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PRESS RELEASE

GOB Advances National ID Consultations with Public Engagement in Orange Walk

Belmopan, April 24, 2026.

The Government of Belize, through the Ministry of E-Governance, continues to move forward with the development of the National Identification (ID) Bill, with a successful public consultation held on April 23, 2026, at Central Park in Orange Walk Town. This marks the first in a nationwide series of consultations designed to give Belizeans a direct voice in shaping a modern and secure national identification system.

This consultation builds on the initial engagement held on February 3, 2026, which launched a collaborative process involving civil society, academia, the private sector, and government institutions. More recently, a validation session held on April 21, 2026, at the University of Belize, Belmopan Campus, reviewed the draft Bill and ensured that public feedback continues to shape its development.

The proposed National ID Bill aims to:

- Establish a secure and unified legal framework for identity management
- Protect personal data through strong privacy safeguards
- Strengthen governance and institutional accountability
- Improve access to public services, financial systems, and social programs
- Enhance national security and administrative efficiency
- Support Belize's digital transformation

During the consultation, it was emphasized that the use of biometric technology is not new to Belizeans. Biometric verification is already widely used across everyday services and systems in the country, including identity checks and access controls in various sectors. The proposed National ID system builds on this familiarity by introducing a structured, nationally governed approach that strengthens consistency, security, and reliability in identity verification.

Importantly, the system is being designed to empower individuals by giving them greater control over how their personal information is used and shared, depending on the service they access. This approach fosters trust, strengthens privacy, and ensures that the system works for all Belizeans.

The session brought together members of the public, stakeholders, and government representatives in an open and engaging dialogue on the future of identity management in Belize, reflecting the Government's commitment to inclusive and people-centred governance.

The Orange Walk consultation created a valuable space for citizens to ask questions, share concerns, and contribute ideas, reinforcing the Government's commitment to transparency and meaningful public participation.

The consultation process will continue with the next session scheduled for April 24, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. at the Biltmore Hotel in Belize City. The Ministry of E-Governance will continue to host consultations across the country to ensure that every Belizean has the opportunity to participate in shaping this important national initiative.

The Government of Belize encourages all citizens to take part in this process. Your voice matters in building a trusted, secure, and inclusive National Identification System that will improve access to services and support national development for generations to come.

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