



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

PRESS RELEASE

GOB takes support services to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in first ever National MSME Road Show

Belmopan, August 5, 2022

The Economic Development Council (EDC), through its technical secretariat, the Public-Private Desk in the Office of the Prime Minister, is proud to highlight the official launch of the first of its kind, National MSME Roadshow. The launch takes place at the Best Western Plus Belize Biltmore Plaza Hotel on Friday, August 5th starting at 10:00 AM and will feature an Access to Finance panel discussion with representatives from the Development Finance Corporation (DFC), Central Bank of Belize (CBB), the Belize Credit Union League (BCUL), the National Bank of Belize (NBB) as well as remarks by the Ministry of Tourism and Diaspora Relations, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and a keynote address by Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño.

The approval by Cabinet of a Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprise (MSME) Policy and Strategy 2022-2025 this week adds emphasis to the importance of the National MSME Road Show and its alignment with the #planBelize mandate of supporting small business growth. The National MSME Road Show underscores the significant contribution of micro, small and medium enterprises to Belize's economy as well as acknowledges the challenges faced by MSMEs. The Road Show has the overall objective of providing developmental support services to the MSME sector while raising public awareness of Belizean goods and services.

Specific objectives of the national outreach program include:

- Supporting an enabling environment for MSME development
- Improving market access and facilitating linkages for MSMEs
- Promoting buying locally to improve economic recovery
- Increasing procurement of Belizean MSME goods and services by the GOB
- Facilitating Access to Finance for the MSME Sector, and
- Building the business capacity of MSMEs

The EDC, as a champion of business climate reforms and promoter of meaningful dialogue between the public and private sectors has, together with BELTRAIDE and the Investment Policy and Compliance Unit, collaborated to deliver this significant endeavour with the vital support of strategic partners including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Mayors Association of Belize.

“Creating opportunities through dialogue, partnership and reform”
EDC Public - Private Desk in the Office of the Prime Minister



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

The National MSME Roadshow will visit each district delivering Formalization and Access to Finance clinics for capacity-building together with agencies such as the Social Security Board, the Belize Companies and Corporate Affairs Registry, the Belize Tax Service, BELIPO, financial institutions, digital wallet and courier service providers and tourism industry associations. The final day of the three-day events will host pop-ups for showcasing the wide array of creative and quality Belizean products and services available for especially operators in the tourism sector to consider choosing. The goal is to contribute to the economic resilience and growth of MSMEs by ensuring that they have access to support services and market opportunities.

All entrepreneurs are invited to attend the activities. See MSME Roadshow Schedule below:



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

NATIONAL MSME ROAD SHOW SCHEDULE

Date	Activity/ District	Venue
5- Aug-2022	Opening Launch	Best Western Plus – Belize Biltmore
24- 26 Aug, 2022	Corozal	St. Francis Xavier School Auditorium (training); Central Park (pop-up) or House of Culture (HOC) + basketball court
31- Aug - 2 Sep, 2022	Orange Walk	Banquitas HOC (training) & Central Park (pop-up)
7- 9 Sep, 2022	Belize City	ITVET (training + pop-up) or Downtown for pop-up; also HOC
14- 16 Sep, 2022	Punta Gorda	SSB Conference Room (training) and Central Park (pop-up)
22- 23 Sep, 2022	Caye Caulker	Caye Caulker Village Community Center & Market Place area
28- 30 Sep, 2022	Belmopan	Civic Center & Parking lot
5-7 Oct, 2022	San Ignacio / Santa Elena	Town Hall (training) & Welcome Center (pop-up)
12- 14 Oct 2022	Placencia	Village Council Center & Football Field
19- 21 Oct, 2022	Dangriga	Sports Complex (training) & Alejo Beni Park (pop-up)
26-28 Oct 2022	San Pedro	SPHS Auditorium & Park area (Pop up)
25- Nov-2022	Belize - Best Western - Biltmore	National Entrepreneurship Convention (EntreCon): Dialogue, Business Hackathon: Blockchain, Expo.

- Ends -

“Creating opportunities through dialogue, partnership and reform”
EDC Public - Private Desk in the Office of the Prime Minister