Contact: Leighton Beckles
Independent Fiscal Commission
(876) 332-4996
leighton.beckles@ifc.gov.jm

24-26 Grenada Crescent
Kingston 5
www.ifc.gov.jm

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release
November 13, 2026

INDEPENDENT FISCAL COMMISSION HIGHLIGHTS BALANCING RECONSTRUCTION AND FISCAL CREDIBILITY FOLLOWING HURRICANE MELISSA

KINGSTON, Jamaica — Fiscal Commissioner Courtney Williams emphasized the critical need to balance emergency recovery with long-term macroeconomic stability during his November 8 appearance on *Caribbean Business Review* with host Joseph Cox.

Discussing Jamaica's fiscal trajectory following Hurricane Melissa and the formal request under consideration for a one-year extension of the fiscal rules suspension, the Fiscal Commissioner underscored that the temporary suspension of the fiscal rules must be followed by a credible, transparent adjustment pathway to adequately safeguard fiscal sustainability and steer the country's debt-to-GDP trajectory toward the 60% target.

Key Highlights from the Discussion:

- Rigorous Assessment of Request to Extend Suspension: The Independent Fiscal Commission continues its technical evaluation of the Government's formal request for a one-year extension of the suspension. The assessment will closely examine lingering effects on revenue performance, real economic output, inflation, and reasonable public expenditure demands stemming from Hurricane Melissa.

- Reconstruction and Implementation Capacity: Capital expenditure is picking up pace. However, overcoming execution challenges and absorptive capacity constraints in both the public and private sectors remain central to ensuring that recovery efforts translate into faster, and sustainable growth.

- Institutional Credibility and Fiscal Anchors: The Commissioner reiterates that maintaining robust, non-partisan oversight and transparent public reporting are essential to preserving investor confidence, upholding rule continuity, and reinforcing fiscal accountability.

The Independent Fiscal Commission remains committed to robustly monitoring, assessing, and reporting on public finances, and invites policymakers, parliamentarians, civil society, media, and the public to examine its full range of reports and publications online at www.ifc.gov.jm.

-END-