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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **MRT and UNICEF Inaugurate Rehabilitated Water System in San Jose Village**

*Belmopan, February 12, 2026.*

The Ministry of Rural Transformation, Community Development, and Local Government, in collaboration with UNICEF, officially inaugurated the rehabilitated San Jose water system and handed over essential power infrastructure. This joint initiative provides the community with a modern, green energy framework designed to enhance the efficiency and reliability of the local water system. The event marked a transformative step in modernizing rural communities by focusing on sustainable energy solutions and long-term water security for the residents of the Toledo District.

The newly inaugurated system is a strategic investment intended to provide a more cost-effective way to operate the village water system. By harnessing renewable energy, the system will significantly reduce the operational expenses of the local waterboard while ensuring a consistent supply of water to households throughout the day. To complement the new power source and ensure system resilience, a heavy-duty generator was also presented to the community. This generator is specifically designed to serve as a dependable backup to the solar system, ensuring that water service remains uninterrupted during periods of limited sunlight or power fluctuations.

The ceremony was attended by Hon. Oscar Requena, Minister of Rural Transformation, Community Development, and Local Government, and Dr. Olusola Oladeji, the Health and Nutrition Specialist for UNICEF. They were joined by Mr. Valentino Shal, Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Rural Transformation, Community Development, and Local Government, and members of the San Jose village council and waterboard.

By strengthening the technical capabilities and energy independence of San Jose, the Ministry is ensuring that the community enjoys a dependable water service that is both sustainable and resilient. This project serves as a model for future rural development across Belize, proving that innovative technology and strategic partnerships can provide lasting solutions for community growth.

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