Planning our future together!
Belize is a country of peace and tranquility, where citizens live in harmony with the natural environment and enjoy a high quality of life. Belizeans are an energetic, resourceful and independent people looking after their own development in a sustainable way.

Acknowledgement

Many stakeholders at all levels of society and in all parts of Belize participated in the consultation meetings which fed into the preparation of the Horizon 2030 Long Term Development Framework for Belize. The Horizon 2030 preparation team wishes to acknowledge their input and to articulate the hope, which many of them expressed, that this effort yields tangible results in the form of follow-up action to implement the strategies which have been identified. Implementation is the key to achieving the improvement in the quality of life of citizens as articulated in the vision for Belize for the year 2030.
Letter from the Minister of Economic Development
Preface
The Horizon 2030 Vision
Strategic Priorities for Horizon 2030
Pillar I: Democratic governance for effective public administration and sustainable development
Pillar II: Education for Development—Education for Life and Lifelong Learning
Economic Resilience: Generating resources for Long Term Development
The Bricks and the Mortar:—Healthy Environment and Healthy People
Implementation Framework—Including Monitoring and Evaluation
Horizon 2030 embodies the vision for Belize in the year 2030 and the core values that are to guide citizen behaviour and inform the strategies to achieve this common vision for the future. It represents the consolidated views of many stakeholders—young and old, men and women, students and teachers, politicians and voters, employers and employees, public and private sectors, farmers, tourism operators and artists. The Horizon 2030 Team met with stakeholders during many meetings in all the districts of Belize. There was great similarity of views across these very varied groups, not only on the critical issues facing Belize, but also on the desired goals for the future and the strategies to achieve these goals.

During the Horizon 2030 consultations, several issues cut across all sectors. Foremost among these is the situation of Belize’s youth. The young people of Belize are in crisis because of the deteriorated fabric of society. Young people are constantly experiencing crime in their homes, in their schools and in their communities. Dysfunction in the family and in the community lies at the heart of Belize's social ills. Many young people, even the very young, see migration as the best way to achieve their dreams. Despite severe hardships, many youth struggle to stay in school and avoid criminal activities. Some point to the key role that just one parent, guardian, teacher or mentor has played in keeping them focused on the right path during difficult periods in their lives. The young people of today are tomorrow's leaders and they are already becoming the kind of leaders Belize will have in 20 years' time.

Another cross-cutting issue which arose is the fragmentation of society. Across Belize, people feel that divisions along ethnic, religious, class, gender and political party lines have created a fragmented national identity, a lack of social cohesion and a weak sense of patriotism. Where political party affiliation becomes the primary factor determining access to public resources, stakeholders feel that this leads to the inefficient and ineffective use of these resources. Stakeholders spoke passionately of the need to create “One Belize–Un Belice” where national identity encompasses inclusion, unity of purpose and ethnic and cultural diversity.
Stakeholders identified several weaknesses in the public sector planning process that must be addressed if the implementation of Horizon 2030 can have a positive impact on the quality of life of ordinary Belizeans. First, stakeholders feel that development policy is centralized in Belize City and Belmopan and rural communities feel marginalized and isolated. Planning processes must be broadened to be relevant to both urban and rural communities. Secondly, planning must also be based on inter-sectoral collaboration. The current approach to development divides social and economic issues into artificial segments and puts barriers in the way of effective information sharing and coordination across sectors. Thirdly, planning and implementation of government policy and programmes have suffered from the absence of clear monitoring and evaluation processes. Therefore, the Horizon 2030 framework seeks to focus on the community by anchoring development planning in the communities to promote relevance, ownership by beneficiaries and long term sustainability of results. It also promotes collaboration within and across sectors to increase programme efficiency and effectiveness and builds in an implementation process including a monitoring and evaluation framework.

