



## BELIZE and EUROPEAN UNION COOPERATION

# P R E S S   R E L E A S E

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **EU Ambassador to hand-over training equipment valued at over 1 million dollars & Hurricane Shelters Programme valued at 1.5 million**

The Government of Belize and the European Union is pleased to announce that the Head of Delegation for the European Union to Belize, Ambassador Paola Amadei will hand-over technical vocational training equipment valued at over BZ\$1 million to Georgetown Technical High School (GTHS), located in the Stann Creek District at 9 a.m. on Wednesday 23 September, 2015.

Approximately 600 students enrolled at GTHS and surrounding communities encompassing 21 villages will benefit from this project. The equipment was made available through the resources of the Banana Accompanying Measures (BAM) Programme. The objective of BAM is to foster social and economic development leading to the reduction of poverty, focussing on workers and their families in the banana belt.

To date approximately BZ\$ 8 million has been contributed to GTHS development as a result of the fruitful partnership between the Government of Belize and the European Union. This includes the construction of the GTHS administration building classroom and technical workshops, equipping of the computer lab with 40 desktop computers, and the provision of modern state of the art equipment for practical training in the following areas: plumbing, masonry, welding, carpentry, electrical, automotive, sewing, agriculture including greenhouse with irrigation facilities.

This investment in the technical vocational curriculum of the Georgetown Technical High School represents EU's continued support to Education in southern Belize. Under previous Banana Support Programmes over BZ\$ 4 million was provided for the rehabilitation of the primary schools at United Community, San Juan Bosco, Independence, Bella Vista Primary School, and Trio and Teacher Training Programmes. The innovative training programmes has made Stann Creek teachers the best-qualified in the nation, where formerly they were the least-qualified.

In related news, following the event at GTHS Ambassador Amadei will travel to Monkey River Town, Toledo District where there will be a hand-over of a Refurbished Hurricane Shelter. This is part of the wider '**Belize Rehabilitation and Construction of Hurricane Shelters Programme**,' that was initiated, and funded by the Government of Belize and the European Union at a cost of BZD\$1.5 million. A total of 19 hurricane shelters have been rehabilitated across Belize.

The handing-over event of the rehabilitated hurricane shelter, Monkey River Community Centre will be held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday 23 September, 2015. The media is invited to attend and witness these momentous occasion.

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The European Commission is the EU's executive body.

"The European Union is made up of 27 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders".