

BELIZE:

LAND TAX (PARTIAL REMISSION OF ARREARS) BILL, 2019

ARRANGEMENT OF CLAUSES

1. Short title.
2. Interpretation.
3. Partial remission of arrears.
4. Consequences of failure to pay in full.
5. Discharge by Commissioner.
6. Commencement and duration.

BELIZE:

BILL

FOR

AN ACT to provide for the partial remission of arrears of land tax and speculation tax; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

(*Gazetted*, 2019).

BE IT ENACTED, by and with the advice and consent of the House of Representatives and Senate of Belize and by the authority of the same as follows:

Short Title

1. This Act may be cited as the

LAND TAX (PARTIAL REMISSION OF ARREARS) ACT, 2019

Interpretation.

2. In this Act –

CAP. 58

“Commissioner” has the meaning assigned to it in the Land Tax Act;

“tax” means the land tax or speculation tax imposed under the Land Tax Act;

“tax amnesty period” means the period of six months commencing from the date of commencement of this Act.

Partial remission
of arrears.
CAP. 58.

3.– (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Land Tax Act, where at the date of commencement of this Act, a person has any arrears of tax for any previous financial year, that person shall, subject to the conditions specified in subsection (2) qualify for a partial remission of such arrears at the rate specified in subsection (3).

(2) The following conditions shall apply to a partial remission –

Land Tax (Partial Remission of Arrears) Bill, 2019

- (a) a full and unconditional acknowledgement of a tax due and payable shall be made before the partial remission;
- (b) the balance of the tax, after partial remission, shall be paid in full before the expiry of the tax amnesty period.

(3) The rate of remission of tax shall be at the rate of 25% of tax arrears for that financial year.

(4) Where there is any interest due and payable in relation to any tax subject to a partial remission pursuant to subsection (1), that interest shall be waived upon the payment in full of the arrears of tax.

4.—(1) A person who fails to pay the arrears of tax in full at the expiration of the tax amnesty period shall no longer enjoy the benefit of the partial remission and the entire tax and interest due before the partial remission shall become due and payable immediately and may be recovered in the manner provided for in the Land Tax Act.

Consequence of failure to pay in full.
CAP. 58.

(2) Where a person has paid any partial amount in pursuance of the tax amnesty, that amount shall be credited towards the arrears of tax as it stood prior to the partial remission.

5. An acknowledgment or discharge given by the Commissioner in pursuance of this Act shall operate as good and sufficient discharge of tax due and payable prior to the partial remission allowed.

Discharge by the Commissioner.

6.—(1) This Act shall come into force on the 1st day of June 2019 and shall remain in force for a period of six (6) months but such period may be extended by the Minister by Order published in the Gazette.

Commencement and duration

(2) An Order made pursuant to subsection (1) is subject to affirmative resolution.