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PRESS RELEASE

NEMO's Second CERT Cohort Graduates Twenty-Three Orange Walk Residents

Belmopan, July 24, 2026.

The National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) has successfully completed its second Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training programme, with twenty-three residents from the villages of San Antonio and Santa Cruz now better equipped to protect their families and communities during emergencies.

The graduation ceremony, held on Thursday evening in Santa Cruz Village, marked the successful completion of Belize's second CERT cohort. The group comprised ten participants from San Antonio Village and thirteen participants, all of whom completed comprehensive training designed to prepare volunteers to respond safely and effectively during emergencies before professional responders arrive.

Throughout the programme, participants received practical instruction in disaster preparedness, basic first aid, fire safety, light search and rescue, emergency communications, damage assessment, and community response coordination. These newly acquired skills will enable graduates to support their families, neighbours, and first responders during times of crisis, helping to build safer and more resilient communities.

Each graduate was presented with a personal emergency response kit to assist them in carrying out their responsibilities as CERT members. Additionally, the San Antonio and Santa Cruz Village Councils received emergency response equipment to strengthen their capacity to coordinate and support disaster response efforts within their respective communities.

The CERT programme was implemented by the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) with technical support from the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) through the Building the Resilience of CARIFORUM States to Disaster Risks and Climate Change Impacts Programme, commonly known as the BRICS Programme. It is funded by the European Union under the Eleventh European Development Fund and reflects the shared commitment of these partners to strengthening disaster resilience and enhancing community preparedness throughout the Caribbean.

The programme also supports the Government of Belize's Plan Belize agenda by investing in community resilience and empowering citizens with the knowledge, skills, and resources needed to respond effectively to disasters.

The Ministry of the Public Service and Disaster Risk Management congratulates all graduates on their successful completion of the programme and extends its sincere appreciation to the European Union, CDEMA, the Natural Disaster Facility, village councils, facilitators, and all stakeholders whose partnership made this initiative possible.

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