

Ministry of Home Affairs and New Growth Industries

Annual Technical Report

2023 -2024

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Minister's Message

It is with great pride that I provide you a report on the efforts and accomplishments of the Ministry of Home Affairs and New Growth Industries (MHANGI) for the year 2023. The year 2023 provided many opportunities for introspection and change.

Internationally, the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 continues to have a rippling effect on countries around the world. As a government, we have gone on record to express our dissatisfaction with the Russia-Ukraine war which has increased the unprecedented effects on the security landscape around the world. With Israel declaring war on the Gaza Strip after an unprecedented attack by the armed Palestinian group Hamas in October 2023, the world's eyes again sharply focused on what might come next. This Israeli-Palestinian conflict has claimed tens of thousands of lives and displaced many millions of people. As a government, the decision was taken in November 2023 to suspend ties with Israel due to its indiscriminate bombing of the Gaza Strip, and the unceasing attacks on the besieged Palestinian enclave and blocking of humanitarian aid.

Regionally, the Central American corridor continues to be abused by criminals to carry out negative acts that lead to insecurity. As we continue to rebound from the COVID-19 pandemic, we remain committed to the fight against transnational criminal organizations, drug trafficking, weapons smuggling, human trafficking, and money laundering.

At the local level, we continue to be faced with gang violence, domestic violence, illegal hunting and fishing, drug cultivation, human trafficking and smuggling among many other threats.

Despite these challenges, the Ministry reports several significant strides in fulfilling its mandate of ensuring a safe and secure Belize for its citizenry and visitors. A significant achievement for the Belize Police was the graduation of Squad Intake No. 96 and recruitment of Squad Intake No. 97. Our focus on Community Policing would enable our recruits to become effective agents for positive change within the communities they will serve. We highlight yet again that a significant number of recruits continue to enter the Police Department with advanced degrees and qualifications, which highlights the ever growing technical and professional competence of our human resources.

The National Forensic Science Services installed additional equipment such as evidence drying cabinet, evidence refrigerator and fume hood at Scenes of Crime Main Office for secure evidence processing and handling, renovated workspaces, revised internal documents and implemented proper body custody procedures.

The Belize Crime Observatory (BCO) continues to support evidence-based decision making, through interagency collaboration with key public sector and development partners. Through the BCO, the MHANGI is leading the charge in bringing innovation and technology to the delivery of

crime data and information services for a wide array of decision-makers, policy makers and stakeholders. The virtualization of crime data and information services, which aligns with the BCO's plans to establish Belize's crime intelligence architecture, will help to deliver upon the Government's new digitalization agenda.

Additionally, at the Ministry supported the reactivation of the Visiting Justices Program at the Belize Central Prison and launched the Lotus Wellness Center which demonstrates a proactive approach to addressing the challenges that police officers often face. By employing a clinical psychologist, the Ministry of Home Affairs and New Growth Industries provides a valuable resource for officers to access confidential and professional care. The opening of a support and wellness center further underscores the commitment to the well-being of police personnel, offering a dedicated space for them to seek support and guidance.

While the Ministry faced many challenges in 2023 our resounding efforts and strides to protect the lives and property of our citizenry, in assisting other key agencies and stakeholders, and in providing the best quality services to the public was without fail. We will continue to expand on our existing efforts in ensuring results-oriented service to the people of Belize and creating the kind of opportunities our people deserve.



Hon. Kareem Musa

Minister of Home Affairs and New Growth Industries

Abbreviations

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| BCO | Belize Crime Observatory |
| BCP | Belize Central Prison |
| BPD | Belize Police Department |
| CABEI | Central American Bank for Economic Integration |
| CARICOM | Caribbean Community |
| CIRT | Critical Infrastructure Response Team |
| COVID | Coronavirus Disease |
| DEA | Drug Enforcement Administration |
| DPP | Director of Public Prosecutions |
| DYS | Department of Youth Services |
| FSC | Financial Services Commission |
| GI ³ | Gang Intelligence, Investigation and Intervention |
| GoB | Government of Belize |
| HNCIB | Head National Crimes Investigation Branch |
| ICT | Information and Communication Technology |
| IIMP | Integrated Information Management Platform |
| INL | International Narcotics and Law Enforcement |
| KHMH | Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital |
| LIU | Leadership Intervention Unit |
| MEO | Medical Examiner's Office |
| MHANGI | Ministry of Home Affairs and New Growth Industries |
| MIT | Mobile Interdiction Team |
| MLDI COP | Medicolegal Death Investigation International Community of Practice |
| MOU | Memorandum of Understanding |
| NFSS | National Forensic Science Services |
| NPTA | National Police Training Academy |
| OW | Orange Walk |
| RIBIN | Regional Integrated Ballistic Information Network |
| SDG | Sustainable Development Goal |
| SICA | Central American Integration System |
| SOC | Scenes of Crime |
| TPU | Tourism Police Unit |
| UB | University of Belize |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| USAID | United States Agency for International Development |

Executive Summary

In the context of #planBelize, citizen security and public safety are considered the main challenges that threaten a country's growth, and Belize is no exception to this challenge. During the year 2023, the Ministry of Home Affairs and New Growth Industries (MHANGI) undertook initiatives that would rethink approaches of tackling crime and violence to improve citizen security and public safety by utilizing evidence-based analysis for innovative policy making. With the continued implementation and funding of the InfoSegura Project through the BCO there was successful inauguration of a Modernized Prison Information Management System for the Belize Central Prison and a Laboratory Information Management System for the National Forensic Science Services. Law enforcement agencies also benefitted from various training initiatives geared at improving data analysis capabilities.

As it relates to annual crime data, during the year under review, a total of 1,087 major crimes (i.e., murder, rape, robbery, burglary, theft, and unlawful sexual intercourse) were reported. This represented an increase of 52, when compared to 2022 which reported 1,035. Of these major crimes, murders decreased by 26 in 2023 (87) when compared to 2022 (113). Intelligence indicated that internal gang feuds, the high demand for drugs and retaliatory shootings are attributed to gang-related crime and violence. Additionally, other crimes associated with gang activities included, aggravated assaults, and robberies.

The MHANGI will continue to support the successful implementation of #planBelize into 2024, utilizing evidence-based information for policy making and continue its efforts of creating innovative opportunities in new and emerging industries via the new growth industries.

Chapters

1. Introduction

This Report provides a synopsis for the period January to December 2023 of the achievements, challenges and the way forward for the MHANGI and its departments which include:

- Belize Police Department (BPD)
- National Forensic Science Services (BFSS)
- Belize Crime Observatory BCO)
- Belize Central Prison (BCP)
- Leadership Intervention Unit (LIU)
- New Growth Industries (NGI)

2. Mission Statement and Priorities

Vision Statement:

A safe, secure, and prosperous nation fostered through collaboration, innovation, and data-driven processes to ensure social justice, sustainable growth, and economic sovereignty.

Mission Statement:

Ensure safety and security, promote innovation and prosperity through collaboration with the public and private sectors, civil society, and all communities. Utilize advanced systems, maintain law and order, ensure citizen security, champion emerging industries and the government's demand for sustainable growth for Belize.

Priorities:

1. To maintain public order by responding to/and managing incidents of property crimes, domestic violence, and other crimes against persons, to reduce their impacts on the community.
2. To promote safer communities through a multi-sectorial approach to alleviate gang related activities.

3. To ensure evidence-based policies and actions, in support of citizen security, including law and order, delivery of justice, and satisfactory redress to victims of crimes.
4. To strengthen inter-agency, regional and international collaboration, and cooperation.
5. To enforce the gun strategy and review of the existing gun reform (Firearm Application Fee) and legislative reform.
6. To restructure the Gang Intelligence, Investigation, and Information Unit (GI³).
7. To support radio programme for more public engagement as part of their own security.
8. To provide evidence for identification of suspects involved in alleged crimes.
9. To provide reliable and objective scientific evidence based on established forensic principles.
10. To develop public policies that address citizen security through a comprehensive crime data and information system.
11. To set up the administrative framework for any new emerging and non-traditional industries.
12. To create private sector jobs for the Belizean people with the introduction of new and emerging industries.
13. To engage local, regional, and international investors in the development and introduction of successful new and emerging industries in Belize.
14. To establish a central nursery for scientific research, testing and management of seeds and tissue culture for new and emerging products.
15. To establish, implement, and enforce the highest standards and regulations for the efficient management of new and emerging industries and to ensure quality, consistency, and compliance through efficient monitoring systems to be established by the Ministry.

3. Main Achievements

3.1 Ministry Headquarters

Achievements

1. **Launch of the Lotus Wellness Center**

The implementation of a wellness program demonstrates a proactive approach to addressing the challenges that police officers often face. By employing a clinical psychologist, the Ministry of Home Affairs and New Growth Industries provides a valuable resource for officers to access confidential and professional care. The opening of a support and wellness center further underscores the commitment to the well-being of police personnel, offering a dedicated space for them to seek support and guidance. This holistic approach not only acknowledges the unique stressors of police work but also aims to improve overall mental health and resilience within the force. The program's success will likely depend on its accessibility, effectiveness, and acceptance within the police community.

2. **Support for the Amnesty Program**

The Ministry of Home Affairs and New Growth Industries, through the Special Branch unit of the Belize Police Department, played a crucial role in supporting the Amnesty program by assisting in the vetting of applicants. This support involved utilizing the unit's expertise in conducting thorough background checks and investigations to verify the information provided by applicants. By leveraging the Special Branch's resources and capabilities, the Ministry ensured that the vetting process was rigorous and comprehensive, helping to uphold the integrity and credibility of the Amnesty program. This collaboration between the Ministry and the Special Branch highlights the importance of interagency cooperation in effectively implementing initiatives aimed at promoting peace and security within the community.

