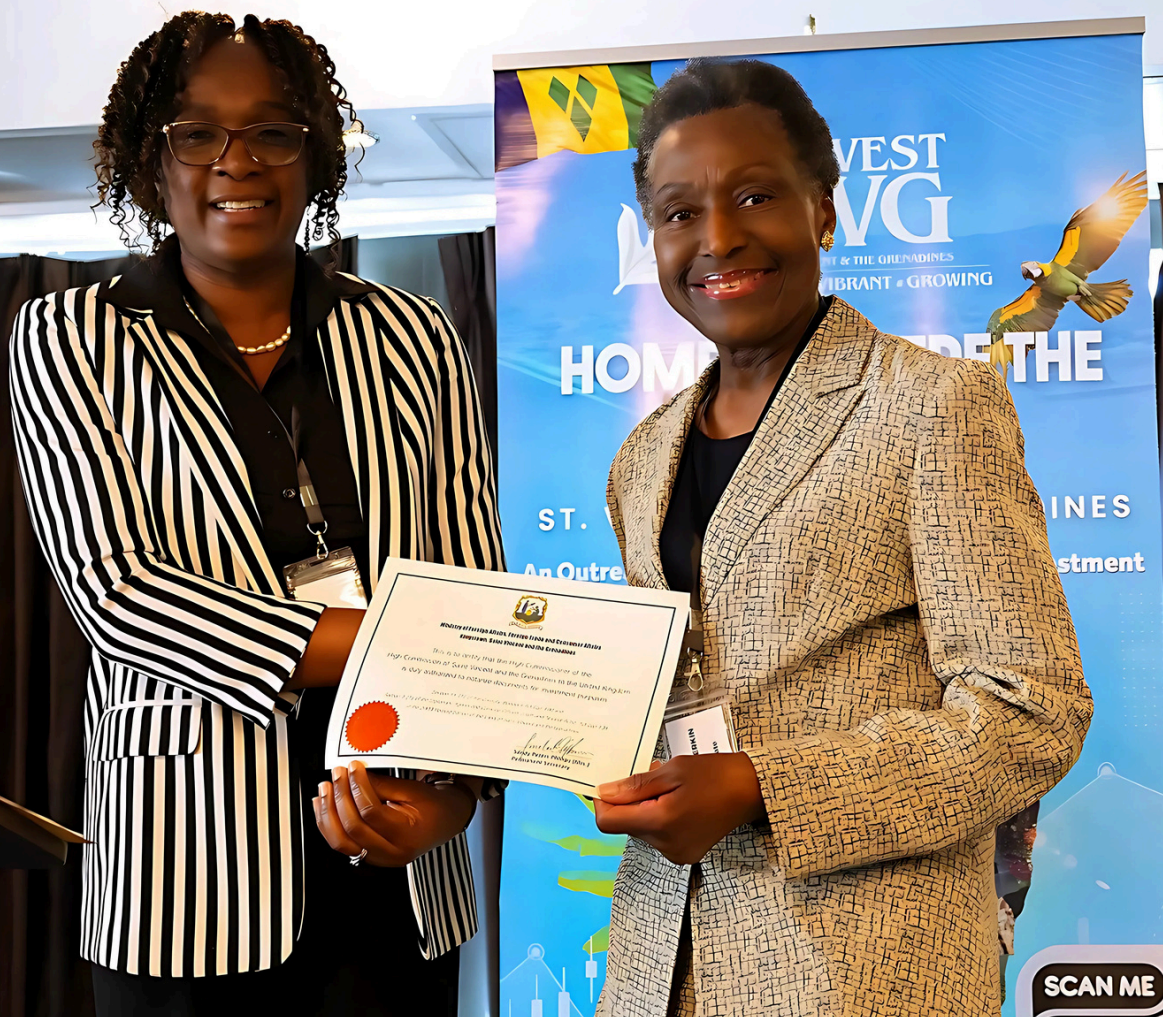




# THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, FOREIGN TRADE, AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

GOVERNMENT OF SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

## DIPLOMATIC COURIER



Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, and  
Consumer Affairs reaffirms consular protocols and  
diaspora engagement in the United Kingdom

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On January 24, 2025, Her Excellency María Perez Gutiérrez, Non-Resident Ambassador of the Kingdom of Spain to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines presented her Letter of Credence to Her Excellency Dame Susan Dougan GCMG OBE, in Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

During her official visit to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Her Excellency María Perez Gutiérrez participated in several courtesy calls with Vincentian dignitaries, including Foreign Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the Honourable Frederick Stephenson, accompanied by Mrs. Sandy Peters Phillips, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Consumer Affairs.



