



PR#331

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Belize Receives Donation of Vaccines from the Government of Mexico**

*Belmopan. June 12, 2021. 8:05 p.m.*

The Government of Belize is pleased to announce that a donation of 100,000 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine was received today from the Government and people of Mexico.

A small delegation headed by H. E. Maximiliano Reyes Zúñiga, Undersecretary for Latin America and the Caribbean of the Secretariat of Foreign Trade and Immigration, arrived at the Philip S.W. Goldson International Airport this morning to personally deliver the vaccines on behalf of President Andrés Manuel López Obrador of Mexico.

During opening remarks, H.E. Martha Zamarripa Rivas, Ambassador of Mexico to Belize, extended on behalf of President López Obrador, condolences and support to the families that lost loved ones to COVID-19, which has taken 325 lives in Belize. She also noted that Belize is the first country to have received this donation out of solidarity and also to promote equal access to vaccines in countries of this region.

Hon. Michel Chebat, Minister of Health & Wellness, in turn thanked the president, government, and people of Mexico for their generous donation. He said, “The successful completion of this process could not have been better timed as this donation will help us bolster our ongoing vaccination program. The immediacy with which our call was responded to by Mexico has not slipped us and we are truly humbled to be the first country to benefit from Mexico’s generosity.”

H.E. Maximiliano Reyes Zúñiga spoke on the donation of vaccines that should ultimately assist countries in rebuilding their economies. Bolivia, Paraguay, Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador will also be receiving vaccines.

As Belize and Mexico commemorate 40 years of bilateral relations this year, Belize remains committed to strengthening cooperation between the two nations. Belize extends its appreciation for this humanitarian support made possible through the Mexican Foreign Ministry, the Mexican Air Force and Direct Relief.

The Ministry of Health & Wellness encourages persons to get vaccinated. Help keep Belize COVID-19 safe by following prevention protocols and getting tested if symptoms are present.

**Ends**