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## PRESS RELEASE

### **BDF and Coast Guard Receive New Vehicles**

*Belmopan. April 21, 2023.*

Hon. Florencio Marin Jr., Minister of National Defence and Border Security, handed over two vehicles to the Belize Defence Force (BDF) and the Belize Coast Guard in a ceremony at the ministry's compound on April 20. The acquisition of the vehicles, which will be for administrative use, is part of the ministry's ongoing efforts to support both institutions in the areas of transportation and physical infrastructure, with the aim of ensuring the well-being of the men and women who serve in the military.

The two vehicles, valued at \$50,000 each and duty exempt, were made possible from last fiscal year's Capital 2 budget. Present to receive the new acquisition was General Asariel Loria for the BDF and Admiral Elton Bennett for the Belize Coast Guard.

Minister Marin expressed his gratitude to both institutions for their dedication and service to the country, emphasizing the importance of providing necessary resources and infrastructure to the BDF as they continue to carry out their vital role in safeguarding the nation's security.

In accepting the vehicles, General Loria and Admiral Bennett thanked the ministry on behalf of their respective institutions and reaffirmed their commitment to serving the nation with honor and distinction.

Present at the ceremony were Hon. Oscar Mira, Minister of State in the Ministry of National Defence and Border Security; Hon. Oscar Requena, Vice Chairman of the Defence and Coast Guard boards; and Retired Brigadier General Dario Tapia, Chief Executive Officer in the Ministry of National Defence and Border Security.

The Ministry of National Defence and Border Security will continue to work closely with the security forces to ensure they have the necessary resources to carry out their duties effectively. With these new vehicles, the BDF and Coast Guard will have improved capabilities to serve and protect the nation.

**Ends**

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