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## PRESS RELEASE

### **Governor General of Belize Signs Landmark Disability Act on International Day of Persons with Disabilities**

*Belmopan, December 3, 2024.*

Her Excellency Dame Froyla Tzalam, Governor General of Belize, signed the Belize Disability Act into law to commemorate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. This historic legislation marks a significant milestone in Belize's commitment to promoting the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities. The signing ceremony was held today at the Belize House and the residence of the Governor General in Belmopan.

Key Areas of the Disability Act:

1. **National Commission for Persons with Disabilities:** Establishment of a dedicated commission to oversee the implementation of the Act and advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities.
2. **Protection from Discrimination:** Provisions to prevent discrimination against persons with disabilities in various sectors, including employment, education, and public service.
3. **Accessibility:** Ensuring access to public buildings, transportation, and other essential services for persons with disabilities.
4. **Healthcare:** Guaranteeing equal standards of healthcare and support for caregivers.
5. **Education and Training:** Promoting inclusive education and training opportunities for persons with disabilities.
6. **Employment:** Encouraging employers to provide equal opportunities and reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities.
7. **Protection from Exploitation, Abuse, and Violence:** Safeguards to protect persons with disabilities from exploitation, abuse, and violence.
8. **Disabilities and Equal Opportunities Rights Tribunal:** Establishment of a tribunal to address complaints and disputes related to the rights of persons with disabilities.

This Act is a testament to Belize's dedication to creating a more inclusive society where every individual has the opportunity to thrive.

For more information, please contact: Disability Desk, Family Support & Gender Affairs Department, Ministry of Human Development, Families & Indigenous People's Affairs at 227-7397/227-3888.

**Ends**