The Kingdom of Spain and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines established relations on July 12, 1986, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines continues to value its partnership with Spain for deepening its relationship in bilateral and multilateral fora.



L-R: Ms. Tamira Browne; Former Director of Foreign Policy, Ian Allen; Journalist of Vincentian Newspaper, Mr. Carlos Williams; Deputy Director of Grenadines Affairs, Nixon McClean; Head of Sports Council, Minister of Housing, Informal Human Settlement, Youth and Sports, Honourable Frederick Stephenson; Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, and Consumer Affairs, Ms. Jada Swift; Europe Desk Officer, and Marvin Fraser

The Consul General of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in Belfast, Northern Ireland, Dr. Christopher Stange, has successfully facilitated the donation of 312 pieces of youth sports equipment across multiple disciplines, including basketball, football, netball, table tennis, athletics, and cricket. The handover took place on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at the Cruise Ship Terminal, Kingstown.

Valued at £10,200 (EC\$34,888.60), the donation was received by the Consul General, as part of the Government's ongoing commitment to social development, health and well-being, and the advancement of youth sports. This initiative was particularly significant in supporting young athletes in the Grenadines, especially those affected by Hurricane Beryl.

The Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines extended its sincere gratitude to the Consulate General in Northern Ireland for their substantial contribution. The donation underscores the government's steadfast commitment to youth empowerment and the development of sports as a vehicle for positive social engagement.



Dr. Christopher Stange with the Youth Sports Equipment that were presented at the Handover Ceremony





L-R: Honourable Curtis King; Minister of Education and National Reconciliation, Her Excellency Fiona Huei-Chun Fan; Ambassador of ROC (Taiwan) to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Representative of the cycling union, Her Excellency Andrea Bowman; Ambassador of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the ROC (Taiwan)

Her Excellency Andrea Bowman, Ambassador of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the ROC (Taiwan), and Her Excellency Fiona Huei-Chun Fan; Ambassador of the ROC (Taiwan) to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, held a handing over ceremony to support families, and communities affected by Hurricane Beryl on Tuesday, January 07 2025 at the Taiwanese Embassy, in Richmond Hill.

In July 2024, Hurricane Beryl affected Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, which left a trail of destruction across the multi-island state including infrastructural damage to homes, public and private facilities. Her Excellency Andrea Bowman stated that the work of the “Do For Love” charity by Vincentians in Taiwan, educational institutions and Her Excellency Fiona Huei-Chun Fan, made it possible for the donations to be mobilised for affected families and supportive institutions across Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

The beneficiaries include: the Ministry of Education and National Reconciliation, the National Emergency Management Organisation, the Ministry of Health, Wellness, and the Environment, the Zero Hunger Trust Fund, the Nine Nights Committee of the Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Sustainable Development and Culture, the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Cycling Union, and the citizens from the Southern Grenadines and other badly affected communities.

Minister of Education and National Reconciliation, Honorable Curtis King, acknowledged and expressed gratitude to Republic of China (Taiwan) for their support over the years, Her Excellency Andrea Bowman for the mobilisation of the donation to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and the people of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for their resilience and solidarity.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, and Consumer Affairs recognises the strong bilateral relationship and commitment of the Government and People of the Republic of China (Taiwan) to the people of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, since establishing relations on August 15, 1981.





The Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, led by Prime Minister Dr. the Honourable Ralph E. Gonsalves, participated actively in the 48th Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), held from February 19 to 21, 2025, in Barbados. The meeting, convened under the theme “Strength in Unity: Forging Caribbean Resilience, Inclusive Growth, and Sustainable Development”, provided a platform for regional leaders to deliberate on pressing issues affecting the Caribbean.

A significant highlight of the conference was the collective reaffirmation by CARICOM leaders to pursue reparations for the injustices of slavery. Prime Minister Gonsalves emphasised the importance of this commitment, stating that the pursuit of reparatory justice is essential for addressing historical wrongs and fostering equitable development in the region. He highlighted the ongoing efforts and progress of the reparations movement supported by legislative discussions and acknowledgments from various institutions.

The meeting also featured discussions with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, during which CARICOM leaders, including Prime Minister Gonsalves, called for formal apologies and reparations from European colonial powers for their role in the transatlantic slave trade. This dialogue reflects the growing momentum within CARICOM and the African Union for reparations related to slavery and colonialism.

In addition to reparatory justice, the conference addressed critical topics such as climate resilience, economic development, and food security. The participation of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines underscored the nation’s commitment to regional collaboration and its proactive stance in shaping policies that promote sustainable development and social justice across Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and the wide Caribbean space.

The Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines remains dedicated to working alongside CARICOM Member States to advance initiatives that benefit the collective well-being of the region’s citizens.





The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, and Consumer Affairs, in partnership with the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Chamber of Industry and Commerce, had the distinct pleasure of welcoming a delegation comprising thirty-two (32) students and five (5) professors from EGC Martinique. This esteemed group arrived at the Cruise Ship Terminal in Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, on April 3, 2025.

The one-day visit formed an integral part of the international “Caribbean Mission” aboard the MSC Virtuosa Cruise Ship. The mission aims to foster meaningful dialogue and collaborative exchanges between the Business School and key local economic stakeholders across several Caribbean islands. Under the leadership of Ms. Lyvia Seraline, Professor of Marketing, Communication, Innovation, and Design Thinking at EGC Martinique, the mission serves as an invaluable opportunity for mutual learning and growth.

The itinerary for the day included a guided tour of the Eastern Caribbean Group of Companies, a roundtable discussions involving the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, and Consumer Affairs, Invest SVG, the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Chamber of Industry and Commerce, Hotel Alexandrina, Searles Agro Products, and Ms. Kimya Glasgow.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, and Consumer Affairs remains steadfast in its commitment to promoting collaboration with our OECS counterparts, thereby nurturing sustainable partnerships and encouraging entrepreneurial innovation within the Caribbean region.



L-R: Nakesha Morris; Trade Officer of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, and Consumer Affairs; representative of Ministry of Education, representative of Searles Agro Products, representative SVG Chamber of Industry and Commerce, representative of Invest SVG, and Kimya Glasgow





On April 9, 2025, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines participated in the IX Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), held in Tegucigalpa, Republic of Honduras. The official delegation was led by Prime Minister Dr. the Honourable Ralph E. Gonsalves.

The delegation included the Honourable Frederick Stephenson, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Consumer Affairs; His Excellency Ellsworth John, Ambassador to the Republic of Cuba and National Coordinator to CELAC; Dr. Grace Walters and Ms. Zoannie Nero.

The summit followed the preceding meetings of CELAC Foreign Ministers and National Coordinators, where member states engaged in comprehensive discussions on key regional and global issues. These deliberations culminated in the adoption of the Tegucigalpa Declaration, which reaffirmed CELAC's core principles and its commitment to unity in addressing political, economic, and environmental challenges across the region.



**L-R: Dr. Grace Walters, Dr. the Honourable Ralph E. Gonsalves, Ms. Zoannie Nero, His Excellency Ellsworth John, Honourable Frederick Stephenson**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, and Consumer Affairs has reaffirmed the importance of consular relations and diplomatic protocols during the Diaspora Outreach Programme hosted by Invest SVG on April 05, at Brentford Lock, United Kingdom. Representing the Ministry was Permanent Secretary; Sandy Peters-Phillips, who underscored the legal and diplomatic functions of the High Commission of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in the United Kingdom, as outlined in the Diplomatic and Consular Officers Act. Held under the theme “Heart is Where the Home Is,” the Diaspora Outreach Programme was a collaborative initiative led by Invest SVG, in partnership with Honourable Camillo Gonsalves, Minister of Finance, and the Regional Integration and Diaspora Unit (RIDU), and key private sector stakeholders. The event served as a platform to encourage and facilitate diaspora-led investment in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.



Permanent Secretary presenting a certificate to the High Commission



Permanent Secretary and Director of Trade participating in the first session at the Diaspora Outreach Programme

In her remarks, Permanent Secretary Sandy Peters-Phillips emphasised the government’s commitment to fostering a supportive investment environment. She also highlighted that a key function of the High Commission included the provision of notarial services for investment-related documentation - an initiative designed to streamline business processes, safeguard legal interests, and enhance investor confidence.

The Vincentian delegation in attendance included Director of Foreign Trade; Mrs. Okolo John-Patrick, and His Excellency Mr. Allan Alexander; Director of the Regional Integration and Diaspora Unit.

The Ministry reaffirmed its commitment to supporting Invest SVG in driving economic development and strengthening diaspora engagement. The Diaspora Outreach Programme continues with upcoming events scheduled for Toronto on May 10, Washington D.C, on May 14, and New York City on May 17.



On Wednesday, April 23, 2025, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, and Consumer Affairs convened a national consultation to address Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' trade performance, challenges, and strategic intervention for the way forward. The event took place at the University of the West Indies Global Campus in Kingstown.

The consultation welcomed key representatives from the CARICOM Secretariat, including Mr. Vincent Atkins and Mr. Dennis Crawford. Also in attendance were Mrs. Sandy Peters-Phillips; Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, and Consumer Affairs, Mrs. Okolo John Patrick; Director of Foreign Trade, along with staff from the Foreign Trade and Consumer Affairs Department.