It is important to see Horizon 2030 not as a plan with pre-determined projects and programmes, but as a framework within which planning in all sectors is to take place going forward to the year 2030. Government should henceforth prepare sectoral medium-term plans that will seek to place and keep Belize on the path to achieving the Horizon 2030 Vision. Political parties can prepare their election manifestos to indicate how their plans and programmes will contribute towards the attainment of the Horizon 2030 Vision. NGOs can prepare their plans and focus their energies on programmes that contribute to national goals and objectives.

Several reports were completed during the Horizon 2030 preparation process. These can be found on the Government of Belize website at: http://www.belize.gov.bz/ and can be accessed by clicking on the Horizon 2030 logo.
THE HORIZON 2030 FRAMEWORK

VISION FOR THE FUTURE

ECONOMIC RESILIENCE

GOALS AND STRATEGIES

CORE VALUES/GUIDING PRINCIPLES

DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

Bricks & Mortar
Healthy Environment
Healthy People

EDUCATION FOR DEVELOPMENT
The Horizon 2030 Vision

Belize is a country of peace and tranquility, where citizens live in harmony with the natural environment and enjoy a high quality of life. Belizeans are an energetic, resourceful and independent people looking after their own development in a sustainable way.
This vision for Belize in the year 2030 encompasses the following stakeholder views of what Belize should be like by 2030:

- Belize is a well-informed and healthy society where children and adults value their multi-ethnic and multi-cultural identity and can showcase multiple cultural and sporting talents.

- Belizeans have a collective identity, and are patriotic and proud to be Belizean.

- The natural environment is valued and protected as the basis for all economic activity and therefore development planning is based on the principles of environmental sustainability.

- Rural communities are strong within a vibrant agriculture sector.

- Belizeans are capable of using state of the art technology which they incorporate into productive enterprise.

- The economy is competitive and public policy is well-managed and supportive of entrepreneurs, small enterprise and private sector growth.

- Belize has a well-balanced distribution of wealth and resources and modern infrastructure is supportive of economic growth.

- The state is respectful of people’s rights; citizens and visitors respect the rule of law and feel safe and secure.

- Democracy is vibrant with citizens fully participating in the development process and women performing at the highest levels of political leadership.
A fair, transparent and accountable governance system operates at all levels and in all areas of development, including national and sub-national government, the private sector, educational institutions, community based and other non-government organisations.

Strong public sector and civil society organizations collaborate effectively and tailor their programmes to meet Belize’s development goals and objectives.

Belize engages strategically with regional and international partners in development.
The Horizon 2030 Framework covers several thematic areas that are organised under 4 main headings:

1. Democratic governance for effective public administration and sustainable development
2. Education for Development - Education for Life
3. Economic resilience: Generating resources for long term development
Although there is much evidence of breakdown in the governance structure and the social fabric, the majority of Belizeans feel that the situation can be fixed. However, it will take political will, clear goals, broad consensus, significant resources and proper planning and implementation to repair the governance systems and the social fabric by the year 2030. The goals for democratic governance to be pursued during this period include:

- Strong “watchdog” groups in the non-government sector hold politicians accountable.
- Persons in public life demonstrate the highest ethical standards.
- Government departments are free of corruption, modernised and focused on providing quality service to the public.
- Party politics is in its proper place so that it is less intrusive and divisive in the daily lives of citizens.
- Critical aspects of the political reform process are completed. Changes result in the effective separation of the legislature and the executive and the removal of ministerial discretion.
- The society is relatively free from violent crimes. The legal and judicial system is credible and capable of solving all kinds of crime and dispensing justice in an equitable and fair manner to all.
Strategies to Achieve the Goals for Democratic Governance

1. Rebuild accountability in government and politics

Strategies to rebuild public accountability

- Expand the information which government is required to regularly publish.

- Elected officials prepare and present performance reports to their constituents in public fora.

- Implement a Public Education Programme on Governance and Democracy and mainstream a civics education curriculum in the formal school system.

- Develop and implement a Strong Ethics Framework for all public officials that clearly defines conflict of interest and the procedures to be followed in conflict of interest situations.

