



Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture

December 12, 2016

MOEYSC Announces Transition at Chief Executive Officer Level

Mr. David Leacock, Chief Executive Officer with responsibility for Education, in the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture will be leaving this post effective December 31, 2016. In a letter dated September 7, 2016, Mr. Leacock gave notice to the Prime Minister of his intention to resign after he had verbally informed the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture.

Mrs. Debbie Domingo, current General Manager of Anglican Primary Schools, will succeed Mr. Leacock as Chief Executive Officer, with responsibility for Education, in the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture. Mrs. Domingo holds a Masters in Education in Educational Leadership from the University of North Florida and Bachelor of Science in Biology Education. Mrs. Domingo has served as a teacher at Wesley College (1987-1984), Vice Principal of the Anglican Cathedral College (1994-2000), Principal of Sadie Vernon High School (2000-2005), Dean for St. John's College Junior College School of Professional Studies (2006-2011) and General Manager of Anglican Schools (2011-2016). She is the current Chair of the Association of General Managers of Primary Schools and the Vice Chair of the Belize Board of Teacher Education. Her knowledge and experience therefore spans leadership at several levels of the education system.

Mr. Leacock, Chief Executive Officer in the Ministry since February 2008, has contributed significantly to some important reforms in the education sector. He has overseen the development and ongoing implementation of the Belize Education Sector Strategy (2012-2016), including several major projects aimed at achieving the objectives of this strategy. Among these are the Belize Education Sector Reform Project (BESRP) Phases 1 and 2, funded by the CDB, and the Education Quality Improvement Programme (EQIP) funded by the IDB. Under the BESRP Phases 1 and 2 a number of initiatives are being implemented or pending implementation including legislative reform to strengthen the education sector, the legislative framework for the establishment of the Belize Qualifications and Quality Assurance Authority, a National Qualifications Framework, the Rationalization and Diversification of the Secondary School Curriculum to better prepare students for life and work, the construction of 35 new schools at various levels, alternative approaches to expansion of access to early childhood education. The EQIP initiatives include the ongoing onsite practical professional development of principals and teachers in 129 primary schools to improve delivery of English, Math and Science, the implementation of a Belize Teacher Professional Exam, the strengthening of teacher education institutions, and the implementation of an online Education Management Information System.

Mr. Leacock has also overseen the development and implementation of the Belize Teaching Service Commission and the Teaching Service Appeals Tribunal with the objective to ensure quality and fairness in the Teaching Service; and the Secondary Education Finance Reform to promote access, equity, efficiency and quality. Mr. Leacock has also been one of the driving forces in the ongoing process of ensuring integration and synergy in the delivery of Early Childhood Development Services across the Ministries of Education, Health and Human Development.

The Ministry expresses its appreciation to Mr. Leacock for his significant contribution to education in Belize and welcomes Mrs. Domingo to continue the work. [END]