3. **The Fix-Your-File initiative**

This initiative was implemented to enhance the maintenance and organization of personal files for police officers within the Belize Police Department. This initiative has led to the implementation of standardized file maintenance procedures, improved communication channels, and the provision of necessary resources for effective file management helping to resolve issues with their personnel files, such as missing documents and updating their records. These efforts are aimed at improving record-keeping practices and providing better support to our officers. Consequently, the processing of police officers' gratuity and pension will become more efficient.

4. **Sensitization awareness on Vulnerable Populations for Senior Police Officers**

The ministry hosted a sensitization awareness on vulnerable populations for senior police officers. The intent was to raise internal and partnership awareness in respect of the dignity of vulnerable populations while identifying systematic, infrastructural, and professional culture gaps that lend to abuse and threaten equal treatment imperatives. We aim to raise awareness across the entire force to enhance the capacity of the police department in dealing with vulnerable populations. This effort will improve competencies and responsiveness of service, ensuring the protection and dignity of vulnerable populations who interact with or come into conflict with law enforcement.

5. **Minister's Female Tactical Intelligence Challenge 2023**

To conclude Women's Month activities, the Ministry of Home Affairs and New Growth Industries hosted the second Minister's Female Tactical Intelligence Challenge. This event aimed to showcase not only the physical aspects of policing but also the intellectual component that is often overlooked by the public.

6. **Second Security Services Cup 2023**

The Ministry of Home Affairs and New Growth Industries hosted the second Security Services Cup, aimed at showcasing and encouraging national confidence in the security forces. The event promoted positive rivalry between male and female participants, boosted internal morale, and provided the public with an opportunity to support the security forces.

7. **Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Ministry of Education to implement the Positive Engagement and Civic Education (P.E.A.C.E.) Program.** This program's curriculum is designed for primary and high school students, aiming to improve community relations with police officers and equip students with skills to resist illicit activities, bullying, gang involvement, and promote community policing for enhanced security.

8. **Capacity building and Institutional strengthening**

The ministry embarked on institutional strengthening and capacity building by engaging a Staff Officer and Legal Officer. This initiative aims to enhance the ministry's efficiency and effectiveness in its operations. The Staff Officer will provide support to senior management, facilitate communication and coordination within the ministry, and assist in the implementation of policies and programs. The Legal Officer will ensure that the ministry's actions and decisions comply with relevant laws and regulations, provide legal advice, and support to the ministry, and assist in drafting legal documents and agreements. These appointments will strengthen the ministry's internal capacity and enable it to better fulfil its mandate.

9. Improvements to infrastructure

The renovation of (9) police stations and substations countrywide is a comprehensive effort aimed at enhancing the infrastructure that supports law enforcement operations. This initiative involves refurbishing existing facilities to improve functionality, efficiency, and overall working conditions for police officers. These stations include Hopkins Village Police Sub-Station, San Pedro Colombia Village Police Sub-Station, Pomona Village Police Sub-Station, Orange Walk Police Station, Caribbean Shores Police Sub-Station, Mesopotamia Police Sub-Station, Lopez Mateo Park Boot (Community Policing), Commandant's Quarters-Police Training Academy, Officer's Quarters-Benque Viejo del Carmen.

The renovation project seeks to improve the overall appearance of police stations, creating a more welcoming and professional environment for officers and visitors alike. This can have a positive impact on community relations, helping to build trust and confidence in the police force. The renovation of police stations and substations countrywide is a critical investment in the infrastructure that supports law enforcement efforts. By upgrading facilities and improving working conditions, this initiative aims to enhance the effectiveness and professionalism of the police force, ultimately contributing to improved public safety and security.

3.2 Belize Police Department

Mission Statement

The BPD working in partnership with all communities: to help prevent and reduce crime, to detect and prosecute crime, and to enhance the quality of life, for a safer Belize.

Their philosophy is that they shall devote themselves to uphold the safeguards of the Constitution having regard for the rights and dignity of all persons, through the instrument of law, and the concern for order, working in partnership with the people, and in co-operation with Law Enforcement Agencies, we vow to protect the welfare of the state from threat and fear of crime.

Vision Statement

The BPD shall work collaboratively with all communities to foster the highest level of trust, confidence, and safety, through effective community policing and problem-solving strategies.

The BPD seek to reduce and prevent crime by employing intelligence-led policing, technology-driven strategies, effective investigation and prosecution of crimes and proactive and preventive

patrols of our cities, towns and highways while adhering to the rule of law and respecting individual rights.

The BPD aim to enhance the quality of life by creating safer neighbourhoods, while maintaining the highest stand of integrity and accountability.

BPD Key Results achieved in 2023

1. Graduation Recruit Squad #96 and Enlistment of Recruit Squad #97

In June 2023, following months of rigorous training, the Police Recruit Squad #96 successfully completed their training, and 223 recruits officially became Police Constables. The passing out ceremony, held at the National Police Training Academy (N.P.T.A.) in Belmopan City, marked the culmination of their training and the beginning of their careers in law enforcement.

In September 2023, the Belize Police Department Enlisted Recruit Squad #97, comprising 233 recruits, at the National Police Training Academy. These recruits embarked on their training journey, undergoing intensive instruction in various aspects of policing, including law enforcement, community engagement, and professional conduct. These recruits are scheduled to complete their training and pass out as fully-fledged Police Constables in April 2024. This passing out ceremony will be a significant milestone for the recruits, as they transition from trainees to active members of the Belize Police Department, ready to serve and protect their communities.

The recruitment and training of new police constables are crucial for maintaining an effective and professional police force. These new recruits will help to bolster the ranks of the police department, contributing to its mission of ensuring public safety and upholding the rule of law across Belize.

2. Signing of a MOU with the Financial Services Commission

The Belize Police Department (BPD) and the Financial Services Commission (FSC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to collaborate and strengthen regulatory oversight and supervision of financial services. This partnership aims to enhance efforts to combat illicit activities such as money laundering, fraud, and other financial crimes.

Under the MOU, the BPD and the FSC will work together to share information, intelligence, and resources to improve the detection and prevention of financial crimes. The collaboration will also involve joint training and capacity-building initiatives to enhance the skills and knowledge of both organizations in combating illicit activities in the financial sector. By joining forces, the BPD and the FSC demonstrate their commitment to maintaining the integrity of Belize's financial system and protecting it from abuse by criminals. This partnership underscores the importance of interagency cooperation in addressing complex financial crimes and underscores the government's determination to combat illicit activities effectively.

3. Signing of a multilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

This MOU aims to enhance cooperation in countering suspicious cross-border currency interdictions, with a particular focus on combating money laundering and terrorism

financing. This agreement involves multiple countries or organizations coming together to strengthen their efforts in addressing these critical issues. The MOU aims to improve coordination and information sharing among the signatories to better detect and prevent illicit financial flows across borders. It establishes a framework for collaboration, outlining the roles and responsibilities of each party and providing a platform for joint initiatives and operations.

By signing this MOU, the participating countries or organizations demonstrate their commitment to combating money laundering and terrorism financing, recognizing the importance of international cooperation in addressing these global challenges. The agreement is expected to enhance the effectiveness of efforts to disrupt illicit financial activities and protect the integrity of the international financial system.

4. Recipient of a Firearm Marking Machine

The Organization of American States (OAS), through its Program of Assistance for Control of Arms and Munitions (PACAM), has generously donated a firearm marking machine to the Belize Police Department. This equipment represents a significant contribution to Belize's efforts to enhance controls against the illicit trafficking of firearms and promote firearm traceability.

The firearm marking machine will enable the Belize Police Department to mark firearms in accordance with international standards. This marking is essential for tracing firearms used in criminal activities, as it allows law enforcement agencies to track the origin and movement of these weapons more effectively. By improving controls and promoting traceability of firearms, the donation of the firearm marking machine will contribute to enhancing public safety and security in Belize. It will also support the country's compliance with international agreements and commitments aimed at combating the illicit trafficking of firearms and reducing armed violence.

5. Strengthening of the Field Training Officer Program

The Belize Police Department has undertaken further strengthening of the Field Training Officer (FTO) Component of Recruit Training, a critical step in ensuring the effectiveness of new recruits. This initiative includes the procurement of dedicated resources to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the program.

The FTO Component of Recruit Training plays a vital role in the professional development of new police recruits, providing them with practical, on-the-job training under the guidance of experienced field training officers. By strengthening this component, the Belize Police Department aims to improve the quality of training provided to recruits, ensuring they are well-prepared to handle the challenges of policing.

The procurement of dedicated resources for the FTO Component will include the acquisition of specialized training materials, equipment, and facilities to support the training program. These resources will help to enhance the training experience for recruits and ensure that they receive the highest standard of training possible. The strengthening of the FTO Component of Recruit Training demonstrates the Belize Police Department's commitment to providing its officers with the skills and knowledge they need to serve their communities effectively and uphold the law.

6. Decrease in Murders

As of December 31, 2023, the number of murders in Belize decreased to 87 compared to 113 murders in 2022. This significant reduction in murders is attributed to the great policing efforts implemented by the Belize Police Department. The efforts of law enforcement officers have been instrumental in achieving this milestone, making the murder rate the lowest in a decade. This decrease in murders is a testament to the dedication and hard work of the police force in addressing crime and violence in Belize. Through various initiatives such as increased patrols, targeted operations, and community engagement efforts, the police have been able to make significant strides in reducing violent crime.

Regionally, Belize has dropped out of the top 10 most violent countries, marking a significant achievement in the country's efforts to improve public safety and security. This accomplishment reflects the effectiveness of the strategies and measures implemented by the Belize Police Department in collaboration with other law enforcement agencies and community stakeholders.

7. Weapons and Ammunition Management Training

In January 2024, members of the Belize Police Department, Defence Force, and Coast Guard underwent a comprehensive weapons and ammunition management training. This training aimed to enhance officers' skills and knowledge in the safe and effective handling, storage, and disposal of weapons and ammunition. Graduates of the training program were tested on their knowledge and skills as part of the Weapons Destruction initiative.

