



BELIZE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

4792 Coney Drive, 2nd Floor Withfield Tower, P.O. Box 291 , Belize City, Belize, Central America

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH, 2023

THE BELIZE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY CELEBRATES A SUCCESSFUL EXPO BELIZE MARKET PLACE 2023

-For Immediate Release-

The Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) takes this opportunity to thank and congratulate all exhibitors, sponsors, patrons, and members of our Executive Council and the Secretariat on a successful Expo Belize Market Place 2023. As intended, this year's Expo provided Belizean artisans the opportunity to network, build their consumer base, and showcase their talent on a grand scale – all of which aligns with our Triple- C philosophy to Connect, Champion, and Capacitate. Over the two days, more than 11,000 visitors made their way to the grounds and were able to enjoy the wide variety of local businesses that only the Expo has been known to provide on such a grand scale.

This year's "Best Booth" Competition was scored based on creativity, professionalism, innovation, and efficiency. While we appreciate the great deal of effort all exhibitors placed on their displays, the following were the winners in their categories:

- Best Overall Booth – CK Girls
- Best Youth Entrepreneur – Hey Abbz
- Best Micro Booth – Ashlee's Baked Creations
- Favorite Booth (People's Choice – Belize Electricity Ltd.)

The Opening Ceremony of the Expo Belize Marketplace kicked off with the Mayor of Belize City providing a welcome. It featured the Keynote Address by Mr. Andre Salgado, Belize City Branch Manager of Quality Poultry Products, who gave great advice to other businesses on resilience and diversifying. He also announced that Quality will be opening a store where all local businesses will have the opportunity to place their goods on the shelves, Ms. Amira Pelayo, Founder of Sangria Mia gave a passionate experience on the grit it took to be a micro business and thanked the BCCI for its support and inclusion for Micro businesses.

BCCI President, Marcello Blake also delivered an address and commented on the impact of the Expo Belize Marketplace as it relates to innovation and development: *“Our 27th edition of Expo Belize Marketplace and our theme focuses on Belizean innovation is also supported by the 211 booths represented by 150 individual businesses from all over the country. With more than 43% being Micro businesses (91 of the 211). This is where we need to continue to foster and create the enabling environment for more and new Belizean innovations, as it has become an integral part of our lives, especially in the last decade with the rise of technology. Innovation has brought about many changes to our society and economy, such as improved efficiency, increased productivity, the creation of new jobs, and societal security.”*

It is an honor for the BCCI to continue to provide businesses and organizations with a platform to showcase their products and services in Belize. As we look to the future, we will continue seeking new avenues to promote sustainable economic growth and inspire the business community to pursue impactful entrepreneurial ventures.



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