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***An anthology showcasing the perspectives of young Vincentians on topics related to trade, bilateral/regional/multilateral diplomacy and consular affairs.***

***The publication is in recognition of 40 years of independence in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.***

## What are the benefits of social media to business and trade development?



Essay written by Ajani Dyer

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School

*Since social media is accessible to everyone all night and day, then it provides a place to spawn conversations about a brand or product and the competitors.*

Social media are forms of electronic communication where users create online communities to share information, ideas, messages, and other content as texts, pictures and videos. These include Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, Snapchat and many more. In this modern world, social media has become a part of people's everyday lives. Therefore, many businesses have latched on social media in their operations. With bad choices, social media can hinder progress. However, if used wisely, social media can be a powerful tool for business and trade development. In this essay, the benefits of social media to business and trade development shall be discussed.

First, social media marketing increases opportunities for businesses to spread information about their products. According to Ankit Jain (2017), consumers increasingly conduct online research before buying. Not only do they look for the items and services they need online, but they look for perceptions, preferences and purchases of other buyers. Since social media is accessible to everyone all night and day, then it provides a place to spawn conversations about a brand or product and the competitors. Such conversations can create interest in businesses and encourage shoppers to investigate and then buy. When this happens, there is more trade and businesses grow more because of the increase in profits. For example, a recent strategy developed by Walmart in the United States of America was to create a "Share" vs "Like" post on FaceBook so that consumers can offer their opinion on items. After one month Walmart received a 650% increase in visits to the online store. Since more items were purchased and had to be 'shipped' to the buyers, not only did the business make more money but trade also increased. As trade increased, then a wider range of methods and strategies had to be used to get the goods to persons on time, thereby leading to trade development. In this way, business and trade development take place.

Second, businesses can locate materials and workers using social media. Long ago, business owners in small countries like St. Vincent and the Grenadines had to depend on local stores to import and sell them raw materials for their products. Often, these products were not the correct quantity or quality needed. Or, the owners of small businesses had to travel overseas to source raw materials for his production, and this was expensive and time consuming. Nowadays, businesses source raw materials online, advertise for experts to work in their businesses and obtain online assistance through discussions with people on social media. These new developments have reduced production cost significantly and provide new ideas, and so increase profits. In this way, social media would help businesses produce better quality products which can lead to more profits. Also, trade will advance because of the interactions among customs, transport, and customers.

Finally, social media help businesses to build real relationships with their customers. When businesses follow very popular sites such as YouTube and Pinterest, they see what their customers prefer and supply them what they want. For example, YouTube keeps track of their customers routines, so when they use their account, the businesses get the data. If the business constantly provides what the customers what they want, then, they acquire loyal customers. Some people may argue that social media allows bad remarks to spread quickly. However, businesses can use this to correct mistakes and help their customers; this will also support customer loyalty. Therefore, business and trade will develop.

## What are the benefits of social media to business and trade development?

In conclusion, social media helps business and trade to grow nationally and internationally. Social media informs more people about businesses and products. It also helps businesses to communicate with their customers and other persons looking for the product or service. When business develops, trade develops too.

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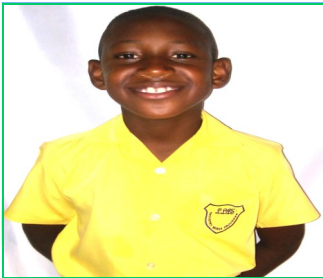


Essay written by Ajani Dyer

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School

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## **An essential document for travel is the passport. Explain why it is necessary to have a passport.**



Essay written by  
Jhamari Henry

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*A passport is essential  
to gain visa free access  
to specific countries that  
have given a visa waiver  
to your country.*

“Ok class let’s see who knows the answer to this one” said Mrs. Mitchell, who was up to one of her usual Trivia games. She continued, “riddle me this, riddle me that, what is the most important thing you need before travelling?” Jaquan got up and said “a plane ticket!” Lisa shouted “lots of money” and Shanette yelled “a suitcase with plenty pretty clothes.” The entire class burst out with laughter and Mrs. Mitchell shook her head in amusement. Jhamari sat there with a clever smirk on his face then shot his hand in the air and said “it has to be your passport!” Mrs. Mitchell smiled from ear to ear and responded, “Jhamari, you are so right, the passport is indeed the most essential document for travel.”

According to the Oxford English Dictionary, a passport is “an official document issued by a government certifying the holder’s identity and citizenship and entitling them to travel under its protection to and from foreign countries.” Passports are very important especially if you like to travel. A passport is an important document because it contains truthful information about the holder that foreign countries would need to know. When travelling from one country to another, a passport is required to gain access to the borders of that country. A passport also keeps records of your travel history and you can see this when you flip the pages to view the entry and exit stamps placed on the pages of your passport.

Another reason why it is necessary to have a passport is to prove your identity. Everyone has a nationality and a passport is one of the documents that visibly show where you come from and give you that sense of belonging. A passport proves that you are a legal citizen of a particular country so if your citizenship is ever in question, a passport will help to clear up all confusion.

