



MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE ACCOUNT - BELIZE (‘MCA-Belize’)

Minutes of the Special Board Meeting
February 10, 2026, scheduled for 10:00 a.m.
(Held virtually on Microsoft Teams)

1. **Calling of Meeting to Order:**

This special meeting of the Board of Directors of MCA-Belize was called to order by Mr. Joseph Waight, the Chairman, at 10:15 am on the Microsoft Teams platform. Notice of the meeting was previously issued in accordance with the MCA-Belize bylaws to all members of the Board of Directors on February 5, 2026, together with the proposed agenda.

2. **Attendance**

The following members were present at the meeting:

- **Mr. Joseph Waight** - The Financial Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment; Chairman; and voting member of the Board.
- **Mr. Carlos Pol** - Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry responsible for Economic Transformation and voting member of the Board.
- **Mrs. Dian Castillo-Mahecia** - Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry responsible for Education and voting member of the Board.
- **Mrs. Yolanda Gongora** - Chief Education Officer and Alternate for Dian Castillo-Mahecia (Observer)
- **Mr. Giacomo Sanchez** - member of the Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry and, as such, a voting member of the Board.
- **Ms. Maria Zabaneh** - member of the Grant Aided Managing Authority of Schools (GAMAS) which has been identified as a civil society and, as such, a voting member of the Board.
- **Mrs. Nadia Caliz** - The President of the Belize National Teachers’ Union and a voting member of the Board.
- **Mrs. Adele Catzim-Sanchez** - Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry responsible for human development and non-voting member of the Board.
- **Ms. Kareesh Archer** - Representative from academic and educational organizations and non-voting member of the Board.
- **Dr. Marcia Bouloy** - Executive Director of MCA-Belize and non-voting member of the Board.
- **Mr. Creig Kinch** - General Counsel of MCA-Belize, Secretary to the Board and non-voting member of the Board.
- **Mrs. Jenner Edelman** - MCC Resident Country Director and MCC observer and non-voting member of the Board.
- **Ms. Rebeca Martinez** - MCC Associate Director, Education (Observer).
- **Ms. Bridgette Springer** - MCC Regional Program Officer (Observer).

An apology was received from Dr. Leroy Almendarez who was unable to attend.

3. **Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Joseph Waight proposed that the agenda for the meeting, which was circulated with the notice of the meeting, be adopted. The resolution was moved by Mrs. Dian Castillo-Maheia and was seconded by Mrs. Nadia Caliz. The resolution was unanimously adopted.

4. **Presentation on MCA Management Information System and request for approval for Direct Contracting to re-engage Iron Vine and SITA Corp.**

Ms. F. Augustine, who supervises MCC's MIS Program, provided the Board with an overview of the MCA MIS and outlined the rationale for opting to directly contract Iron Vine and SITA Corp. for the MCA MIS solution. She stated that the **MCA MIS is a** standardized, modular MIS inclusive of hardware and software mandated by MCC that enables MCAs to better manage, save time and more accurately report on MCC Compacts. She noted that the benefits of the MCA MIS were:

- (1) MCC-developed core with functional and technical requirements needed to guide all MCAs
- (2) One-time development of standard IT guidance and budget structures developed by the MCA MIS team
- (3) Reusable framework which enables rapid replication across MCAs with minimal local customization
- (4) Fully integrated software solution for use by MCAs, FAs and PAs
- (5) Standardized data model which enables a single MCA data extraction approach and improves data quality and accuracy in reporting to MCC
- (6) Secure, stable infrastructure that supports end-to-end program implementation
- (7) Sustainable IT environment from EIF through Compact closeout
- (8) Timely and accurate access to data which has made programs more efficient and MCC oversight more effective.

Ms. Augustine explained that the implementation process of the MCA MIS would take thirty-five (35) weeks and should be completed before EIF. She also noted that the US \$2M cost for the MIS would deliver a fully integrated end-to-end solution.

Following Ms. Augustine's presentation, the Board unanimously approved the re-engagement of Iron Vine and SITA Corp. by way of direct contracting to provide an MIS Solution for MCA-Belize.

5. **Government of Belize's contributions to the Compact**

MCA-Belize's Director of Procurement, Ms. Carolyn Crawford, informed the Board that the Government of Belize's contribution to the Compact is currently at an indicative stage. She stated that the amount of the Government of Belize's contribution is subject to change as the relevant activities under the Compact are implemented and once the full scope of the Energy Project has been determined. She noted that the current indicative figure for the Government of Belize's contribution was US \$46.5 million. Mr. Waight explained that the US \$46.5 million contribution from the Government of Belize included the US \$35 million loan from the World Bank for the battery storage systems. Ms. Crawford further noted that based on what the Procurement team is seeing in the market related to the increased costs for the

devices needed for the National Student Assessment under the Education project as well as the increased number of students entering secondary school, the Government will be required to contribute an increased sum towards the procurement of these devices. In response to Mr. Sanchez's question seeking to ascertain if there was a base minimum limit of the Government of Belize's contribution, Mrs. Edelman advised the Board that MCC requires that lower to middle income Compact Countries contribute 7.5% of the budget. She stated that the amount for Belize was US \$40.5 million. She indicated that despite this minimum limit, the Government of Belize agreed to contribute more to the Compact and as a result, it committed an additional US \$6 million in September last year to cover the cost of the devices for the National Student Assessment. Mr. Sanchez stated that he wanted to ensure that we did not reach year four or five of the Compact and then find out that the Government did not meet its contribution requirements. Mr. Waight and Dr. Bouloy reassured Mr. Sanchez that proper mechanisms will be put in place to account for the Government of Belize's contribution.

6. New Business (Any Other Business)

There was no new business.

7. Adjournment

Mrs. Castillo-Maheia moved a motion to adjourn the meeting, and this was seconded by Ms. Zabaneh. This motion was unanimously approved by the Board and the meeting was adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

Minutes submitted by: Creig Kinch

Minutes approved by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MG', written over the text 'Minutes approved by:'.

