



23rd October 2020

- PRESS RELEASE -
Format of the Prime Ministerial Debate 2020

The Leadership Debate Committee (LDC) hereby provides further information on the planned format of the Prime Ministerial Debate to be held on the 28th October at 8:00pm. Also included in this release is the announcement of names of organizations who have been requested to provide one question each to the pool from which questions will randomly be selected by the moderator.

Running Order of the Debate is as follows:

Time	Details	Length of Time Allotted
Moderator's Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Welcome (inc. mention partners & sponsors)- Introduction of Leaders- Quick Overview of Rules & their origin, development- Drawing of the straws for order	8:00-8:10
Debater 1's Opening Statement	2 minutes speech time + 1 minute transition/technical time	8:10-8:13
Debater 2's Opening Statement	2 minutes speech time + 1 minute transition/technical time	8:13-8:16
Debater 3's Opening Statement	2 minutes speech time + 1 minute transition/technical time	8:16-8:19
Debater 4's Opening Statement	2 minutes speech time + 1 minute transition/technical time	8:19-8:22
<i>Commercial Break</i>	3 one-minute commercials by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Paid sponsors (guidelines: non-partisan/political, goods + services only)	8:22-8:25
<i>Question 1 + 4 Answers</i>	Question: 30 seconds long Time allotted per answer: 90 seconds (2 minutes transition/extra time)	8:25-8:33

	<i>Question randomly selected from pool</i>	
<i>Question 2 + 4 Answers</i>	<p>Question: 30 seconds long</p> <p>Time allotted per answer: 90 seconds</p> <p>(2 minutes transition/extra time)</p> <p><i>Question randomly selected from pool</i></p>	8:33-8:41
<i>Question 3 + 4 Answers</i>	<p>Question: 30 seconds long</p> <p>Time allotted per answer: 90 seconds</p> <p>(2 minutes transition/extra time)</p> <p><i>Question randomly selected from pool</i></p>	8:41-8:49
Commercial Break	<p>3 one-minute commercials, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paid sponsors (guidelines: non-partisan/political, goods + services only) 	8:49-8:52
<i>Question 4 + 4 answers</i>	<p>Question: 30 seconds long</p> <p>Time allotted per answer: 90 seconds</p> <p>(2 extra minutes in case of any 'overs')</p> <p><i>Question randomly selected from pool</i></p>	8:52-9:00
<i>Question 5 + 4 answers</i>	<p>Question: 30 seconds long</p> <p>Time allotted per answer: 90 seconds</p> <p>(2 extra minutes in case of any 'overs')</p> <p><i>Question randomly selected from pool</i></p>	9:00-9:08
<i>Question 6 + 4 answers</i>	<p>Question: 30 seconds long</p>	9:08-9:16

	<p>Time allotted per answer: 90 seconds</p> <p>(2 minutes transition/extra time)</p> <p><i>Question randomly selected from pool</i></p>	
<i>Party Question #1 + 3 answers + 1 reply</i>	<p><i>Order is based on the drawing of the straws at the beginning of the debate</i></p> <p>Question: 30 seconds long</p> <p>Answer by other 3 leaders: 90 seconds each</p> <p>Reply/rebut by asking party leader after all answers: 90 seconds</p>	9:16-9:21
<i>Party Question #2 + 3 answers + 1 reply</i>	<p>Question: 30 seconds long</p> <p>Answer by other 3 leaders: 90 seconds each</p> <p>Reply/rebut by asking party leader after all answers: 90 seconds</p>	9:21-9:26
<i>Party Question #3 + 3 answers + 1 reply</i>	<p>Question: 30 seconds long</p> <p>Answer by other 3 leaders: 90 seconds each</p> <p>Reply/rebut by asking party leader after all answers: 90 seconds</p>	9:26-9:31
<i>Party Question #4 + 3 answers + 1 reply</i>	<p>Question: 30 seconds long</p> <p>Answer by other 3 leaders: 90 seconds each</p> <p>Reply/rebut by asking party leader after all answers: 90 seconds</p>	9:31-9:36
Commercial Break	<p>3 one-minute commercials, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paid sponsors (guidelines: non- 	9:36-9:39

	partisan/political, goods + services only)	
<i>Social Media Question #1 + 4 answers</i>	Question: 30 seconds long Time allotted per answer: 60 seconds (1 minute in transition/extra time)	9:39-9:45
<i>Social Media Question #2 + 4 answers</i>	Question: 30 seconds long Time allotted per answer: 60 seconds (1 minute in transition/extra time)	9:45-9:50
Debater 1's Closing Statement	90 seconds speech time + 30 seconds transition/technical time	9:52-9:54
Debater 2's Closing Statement	90 seconds speech time + 30 seconds transition/technical time	9:54-9:56
Debater 3's Closing Statement	90 seconds speech time + 30 seconds transition/technical time	9:56-9:58
Debater 4's Closing Statement	90 seconds speech time + 30 seconds transition/technical time	9:58-10:00
Moderator's Wrap-up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thanks to organizers, sponsors - Encourage viewing replays of the broadcast on Facebook - Reminder to viewers to participate in People's Choice Poll on Facebook 	10:00-10:05

The questions to be used during the Debate are being sourced in the following way:

- Written questions on general areas of the Economy, National & Sustainable Development will be pre-submitted by select, well-established and respected interest groups, namely:
 - o Belize Network of NGOs
 - o Belize Tourism Industry Association (BTIA)
 - o Belize Agro-Productive Sector Group
 - o Spanish Lookout Business Chamber

- Association of Tertiary Level Institutions of Belize (ATLIB)
- Belize Medical & Dental Association
- Nurses Association of Belize
- National AIDS Commission
- National Women's Commission
- YWCA
- YMCA
- Council of Churches/National Evangelical Association of Churches
- Youth Votes/Voice Matters Group
- Association of Protected Areas Management Organizations (APAMO)
- National Trade Union Congress of Belize (NTUCB)

- Questions to be sent to BCCI for safekeeping and LIMITED formatting including placing in a numbered pool for random selection.
- Guidelines provided to these interest groups regarding their questions to be submitted were:
 - 1 question per organization of **50 words or less** to be sent to the LDC by email in writing.
 - no derogatory statements allowed.
 - no partisan statements allowed.
 - Submission of questions no later than **October 26th 2020 @ 8am**

- Each political party is going to be asked to submit a general written question to be asked of the other 3 leaders.
 - Guidelines provided to the parties regarding their preparation of these questions were:
 - 1 question per political party of **50 words or less** to be sent to the LDC by email in writing.
 - no derogatory or defamatory statements allowed.
 - the question is to be directed to **all of the other 3 leaders** and not to any one person/party in particular

- Submission of questions no later than **October 26th 2020 @ 8am**

- End -

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