Additionally, a passport is essential to gain visa free access to specific countries that have given a visa waiver to your country. For example, a Vincentian can travel to South Korea without a Visa for up to ninety days while visa requirements in countries such as America restrict Vincentians from travelling to that country without a Visa. All in all, even in cases where a visa is required to travel to another country, a passport is still the first document that is reviewed before you can begin the visa process.

Mrs. Mitchell finally concluded, “so class, you see why a passport is of tremendous importance? It is essential for travel purposes, identifying oneself as a citizen of a country as well as taking advantage of certain benefits like visa free access. Therefore, a passport must be your first priority if you want to travel. Before you get that ticket or that suitcase or even that money, make sure you get that passport.”

## An essential document for travel is the passport. Explain why it is necessary to have a passport.

According to the Webster's dictionary, a passport is defined as 'an official document permitting a person to pass or travel from one country or another'. It is normally issued by the government of the country where the person is a citizen. It is a legal document which identifies and certifies the person who owns the passport.

A passport contains personal information such as the name and signature, gender, a picture and the date of birth of the holder. It will also show the date of issue and expiry date of the passport. Some passports will even show the city and town where the person was born. All passports will have a unique number which identifies the holder and many blank pages which are used to stamp the countries visited.

So why is it necessary to have a passport? Well, I have had my passport since I was a baby. My main reason for having it is for travelling. I love to visit other countries and see new places. Most persons who own passports do the same thing as I do. They travel mainly for vacations. You can learn a lot when you are able to travel and see other parts of the world. Some persons travel for work and business reasons. My parents do that all the time. Other persons travel for school or medical reasons. Whatever the reason, it is very important to have a passport even if you don't plan to travel right away. You never know when an opportunity will come up and you will need to be prepared.

I learnt also that a passport really shows proof of your citizenship. When you travel, the Customs and Immigration Departments always check to verify that you are a legal citizen of the country you are representing. When a passport is stamped in another country, it is saying that you were approved to visit that country. Some persons may be citizens of more than one country and hold more than one passport. Some countries will also require a visa to enter, this is often stuck into your passport, so it can be checked when you travel.

A passport is also used as one of the most reliable forms of identification, because it is government issued, and is only stamped or verified by officials. A passport is issued by the government of the individual's country and is almost impossible to forge. This is because of the unique layout of every country's passport and the indicators placed inside, such as the ID number. It is also useful for identifying citizens because it is the only form of ID that is issued to minors without cause of requirement. This makes a passport a secure form of identification, both inside and outside of the country's borders. Also, while governments are not familiar with issued identification cards in every country worldwide, a passport is unmistakable and can be used to alert authorities of an international presence or threat.

Whatever the reason, travel is made easier with the use of a passport. With the rise in passport forgeries and other illegal activities, passports are now being issued with a lot of safety features including finger prints and retinal prints. I learnt this only when researching this topic. I think very soon, we would not be able to travel at all without this safety document in place.



Essay written by  
Jodee G. Glasgow

Bishop's College  
Kingstown

*With the rise in passport forgeries and other illegal activities, passports are now being issued with a lot of safety features including finger prints and retinal prints.*

## **An essential document for travel is the passport. Explain why it is necessary to have a passport.**



Essay written by  
Jair Patrick

St. Vincent Grammar  
School

*My passport is a blue book that I can use to take me all over the world. The airport is a gateway to many countries and my passport is the key.*

An essential document for travel is the passport. According to the Oxford Dictionary a passport is “an official document issued by a government, certifying the person’s identity and citizenship and entitling them to travel under its protection to and from foreign countries.”

My passport is a blue book that I can use to take me all over the world. The airport is a gateway to many countries and my passport is the key. It was issued by the Immigration Office in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. My passport contains information such as my name, date and place of birth, nationality, place and date the passport was issued, signature, passport number and my picture. My passport is a machine readable passport making it difficult to be counterfeited.

The passport is a very important document and is essential when travelling for: identification, proof of citizenship, entrance into a foreign country and keeping track of where you have travelled to name a few. Identification is the proving of a person’s identity in the form of official documents. My passport is a reliable source of identification. Having this form of identification is very important, it tells you who you are and where you are from. Additionally, if you get sick or have some sort of emergency while in foreign country you can easily get assistance in that country, especially if there is a consular office in that country. Citizenship is the position or status of being a citizen of a particular country. A passport is generally issued by the Government proving citizenship and it is almost impossible to obtain a passport without being a citizen. According to an Immigration Officer “one of the government’s policies is that Vincentian citizenship cannot be bought or sold”.

To travel is to move from one place to another by various means of transport. If you plan to travel to many countries it is important to have a passport so that you can be granted access into the countries. The passport is one of the documents that is requested before entering a foreign country. Additionally, it is almost impossible to travel without a passport. The passport contains pages that are stamped by the countries visited and the dates of entry and departure. This is a good indication of the countries you would have travelled to and the date and countries that you have not yet visited.

