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## PRESS RELEASE

## SIB Celebrates Caribbean Statistics Day: 'One Voice, One Caricom, Everyone Counts'

*Belmopan, October 10th, 2023* - On Sunday October 15th, 2023, the Statistical Institute of Belize (SIB) will join its regional counterparts in commemorating the 15th anniversary of Caribbean Statistics Day under the theme "One Voice, One Caricom, Everyone Counts".

Caribbean Statistics Day is observed annually across the region to highlight the importance of statistics for informed decision-making, policy formulation and monitoring progress towards development targets. This year's event is of particular significance as it also coincides with the 50th anniversary of Caricom, providing an opportunity for regional collaboration to raise awareness about the importance of accurate, timely and relevant statistics.

During this year, the Institute completed data collection for the 2022 Population and Housing Census and published the country's first Multidimensional Poverty Index. The SIB also continued to provide up-to-date statistics on the labour force, merchandise trade, inflation, and the gross domestic product. In the coming months, the Institute will present the Key Findings of the 2022 Census along with a series of thematic Census reports, will conduct the country's fourth round of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, and will carry out other national surveys such as the Household Budget Survey and a survey of Business Establishments. Additionally, new statistical publications will be introduced, including a Consumer Confidence Index and Tourism Satellite Account.

In commemoration of Caribbean Statistics Day, the SIB will be hosting two important events to showcase the work being done in statistics. On Wednesday, October 11th, the Institute will be hosting an exhibition at the George Price Center from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., featuring statistics from various agencies to give visitors a comprehensive view of the types of data that are available. On Friday, October 13th, the Institute will be facilitating a Data User Conference to enhance awareness about the wide range of statistics produced by the SIB and to encourage the use of data through dissemination tools such as the Belize National Statistical System data portal and the REtrieval of DATa for small Areas by Microcomputer (REDATAM).

The SIB thanks all its partner agencies for participating in these events and for joining in the observance of this important occasion for the statistical community. The Institute also thanks residents and other data providers from whom we have obtained valuable information to produce timely and relevant statistics pertaining to the country's economic, demographic and social conditions.

From all of us at the SIB, we wish everyone a very happy Caribbean Statistics Day!

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