



PR#177-26

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **MRT Inaugurates Water System Expansion in Pomona Village**

*Belmopan, July 6, 2026.*

The Ministry of Rural Transformation, Community Development, and Local Government officially inaugurated the new Water System Expansion in Pomona Village on July 4, 2026. This event marked a critical investment in the Stann Creek District's rural infrastructure, aimed at providing a safe, consistent, and resilient water supply to the residents of Pomona, particularly as the community overcomes seasonal water challenges.

The new water system expansion introduces an independent, dedicated water source designed to bolster the community's existing infrastructure. Historically, Pomona has faced water strain and supply issues, especially during the dry season when demand peaks. This new infrastructure is fully powered by solar energy and includes a 40,000-liter ground-level reservoir, a newly constructed pump house, and a backup diesel generator equipped with full electrical components. By integrating this advanced setup into the network, the project directly alleviates pressure on the old system, ensuring a reliable water supply to households even during peak dry periods.

In addition to the new system infrastructure, the community received a significant consignment of pipes, fittings, and other plumbing materials provided directly by the Ministry of Rural Transformation. This crucial resource will empower the local water board to actively manage and facilitate the ongoing growth and expansion of Pomona Village, bringing dependable service to new households and developing areas.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by a delegation of high-level officials, reflecting the national importance of rural development and water security. Present at the ceremony were Dr. Hon. Osmond Martinez, Minister of State in the Ministry of Economic Transformation and representative of the Office of the Prime Minister, who delivered the keynote remarks; Hon. Oscar Requena, Minister of Rural Transformation, Community Development, and Local Government; and Hon. Rodwell Ferguson, Area Representative for Stann Creek West. They were joined by Mr. Valentino Shal, Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry, as well as local village council and water board members.

The presence of national leadership alongside local stakeholders underscores the power of collaborative governance in achieving critical development goals. By strengthening the technical infrastructure and expanding Pomona's distribution capacity, the Ministry continues to fulfil its commitment to bridging service gaps, fostering climate resilience, and ensuring that rural communities are equipped with the independent, dependable services necessary for long-term economic stability and well-being.

**Ends**