In conclusion, we all need to travel for one reason or the other whether for vacation, education, business or medical purposes. A passport is a very essential travel document usually issued by a country’s government. It is regarded as one of if not the most important document a citizen should possess. When travelling it is important to have in your possession a valid passport to avoid delays and inconvenience. Having a passport gives you a true sense of identity of who you are and your nationality. It also allows you to leave and enter other countries in a safe manner. According to the Immigration Officer, “the passport is a very important document and should not be tampered with”. It should be kept in a safe and secure place. An important feature of the passport is that it is machine readable making it difficult to be counterfeited.

## **'A Day in the Life'. Imagine you are your country's Foreign Minister for a day, which countries will you build a relationship with and why?**

As a Brownie Guide, I am always excited to celebrate International Day of the Girl Child on October 11<sup>th</sup> every year. I enjoy singing at campfires and being encouraged by my sisters in guiding. I enjoy this day so much that I would love to be Foreign Minister on this day.

On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2019, the day celebrated all over the world as International Day of the Girl Child, I will be Minister of Foreign Affairs in my country, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. I will be the first female Minister of Foreign Affairs. As Minister of Foreign Affairs, it is very important to build friendships with other countries in the world but I want to make sure that these friendships benefit my country.

There are one hundred and ninety five countries in the world and SVG already has relations with about 130. This speaks very well for my country which has built strong bonds of friendship. As a female Foreign Minister who is passionate about female empowerment, education and the environment, I will seek to build friendships with countries in these special areas.

On Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2019, Her Royal Highness, the Duchess of Cornwall visited my country. She is the Patron or President of over ninety charities; and is passionate about literacy and empowering women. Her visit inspired me as well as Ranger Guide Betricia Stowe who won a women's rights competition to become the High Commissioner of Canada for a day. I will build better relationships with England and Canada to do more work to empower our girls and young women.

In Dominica, the Dominica Labour Party recently launched a 50/50 slate of candidates for their elections – an equal number of women and men. Mia Mottley is Barbados's first female Prime Minister. Women are doing great things worldwide and Iceland is one country that has done well with women. Almost half of its parliamentarians are women and there is also a female Prime Minister. In my country, we never had a female Prime Minister and we hardly have women in politics. We need to learn some lessons from these countries and I will work for better friendships with these countries.

I will build friendships with Finland and Iceland because they are two of the greenest countries in the world. The education system in Finland is also very good. Iceland has volcanoes and hot springs like SVG. The capital of Iceland runs on geothermal power. I would like to deepen the bonds of friendship which were formed on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2004. In my country, the Government is using the volcano to do a geo-thermal energy project and in my country we have even banned styrofoam products. We can learn from Iceland.

Also, in my country there is education for all but I want my country to be known as one of the top countries in the world for education and so I will build better relationships with Finland. We already have relations with them since 11<sup>th</sup> September 2007.

My country has so many friendships already and the people benefit a lot. I hope that my special areas would allow more benefits for my country and people as I become Minister of Foreign Affairs for a day.



Essay written by  
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*The capital of Iceland runs on geothermal power. I would like to deepen the bonds of friendship which were formed on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2004. In my country, the Government is using the volcano to do a geo-thermal energy project...*



## **ENVOYS CATEGORY TOP FIVE AWARDS**

**1ST PLACE**

**MISS AJANI DYER**



**2ND PLACE**

**MR. JHAMARI HENRY**

**3RD PLACE**

**MISS JODEE GLASGOW**

**4TH PLACE**

**MR. JAIR PATRICK**

**5TH PLACE**

**MISS TYLER MATTHIAS**

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The Digicel logo, featuring the word 'Digicel' in white, bold, sans-serif font, centered within a solid red square.



## Vincentian citizenship cannot be bought or sold.

We live in a world where everything seems to have a price tag. EBay confidently tells us “Whatever it is, you can get it on eBay. Buy it, sell it, love it.” A professional match-maker boldly advertises the price of love as her ‘finder’s’ fee. Pastors piously proclaim the price of a confirmed ticket to heaven as the cost of a luxury motor vehicle; after all, God wants only the best. Even an Ivy League school education is no longer just hard work and tuition but rather whatever the going rate of a bribe might be. Today, we live in a world where price is confusingly equated to value and there is something seriously wrong when it is a credit card company which has to remind us that there are some things money can’t buy. Gratefully, one of those things remains a Vincentian citizenship.

Some governments have priced the citizenship of the countries they were elected to govern as a \$150,000.00 investment in the country’s economy. However, when the wise words of our Prime Minister Honorable Dr. Ralph Gonsalves echoes through my mind, I am thankful and proud that I am Vincentian; “The highest office in the land is that of a citizen, higher than Prime Minister, it is not a commodity for sale, and the passport is the outward sign of the inward grace of citizenship, and that too is not for sale.”

According to ‘corpocrat.com,’ buying citizenship began when the tiny island of Saint Kitts and Nevis, in 1984, introduced what is now the oldest economic citizenship program. The Commonwealth of Dominica followed Saint Kitts and Nevis introducing a citizenship by investment scheme in the 1990’s. As the other Caribbean countries slowly began joining the ‘economic citizenship’ market, our Prime Minister, Honorable Dr. Ralph Gonsalves stated, repeatedly, that he had no intention of taking his country down that path. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines remains the only one of six sovereign states in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean states (OECS) that does not offer a citizenship by investment program. This is a clear recognition of the true value of the Vincentian citizenship.

