



For Immediate Release

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Joint Press Release

United States Government Hands Over Newly Constructed Forensic Office and Equipment in Dangriga Valued at Over USD \$370,000

Dangriga, Stann Creek — The United States Government, through the Department of State’s Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), officially handed over a newly constructed and fully equipped Forensic Office intended for use by the Scenes of Crime Unit in Dangriga valued at more than USD \$370,000. This investment replaces the previous inadequate workspace and significantly strengthens Belize’s forensic capacity, supporting joint efforts to enhance citizen security and uphold the rule of law.

During the ceremony, Chargé d’Affaires [Name] emphasized the importance of the upgraded facility and the deepening U.S.–Belize partnership, noting that the handover reflects a shared commitment to justice, accountability, and safer communities. The Chargé also highlighted that enhancing Belize’s forensic capabilities directly advances U.S. administration priorities by helping make the United States stronger, safer, and more prosperous through reduced transnational crime and strengthened regional security.

In his remarks, newly appointed Minister of Home Affairs and Enterprise, the Honorable Oscar Mira highlighted that this project reflects the growing strength of strategic partnerships that foster a strong national security framework. Hon. Mira added that the dedicated space will allow crime scene personnel to have secure areas for evidence handling and processing, protecting evidence integrity that will further strengthen criminal investigations and enable stronger coordination on local as well as transnational cases.

The new Forensic Dangriga Office provides an expanded, properly outfitted environment for evidence collection, preservation, and analysis, enabling national forensic personnel and the Belize Police Department to improve investigative integrity and support fair, efficient prosecutions across the southern region. The upgraded facility includes dedicated spaces for evidence processing and storage, specialized equipment for forensic documentation and analysis, improved infrastructure to maintain proper chain-of-custody procedures, and enhanced working conditions for personnel performing critical forensic functions. Importantly, the modern design and layout now position the

Dangriga office to meet future accreditation standards—an advancement that was not possible in the previous space.

By replacing the former limited workspace with a facility built to professional forensic standards, the Dangriga Forensic office will help reduce case backlogs, improve response times to crime scenes, and strengthen investigative outcomes in Stann Creek and surrounding districts. This handover builds on decades of U.S.–Belize cooperation in law enforcement, border security, justice reform, and community safety, reaffirming the United States’ commitment to supporting Belize in strengthening its institutions and combating the transnational threats that affect both nations.

ENDS.