



DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

PRESS RELEASE

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EU Head of Delegation opens renovated market and roadway

In her final visit as Head of the Delegation of the EU to Belize, Ambassador Paola Amadei officially opened two infrastructural projects in southern Belize. Today, she opened the renovated Punta Gorda Market and the upgraded Hopkins Road.

The projects are part of the Belize Rural Development Project (BRDP), implemented through the National Authorizing Office (NAO). EU funding in the Punta Gorda Market around BZ\$ One million (~400,000 Euros), which has facilitated renovations to the roofing, plumbing, as well as general aesthetics of the old market, as well as the construction of a new facility. This is the last market facility upgraded with EU BRDP funding. Previously, work was completed in Belmopan, Benque and Independence.

The Hopkins Road roadwork totals BZ\$ 6.3 Million (~2.9 Million Euros), which will connect Hopkins Village to the Southern Highway. These upgrades have transformed the road from gravel to asphalt, as well as widening the road and improving the overall drainage to prevent flooding. The road is very significant being that Hopkins Village is a hotspot for tourism in Belize.

At both events, Ambassador Amadei spoke candidly about the meaningful change that infrastructural projects have had on Belize, mentioning that new funding amounting to 58 Million BZD (27 Million Euros) will be available, an increase of 60% over the previous allocation. She noted that the work done in Punta Gorda and Hopkins Road, as well as other places, serve Belize's people in many ways: *"Seeing this progress over the last four years has made my visits to Belize unforgettable, particularly as these projects have a direct benefit to Belizeans from all walks of life. Today's projects, like those from before, serve to improve communities and transport links and provide economic opportunities to residents."*

She added that: *"It has been an honour to see the EU-Belize relationship flourish as it has done during my time as Ambassador, and I know that this will not be the end of it either. Belize will in fact benefit in the next few years from an increased funding allocation"*

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