Citizenship as defined by dictionary.com is the position or status of being a citizen or national of a particular country. Legally, it means that as a member, you have the rights, privileges and duties of said country for your lifetime. You get to vote, and basically a lot of freedoms that non-citizens do not have. You have the freedom to participate in politics, work, access to education and healthcare. You must also contribute to the economic growth and development of the country of your citizenship by paying taxes. Citizenship guarantees stability and certainty for every citizen, as you cannot without proper reason be deprived of your citizenship (Article 15 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights). Every citizen has the right to be protected by their country. This is done through its embassy or consulate even when you are abroad. Although as a citizen you have the right to hold a passport, citizenship is far more than just this book of papers.

True citizenship cannot really be bought or sold simply because it involves the way you treat other citizens, the compassion and loyalty you have for your country and the respect you have for the laws and higher heads such as the president and prime minister. This all creates a sense of belonging, togetherness and very strong feelings of pride.



Essay written by  
Milan Compton

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School

*The highest office in the  
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inward grace..*

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Essay written by  
Milan Compton

St. Vincent Girls' High  
School

*We boast lush vegetation, cascading waterfalls, magnificent mountain ranges and relaxing black sand beaches all unique and special to us as Vincentians. Once you become a citizen of SVG, you are now a part of our society.*

Courage also plays a significant part in citizenship; people such as Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Martin Luther King Jr., Joseph Chatoyer and Susan B. Anthony all have had the courage to change the rules to achieve peace and justice. Joseph Chatoyer specifically is from Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and he left a great mark on us all as citizens.

On March 14<sup>th</sup> every year, we celebrate 'National Hero's Day' in memory of Joseph Chatoyer. He was a Carib chief who led a revolt against the British colonial government of Saint Vincent in 1795. Killed that year, he is now considered a national hero of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and also of Belize and Costa Rica. Vincentian politician Honorable Camillo Gonsalves described him in 2011 as this country's "sole national hero". He showed great bravery in the face of adversity and an unwavering love for his country and his people. We have a great respect for him and that is something only a true citizen would respect and understand. In my opinion, respect, courage and compassion are all qualities of citizenship that can never be bought or sold.

Understandably, a lot of people want to be a citizen of our nation because of our heritage and rich culture. There are thirty two islands and cays which make up our beautiful country of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. We boast lush vegetation, cascading waterfalls, magnificent mountain ranges and relaxing black sand beaches all unique and special to us as Vincentians. Once you become a citizen of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, you are now a part of our society. A society that is said to have 'The hottest carnival in the Caribbean,' 'the best Regatta in the world,' 'the best sailing waters' and 'the friendliest people ever created'. These are all things we Vincentians are proud of. As a Vincentian citizen you are free to enjoy all that we have to offer for the rest of your life. You must therefore properly earn that citizenship. It cannot just be thrown around carelessly; it cannot be bought or sold. Once you earn it, you will definitely be proud of it.

Like most things in life, the sale of citizenship has pros as well as cons. One of the greatest pros which countries who subscribe to this policy boast about is an increase of capital and investments coming into the country. However, I believe that the cons far outweigh this, especially if we look at the bigger picture and not just at the here and now. For me, the ends certainly do not justify the means. For example, if you sell the citizenship of your country, often times travel restrictions are placed on the citizens of said country by other countries who do not trust the policy of selling citizenship. As such the passport suffers devaluation and true citizens of the country suffer since their movement abroad is restricted. Blacklisting is also another disadvantage of selling citizenship. Blacklisting, as stated by Wikipedia, is the action of a group or authority, compiling a blacklist (or black list) of people, countries or other entities to be avoided or distrusted as not being acceptable to those who prepare the list.

The Searchlight newspaper article titled "SVG not included on OECD 'golden passport' blacklist" dated October 19, 2018 states that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is the only independent country in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) which has not been included on a blacklist of countries whose "golden passport" schemes are said to "threaten international efforts to combat tax evasion." Caribbean countries such as Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St Lucia, and St Kitts and Nevis are the five

## Vincentian citizenship cannot be bought or sold.

independent OECS nations on the list because of selling citizenship. Selling citizenship is making money, but Prime Minister Dr. Gonsalves is keeping his word that he will not begin citizenship by investment. I am troubled when the opposition, the New Democratic Party (NDP) states strongly that they will begin to do so if the party wins the next General Elections. When you buy or sell citizenship, citizenship loses its meaning and quite frankly its value as well.

In Saint Vincent and the Grenadines citizenship is not by race or culture and hopefully it will never be by wealth. It is by birth (mi nabel string bury right yah), descent (mi mooma or pooa nabel string bury yah), marriage (fo mi husband or wife nabel string bury yah) or registration (mi foot dem propally plant yah and mi wish mi nabel string been bury right yah too). To be totally honest, the real reason we should never put a price on our citizenship is because a 'nabel' string will always be priceless. If you don't know what a 'nabel' (colloquial term for navel) string is, then you really have no right having Vincentian citizenship anyway.



