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PRESS RELEASE

GOB and CDB Strengthen Partnership Through Country Project Portfolio Review

Belmopan, April 10, 2025.

A team from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) concluded a four-day mission to Belize from April 1-4, 2025, aimed at reviewing and advancing the portfolio of projects the Bank supports across the country. The visit focused on strengthening collaboration with the Government of Belize and accelerating the implementation of key development initiatives designed to uplift Belizean communities.

The country review offered a platform for open dialogue between government officials, CDB representatives, and project partners. The discussions, held in both Belmopan and Belize City, addressed critical development issues including infrastructure resilience, private sector expansion, social investment, and energy security.

CDB's Acting Director of Projects, Mr. L. O'Reilly Lewis, emphasized the importance of the exercise, stating, "This mission allowed us to work closely with Belize's leadership to ensure that our projects are creating real value for the people of Belize. We are committed to delivering projects that not only meet infrastructure needs, but also foster climate resilience and promote inclusive economic growth."

The review officially opened on April 1 with strategic discussions on Belize's infrastructure plans, current progress, and existing challenges across sectors such as transportation, education, water and sanitation, energy, and agriculture. These discussions focused on ensuring that projects deliver long-term benefits to local communities while supporting the country's development goals.

Financial Secretary, Mr. Joseph Waight, was present for the opening session and reiterated the Government's commitment to maintaining strong partnerships with development agencies, ensuring that projects are effectively executed for the benefit of the Belizean people.

A key highlight of the CDB mission was the official opening of a new school in Gales Point, built under the stewardship of the Belize Social Investment Fund (BSIF). This initiative forms part of ongoing efforts to enhance educational infrastructure in rural areas. The inauguration ceremony was attended by Mrs. Narda Garcia, Chief Executive Officer in the Office of the Prime Minister, who commended the project as a significant investment in the future of Belize's youth and a testament to the Government's commitment to education and community development.

On April 3, the delegation visited several project sites to assess progress firsthand, engaging with stakeholders and local communities. The mission wrapped up on April 4 in Belize City with discussions centered on strengthening Belize's energy sector and improving access to reliable and sustainable electricity for all citizens. The final meeting outlined the next steps and action plans to improve project delivery.

Mr. Carlos Pol, Chief Executive Officer in the Ministry of Economic Transformation, highlighted the value of the mission, "This review process is an essential part of ensuring our development projects are impactful and aligned with national priorities. The collaboration with CDB continues to play a crucial role in building a stronger, more resilient Belize."

The mission reinforced the longstanding partnership between the Government of Belize and the Caribbean Development Bank, demonstrating a shared commitment to improving lives and supporting sustainable development across the nation.

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