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PRESS RELEASE

New Beginnings Youth Development Centre Celebrates International Men's Day

Belmopan, November 18, 2026.

The Ministry of Human Development, Family Support and Gender Affairs, through its Community Rehabilitation Department (CRD) and New Beginnings Youth Development Centre (NBYDC), hosted a special International Men's Day observance on Tuesday, November 17, 2026, at the Grand Resort, under the theme “The Future Is Everyone.”

The initiative highlighted the potential, aspirations, and capacity for positive change among Belizean boys and young men. It also reinforced the importance of mentorship, positive male role models, and opportunities for personal development.

The day's activities began with an executive-themed photoshoot, which provided the young men with an opportunity to dress in formal business attire and envision themselves as future entrepreneurs, professionals, and leaders. Beyond the photographs, the experience was designed to build confidence, encourage ambition, and help participants recognize that their present circumstances do not define their future.

The afternoon featured an interactive Men's Roundtable Talk, which brought together Belizean men from different professional and personal backgrounds to share their experiences, challenges, and lessons learned.

Hon. Devin Daly, Minister of State for Youth and Sports, participated as the guest speaker, alongside Dr. Javier Canul, medical professional and educator; Mr. Shamar Brown, owner of Brown's Auto Tinting and Detailing; and Mr. Michael Pollard, a Belize City Council employee and former NBYDC resident. The discussion was moderated by Mr. Marcus August of the National Commission for Families and Children (NCFC).

The engagement focused on positive male identity, mental health and emotional well-being, resilience, entrepreneurship, personal responsibility, and the importance of making positive life choices. It also created space for meaningful conversations about the challenges facing boys and young men, and the support needed to help them navigate those challenges.

Of particular significance was the involvement of a former NBYDC resident, whose journey demonstrated that life beyond residential care can offer opportunities for personal growth, employment, and meaningful contributions to society.

The observance underscored an important message: young men should not be defined solely by their mistakes or circumstances, but also by their potential and the opportunities available to them.

Through initiatives such as this, the Ministry continues to promote a rehabilitative and supportive approach to youth development, recognizing that positive intervention, guidance, and meaningful engagement can help young people build more promising futures.

The theme, **"**The Future Is Everyone**,"** served as a reminder that investing in boys and young men is a shared responsibility. By providing opportunities for mentorship, personal development, and positive engagement, communities can help nurture the next generation of leaders, fathers, entrepreneurs, and productive citizens.

The Ministry of Human Development, Family Support and Gender Affairs remains committed to supporting initiatives that empower young people, strengthen families, and contribute to safer, more inclusive communities.

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