

PRESS RELEASE

Cyber Safety Awards Ceremony

Belmopan, December 29th, 2022

Today, the E-Governance and Digitalization Unit under the Ministry of Public Utilities, Energy, Logistics, and E-Governance, in partnership with the Ministry of Home Affairs and New Growth Industries and UNICEF, held its “Cyber Safety Awards Ceremony” to award the winners of its “Cyber Safety Competition 2022”.

The Cyber Safety Competition created a space and opportunity for youths and kids across Belize to contribute towards harnessing a safe, secure and inclusive cyberspace. The winners were awarded for their creativity, talent, and contribution toward promoting Cyber Safety among their peers and across the country. They were awarded prizes that will cultivate their digital skills and support access to technology as part of the Unit’s mandate to drive Digital Inclusion. The competition involved two categories:

1. **Development of a Learning App:** In this category, participating teams between the ages of 15 to 19 years old were able to develop a Learning App to promote Cyber Security, Data Protection, and Data Privacy Education. The winning app will be further developed by the team with mentorship from the E-Governance and Digitalization Unit. The refined app will be officially launched thereafter and will be accessible to all Belizeans to learn about Cyber Safety.
2. **Development of a Comic Strip:** In this category, participants between the ages of 10 to 14 years old created a Single Comic Strip to promote Cyber Safety Awareness. Specifically, they were to focus on one of the following topics: Online Safety Practices, Addressing Cyber Bullying, or Promoting Data Protection.

This initiative is a key component under the “Creating Cyber Awareness Project,” which was guided by the National Digital Agenda 2022-2025 with the objective of fostering a safe and inclusive digital society for all. With many new technological advancements and adaptations underway within the country and across the globe, it is imperative that Belizeans are aware of cybercrimes and provided with the tools to navigate cyberspace safely. Furthermore, the competition creates awareness amongst youths and children on the recently enacted “E-legislation,” which serves to protect all Belizeans in the digital realm. The E-legislation consists of the Electronic Evidence Act, Cybercrime Act, Data Protection Act, Electronic Transactions Act, Electronic Transfer of Funds Act, and Public Sector Data Sharing Act. A “Safety in Cyber Space Activity Book for children ages 7-11 years has also been developed to promote cyber safety tips, which complements the Cyber Safety Competition in aiming towards creating a safe, inclusive, and progressive Digital Belize.

For more information: Contact the E-Governance and Digitalization Unit under the Ministry of Public Utilities, Energy, Logistics, & E-Governance at 828-9061 or info@egov.gov.bz.

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