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PRESS RELEASE

MRT and UNICEF Donate Water System Equipment to Fourteen Communities

Belmopan, February 2, 2026.

The Ministry of Rural Transformation, Community Development and Local Government, in a continued mission to bridge the infrastructure gap in southern Belize, officially handed over a large consignment of water system expansion materials on January 31, 2026. This significant event, held at the Machaca Forest Station, marks a milestone in the national effort to enhance potable water access for fourteen communities across the Toledo District. This essential donation, facilitated through the collaborative efforts of the Ministry of Rural Transformation and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), provides the critical hardware necessary to extend rural water networks to ensure sustainable service delivery to rural households.

The inventory of materials includes high-grade piping, water meters to improve residential tracking and conservation, and a heavy-duty generator designed to ensure system resilience during power fluctuations for San Jose Village. This strategic investment is designed to address the unique geographical challenges of the south by equipping local water boards with the tools needed for both technical reliability and administrative efficiency. These resources will benefit the communities of Yemeri Grove, San Vicente, Blue Creek, Big Falls, Graham Creek, Bella Vista, San Pedro Columbia, San Antonio, Jordan, Santa Teresa, San Felipe, San Pablo, San Isidro, and San Jose.

The handover ceremony was attended by Hon. Oscar Requena, Minister of Rural Transformation, Community Development, and Local Government; Dr. Hon. Osmond Martinez, Area Representative for Toledo East; 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, along with chairpersons and members of the respective community water boards. The presence of these officials underscores the high-level commitment to rural development and the shared priority of ensuring that every Belizean household has access to safe and reliable water.

The speakers noted that this handover is not merely a delivery of hardware, but a vital step in the government's broader mandate to ensure that geography never determines the quality of life for Belizeans. By helping to improve the technical capabilities of these fourteen villages, the Ministry and its partners are effectively closing the service gap between rural and urban areas. This initiative stands as a definitive benchmark for future development, proving that through shared responsibility and strategic investment, the communities of the Toledo District are being equipped to safeguard their own resources and drive their own growth well into the future.

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