



National Assembly of Belize

Office of the Clerk

P.O. Box 139, Belmopan, Cayo District, Belize Central America

Tel. (+501) 822-2141/2142 or 2144

E-mails: ClerkNA@bna.gov.bz CEO.NationalAssembly@bna.gov.bz

www.nationalassembly.gov.bz

REF: NA/16/19-22 (41)

PRESS RELEASE

Youth Parliamentarians meet with Madam President and Members of Parliament

- **24th October, 2022** - The National Assembly in collaboration with the National Commission for Families and Children (NCFC), the Office of the Special Envoy for Women and Children, and UNICEF will be hosting the 3rd Annual National Children's Parliament on 11th November 2022.

At today's special Senate meeting, as a part of the activities leading up to the event, eleven of the youth parliamentarians along with representatives of the NCFC were in attendance to observe the proceedings. The youth parliamentarians in attendance were Hon. Vivian Espot, who is representing the President of the Senate, Hon. Asher Torres, who is representing the Leader of Government Business in the Senate, Hon. Jalil Garbutt, who is representing the Vice President of the Senate, Hon. Ofelia Hernandez representing the Belize Council of Churches, Hon. Emelly Sosa, who is representing National Trade Union Congress & Civil Society Steering Committee, Hon. Tana Vasques, representing Non-Governmental Organizations, Hon. Kathy Velasquez, representing the Leader Senator of the Opposition, Hon. Abigail Cabral, representing the Opposition, Hon. Jediah Martinez, representing the Belize Chambers of Commerce, Hon. Sapphire Jenkins, representing the Deputy Prime Minister, and Hon. Liselle Swasey, representing Member for Albert. The Children's Parliamentarians were accompanied by Ms. Franisha Augustine, Ms. Shakira Sutherland, and Mrs. Elena Del Cid.

While visiting the National Assembly, the young Parliamentarians were able to briefly meet with the Senators along with Hon. Carolyn Trench-Sandiford, Madam President, where they were enlightened by her on the Presidential Role. Shortly after, the young Parliamentarians were able to meet with Hon. Tracy Panton and Hon. Cordel Hyde whom all shared some insight on their role in Parliament.

National Commission for Families and Children (NCFC) plans to continue with these meetings between the young Parliamentarians and the National Members of Parliament leading up to the Annual National Children's Parliament on 11th November 2022.

The National Assembly looks forward to yet another successful youth parliament this year and its sustenance over the years to come.

--END--