- Develop and enforce laws to regulate campaign financing and political campaigning.
2. Eradicate corruption and improve public service delivery
Strategies to eradicate corruption and improve public service delivery

- Establish a zero tolerance anti-corruption policy.

- Strengthen Laws regarding oversight of government ministries.

- Private sector commitment to a high standard of ethics in business.

- Implement multi-year planning of activities and budgets and require regular reporting on clear and measurable objectives.

- Implement change management processes in the public service to improve the quality of services delivered.

- Enforce regulations for the transparent and fair hiring of public officers.

- Implement proper performance monitoring.

- Streamline Government processes to achieve efficient and cost effective delivery of services.

- Implement a Transition Mechanism to Facilitate Continuity across changes in Administration
3. Transform the political culture

Strategies to transform the political culture

- Reach agreement among all political parties on fair and transparent rules for determining beneficiaries of government policy and access to social programmes, especially those programmes that determine access to education, health, land and other public services.

- Facilitate collaboration/cooperation between political parties to promote self-sufficiency rather than dependence.

- Increased emphasis on proper and adequate training, for example in leadership and ethics, to ensure that political aspirants have the requisite qualities to properly discharge responsibilities to their constituents.

- Introduce special temporary measures to increase the number of women political parties include in their slate of candidates for national elections.
4. Complete the political reform process to strengthen democratic governance

Strategies to strengthen democratic governance


• Mount public education campaign leading to a referendum on moving to republican form of government.

• Remove ministerial discretion. Discretion, where needed, should be clearly limited.

• Make the Senate an elected body with the capacity to hold government accountable.
5. Strengthen accountability of village administration

Strategies to strengthen village administration:

- Ensure the proper training of village council members after every election.
- Establish physical offices to house village records.
- Clarify, in law and regulations, the roles and responsibilities at the various levels of government:
- Amend the Village Councils Act to make the establishment of lots committees mandatory
6. Strengthen Law Enforcement and Access to Justice

Strategies to strengthen law enforcement and access to justice

• Raise the qualification requirements for police officers and implement a more rigorous recruitment process.

• Implement key infrastructural improvements to strengthen investigative capabilities of the Police Department.

• Deepen the relationship between the Police Department and the community.

• Implement independent accountability mechanisms to address negative behaviour of police officers.

• Provide on-going training opportunities for magistrates and police officers.

• Address the broader social issues which create the environment in which crime flourishes.
Goals for 2030
An inadequately educated population is one that is unable to solve its own problems. Recent data indicates that more than 11,000 primary school age children are not attending school and that almost 60% of the secondary school age population is not enrolled in school. This suggests that a significant portion of the population is not being educated to basic standards of literacy and numeracy in primary school and over half of the youth population does not have access to basic education for employment (entry level jobs require high school diplomas). The education goals for 2030 centre on making an improved quality of education available to citizens of all ages.

• The most important goal is to provide quality education that is free and compulsory to at least the secondary school level.

• The second education goal is to ensure delivery of quality and relevance in the curriculum by integrating the expressive arts, sports and physical education, science and technology, environmental education, and entrepreneurship.

• The third goal is to create an education system that is inclusive, reflecting Belize’s multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, multilingual society.
Strategies to Achieve the Goals for Education

1. Strengthen management, monitoring and accountability in the education system

Strategies to strengthen management, monitoring and accountability in the education system

- Review the effectiveness of the structure and functioning of the education system.

- Develop a national human resource development strategy to respond to Belize’s development goals for the next 20 years.

- Reform the system for allocating financial resources to primary and secondary schools to provide equitable access to education for children across the country.

- Implement a rigorous education monitoring system.

- Expand teacher education and develop a salary and incentives package to attract and retain qualified managers and counsellors within the education system.
2. Improve Access to Education

Strategies to improve access to education

- Phase in free education on a planned basis to at least the secondary school level and expand mandatory education to at least two years of secondary school.

- Expand the number of secondary school places, especially in rural communities.

- Develop alternate mechanisms for delivery of education - TV, Radio, on the internet.

- Promote internet access across the country and provide access to on-line education for both children and adults.
3. Improve Delivery and Relevance of the Education Curriculum (primary and secondary levels)

Strategies to improve delivery and relevance of the education curriculum

Educate to Build Character by:

• Integrating a strong civic education curriculum to teach leadership, foster participation and conflict resolution.

• Integrating the expressive arts, music, sports and physical education

Educate to build social cohesiveness by:

• Fostering acceptance of Belize’s ethnic and cultural diversity

• Exploring and demystifying gender awareness and gender issues

Educate to emphasize respect and appreciation for the natural environment by:

• Re-introducing gardening and agriculture into the primary and secondary school curriculum.

• Integrating environmental education within the school system and providing children with access to Belize’s natural wonders through field visits and hands-on experiences.

Broaden the curriculum and integrate new methods of teaching by:

• Integrating learning methods that appeal to the developmental needs of boys and girls.

• Training teachers to communicate effectively in English and Spanish, to manage children with learning disabilities and to integrate science and technology in the classroom.
4. Develop Education Support Systems and Services  
Strategies to develop education support systems and services

- Expand the schools feeding programmes.

- Develop and implement a strategy for expanding the cadre of trained school and family counsellors.

- Provide support services for adolescents and adults who wish to return to school or engage in adult and continuing education courses.

- Provide apprenticeship and mentorship programmes for children who require additional out-of-school support.

- Expand the national library system so that it can be a more active partner in promoting reading and language skills.

- Develop and implement strategies that ensure school safety.

- Expand the Parent and Community Empowerment Programme (COMPAR) and link this programme with HECOPAB and other community education initiatives.
5. Develop Adult and Continuing Education
Strategies to develop adult and continuing education

• Develop and implement nationwide literacy programme that uses a multi-modal, integrated approach to learning

• Establish adult and Continuing Education (ACE) programmes across the country that teach civic education, parenting education and basic economic and social skills

• Provide economic incentives for adults to access ACE programmes.

• Promote and support on-line ACE education programmes.
Proposed Goals for 2030

Belize’s economy is highly vulnerable to external shocks (natural disasters or international economic crises). Planning can mitigate the effects of these shocks. The effectiveness of mitigation measures and the quickness with which an economy can return to normal are indications of how resilient the economy is.

The key economic goals for 2030 speak to: building economic resiliency, promoting productivity and competitiveness and ensuring the environmental sustainability of economic activity. These include:

- Increase agricultural production in a sustainable way and increase local values added through the development of agro-processing.
- Ensure a sustainable and profitable tourism sector.
- Develop a strong small business sector, a strong work force and a strong corps of entrepreneurs.
- Finally, a key long term goal is to ensure that government is able to make timely investments in key economic infrastructure.

A resilient economy with a level playing field for all business and entrepreneurs using appropriate technology to increase productivity and competitiveness in an environmentally sustainable way.
Strategies to Achieve the Goals for Economic Resilience

1. Develop a Strong Small Business Sector to Create Jobs

Strategies to develop a strong small business sector

- Develop a support system for small business that includes market information, management support, planning advice etc.

- Create and/or support mechanisms to pool resources and investment capital for entrepreneurs including cooperatives and credit unions

- Create greater opportunities for women and youth employment.

- Implement policies and provide incentives to create new industries.

- Simplify the tax structure and make the system more equitable.

- Create a robust and efficient National Employment Agency and Small Business Development Programme.

- Implement financial literacy education programmes for households.

- Enact appropriate legislation to protect and regulate the Micro Finance Services Sector.

- Implement a coordinated credit referral system/credit bureau.
2. Develop the Domestic Market as a Springboard for Exports, Produce Quality Goods and Services and Expand Exports

Strategies to develop the domestic market, to improve product quality and expand exports

- Promote and develop the domestic market through better regulation of illegal imports.

- Strengthen standards and quality management and enforcement.

- Support competition in the marketplace.

- Make key public investments in economic infrastructure - especially the road network and transportation system.

- Promote investment in agriculture, local manufacturing, agro-processing and other productive activities with tax and incentives policies.

- Support reforestation and sustainable local logging by communities to create jobs and reduce poverty.

- Foster the spirit and practice of entrepreneurship among young people and invest in science and technology education to promote innovation.

- Teach labour relations along with business principles in school.

- Reduce the costs of access to technology.
3. Build a Vibrant Agriculture Sector and Strong Rural Communities

Strategies to strengthen agriculture and rural communities

- Promote the growing of crops in school and at home.
- Increase access to finance for farmers through affordable credit and provision of appropriate subsidies.
- Develop agricultural insurance options to cover crop losses.
- Support communal farming operations, including co-operative farming.
- Increase government investment in technology, irrigation, development of seeds and green pesticides and provide technical support to farmers through rebuilding of demonstration plots across the country.
- Improve access to land for farmers.
- Control illegal imports of agricultural products.
- Provide support for the establishment of farmers’ markets and publication of market information.
- Implement new tax regime for agriculture which is supportive of production.
4. Support Sustainable Fisheries and Build Sustainable and Responsible Tourism

Strategies to support sustainable fisheries and tourism development

- Help fishers access new fishing techniques and increase local value added.
- Assist fishers who want alternative livelihoods to explore and plan for viable alternatives.
- Encourage fishers to assume greater management of the industry, including self-regulation to improve standards and quality.
- Promote improved management of the cooperatives and associations.
- Provide training on fisheries management in marine protected areas.
- Provide targeted incentives and concessions for fishers that would reduce fuel and equipment costs
- Develop clear policies and standards for joint ventures with foreign entities that ensure that Belizeans make the decisions and harvest the fish.
- Support community driven initiatives that encourage local enterprise development.
- Engage the tourism sector in developing real solutions to the crime situation.
5. Target Selected New Sectors with Growth Potential
Strategies to promote new sectors with growth potential

- Promote and facilitate the identification and development of new sectors – Finance, Knowledge Sector, green business, etc.

- Build the institutional capacity to develop and promote cultural industries.

- Promote the development in value added agriculture, agro-processing, etc.
6. **Implement a coherent and consistent macro-economic policy framework**

**Strategies for a coherent and consistent macro-economic framework**

- Pursue fiscal policies that are prudent, sustainable, and reflected in consistent fiscal performance and controlled growth of the public debt.

- Maximise Government’s revenue generating potential while maintaining a tax system that is equitable and a regulatory regime that encourages productive investment by the private sector.

- Maintain a stable exchange rate policy underpinned by low rates of inflation.

- Establish a close link between wage and productivity increases.

- Strengthen the institutional framework and capacity to effectively regulate the financial system to promote savings and productive sector investments.
Caring for the Natural Environment as the Source and Basis of Economic and Social Progress

Stakeholders across the society are aware of the importance of Belize’s natural resources to its economic future. The main economic drivers - tourism and agriculture - are natural resource based. The more recent significant contributor to GDP and export earnings - petroleum - is also natural resource based. There is broad awareness of the importance of the environment. The main concern is putting in place effective laws and regulations, information and communication systems to protect the environment while promoting sustainable social and economic development.

Belizeans have a deep appreciation and love for Belize’s natural resources and work collectively to protect the natural heritage and the economic value of these natural resources is quantified and officially recognized.
Strategies to Achieve Environment and Sustainable Development Goals

1. Incorporate environmental sustainability into development planning and Strengthen Protected Areas Management

Strategies to incorporate environmental sustainability into development planning and strengthen protected areas management

- Implement a comprehensive natural resources and environmental policy and strategy including planning for climate change and its effects.
- Introduce natural resources accounting into GDP.
- Enforce environmental protection laws in a fair and just manner.
- Provide incentives for reforestation.
- Develop and implement a long-term strategy for solid waste management.
- Implementation of a National Disaster Management Strategy that ensures family protection, cohesiveness and restoration before, during and after a disaster.
- Adopt and implement the National Protected Areas Systems Plan and strengthen the legal and administrative framework for protected areas.
- Increase the number of Belizean professionals qualified as engineers, planners, architects, social scientists, environmental scientists, environmental lawyers, marine biologists and coastal zone management.
2. Promote Green Energy
Strategies to promote “green” energy and energy efficiency

• Create an institutional framework for producing a viable energy policy.

• Strengthen the regulatory framework to improve the efficiency and quality of energy services, implement international standards for services and waste and monitor the production and supply of services.

• Provide incentives to promote energy saving and investment in production and use of renewable energy in the areas of wind, solar, biomass, geo-thermal and hydroelectricity, including energy purchase arrangements for those who have excess to sell to the main grid.

• Adopt a national transport policy that covers all modes of transport to ensure safety and energy efficiency with the lowest environmental impact.

• Promote the “greening” of the productive sector by providing incentives for private companies to adopt superior environmental performance objectives to achieve strong international market positioning.

• Educate the public on energy sources, uses, services, safety, and other relevant areas.

• Provide tax and other incentives for households to more easily adopt “green” technologies and impose penalties for the use of hazardous materials.
“Universal access to affordable and high quality healthcare that provides citizens with preventative and curative health services throughout their lives.”

Healthy and productive citizens throughout the Life Cycle

Like a healthy environment, human health is an important contributor to the quality of life of citizens. Good human health is more than the absence of illness. It encompasses the concept of wellness, the ability to peacefully enjoy family and community life in a clean and uplifting environment.

Good human health therefore crosses the boundaries of social and cultural behaviours, nutrition and diet, education and social conditions. In this wider view of good human health, public health policy needs to expand its role to include both preventative and curative services.

In order to achieve this goal, it is vital that the public health system takes a decisive shift towards emphasising healthy lifestyles as the core of preventative care. Healthy lifestyles include eating healthy, exercise, responsible sexual and reproductive behaviours, effective pre- and post-natal care for mothers and babies, and appropriate mental health policies.
Strategies to achieve health goals
3. Universal Access to Health Care

Strategies to achieve universal access to health care

- Expand the NHI scheme countrywide.

- Improve access to health services for rural communities including proper staffing and equipping of clinics which have been constructed.

- Improve delivery of medical care to older persons.

- Vigorously pursue/implement programmes for the prevention and management of chronic, non-communicable diseases.
4. **Promote Healthy Lifestyles throughout the life cycle and Establish family and community health care programmes across the country.**

**Strategies to promote healthy life styles and establish family and community health care programmes**

- Re-orient the health system to focus on promoting healthy lifestyles.
- Re-structure the health system to take a life cycle approach.
- Invest a larger proportion of government’s investment in the health sector in primary healthcare and on preventive health strategies.
- Enact legislation and implement supporting measures aimed at increasing road safety.
- Expand and strengthen child protection programmes.
- Prioritize the implementation of the Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy (2002) and Strategic Action Plans including measures to safeguard the rights of vulnerable groups.
- Implement the Mental Health Policy (2010) by developing a comprehensive and gender responsive mental health programme.
- Approve and implement the draft Substance Abuse Policy.
- Provide financial and other support to civil society organizations that address critical health related issues affecting women and children, especially those that provide protective environments for pregnant teenagers and young women who are vulnerable to or are victims of gender-based violence and/or HIV.
5. Ensure Accountability for the Delivery of Health Services
Strategies to ensure accountability for delivery of health services

• Develop health related laws, codes and mechanisms that will ensure greater transparency and accountability in the use of human and financial resources

• Strengthen institutional capacity for self-regulation and for independent monitoring and enforcement of laws and codes.
Proposed Institutional Structure for Implementation of Horizon 2030

The roles of the various agencies and institutions that will play a role in ensuring the effective implementation of Horizon 2030 are set out below. The recommended approach seeks to minimize the establishment of new bodies and encourages the use of existing entities.

