



THE CARIBBEAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES (CAS)

St. Augustine, Trinidad & Tobago.

2nd November 2025.

The Caribbean Academy of Sciences (CAS): Statement on the Passing of Hurricane Melissa and its Catastrophic Impact on Jamaica.

The Caribbean Academy of Sciences (CAS), the leading voice on science and technology for public good in the Caribbean region, expresses serious concern over the devastating effects of Hurricane Melissa, a record-breaking storm that struck the Northern Caribbean.

On October 28th, Hurricane Melissa, classified as a Category 5 hurricane with sustained winds of 185 mph and a central pressure of 892 millibars, made landfall in New Hope, Jamaica. The storm resulted in significant damage, necessitating the evacuation of hospitals, homes, and leading to extensive flooding across several parishes, such as Saint Elizabeth, and the coastal towns of Black River. As the days go by, the widespread devastation caused by Hurricane Melissa becomes increasingly evident. Many residents have been displaced, communities are isolated, and nearly 72% of the island is without electricity. Unfortunately, several fatalities have been reported because of this natural disaster.

The destruction of critical infrastructure, including roads, bridges, and utilities, coupled with the tragic loss of life, is profoundly unsettling for communities and families affected, particularly in Jamaica. The repercussions of such devastation extend far beyond mere physical destruction, as it undermines the very foundations of science and technology in the Caribbean region.

As schools remain closed and laboratories are damaged, the ability to foster innovation and nurture talent is severely impaired. It creates a ripple effect that hinders progress and economic development, leading to long-term implications for the region's resilience and future opportunities in Science and Technology.

The path to recovery from such extensive damage and loss is long and arduous, potentially spanning generations. Hurricane Melissa has presented significant challenges to our region. We commend the resilience and bravery of our citizens and emergency responders as we collectively strive towards recovery and rebuilding.

Science stands as the fulcrum of recovery and rebuilding, and is fundamental in ensuring the resilient future our vulnerable region yearns for.