



MINISTRY OF  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
& FOREIGN TRADE

# COMMONWEALTH DAY 2026

MESSAGE BY:

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Jamaica joins the Member States of the Commonwealth in commemorating Commonwealth Day in celebration of our shared commitment to democracy, sustainable development, peace and prosperity.

This year, we celebrate under the theme, “***Unlocking opportunities together for a prosperous Commonwealth***”, reaffirming our collective determination to foster economic growth, create sustainable, resilient societies and expand opportunity for all.

Over the years, the Commonwealth has remained a stabilising force, even amid periods of profound global uncertainty. At a time when the multilateral system faces mounting pressures, the Commonwealth continues to preserve an effective platform for dialogue, solidarity, and collective action. United by deeply entrenched values of democracy, human rights, sovereign equality of states, territorial integrity, and the peaceful settlement of disputes, the Commonwealth remains a trusted forum through which member states can collaborate in pursuit of a more inclusive and rules-based international order.

Jamaica has maintained active and sustained engagement across the Commonwealth system, with a robust partnership across critical areas of development. The country has benefited from initiatives such as the Commonwealth Climate Change Programme and the Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub, which have bolstered Jamaica’s sustained efforts to build a climate-resilient economy. The significant impact of natural disasters on national development, most recently evidenced by the passage of Hurricane Beryl in 2024 and Hurricane Melissa in 2025, underscores the necessity of such interventions.

The prioritization of intra-Commonwealth trade complements major economic reform achievements in Jamaica and is in alignment with the country's renewed thrust towards the pursuit of economic independence. Jamaica, therefore, welcomes the work being done by the Commonwealth on digitalisation, global competitiveness and investment facilitation and the potential for enhanced economic development from these initiatives.

As the Commonwealth embarks on a robust reform and renewal agenda, Jamaica will continue to actively contribute towards building a Commonwealth that is fit for purpose and responsive to the needs and aspirations of Jamaicans and all peoples of the Commonwealth. In an ever-evolving global landscape, this is critical.

Jamaica looks forward to joining fellow Commonwealth Member States at the 28th Meeting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Antigua and Barbuda later this year, as we work together to accelerate partnerships and investment for a prosperous Commonwealth.

**Happy Commonwealth Day!**