**Horizon 2030 Commission**

The Commission will be a multi-sectoral oversight body with broad representation reflective of the H2030 steering Committee.

**Responsibility**

Monitor the implementation of Horizon 2030 and report to the National Assembly on the progress of its implementation.

**Horizon 2030 Coordinating Unit**

The Coordinating Unit will be situated in the Ministry of Economic Development.

**Responsibility**

The Unit will assist the Commission in preparing annual reports and in organizing Horizon 2030 consultations every 3-4 years.

**District Committees**

The District Committee would be comprised of senior officials of ministries and departments with a mandate and structure to facilitate inter-ministerial and cross-sectoral planning implementation.

**Responsibility**

Ensure that District priorities are addressed in policy and planning efforts.
Implementation Framework: Including Monitoring and Evaluation

CABINET
Cabinet is the ultimate decision making body.

COMMISSION
Reflective of Steering committee-CEOs Labour Unions, Private Sector, Rural Sector and NGOs-Report to Cabinet.

Cordinating Unit
Policy and Planning Unit at Ministry of Economic Development - assist Ministries in developing Strategic policies and action plans, prepare annual report for commission and organize consultation for H2030.

District Committees
District Agricultural officer, Rural Development officer, Women’s Development officer, Education officer - ensure the distinct priorities are addressed in policy and planning efforts.

MINISTRIES PPUs
Develop strategies, policies and action plan for the ministry.
Information and Communication
A comprehensive information and communication strategy is needed to ensure that information on the implementation of Horizon 2030 is published regularly. The strategy should make use of a variety of media in order to ensure broad reach among stakeholders. Critical components of this strategy should include an interactive website, a regular newsletter, press releases, town hall meetings and regular programmes on radio and television.
### Monitoring & Evaluating a Results Based Approach

**Vision Statement**

**High Level Goals**

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#### Goal 1

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#### Goal 2

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The National Anthem of Belize

“Land of the Free”

O, Land of the Free by the Carib Sea,
Our manhood we pledge to thy liberty
No tyrants here linger, despots must flee
This tranquil haven of democracy
The blood of our sires which hallows the sod,
Brought freedom from slavery oppression’s rod
By the might of truth and the grace of God.
No longer shall we be hewers of wood.

Chorus:
Arise! Ye sons of the Baymen’s clan,
Put on your armour, clear the land!
Drive back the tyrants let despots flee
Land of the Free by the Carib Sea!

Nature has blessed thee with wealth untold,
O’er mountains and valleys where prairies roll;
Our fathers, the Baymen, valiant and bold
Drove back the invader; this heritage hold
From proud Rio Hondo to old Sarstoon,
Through coral isle, over blue lagoon;
Keep watch with the angels, the stars and moon;
For freedom comes tomorrow’s noon.

Chorus:
The National Prayer of Belize

Almighty and Eternal God, who through Jesus Christ has revealed your Glory to all nations, please protect and preserve Belize, our beloved country. God of might, wisdom and justice, please assist our Belizean government and people with your Holy Spirit of counsel and fortitude. Let the light of your divine wisdom direct their plans and endeavours so that with your help we may attain our just objectives. With your guidance, may all our endeavours tend to peace, social justice, liberty, national happiness, the increase of industry, sobriety and useful knowledge. We pray, O God of Mercy, for all of us that we may be blessed in the knowledge and sanctified in the observance of your most holy law, that we may be preserved in union and in that peace which the world itself cannot give. And, after enjoying the blessings of this life, please admit us, dear Lord, to that eternal reward that you have prepared for those who love you Amen.