



# National Assembly of Belize

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### PRESS RELEASE

#### **Youth Parliamentarians participate in the 11th Commonwealth Youth Parliament in Trinidad and Tobago**

— **23<sup>rd</sup> November 2022**— Ms. Kalen Middleton and Mr. Daril Avila, both active members of the **Young Leaders Alliance of Belize (YLAB)**, are participating in this year's **11<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Youth Parliament (CYP)** from the **20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> November 2022**. The five-days event is being hosted by the Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and CPA Trinidad and Tobago Branch, in collaboration with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Headquarters.

The 11<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Youth Parliament has the participation of some fifty-eight young people aged 18 to 29 from 33 Commonwealth jurisdictions. During the one-week event the youth participants will be acting as elected representatives of a fictional jurisdiction, giving them the opportunity to debate a mock Parliamentary Bill related to remote working and alternative working patterns.

The youth Parliamentarians are being mentored by serving Members of Parliament from the British Virgin Islands, St. Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago. Honourable Anita Haynes, a Member of the House of Representatives of Trinidad and Tobago, is acting as the Presiding Officer of this year's Commonwealth Youth Parliament.

The Commonwealth Youth Parliament is an annual event designed to introduce young Commonwealth citizens to the role and purpose of Parliaments as democratic institutions and providers of good governance. It is organized by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), and it allows attendees to meet other young people from across the Commonwealth, empowering them to shape their own jurisdictions and engage with their local Legislature.

The CPA Secretariat and the Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago are meeting the costs of travel and accommodation for our Parliament's youth representatives, Ms. Middleton, and Mr. Avila, who both return to Belize on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

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