



MESSAGE

**HIS EXCELLENCY
THE MOST HON. SIR PATRICK ALLEN, ON GCMG, CD, KSt.J
GOVERNOR-GENERAL**

INDEPENDENCE MESSAGE FOR THE DIASPORA AUGUST 2026

My fellow Jamaicans,

It always gives me great pleasure to extend warm greetings to you on the occasion of the celebration of Jamaica's Independence, a moment defined in history as the day Jamaica assumed responsibility for its destiny and took her rightful place among independent nations.

The many activities that will be staged at home as well as overseas serve to observe the historical fact and to honour the struggles and dedication of our forebears, even as we continue to refine and advance the expression of Independence. The celebration is therefore, characterized by reflection and gratitude in recognition of the sacrifices, struggles and victories of our ancestors, by pride for the progress that we have achieved as a people since 1962, and by hope for a brighter future for all of us, as a united Jamaica across the globe.

As members of the Diaspora, you have contributed significantly to the development of your adopted countries, while not forgetting your roots. In this context, I was pleased to recognise eight outstanding Jamaicans from Canada, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, China and France during the 11th Biennial Jamaica Diaspora Conference that was held in June this year, for their remarkable contributions in their respective fields of endeavour.

We have been tested over the years, and the passage of hurricane Melissa last October caused extensive damage to infrastructure, property, livelihoods and loss of life. Jamaica is grateful for the spontaneous outpouring of support from the Diaspora in the immediate aftermath of the hurricane and beyond. Despite the challenges and setbacks, the resilience of our people is undeniable.

As we honour the 64th anniversary of Jamaica's Independence, let us, as a nation, summon the spirit of hope and renewal and recommit our energies to the pursuit of a better Jamaica for all of us.

May God bless you and may God continue to bestow his favour on Jamaica, land we love.