

## Belize puts hold on shipments to US

■ BELMOPAN

THE Belize Postal Service (BPS) yesterday announced an immediate suspension of certain shipments containing goods to the United States until further notice.

It said that the new rule will affect all postal operators worldwide and is scheduled to take effect on August 29, as important questions regarding liability, tax collection procedures, and the implementation of new requirements remain unresolved.

US President Donald Trump has implemented new tariffs for goods entering the United States under his 'US first' campaign. According to the BPS, the United States government issued an executive order suspending duty-free de minimis treatment for all countries, which goes into effect on Friday.

It said executive order eliminated the long-standing de minimis duty-free exemption for low-value shipments and that goods are now taxed from the first dollar, whereas previously they were duty-free up to US\$800.

'These customs duties are now the responsibility of the sender, not the recipient, and must be paid to US Customs and Border Protection before the item enters the United States,' the BPS said, adding that without this exemption limit, every shipment of goods, no matter how small or how valuable, must be declared and cleared with US Customs.

It said a certain category of exemptions has been provided including sending gifts to individuals of less than US\$100, which includes the value of the merchandise as well as postage cost and mail documents containing only documents.

The BPS said that all post officers here will last accept goods as of Wednesday adding 'we are making every effort to enable the resumption of all shipments as soon as possible in compliance with the new regulations.

'We sincerely regret any inconvenience this

temporary suspension may cause and appreciate your understanding as we work to adapt to these new United States regulations.' -CMC