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PRESS RELEASE

Belize Assumes Pro Tempore Presidency of ERDI

Belmopan, July 2, 2026.

The Government of Belize, through the Ministry of E-Governance, has officially assumed the Pro Tempore Presidency of the Ad Hoc Group for the implementation of the SICA Regional Digital Strategy (ERDI) for the July–December 2026 term.

John Robateau, acting Director of the Ministry of E-Governance, will lead the presidency. Belize takes over the leadership from the Dominican Republic, committing to advancing regional integration, digital inclusion, and economic competitiveness across Central America and the Dominican Republic.

"Digital transformation is the tool with which Central America and the Dominican Republic face their challenges in security, governance, and economics," stated Robateau. "Belize assumes this responsibility with the firm conviction that technology is not exclusively a technical matter, but a state policy centred on people, their rights, and their development opportunities."

Belize expressed its gratitude to the Dominican Republic for its previous leadership, which established solid foundations in cybersecurity, artificial intelligence (AI), and institutional strengthening. Belize committed to ensuring continuity by following through with the ERDI Action Plan 2024–2026.

During its tenure, Belize's Pro Tempore Presidency will concentrate regional efforts on three core pillars:

- **Regional Cybersecurity:** safeguarding critical national infrastructure and ensuring citizens can utilize digital technologies with safety and confidence.
- **Digital Interoperability:** focusing heavily on the cross-border recognition of electronic signatures to streamline administrative procedures and commercial transactions between SICA member countries.
- **Artificial intelligence:** developing localized AI solutions tailored to regional data and real human needs, guided by shared ethical principles.

Belize reiterates its commitment to working closely with SICA member states, development partners, the private sector, and civil society to build a future of shared prosperity and digital sovereignty.

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