

## **BRIDGING KNOWLEDGE TO POWER POLICY PULSE**

The Newsletter of BELPRI-UB (No.1, 2025)

### A Brand-New **Public Policy** Institute at ÚB! The Belize Policy Research Institute at

UB (BELPRI-UB) is here! Policy Pulse is BELPRI's regular newsletter to (1) inform the UB community of BELPRI's activities & opportunities (2) provide updates on BELPRI's policy outputs and (3) share interesting facts on national policy issues. In this first introductory issue, let us tell you who we are, what we will do and the key developments so far. What is BELPRI-UB?

### institutional goal, as stated in the UB

RISE Strategic Plan, "to become a centre of excellence in research that contributes to Belize's development." As an independent multi-disciplinary public policy institute at UB, BELPRI's



through innovation and people-centred approaches that improve policy making and its impact on Belize's sustainable development. In doing this successfully, BELPRI aspires to become a widely respected and essential policy actor whose evidence-based work influences public policies

mission is to produce high quality and accessible research and knowledge

and behaviours toward a more prosperous, just, equitable and peaceful Belizean society. **Programme Areas** BELPRI's strategic approach is based on



**University of Belize** 

the

clear

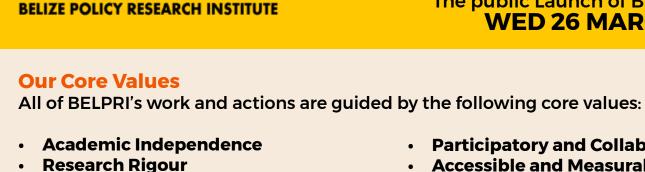
are thematically inter-connected, and that good public policy must improve people's growth, economic sustain environment and promote aood governance. BELPRI will execute its Mission around four key programmes: 1. Innovative Research 2. Engagement and Influence 3. Building Networks

sustainable development challenges

understanding

4. Sustainability

**'BRIDGING KNOWLEDGE** 



### The public Launch of BELPRI is on **WED 26 MARCH 2025**

TO POWER'

**SAVE THE DATE** 

Inclusivity and Diversity

Cutting-edge and Innovative

**BELPRI & the UB Community** 

- BELPRI-UB will seek synergies on policy matters with UB's Research Office, four

**Participatory and Collaborative** 

**Transparent and Accountable** 

Accessible and Measurable Outputs

academic faculties, and its existing policy institutes. UB's faculty and students will be able to collaborate with BELPRI-UB as presenters on BELPRI-UB policy

# During the current academic year, BELPRI Student Clubs will begin to be rolled

out with the objective of UB students having the opportunity to learn about policy making in Belize and participate in real policy influence activities. **Our Highlights So Far** Since the Board of Trustees of the University of Belize decided to establish BELPRI in late 2024, we have been quietly setting up our operations, internal

seminars, contributors of policy articles and opinions, members of BELPRI thematic Policy Circles, research fellows, research assistants and BELPRI

volunteers. Opportunities for collaboration will be shared in Policy Pulse.

thus far include: **Governance and Operations** Completion and approval of the BELPRI Bridging Knowledge to Power

Dr. Dylan Vernon hired as BELPRI's first Executive Director.

policies, programmes and commencing our policy research. Key developments

 Appointment of BELPRI's first Advisory Board and the selection of Mr. Henry N. Anderson, Executive Director of the Development Finance Corporation (DFC) as the first Chairman. (See Box on Advisory Board Members).

Strategic Plan 2024 -2027.

 Core BELPRI staff are currently being employed. BELPRI's office will be on the UB Education Campus in Belize City but BELPRI will have presence on all UB campuses.



(LIC)

Ltd.

Institute (CAPRI).

soon.

underway.

and explore collaboration.

BELPRI and explore partnerships.

**Policy Research and Monitoring** 

language policy for Belize.

development.

Research Assistants will be advertised shortly.

since independence from



### **Outreach and Networking** Strong working relationship established with the Office of Research of UB. · Memorandum of Understanding signed with the Caribbean Policy Research

Meetings being held with UB personnel and institutes to introduce BELPRI

Numerous visits made to national and international agencies to introduce

The Executive Director has made several presentations at UB seminars,

in preparation for training workshops for the UB community and the wider policy community. BELPRI now has a page on the UB website and its own website is coming

including at UB's Annual State of the Nation Lecture in September 2024. Modules for training on policymaking and policy influence are being drafted

Planning underway for BELPRI's First Annual National Budget Series. BELPRI's first pilot Policy Research Project, on the theme of regulating money in politics in Belize, has commenced. Look for the publication of a research paper and policy recommendations in the coming months. UB's Dr.

Philip Castillo is a member of the Research Team and opportunities for

Approval of BELPRI's first Guest Research Paper proposal on Belize's

Bulmer-Thomas (The Economic History of Belize, Cubola, 2012). The launch of

· Other policy research issues are being prioritised for concept and project

Professor

**Emeritus** 

· Collation of national public policies for BELPRI's Public Policy Tracker is

- the resulting publication will be in mid-2025. BELPRI and the Intercultural Indigenous Language Institute (IILI) have agreed to collaborate on joint events and research, including around the theme of a
- Save the date **ELECTIONS & YOU:**

**Exercising Your People Power in 2025!** Co-Hosted by BELPRI-UB

Tuesday, March 4, 2025

UB Conference Center | 10:00 AM University of Belize



607-1098



