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PRESS RELEASE

June 3, 2022

For Immediate Release

BWS inaugurates San Ignacio Water System



(Left to right: Hon. Michel Chebat, Hon. Julius Espat, Cornelio Acosta, Sanjay Keshwani, Rafael Marin)

On May 26, 2022, Belize Water Services (BWS) inaugurated its new San Ignacio Reservoir facility, marking the completion of phase 5 of its major water expansion and infrastructure improvement project for the Cayo Water Distribution Systems. To date, with the completion of Phase 5, BWS has invested over \$12 million. The company plans to invest \$13 million more to complete the remaining two phases of this project.

BWS' Chairman, Mr. Cornelio Acosta, opening remarks highlighted the following: *"BWS' storage capacity has increased from 165,000 gallons to 665,000 gallons and production capacity is expected to double from 1.3M gallons per day to 2.6 million gallons per day on completion of this project. This investment made by BWS is a testament to BWS' dedication to improving the communities we serve. Our focus is that we meet future demands, taking into consideration expansion, growth, and tourism."*

The key project components for the first five Phases included:

- ✓ New 8-inch diameter water mains along Joseph Andrews Drive including pipeline for the Macal River Crossing
- ✓ Over 14,000 feet of new larger transmission mains from San Ignacio plant to Santa Elena, including: Eden Street to Hawkesworth Bridge; larger pipeline over Hawkesworth Bridge; from BWS Plant to San Ignacio Police Station.
- ✓ Over 52,000 ft (10 miles) of transmission and distribution lines and highway crossings, plus hundreds of service connections along the George Price Highway.
- ✓ Over 8,500 ft of 8-inch and 3-inch PVC mains, along with service connections along Cristo Rey Road in Santa Elena, under the Caracol Road Project.
- ✓ New reinforced concrete 500K US gallon reservoir, with two-storey building, plus reinforced concrete generator building and security hut.

These investments have resulted in much improved water pressure and supply to customers in communities along the George Price Highway, including Roaring Creek, Camalote, Teakettle, Esperanza, and all areas of Santa Elena, including the Bradley's Bank, and Trapiche Area.

The keynote address was delivered by Minister Michel Chebat, Minister of Public Utilities and Logistics and area representative for Cayo North, who stated *"This project reflects BWS' commitment to providing a reliable system that transmits clean water to the residents ... Water is a basic Human right and, in this era, we as a government, have an obligation to ensure that all of our citizens have access to clean potable water."*

Hon. Julius Espat, Minister of Infrastructure Development & Housing, and area representative for Cayo South, was happy to say, *"Thank you to BWS, water is a Human Right under the United Nations and [BWS] is carrying that torch, continue doing what you are doing and make Belize proud and its people proud."*

Also, in attendance at the ceremony were: Hon. Orlando "Landy" Habet, Minister of Sustainable Development, Climate Change & Disaster Risk Management (Cayo North East); Hon. Jorge "Milin" Espat (Cayo North), Mr. Horace Grant a designate, representing Hon. Luis Alex Balona (Cayo Central). The Ministers and Mr. Grant thanked BWS for their commitment to ensure that residents of Cayo have access to clean, safe and reliable water.

This multi-million-dollar project is a major milestone for BWS towards meeting the growing water demand in the Cayo District. Other phases of this project include a riverside intake gallery which is already under construction; new reservoirs and booster station; and a conventional water treatment plant.

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