

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **Belize Successfully Concludes IMO Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS) with Strong National Collaboration**

BELIZE CITY, Belize 20 November 2025— The International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize (IMMARBE) announces the successful conclusion of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS). The audit, which commenced on November 10, 2025, with an official opening by the Registrar of Ships, Mr. Claude Haylock, provided a comprehensive review of Belize's implementation of key international maritime conventions.

The closing meeting on November 17, 2025, featured remarks from the Hon. Michel Chebat, Minister of Public Utilities, Energy, Logistics, and E-Governance, emphasizing the national significance of the audit. The session was also attended by key figures such as Mr. Leroy Almendarez, Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry; Ports Commissioner Mr. Kaylon Young (BPA); Mrs. Valarie Lanza, Deputy Managing Director (IMMARBE), alongside Mr. Eduardo Simon, Director of Technical and Seafarer Services (IMMARBE) as Belize's IMSAS focal point, as well as representatives from the Belize Coast Guard, the Belize Department of the Environment (DOE), and the Belize Port Authority (BPA).

The IMO-appointed audit team, led by Mrs. Claudia Grant and including auditors Mr. Patrick Frain and Ms. Caroline Neuman, presented their preliminary findings. The team acknowledged Belize's strong commitment and effective implementation in critical areas of maritime safety, security, and environmental protection. Their observations also identified valuable opportunities for enhancement, guided by the IMO Instruments Implementation (III) Code, to further strengthen Belize's maritime administration.

For Belize, the IMSAS audit isn't merely a compliance exercise but a strategic tool for continuous improvement. Its success is a direct result of the unwavering commitment and coordinated efforts of all national stakeholders. This commitment ensures the ongoing enhancement of maritime governance, solidifies inter-institutional coordination, and ensures the nation's continued alignment with its global maritime obligations.

IMMARBE, as a key partner in the Belize maritime administration, remains dedicated to implementing the audit's findings and working collaboratively with all stakeholders to uphold the highest standards of safety, security, and environmental stewardship for Belize.

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