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PRESS RELEASE

Belize Defence Force Salary NOT Cut

Belmopan, August 15, 2025.

The Ministry of National Defence and Border Security takes this opportunity to categorically reaffirm that the salaries of members of the Belize Defence Force (BDF) have **not** been cut.

Recent discussions in the public domain have created the incorrect impression that a pay cut was implemented. This is not the case. The Ministry wishes to clarify that the recent action undertaken was a **salary adjustment exercise** designed to ensure that all BDF salaries, increments, and promotions are fully aligned with the approved 2019 pay scale, following an internal review in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance and the Treasury Department.

Key Points of Clarification:

- Not all BDF members were affected by the previous erroneous application of the adjusted 2019 pay scale.
- **No BDF member** will be required to repay any overpayment that may have resulted from past administrative errors.
- The adjustment corrects cases where some soldiers had been placed on incorrect points of the pay scale, which in turn affected their salaries, increments, and promotions.
- Effective 1 May 2024, all BDF members are now in receipt of **two additional allowances**: the *Jungle and Maritime Allowance* and the *Bush Allowance*.
- In July 2025, every member of the BDF received a **retroactive payment of \$2,250**, reflecting the backdated allowances. These allowances will continue to be paid monthly moving forward.

This salary adjustment exercise is a **necessary and responsible administrative measure** to safeguard fairness, accuracy, and transparency in the administration of salaries across the Force. The Ministry remains steadfast in its commitment to upholding the welfare of all service members, ensuring that their contributions to the security and sovereignty of Belize are recognized and fairly compensated.

Furthermore, the Ministry assures all members of the BDF that **future improvements to the terms and conditions of service are being planned** and will be announced in due course. These measures will continue

to strengthen the morale, readiness, and operational effectiveness of the Force.

Ends

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