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PRESS RELEASE

MRT and UNICEF Inaugurate the Yemeri Grove Water System

Belmopan, February 12, 2026.

The Ministry of Rural Transformation, Community Development, and Local Government, in collaboration with UNICEF, officially inaugurated the Yemeri Grove Water System. This event marks another significant investment in the Toledo District's rural infrastructure, aimed at providing a safe, consistent, and sustainable water supply to the residents of Yemeri Grove.

The new water system will now allow the village of Yemeri Grove to be fully independent in its water supply. Previously, the community shared a system with the village of Laguna, a setup that presented various challenges for both communities. The new infrastructure, comprising a new production well, a structurally elevated reservoir, and a submersible pump with integrated components, connects directly to the distribution network and BEL power, providing reliable water service to 121 households and significantly improving public health and daily convenience. This project aims to empower the local water board with an efficient system that alleviates the technical difficulties previously associated with shared water access. The infrastructure is built to be resilient, ensuring that the community remains equipped to handle future growth and environmental challenges independently.

The inauguration 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, as well as village leaders and members of the Yemeri Grove community. The presence of these officials and local stakeholders underscores the importance of the partnership between the government, international organizations, and the local community in achieving development goals.

By strengthening the technical infrastructure in Yemeri Grove, the Ministry is fulfilling its commitment to bridge the service gap and ensure that the residents of the Toledo District are supported by a dependable, independent water network that fosters both economic stability and community well-being.

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