



### **BCCI Made in Belize Trade President's Address 2022**

**- Mr. Marcello Blake – BCCI President -**

A pleasant Good morning ladies and gentlemen

First and foremost, we must give thanks to our Almighty Father for his protection and guidance over our lives. A resounding thank you to our sponsors because without them, this event would not be possible. Sponsors Hit100, Marie Sharp, Milani's Palace, Love FM, Love Television, Woodstop, Sunup on 7, Ignite, BCCI Western Union, Plus TV, Dirt and US, and Total Business Solutions Ltd.

It is indeed an honour seeing everyone here today, despite the damp weather you made that extra effort to ensure your presence and taking advantage of the opportunity to showcase your many talents with the wonderful products you have to offer.

With over 90 different businesses from all over the country represented here today, this one-day event is dedicated to promoting Belizean-made goods and services exclusively. As micro and small businesses you represent almost 70% of our total membership and in fact the heart behind the economic growth of our country. If nothing else, this pandemic has taught us that we are survivors and the many micro businesses formed within the last two years have allowed you to establish new innovative ways of providing for your families. We applaud you.

Your Chamber continues to deliver on its triple C philosophy by connecting you with others and also via our partnerships with the Belize Hotel Association and the Belize Tourism Industry Association represented today by (insert names). Let's give them a round of applause.

Nicole Snow, CEO of Darn Good Yarn, runs what started off as a small business, that was concentrated on creating fair, safe and sustainable jobs for artisans around the globe. Like CEO Snow, I urge you all to continue focusing on your small business and cultivate an eco-friendly and globally conscious lifestyle through the art you create and what you wear.

Finally, we encourage you to download our BCCI app to access our new virtual map for today's event that allows you a quick and easy way to navigate to all booths and be able to quickly return to your favourites for a second buy.

I leave you with this quote from Snow - "A small business is an amazing way to serve and leave an impact on the world you live in."

Buy in Belize, Build Belize!

Thank you.