

RESOLUTION NO.

PARLIAMENT

WHEREAS the Government of Barbados has signalled its intention to improve the lives of Persons with Disabilities and to protect their rights and freedoms through the creation of a comprehensive and inclusive national policy;

AND WHEREAS the policy was significantly informed by the 2023 Report of the National Advisory Committee to Guide the Establishment of a Commission for Improving the Lives of Persons with Disabilities;

AND WHEREAS the Commission was established under the chairmanship of Mr. Edmund Hinkson, S.C., M.P. to highlight problems faced by the disabled community with a view to developing practical solutions to improve the lives of persons with disabilities;

AND WHEREAS the report presented a detailed synopsis of the issues and challenges faced by persons with disabilities and a comprehensive set of recommendations for the improvement in their lives which are reflected in the policy;

AND WHEREAS the policy aims to foster greater inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in all areas of national life and to eliminate the stigma and discrimination that they face on a daily basis;

AND WHEREAS the policy recognises the significant role that Persons with Disabilities can play in national development if they are given more opportunities to contribute in various ways according to the nature of their disability;

AND WHEREAS the Government has engaged in extensive consultations with stakeholders within the social policy space on the National Policy for Improving the Lives of Persons with Disabilities and the 2023 Report of the National Advisory Committee to Guide the Establishment of a Commission for Improving the Lives of Persons with Disabilities;

AND WHEREAS the Cabinet at its meeting held September 21, 2023 approved the National Policy for Improving the Lives of Persons with Disabilities and noted the 2023 Report of the National Advisory Committee to Guide the Establishment of a Commission for Improving the Lives of Persons with Disabilities at its meeting held on April 19, 2024.

AND WHEREAS the National Policy for Improving the Lives of Persons with Disabilities and the 2023 Report of the National Advisory Committee to Guide the Establishment of a Commission for Improving the Lives of Persons with Disabilities have been laid in Parliament to foster debate on these documents;

AND WHEREAS the National Policy recognizes the following thematic areas which are fundamental to advancing the full rights and freedoms of Persons with Disabilities:

- (i) Accessibility;
- (ii) Adequate standard of living and social protection;
- (iii) Awareness building;
- (iv) Education, training and lifelong learning;
- (v) Employment, work and economic participation;
- (vi) Health, habitation and rehabilitation;
- (vii) Legal recognition and access to justice;
- (viii) Participation in society;
- (ix) Protection in disasters and emergencies;
- (x) Protection of right to life, integrity, freedoms and liberties;
- (xi) Regional and international cooperation;
- (xii) Respect for privacy, home and family life;
- (xiii) Statistics and data collection on disabilities; and
- (xiv) Women and children with disabilities.

BE IT RESOLVED therefore that Parliament approve the National Policy for Improving the Lives of Persons with Disabilities and the 2023 National Report of the National Advisory Committee to Guide the Establishment of a Commission for Improving the Lives of Persons with Disabilities.

APPROVED by the House of Assembly this day of
 , 2024.

Speaker

APPROVED by the Senate this day of
 , 2024.

President

ADDENDUM

The Cabinet at its meeting held September 21, 2023 considered NOTE (23) 869/MPEA17 approving the National Policy for Improving the Lives of Persons with Disabilities and at its meeting held on April 11, 2024 noted the 2023 Report of the National Advisory Committee to Guide the Establishment of a Commission for Improving the Lives of Persons with Disabilities.

The approval of Parliament is now sought in relation to the National Policy for Improving the Lives of Persons with Disabilities and the 2023 Report of the National Advisory Committee to Guide the Establishment of a Commission for Improving the Lives of Persons with Disabilities.