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GOVERNMENT COMMITTED TO INCLUSIVE POLICIES

Minister of the Family, Gender Affairs, Persons with Disabilities, Local Government and Labour Hon. Laverne Gibson-Velox said Government continues to strengthen and advance inclusive policies and programmes to empower persons with varying levels of disability.

The Minister, delivering her message to mark World Down Syndrome Day (March 21), said it takes a collective approach to address issues relating to persons with Down Syndrome and other forms of disabilities.

Minister Gibson-Velox noted that this year's theme "Together Against Loneliness", highlights a critical issue affecting many individuals living with disabilities.

"Loneliness, though often unseen, has real consequences for emotional well-being, confidence and quality of life, it reminds us that inclusion must go beyond access, it must foster connections, belonging and active participation," Minister Gibson-Velox said.

Minister Gibson-Velox stressed that her Ministry is committed to working together with stakeholders to promote inclusion in education, employment and community life, accessible services and environment, support for families and caregivers and increasing national awareness and advocacy initiatives.

The Minister commended the work of caregivers and other professionals, noting that, "their commitment forms the backbone of support systems across the nation, however, this responsibility must be shared collectively, supported by strong policy frameworks and community involvement."

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