



Tuesday, October 13th, 2020

Prime Ministerial Debate

- For Immediate Release -

The Leadership Debates Committee has developed the attached guidelines that will govern the Prime Ministerial Debate scheduled for the 28th October 2020 at 8:00pm.

On Friday October 9th these guidelines were provided to the leaders of the four political parties contesting the General Elections slated for November 11th 2020.

The electorate is invited to stay engaged for more updates on this very important debate as the date draws nearer.

The Leadership Debate Committee ('the LDC') is comprised of representatives of the Belize Chamber of Commerce & Industry, RSV Media Limited & Galen University.

- End -

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GUIDELINES FOR DEBATERS

Provided by the Jamaica Debates Commission and adapted for the Belize Leadership Debate Committee (2020)

The LDC is the Executive Producer of the debate. The LDC at its discretion will appoint a Production Team. The details and rules applicable are as follows:

- i. The LDC will make arrangements for each participating political party to separately visit the location beforehand to get a feel of the physical environment.
- ii. The Belize Chamber of Commerce & Industry is the contact point for all queries, concerns and communications relating to the debate. In the event that any communication is necessary, please contact debates@belize.org or (501) 223-5330.
- iii. On the day of the debate, participants should arrive at least 80 minutes beforehand to have microphones installed, have sound and other checks completed.
- iv. The live broadcast begins at **8:00pm sharp**.
- v. It is advisable to wear solid colours. Stripes, dots and combinations of these are visually distracting on television.
- vi. The dress code is business professional.
- vii. It is suggested that you prepare your opening and closing remarks beforehand.
- viii. Water and juice will be provided by the LDC.
- ix. A notepad and pencil will be provided at the podium. These are the only items allowed on the podium (no electronic devices allowed including cell phones, tablets, smart watches, private teleprompters).
- x. Debaters are allowed to bring, and are permitted from time to time to refer to, cue cards.
- xi. Debaters can bring at least **one advisor**, subject to quarantine regulations in place at the time of the event, who will be restricted to an adjoining room. Debaters will be allowed to access their electronic devices, and advisors will be allowed to consult in-person with the debaters **during the breaks**; and, must end the consultation on the instruction of the Chair of the Production Team at least 30 seconds before the broadcast is about to resume.

- xii. Debaters should note the time allocations for opening and closing remarks, questions posed to them or rebuttals being given to questions posed to their opponents. Appropriate “timing lights” or countdown clocks will be used for their guidance.
- xiii. There will be a segment of the debate that allows each debater to pose one 30-second question, which will be answered by all of the other debaters within 1-minute each. The debater posing the question will be given a general reply time of 45-seconds following all responses from the other debaters.
- xiv. Other questions to be posed during the debate will be sourced from several interest groups including youth, unions, educators and other members of the community.
- xv. The debate will require pre-debate acknowledgement and post-debate acknowledgement by each debater of the other, even as they observe the social distancing protocols (no handshakes or hugs).
- xvi. Debaters should not engage in derogatory, disrespectful and unprofessional exchanges with one another, the moderator or any member of or agent of the LDC.
- xvii. Debaters are not expected to ask questions of the moderator and questioners, except by way of occasional rhetorical reference.
- xviii. At the expiration of the allotted time provided for a debater to speak, the microphone(s) will be cut.
- xix. The moderator is in full control of the debate proceedings and the directives issued by the moderator should be respected by debaters.
- xx. The LDC will have adequate security for the event. Due to quarantine restrictions, private security detail cannot be accommodated in the production room.
- xxi. These guidelines are subject to review by the LDC and the revised version released at anytime prior to the debate.
- xxii. By participating in the debate you are confirming your agreement to the guidelines that will be enforced in the debate.