



## Official Inauguration of Rehabilitated Road & Drainage Infrastructure Project, Punta Gorda, Toledo

### Press release:

Residents of Punta Gorda and surrounding communities are now enjoying a safer and more pleasant street and drainage environment courtesy of the Government of Belize who financed the project at a cost of **\$1,702,214.32** with funds through a loan from the World Bank, and counterpart contribution from Punta Gorda Town Board amounting to **\$51,066.43**

In this regard, the road and drainage infrastructure was officially inaugurated on March 15, 2017 in Punta Gorda. Speakers at the event included Hon Erwin Contreras, Minister of Economic Development, Petroleum, Investment, Trade and Commerce, Mayor Fern Gutierrez, and the Executive Director of Social Investment Fund, Mr. William Lamb Jr. among others.

The project is designed to improve the quality of life for all Belizeans traversing in Punta Gorda. It includes the rehabilitation of Robert Pennell Street, Lucille Melendrez Street, and Hopeville Loop coupled with an extensive drainage system, street markings of finished chip seal surface, and installation of road signs.



The road and drainage infrastructure project will also contribute significantly to the socio-economic development of Punta Gorda, its surrounding communities and by extension, the wider society of Belize. Completion of the project means that residents will no longer have to be confronted by poor road conditions such as dust during the dry season as well as mud and puddles of water during the rainy season. Other key beneficiaries will include vehicle owners who will also have a more pleasant driving experience.

The project was implemented by the Belize Social Investment Fund (BSIF) under Phase II of the Belize Municipal Development Project (BMDP). Other components of the infrastructure project included capacity building for the municipality, technical assistance to central government in municipal management, project management and administration. Another notable achievement in Punta Gorda by BMDP is the rehabilitation of Punta Gorda Town Administration Offices and adjacent Town Hall.

**About BMDP:** The Belize Municipal Development Project is a \$30 million dollar project financed by the Government of Belize through a loan from the World Bank. The project is aimed to provide much needed infrastructure in seven major municipalities in the country, and is implemented by the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) of the BMDP, under the umbrella of the Social Investment Fund; to provide access to basic municipal infrastructure, and enhance municipal management in selected Town and City Councils of Belize. These include Belmopan, Benque Viejo del Carmen, San Ignacio and Santa Elena, Dangriga, Punta Gorda, Corozal and Orange Walk.

**About BSIF:** Belize Social Investment Fund is an implementing agency of the Government of Belize, addressing the basic needs of Belizeans as enshrined in Government's Policy to alleviate poverty reduction.

