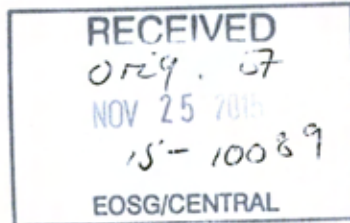


CENTRAL



PRIME MINISTER
AUBERGE DE CASTILLE, VALLETTA, MALTA

17 November 2015

Excellency,

I am delighted that you have confirmed attendance at this year's Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) on 27-29 November 2015, and I look forward to personally welcoming you to Malta.

As you will be aware, the theme of CHOGM this year is 'The Commonwealth: Adding Global Value.' The effort to achieve a polio-free world is one that aligns perfectly with these sentiments. Eradicating polio once and for all will mean that future generations of children will be free of this devastating disease, generating savings of more than US\$ 45 billion and offering a life free of disability to 13 million children, while the international community will long-benefit from the programme's knowledge and experience. We saw first-hand the power of the polio-funded infrastructure last year when Nigeria, faced with a potential epidemic, was enabled to stop the spread of Ebola, and every day the same infrastructure helps strengthen routine immunization, multiplying the impact of the programme.

Your personal support for the cause has been truly remarkable. In August 2015, your congratulations to the Government of Nigeria for its success and your words of reassurance about the global commitment to end polio were heard worldwide and helped prompt me to engage personally and commit to bringing polio eradication on the agenda of CHOGM this year. In 2012, you expressed how polio eradication was going to be one of your top priorities in the coming years, and progress made since then has been unprecedented: Nigeria and Africa have been polio-free for over a year, Pakistan has delivered a major acceleration of progress dividing cases by ten this year, and numerous Commonwealth members have introduced a new vaccine, which will further accelerate progress, in routine immunization.

Making polio just the second human disease in history to be eradicated however, will only be possible if all countries follow through on their financial and political commitments to finish the job and give our full support to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative; an innovative public-private partnership inspired from Rotary International's early leadership in the 1980's, and combining the strengths of Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Rotary, UNICEF, the US CDC and WHO. Nothing can be taken for granted, as we have seen through previous setbacks and outbreaks, but thanks to your leadership, we have the right strategy in place and we know it can be done.

H.E Mr Ban Ki Moon
United Nations Secretary General



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To capitalise on this unique opportunity, on Sunday 29 November between 0930 – 1000, I will host a landmark high-level meeting with the international media to celebrate the results achieved to date and call for a renewal in global support. This event will build on the commitment made four years ago by Commonwealth Heads of Government during CHOGM 2011, which made a major difference in guiding the world's footsteps towards the progress we are seeing today.

As the highest representative of the United Nations who has put the strength of the UN behind polio eradication, it is my privilege to invite you to participate in this important event. Your contribution would give us all an opportunity to celebrate the results achieved, reiterate our commitment to polio eradication, honour the millions of supporters that are mobilised to end polio, and inspire the community of nations to step up their game and finish the job.

I thank you for your personal leadership of polio eradication efforts and hope you are able to join me for this momentous occasion.

Joseph Muscat
Prime Minister of Malta



Ir-Representant Permanenti tar-Repubblika ta' Malta

The Permanent Representative of the Republic of Malta

New York, 25 November 2015

Dear Ms. Malcorra,

I have the honour to enclose herewith the original letter dated 17 November 2015 from the Honourable Dr. Joseph Muscat, Prime Minister of the Republic of Malta addressed to His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations to participate in the high-level meeting with the international media for the Global Polio Eradication Initiative on 29 November 2015, 0930h-1000h in Malta.

I would greatly appreciate your assistance in forwarding the attached letter to its highest destination.

Please accept, Ms. Malcorra, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Christopher Grima
Ambassador

Ms. Susana Malcorra
Chef de Cabinet
Executive Office of the Secretary-General
of the United Nations
Secretariat Building, Room S-3821
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New York, NY 10017