

Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Project Handing Over Ceremony of Two (2) Ambulances to the Western Regional Hospital

A handing-over ceremony, under the Government of Japan's Grass Roots Human Security Project Program, was held on Tuesday August 27th at the Western Regional Hospital in Belmopan. This follows a grant contract in the amount of US\$212,058, equivalent to BZ\$419,875, which was signed on October 23rd, 2023 for the procurement of two ambulances to assist in the emergency response mechanism for the Western Region.

Minister Bernard expressed gratitude to Ambassador Shirakata and the country of Japan for their generous donation in increasing the ambulance fleet at the Western Regional Hospital. He further stated that these initiatives aligns with the commitment in achieving the sustainable development goals that focuses on ensuring that there is good health in the communities, access to care and that these ambulances will help to bridge the gap that currently exists.

Ambassador Shirakata noted that the shared vision between Belize and Japan which puts people at the center of our actions, was of importance to Japan to provide the citizens of Belize with better access to healthcare through these two ambulances. In closing, Ambassador stated that the Government of Japan will continue to work closely with Belizean counterparts in critical areas of development.

Notable attendees included Minister of Health and Wellness Hon. Kevin Bernard; Chief Executive Officer Dr. Julio Sabido; Director of Public Health and Wellness Dr. Melissa Diaz-Musa; Director of Hospital Services and Allied Health Dr. Jorge Polanco; Western Region Health Manager Dr. Franelda Gutierrez; Acting Hospital Administrator Nicole Funez, other hospital staff, as well as the media.



Keynote address from Ambassador Shirakata



Remarks from Minister of Health and Wellness Hon. Kevin Bernard



Welcome remarks by Hospital Administrator Western Health Region Ms. Nicole Funez



Unveiling the new ambulances with ribbon cutting



Vote of Thanks Western Regional Health Manager Dr. Franelda Gutierrez



The New ambulances