



National Assembly of Belize

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PRESS RELEASE

The National Assembly extends its condolences on the passing of the Honourable Michael Espat

—24th April 2024— The Hon. Valerie Woods, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Hon. Carolyn Trench-Sandiford, President of the Senate, extend their deepest condolences to the family and friends of parliamentarian **Hon. Michael Joseph Espat, Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development, and Investment**, on his passing which occurred on Monday, 22nd April 2024.

Hon. Espat was first elected as a Member of the House of Representatives in 1989, representing the Toledo East constituency for the People's United Party. He served as the Area Representative for Toledo East for six parliamentary terms. He also held various executive portfolios during his time in parliament which included:

Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries - 15th September 1989 to 25th February 1993;

Minister of Fisheries, Cooperatives, Commerce, and Industry - 17th September 2004 to 10th December 2004;

Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries - 14th January 2005 to 23rd March 2006;

Minister of Works - 12th June 2006 to 19th December 2007; and

Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development, and Investment - 11th December 2020 up to the time of his passing.

As a parliamentarian, Hon. Espat was never one to shy away from expressing his impassioned beliefs and opinions and was consistent in his parliamentary debates and contributions, voicing his concerns and wishes for the constituents of Toledo East.

The Staff of the National Assembly and the Presiding Officers recognize his dedicated service to the parliament representing Toledo East in the House of Representatives and his service to country over his many years in the parliament. The National Assembly joins the nation in mourning his loss and extends sincere condolences to his family and loved ones.

May his soul rest in peace.

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