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BCCI CELEBRATES 3 DECADES OF EXPO BELIZE MARKET PLACE®

- For Immediate Release -

Belize City, Belize - The Belize Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCCI) extends its heartfelt thanks and congratulations to all visitors, exhibitors, sponsors, partners, and supporters who contributed to making the 30th Annual Expo Belize Market Place® an unprecedented success.

Held September 12 - 13, 2026, at the Marion Jones Sports Complex in Belize City, this landmark edition celebrated three decades under the theme, **“Expo Belize Market Place® - The Original Expo: 30 Years of Connecting Business, Creating Opportunities.”**

True to its overarching objective, this year's Expo provided exhibitors with a vital platform to connect with new audiences, build brand awareness, expand their consumer base, generate sales, and proudly showcase the quality, creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurial spirit that define Belize's business community. As the country's largest and most dynamic trade and consumer show, Expo 2026 once again reaffirmed the BCCI's Triple C Philosophy: to **Connect, Capacitate, and Champion**.

Despite early-morning rains and visitors pacing around the midday sun, crowds surged into the venue in the late afternoon, with total weekend attendance surpassing last year's figures to draw close to 10,000 visitors. Beyond gate numbers, strong purchasing activity and elevated consumer spending throughout the weekend reflected robust support for local enterprises. The event's continued scale also highlighted an ongoing priority for future editions: securing a fully indoor, weather-proof venue to accommodate the event's massive growth.

To mark the 30-year milestone, BCCI introduced dynamic new attractions, including the “30 for 30” Expo Shopping Challenge and high-energy hourly giveaways. The weekend featured non-stop stage performances anchored by the Expo House Band, Super Furia, playing across both days alongside headline performances by powerhouse Belizean artists Supa G and Vida Magz.

The Opening Ceremony featured key perspectives on economic resilience and private-sector growth with addresses by **BCCI President - Giacomo Sanchez**, **Belize City Deputy Mayor - Elude Miller**, and the Keynote Address delivered by **Director - Mena Group of Companies & Ambassador for Trade in Belize - Emile Mena**. Collectively, their remarks highlighted the importance of collaboration, entrepreneurship, private-sector development, and national events such as the Expo in creating opportunities for Belizean businesses and driving sustainable economic growth.

“The Expo is more than a trade and consumer show,” shared President Sanchez, “it is a platform where consumers can discover and support local products and services, entrepreneurs can build relationships, and the wider community can come together to celebrate Belizean enterprise.”

While every booth/display reflected incredible effort and dedication, an expert panel of judges was tasked with selecting this year's highly sought-after **Best Booth Awards** based on creativity, professionalism, innovation, and efficiency. BCCI proudly announces the category winners:

- **Overall Business Excellence** – Smart Belize
- **Most Outstanding Micro Entrepreneur** – Taste by Tess
- **Most Outstanding Youth Entrepreneur** – Zesty Squeeze
- **Most Outstanding Food Booth** – Pickle La Cochinita Pibil Tacos
- **Most Innovative Excellence** – Digi Belize

The BCCI also recognized **Smart Belize** with the **Marketing Excellence Award** for its outstanding pre-event campaign strategy leading up to the Expo Belize Market Place® 2026.

Marking this milestone, the BCCI honored 13 foundational Legacy Partners - businesses, sponsors, service providers, exhibitors, partners, and individuals that have anchored the Expo Belize Market Place® since its 1996 inception. Honored in random order, these partners include: Bowen & Bowen, GraceKennedy (Belize) Ltd., Belize Telemedia Limited, Love FM/TV, Krem FM/XTV, Marie Sharp's Fine Foods Ltd., Quality Poultry Products, Western Dairies, Wood Stop, Western Union, the Belize City Council, Santiago Castillo Ltd., and the Belize Tourism Board. Their collective three-decade commitment represents a remarkable legacy of bringing businesses, consumers, and communities together annually.

For the BCCI, it remains an honor to provide this unique platform for Belizean enterprise. As the BCCI looks beyond this 30-year landmark, it stays committed to fostering sustainable economic growth, empowering local entrepreneurs, and expanding opportunities for the business community to connect, grow, and shine.

The Expo Belize Marketplace® continues to be more than just an event; it is the hallmark business event on the National September Celebrations Calendar that champions and celebrates Belizean enterprise, innovation, collaboration, and pride.

The BCCI extends its sincere appreciation to every exhibitor, sponsor, partner, judge, service provider, volunteer, staff member, and attendee who helped make this historic **30th Annual Expo Belize Marketplace®** possible.

Here's to 30 years of connecting business and creating opportunities--and to the many more chapters still to come.



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