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PRESS RELEASE

Mabil Ha and Otoxha Villages Sign Consent Agreements for Rural Electrification Project

Belmopan, October 22, 2025.

The Ministry of Rural Transformation, Community Development, Labour and Local Government (MRTCDLLG), in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), marked a major milestone with the signing of Consent Agreements for the villages of Otoxha and Mabil Ha in the Toledo District under the Deepening Access via Rural Electrification (DARE) Project.

This project is being funded by the India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Fund, with a total budget of US\$1 million, and is being implemented by the UNDP in partnership with the MRTCDLLG and the Ministry of Public Utilities, Energy and Logistics (MPUEL). The DARE Project aims to enhance access to reliable, affordable, and sustainable electricity to underserved communities. The project focuses on the installation of photovoltaic (PV) systems to power homes, schools, and community buildings in the villages of Otoxha and Mabil Ha, thereby providing greater access to education, healthcare, and livelihoods.

The ceremony was attended by Mr. Chad Bowman, Climate Analyst for UNDP; Dr. Hon. Osmond Martinez, Area Representative of Toledo East; Mr. Charles Galvez representing Hon. Oscar Requena, Area Representative of Toledo West; Hon. Florencio Marin Jr., Minister of MRTCDLLG; Mr. Valentino Shal, Chief Executive Officer of MRTCDLLG; and Mr. Gustavo Requena, Director of the Office of Indigenous Peoples' Affairs.

These representatives witnessed the signing, signifying the official start of implementation activities in both communities. The agreements pave the way for the installation of solar-powered energy systems that will bring reliable, affordable, and sustainable electricity to these communities.

During the brief ceremonies, the Hon. Florencio Marin Jr. commended community leaders and residents for their commitment to advancing rural development. He highlighted that the DARE Project represents more than just access to electricity; it is about empowerment, opportunity, and transformation for rural communities across Belize.

The Ministry extends its appreciation to the IBSA Fund, UNDP, MPUEL, and all partners involved for their continued support in bringing light and opportunity to Belize's rural villages.

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