



THE UNIVERSITY
OF THE
WEST INDIES



**The PJ Patterson Institute for
Africa-Caribbean Advocacy**

The UWI's PJ Patterson Institute for African Caribbean Advocacy, African Liberation Day Message, 25th May 2025

Theme *'Year of Justice for Africans and People of African Descent Through Reparations'*

It is timely and powerful that the theme for Africa Day 2025 is 'Year of Justice for Africans and People of African Descent Through Reparations'. At the PJ Patterson Institute for Africa Caribbean Advocacy, we stand in full support of this call. The Institute urges all former colonial powers to acknowledge their role in centuries of exploitation and to repair the wrongs from systemic disregard of bodily autonomy, land, rights, and the dissolution of culture through chattel enslavement and colonialism. Without a doubt, the people of Africa and the African diaspora have had their land, consciousness, and bodies brutalised by these systems of oppression.

We recognise that righting these historical wrongs cannot be satiated just by renunciations and self-reproachful statements without concrete actions of restitution. Reparations must be pursued through structural change and material redress — through policies and programmes that heal the generational damage inflicted on African and diasporic communities. As Africans and people of African descent, we know too well the consequences of this long history of dispossession on our societies' health, economies, and our collective well-being, which are still being felt. Justice demands that the nations and institutions which perpetuated these atrocities restore what has been systematically denied.

As we reflect on this year's theme, we also reaffirm our shared commitment to unity across the African continent and the global African diaspora. Our strength lies in our solidarity. In calling for reparations, we are calling not just for justice, but for a future built on mutual respect, shared purpose, and the unbreakable bonds of African identity. Together, we reclaim our story and shape a new chapter rooted in dignity, truth, and transformation.