



PR#168-26

PRESS RELEASE

Minister Zabaneh Meets with Faith-Based Partners to Discuss Advancing Community Development Initiatives

Belmopan, June 26, 2026.

Dr. Hon. Louis Zabaneh, Minister of Constitution and Religious Affairs, Indigenous Affairs, and Transportation, along with Ms. Ginée Neal, Director of Constitution and Religious Affairs, met with representatives of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on June 15, 2026, during a working visit to Belize aimed at exploring opportunities for collaboration on initiatives that support community development and contribute to the country's national development priorities.

The delegation, comprising Mr. Cristian Romero, Humanitarian Specialist, and Mr. Daniel Hernandez, Humanitarian Manager, travelled from Guatemala to engage with government stakeholders and identify areas where the Church's expertise and resources can complement the Government of Belize's development agenda. While the humanitarian representatives are based in Guatemala and provide support throughout the region, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints maintains an active presence in Belize through its local congregations and ongoing community engagement, providing a strong foundation for future collaborative initiatives.

As part of their visit, the delegation visited the Southern Regional Hospital, where they met with Ms. Doris Yanes, Hospital Administrator, along with members of the hospital's management team, to discuss regional priorities and explore opportunities for collaboration on projects that support the continued development of healthcare services and respond to the evolving needs of communities in southern Belize.

The delegation also met with Ms. Fern Gutierrez, Deputy National Emergency Coordinator, and Ms. Brenda Briceño, Humanitarian Support Officer of the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO), to exchange perspectives on areas of mutual interest and explore opportunities for collaboration in community resilience, emergency preparedness, disaster response, and other initiatives that support sustainable community development.

The Ministry of Constitution and Religious Affairs remains committed to strengthening strategic partnerships between the Government of Belize and faith-based organizations that are invested in the nation's development. Through sustained dialogue and collaboration, the Ministry serves as a catalyst for initiatives that strengthen social services, foster community development and social cohesion, uphold shared values, and support innovative, sustainable solutions that contribute to the long-term growth, resilience, and prosperity of Belizean communities.

Ends