The Weapons Destruction initiative was a collaborative effort involving the Mines Advisory Group, CARICOM IMPACS, and the British High Commission. As part of this initiative, over 900 unserviceable weapons were destroyed. This initiative not only helped to improve the safety and security of Belize by reducing the number of weapons in circulation but also demonstrated the commitment of the Belize Police Department and its partners to combatting illicit arms trafficking and promoting peace and stability in the region.

The successful completion of the training program and the Weapons Destruction initiative highlights the dedication of the Belize Police Department, Defence Force, and Coast Guard to ensuring the effective management of weapons and ammunition. It also underscores the importance of international cooperation and collaboration in addressing common security challenges, such as the proliferation of illicit weapons.

8. Creation of the Road Policing Unit

The BPD rolled out the Road Policing Unit across the country. The purpose of Road Policing is part of our efforts to address traffic offences, and transnational organized crime. Although the Unit is young, it has proven to be successful since they have contributed to the detention of more than 80 irregular migrants and the seizure of several kilos of cannabis.

9. Reactivation of Citizen Advisor Committees

The Police Department reactivated its Monthly Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) meetings countrywide with a view to addressing crime and other issues from a stakeholder approach. These Citizen Advisory Committee meetings resulted in several

follow-up meetings with many of the stakeholder groups. These interactions play a crucial role in the department's success of preventing crime.

Overview of Crimes

Police recorded 1,087 major crimes during 2023. This reflected an increase of 5% relative to January to December 2022. That is a total of 52 more crime records compared to 2022.

TABLE 1. REPORTS FOR MAJOR CRIMES FOR 2021, 2022 AND 2023

| MAJOR CRIMES REPORT | | | |
|--|------------|--------------|--------------|
| Major Crimes | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
| Murders | 125 | 113 | 87 |
| Rapes | 12 | 24 | 34 |
| Robberies | 167 | 183 | 170 |
| Burglaries | 456 | 558 | 628 |
| Thefts (value of BZ\$ 5,000 and above) | 77 | 97 | 118 |
| Unlawful sexual intercourse | 46 | 60 | 50 |
| TOTAL | 883 | 1,035 | 1,087 |

Table 2: Distribution of major crimes by district for 2023

| | Corozal | Orange Walk | Belize | Cayo | Stann Creek | Toledo |
|--|-----------|-------------|------------|------------|-------------|-----------|
| Murders | 2 | 7 | 57 | 13 | 6 | 2 |
| Rapes | 2 | 3 | 9 | 13 | 6 | 1 |
| Robberies | 15 | 26 | 65 | 38 | 21 | 5 |
| Burglaries | 35 | 50 | 255 | 112 | 140 | 36 |
| Thefts (value of BZ\$5,000.00 and above) | 5 | 6 | 63 | 19 | 21 | 4 |
| Unlawful sexual intercourse | 9 | 5 | 10 | 13 | 13 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 68 | 97 | 459 | 208 | 207 | 48 |

Table 3: Cases concluded by the Prosecution Branch for period Jan – Dec 2023

| | BZE | CZL | OW | SI | SCK | TOL | BVO | BMP | ISF | TOTAL | % |
|-------------------|-------|-----|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------------|--------------|
| Dismissed | 230 | 184 | 261 | 151 | 281 | 128 | 31 | 205 | 92 | 1,563 | 16.8 |
| Struck out | 194 | 40 | 6 | 63 | 12 | 11 | 4 | 70 | 47 | 447 | 4.8 |
| Withdrawn | 119 | 59 | 91 | 34 | 24 | 60 | 21 | 28 | 28 | 464 | 5.0 |
| Conviction | 2175 | 581 | 1165 | 565 | 504 | 413 | 161 | 578 | 441 | 6,583 | 70.9 |
| PI | 95 | 14 | 13 | 47 | 14 | 14 | 4 | 9 | 9 | 219 | 2.5 |
| Total | 2,813 | 878 | 1,563 | 860 | 835 | 626 | 221 | 890 | 617 | 9,276 | 100.0 |

Other Achievements:

1. The Criminal Records Office collected \$33,729 for Police Certificate of Conduct that were processed. The Office also processed a total of 446 Crime records and 586 lost documents generating \$12,384. Total revenues generated for the GoB by the Criminal Records Office during the reporting period is \$46,113.
2. The BPD Traffic Branch prepared seven hundred and thirty-seven (737) traffic accident reports that generated \$8,844 for the GoB.
3. A total of 236 firearms of various calibre were removed off the street throughout the country.
 - a. Operations conducted by the GI3 targeting gangs resulted in the recovery of 39 firearms.
 - b. The Anti-Narcotics Unit seized/found 14 firearms and 81 rounds of various ammunition.
 - c. The Mobile Interdiction Team seized/found 6 firearms and 11 rounds of various ammunition.
 - d. The Special Patrol Unit seized/found 45 firearms and 913 rounds of various ammunition.
 - e. Based on intelligence, the Special Branch Unit recovered 99 firearms and 2,142 rounds of ammunition.
 - f. Other units contributed to the remaining 33 firearms that were removed from the streets of Belize.
4. The Gang Intelligence, Investigation, and Intervention (GI3) Unit arrested and charged 198 persons for various offences including gangs, firearm, drugs offences. Of those arrested and charged by the GI3, 64 were for gang members charged from 21 different gang groups across Belize.

Challenges and Recommendations

| Challenge | Recommendation |
|--|---|
| Conditions of service | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Increase of all allowances that have not increased since 2014. b. Renovation of all police quarters, barracks, and stations. c. Improve the welfare for all police officers. d. Enforcement of policies that allow for a transparent and merit-based promotional system. e. Adequate resources such as vehicles, communication equipment, firearm, and availability of accoutrements. f. Increase educational scholarships for police officers to become specialized in certain fields of law enforcement. g. Continuous training to serve the community in efficient and effect manner. |
| International training and duty leave | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. A policy is needed to address short notices of invitations, late arrivals of approved duty leave, non-submission of training/course reports, timely submission of nominee information by formations. |
| National Police Training Academy - dilapidated buildings and furniture and the need for continuous officer training | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Refurbishment of dormitories, office spaces b. New furniture for dormitories c. Training for police officers in areas of prosecution, firearm safety and simulation, vehicle stop and search, case file management, customer care, human rights. |
| Family Violence Unit - lack of resources | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Unit needs a bigger workspace, vehicular resources, and increased human resource. |
| Criminal Records Office - weekly court returns | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Formations are not submitting their weekly court returns which is needed to ensure criminal files are updated. b. Updated equipment, increased human resource. |
| Anti-Trafficking in Persons Unit in need of human resource and inter-agency collaboration | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. additional officers to the unit will improve the capability to execute more proactive operations to identify victims and assume the responsibility to target the human smuggling networks that are operating in Belize. b. Increased inter-agency coordination with other Departments such as the Immigration Department. |

| Challenge | Recommendation |
|--|--|
| Anti-Narcotics Unit - lack of resources | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Vehicular resources needed to reach clandestine airstrips in remote areas. b. Additional human resource is needed. |
| Mobile Interdiction Unit - lack of resources | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Additional vehicular, fuel and human resource is needed to effectively deploy operations as well as manage the additional postings. |
| Special Patrol Unit – lack of resources | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The SPU’s area of operation has increased, and human resource has decreased, therefore, additional human resource is needed. b. Acquire additional firearms, camouflage uniforms, vehicles and communication equipment. |
| K9 Unit - lack of resources | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Training for instructors b. Designated Office space c. Acquisition of vehicles, dogs, and human resource |
| Prosecution Branch Case -files submission, untimely firearm and drug certificates results and improper wording of Information and complaint and court books | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Adherence to the Criminal Procedure Rules timelines for case file submission is necessary to ensure a trial. b. Increased inter-agency collaboration with the National Forensic Science Service to ensure firearms and drugs certificates are received timely for trials. c. Training is needed to enhance prosecutors’ capability to prosecute |

3.3 National Forensic Science Services

Mission Statement

Timely and cost-effective administration of justice by providing reliable and objective scientific evidence based on established forensic principles.

Vision Statement

To become a fully functional, independent, and accredited forensic department providing comprehensive analysis of scientific evidence done by qualified staff to assist in the administration of justice to exonerate the innocent and convict the guilty.

Core Values

- 1. Impartiality

We do not favour one person or group over another, acknowledging that discrimination increases feelings of injustice and makes our jobs harder to do.

2. Scientific Objectivity

We do not allow personal feelings, beliefs, or opinions to unfairly influence our actions in any situation, but rather we assess each situation based on its own merits and the observable facts.

3. Confidentiality

We respect every individual's right to privacy, whether living, deceased, accused or victim, and we handle all sensitive information securely.

4. Integrity

We conduct ourselves in a manner that demonstrates good judgment, trustworthiness, and steadfastness.

5. Competence

We practice within our respective areas of expertise and continually develop and enhance our professional capacity.

6. Collaboration

We strive to evolve together, helping and supporting each other for the greater good.

7. Accountability

We are committed to diligence in the performance of our responsibilities by providing service to all with the right attitude and behaviour.

8. Respect

We exhibit politeness, due regard, and empathy to all.

Objective

The Belize National Forensic Science Service (NFSS) serves all law enforcement agencies and the criminal justice system by providing forensic science services ranging from crime scene inspection, processing and documentation, medicolegal post-mortem examinations, anthropological examination of human remains, and laboratory analysis of serology, toxicology, firearms and seized drugs cases (see Annex for detailed scope).

