

Placencia Tour Operators Association

General Delivery, Placencia Belize

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

On Monday, 23 August 2010, the Placencia Tour Operators Association voted against cruise ship tourism in Placencia.

Placencia tour operators object to cruise ship tourism primarily for the following reasons:

- Detrimental effect of cruise ship tourism on Placencia's traditional overnight tourists, with known economic benefits from overnight tourism outweighing possible economic benefits from cruise tourism;
- Adverse effects of mass tourism on fragile marine and inland environments such as coral reefs and fish and bird habitats;
- Inability of Belize to enforce laws regulating cruise tourism;
- Inability of local tour operators to obtain affordable loans necessary to comply with cruise ship requirements such as size and quality of boats and vehicles and liability insurance;
- Lack of meaningful local control;
- Local sites already at or over carrying capacity without the ability to accommodate mass tourism numbers; and
- Significantly fewer employment opportunities for Belizeans in cruise ship tourism than traditional overnight tourism.
- Lack of necessary infrastructure in southern Belize for mass cruise ship tourism, such as sewage treatment, public restrooms, garbage collection and disposal, roads – even water systems to provide drinking water in some locations. The cost of providing this infrastructure will run into the millions of dollars -- money our governments don't have – either nationally or locally.

Placencia tour operators also expressed their desire for assistance from the Government of Belize in increasing the area's traditional local overnight tourism and in strengthening locally owned Belizean businesses.

For More Information Contact Patty Ramirez, Secretary, 523-3058