



Response To The Fifteenth Report Of The Joint Select Committee On Human Rights, Equality And Diversity On The Current Provisions For The Education Of Children Who Require Special Education Programmes And Services In Public Primary And Secondary Schools

Wednesday 27th May, 2020

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY SERVICES

**Response To The Fifteenth Report Of The Joint Select Committee On Human Rights,
Equality And Diversity On The Current Provisions For The Education Of Children
Who Require Special Education Programmes And Services In Public Primary And
Secondary Schools**

Wednesday 27th May, 2020

GENERAL COMMENTS:-

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services, having reviewed the Report, considers it to be comprehensive. Additionally, it provides useful recommendations on the way forward for the key agencies with responsibility for matters related to the issue.

RECOMMENDATION:-

According to 4:29 of the Report, the Joint Select Committee recommended that the Central Statistical Office, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Social Development and Family Services collaborate to develop a definition for the term 'disability' as soon as possible. It was stated that use of a consistent definition for 'disability' would contribute to the accurate collection of data by the three (3) State organizations mentioned above for the formulation and implementation of policies in accordance with Article 31(1) of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

RESPONSE:-

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services by correspondence dated April 24, 2020, in keeping with the above recommendation, has written to the Ministry of Education and the Central Statistical Office respectively requesting their urgent input with regard to the definition of the term 'Disability'. The Ministry is currently awaiting feedback on the matter. However, it is anticipated that an agreed definition by the three (3) agencies could be developed by the early June 2020 after public servants resume work following the stay at home measure. Soon afterwards, the Joint Select Committee shall be informed accordingly.

RECOMMENDATION:-

According to 4:39 of the Report, the Committee also recommended that Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs and Ministry of Social Development and Family Services review the stakeholders' challenges and recommendations in Appendix X respectively with a view to incorporate same into the implementation of future policy action.

RESPONSE:-

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services, having noted the above recommendations, has circulated the contents of the Report to the Ministry's Disability Affairs Unit, and the Policy, Programme and Project Division for their consideration in future policy development.