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PRESS RELEASE

Hon. Chief Justice, Mde. Louise Esther Blenman swears in 19 New Court-Connected Mediators

Belize City, Belize – The Honourable Chief Justice Mde. Louise Esther Blenman has sworn in 19 new court-connected mediators to the Senior Courts of Belize mediators' roster. The last set of mediators was appointed in 2013. These additional mediators will enhance the efficiency of the judicial system by providing alternative dispute resolution options for civil and family court matters.

The Supreme Court Civil Procedure Rules of Belize provide for mediation and settlement of disputes to avoid trials. The expectation of the rules is that 80% of cases are to be settled out of court. Judges have the authority to refer cases to mediators, and parties can choose from the list of approved mediators for their mediation sessions. Mediators act as neutral facilitators, helping parties reach agreements that become binding court orders, once finalised.

The appointment of these 19 mediators is expected to significantly reduce the case backlog and improve the overall efficiency of the judicial system. By offering mediation as a viable alternative, the Courts aim to provide quicker resolutions and reduce the strain on judicial resources.

Hon. Chief Justice Blenman expressed her confidence in the newly sworn-in mediators. The Senior Courts of Belize are dedicated to providing justice that is accessible, fair and efficient. The introduction of new court-connected mediators marks a significant enhancement in the Court's ability to offer alternative dispute resolution services, thereby improving the access to justice and the Court's efficiency.

End

Mrs. Trienia Young
Registrar General
Senior Courts of Belize