



# National Assembly of Belize

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### PRESS RELEASE

#### **The National Assembly extends its condolences on the passing of former Speaker and President Hon. Sylvia Flores**

—9<sup>th</sup> December 2022— Hon. Valerie Woods, Speaker of the House of Representatives and Hon. Carolyn Trench-Sandiford, President of the Senate, extend their deepest condolences to the family of former presiding officer Hon. Sylvia Flores on her passing on Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

Hon. Sylvia Flores was the first female Speaker of the House of Representatives and served from 12<sup>th</sup> September 1998 to 1<sup>st</sup> July 2001. She also served as President of the Senate from 14<sup>th</sup> August 2001 to 4<sup>th</sup> February 2003. Therefore, she has the distinction of being the first person who has had the opportunity to serve in this capacity for both chambers of the National Assembly.

After her term as the President of the Senate, Hon. Sylvia Flores contested the General Elections in 2003 and became the area representative in the House of Representatives for the Dangriga constituency from 2003 to 2008, the first woman to do so. She was also appointed a member of the Executive as a Minister with portfolios including the Ministry of Defence and National Emergency Management, Human Development and Housing during her term in office. During this time, she also had the opportunity to become the first woman to be acting Prime Minister.

Given her various leadership roles in governance during her tenure in parliament from 1998 to 2008, Hon. Sylvia Flores is the first and only parliamentarian in Belize's history who has served as a Speaker of the House of Representatives, President of the Senate, an Area Representative, a Minister of Government, and acting Prime Minister.

May her soul rest in peace and rise in glory.

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