



Statement by

Premier and Minister of Finance

Honourable Dr. Natalio D. Wheatley

Congratulations to Adaejah Hodge

on her double record-breaking NCAA performance

15 June, 2026

On behalf of the Government and people of The Virgin Islands, I extend warm congratulations to Miss Adaejah Hodge on her extraordinary achievements at the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I Outdoor Track and Field Championships in Eugene, Oregon.

Over the course of three remarkable days, Adaejah delivered performances that will be remembered for generations. Her stunning 10.63 seconds in the 100-meter semifinal set a new collegiate and under-20 world record, surpassing a mark once thought untouchable. She followed this with a breathtaking 21.68 seconds to win the 200-meter national title - shattering the NCAA record and announcing herself as one of the brightest young stars in global athletics.

Adaejah, you have made history. You have lifted The Virgin Islands flag to new heights. And you have inspired Virgin Islanders the world over, who watched with pride as you showed the world the strength, talent, and determination that come from our small but mighty nation.

Your accomplishments remind us that no matter the size of the country you come from, you can step forward with courage and achieve greatness. You are living proof that with discipline, belief, and relentless effort, you can be the master of your destiny. For our young people especially, your journey is a beacon of hope - showing them that their dreams are valid, their goals are within reach, and their future is full of possibility.

The Virgin Islands community celebrates you. We are proud of you. And we are rooting for your continued rise as you carry our Territory's spirit onto the world stage.

May you continue to excel, to inspire, and to shine. The road ahead is bright, and The Virgin Islands stands firmly behind you every step of the way.

With admiration and respect,

Dr. The Hon. Natalio D. Wheatley

Premier