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## PRESS RELEASE

### Ministry of Natural Resources Issues Statement on Squatting

*Belmopan. May 11, 2020. 3:35 p.m.*

The Ministry of Natural Resources hereby reminds the public that squatting on national land or private land is illegal.

It has been brought to the Ministry's attention that unauthorized individuals are involved with private lands in the Agricultural Area of Cotton Tree Village, near the Benny's Warehouse at mile 44, George Price Highway, Cayo District. The public is advised to be cautious not to engage in activities that lead to the illegal disposal of land and unauthorized occupation as persons will do so at their own risk.

Any person who is found in the unlawful occupation of national land is guilty of an offense under the National Lands Act, Chapter 191 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000-2003.

While it is the **responsibility of private landowners** to remove trespassers from their land, the Ministry reiterates that, under the Summary Jurisdiction (Offences) Act, Chapter 98 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, **trespassing on private lands is illegal and subject to removal at the expense of trespassers.**

**Ends**