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**Statement by the Prime Minister on the Passing of
Queen Elizabeth II**

Today, with a heavy heart our nation joins the rest of the Commonwealth in mourning the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

On behalf of Belizeans at home and abroad, I extend heartfelt condolences to the Royal Family, members of the realm and the Commonwealth.

Queen Elizabeth II served as the only sovereign of our nation and visited Belize twice.

Her seven decades as Queen and Head of the Commonwealth can best be described as remarkable in the midst of these turbulent times.

Her life of faithful service will never be forgotten by Belizeans, especially those involved in the scouting movement which she served as patron.

In the coming days, we will honour the life of the Queen as well as extend our best wishes to her successor, King Charles III, as he takes on his duties as Sovereign and Head of the Commonwealth.

Details of the arrangements for the Queen's memorial and tributes to honour her life and service will be announced shortly.

May she rest in peace.