NFSS Key Results achieved in 2023

Listed below are summaries of highlighted accomplishments at the NFSS for the year 2022:

Innovation and Improvements:

1. The National Forensic Science Services acquired, configured, and implemented an industry-standard Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) at the Forensic Lab as a significant step forward for digital transformation in line with the Government's National Digital Agenda and ISO standards. To ensure a smooth transition of the System the Department conducted change management sensitization sessions on LIMS improvements with justice sector and law enforcement stakeholders countrywide.
2. The Department installed a secure server at Scenes of Crime Main Office to properly store and manage crime scene records and reports in line with the Government's National Digital Agenda and ISO standards.
3. Invested in antivibration tables to install calibrated analytical balances at the Forensic Laboratory to allow for quality-assured net weight reporting of seized drugs.
4. The Forensics Department transitioned to virtually hosting of the Integrated Ballistics Identification System (IBIS) services at the Forensic Laboratory for improved connectivity to correlation server and to alleviate space constraints.
5. Extensive stakeholder consultations were also held to evaluate the country's medicolegal death investigation system and propose legislation to repeal the outdated Coroner's System and introduce a modernized Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
6. Expanded scopes of analysis at the Forensic Laboratory to include outsourced fire debris analysis, outsourced general toxicology analysis and outsourced carbon monoxide testing.
7. Established client relationship with a new ISO-accredited DNA Laboratory in USA to achieve shorter turnaround times and expanded testing services for DNA cases.
8. Convened bimonthly interagency crime gun intelligence meetings with law enforcement stakeholders to increase the reliance on forensic ballistic (IBIS) hits in gun-crime investigations.
9. Re-opened cold case murder and missing person investigations from the late 1990s with assistance from FBI and Rutgers University.
10. Obtained International Review Boards (IRB) research approval from University of Belize to conduct national population genetics study of allele frequencies within the Belizean population.

Infrastructure and Equipment:

1. The Department installed additional equipment such as evidence drying cabinet, evidence refrigerator and fume hood at Scenes of Crime Main Office for secure evidence processing and handling, installed remaining histopathology equipment and environmentally compliant wastewater treatment system for the new Histopathology Laboratory under the Medical Examiner's Office.

2. The Forensic Laboratory renovated its workspace into separate, dedicated sampling areas for toxicology and seized drugs thereby enhancing workflow organization, resealed the Forensic Laboratory roof to mitigate against risk of water leakage and promote better safeguarding of evidence and equipment, rehabilitated the Forensic Laboratory perimeter fence for adequate security and access control.
3. The Department also purchased additional exhibit storage freezer and evidence shelf at the Forensic Laboratory for proper evidence storage.

Standardization of Policies and Procedures:

1. Revised internal documents to ensure that technical forms, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and reporting templates used in forensic casework are in alignment with industry standards for ISO accreditation as well as incorporated a secure, digital internal Chain of Custody at the Forensic Laboratory for evidence transfers and updated policies outlining guidelines for impartiality and confidentiality for all forensic staff.
2. The Department reconfigured Forensic Laboratory workflows for Serology, Firearms, Analytical Chemistry, Toxicology and Exhibit Management Sections to include barcode-enabled evidence tracking and casefile management, in compliance with ISO requirements. The Department implemented proper body custody procedures including the enforcement of body bag seals to transport cadavers for forensic autopsies.

Training:

1. Personnel from the Forensics Department participated in several conferences and training opportunities including:
 - The Caribbean Medicolegal and Forensic Symposium in Barbados.
 - The American Society for Crime Lab Directors annual symposium in USA.
 - The American Academy of Forensic Sciences annual conference in USA.
 - Bloodstain Pattern Analysis training in St. Lucia
 - Lab and Scenes of Crime staff collaborated with DEA to deliver training for local law enforcement agencies.
 - Crime Scene Technicians achieved international certification with the International Association for Identification.
 - staff member underwent ISO 9001 quality management and internal auditor training.
 - All new technical staff members continue to undergo rigorous internal training to demonstrate competency before being authorized to perform forensic casework, so as to maintain minimum standards for provision of quality forensic science services.

Challenges:

1. **Adequate office space:** The NFSS is in need of adequate office space countrywide to house Scenes of Crime personnel and equipment. The only locations with adequate space is the office located in San Ignacio Town which the NFSS owns and the Belize District which the GoB rents. At all other locations Scenes of Crime personnel are accommodated with inadequate office space at police stations.
2. **Staffing:** The Medical Examiner’s Office currently only has 6 staff employed full-time in that Unit which is responsible to conduct all forensic autopsies throughout the country. The Scenes of Crime Unit only has 1 Crime Scene Technician stationed in certain high-population areas (1 Technician in San Pedro Ambergris Caye and 1 Technician for the entire Toledo District), with limited staff in other areas such as Belmopan and Belize City, and no staff available to be posted full-time in Placencia, Caye Caulker, Hattieville or Ladyville. The Forensic Laboratory is in the process of purchasing a Rapid DNA system with Capital II funding approved in FY2024-2025, however there are currently not enough Forensic Analysts employed at the NFSS who can be assigned and trained to bring this new DNA system online while keeping up with the current demand for forensic biology (Serology) examinations. Additional staffing is therefore needed to expeditiously launch this first forensic DNA system to be installed in Belize.
3. **Vehicles:** As it relates to vehicles, Scenes of Crime personnel have access to one vehicle only in each jurisdiction. Often times personnel must rely on the support of police officers to transport them to crime scenes. The acquisition of additional vehicles will help to minimize response time as well as improve efficiency.

3.4 Belize Central Prison

Overview

On August 1, 2002, Kolbe Foundation, a non-profit, non-governmental organization formed by a Rotarian businessman was given an opportunity to manage the Belize Central Prison (BCP) on behalf of the government and country of Belize. This was undertaken with the Mission Statement **“To Provide a Secure, Humane Facility Geared Towards Meaningful Rehabilitation and Successful Reintegration.”**

The 2020 mass-escape was a lesson learnt and as a result allowed for prison security procedures and policies to be strengthened. The Belize Central Prison is proud to announce for the third consecutive year since 2021, there were zero (0) escapes from the compound. Highlighting the

high-level security measures set in place for the safety of Kolbe's civilian employees and the country at-large. The year 2023 ended with no type of prison disturbance experienced.

During the year 2023, the Controller's Office, the Parole Board, and the Parole Unit worked closely together to provide inmates with effective and measurable educational, vocational and substance abuse treatment programs that would enrich their lives. These programs were based on the need of each individual inmate's behavioural trait, their perceived priorities, and their release date.

Under the management of the Kolbe Foundation, the Belize Central Prison has undergone significant improvements and modernization efforts. These include enhancements to the physical infrastructure, such as the renovation of the Control/Search Area, which is vital for the admission and discharge processes of inmates. Additionally, the prison has implemented various programs and initiatives aimed at addressing the needs of inmates, including education, vocational training, and counselling services.

Kolbe Foundation's management of the Belize Central Prison emphasizes the importance of maintaining a safe and secure environment for both inmates and staff. Through its efforts, the foundation seeks to contribute positively to the rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders, ultimately aiming to reduce recidivism rates and promote a safer society.

During the year most of the inmate population were engaged in the various rehabilitation programs such as the ARC Drug and Alcohol Treatment Program, Gang Affiliation and Intervention Program, RACHEL and IFFB Spiritual Journey to Freedom.

Since drugs in prisons obstruct rehabilitation, to intercept narcotics and drugs, the Prison ramped-up drug testing amongst inmates and staff.

BCP Key Results achieved in 2023

1. Launch of the Prison Information Management System (PIMS)

The PIMS was made possible through the InfoSegura Project. This represents a significant milestone for the Belize Central Prison. This new system will revolutionize the management and organization of prison-related information, moving from traditional paper-based methods to a modern, digital platform. The implementation of PIMS will enable the prison management to consolidate all inmate records, administrative data, and operational information into a single, centralized system. This will streamline data management processes, improve efficiency in information retrieval, and enhance overall operational effectiveness.

The adoption of PIMS aligns with the National Digital Agenda, showcasing Belize's commitment to embracing digital technologies for enhanced governance and service delivery. By transitioning to a digital platform, the Belize Central Prison will not only improve its internal operations but also contribute to the broader goal of digital transformation across the country.

Overall, the launch of PIMS marks a significant step forward for the Belize Central Prison, enhancing its capacity to manage information effectively and efficiently while advancing Belize's digital agenda.

2. Parole Board

In 2023, the Belize Central Prison's Parole Board reviewed the cases of 342 eligible inmates, ultimately approving parole for 41 individuals. This process involves a thorough evaluation of each inmate's behaviour, compliance with prison rules, participation in rehabilitation programs, and overall readiness for reintegration into society.

Parole is granted based on a variety of factors, including the nature of the offense, the inmate's behaviour and conduct while incarcerated, their willingness to participate in rehabilitation programs, and the assessment of the risk they pose to the community. The Parole Board carefully considers all these factors before deciding.

For the 41 inmates who were granted parole, this marks a significant milestone in their rehabilitation journey. It offers them a chance to rebuild their lives, reunite with their families, and contribute positively to society. However, it also comes with conditions that they must adhere to, such as regular reporting to a parole officer, maintaining employment, and avoiding criminal activity.

The Belize Central Prison's parole program plays a crucial role in the rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders. By granting parole to eligible inmates, the prison aims to reduce overcrowding, promote rehabilitation, and ultimately contribute to a safer and more inclusive society.

3. Reactivation of the Visiting Justices Program

In April 2023, the Visiting Justice program was reactivated, with visits commencing at the end of that month and continuing monthly, except for July, totalling 13 visits for the year. During these visits, complaints and concerns were communicated through letters, face-to-face discussions with the inmates, and interviews. Issues related to information sharing, such as

requested adjournment dates and clarity of sentencing, were promptly addressed, with checks made with the respective courts and information shared with the inmates. More complex matters were communicated via email to the Ministry's CEO, Chief Magistrate, Visiting Justices, and the Superintendent of the Kolbe Foundation, as necessary.

