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PRESS RELEASE

Minister Martinez Visits Obregon Coconut Company Ltd. in Bella Vista Village, Belize: A Step Toward Enhancing Global Market Position

Belmopan, January 27, 2025.

Hon. Dr. Osmond Martinez, Minister of State for Foreign Trade, and officials from the Directorate General for Foreign Trade visited the Obregon Coconut Company Ltd in Bella Vista Village on Thursday, January 23. This visit underscores the importance of agriculture in Belize's trade strategy and fostering political support for local businesses.

Obregon Coconut Company Ltd., established in 2018, cultivates Hybrid Chactumel and Brazilian Green Dwarf coconuts across 3,500 acres, with over 2,100 acres utilizing advanced drip irrigation. The company has experienced significant growth, harvesting more than two million coconuts in 2024 and projecting an estimated 10 million in 2025, solidifying its position as a key player in Belize's agricultural sector. Ambitious expansion plans include a state-of-the-art packing station slated for completion between 2025 and 2026, along with active pursuit of export opportunities within CARICOM, the United States, and the European Union. This demonstrates a strong focus on value-added production and future international market penetration.

During the visit, company representatives discussed key operational challenges, including drought, pest management, and labor shortages, while requesting government support for irrigation infrastructure, pest control solutions, and more facilitative labour importation policies. Minister Martinez affirmed the government's commitment to addressing these challenges and fostering a supportive environment for agricultural businesses. He emphasized that boosting agricultural productivity aligns directly with Belize's national trade policies, which prioritize export diversification and overall economic growth.

The Minister noted the importance of supporting innovative enterprises, like Obregon, to expand Belize's presence in international markets and achieve sustainable economic growth, while reiterating the government's commitment to collaborating with similar businesses to overcome obstacles and unlock their full global potential.

This visit demonstrates Belize's proactive approach to empowering local businesses, fostering strategic trade partnerships, and strengthening its position as a leading exporter of high-quality, sustainable agricultural products. It sends a clear message to international partners that Belize is open for business and dedicated to developing a robust agricultural export sector.

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