



For Immediate Release

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Press Release

National Forensic Science Service receives regional recognition

Belmopan – The National Forensic Science Service has achieved regional recognition on January 4, 2024, by having four (4) IAI Certified Crime Scene Investigators employed as staff members in the Scenes of Crime Unit making Belize the only country in Central America and the Caribbean to have that many Crime Scene Investigators certified by the IAI. The International Association for Identification (IAI) is the world's oldest and largest professional body of forensic science practitioners. This remarkable achievement is a firm testament of our Public Officers' capacity and commitment to professional development in Forensic Sciences in Belize. Having among its cadre of forensic experts, professionals who are internationally certified in different disciplines plays a crucial role in ensuring that Belize's forensic experts meet established international standards and contribute to raising overall quality of forensic science services for the criminal justice system.

This achievement is the result of years of efforts by the NFSS on continuous quality improvement projects in close collaboration with U.S. Government counterpart agencies and other stakeholders. With greater reliance on forensic evidence, and less reliance on eyewitness testimony, Belize's Justice System will continue to experience an increase in the deterrence against criminal activity due to sound convictions based on forensic evidence. The Belizean Public Officers employed at the NFSS who have attained this international certification are Mr. Jiro Sosa, Mr. Filiberto Pot, Mr. Antonio Manzanero and Mr. Jeffery Santos.

In commemorating this achievement by the Scenes of Crime Unit, Minister of Home Affairs and New Growth Industries Hon. Kareem Musa said "this is a great accomplishment for the National Forensic Science Service and by extension the Government of Belize in strengthening the criminal justice system. These men took on the feat of embracing the rigorous challenge and in doing so have placed Belize ahead of our neighbouring Central American and Caribbean sister states in achieving IAI Certification. We extend a hearty congratulations to the successful public officers and at the Ministry of Home Affairs and New Growth Industries, we look forward to supporting more of our men and women in becoming equally certified".

END.