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## PRESS RELEASE

### Cell Phone Repair Course Expands to Orange Walk Town

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The Office of the Prime Minister and Ministry of Investment, through its Investment Policy and Compliance Unit (IPCU) joined the National Women's Commission and the Orange Walk Town Council to expand the "Cell Phone Repair Course for Women and Youth" to the Orange Walk district.

The "Cell Phone Repair Course for Women and Youth in Orange Walk" aims to bring self-employment opportunities to women in Orange Walk Town and surrounding villages. Currently, 14 persons in the program are undertaking the training. It is being implemented because there is a need for technicians skilled in the upkeep, cleaning, maintenance and repair of cell phone devices. There is currently no training course of this kind in Belize and the offer of cell phone repair service is lacking in various parts of country, especially the rural areas. As a result of the training in Corozal, half of the trainees there now provide cell phone repair services. The expansion to Orange Walk was also seen as a natural expansion of the training, with much expectation of similar successful results.

Mrs. Narda Garica, CEO in the Office of the Prime Minister, Investment, and Civil Aviation; Mrs. Thea Garcia-Ramirez, Chair of the National Women's Commission; Mr. Lincoln Blake, Director of the Investment Policy and Compliance Unit, Ministry of Investment; and Mr. Allen Yu, Councilor in the Orange Walk Town Council were present at the opening of the training.

The aim is to diversify export-led economic activity in the Orange Walk district by enhancing the skills and entrepreneurial spirit of the citizens, especially in growth sectors such as the Orange Economy. The skills training will improve the possibility of women generating additional income from their

homes by repairing cell phones, one of the primary devices used in the Orange Economy, to produce content.

## **Ends**

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