

# BELIZE NETWORK OF NGOs

## PRESS RELEASE (FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)

### **BNN's National Recovery Strategy Tabled at National Oversight Committee**

[Belize City, Belize, 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2020] At the National Oversight Committee meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2020, the Belize Network of NGOs (BNN) tabled a national recovery strategy for review and action. This document is the outcome of consultations with BNN's membership as well as experts in economics, health, education, agriculture, tourism, and risk and crisis management. Edited by consultant Valentino Shal, the report underscores that while attention is currently focused on Covid-19 and the socio-economic damage it is causing, it is imperative that Belize moves towards a multidisciplinary and integrated approach in national planning as well as addressing the root of perennial challenges such as poverty and corruption.

In addition to recommendations on economic recovery, the document outlines steps that can be taken to enhance Belize's agricultural sector and food security; strengthen the national health system; have the country's educational institutions adapt to meet student needs; lessen the nation's tourism product to external shocks; and implement crisis planning and response mechanisms across the public and private sector.

In summarizing the importance of the National Recovery Strategy, BNN's Chair, Froyla Tzalam stated: *"We recognize that many of the recommendations aren't 'new'. But the fact that we are still calling for these steps is telling. We need to stop talking about putting these things in place and just get them done. The time is now."*

The BNN therefore calls on the Prime Minister and his Cabinet to endorse the National Recovery Strategy and thereafter present to the nation an action plan to implement those recommendations.

The BNN will be socializing the strategy nationally in the coming weeks. [END]

#####

For more information, contact Chair, Froyla Tzalam at 615-8532, or Senator Osmany Salas at 602-2535; Belize13thSenator@gmail.com.

**Note: BNN's National Recovery Strategy is attached for your reference.**