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PRESS RELEASE

Belize Assumes Pro Tempore Presidency of CECC/SICA

Belmopan, June 22, 2026.

Belize has officially assumed the Pro Tempore Presidency of the Educational and Cultural Coordination of the Central American Integration System (CECC/SICA), following the conclusion of the 51st Ordinary Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Education and Culture held on June 17, 2026, in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

During the meeting, the Dominican Republic formally transferred the Pro Tempore Presidency to Belize for the next six-month period. Hon. Ramon Cervantes, Minister of State in the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Technology (MoECST), delivered Belize's acceptance remarks on behalf of the Government and people of Belize.

In his address, Minister Cervantes outlined Belize's key priorities for its presidency, emphasizing the importance of ensuring that education reaches every learner, strengthening culture as a pillar of identity and national development, and advancing digital transformation that serves people. He also highlighted Belize's ongoing efforts in educational innovation, including the country's experience with digitization in education through the 501 Academy initiative.

Belize was also represented by Mr. Rolando Cocom, Director of the Institute for Social and Cultural Research (ISCR) within the National Institute of Culture and History (NICH), who participated in discussions during the Council of Ministers of Culture meeting. Chief Education Officer, Ms. Yolanda Gongora, was likewise present and engaged in exchanges aimed at strengthening educational programmes and regional cooperation.

As Pro Tempore President, Belize will lead and coordinate the implementation of the actions and agreements adopted by the Council of Ministers over the next six months, advancing a regional agenda focused on educational quality, cultural development, innovation, and collaboration among member states.

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Technology remains committed to working closely with regional partners to promote inclusive, equitable, and transformative education and culture initiatives that benefit the people of Belize and the wider Central American region.

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