



PR#164-26

PRESS RELEASE

Prime Minister Appoints Interim Minister of Home Affairs; Hon. Oscar Mira Given Leave of Absence

Belmopan, June 22, 2026.

The Office of the Prime Minister announces that, effective today, Hon. Julius Espat will, in addition to his duties as Minister of Infrastructure Development & Housing, act as Minister of Home Affairs.

Recent media reports have raised questions about procurement processes relating to Hon. Oscar Mira during a period when he served at the Ministry of Defence.

Hon. Mira has requested that the Prime Minister, in the circumstances, relieve him of his official Cabinet duties for the period during which an audit of those procurement processes is to be conducted by the Auditor General. The duration of the audit is expected to be three months.

Last week, in view of the media reports and attendant public concern, the Prime Minister ordered an immediate, thorough, and transparent review of the relevant transactions and payment processes.

As Chairman of Belize's National Security management structure, to which the role of the Ministry of Home Affairs is central, the Prime Minister will liaise closely with Interim Minister Espat and the Ministry's senior management to ensure the effective advancement of the various security initiatives and programs underway.

"It is important for the public to know that concerns regarding Ministerial conduct are taken seriously," said Prime Minister Briceño. "Our duty is to secure value for taxpayer dollars as well as compliance with procurement regulations."

Ends