Essay written by  
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## CSME — Is it working?



Essay written by  
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*Articles 45 and 46 deal with the Member State's commitment to the goal of free movement of the nationals within the community and includes the elimination of the need for passports for community nationals travelling to their destinations...*

The CARICOM Single Market and the Economy, is a brave commitment by members of the Caribbean Community, to deepen regional economic integration and to strengthen the region's ability to cope with the reality of globalization. The objective of this agreement is to create and maintain a single economic space by removing the physical, legal, fiscal and technical barriers so one is able to move freely in order to obtain employment, move capital, start a business, move goods and offer services between the countries of CARICOM. The decision to form the CSME was made in 1989, however, the agreement contained in the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas, establishing the Caribbean Community including the CARICOM Single Market and Economy was signed by Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community on July 5<sup>th</sup> 2001 at the 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Conference in Nassau, The Bahamas. At the time of this research paper there were fifteen countries that are members of the community and they are grouped under the headings of 'Less Developed Countries' and 'More Developed Countries', as governed by Articles 3-5. These member states are: Saint Lucia, Barbados, St. Kitts and Nevis, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Montserrat, Belize, Jamaica, Suriname, The Bahamas, Antigua and Barbuda, Trinidad and Tobago and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The CSME has several objectives, among these are: expansion of trade and economic relations with third states, improved standards of living and work, full employment of labour and other factors of production, accelerated, sustained and coordinated economic development and convergence, and enhanced levels of international competitiveness.

The CSME seeks to expand trade and economic relations with third states. The expectation is for this objective to be achieved with the implementation of the free movement of goods and services among member states. According to the revised Treaty, "goods refer to all kinds of property other than real property, money, securities or choses in action". All goods from the CSME receive duty-free treatment upon entering into other member countries and a common external tax is imposed on non-members entering this free trade area. Articles 82-95 outline the details of the common external tariff. These articles state that the members of the community shall establish and maintain a common external tariff in respect of all goods which do not qualify for community treatment in accordance with plans and schedules set out in relevant determinations of Council for Trade and Economic Development.

Improved standards of living and work is a goal of the CSME. This impacts the free movement of people as it removes the need for work permits for university graduates, artisans, artistes, media personnel, sports personnel, self-employed personnel, technical, managerial and supervisory staff. The ability of one to move freely within the community will increase employment and ultimately improve the standard of living for persons within the CSME. This is because individuals from different member States with their various skills could introduce efficient working habits and will also create opportunities for other members, therefore, improving the standard of living and work. Articles 45 and 46 deal with the member state's commitment to the goal of free movement of the nationals within the community and includes the elimination of the need for passports for community nationals travelling to their destinations, the elimination of work permits, the establishment of mechanism for certifying and establishing equivalency of degrees and for accredited institutions and the harmonization and transferability of social security benefits.

## CSME — Is it working?

Pivotal to the CSME is the full employment of all the factors of production. Article 30 clearly addresses establishment, services, capital and movement of community nationals within the community. Articles 32-36 prohibit restrictions on the right of establishment; which include, the right to set up and operate different types of business organizations to provide goods and services, provision of services and the movement of capital. The latter includes payment of interest on loans, investments and transfers. A national of a CSME member state is able to travel to another CSME member state to receive a service and CARICOM based companies have the right to establish the company in other member states that are under the same terms as local companies are able to go back and forth without a work permit. The free movement of capital removes the need for foreign exchange control among the members and it permits free convertibility of currencies. An ongoing goal is to make a regional capital market and stock exchange.

According to the Revised Treaty, the CSME also seeks to have accelerated, sustained and coordinated economic development and convergence among members of the community. The benefits of this grouping include increased production and trade in goods and services, opportunities for work and study within the region, growth in the levels of employment and improvement in the standard of living within the CARICOM region, competitive products and market opportunities that extend beyond one's member state. In addition, member states seek to enhance the level of international competitiveness. To date significant achievements have already been made through the combination of all the objectives as member states improve local standards of living and are able to compete in the international arena in various ways.

Arguably, despite these strides since its implementation there still remains room for improvement and this was voiced by 2018 CARICOM Chairman, Dr. Keith Mitchell of Grenada. Dr. Mitchell uncovered the plan by the Heads of the Government of the community to accelerate the implementation of the CSME as it was being heavily criticized by member states who described the progress as stagnated. This was supported by President David Granger at the CARICOM Inter-Sessional meeting in Guyana in early 2018. The then Chairman cited the need to fully implement the CSME if the grouping was to escape the economic downfall in today's global environment. We have been exposed to other sentiments across the region that the free movement of people has been met with abuse of human rights, complications with hassle free travel, xenophobic profiling and discrimination. The Shannique Myrie case is used as a point of reference.

