



# Jamaica Council of Churches

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THE CAYMAN ISLANDS IN  
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CHURCH WOMEN UNITED  
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Y.M.C.A.  
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Y.W.C.A.

## **The JCC Calls for greater use of “soft power” in the conduct of the nation’s business**

The Jamaica Council of Churches (JCC) welcomes the tabling of the Auditor General's reports in the House of Parliament on Tuesday March 26, 2024. This has come at a time when there have been heightened concerns and expressions regarding the need for public access to and examination of the reports from the oversight institutions in our nation. While we note with concern some troubling initial disclosures, we will nonetheless take the time to digest the reports and their analyses more fulsomely.

We wish, however, to express our deep concerns with the direction in which the proceedings of the Parliament have transpired and how matters of a delicate nature have been handled. We note that some important constitutional and procedural questions have been raised and wonder if some of these could not be resolved by greater levels of dialogue and disclosure. In this regard, the nation awaits the benefit of the willingness of our leaders to share the legal opinion from the Attorney General regarding the tabling of reports. Further, we look forward to outcomes in the near future that will stem the tide of mistrust of our government and its leaders, as we believe that the high levels of mistrust that exists in our society can only lead to more deviance, disorder and non-compliance. The nation looks forward to the promotion of the common good from the highest political authority in the land, the Parliament.

Therefore, we beseech our parliamentarians to encourage and display the deepest sensitivity towards collaboration and collegiality. We also earnestly encourage our leaders to engender a strong appetite for dialogue and consultation even as the constitutional power of discretion is exercised. Further, we humbly encourage them to practice a model of leadership that privileges the ethic of ‘community,’ prioritizes national and public interests and portrays cordiality, collegiality, and cooperation. Our words of encouragement are grounded in the imperative of the prophet Micah who declared.

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.

And what does the LORD require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy

and to walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8, NIV).

We reiterate the fact that the Church is committed to praying for the political leaders of the nation (1 Tim 2:1-3); this is a Christian mandate which we will unequivocally observe and obey.

## **JAMAICA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES**

Bishop Christine Gooden-Benguiche  
President

March 28, 2024