



Overview of Belize's National Trade Policy: Presented at the BCCI Mixer

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Outline

WHAT?

WHY?

HOW?

WHAT?

Set of Guidelines, Regulations, Principles,...Practices designed and collectively implemented to achieve trade development objectives

Issues/Concerns/Observations (Internal + External)

- i. Infrastructure
- ii. Supply Side Constraints
- iii. Competitiveness
- iv. Non Tariff Measures (NTMs)
- v. Labour
- vi. Business Processes
- vii. Trade Facilitation
- viii. Demographics

Vision

Vision:

Develop a competitive productive sector, through trade: inclusive and sustainable development; high quality of life

Objectives

1. Improved trade performance
2. Socio-economic development (high living standards and citizen welfare through trade development)
3. Develop efficient productive capacities and practices for boosting trade competitiveness
4. Build and strengthen trade relations and economic diplomacy
5. Develop competent human capital, entrepreneurship and effective institutional and legal framework for trade development

Principles and Pillars

Guiding Principles

- i. Promoting Competitiveness;
- ii. Attainment of Asymmetrical Treatment; and
- iii. Commitment to Regionalism

Policy Pillars

- i. Institutional Capacity
- ii. Supply Capacity
- iii. Market Access and Entry
- iv. Trade Facilitation

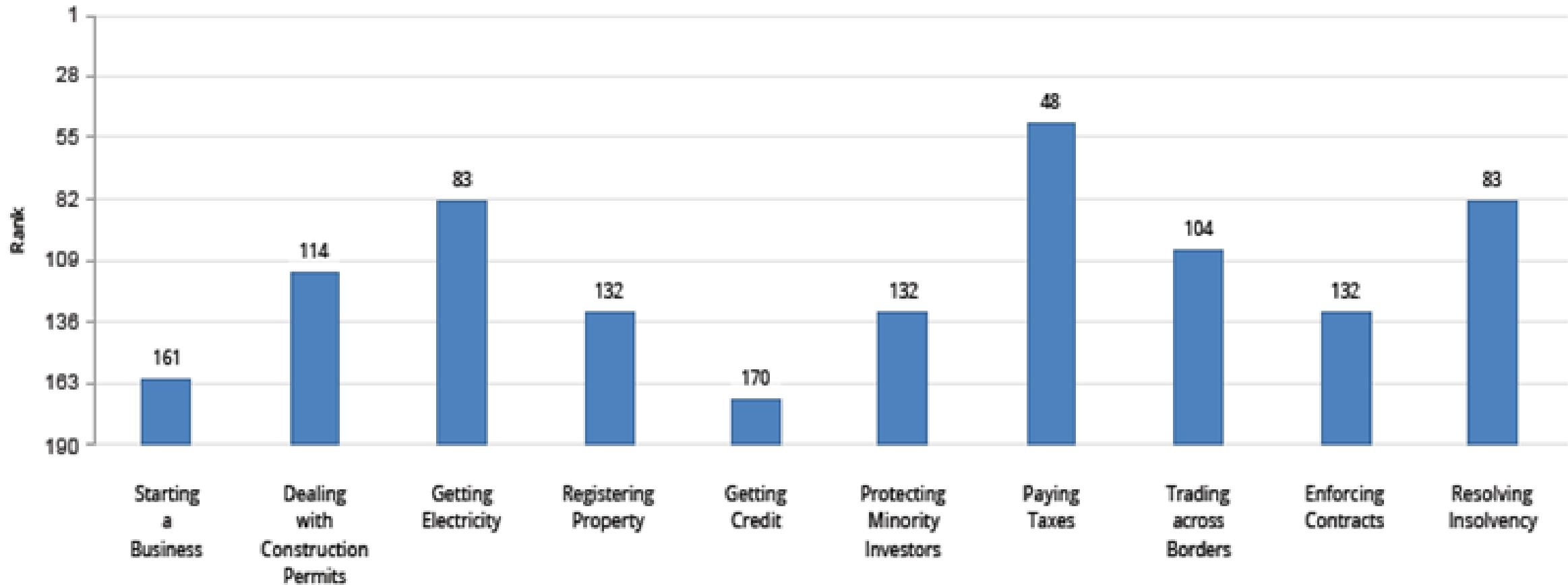
Preconditions for Market Access and Entry

- i. Investments in and upgrade of the National Quality Infrastructure;
- ii. Sensitization of the business community on trade agreements and associated opportunities;
- iii. Development of market intelligence on specific export market regulatory requirements including packaging and labelling;
- iv. Standards and food safety certification;
- v. Assessment of domestic and export market structures; and
- vi. Enhancement of logistics and distribution systems.



