



Press Release 20 October, 2017

Government of Belize in collaboration with Caribbean Development Bank Launches Ninth Cycle of the Basic Needs Trust Fund and Belize Social Investment Fund III Project

The Opening Ceremony of the national Project Launch of the **Ninth Cycle** of the Basic Needs Trust Fund (BNTF 9) and Belize Social Investment Fund III Project was held under the theme: “**Partnering Against Poverty**” on 23 October, 2017 at the Best Western Biltmore Plaza, Belize City.

The BNTF Programme, Caribbean Development Bank’s (CDB) flagship poverty reduction programme, has contributed significantly to the national development of Belize since 1979. Guided by its mandate to help poor, vulnerable communities improve their access to basic public services, BNTF has provided assistance with social and economic infrastructure, and skills training to hundreds to enhance employability and self-sufficiency in communities across the country.

The **Ninth Cycle** of the Basic Needs Trust Fund is aimed at reducing the incidence of poverty in low income vulnerable communities by improving access to quality education, water and sanitation, basic community access and drainage, livelihoods enhancement and human resource development services. The scope of the BNTF Programme has been expanded to include private sector partnerships aimed at strengthening its delivery mechanisms to reach a greater number of beneficiaries and leverage additional resources for reducing poverty in Belize.

Funding for BNTF Programme is made available courtesy of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and nine beneficiary Governments including the Government of Belize.

In May of this year, the National Assembly of Belize approved a US \$10 Million dollars in loan resources from CDB to assist the Government of Belize in continuing its poverty reduction efforts at the community level through the Belize Social Investment Fund III Project. The Project will also seek to integrate appropriate climate adaptation measures into the design of sub-projects. This systematic approach to infrastructure planning and delivery is critical to reducing long-term risks and increasing sustainability of investments.

CDB’s resources will be channeled through the Belize Social Investment Fund, which 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 in both urban and rural communities.