Persons with DISABILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

"Inclusion, Dignity, and Equal Opportunities."

***Press Statement***

*Global Accessibility Awareness Day – Theme: "Design, Develop, Deliver"*

21 May 2026

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On this Global Accessibility Awareness Day, the Persons with Disability Advisory Council (PWDAC) joins the global community in reaffirming our shared commitment to accessibility and inclusion for all. This day serves as a vital reminder that accessibility is not just a necessity or an afterthought—it is a fundamental human right that ensures everyone, regardless of ability, can participate fully in society.

This year's theme, **"Design, Develop, and Deliver,"** emphasizes the seamless integration of accessibility into all aspects of digital and physical creation. The theme aims to remind us all that every design should have inclusion at its core, every solution should actively remove barriers, and we must consistently deliver equitable access to information, technology, physical spaces, and opportunities.

True accessibility is only achieved when persons with disabilities can fully participate in every aspect of community life, including education, employment, governance, and social engagements. To achieve this goal, there is an urgent need for collective responsibility and strong partnerships between government, development partners, the private sector, civil society, disabled persons' organizations, and academia. Together, we must ensure that every product, service, and policy is inclusive—ranging from public buildings and transport systems to ICT infrastructure and communication channels.

In today's digital era, the relevance of accessible formats cannot be overemphasized. Providing Braille, large print, digital/electronic texts, and audio formats empowers individuals with low or no vision to communicate and access information independently. We must embrace and treat accessibility as an integral, non-negotiable part of innovation, product design, and digital communication.

Looking forward, the PWDAC is particularly focused on the operationalization and enforcement of Sections 26 and 27 of our national framework, alongside Article 9 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), and the accessibility and mobility mandates per the Disability Equity Act.

While the Act represents a monumental step toward aligning our national laws with the UNCRPD, the real work lies in its implementation. It is incumbent upon all of us to ensure that the legally binding mandates of accessibility, inclusion, and equity established by the Act are robustly enforced across all sectors.

The PWDAC urges everyone to embrace accessibility in their daily lives. We call upon creators, developers, and decision-makers to embed accessibility into every stage of their work, from initial conception to the final product. Let us join hands to make accessibility a universal human rights norm, not the exception.

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