4. Building improvements and renovations

As it relates to **building improvements and renovations**, the Control/Search Area, situated in the main building, underwent renovations to enhance its functionality. This area serves as the point where inmates are formally admitted to and discharged from the prison, requiring it to meet specific standards. The upgrades included the installation of cameras, the replacement of flooring with tiles, and the expansion of private search rooms to improve privacy and security during the admission and discharge processes. Two (2) new towers were added to the compound. These towers were placed in strategic positions for optimum surveillance.

The medical facility/infirmery was destroyed during Hurricane Lisa in 2022 prompting management to build a secure structure to withstand natural disasters such as hurricanes. The medical facility started construction immediately after the storm and was completed in 2023.

The prison's library facility and computer lab and storeroom where all food items are stored were also renovated.

5. Acquisition of generator

In 2023 the Prison acquired a 250-kilowatt generator to complement the dedicated power supply from Belize Electricity Limited. This asset is important to the organization because of the constant demand for electricity to assist in the security of the compound.

Prison Statistics: Total Imprisonment

As of December 31, 2023, the total number of persons admitted into the prison remained at 1,222. This accounts for:

- 827 total convicted, of whom:
 - 819 are males
 - 8 are females
- 395 total on remand, of whom:
 - 387 are females.

- 8 are females.

Table 4: Incarceration by Offence

| Offence | Remanded | Convicted |
|----------------------|----------|-----------|
| Violent Crimes | 40 | 58 |
| Sexual Offences | 29 | 89 |
| Crimes of Dishonesty | 78 | 222 |

Prison Statistics: Parole

During the year 2023, 340 applications for parole were received of which 40 were granted parole. The table below provides a synopsis of applications received by month.

Table 5: Parole Interviews and Results for the Year 2023

| Year | Month | Proposed Parolees | Granted Parole | | Denied Parole | | Deffered Parole | | Decline Parole | |
|------|--------------|-------------------|----------------|--------|---------------|--------|-----------------|--------|----------------|--------|
| | | | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female |
| 2023 | January | 37 | 4 | 0 | 31 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| | February | 28 | 4 | 0 | 24 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | March | 31 | 1 | 0 | 29 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | April | 27 | 1 | 0 | 24 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| | May | 20 | 2 | 0 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| | June | 28 | 4 | 0 | 22 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| | July | 23 | 3 | 0 | 17 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| | August | 28 | 3 | 0 | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| | September | 28 | 2 | 0 | 24 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| | October | 32 | 2 | 0 | 28 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| | November | 33 | 7 | 0 | 24 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| | December | 25 | 7 | 0 | 15 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| | TOTAL | | 40 | 0 | 278 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 15 | 0 |
| | | 340 | 40 | | 283 | | 2 | | 15 | |

3.5 Belize Crime Observatory

The Belize Crime Observatory (BCO) was established in October 2016 to “foster the development of public policies that address public safety and national security issues through the collection, analysis and dissemination of quality, timely and multidimensional data on crime and violence trends in the country.” The BCO is a national repository for the secure storage of comprehensive, multi-dimensional data relating to crime. Data stored by the Observatory is collected from relevant sources and processed to ensure it is fit for the creation of statistical analysis and outputs for a wide range of stakeholders.

Mission

The Belize Crime Observatory is established for the collection, processing, analysis, and storage of crime data, with a view of providing timely, reliable, and relevant information to its users.

Vision

The BCO will serve as Belize's national repository for the secure storage of comprehensive, multi-dimensional data relating to crime. Data stored by the Observatory are collected from relevant sources and processed to ensure they are fit for the creation of statistical analysis and outputs for stakeholders.

Functions

The primary aim of the Belize Crime Observatory is to foster the development of public policies that address public safety and national security issues through the collection, analysis and dissemination of quality, timely and multidimensional data on crime and violence trends in the country. The BCO is an official point of reference at the national, regional, and international level for comprehensive, relevant, and accurate data on crime and violence in Belize, including statistical and analytical information, as well as primary and secondary research.

Scope of work

The BCO is responsible for:

- collecting data from relevant sources;
- processing crime data to ensure quality and propriety;
- securely storing crime data;
- ensuring adequate access to relevant stakeholders;
- protecting sensitive and proprietary data and ensuring access only by authorized persons;
- generating statistical outputs and analyses for various user types; and
- updating data to ensure accuracy and reliability.

Goals

GOAL #1: Ensuring that crime data and information collected from authoritative sources are timely, multidimensional, comprehensive, reliable, and relevant.

GOAL #2: Ensuring that data and information in the BCO's Repository are suitable for the efficient performance of a diverse array of analysis functions, and to generate statistical outputs and indicators, unveiling meaningful insights into crime patterns and trends.

GOAL #3: Performing in-depth analysis of crime data, exploring key variables to provide greater insights into crime patterns and trends.


GOAL #4: Maintaining a Central Repository of authoritative and comprehensive crime data and information from a range of providers, as well as the BCO’s analysis and statistical outputs and periodic publications.

GOAL #5: Fostering a deeper understanding of crime patterns and trends in Belize and supporting improvements in public safety through the dissemination of quality data and insightful information.

In Belize, the Evidence Based Information Management on Citizen Security in Central America and the Dominican Republic–InfoSegura Project is being co-implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs & New Growth Industries, through the Belize Crime Observatory, in partnership with the UNDP. External funding support for the implementation of the BCO’s activities has been provided by the United States Government, through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The Ministry of Home Affairs & New Growth Industries places very high priority on innovation and technology, particularly in the context of leveraging Information and Communications Technology (ICT) resources to achieve greater impact through its efforts to improve citizen security in Belize. The Government of Belize has been developing the *Plan Belize - Medium Term Development Strategy (2021-2025)*, and the two priority thematic areas most relevant to the BCO’s future work are *Citizen Security* and *Good Governance*.

- Improve the penal system
- Implement the Youth Service Corp
- Develop stronger physical programs
- Support community policing efforts

Citizen Security 

- Strengthen and reform government institutions
- E-governance
- Digitalization for service transformation

Good Governance 

BCO Key Results Achieved in 2023

1. Geospatial Mapping of the City of Belmopan

The BCO supported the Ministry of Human Development’s ATIPs Council with a Geospatial Mapping of the City of Belmopan. This initiative is geared at enhancing Belize’s surveillance and operational awareness to combat Human Trafficking, through Inter-Agency collaboration and coordination using Geospatial Technology and innovation in the City of Belmopan.

2. Facilitated a consultation on Sexual offences assessment.

It is our hope that with this assessment which sought and received the input of a wide range of stakeholders representing the public, private and civil society that we can strengthen our legislation as well as utilize and roll-out the use of our Sexual Offenders Registry.

3. Conducted training for media personnel on the role and impact the media has in contributing to public policy.

Since the media plays a crucial role in advocating and shaping public policy. The training allowed representatives of various media houses to receive information on how to handle and deliver crime-related statistics. Having the skills to effectively use statistics will further enable journalists to make accurate comparisons and better contextualize facts, as well as avoid being fooled by misleading data. The training offered techniques on asking critical questions and addressing quantitative data, helping journalists distil complicated information and engage the average reader while not compromising accuracy.

4. Public awareness campaigns

In 2023, the BCO launched public awareness campaigns on road safety, suicides, and drowning incidents. These public awareness campaigns are aimed at raising awareness by providing historical data, with an emphasis on help-seeking behaviour, encouraging positive behaviour change, and inform of available support.

5. Interagency collaboration

The BCO provided technical support to the Belize Central Prison for the implementation of the Prison Information Management system and to the National Forensic Science Services for the implementation of the Laboratory Information Management System. Both of these systems are expected to contribute to the development of Belize’s crime intelligence architecture by enhancing the ability to capture, manage, and share data and information at both the institutional and interagency levels. Records were migrated from both digital and hard copy documentation to the central repository of these respective systems.

Table 6 Challenges and Gaps

| KEY CHALLENGES | CRITICAL GAPS |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited ability to perform detailed analysis on a more regular basis, due to data formats and inadequate levels of sex, age, and other disaggregation, including incident data needed for more robust analysis; | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sex and age disaggregated incident data on a more frequent basis; if possible on a weekly basis; Human resource and technology gaps continue to persist in source agencies (particularly the Belize Central Prison, the National Forensic Science Service, the Belize |

| | |
|--|--|
| | Police Department, the Epidemiology in the Ministry of Health and Wellness), which adversely impact data sharing; |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inconsistent data management practices, resulting in inefficiencies in data management, particularly due to manual processes that are prone to errors, as well as the lack of proper protocols and procedures for data collection, entry, validation, and reporting; | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standardization in core data management practices, including data categorization, date entries, georeferencing, recording of details on gender-based violence to support proactive surveillance; |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining consistent multi-channel stakeholder communications, both internal and external. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital tools dedicated to ensuring more effective stakeholder communications, and to support implementation of the BCO’s new Advocacy Strategy and Advocacy Plan. |

3.6 Leadership Intervention Unit

1. The William Dawson Digi-Sprite Basketball Tournament and the William Dawson Peace Cup football tournament

These significant events, attract the participation from **over 300 young men** from primary urban and peri-urban areas of Belize City. These tournaments have become more than just sporting events; they serve as platforms for social cohesion, community engagement, youth empowerment and the promotion of peace and non-violence.

- **Social Cohesion:** The tournaments bring together young men from diverse backgrounds, fostering a sense of unity and camaraderie among participants. Regardless of their differences, the shared love for sports unites them and creates a positive atmosphere of inclusivity.
- **Community Engagement:** These tournaments are not just about sports; they also engage the wider community. Families, friends, and residents come out to support the teams, creating a vibrant and festive atmosphere that strengthens community bonds.
- **Youth Empowerment:** Participation in these tournaments empowers young men by providing them with a platform to showcase their talents, build confidence, and develop important life skills such as teamwork, discipline, and perseverance.
- **Promotion of Peace and Non-violence:** By promoting sportsmanship and fair play, these tournaments contribute to a culture of peace and non-violence, offering an alternative to negative influences that may be present in urban areas.

