

FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE UNIT

CASH SEIZURE AND CONFISCATION TRAINING

June 29, 2016

Belize City, Belize - The Belize Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) and the Regional Security System – Asset Recovery Unit held a series of training activities during June 20 – 24, 2016. The focus of the training was to strengthen the skills of various stakeholders in Belize's antimoney laundering and countering the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) regime. The stakeholders comprised the Belize Police Department, Customs & Excise Department, the FIU, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) and the Judiciary.

Representatives of each stakeholder, including 38 Customs, FIU and Police Officers and 14 Magistrates from all districts of Belize, received training in areas such as cash concealment and movement, investigative techniques, cash seizures and tactical questioning. Supreme Court Justices received training on how the proceeds of crime can be confiscated under the Money Laundering and Terrorism (Prevention) Act.

The training culminated in a mock confiscation hearing where Supreme Court Justices, Crown Counsel from the DPP and Police Officers all played crucial roles. Officers and Crown Counsel received valuable feedback to help improve their prospects for success in confiscating the proceeds of crime.

These activities are part of an ongoing program to enhance the effective implementation of Belize's AML/CFT regime and remove the profit from criminal conduct.

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