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PRESS RELEASE

Ministry of Constitution and Religious Affairs, Indigenous Affairs, and Transportation Holds Church–State Dialogue Retreat

Belmopan, February 23, 2026.

The Ministry of Constitution and Religious Affairs, Indigenous Affairs, and Transportation led, by Dr. Hon. Louis Zabaneh, held a Church–State Dialogue Retreat in collaboration with the Belize Council of Churches, National Evangelical Association of Belize (NEAB), and Belize Association Evangelical of Churches (BAEC) under the theme, “Faith, Values, and Nationhood: Walking Together in Dialogue and Purpose.” The event brought together leaders from across Belize’s church communities to engage in structured dialogue aimed at strengthening mutual understanding, social cohesion, and constructive engagement on national issues.

The retreat provided a dedicated space for reflection on shared values that contribute to nation-building, the role of church communities within a diverse society, and the importance of respectful engagement between Church and State. Church leaders explored ways to strengthen partnership, clarify roles and expectations, and promote dialogue.

Discussions also reflected on the importance of structured consultation and communication on societal issues, with an emphasis on safeguarding social harmony and fostering trust between institutions and communities. The dialogue highlights the shared commitment of Government and Church leaders to maintaining open channels of communication and to addressing societal challenges through engagement grounded in respect and the common good.

The retreat forms part of the Ministry's broader efforts to strengthen institutional dialogue with religious communities and to promote constructive engagement on matters affecting national values and social cohesion.

The Ministry expressed appreciation to the Belize Council of Churches, the National Evangelical Association of Belize (NEAB), the Belize Evangelical Association of Churches (BEAC), and all participating leaders for their engagement and contributions toward fostering understanding, cooperation, and unity in the national interest.

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