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REF: OPOS 15/25-26 (4)

STATEMENT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE ON A REQUEST BY BELIZE TELEMEDIA LIMITED TO BRIEF THE SENATE ON A STRATEGIC PROPOSAL CONCERNING SPEEDNET COMMUNICATIONS LTD.

- 1) On Friday, February 6th, 2026, the President of the Senate received a request from Ivan Tesucum, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Belize Telemedia Limited (BTL) to brief the Honourable Members of the Senate during the week of February 9th, 2026, on a strategic proposal concerning Speednet Communications Limited (SCL).
- 2) For the avoidance of doubt, the request from BTL was directed to the President of the Senate to address the Senate as a whole, and not specifically to the Independent Senators.
- 3) On February 6th, 2026, the Hon. Michel Chebat, Minister for Public Utilities, announced in the House of Representatives, a pause on discussions regarding BTL's proposed acquisition of SCL. He further stated that a formal submission of the proposed acquisition was to be made to the Public Utilities Commission dependent on whether the boards of Social Security and BTL approve the acquisition.
- 4) On Tuesday, February 10th, 2026, the President acknowledged receipt of said request in an email to the CEO of BTL, indicating the matter would be discussed with the Clerk, and a response would be made as soon as possible.
- 5) It was the decision of the President at the time, following consultation with the Clerk, that, while the matter was one of public importance and the request was to be granted, it was necessary to monitor the acquisition process in order to determine the appropriate date and time for scheduling the request. This determination would take into consideration the pause in discussions, the volume of matters before the Senate, other commitments of the National Assembly, and the approaching recess period.
- 6) It was further decided that, once a determination had been made, BTL would be advised of the proposed date and time. Upon confirmation, Senators would then be invited to attend the session, in accordance with established practice. The matter was accordingly placed on the list of matters pending scheduling by the Senate.
- 7) For information, the Standing Orders of the Senate provide for the Senate to meet for Sittings and Committee Meetings. These are governed by specific rules. There are no provisions within the Standing Orders for accommodating requests from institutions or Senators for briefing and updates on matters not necessarily before the Senate.
- 8) For information also, the President of the Senate introduced a practice of Information Sessions for Senators to address this gap and to facilitate the participation of technical experts, promoters of a Bill or motion, and legal drafters, for the purpose of responding to questions concerning the rationale underpinning particular provisions of a bill or motion before the debate in the Senate, and for providing further elucidation of specific clauses of the bill, or offering legal interpretation and guidance on the terminology and construction of the proposed legislation or motion, thereby enhancing the robustness and effectiveness of the debate and the Senate's oversight and scrutiny function in recommending amendments to the Bills and Motions. BTL's request falls in the former category.

- 9) To provide context to the scope and extent of the matters before the Senate, as of August 12th, 2026, the Senate has 36 matters before it, constituting of 16 bills, 7 motions, 10 papers and 3 requests for presentations, one of which is that of BTL. This does not include the work of the Senate Select Sessional Committees or conducting the necessary Information Sessions on Bills and Motions currently before the Senate.
- 10) On August 1st, 2026, the Senate proceeded on recess. This period was to extend to September 11th, 2026, and is one of three recess periods the Senate is to proceed on annually. [Standing Order 9 (1)]
- 11) Due to the scope, extent and urgency of some of the matters before the Senate, the Leader of Government Business represented to the President of the Senate that there was an urgent necessity for the Senate to meet. earlier on a day to which the Senate stands adjourned, and the President being satisfied that the urgency existed, summoned a Sitting of the Senate on Tuesday August 4th, 2026, to advance the business of the Senate. [Standing Order 9 (2)]. This broke the recess period.
- 12) Now that the BTL Board has approved the acquisition of SCL, it is timely for the President to respond to the request of the CEO of BTL with a proposed date and time for an Information Session for Senators for BTL to brief them on the acquisition of SCL. An invitation will also be extended to the Public Utilities Commission for this purpose.

END

