



NATIONAL GARIFUNA COUNCIL

P.O. Box 359, Belmopan

Head Office: Pablo Lambey Garifuna Cultural Center

59 Commerce Street, Dangriga

Email: nationalgarifunacouncil@gmail.com

President: Mr. Alex Nolberto

Press Release

National Garifuna Council Unveils Theme for Annual Garifuna Settlement Day Celebration

Belize City, Belize – September 11, 2025. The National Garifuna Council (NGC) proudly announces the official theme for the Annual Garifuna Settlement Day Celebration, a cherished national observance that honors the enduring legacy, vibrant culture, and resilient spirit of the Garifuna people of Belize.

The selected theme, submitted by Christie Vernon from the San Ignacio Branch, is:

Garifuna: *Wabaronguóun lidan Garifunaduáü: iúnrahei warasan, agahabuda lun sánsiguáü, inebesei lun wanichigu.*

English Translation: *Garifuna Moving Forward: Honoring Tradition, Embracing Change, Strengthening Identity.*

This compelling theme captures the dynamic journey of the Garifuna community, one that balances the preservation of ancestral traditions with the embrace of progress and transformation. It speaks to the importance of cultural resilience in the face of modern challenges, and the need to evolve while remaining deeply rooted in identity.

Through unity, education, and innovation, the Garifuna people continue to fortify their heritage, ensuring that future generations inherit a culture that is not only safeguarded, but also thriving, proud, and enduring.

The NGC commends Christie Vernon for her insightful and inspiring contribution, which eloquently reflects the aspirations and strength of the Garifuna people.

As part of the lead-up to this year's celebration, the Solidarity Mass in Belize City, followed by the Ms. Garifuna Belize Pageant at the Belize Civic Center, will be held on November 1, 2025. These hallmark events will officially launch the theme and set the tone for the national festivities.

The National Garifuna Council warmly invites all Belizeans and friends of Garifuna culture to join in commemorating this year's theme. Together, let us honor tradition, embrace change, and strengthen our shared identity.

**1st Vice President – Raphael Martinez; 2nd Vice President – Marsha Mejia;
Secretary – Sheena Zuniga; Assistant Secretary – Sharrie Ciego-Gordon;
Treasurer – Maurice Herrera; Assistant Treasurer – Ifáṣínà Efunyemi**