The William Dawson Digi-Sprite Basketball Tournament and the William Dawson Peace Cup football tournament are not just about sports; they are about building a stronger, more united community, empowering youth, and promoting positive values that benefit society as a whole.

2. Expansion of the Community Work Program

This represents a vital initiative aimed at addressing the socio-economic challenges faced by communities in south side Belize City affected by gang and gun violence. By providing meaningful employment opportunities **for 250 young people**, this program not only offers immediate economic benefits but also contributes to long-term community development and crime prevention efforts.

- a. **Economic Empowerment:** The program empowers young people by providing them with decent employment opportunities, enabling them to earn a livelihood and support themselves and their families. This economic empowerment can have a ripple effect, leading to improved living standards and reduced reliance on illegal activities for income.
- b. **Community Development:** Through their work in the program, participants contribute to community development efforts, such as infrastructure improvements, beautification projects, and other initiatives that enhance the quality of life in their neighbourhoods. This active involvement can foster a sense of pride and ownership among residents, leading to a stronger, more cohesive community.
- c. **Crime Prevention:** By engaging young people in constructive activities, the program helps reduce the likelihood of their involvement in criminal activities. Employment provides them with a sense of purpose and belonging, steering them away from negative influences that may lead to gang involvement or violence.
- d. **Skills Development:** The program offers participants the opportunity to develop valuable skills, both technical and soft skills, that can improve their employability and prospects. These skills can range from vocational training to communication and teamwork skills, enhancing their overall personal and professional development. The Skills Development sessions incorporated the following:
 - Mindfulness Training: 20 persons
 - Small Engine Maintenance and Repair: 30 persons
 - Entrepreneurial Transitional Training Post Tubal: 50 persons
 - William Dawson Peace Cup Conflict Management and Life Skills: 264 persons

- e. **Positive Role Models:** The program can also serve as a source of positive role models within the community. Participants who succeed in the program can inspire others and serve as examples of how hard work and determination can lead to positive outcomes.

The expansion of the Community Work Program is a crucial step towards addressing the root causes of gang and gun violence in south side Belize City. By providing employment, promoting community development, and empowering young people, the program contributes to building safer, more resilient communities for all residents.

3. **Skills training program for the first cohort of at-risk youth provided by the TUBAL Vocational Training School**

With an impressive 88% graduation rate of which 73 persons enrolled, 55 persons completed the program with certification, 14 with certificates of participation and 4 non-completions, this initiative has proven to be a significant success. One key aspect of the program's success is the provision of starter kits within the graduates' respective areas of concentration. These kits are designed to help graduates kickstart their entrepreneurial careers by providing them with the tools and resources they need to start their own businesses. This support not only helps the graduates become financially independent but also contributes to the overall economic development of their communities.

By focusing on practical skills training and providing tangible support for entrepreneurship, the skills training component of the LIU program is not only empowering at-risk youth but also helping to build a more resilient and prosperous society. This model of education and support could serve as a blueprint for other programs looking to make a positive impact on their communities.

4. **The Microgrant Provision to Community Groups**

This initiative has been instrumental in supporting grassroots social activities within southside Belize City. This program provides small grants to community groups, enabling them to continue their vital work in addressing local social issues and improving the quality of life for residents.

These microgrants have had a significant impact on the community, empowering local organizations to implement projects and programs that directly benefit their neighbourhoods. From youth development initiatives to environmental conservation

projects, these grants have supported a wide range of activities that promote community engagement and social cohesion.

By supporting grassroots organizations, the Microgrant Provision program has helped to build a sense of ownership and pride within the community. It has also fostered a spirit of collaboration, as groups work together to address common challenges and achieve shared goals.

The Microgrant Provision to Community Groups initiative has been a valuable tool in promoting positive social change within southside Belize City. It has empowered local residents to take control of their futures and has contributed to the development of a more vibrant and resilient community.

5. The Small Engine Repair Training program

Conducted in collaboration with the Department of Youth Services, is a valuable initiative aimed at empowering at-risk youths in southside Belize City. This program provides participants with practical skills and knowledge in small engine repair, equipping them with valuable vocational skills that can lead to employment opportunities and sustainable livelihoods.

The collaboration with the Department of Youth Services underscores LIU's commitment to partnering with key stakeholders in community development. By working together, these organizations can maximize their impact and reach a wider audience, ultimately benefiting more youths in need of support and guidance.

Through this training program, participants not only gain valuable technical skills but also develop important life skills such as teamwork, problem-solving, and communication. These skills are essential for personal and professional development and can help participants build confidence and resilience.

The Small Engine Repair Training program is a shining example of how collaboration between government agencies can lead to meaningful change. By investing in the future of at-risk youths, this program is helping to break the cycle of poverty and crime and build a brighter future for southside Belize City.

6. Spearheaded an Acute Conflict Tracing and Mediation Exercise

This specialized approach to conflict resolution focuses on identifying and addressing conflicts in their early stages to prevent escalation. This method involves carefully tracing the root causes of conflicts and employing mediation techniques to resolve them effectively.

In the context of the Belize Ministry of Home Affairs and New Growth Industries, Acute Conflict Tracing and Mediation plays a crucial role in promoting peace and stability within communities. By promptly identifying and addressing emerging conflicts, this approach helps prevent them from escalating into larger disputes that could threaten social cohesion and security.

Acute Conflict Tracing and Mediation also aligns with broader efforts to enhance community policing and foster positive relationships between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve. By promoting dialogue and understanding, this approach contributes to building trust and cooperation between different stakeholders, ultimately leading to safer and more resilient communities.

Acute Conflict Tracing and Mediation is an essential tool in the Ministry's efforts to promote peace and security, emphasizing proactive and collaborative approaches to conflict resolution.

7. Police officer attached to the Leadership Intervention Unit (LIU) was recently awarded a scholarship to pursue a master's degree in social work at Galen University.

This opportunity not only reflects the officer's dedication to professional development but also highlights the importance of academic qualifications in enhancing the effectiveness of law enforcement efforts, particularly in areas related to social intervention and community engagement.

Upon completing his studies, the officer intends to continue supporting the LIU, bringing back valuable knowledge and skills to further strengthen the unit's ability to positively impact the community. This achievement underscores the Ministry's commitment to staff empowerment and upliftment, recognizing the importance of investing in personnel development to enhance the effectiveness and professionalism of law enforcement agencies. The Ministry's support for the officer's pursuit of higher education not only benefits the individual but also contributes to the overall improvement of the department's capabilities and service delivery to the community.

Lessons learned

Training for the community has not been an area of focus in 2023 given focus on strengthening the conditional cash transfer system of the LIU, refining of the recruitment process of client-beneficiaries, and redefinition of community groups and activists that benefit from the microgrant program within LIU. Training is anticipated for 2024 which will be led by the programs manager in collaboration with social protection partners in the public sector.

3.7 New Growth Industries

Vision

A transformant economic landscape of Belize through diversification, standardization, and introduction of new and emerging industries, capitalizing on the demand for trending products on the local and international markets and opening new revenue streams for the government while creating jobs and opportunities for Belizeans.

Mission

To create, establish and promote the legislative and operational framework for the introduction, growth, and development of new, innovative, trending, and productive non-traditional industries and to provide the necessary support for a favourable social, economic, and legal environment for those industries to thrive in Belize and external markets.

Challenges and Gaps

To fully execute its vision of changing the economic landscape of Belize through the diversification, standardization and introduction of new and emerging industries there is the need to employ staff for the New Growth Industries Unit. Also needed is adequate office space with the requisite office equipment and resources.

4. Future Priorities and Plans

Table 7: Future Priorities and Plans of MHANGI on Citizen Security and their relation to the UN SDGs

| No. | ACTIVITY | SDGs |
|-----|--|---|
| 1. | Formulation of a Strategic Plan 2024 – 2029 for the MHANGI | SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions - SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals |

| No. | ACTIVITY | SDGs |
|-----|---|---|
| 2. | Digitalization of the Police Record of Conduct system, aligning with the government's National Digital Agenda. This strategic initiative aims to modernize and streamline the process of applying for police records of conduct, with a focus on improving efficiency, security, and accessibility. | SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions - SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals |
| 3. | Enhance the Ministry's wellness program to better cater to the mental and emotional well-being of its staff and departments | SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions - SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals |
| 4. | Continue with the renovation efforts of police stations and sub-stations countrywide. This initiative is part of a broader strategy to enhance the infrastructure and facilities of the Belize Police Department, providing officers with modern and functional workspaces that support their operational needs. | SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions - SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals |
| 5. | Belize Police Department Recruit Intake for 2023 (Squad 97) | SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions |
| 6. | Rollout of the Agricultural Program with Ministry of Agriculture Pilot Program in Santana Village. | SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions - SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals |
| 7. | Continued support and network expansion of grassroots groups within Belize City to assist with the mentoring, feeding, positive socialization and education of children and youth in vulnerable communities. | SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions - SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals |
| 8. | Continuation of community intervention through Sports i.e William Dawson Digi-Sprite Cup and William Dawson Peace Cup that continues to provide a platform for athletic development and character building for participants with embedded life skills and interpersonal skills trainings. | SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions - SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals |
| 9. | The LIU will continue offering of vocational training opportunities to participants within the Community. | SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals |
| 10. | Pilot of Belize's first reintegration program for those who encounter the law with the provision of mental health services, access to school re-entry support and job preparation/entrepreneurial services. Re-entry into high schools will be done with the support of school principals and counsellors to veer youth away from gangs and into positively reinforced social groups. | SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions - SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals |
| 11. | Continued emphasis on conflict tracing and mediation as a meaningful tool in the fight against gang and gun violence with the continued training and specialization of the police and civilian team of the LIU. | SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals |
| 12. | Improve Procedures for addressing Domestic Violence by establish an all-inclusive drop-in resource center. | SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions |

| No. | ACTIVITY | SDGs |
|-----|--|--|
| 13. | The G13 Unit will develop its own educational anti-gang campaign for schools, the public at large and the business community. The strategy will include the targeting of gang recruitment and the effects of gangs on schools, crime reduction through proactive engagement with affected neighbourhoods in building their trust and also the extortion of the business community. | SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions |
| 14. | The Anti-Narcotics Unit will increase multi agency operations, increase surveillance and intelligence gathering, utilize technology to aid intelligence to improve the quality and quantity of their investigations, and analysis capabilities. | SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions |
| 15. | Expand the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) database to additional locations of the BPD and the NFSS | SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions |
| 16. | Propose a bill to modernize the National Forensic Science Service Act, Chapter 39:02 of the Laws of Belize, including establishment of an Office of the Chief Medical Examiner and at the same time propose a bill to repeal the antiquated Coroner's Act. | SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions - SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals |
| 17. | Review of the National Cybersecurity Strategy 2020 – 2023 and Formulation of an updated National Cybersecurity Strategy 2024 - 2027 | SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions |
| 18. | Amendment of Cybercrime Act 2020 to meet accession of the Budapest Convention | SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions - SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals |
| 19. | Creation of a New Growth Industries Unit | 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals |
| 20. | Formulation of a New Growth Industries Strategy | 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals |
| 21. | Acquire less than lethal weapons for the Belize Police Department | SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions |
| 22. | Design an oversight mechanism for Belize Police Department Assets | SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions |
| 23. | Implement a Gun library for the Belize Police Department | SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions |
| 24. | Acquisition of a modernized Police Record Management Information system for the Belize Police Department to replace the Crime Information Management System | SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals |
| 25. | The BCO will develop a national capacity development plan to strengthen partners across the continuum of justice; | 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, with SDGs 5, 9, 10, 11 and 17 |

| No. | ACTIVITY | SDGs |
|-----|---|--|
| 26. | Advance initiative to develop a cross-cutting Crime Intelligence Architecture, and to establish inter-agency agreements (including MoUs) and data sharing protocols and procedures to support CIA | SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, with SDGs 5, 9, 10, 11 and 17 |
| 27. | Advocacy campaigns to address urban violence and youth-involved crimes, as well as gender-based violence, in line with newly developed Advocacy Strategy and Advocacy Plan (2022-2023) | SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, with SDGs 5, 9, 10, 11 and 17 |
| 28. | Develop proposals for legislative amendments to the Crime Control and Criminal Justice Act (Chapter 102 of the Laws of Belize), to support the institutionalization of the Belize Crime Observatory and the development of a more robust legal framework for the modernization and full operationalization of the Belize Sex Offenders Registry | SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, with SDGs 5, 9, 10, 11 and 17 |
| 29. | Expansion and upgrade of the Integrated Information Management Platform. | SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, with SDGs 5, 9, 10, 11 and 17 |
| 30. | Training in virtualization and digitalization in crime data and information services. | SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong, with SDGs 5, 9, 10, 11 and 17 Institutions, with SDGs 5, 9, 10, 11 and 17 |
| 31. | Implement competency testing, proficiency testing, interlaboratory comparisons, and international certification for forensic experts employed by GOB. | SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions |
| 32. | Implement regular expert witness training and courtroom testimony evaluation for forensic experts employed by GOB. | SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions |
| 33. | Implement annual internal audits at the National Forensic Science Service. | SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions |
| 34. | Expand the reach and impact of the annual Belize Forensic Science Symposium. | SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions |
| 35. | Conduct annual countrywide stakeholder trainings on topics such as collection of exhibits, exhibit packaging/handling and scope of forensic services. | SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions |
| 36. | Establish interagency taskforces to address specific issues such as Drug Precursor Taskforce, Crime Gun Intelligence Centre, Medicolegal Death Investigation Legislation Working Group, and DNA Legislation Working Group. | 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions |
| 37. | Outsource additional types of forensic analysis as necessary based on demand from clients such as toxicology, arson investigation and questioned documents analysis. | SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions |
| 38. | Install new Scenes of Crime offices in regions of urgent need. | SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions |
| 39. | Maintain and expand forensic vehicle fleet as necessary to respond to countrywide needs including cadaver transport. | SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions |

| No. | ACTIVITY | SDGs |
|-----|--|--|
| 40. | Maintain and upgrade forensic equipment/workspaces that influence the results of technical activities. | SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions |
| 41. | Install histopathology laboratory for National Forensic Science Service to strengthen death investigations. | SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions |
| 42. | Incorporate shooting scene reconstruction into scope of forensic services to assist in homicide investigations. | SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions |
| 43. | Expand scope of Seized Drugs Section at Forensic Laboratory to include weight determination, and identification of hemp, synthetic opioids, and precursor chemicals. | SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions |
| 44. | Expand scope of Toxicology Section at Forensic Laboratory to include quantitative analysis of common illicit drugs and prescription drugs in antemortem and postmortem samples. | SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions |
| 45. | Expand scope of Serology Section at Forensic Laboratory to include in-country DNA analysis. | SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions |
| 46. | Conduct needs assessment and architectural design for new Forensic Laboratory and Forensic Morgue to be funded by CABEL Belize Integral Security Programme. | SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions |
| 47. | Acquire land in Belmopan for the new NFSS Forensic Laboratory which will be relocated from Ladyville and construction of a Forensic Morgue. By centrally locating the Forensic Lab and Forensic Morgue in Belmopan it will help to strengthen areas for collaboration with the University of Belize as well as allow ease of access to services by law enforcement agencies. | 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals |
| 48. | Belize Central Prison will support the documentation and maintain an effective emergency management system and resources to respond to Prison emergencies. | SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions |
| 49. | Ensure a comprehensive healthcare monitoring via statistical reports at the Belize Central Prison. | SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions |
| 50. | Ensure that an Inmate Risk and Needs Assessment Management system is implemented at Belize Central Prison. | SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions |
| 51. | Support the strengthening and improvement of the effectiveness of parole meetings to discuss issues related to the Transition from Prison to Community. | SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions |

5. Lessons Learnt

1. **Communication:** during the reporting year it was evident that the Ministry needed to improve communication among its departments. There were instances when events would conflict with each other due to the absence of communication. To correct this, it is anticipated that the Ministry will host regular heads of department meetings.

2. **Communication with the public and media:** Given the growing use of social media, the Ministry did not effectively utilize the use of its social media platforms to share press releases, information on activities or provide regular updates. It is anticipated that the Ministry will seek to acquire a public relations officer to improve its relation with the public and media.
3. **Need for a Comprehensive Strategic Plan:** Strategic planning sessions help to identify and set goals, objectives and priorities. While the MHANGI and its Departments embarked on its various citizen security efforts, collaborative planning sessions were not held to review the status of initiatives, identify opportunities and threats, ensure efficient use of resources, and develop action plans to achieve the desired outcomes given budget allocation.

6. Staffing and Financial Considerations

Staffing: Ministry Proper

The Departments of the MHANGI were supported in executing their objectives during the year 2022 with the assistance of twenty (20) administrative, financial, and technical staff housed at the Ministry's headquarters.

Staffing: Belize Police Department:

During the year in review the actual strength of the Department remained 2,539 police personnel, and 67 special constables. This includes 1 Commissioner, 3 deputy commissioners and 10 assistant commissioners of police who lead the various administrative and operation units of the department. There were also 235 civilian staff who assisted in the smooth administration of the Department. It is anticipated that a recruit intake of an additional 230 officers will take place in 2024.

Staffing: National Forensic Science Service:

The National Forensic Science Service is headed by one Executive Director. The Department is comprised of three (3) units, namely the Scenes of Crime (SOC) which consists of 29 SOC technicians, the Medical Examiner's Office (MEO) which consists of 4 personnel, and the Forensic Laboratory which is comprised of 22 personnel.

Staffing: Belize Central Prison

The GoB continues to be represented at the Belize Central Prison via the Controller of Prison. He is supported by one deputy and one clerk.

Financial Considerations: Weaknesses

1. Pre-approved ceilings set by the Ministry of Finance
2. Deviation away from the budget
3. Underutilization of capital budget
4. Non-utilization of the procurement officer
5. No active/tender committee
6. Lack of financial planning/communication at the department level with the Ministry
7. Deviation away from Financial Orders/Audit Reform Act/Cope Handbook etc. by the Belize Police Department
8. The time lapse in which correspondences are actioned by the Ministry from the Departments
9. Response from the Ministry of Finance for the release of funds/approval of other requests

The desirable changes that would be needed in terms of recurrent financial resources would be a ten percent (10%) increase in the budget as follows:

- 230: PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS
- 231: TRAVEL & SUBSISTENCE
- 340: MATERIALS & SUPPLIES
- 341: OPERATING COSTS
- 342: MAINTENANCE COSTS

The desirable changes that would be needed in terms of capital financial resources would be a ten percent (10%) increase. Major projects had to be reduced or foregone in the budget due to pre-approved ceiling.

Other important considerations from the Finance Officer of the Ministry are as follows:

1. The Ministry's budget has proven to be sufficient.
2. The Eastern Division budget has proven to be sufficient.
3. The Police Headquarters, Prison Services and the National Forensic Science Services Department budget has proven to be insufficient as follows:
 - 230: PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS
 - 231: TRAVEL & SUBSISTENCE
 - 340: MATERIALS & SUPPLIES
 - 341: OPERATING COSTS
 - 342: MAINTENANCE COSTS
 - 349: CONTRACTS & CONSULTANCY

7. Conclusions and Recommendations

While the MHANGI records 2023 as a successful year in achievement, the Ministry did not do so without facing its many challenges. As such the Ministry will continue to better its efforts. It is recommended that the compound for the NPTA be further developed to meet international standards which would encourage international trainings and possible sponsorships. Such development would also require that additional living quarters be built for the instructors and adequate office spaces. There is also a need for a medical facility on the compound to cater for recruits and Officers attending training to avoid the need of going to the hospital. An obstacle course for training is also being recommended so that it can also be utilize by the recruits during training as well Officers from the various tactical teams.