Shannique Myrie a Jamaica national endured a humiliating vaginal search and was eventually deported when she attempted to enter Barbados according to the Jamaica Gleaner. Another area of contention is in relation to the free movement of goods which generally is meeting the objectives of the CSME, however there is also the impact of goods produced within the OECS and the distinction with that produced by the wider grouping or CSME.

Overall, quite a lot of gains have been realized from the CSME but there is a need to strengthen and support further implementation as highlighted by Dr. Keith Mitchell with the adoption of, ".... legal and institutional measures to support the free movement of goods, services, skills and cross border establishment of businesses." He also gave a



Essay written by  
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School

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commitment on behalf of the Heads of Government to review the progress regularly to ensure that the benefits of this important aspect of our integration are accruing to our citizens, in an excerpt in the OECS Business Focus.

The CSME, defined by its objectives has created the expansion of trade and economic relations with third states, improved standards of living and work, full employment of labour and other factors of production, accelerated, sustained and coordinated economic development and convergence, and enhanced levels of international competitiveness. It is therefore working but requires constant monitoring and support for its further advancement.

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5. Business Focus, OECS, January/March 2018, Issue No. 8



## Vincentian Citizenship cannot be bought or sold.

To be a citizen of a country means you are a member of a particular country, or have the rights to live in that place. A citizen therefore has certain duties and responsibilities along with rights and privileges. This means that citizens are entitled to certain freedoms and rights that non-citizens of a country do not have. Two such rights are: the right to vote and the right to own a passport. One important question which can be asked is, if one legally holds a passport to another country can he or she truly be called a citizen?

Typically, a passport is a document issued by a country to its citizens; so if one holds passports from several countries, it usually implies that person is a citizen of several countries. In St. Vincent and the Grenadines, the following categories of persons may apply for a passport, persons who were born in St Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) or whose parents were born in SVG, and who have registered as citizens of SVG (marriage/grandchildren).

Can I assert that the holder of a Vincentian passport; a “citizen” is duty bound to be patriotic to SVG. If this is the case, can someone who has the opportunity to buy a passport share such a patriotic spirit as those whose foreparents established our great nation? To buy a passport would also mean they would have to buy the intense love and passion that we have for St. Vincent and the Grenadines which is frankly impossible as there is no figure great enough for such a transaction. An example of this love and passion was demonstrated by our only national hero, Paramount Chief; His Excellency Rt. Honorable Chief Joseph Chatoyer.

An examination of the journey of His Excellency Rt. Honorable Chief Joseph Chatoyer is useful at this point. First of all, His Excellency showed that he was a good citizen by being very loyal to the country of his birth. He showed great concern for his motherland. His Excellency saw his country above everything. He was always ready to protect his country each time there was a need to do so. His Excellency was not only prepared to risk his life for the sake of his motherland; he risked it. The ultimate sacrifice was made for our country, the chief gave his life protecting our nation (his homeland). His Excellency’s allegiance was to this one country with no divided loyalties.

Discussing the business of allegiance to one’s country, David McKenzie in an August 2013 article stated that “allegiance to more than one country at once is akin to disloyalty and cheating, and if you want to love a new country you have to give up any allegiance to your old one”.

McKenzie goes on to explain that “On both the theoretical and symbolic levels, dual citizenship poses a problem, as countries are quite protective when it comes to the political loyalty of their citizens. In the event of a conflict between obligations owed to two states, it is not clear what the person with dual citizenship would do...On the symbolic level, however, dual citizenship is a sign that the attachment to either country is potentially compromised by other ties.”

Citizenship can be obtained through birth, marriage and naturalization. Additionally, it can be obtained by purchase. According to Antigua, “Citizenship by Investment (also known as economic citizenship) is the granting of citizenship status to an individual (and immediate family members) contingent upon a specified and quantifiable investment in the country”. There may be several benefits to such an agreement to both the



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individual (s) and the country. As it relates to the individual (s) they gain citizenship to another country, which allows them certain rights and privileges. Such rights and privileges are: the right to work without a permit, the right to vote and the right to own land/property. Being citizens, they are also afforded the right to come and go as they please. There are also benefits to the country that sells its citizenship such as the gaining of income through the investment made by persons. However, this gain in income is not only limited to the economic citizenship deal. Due to the fact that these persons may become positive contributors to the society and invest in local businesses.

There are also disadvantages of selling ones citizenship. Firstly, the true intentions of the investor may not be disclosed. This means that there is a potential to attract criminal elements who would use our country as safe place to escape the judicial system of their homeland which then has the possibility to have our country placed on a blacklist by global organizations such as the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. An example of this is when St. Kitts and Nevis was placed on the OECD blacklist as a tax haven and had to review their investment by citizenship scheme and some policies had to be revised. Secondly, even though the government stands to gain income initially there is no guarantee that these citizens will be positive contributors to our society. They may not work in the country they gain citizenship in or if they do decide to contribute they may not bank their earnings in our country which may allow them tax exemption which ordinary citizens would have to pay. Also, if they decide to work and be positive contributors there is no guarantee that they will hire Vincentian citizens if the program is implemented here. They may opt to hire citizens of their homeland which would mean Vincentians may lose jobs they are capable of doing and only gain income from these individuals indirectly.

