



Commonwealth Secretary-General

21 August 2023

Dear Mr Kamara,

This letter is to congratulate on being selected to receive a Special Commendation for the Commonwealth Youth Awards for Excellence in Development Work 2023. The Pan-Commonwealth Adjudication Panel were extremely impressed by your outstanding contribution to development work. As a Special Commendation recipient, you will receive a certificate from the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth.

To celebrate the achievement of you and your peers, the Commonwealth Youth Programme in collaboration with the Queen's Commonwealth Trust (QCT), and will be convening the Commonwealth Youth Awards ceremony on Thursday, 14 September 2023. The Awards Ceremony will unveil one finalist per region as the Regional Winner and one outstanding young person will be crowned Commonwealth Young Person of the Year 2023. Additionally, one lucky person will also receive a special prize from our partners, the Queens Commonwealth Trust. Further information regarding the livestream will be shared in due course.

In celebration of 2023 marking 50 years of the Commonwealth Youth Programme and being declared as the Year of Youth and a year to accelerate youth-led action in sustainable and peaceful development by the Commonwealth Heads of Government, the ceremony will highlight and reward the contributions of 50 young people under 30 who are supporting their communities to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

While 20 of the 50 young people will be recognised as regional finalists, the 2023 Awards will give an additional 30 young people special commendation for their excellence in development work. It is the hope of the Youth Programme that by giving special commendation to 30 individuals for their excellence in development work, that extra international, national and regional support and attention will be given to their initiatives.

In light of the significance of this year in the Commonwealth, the Awards ceremony will:

- Highlight the outstanding contributions young people are making to promote the common goal of a future built on fairness, peace, prosperity and sustainability; and to achieving the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals;
- Create an environment which will encourage and sustain investments in youth-led development;
- Illustrate the depth and breadth of talent, commitment and creativity that exists among young people across the Commonwealth by highlighting nominees' success stories;

- Motivate, encourage and challenge young people to set high standards for their work/service at community, national, regional or international levels; and
- In collaboration with QCT, give special recognition to outstanding young people leading work on social entrepreneurship.

Once again, congratulations on your achievement.

With all good wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patricia Scotland". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Rt Hon Patricia Scotland KC

Mr Foday David Kamara
Commonwealth Youth Awards: Special Commendation