



Social Investment Fund

Basic Needs Trust Fund



Social Investment Fund inaugurates Guinea Grass Library & Multi-purpose Center

Belmopan, Wednesday March 12, 2014: 800 hundred children in the village of Guinea Grass, Orange Walk District, will now enjoy a safe community space promoting reading, culture and knowledge through a project implemented by the Social Investment Fund (SIF) in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports through the Belize National Library Service and Information System (BNLSIS), and the community of Guinea Grass.

The Guinea Grass Multi-Purpose Center was financed by the Government of Belize by a loan provided by the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) at a total cost of \$368,099. It houses the community library, the Village Council, the Water Board and sewing facility.

The library is equipped with furniture, books and computers made available by SIF. SIF was also instrumental in providing sewing equipment, and skills training in sewing to 10 women and small business/entrepreneurship training to close to 20 men, women and youth in the village.

The project represents SIF's continued commitment of realizing its Mission by implementing social infrastructure projects and programmes that provide basic services to the most severely affected groups aimed at reducing poverty in urban and rural areas across Belize.

Speakers at today's inauguration included the Hon. Patrick Faber, Minister of Education, Youth and Sports, Hon. Jose Mai, Area Representative, Chairman of the Village Council, Mr. Jose Hernandez, Executive Director of the Social Investment Fund, Mr. William Lamb, and Chief Librarian of BNLSIS, Mrs. Joy Ysaguirre.

The event, which was held today at the Guinea Grass Multi-purpose Centre, Guinea Grass, Orange Walk, was attended by a wide-cross section of the community including students, teachers, and parents.

About Guinea Grass:

The village of Guinea Grass is located in the Orange District nine (9) miles south west of Orange Walk Town. The community has approximately 3,000 inhabitants of which the majority is of Mestizo decent who dedicate themselves to the cultivation of sugar for the export market. The name of the village derived from a high grass, named Guinea Grass which was founded during the time of settlement in the 1880's.

About SIF:

The Belize Social Investment Fund (BSIF) is one of the mechanisms utilized by the Government of Belize (GOB) in its poverty elimination efforts. BSIF has provided basic infrastructure and social services to poor and vulnerable communities throughout Belize. The resources of BSIF are used to finance sub-projects sponsored by central and local government agencies including the Village Councils and Alcalde systems, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), Community-based organizations (CBOs) and private-sector organizations.

“Social Investment Fund...Breaking the Cycle of poverty”