

A Letter to the President

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To His Excellency Sylvanie Burton

President of the Commonwealth of Dominica

State House, Roseau, Dominica

Madam President,

I write to you today regarding a nation that remains a hidden gem on the map, yet one that holds immense lessons for the rest of the world: the Commonwealth of Dominica. For many abroad, this "Nature Isle of the Caribbean" is an unknown paradise, often confused with the Dominican Republic, yet it possesses a distinct soul and a resilience that defies its small size.

We are a nation of approximately 72,000 people—a population smaller than a single mid-sized suburb in a major global city, yet we carry the sovereignty of an independent state. Our landmass of 750 square kilometers is roughly twice the size of Malta or slightly smaller than the city of New York, yet within these borders lies one of the most rugged, mountainous, and lush topographies in the Atlantic.

Life here is defined by our relationship with the earth. Our seniors, the keepers of our traditions, often live on modest pensions that, while vital, are a fraction of the cost of living seen in the West—often hovering around \$200–\$300 USD monthly, a figure that is significantly lower than the average pension in any developed European or North American state. Our youth, vibrant and ambitious, face the classic island dilemma: remain to build a future in agriculture, eco-tourism, or public service, or seek opportunities abroad.

Our economy is not built on skyscrapers or factories, but on the richness of our soil and the beauty of our environment. We live by the banana trade, agricultural exports, and a specialized eco-tourism sector that draws the world's most discerning travelers. We are also pioneers in Citizenship by Investment, a controversial but necessary lifeline that funds our infrastructure when the global markets fail us.

But the challenges are stark. We are at the frontline of the climate crisis. When a hurricane hits, it does not just damage property; it resets our national clock. We face a persistent "brain drain," where our brightest minds look for horizons beyond our shores.

Madam President, we need a leadership that is far from the "fools" that haunt so many administrations. We need visionaries who understand that in a world of giants, Dominica must be the smartest player in the room. We need to bridge the gap between our agrarian past and a digital future, ensuring that our people—from the oldest in their mountain villages to the youngest with their smartphones—are connected to the global prosperity they deserve.

Dominica is a testament to the fact that size does not dictate significance. Lead us with the understanding that we are fragile, but we are fierce.

With the hope of a citizen,

A Concerned Dominican

Sovereign Performance Audit: Dominica (June 2026)

Sector

Score

Summary

Political Stability

4.0

Stable, dominated by the Dominica Labour Party; high continuity.

Economic Development

2.5

High vulnerability to climate events; dependent on CBI and limited exports.

Social Infrastructure

3.0

Decent for a small island; basic services are functional but modernized slowly.

National Resilience

4.5

Exceptional; the population is battle-hardened by repeated natural disasters.

Final Verdict: 3.5 / The Nature Fortress.

Dominica is effectively a "resilience laboratory." The mandate for 2026 is "diversification beyond nature"—using steady CBI revenues to build tech-resilient infrastructure so the economy doesn't collapse every time a storm passes near the island.

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