Thirdly, the diplomatic ties can possibly be fractured and citizenship by investment can create a bad reputation for our country. Meaning, if citizens from a particular country are banned from entering another country due to a political disputes, citizens from opposing sides may seek to attain new citizenship in our country as a form of hiding their true nationality. When this happens, it may appear as if our country is favoring sides in a dispute which can lead to the dissolution of trade deals with certain countries. Also, countries may enforce stricter regulations on our country as it relates to travelling or migrating. It may appear as if citizens of our country are travelling frequently or migrating in large numbers to a particular destination, however it maybe because of "citizenship by investment" using our passport as a back door into countries they previously could not enter which in turn causes nationals to suffer a great injustice.

Seeing that St. Vincent and the Grenadines is Christian oriented nation it would be wise to draw inspiration from the great book. The Book of Genesis speaks of the relationship between fraternal twins Jacob and Esau, sons of Isaac and Rebekah, focusing on Esau's loss of his birthright to Jacob and the conflict that ensued between their descendant nations because of Jacob's deception of their aged and blind father, Isaac, in order to receive Esau's birthright/blessing from Isaac. If Vincentians were to lose certain rights due to "citizenship by investment" there could always be a constant conflict between the two sides just as the descendants of Jacob and Esau. Also, it states IN Mark 8:36 for what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his soul. What shall it profit St. Vincent and the Grenadines to gain income from selling its citizenship but lose self-respect and dignity when the time comes for her to stand up in the international arena for what is good and proper.

## How can the alliance of Small Island States develop strategic action plans to address the future of climate change within SIDS such as SVG?

“Being the most active regional grouping under the UNFCCC, the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) was established in 1990 under the leadership of the Maldives and Trinidad and Tobago, at the second World Climate Conference in Geneva. This move was intended to consolidate the voices of Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) in the international arena, given their relatively similar development challenges and extreme vulnerability to climate change (especially sea level rise)” quoted by the [climateobserver.org](http://climateobserver.org). The AOSIS is an intergovernmental organization of low-lying coastal and small island countries. As the existence of many AOSIS states are put at risk by climate change, AOSIS has threatened lawsuits. In this essay, listing, developing and discussing three main strategic plans that can be used to address the future of climate change within small-island developing states such as, our dear country, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, will be portrayed.

But first, before diving into these strategic plans, one question that may arise in one's mind when reading the topic statement may be, ‘What is Climate Change?’ Well, according to Australian Academy of Science, ‘Climate Change is a change in the pattern of weather and related changes in oceans, land surfaces and ice sheets, occurring over time scales of decades or even longer. It is a change in the statistical properties of the climate system. These properties include averages, variability and extremes. Climate change may be due to natural processes, such as changes in the sun's radiation, volcanoes or internal variability in the climate system, or due to human influences such as changes in the composition of the atmosphere or land use. Climate is determined by many factors that influence flows of energy through the climate system, including greenhouse gases’.

In the Caribbean, amongst the small islands, it is quite difficult to describe how a region will be affected by climate change, much less a single island. Our islands are quite vulnerable and most scientists expect the region to experience, higher temperatures, lower rainfall (especially from June to October) and a rise in sea level.

After hearing about such major harmful effects that climate change has had and still continues to have on most of our Caribbean Islands, there are three strategic plans that have been brought to attention through which the Alliance of Small Island States can use to address future climate change within these Small Island States. These plans include hosting annual conferences among the small countries, creating workshops to educate the people about this major problem called ‘climate change’ and implementing new policies in order to change the attitude of most people which in turn negatively impacts others globally.

To address the future of climate change, AOSIS can indeed host annual conferences among the SIDS. By having such meetings either through teleconferencing or physically in contact with each other, members will be able to discuss and strategize ideas for possible upcoming natural disasters. In order for this idea to be put into active motion, all members or an assigned leader should work along or get on board with the weather forecasting agencies for any weather and climatic updates. Through this method, members within the conference will be able to gain an early ‘heads-up’ about the changing climate and possible actions that can be taken to prevent the full impact of climate change on our neighbouring small islands in the Caribbean.

The second method that can be used to address the future of climate change is to create workshops to educate the public about this major problem called climate change. We can inform the public on strategizing for climate change for instance, advise citizens of the country to always secure one or more containers of water (our main source of life),



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always have an emergency kit (or first aid kit) nearby in case of any emergencies and always keep up-to-par with the surrounding environment or any change in the weather patterns. We can also encourage citizens to look out for each other concerning our change in climate. It is time for everyone to work together and bury the selfish behavior because working together can make a greater difference and even a better achievement towards addressing the impact of climate change on our people and livelihood.