The Ministry will continue to look after the welfare of its personnel and in doing so will continue to rehabilitate buildings that suffer from poor lighting condition, the stench from rodents and rat bats, and the overall unhealthy working condition. The health and well-being of every officer is vital and therefore it is the intent of the Ministry to work diligently to ensure a safe and healthy work environment is created.

The BPD have been constantly refining its modern policing platform through the building of trust and legitimacy, policy and oversight, effective use of technology and social media, community policing and crime reduction, officer training and education, and officer safety and wellness. The Department will fortify efforts to incorporate constitutional policing and procedural justice in our training, with the goal of strengthening trust and building greater support among our residents in communities we serve. We have already launched our policies and procedures manual, further reforming our use-of-force policy, narrowing the parameters under which lethal force can be used. The Department will also continue to strengthen its diverse workforce as it seeks to recruit police officer candidates who mirror the ethnic, cultural, and gender demographics of the communities it serves.

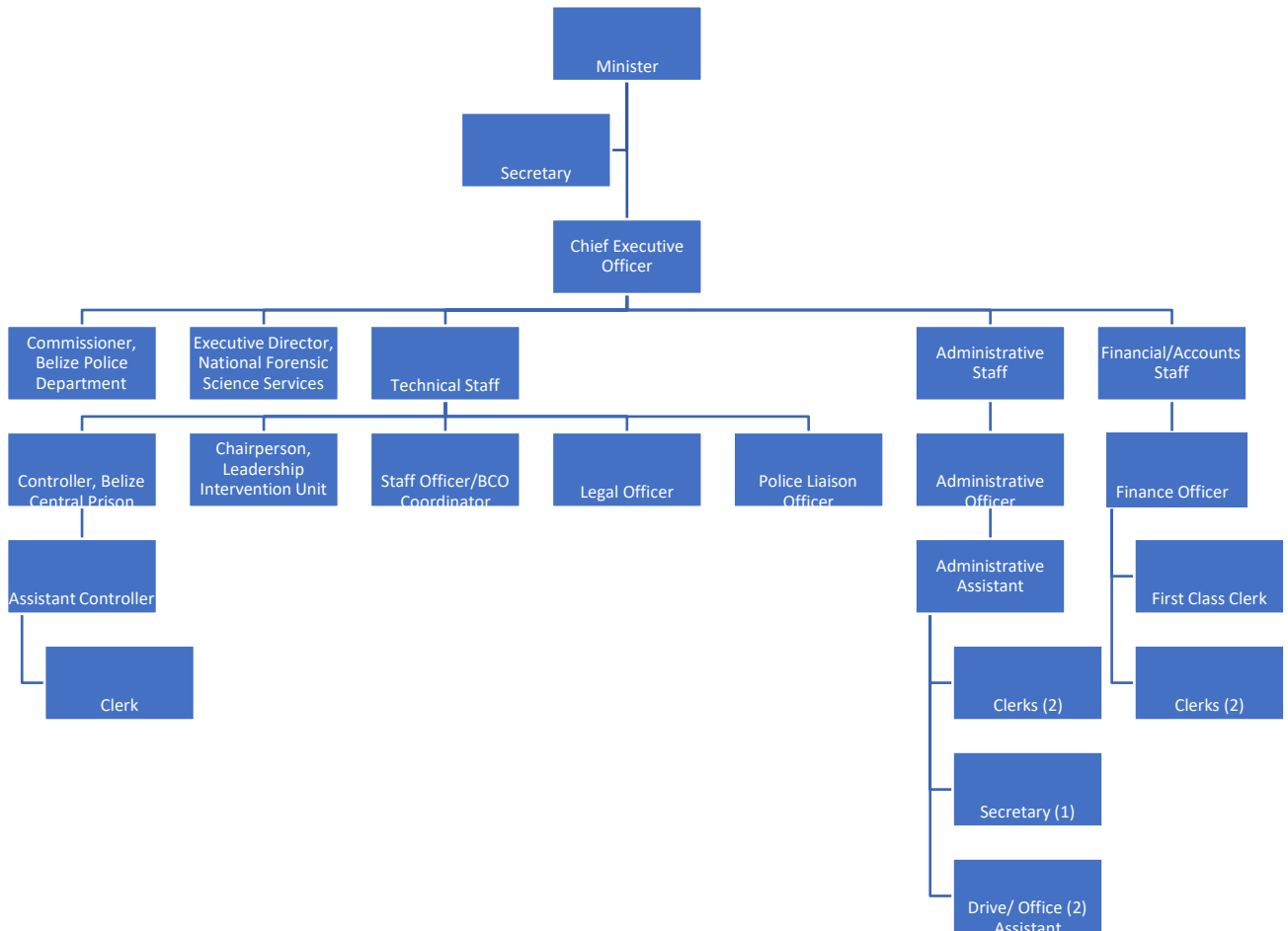
For the NFSS, it is recommended that adequate resources be allocated to the Department for the continued establishment of a quality management system which will be the hallmark of reliable forensic services provided to Law Enforcement and the Justice System. Much progress has been made in this regard over recent years, corroborated by independent external assessments by international forensic experts including from the United States Government. Continued emphasis towards greater reliance on objective forensic evidence from the initial stages of an investigation through to the admission of forensic expert testimony in the courts of law, will have direct and tangible benefits on boosting public confidence in the rule of law and promoting a safer society for all Belizeans.

In keeping in touch with our local, regional, and international partners, the Ministry will continue to strengthen its relations by continuing to act as the gateway for the public and private sector engagement in strategy and program development and implementation.

In conclusion, the Ministry will continue to support the successful implementation of #planBelize into 2024 with a focus on utilizing evidence-based information for policymaking in areas such as police reform, anti-violence interventions, supporting the modernization of services such as the creation of the new growth industries strategy, and improve accountability and transparency within and among all departments.

8. Annexes

8.1 Organogram: MHANGI 2023



8.2 Budget – Recurrent, Cap II and Cap III for MHANGI 2023

| No. | Programme | PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE SUMMARY | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|-------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | | 2020/21 Actual | 2021/22 Actual | 2022/23 Budget Estimate | 2022/23 Revised Estimate | 2023/24 Budget Estimate | 2024/25 Forward Estimate | 2025/26 Forward Estimate |
| 086 | POLICE STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION | \$3,665,733 | \$4,468,839 | \$7,100,393 | \$6,641,027 | \$8,154,672 | \$8,654,889 | \$9,354,889 |
| | Recurrent Expenditure | \$2,673,718 | \$2,313,094 | \$2,630,381 | \$2,392,935 | \$3,307,762 | \$3,307,989 | \$3,307,989 |
| | Capital II Expenditure | \$751,759 | \$2,122,138 | \$4,470,012 | \$4,248,092 | \$4,846,880 | \$5,346,880 | \$6,046,880 |
| | Capital III Expenditure | \$240,255 | \$33,607 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| 087 | NATIONAL POLICE TRAINING ACADEMY | \$1,609,449 | \$3,635,328 | \$1,962,077 | \$2,301,117 | \$2,332,735 | \$2,332,735 | \$2,332,735 |
| | Recurrent Expenditure | \$1,609,449 | \$3,635,328 | \$1,962,077 | \$2,301,117 | \$2,332,735 | \$2,332,735 | \$2,332,735 |
| | Capital II Expenditure | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| | Capital III Expenditure | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| 088 | COMMUNITY POLICE SERVICES AND CRIME PREVENTION | \$63,078,617 | \$59,880,965 | \$54,665,890 | \$4,307,740 | \$60,230,273 | \$60,230,710 | \$60,230,710 |
| | Recurrent Expenditure | \$63,040,846 | \$59,880,965 | \$54,665,890 | \$4,807,740 | \$60,230,273 | \$60,230,710 | \$60,230,710 |
| | Capital II Expenditure | \$29,771 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| | Capital III Expenditure | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| 089 | CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION | \$10,955,395 | \$10,669,747 | \$10,037,357 | \$11,210,134 | \$11,546,951 | \$11,546,401 | \$11,546,401 |
| | Recurrent Expenditure | \$10,955,395 | \$10,580,226 | \$10,037,357 | \$11,173,694 | \$11,546,951 | \$11,546,401 | \$11,546,401 |
| | Capital II Expenditure | \$0 | \$89,521 | \$0 | \$36,440 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| | Capital III Expenditure | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| 091 | NATIONAL SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE | \$23,130,425 | \$23,132,051 | \$19,516,255 | \$24,115,830 | \$19,730,888 | \$19,730,888 | \$19,730,888 |
| | Recurrent Expenditure | \$23,130,425 | \$23,132,051 | \$19,516,255 | \$24,115,830 | \$19,730,888 | \$19,730,888 | \$19,730,888 |
| | Capital II Expenditure | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| | Capital III Expenditure | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| TOTAL BUDGET CEILING | | \$102,439,619 | \$101,796,930 | \$93,281,972 | \$109,075,856 | \$101,995,320 | \$102,495,603 | \$103,195,604 |
| | Recurrent Expenditure | \$101,417,833 | \$99,541,664 | \$88,811,960 | \$104,791,324 | \$97,148,640 | \$97,148,723 | \$97,148,734 |
| | Capital II Expenditure | \$781,530 | \$2,211,659 | \$4,470,012 | \$4,284,532 | \$4,846,880 | \$5,346,880 | \$6,046,880 |
| | Capital III Expenditure | \$240,255 | \$33,607 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |

8.2 Publications of the MHANGI in 2023

MHANGI, 2023. Belize Crime Observatory Report for 2023. Belmopan City, 14 pages.