



A Year of Fiscal Vigilance: New Year Message from the Independent Fiscal Commission

To the People of Jamaica, our Partners in the Media, and our Valued Stakeholders:

As we embrace the promise of 2026, the Independent Fiscal Commission (IFC) joins the nation in celebration - not only of a new year but of a historic milestone. Today marks the **first anniversary** of the IFC becoming fully operational, an achievement that signals a new era of transparency and accountability in Jamaica's economic governance.

Since our operationalization on **January 1, 2025**, the Commission has moved decisively to fulfil its mandate as the independent "guardian" of Jamaica's fiscal rules. Over the past twelve months, we have laid a robust foundation for promoting fiscal discipline:

- **Credibility & Assessment:** We released our inaugural *Economic and Fiscal Assessment Report* in Parliament in March, providing an unbiased and sound opinion on the credibility of the 2025/26 National Budget.
- **Performance Monitoring:** Through our quarterly statements to Parliament, we have kept the public informed on the government's adherence to fiscal and budgetary targets and to economic policy commitments.
- **Crisis Response:** Following the devastating impact of Hurricane Melissa in October, the Commission fulfilled its critical statutory role by independently validating the fiscal impact of the shock, ensuring that the temporary suspension of fiscal rules was transparent and data driven.
- **Public Education:** We successfully launched our "Fiscal Literacy" campaign, engaging the citizenry via legacy and social media platforms beginning with our first major press conference in March.

Our Vision for 2026: Accountability and Transparency in Action

While 2025 was largely about establishment, 2026 promises heightened operational **excellence and public accessibility**. Our key goals for the year ahead include:

- **The Launch of "Fiscal Dashboards":** To further democratize national data, we will launch interactive digital tools on our website, allowing the media and the public to track government spending, revenue, and debt levels, *inter alia*, in real-time.
- **Advocacy for Budgetary Reform:** We will continue to advocate for more efficient budgetary presentations and executions, not least of which is the concurrent tabling of all revenue and expenditure measures.
- **Strengthening Media Partnerships:** Recognizing the media as a vital bridge to the public, we will host quarterly "Technical Briefing Sessions" to help journalists and the public navigate complex fiscal reports and economic data.

The IFC remains a non-partisan institution of experts, dedicated solely to the long-term well-being of every Jamaican. Our independence is our strength, and our information is our voice. As we enter our second year, we promise to remain vigilant, objective, and assertive, with a view to ensuring that Jamaica never again "drops the fiscal ball."

We thank you for your support during our foundational year and look forward to working together to build a more resilient, transparent, and productive Jamaica.

Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Courtney H. Williams
Fiscal Commissioner
Independent Fiscal Commission of Jamaica