



Thursday 29th October 2020

Post – Debate Reflections from the LDC

- PRESS RELEASE-

The Leadership Debate Committee (LDC), comprised of representatives of the Belize Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCCI), Galen University & RSV Media Limited, is proud to have hosted the Prime Ministerial Debate that took place on October 28th, 2020 broadcast live from the University of the West Indies Open Campus Belize auditorium in Belize City. The Debate, the result of several weeks of work and collaboration under the guidance of the Jamaica Debates Commission (JDC), provided the opportunity for Belizeans who tuned in to hear more about the policy, beliefs and plans of the leaders who participated.

At the time of writing this release, the initial social media analytics of the live stream event, streamed on the three partners' Facebook pages, shows an audience reach already having climbed above 33,500 people. These numbers do not include the television and radio audience. In addition to reaching Belizeans in the diaspora, the Debate was covered by regional media houses in Barbados and the US Virgin Islands. Through the JDC, the live streaming link was shared with international bodies including the Commission on Presidential Debates and the National Democratic Institute.

It was clear, based on the large number of positive comments posted on social media, that public sentiment is generally in favour of the holding of a Debate. In addition, it was evident that the Debate raised the standard of and expectation for political discourse during election campaigns. The leaders who participated in the Debate garnered many positive comments themselves for agreeing to appear and for keeping the dialogue constructive.

The LDC expresses gratitude to the organizations and the viewers who provided questions to be placed in the pool. These questions will be featured on the partners' Facebook pages beginning tomorrow, October 30th. Additionally, a post-debate poll has been posted on Love FM's Facebook page, and we encourage the public to complete and share before the deadline on November 5th at 12:00 am.

The LDC considers the event a success, as it met the objective of providing a transparent and impartial platform for leaders in this 2020 General Election. It is our hope that this sets the stage for the full complement of leaders to participate in future debates.

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