

Belize

Belize gained self-government from Britain in 1964 under the name British Honduras. It was renamed Belize in 1973, and became independent in 1981. The 1981 constitution is still in effect. Intermediate governance consists of six districts with an average population of 66,000.

The capital of Belmopan was exempt from local and district governance until 2001. After Hurricane Hatti (1961) destroyed much of the original capital, Belize City, Belmopan was built by a corporation, the Reconstruction and Development Corporation (or Reconddev), and run by Reconddev until 2000. The status of Reconddev was regulated by national law (Reconstruction and Development Corporation Act 1962). Reconddev had extensive authority in municipal development as well as the provision of water, sewage, and electricity (Art. 14), but for important matters, including the establishment of localities, it required approval of the minister of finance (Art. 13). Reconddev was primarily funded through government grants, and could raise additional revenues through real estate sales and borrowing (Art. 7).^α The Board of Directors was accountable to the central government. Since 2000, Belmopan has had an elected government (Belmopan City Council Act of 1999).

There is no metro governance in Belize.

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