



PR#200-24

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Belize National Youth Awards 2024**

*Belmopan, December 3, 2024.*

The Department of Youth Services held its annual National Youth Award Ceremony to close off National Youth Week in Punta Gorda on November 29. The occasion showcased the innovation and tenacity of youth in various professions. In their addresses, special guests Sheldon Ramirez and Jahrine Avila highlighted the transformative potential of young people to innovate and lead.

Hon. Gilroy Usher emphasized the importance of the roles of young Belizeans with the words, "Young people are the backbone of our nation's progress." He added, "Their zeal, inventiveness, and resolve push Belize forward. It is our duty to recognize and appreciate them to create a more promising future."

Hon. Rodwell Ferguson also expressed, "To the Belizean youth: Your potential is limitless." He continued, "Dream big, work hard, and never forget that your effort and enthusiasm are what keep this country thriving. We can work together to create a Belize that reflects your talents and aspirations."

The Awards recognized winners in 13 categories, including Youth in Agriculture, Sports, Entrepreneurship, Environmental Protection, Leadership, and more. Each category honoured individuals and groups who exemplified excellence and dedication to community growth and national development. The Department of Youth Services extends heartfelt congratulations to all the nominees and awardees for their remarkable achievements and contributions to Belize.

The following are the winners for each category:

Academic Excellence Award - **Asia Natalia Gilharry**

Athletic Excellence Award (Female) - **Jasany Aaliyah Westby**

Athletic Excellence Award (Male) - **Betuel Eliezer Magaña**

Environmental Steward Award (Group/Individual) - **Belmopan Methodist High School**

Innovation through Technology Award (Individual/Group) - **Roseanne Delany Chun**

Outstanding Young Musician Award - **Amanda Emily Pech**

Social Media Influencer Award - **David Morey**

Strength through Adversity Award - **Jesmar Ismael Muniz**

Youth Club/Group of the Year Award - **Daniel Etienne Sharp**

Youth in Agriculture Award - **Veimer Velmar Chan**

Youth in Entrepreneurship Award - **Brinyce Breely Richardson**

Youth in Visual Arts Award - **Sebastian Rafael Collado**

Youth Minister's for Youth Leadership and Advocacy Award - **Alfonso Ruperto Alcala**

Youth with Disability Award - **Abner Adoni Uh**

The Belize Youth Awards serve as a reminder of the potential and promise of our young people as catalysts for change. The Department of Youth Services thanks all partners, stakeholders, and participants for their continued support in celebrating and empowering the youth of Belize.

**Ends**