Lastly, the final method that came to mind about addressing the future of climate change is implementing new policies in order to change the attitude of most people which in turn negatively impacts others globally. By implementing new policies, the public would be restricted to certain actions in the environment that are causing a negative impact towards climate change. Some of these may include: reducing fires. Also, ban the lighting of rubbers such as tires or plastics within our communities. Additionally, dispose of garbage or waste matter properly, do not litter in the streets or rivers or any other water areas or else such individual (s) would be charged a great fee depending on the volume of the litter. And lastly, reduce the use of fossil fuels such as coals, oil and natural gas which produces one third of global greenhouse gas emissions. Hence, increase the efficiency and conservation of fuel and use alternative sources of energy.

As an active geography student of the St. Vincent Girls' High School, formulating various ideas on how to conduct or move forward with any given situation concerning the environment is quite the norm as these teachers strategize plans for us to become independent ladies. These three different ways that were listed, developed and discussed regarding the different strategic plans to address the future of climate change within Small Island Developing States, can be placed in action to see if any benefit is gained. The changing climate is not a joking matter; therefore all hands should be on deck to prevent this negative impact on the environment. As a true citizen of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, due to the fact that we are a small nation, there should be no difficulties in working together once everyone is determined and willing to fight against climate change. There are many different ways in which this can be done but 'talk' alone would not suffice. The saying 'Actions speak louder than words' is a very true statement so it is time for us Vincentian citizens to take a stand towards this changing climate.

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A citizen is defined as a person who is entitled to enjoy all the legal rights and privileges granted by a state to the people comprising its constituency, and is obligated to obey its laws and to fulfill his or her duties as called upon, which gives them the status of citizenship. In Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, there has been a controversial issue over obtaining Vincentian citizenship between Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, the Opposition, the members of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and nationals.

Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves on Friday 10th January, 2010 addressed parliament stating that his regime would not condone nor would give sanction to the sale of Vincentian passports as an incentive in order to acquire foreign exchange for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The matter arose from an incognito company that was marketing to expedite migration of 3,500 persons representing EC\$850 million (US\$313.8 million). Dr. Gonsalves additionally stated his perspective on the matter. He firmly believes that "the highest office in our land is that of citizen, and it is not for sale. Similarly, our passport is sacrosanct and is not a tradable commodity..."

Within Saint Vincent and the Grenadines there is a constitution consisting of a body of laws that was implemented to govern the country, of which the people must adhere to. Under the laws of citizenship, chapter seven (VII), section ninety to ninety-four rigorously addressed the controversy of citizenship. It enunciated the attainment of citizenship, that in basic terms state that a person can only become citizen of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines by birth, marriage, naturalization and ancestry. These laws safeguard the rights of each person within Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Without them many persons would have been able to enter the country at any given time, with the aid of being able to obtain lands and other various resources without any legal action and to stay until they deem it fit to leave without any consequences. This would have left Vincentians at a great disadvantage, because in some cases they may lack the resources to obtain these lands and a foreigner who enters the country is given first preference rather than the people of the country itself because they are financially well off, which should not be.

In addition, foreign investors may place numerous restrictions on the various places they own whether it be a beach, a garden or even an island leaving the people of the country unable to access these places and may even lead them to take a different route to get to their destination. Most nationals will deem that prejudiced behavior as unacceptable to them and society for it shows signs of discrimination especially since they are the rightful citizens to the country.

Most citizens may fear that if Vincentian citizenship may be bought or sold to various foreigners especially those of white decent, some of whom are still racist even though slavery ended centuries ago, may subject themselves to superiority when compared to them as citizens of the country.

Across the Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) which consists of nine member states and comprise of Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia, Anguilla, Dominica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Grenada, Montserrat and The British Virgin Islands, there is a program where citizenship can be earned through investment, that is The



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Citizenship by Investment Programme (CIP) or/ Citizen by Investment Program (CBI) . In order to acquire this, a person is required to give an outstanding amount of economic benefit to the country of which they desire to become a citizen. In exchange they are subjected to extreme application procedures, including thorough background checks for the applicants and their families then they are granted citizenship.

Antigua and Barbuda has benefited greatly from The Citizen Investment Program or/ Citizen by Investment Program recently that could lead to a financial increase in the country's economy hence improving their standard of living. However, Antigua and Barbuda still faces numerous challenges with this program as well as the other countries that have implemented it. Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves also had another take on this matter where he replied to question of his perspective on the matter of The Citizen by Investment Program or / The Citizen Investment Program where it is stated "The highest office in the land is that of citizen, higher than governor general, higher than prime minister, it's not for sale," and "It's not a commodity for sale, and the passport is the outward sign of the inward grace of citizenship, and that too is not for sale." With this being said Hon. Dr. Ralph Gonsalves is a strong believer of the issue where Vincentian citizenship should not be bought or sold .

Citizenship is something that should not be bought or sold. For it comes with many privileges but at the same time it has many rules and laws that each citizen within the country must follow and adhere too. It would be unfair to the rightful citizens within Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, that all that they worked for as well as working towards is given away to what is said to be the highest bidder especially as Vincentians cannot go overseas and partake in such acts in any other country without consequences so they should not be allowed to do so in our country.

To conclude, in order for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to preserve and protect the fundamental rights and freedom of the people, Vincentian citizenship should not be bought nor sold, but , must be earned.

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