



Organization of  
American States



Inter-American  
Development Bank



INFOSEGURA  
PROJECT

## **PRESS RELEASE**

***October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016. City of Belmopan.***

**Launch of the Belize Crime Observatory (BCO).** The long anticipated launch of Belize's first crime observatory came to fruition at the Radisson Fort George Hotel and Marina in Belize City, Belize. A cross section of over sixty officials from the Government of Belize, representatives from non-governmental organizations, the private sector, multilateral organizations and the diplomatic core were in attendance.

The key speakers at this event were: Dr. Cassandra Rogers (Belize Country Manager, Inter-American Development Bank), Ms. Karen Bernard (Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Belize), Ms. Marcela Smutt (Regional Team Leader, InfoSegura Project), Mr. George Lovell (Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Home Affairs) and Mrs. Nicole Haylock-Rodriguez (Deputy Coordinator, National Security Council Secretariat and Director of the Belize Crime Observatory). The remarks from these key speakers reiterated a congratulatory sense of fulfilment at the launch of the observatory which is a platform developed to promote evidence based policy formulation in security and to facilitate citizens' participation and dialogue on issues relating to security and public safety.

A presentation was made by Ms. Cuffa Ramirez, the Project Liaison Officer for the Evidence Based Information Management for Citizen Security Project (InfoSegura Project), on the utility of the user-friendly Belize Crime Observatory Website (***crimeobservatory.bz***). Assistant Superintendent of Police, Jorge Villanueva also showcased the improved crime analytical capacity and capabilities of the Belize Police Department's Joint Intelligence Coordinating Centre (JICC), which supports the Belize Crime Observatory, as the official source of national crime data. Personnel from the BCO and JICC have benefitted from crime analysis training and equipment supported by both the Inter-American Development Bank and the InfoSegura Project.

The cost to develop the Belize Crime Observatory was approximately \$500,000 Belize Dollars. The mission of the BCO is to support improvements in citizen security by informing, interpreting and influencing the understanding of crime. Through its website, the observatory will promote the systematic sharing of data, research, dialogue and debate about crime, violence and public safety issues in Belize whilst strengthening the collection and processing of data within the relevant agencies that comprise the criminal justice system.

At the culmination of the launch, Mrs. Nicole Haylock Rodriguez expressed gratitude to the Government of Belize, the Organization of American States, the Inter-American Development Bank, the United Nations Development Programme in Belize, USAID and the InfoSegura Project for their support in the establishment of the Belize Crime Observatory.

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