



The first Legacy Tree was planted by Mrs Julie Arthur, representing the late Prime Minister Rt. Hon. Owen S. Arthur, and Ashley Lashley represented her father Hamilton Lashley both of who were honoured. (GP)

LAUNCH OF 50 TREES AT GARRISON

The launch ceremony, held at Harambee House, Garrison, St Michael, centered on the unveiling of the first tree in the “50 Trees for 50 Years” Legacy Project, honouring the remarkable contributions of the Rt. Hon. Owen Arthur and Hamilton Lashley. This symbolic planting was warmly received by all present. It set the tone for this ongoing initiative as we continue to plant trees across Barbados, each one celebrating the legacy of individuals and organisations who have advanced the cause of inclusion.



The Handing over Ceremony of the Olga Millar Nursery Sensory Room with the CEO of the Ministry of Education, Dr Ramona Archer Bradshaw, Senators Andwele Boyce and Kerryann Ifill FB, along with the Principal and teachers of the School. (GP)

THE OLGA MILLAR SENSORY ROOM – 2025

The opening of the Olga Millar Nursery Sensory Room marked a historic milestone as the first sensory room established in a Government nursery school in Barbados. Developed through the My Inclusive School 2023 Competition, the project demonstrates the power of collaboration and the **Barbados Council for the Disabled's** commitment to creating inclusive learning environments where every child has the opportunity to thrive.

CHANGING LIVES, ONE WHEELCHAIR AT A TIME

The **Barbados Council for the Disabled**, in partnership with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, introduced the Wheelchair Clinic Programme, bringing life-changing mobility services to persons with disabilities across Barbados. More than the provision of wheelchairs, the clinics offer professional assessment, individual fitting, user training and caregiver support, ensuring that each recipient receives equipment suited to their unique needs.

The programme continues to demonstrate that the right wheelchair, provided through a person-centred approach, is not simply a mobility aid but a gateway to dignity, opportunity and inclusion.



Handing over of the 2026-27 Mobility Devices Shipment. Looking on are Minister Hon. Adrian Forde, Sean Cooke, Coordinator of the Project, and wheelchair recipient, Monica Callendar. (GP)

FACT

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THE FULLY ACCESSIBLE BARBADOS (FAB) PROGRAMME HAS BEEN PRESENTED INTERNATIONALLY.

The Hon Adrian Forde MP, Minister of People Empowerment and Elder Affairs to mark 50th Anniversary of the Barbados Council for the Disabled

Today, it is my distinct honour to extend heartfelt congratulations to the Barbados Council for the Disabled as it celebrates an extraordinary milestone—50 years of dedicated service and advocacy on behalf of persons with disabilities in Barbados.

For five decades, the Council has been a strong and unwavering voice, advancing the rights, dignity and inclusion of persons with disabilities. Its work has helped shape national policy, improve accessibility and promote greater participation in all aspects of society.

While we celebrate the progress made over the past 50 years, we also recognize that the journey toward full inclusion continues.

Today, the Council continues to advocate for improved access to transportation, housing and technology; inclusive education; meaningful employment and entrepreneurship opportunities; digital accessibility; mental health support; and inclusive disaster preparedness and climate resilience. These priorities are fully aligned with Government's vision of an inclusive Barbados where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

Over recent years, the Government of Barbados has taken important steps to improve the lives of persons with disabilities. We have expanded social security support for persons living with Autism, Multiple Sclerosis, Cerebral Palsy and Down Syndrome; advanced the National Policy on Improving the Lives of Persons with Disabilities and its Strategic Action Plan; and proclaimed the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act.

At the Ministry of People Empowerment and Elder Affairs, we remain committed to working alongside the Social Empowerment Agency, the Barbados Council for the Disabled and our community partners to create greater opportunities for independence, participation and empowerment.

Our strategic priorities include expanding public awareness to reduce stigma, implementing the Access for All Project to improve accessibility to public buildings, reintroducing the Mangrove Agricultural Project to provide skills training and employment opportunities, continuing financial support for organizations serving persons with disabilities, and constructing residential access ramps that meet international standards.

These initiatives reflect a simple belief: inclusion is a right, not a privilege. Every person deserves the opportunity to participate fully and realize their potential.

To every person living with a disability, thank you for your resilience, determination and invaluable contributions to our nation. You continue to inspire us through your courage, talent and perseverance.

To the Barbados Council for the Disabled, thank you for fifty years of outstanding service and steadfast advocacy. Your leadership has helped create a more accessible, compassionate and inclusive Barbados.

As we celebrate this golden anniversary, let us renew our commitment to building a society where inclusion is the standard, accessibility is the norm, and every person has the opportunity to live with dignity and purpose.

The Government of Barbados remains committed to working with you to ensure that every citizen has access to opportunity, respect and the support needed to reach their full potential.

Congratulations once again to the Barbados Council for the Disabled on this remarkable achievement.

Happy 50th Anniversary, may your next fifty years be marked by even greater progress and lasting impact.