



Third Floor, William Tam Building, Mountain View Boulevard, P.O. Box 7,  
City of Belmopan, Belize, C.A.

Tel: 501-828-4362

*Email: [auditorgeneralbelize@audit.gov.bz](mailto:auditorgeneralbelize@audit.gov.bz)*

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**Esteemed stakeholders and citizens of Belize:**

I address you today with a deep sense of responsibility and commitment as the newly appointed Auditor General. I am honoured by the trust placed in me to lead this vital institution and uphold its mandate of ensuring accountability and transparency in the management of public funds.

As I assume this role, I recognize the critical importance of the Office of the Auditor General in safeguarding the public's interests of our nation. We serve as an independent and objective voice, providing assurance to Parliament and the public that government resources are being utilized efficiently, effectively, and in accordance with the law.

I pledge to lead the office with integrity, impartiality, and professionalism. We will strive to enhance our audit practices, embrace innovation, and strengthen our collaboration with key stakeholders.

I am committed to fostering a culture of collaboration and engagement. I recognize that the task ahead is significant, but I am confident that with the support of my dedicated team and the cooperation of all stakeholders, we can make a meaningful contribution to the development of our nation.

**Maria Rodriguez (Mrs.)**  
**Auditor General**  
**Office of the Auditor General**  
**City of Belize**