



## BELIZE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

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# 4792 Coney Drive, 2nd Floor Withfield Tower, P.O. Box 291 , Belize City, Belize, Central America

OUR REF: BCCI/PRES 01/02-2020

11<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Hon. Dean Barrow  
Prime Minister of Belize  
Office of the Prime Minister  
Belmopan City  
BELIZE

Dear Prime Minister,

The Belize Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCCI) is deeply concerned about the allegations of fraud and/or bribery involving current and former high-ranking public officials that has been reported in both the local and international press. These allegations are of greater concern to the BCCI following the national convention of the United Democratic Party ("UDP") held on Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> February 2020, as one of the persons who has been repeatedly named in these allegations is the newly designated leader of the UDP, the Honourable John Saldivar.

The BCCI is aware of the position that you have taken with regard to the Honourable John Saldivar, i.e. that he will remain where he is until there is proof of corruption, and further, that you feel constrained to act unless there is evidence of the receipt of money by Minister Saldivar or some other improper or incriminating act.

With the greatest of respect to your office, we at the BCCI differ. We consider that there is sufficient circumstantial evidence to justify the Government's investigation into these very grave allegations that affect the integrity and perception of our great nation. Belize has signed a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty ("MLAT") with the United States which empowers Belize to request information regarding a criminal investigation, the pre-requisite being that there must be a local investigation.

Under your leadership, Belize proudly signed onto the United Nations Convention Against Corruption. It is therefore incumbent on the government to ensure that our country is compliant with its obligation to fight corruption, and the perception of corruption, in whatever form. The BCCI calls upon our Government to immediately launch an investigation into the allegations of bribery of public officials by Lev Dermen and Jacob Kingston. The BCCI further calls on the Government to utilize the MLAT executed between Belize and the United States to request any and all documents and information, including deposed testimonies of Lev Dermen and Jacob Kingston, pertaining to their business interests and dealings in Belize, and specifically, in relation to the allegations of fraud and bribery which are already in the public domain.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "D. Barrow", is located in the bottom right corner of the page.

We ask that such request be couched in the broadest terms to ensure that all persons who were involved in and/or facilitated any wrongdoing can be brought to justice.

Sincerely,



**Nikita Usher (Mr.)**  
***President***