

**Wednesday, 30th April, 2025**

**THE BCCI CELEBRATES 105TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -**

**Belize City, Belize – 29th April, 2025** – The Belize Chamber of Commerce & Industry held its 105th Annual General Meeting on the 29th of April, 2025 at the Old Belize Jungle Pavilion in Belize City. The event brought together BCCI members, key stakeholders from across the private sector, government, and civil society to reflect on accomplishments and outline a bold vision for the future of business and economic growth in Belize.

The meeting commenced with a Welcome Address by BCCI Councilor Mr. Salem Guerra, who opened by acknowledging the enduring strength of Belize's business community and the vital role that the Chamber continues to play as a leader in private sector development. Mr. Guerra emphasized unity, progress, and resilience as the themes guiding the Chamber into its 106th year.

Representing the Chamber's growing national presence, Mr. Bruno Kuppinger, Toledo Chapter Ambassador, delivered remarks on the launch and vision of the new Chapter. He spoke of the Chapter's mission to bridge economic opportunity gaps in Southern Belize by strengthening business advocacy, supporting entrepreneurship, and forging public-private partnerships. "Our goal is to ensure that the voice of Toledo is heard and that its unique strengths contribute to the national economy," said Kuppinger, while outlining plans for localized training programs, MSME development, and inclusive economic initiatives.

The Keynote Speaker for the AGM - Hon. Dr. Osmond Martinez, Minister of State in the Ministry of Economic Development, who reinforced the government's commitment to working in tandem with the BCCI. Dr. Martinez highlighted ongoing initiatives focused on policy reform, economic resilience, innovation, and praised the Chamber for its collaborative spirit..

In her President's Address, BCCI President - Ms. Katherine Meighan proudly reflected on the Chamber's 105 years of service to Belize and the region. She reported strong membership growth, expanding influence in national and regional policy development, and the Chamber's deepening role in community-building and business support.

President Meighan unveiled a five-year strategic plan designed to advance key pillars such as financial independence, employment generation, capacity building, labour policy reform, and innovation-driven growth. She reaffirmed BCCI's role as a catalyst for progress, stating, "Together, we will build a prosperous Belize."



**BCCI President: Ms. Katherine Meighan**

To conclude the event, Mr. Giacomo Sanchez, Treasurer of the BCCI, presented the 2024 Financial Statements, offering a clear snapshot of the Chamber's current financial health. He highlighted key decisions made over the past year that shaped this position, underscoring the strategic choices behind the numbers.

As we celebrate 105 years of service, the Belize Chamber of Commerce & Industry proudly reaffirms its role as a driving force for the private sector and the wider business community. Guided by our Triple C Philosophy—Connect, Capacitate, Champion—we continue to build meaningful partnerships, empower businesses, and advocate for growth. We're deeply thankful to everyone who contributed to this milestone year, and we're excited for the impactful collaborations still to come.



**(L) Toledo Ambassador: Mr. Bruno Kuppinger (R) Keynote Speaker: Hon. Dr. Osmond Martinez**



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