



National Emergency Management Organization

"Preserving Life and Property"

ADVISORY # 10

FLOOD WARNING FOR CAYO AND BELIZE DISTRICTS

SUNDAY, 08 NOVEMBER, 2020, 6:00 PM

The National Meteorological Services of Belize and NEMO hereby inform the general public that Cayo, and the Belize are experiencing unprecedented flood conditions. The Macal and Mopan rivers in the Cayo District, and the Sibun and Belize Rivers in the Belize District are still at major flood stage. Every village from Arenal to Roaring Creek have been affected. Most impacted communities with devastating damages are Arenal, Benque, Paslow Falls, Calla Creek, Bullet Tree Falls, Santa Familia, Blackman Eddy, and other downstream villages including Roaring Creek. The flood waters are now spreading out after breaking the banks of the Belize River. The Belize River Valley is now experiencing severe flooding in Scotland Halfmoon, Rancho Dolores and Lemonal. Also parts of Mile 1, 8 and 12 communities, Hattieville, Freetown Sibun, and Gracie Rock are experiencing flooding. No loss of life or missing persons reported so far. Overall close figures and estimates indicating as much as 500 families are temporarily displaced whom opted to stay mostly with family or friends. There continues to be major flood damage to residential property, utilities, farms and road infrastructure.

A total of 159 persons are in eight (8) shelters in Cayo with a total of 148 persons, one (1) shelter in Crooked Tree with 06 persons and one (1) in Belize City with 05 persons. **Food**, water, hygiene kit, clothing, bedding, cleaning supplies, PPEs, pump sprayers, power washers, construction and roofing material are the main items needed **for the affected population**.

MORE WARNING: PEOPLE IN BELIZE RURAL CENTRAL AND THE BELIZE RIVER VALLEY, TAKE ACTION AND MOVE TO HIGHER GROUNDS AS THE FLOOD WATERS EVIDENCED TODAY AS SEEN SCOTLAND HALF MOON AND RANCHO, LEMONAL AND CROOKED TREE IS RISING. Everibadi kud si the wata di rise, we di seh so lang time. DO NOT STAY IN YOUR HOME AND GET TRAPPED, MOVE TO A SAFE BUILDING!

This morning at 10:00 a.m. a damage assessment air reconnaissance (flyover) was conducted with the National Damage Assessment Committee members for Agriculture, Works, Search and Rescue, Lands and NEMO department in the BDF Defender with the view to gain a visual overview of the damages in accordance with the path of the Flood.

The road network has suffered significant damages, especially the George Price and Phillip Goldson Highways and to a lesser extent Hummingbird and Southern highways. The major highways are passable from end to end. Spanish Lookout is still cut off via the **Iguana Creek Bridge, Valley of Peace and Baking Pot Ferry. The entrance to Benque and Succotz on the George Price highway is still impassable. The Coastal Road is not open from end to end.** The PGIA had to be closed on the 6th and half day on the 7th of November, 2020 due to water on the runway.

NEMO's Search and Rescue committee led by the BDF and the Coast Guard supported by BATSUB including the Damage Assessment and Relief and Supplies Management committees are in the affected area assisting people in need with food, water, and shelter. The Red Cross is getting ready to support the effort tomorrow. Other forms of relief is being discussed. Support from the UN agencies is being finalized and one such assistance will be handed over this week.

The Coast Guard, BDF, Police, Human Development, the Ministry of Works, NEMO staff in the districts, public officers and the ministry of health must be commended for their efforts. Ends..

