



8th November, 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CONSULATE GENERAL IN NEW YORK CELEBRATES
SVG'S 43RD ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE**

SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES, November 8, 2022 –“We respect you! We see you! And you are contributors to this amazing city we call New York!”

Those were the sentiments echoed by Honourable Mayor Adams as he addressed a crowd of Vincentian nationals gathered at Bowling Green, New York on 27th October, 2022 to witness the inaugural flag raising ceremony in commemoration of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' 43rd Anniversary of Independence.

The event afforded the Consulate General in New York to showcase Vincentian products such as Vincyfresh pepper sauce, marinades and pepper jelly, peanuts, tamarind balls, chocolates, along with wooden and banana crafts by local craftsmen Randy Clarke and Nzimbu respectively which were presented to the Honourable Mayor, New York City Commissioners Mermelstein (International Affairs), Castro (Immigrant Affairs), and Moy (New York State Office of General Services). The Island's artistic skill was also exported as one of Calvert Jones' tropical realism masterpiece was unveiled at the event and gifted to Mayor Adams.

Following the flag raising ceremony, the day culminated in an historic event as persons the world over were able to witness the national colours of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines beaming brightly on the tower of the iconic New York Empire State Building. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines became a sensation in New York City, as the Small Island State which made history by being the first Caribbean nation to have the colours of its national flag adorned the tower of the iconic Empire State Building. A crowd of mixed nationalities gathered to witness this momentous occasion, which was streamed live on the worldwide web. Vincentians reverently and proudly harmoniously blended their voices singing the national anthem of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines as the Empire State Building lights were turned on at 5:58 p.m. The building was kept lit with the national colours until 2:30 a.m. on Friday, 28th October, 2022

This auspicious occasion ushered in a new dawn for our Small Island Developing State and symbolically solidified our resilience, our fortitude, as a people and as a nation.

Other independence activities associated with the Consulate included a Service of Thanksgiving in partnership with the Council of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (COSAGO) Inc., along with an Independence Gala. The Consulate also participated in a Flag Raising Ceremony hosted by the Caribbean Commission Office of International Relations and Diaspora Affairs in partnership with the Newark (New Jersey) Flag Raising Committee.

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For further information, please contact the Department of Foreign Trade within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, Regional Integration and the Diaspora at telephone number 1-784-456 2442 or 1-784-456 2060.



Ambassador Lou Anne Gilchrist and Consul General, Mr. Rony Mc Intosh, assisted with the flag raising to commemorate the 43rd Independence Anniversary of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines



Inaugural Flag Raising ceremony held by the SVG Consulate in New York to commemorate the 43rd Independence Anniversary of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines



Lighting of the New York Empire State Building in the national colours of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in commemoration of the 43rd Independence Anniversary. The Empire State Building was lit from 5:58 p.m. on Thursdays 27th October, 2022 to Friday 28th October at 2:30 a.m.



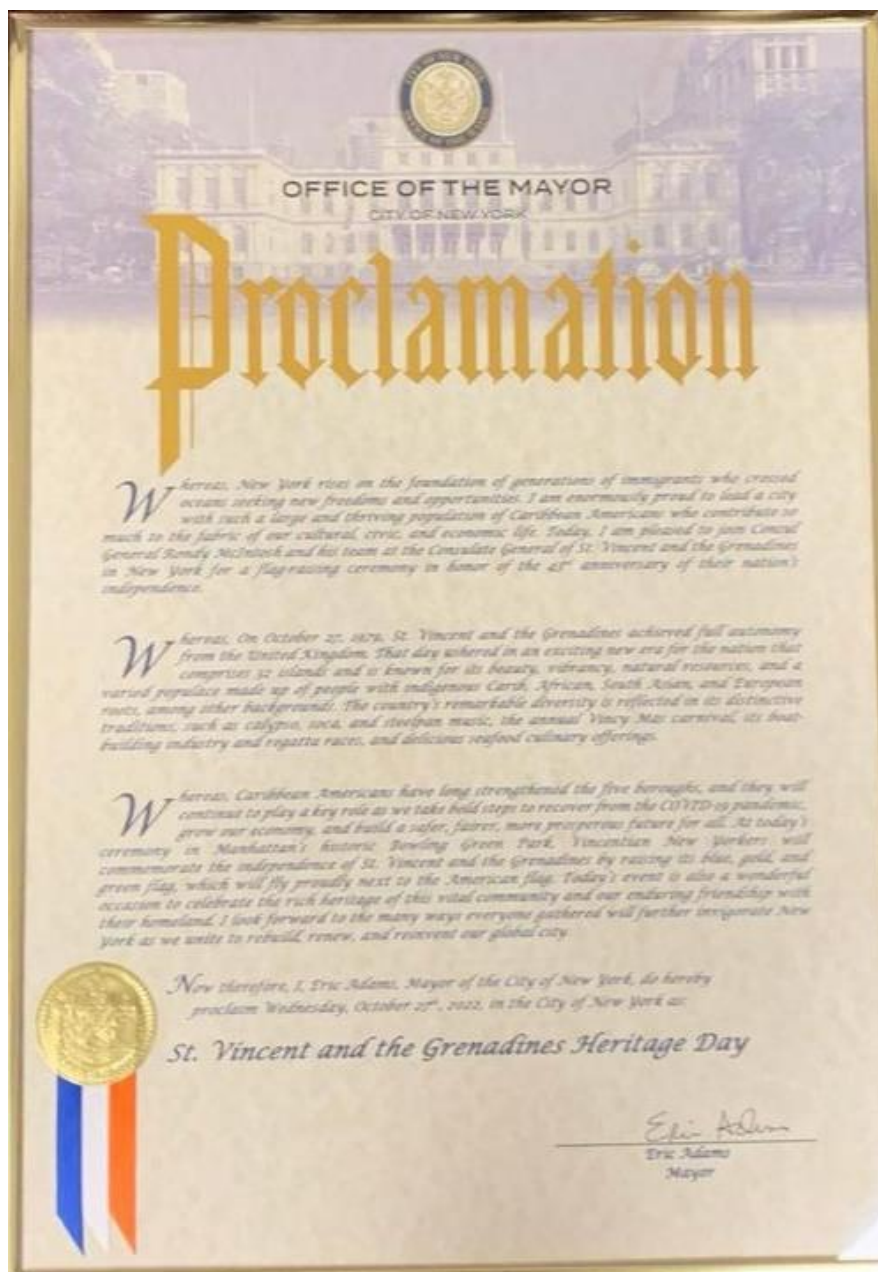
Consul General, Mr. Rony Mc Intosh demonstrating the appropriate way of folding and wearing a bandana in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The wearing of bandana is a cultural trend in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.



As a token of appreciation, SVG Consulate General presented a painting to Mayor Adams, New York City. Painting was done by Mr. Calvert Jones, Vincentian Artist.



Commissioner Moya received a wooden plaque on behalf of Governor Kathy Hochul, New York City from the SVG Consulate, New York. The plaque was handcrafted by Vincentian Craftsman Randy Clarke.



Proclamation by the Office of the Mayor City of New York. The 27th of October will be observed as St. Vincent and the Grenadines' Heritage Day in New York City



Ambassador Lou Anne Gilchrist and Consul General Mr. Rondy McIntosh receiving proclamation by Mayor Adams (Centre) to observed 27th October, 2022 as St. Vincent and the Grenadines Heritage Day.