the trustees, the incumbent President may appoint one of the Vice Presidents to fill the post until their term of term expires. In the event of a second vacancy, the President may recommend and with agreement of the Council, appoint a member of long and sound financial standing who consents to fill the vacancy. The Board shall establish rules to regulate its own proceedings at meetings.

There shall be no determination of any of the assets of the Chamber except in the normal course of business except as authorized by the Board of Trustees by unanimous vote.

Notwithstanding the provisions in section 7 of this Act, (Powers of the Chamber), no authority under subsection (b), (c), (f), (g), (h), and (j) will be deemed to have been exercised without the approval of the Board of Trustees and no action on the part of the Executive Council or Management pursuant the provisions of the subsections above-mentioned shall constitute any liability against the assets of the Chamber unless such action was authorised and approved by the Board of Trustees.

Article VIII

Meetings

SECTION A

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry shall be held no later than the end of April of each year.

The time and place shall be fixed by the Executive Council and notice thereof sent by hard copy or electronic mail to each member at least 30 days before the said meeting.

The business to be transacted at an Annual General Meeting shall be as follows,

1. to receive from the Council and to consider the report of the proceedings of the past year;
2. to approve the audited financial statement of the past year;
3. to appoint the auditors for the coming financial year;
4. to ratify nominations of the Nominating Committee for officers of the Executive Council and to elect councillors to the Executive Council;
5. to vote on any resolution which may be proposed by the Council.

SECTION B

Special General Meetings

Special general meetings of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry may be called by the President at any time, or upon petition in writing of any twenty per cent (20%) of members in good standing,

1. Notice of Special General Meetings shall be mailed to each member at least fourteen days prior to such meetings.
2. The time and place shall be fixed by the Executive Council and the notice shall include the purpose of the meeting.
3. Special General Meetings shall be called to consider any matters coming within the scope of the objectives for which the Chamber is established, and specifically to make amendments to any article of the Constitution and Rules.

SECTION C

Executive Council/Committee Meeting

1. Meetings of the Executive Council will be held once per month at a convenient date to be set by the President.
2. Special meetings of the Council may be called by the President or by three members of the Council upon written notice to the members of the Council.
3. Meetings of Committees may be called by the Committee Chairperson or by the President.

(4) In the absence of the President, any Vice President may call a Council or Committee meeting.

(5) Notice with an agenda, shall be given to each councillor at least 3 days prior to the said meeting. However, this period of notice can be varied by the President or in his/her absence, by the Vice Presidents.

SECTION D

Quorum

1. Annual General Meetings/Special General Meetings.
2. Executive Council/Committee Meetings.

A majority of Executive Council members shall constitute a quorum of the Executive Council. At Committee meetings, a majority of the core Committee shall constitute a quorum.

Notwithstanding any quorum at Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting, any special motion which significantly affects membership assets

or constitution and rules of the Chamber or Executive Council relationship out-side the normal electoral procedures must be ratified by 51% of the financial members. Such ratification may be obtained by circulation and must be duly recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

SECTION E

Notices, Agendas, Minutes

Notice by hard copy or electronic mail of all General Meetings must be given at least (30) days prior to the date of the meeting. An agenda and minutes of the previous meeting must be prepared for all meetings.

SECTION F

Chairperson of Meeting

The President shall chair the meetings. In his/her absence, one of the Vice Presidents shall chair and in their absence the meeting shall elect its own Chairperson. The Chairperson shall have a second or casting vote.

SECTION G

Motions

Any member of the Chamber wishing to propose a motion at any meeting on any subject or matter not included in the business coming up for discussion, shall give notice in writing to the General Manager, setting forth the terms of his motion at least 7 days prior to the day of the meeting at which it is intended to introduce such motion. Any member may at such meeting propose any motion without previous notice with the sanction of the majority of the members present, and which, in the opinion of the Chairperson presiding, is in accordance with the rules.

SECTION H

Balloting

Decisions will be carried by a simple majority of members entitled to vote and actually voting at a meeting. Provided that any special motion which significantly affects membership assets or the constitution and rules of the Chamber or Executive Council relationship outside the normal electoral procedures must be notified by 51% of the financial members.

SECTION I

Vacancies

Vacancies can arise from death or resignation. Also, should any member of the Council be absent from four consecutive meetings of the Council without a valid excuse, the Council shall have the power to declare the seat vacant.

Any declared vacancy in the Council, shall be filled by the Council at the next meeting. The term of office of each member so elected shall be for the unexpired period of the vacancy he/she shall fill.

*Article IX**Membership*

SECTION A

Eligibility

Any person, association, cooperative, corporation, partnership, estate, service, quasi-governmental and non governmental organization whose goals and objectives are compatible to those of the organization, shall be eligible to apply for membership.

SECTION B

Application Process for New Membership

Application for membership shall be in writing on forms provided for that purpose, and signed by the applicant. The Membership Development and Services Committee shall review all applications and decide on their eligibility. Any applicant so accepted shall become a member upon payment of the regularly scheduled contribution as provided in Section C of this Article.

SECTION C

Contribution by Membership

Membership contributions shall be at such rate or rates, schedule or formula as may be from time to time prescribed by the Executive Council, payable annually in January or in a proportionate sum on the date of acceptance for new membership.

SECTION D

Termination of Membership

1. Any member may resign from the Chamber upon written notice to the Executive Council.
2. Any member may be expelled by the Executive Council by a two-thirds vote for non-payment of dues after ninety days from the date due, unless otherwise extended for good cause.
3. Any member may be expelled by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Council, at a regular scheduled meeting thereof, for conduct unbecoming a member or prejudicial to the aims or repute of the Chamber, after notice and opportunity for a hearing are afforded the member complained against.

4. Any member may be expelled for breaches of the Constitution of the Chamber, conduct inconsistent with the laws of Belize as determined by the legal process and a “Code of Conduct” as prescribed by the Constitution of Belize.

SECTION E

Voting

In any proceeding in which voting by members is called for, each member shall be entitled to one vote, provided that such member is financially current at the time of such voting.