



BEL Selects John Mencias as its New CEO



Belize Electricity Limited (BEL) announces that its Board of Directors has selected Mr. John Mencias as the Company's new Chief Executive Officer, effective April 2, 2019. He will replace Mr. Jeffrey Locke, who late last year served notice of his intention not to seek a renewal of his employment contract.

The Board of Directors of BEL wishes to pay tribute to the enormous contribution made by Mr. Locke to BEL, particularly during its reorganization and subsequent development following its acquisition by the public sector.

The appointment of Mr. Mencias signals a renewed focus on organizational invigoration, innovation, and market diversification to meet the expected challenges ahead.

Commenting on the selection, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Mr. Rodwell Williams, said, *"This is an excellent choice by our Board. BEL is regarded as one of the premier corporations, not only in Belize, but also in the wider Caribbean. John is an extremely committed and highly skilled son of our soil. He is a person of unquestionable integrity, with a track record of achieving highly positive outcomes for the organizations with which he has worked. He has played an invaluable and substantial role in BEL's success to date, and is fully familiar with the Company, both as a past employee and as a member of its Board"*.

Mr. Mencias brings to the post over 25 years combined leadership and management experience in strategic and business planning, in the electricity industry, in the financial sector through his service as a Board member of the National Commercial Bank of Belize, and subsequently as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Central Bank of Belize. In the wider energy sector, he was not only principal co-author of Belize's current National Energy Policy Framework, operational since 2012, but also served as local coordinator of Belize's PetroCaribe cooperation arrangements with the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. He has also served on the Boards of the Belize Social Security Board, and Belize Telemedia Limited.

Mr. Mencias was selected from an initial field of 86 applicants from Belize, the Caribbean, the United States of America, Canada, Europe, and Asia. It was the first occasion on which a CEO for BEL was selected by the Company's Board in an open competitive process.

John Mencias hails from San Ignacio, Cayo. He holds a Master's degree in Business Administration from Monash University in Australia, and a Bachelor's degree in Computer and Electrical Engineering from the University of the West Indies in Trinidad.