Highlight-Doing Business Ranking

Rankings on Doing Business topics - Belize

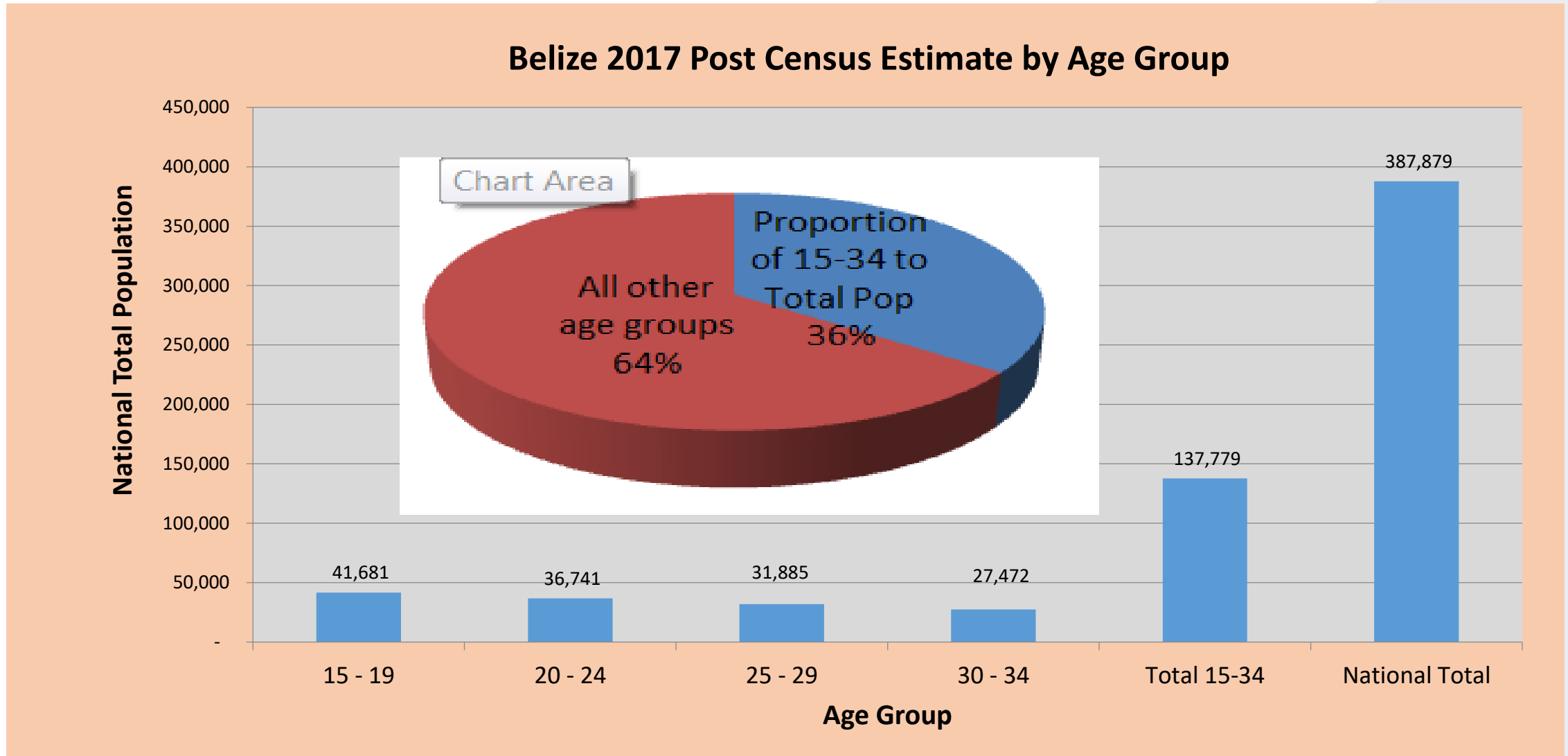


Source: World Bank Doing Business Report, 2018, Belize, available at <http://www.doingbusiness.org/reports/global-reports/doing-business-2018>

Policy Complementarity & Synergies

- i. Competition and Consumer Welfare Protection
- ii. Intellectual Property (IP)
- iii. Agricultural Trade
- iv. E-Commerce
- v. Investment Programmes
- vi. Public Procurement
- vii. Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs)
- viii. Entrepreneurship and Youth Inclusiveness

Highlight: Demographics, Entrepreneurship & Youth Inclusiveness



Source: Generated from Statistical Institute of Belize data, 2017

Cross Cutting Issues

- i. Information and Communications Technology (ICT)
- ii. Gender and Disability Inclusiveness
- iii. Research and Development (R&D)
- iv. Trade and Environment

WHY?

- i. Rationale
- ii. Existing and Emerging Trade Policy Issues

Rationale

- i. Not had a Trade Policy;
- ii. Belize active in the MTS and regional trade landscape;
- iii. Policy fragmentation (trade);
- iv. Demands from the rules based MTS-development of a comprehensive Trade Policy;
- v. Needed for structured trade development and governance; and
- vi. Planned policy guidance for trade and development

Emerging Issues in the International Trade Policy

- Trade Governance and Sustainability;
- Climate Change;
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- BREXIT;
- The Digital Economy;
- Servicification
- Global Value Chain Systems (GVCs)

HOW?

- i. Expected Outcomes
- ii. Implementation

Expectations

Macro Level

- i. Promote institutional collaboration;
- ii. Address observed policy deficiencies;
- iii. Enhanced Infrastructure
- iv. Provide structured guide for trade development;
- v. Socio-economic development

Micro Level

- i. Innovation,
- ii. Enhanced value addition
- iii. Enhanced Investments
- iv. Market integration
- v. Predictability
- vi. Diversification
- vii. Policy coherence
- viii. Business/trade development through AfT

Implementation Requirements

- i. Policy Ownership (Public + Pvt Sector)
- ii. Sustained Political Commitment
- iii. Resource Mobilisation
- iv. Public Awareness (Trade Mainstreaming)
- v. Monitoring + Evaluation

Implementation/ M&E Framework



i. Institutional Framework

Institutional Partnerships

- i. Government Ministries and Departments;
- ii. Statutory Institutions;
- iii. Academic Institutions;
- iv. Regulatory Authorities;
- v. Private Sector; and
- vi. Cooperating Partners

Implementation Cont'd

ii. Legal Framework

- Harmonise various national laws and regulations with trade policy;
- Develop new laws as necessary; and
- Enforce and respect laws

iii. Resource Mobilisation

- Primarily Government Resources
- Aid for Trade (AfT)

iv. Implementation

- Implementation Plan
- 12 year Policy life, reviewed mid term; and
- M & E Mechanism



T H A N K Y O U !

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