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PRESS RELEASE

Minister of Home Affairs and New Growth Industries Visits the Wagner's Youth Facility

Belmopan, August 1, 2024.

In a recent visit to the Wagner's Youth Facility, Honorable Kareem Musa engaged with young detainees to discuss their concerns. Representatives from UNICEF and the chief executive officers of the Ministries of Home Affairs and Human Development accompanied him.

This visit gave Minister Musa an invaluable opportunity to speak individually with the young men detained under the State of Emergency (SOE) to understand their experiences and concerns. One significant request from these young men was to be integrated into the Leadership Intervention Unit (LIU) programs upon their release. They expressed a strong desire to build healthy and positive relationships with peers from different communities, highlighting their commitment to personal growth and community engagement.

During the visit, the delegation also toured the New Beginnings Youth Development Center. As of today, the two minors, aged 13 and 15, have been successfully transferred to the New Beginnings Youth Center, where they will receive the care and support needed for their development.

The Ministry of Home Affairs and New Growth Industries, in partnership with other agencies and ministries, remain dedicated to upholding the principle of the best interests of the child and ensuring that the rights of these young individuals are respected, irrespective of the allegations against them. This commitment reflects our ongoing effort to support the well-being and future prospects of all minors in our care.

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