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## PRESS RELEASE

### **Fifth Cohort Completes Cell Phone Repair Training in the Belize District**

*Belmopan, July 21, 2025.*

The Office of the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Investment, through its Investment Policy and Compliance Unit (IPCU), partnered with the Taiwan Technical Mission and the National Women's Commission to expand the "Cell phone repair training for women in Belize" into the Belize District.

Nineteen females from Belize City, Ladyville, Caye Caulker, Lord's Bank, Hattievill, the New Beginnings Youth Development Centre, the Coral Grove Girls' Home, and the Fourteen-Miles Girls' Home participated in 50 hours of intensive cell phone repair training. The course was conducted from July 14 to July 19 at BELTRAIDE's Belize Training & Employment Centre (BTEC). The objective of the practical course was to bring self-employment opportunities to the participants and address the growing demand for cell phone repair technicians. In addition, the participants received three hours of sales and professional etiquette delivered by representatives from BTEC.

During the training, 159 phones were utilized for practice, and 103 devices were successfully repaired. What was once viewed as a male-dominated trade is now being delivered by over 80 women and girls across the country, reducing the disparity in women's skills in technical fields. This positive collaboration with the National Women's Commission is in line with the National Gender Policy 2024–2030's mandate and the government's goal of strengthening the Orange Economy and generating jobs.

To support the graduates in launching their businesses, each trainee received a toolkit that included antistatic mats, electric multimeters, soldering irons, and magnifying lamps to support them in offering their services and to open a business immediately. The certificates were distributed by Hon. Devin Daly, Minister of State in the Ministry of Youth & Sports, and Mr. Andrew Su, Chief of the Taiwan Technical Mission.

Also present at the closing ceremony were Mr. Lincoln Blake, the Director of the Investment Policy and Compliance Unit; Ms. Eleanor Murillo, the

Executive Director of the National Women's Commission; Ms. Indira Usher, Foreign Service Officer from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Culture, and Immigration; and Mr. Abisur Quintal, cell phone repair instructor from Jarvis Fix.

**Ends**

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