



WELCOME ADDRESS DELIVERED BY THE PERMANENT SECRETARY
EDUCATION, ESTHER DIDI WALSON-JACK (MRS.) DURING THE
COMMONWEALTH DAY OBSERVANCE HELD ON MONDAY 11TH MARCH,
2024, AT THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF EDUCATION CONFERENCE HALL,
2ND FLOOR, PODIUM.

PROTOCOL

2. Distinguished Government Officials, Honorable Ambassadors, Esteemed Teachers, Respected Guests, amiable Students, Ladies and Gentlemen, I warmly welcome you all to the commemoration of the 2024 Commonwealth observance with the theme " *One Resilient Common Future: Transforming Our Common Wealth*".

3 The 2024 theme as domesticated in the Education sector implies that there must be a focus on nurturing resilience, inclusivity, and sustainability within the education systems globally. It is also a clarion call for all learners to be equipped with the skills, mindset and support systems to overcome obstacles in their academic pursuit.

4. As we stand on the threshold of this significant day, we are reminded of the values that unite us - values of democracy, equality, and respect for diversity. Today, we celebrate not only the strength of our collective endeavor but also the unique contributions that each member nation brings to the table and what we contribute as individuals.

5. Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, there is need for a collective effort towards transforming the education system to address common challenges, promote equity, and ensure the well-being and success of all learners while upholding the Commonwealth ideal.

6. We all know that education is interconnected with broader societal and environmental concerns and needs holistic approaches to cushion the negative effects of obvious challenges like climate change, safety and security, poor learning outcomes, access, and other emerging issues to ensure that learners are fully empowered to thrive in the ever-changing world.

7. Ladies, Gentlemen and my wonderful Students, adopting resilience is very crucial for students to focus effectively on their academic goals, manage stress, anxiety and other negative emotions from academic and personal life.

8. To our esteemed teachers, you play a vital role in shaping the minds and hearts of our youth. Your commitment to education is instrumental in empowering the next generation to become informed and compassionate global citizens. Your tireless efforts in nurturing young minds do not go unnoticed and we are truly grateful for your commitment.

9. Therefore, as we domesticate Commonwealth shared values in all aspects of life while commemorating this day, we must commit ourselves to a brighter future for education. Distinguished Ladies, Gentlemen, Students and Teachers, once again, I wish you a wonderful and joyous Commonwealth Day observance.

10. Thank you.