



# National Assembly of Belize

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REF: NA/16/19-22 (24)

### PRESS RELEASE

#### **Parliament Represented at Leadership and Good Governance Workshop in Barbados**

--April 25<sup>th</sup> 2022-- The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Valerie Woods, and the President of the Senate, Hon. Carolyn Trench-Sandiford, along with Hon. Elvia Vega-Samos comprise the Belize parliamentary delegation attending the Commonwealth Secretariat's workshop this week on Leadership for Good Governance and Social Transformation in the Caribbean. The workshop has parliamentarians, civil society and youth organizations attending from across the Caribbean. Ms. Simone Hill of PETAL Belize is also attending the workshop.

The purpose of the forum is to discuss approaches and opportunities to promoting women's transformational leadership and gender equality in parliamentary duties, to share lessons learnt and improve the understanding of gender-sensitive and gender-responsive parliaments and to identify practical steps for implementation that can be undertaken by participants and parliaments. This workshop follows previous meetings held in 2018 on gender equality and barriers to women's political leadership.

Over the three-day workshop, there will be a total of 7 sessions focusing on good governance and transformational leadership, political and parliamentary work, gender equality in parliamentary processes and functions, engaging men as allies, and creating international and intra-regional partnerships. The Speaker, Hon. Valerie Woods, was invited to be the moderator at the opening session on Women in Political Leadership and as well at the third session on Good Governance and Transformational Leadership.

Funded by the Australian Government, the workshop is being held in Barbados, from April 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> and is being organized through the Commonwealth Secretariat, UN WOMEN and Caribbean Women in Leadership (CIWiL). The Commonwealth Secretariat is meeting the costs of travel and accommodation for the attendees.

The delegation returns to Belize on April 28<sup>th</sup>.

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