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## PRESS RELEASE

### Official Inauguration of Maria Crawford Health Center

*Belmopan. March 17, 2022. 4:00 p.m.*

The Ministry of Health & Wellness in partnership with the Belize Social Investment Fund (SIF) held a ceremony today to officially inaugurate the Maria Crawford Health Center in Crooked Tree Village, Belize District.

The two-story ferroconcrete structure will have the health center on the ground floor with two apartments for staff on the upper floor. The building features a reinforced concrete foundation, walls, beams and columns and also a concrete roof. It is also air-conditioned and the installation of electrical, plumbing, water supply and wastewater systems were done in accordance with the regulations of the relevant authorities.

In his keynote address, Hon. Kevin Bernard, Minister of Health & Wellness, stated that health is an absolute priority, and reiterated his commitment to continue working to ensure that all is done to expand health services to the people of Belize. Minister Bernard also expressed gratitude to SIF for their support and partnership in addressing health needs countrywide. The minister also acknowledged the family of Ms. Maria Crawford which was present at the special occasion.

Funding in the amount of \$948,550.86 was provided by the Caribbean Development Bank through the Belize Social Investment Fund III Loan Project, with counterpart funding from the Government of Belize.

Also present at the ceremony were Hon. Marconi Leal, Sr., Area Representative for Belize Rural North; Dr. Julio Sabido, Chief Executive Officer in the Ministry of Health & Wellness; and board members of the Belize Social Investment Fund.

The Maria Crawford Health Center is part of the Central Health Region catchment of the Ministry of Health & Wellness. The clinic operates Monday – Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

For more information, please contact:

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