



**MESSAGE FROM
DR. THE MOST HON. ANDREW HOLNESS, ON, PC, MP
PRIME MINISTER OF JAMAICA**

Jamaican Diaspora on the Occasion of Emancipence 2026

My Fellow Jamaicans,

As we commemorate Emancipation and celebrate the 64th Anniversary of Jamaica's Independence, I extend warm greetings to every member of our Jamaican family across the globe.

Emancipence is one of the most meaningful periods on our national calendar. It is a time to reflect on the courage and sacrifice of those who came before us, to honour the resilience that has defined our journey as a people, and to celebrate the freedom, identity and nationhood that continue to shape our collective future.

This year, we do so under the theme, "United in Celebrating Resilience." It is a fitting reflection of who we are as Jamaicans. From generation to generation, we have demonstrated an extraordinary ability to overcome adversity, seize opportunity and emerge stronger through every challenge. That enduring spirit is evident both here at home and in every corner of the world where Jamaicans have made their mark.

Wherever life has taken you, your connection to Jamaica remains strong. It is reflected in the pride with which you represent our country, the values you uphold, the culture you preserve and the unwavering commitment you continue to demonstrate to the land of your birth or heritage.

The Jamaican diaspora is one of our nation's greatest assets. Across continents, Jamaicans have distinguished themselves as leaders, innovators, entrepreneurs, healthcare professionals, educators, creatives, athletes and public servants. Your achievements continue to enhance Jamaica's reputation internationally while opening doors for others and strengthening the bonds between Jamaica and the wider world.

Over the past year, that enduring connection was demonstrated in an especially profound way following the passage of Hurricane Melissa. As families and communities faced the difficult task of recovery, Jamaicans overseas responded with remarkable generosity and compassion. Through financial support, relief supplies, fundraising initiatives, technical expertise and countless acts of kindness, you stood with your fellow Jamaicans during one of our most challenging moments.

Your response was far more than humanitarian assistance. It was a powerful expression of family, solidarity and national pride. It reaffirmed an enduring truth; while distance may separate us geographically, it has never diminished our shared identity or our commitment to one another.

Your contribution to Jamaica extends well beyond moments of crisis. Through your investments, remittances, philanthropy, business partnerships, knowledge transfer and advocacy, you continue to strengthen families, create opportunities and support national development. Just as importantly, you serve as ambassadors for our country, sharing with the world the very best of Jamaica through your excellence, your work ethic and your unmistakable Jamaican spirit.

As a Government, we deeply value this partnership. We remain committed to strengthening our engagement with the diaspora and creating even greater opportunities for meaningful collaboration. Your ideas, expertise and continued investment are integral to Jamaica's progress as we build a more resilient, inclusive and prosperous nation.

As we reflect on the significance of Emancipation and Independence, we are reminded that the freedoms we enjoy today were secured through sacrifice, determination and an unyielding belief in a better future. Those same qualities continue to define Jamaica and the global Jamaican family. Together, united by heritage and purpose, we will continue to build a nation worthy of the legacy entrusted to us.

On behalf of the Government and people of Jamaica, I thank you for your unwavering love for your homeland, your steadfast support and your enduring belief in Jamaica's future.

May this Emancipence season inspire renewed pride in our heritage, deepen our unity as one people and strengthen our resolve to continue building the Jamaica we all cherish.

Happy Emancipation and a joyful 64th Anniversary of Independence.

May God continue to bless you, and may God continue to bless Jamaica, land we love.

Dr. The Most Hon. Andrew Holness, ON, PC, MP
Prime Minister