



Monday 19th October 2020

Update on the Planning of the 2020 Prime Ministerial Debate

- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -

The Leadership Debates Committee (LDC), comprised of representatives of the Belize Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCCI), RSV Media Limited & Galen University, takes this opportunity to present an update on the planning of the 2020 Prime Ministerial Debate to be held on 28th October 2020.

Who are the Participants?

- The leaders of the four political parties namely the Belize Progressive Party (BPP), the Belize People's Front (BPF), the People's United Party (PUP) and the United Democratic Party (UDP) were all invited to participate in the Debate.
- To date, the BPP and the BPF have formally confirmed their participation.
- The PUP and the BPF have presented questions/concerns, which are to be clarified by the LDC.
- The deadline for confirmation by debaters has been set for Friday, October 23rd, and thereafter a joint preparation meeting will be held on Monday, October 26th.

How can the Debate be viewed and how can I engage?

- Due to quarantine restrictions, the Debate is limited to a live broadcast event.
- The Debate will be broadcast live on the following mediums:
 - o LOVE FM & LOVE TV
 - o ESTEREO AMOR
 - o MORE FM
 - o Facebook Live streams:
 - <https://www.facebook.com/galenuniversity/>
 - <https://www.facebook.com/belizechamber/>
 - <https://www.facebook.com/lovefmbelize/>
- A People's Choice poll will be set up on each Facebook page listed above for voting.
- Viewers are encouraged to use the following hashtags when engaging: **#PMdebate2020 #BZPolitics #BZElections2020 #BCCI #GalenU #LoveFM**

How Will the Debate be Governed?

- The Advisory Partner for this debate is the Jamaica Debates Commission (JDC). Protocols, format and guidelines have been provided by the JDC and contextualized, with permission, for this event.
- Each member of the LDC has signed, and is bound by, a Code of Conduct to ensure that specific parameters are respected when planning and executing this debate.
- There will be a single moderator, who will be in full control of the debate proceedings, and the directives issued by the moderator are expected to be fully respected by the debaters.
- Guidelines for Debaters have been provided to all leaders and were publicly released on the 13th October 2020.
- Debaters will, at the beginning of the event, ‘draw straws’ to determine the order in which they will speak.

How Will Questions for Debaters be Sourced and Selected?

- The LDC has identified specific interest groups based on general topics surrounding Sustainable Development and is requesting the submission of questions from those groups to be posed to debaters.
- All questions provided by these interest groups will be numbered and pooled together. The moderator will randomly select a number and the corresponding question will be posed to all leaders.
- Additionally, each leader will be given an opportunity to pose one question to the other leaders.

The LDC commits to continue providing regular updates to the public as we get closer to this exciting event.

- End -

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