

PRESS RELEASE

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Virgin Islands Celebrates Adaejah Hodge Following Historic Commonwealth Games Victory

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The 2026 Commonwealth Games Gold Medallist and Games Record Holder Adaejah Hodge received a heroic's welcome home following her historic performance at the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games.

Ms. Hodge delivered a historic performance in Glasgow, setting a new Commonwealth Games record of 22.01 seconds in the women's 200 metres semifinal before going on to capture the gold medal in the final. Her victory continued the Virgin Islands' remarkable Commonwealth Games legacy, with a Virgin Islands athlete having now won gold at three consecutive Games in 2018, 2022 and 2026.

The Government and residents of the Virgin Islands celebrated Ms Hodge's victory in the games with the hosting of several events including a motorcade through the Territory followed by a recognition ceremony at the Cyril B. Romney Pier Park, where residents, Government officials, sporting organisations, athletes, family members and supporters gathered to welcome Hodge home and recognise the achievements of Team BVI.

Minister for Education, Youth Affairs and Sports, Honourable Sharie B. de Castro, said Ms. Hodge's performance represented far more than an individual sporting achievement, describing the moment as one that demonstrated the potential of the Virgin Islands on the international stage. Honourable de Castro said, "Never measure the size of our potential by the size of our islands. Adaejah, that's what you told the world at Glasgow 2026."

The minister also reaffirmed the Government's commitment to supporting Ms. Hodge and other Virgin Islands athletes as they continue competing internationally. She said, "As a Government, we remain firmly committed to supporting Adaejah and every single one of our athletes as they pursue excellence on the world stage. We will continue to work with the BVI Athletic Association and the BVI Olympic Committee to ensure that our support is meaningful, responsible and responsive to the circumstances of each athlete while operating within the applicable frameworks that govern their participation."

Premier of the Virgin Islands and Minister of Finance, Honourable Dr. Natalio D. Wheatley, reflected on the significance of an athlete from the Virgin Islands competing against and defeating some of the world's best. Premier Wheatley said Hodge represents what Virgin Islanders can aspire to achieve regardless of the Territory's size and encouraged the community to unite behind the development and success of its athletes. "Our athletes are our national treasures," Premier Wheatley said. "She belongs to the entire Virgin Islands and everybody should be proud of her success and get behind her."

President of the British Virgin Islands Olympic Committee (BVIOC), Mr. Ephraim Penn, also shared a congratulatory letter from the President of Commonwealth Sport recognising Hodge's gold medal and Commonwealth Games record. The letter described Hodge's success as a memorable moment of Glasgow 2026 and noted that her achievement demonstrated what can be accomplished when ambition, talent, determination and hard work come together.

BVI Olympic Committee Second Vice President Ms. Ashley Kelly also highlighted the wider performance of Team BVI at the games. The Territory was represented by 12 athletes, and for the first time, four Virgin Islands sprinters, two women and two men, advanced to the semifinals of the 200 metres. Ms. Kelly said the results were indicative of years of investment, development and partnership among the BVIOC, national federations, the Government, international sporting bodies, athletes, coaches, families and communities.

Meanwhile, President of the British Virgin Islands Athletics Association (BVIAA), Mr. Steve Augustine, placed Hodge's achievement within the wider history of Commonwealth athletics, noting that at just 20 years old, she became the youngest athlete among a distinguished group of women who have held the Commonwealth Games 200 metres record.

Mr. Augustine also provided clarification regarding the Government's cash award programme for medal-winning athletes. While Hodge's Commonwealth Games gold medal and record-breaking performance would ordinarily qualify for recognition under the programme, she is currently governed by National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) rules and regulations. Mr. Augustine explained that Hodge is

therefore unable to accept a cash award for medalling at this time, as doing so could compromise her collegiate eligibility. He said the BVIAA has a responsibility to ensure that Hodge and other collegiate athletes remain compliant with the rules and regulations governing their participation.

Ms. Hodge thanked the people of the Virgin Islands for the support shown to her and her fellow Team BVI athletes throughout the Commonwealth Games, noting that the athletes carry the pride of the Territory with them whenever they compete. "Each and every day we wake up and we choose to represent the BVI. Each and every practice, each and every rep, we give it our best just in order to represent the BVI," Hodge said.

She also reflected on her development as an athlete and the sacrifices made by her mother, family and coaches throughout her journey, while encouraging young Virgin Islanders to remain committed to their own aspirations. "To the youth, I would encourage you guys to not give up on your dreams," Hodge said. "It's going to be a lot of hard times, but that's where you focus on what you lean on. You lean on your parents, you lean on your coaches, you lean on your support group." Hodge recalled seeing similar motorcades held in honour of other accomplished Virgin Islands athletes and expressed gratitude for now experiencing the recognition herself.

As part of the ceremony, Ms. Hodge was presented with a commemorative photograph from her historic Commonwealth Games victory bearing messages and signatures from members of the community. The presentation was made on behalf of the Government and people of the Virgin Islands as a lasting reminder of her historic achievement.

The ceremony also recognised her family, coaches and the wider Team BVI delegation, as well as the British Virgin Islands Olympic Committee, British Virgin Islands Athletics Association and other partners whose continued investment contributes to the development of athletes across the Territory.

The Government of the Virgin Islands congratulates Adaejah Hodge, and all members of Team BVI on their representation at the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games and remains committed to supporting the continued development of sport

and Virgin Islands athletes competing at the highest levels regionally and internationally.

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Additional Documents or Media

- [Commonwealth Games Recognition Ceremony Photo 9](#)
- [Commonwealth Games Recognition Ceremony Photo 10](#)
- [Commonwealth Games Recognition Ceremony Photo 11](#)
- [Adaejah Hodge's Mom](#)
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