



Statement by Denise Daley, MP, on International Day for Persons with Disabilities

Kingston, Jamaica. December 3, 2024: As Jamaica joins the world in commemorating International Day for Persons with Disabilities, the People's National Party (PNP) is proud to stand in solidarity with individuals living with disabilities and to champion the theme, "Inclusion in Action: Building Accessible Communities." This theme serves as a timely reminder of the pressing need for concrete actions to create a society where everyone, regardless of ability, has equal opportunities to thrive.

Shadow Minister of Gender Affairs, Persons with Disabilities & Inclusion, Denise Daley, emphasised the importance of moving beyond token gestures and addressing systemic barriers that continue to marginalise persons with disabilities.

"We cannot speak of progress as a nation if we are leaving behind individuals with disabilities," Daley stated. "Accessibility must become a cornerstone of our development agenda. From creating inclusive learning environments to ensuring public spaces, transportation, and technology are accessible, we must implement policies that reflect the value of every Jamaican."

Despite past efforts, significant gaps remain in addressing the needs of persons with disabilities. Access to quality education, gainful employment, affordable healthcare, and equitable participation in society are areas that require immediate and sustained attention. The PNP recognises these challenges and is committed to advancing comprehensive policies that foster inclusion and protect the rights of all citizens.

Daley called for increased collaboration among government agencies, the private sector, and civil society to drive meaningful change. "Inclusion is not a task for one entity—it requires a collective effort. We urge all Jamaicans to join in creating communities that reflect dignity, respect, and opportunity for everyone."

"As we reflect on this year's theme, let us move beyond conversations and commit to measurable actions that build accessible communities," Daley said. "An inclusive Jamaica is not only a fairer Jamaica; it is a stronger and more united nation."

The PNP remains steadfast in its mission to create a Jamaica where inclusion is not just an aspiration but a lived reality for all.

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For more information, contact:

Mikael Phillips, MP | Shadow Minister of Transport
PNP Media Unit Tel: 876-408-3160