Over the course of both public and private sector sessions, Mr. Dennis Crawford presented on a range of critical issues, including force majeure events impacting Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, a report on national trade performance from 2012 to 2023, CARICOM's main exports and imports, untapped and unrealized export potential, trade flows within the region, and the Product Specialisation Index for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. He also addressed the implications of the "America First" trade policy, recent U.S. tariffs and their effects on the regional agriculture sector, and strategic approaches to market diversification, particularly toward the European market.



**Mr. Vincent Atkins; LDC Trade Policy/ Technical Advisor**



**Mrs. Okolo John Patrick; Director of Foreign Trade**



Mr. Vincent Atkins, a technical advisor from the CARICOM Secretariat, emphasised that this consultation marks the fifth of its kind within the region and highlighted Saint Vincent and the Grenadines as the first CARICOM Member State to engage the Secretariat following the implementation of America First Trade Policy. His presentation focused on trade liberalisation, and regional trade agreements.

During the interactive segment of the consultation, the public sector underscored the importance of optimising the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME), while also acknowledging challenges in trade negotiations and the ongoing efforts to improve foreign trade mechanisms. Meanwhile, the private sector drew attention to the role of tourism development in trade, the importance of enhancing intra-regional trade, competitiveness in pricing within the Caribbean, and the need for stronger marketing of locally produced goods. Special emphasis was placed on the need to support small businesses, including those in the fashion industry, and to address challenges related to production and exportation.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, and Consumer Affairs extends its sincere appreciation to all public and private sector stakeholders who participated in the consultation and shared valuable insights. The Government looks forward to continued engagement with the private sector, and enhanced collaboration with the CARICOM Secretariat to advance trade and economic resilience in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.



**Public Sector**



**Private Sector**





**L-R: His Excellency Subnash Gupta; High Commissioner of India, Honourable Frederick Stephenson; Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, and Consumer Affairs, Honourable Keisal Peters; Minister of National Mobilisation and Social Development**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, and Consumer Affairs announced the successful signing for five Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) between the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and the Government of the Republic of India on February 17, 2025. The signing ceremony marks another significant milestone in the strong and growing cooperation between the two states.

Under the QIPs cooperation agreement, five community-based projects, each valued at US\$50,000, were implemented across Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. These projects were aimed at enhancing public infrastructure, fostering community development, and improving the overall quality of life for Vincentians. The selected projects included the Gym at the Central Leeward Secondary School, the rehabilitation of the Penniston Community Centre, the rehabilitation of the Dauphine Community Centre, the completion of the Calder Community Centre, and the rehabilitation of the netball hardcourt at Edinboro.

Similar to the first set of Quick Impact Projects which were completed in 2023, the Quick Impact Projects brought tangible benefits to Vincentian communities, strengthening social infrastructure and enhanced the well-being of Vincentian people.

The High Commissioner of India to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, His Excellency Mr. Subhash Prasad Gupta, reaffirmed India's commitment to supporting small island developing states in their pursuit of sustainable development. The Quick Impact Projects initiative aligns with India's broader development cooperation framework, aimed at fostering self-sufficiency and resilience in partner countries.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, and Consumer Affairs extended its gratitude to all stakeholders involved in the successful initiation of these projects. Implementation were made, with regular monitoring to ensure timely and efficient completion.

**Few of the Quick Impact Projects in progress**



**Photo Source: High Commissioner of India**





The Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines received donations to aid in the recovery process post-Hurricane Beryl from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on Tuesday, January 28 2024 at Bentick Square, Kingstown.

His Excellency Abdullah Muhammad A. Alsaihani, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Saudi delegation were present for the ceremony to handover twenty (20) containers of medical equipment and supplies to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, valued at 2.5 million USD.

The primary beneficiaries were the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment and the National Emergency Management Organisation.

The Government and People of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines express sincere gratitude to the Government and People of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, His Excellency Abdullah Muhammad A. Alsaihani, King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre, diplomatic representatives, healthcare officials, logistics teams, and volunteers for the procurement, transportation, and delivery of this donation.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines established relations on October 11, 2023. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, and Consumer Affairs continues to work for mutual cooperation in bilateral and multilateral spheres.



The Government and people of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) officially welcomed His Excellency Dr. Sherif Shehata, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Arab Republic of Egypt, as he presented his Letters of Credence to Her Excellency Dame Susan Dougan, Governor General of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, at a formal ceremony held at Government House on Monday, 24th February 2025.

During the ceremony, Dame Susan Dougan extended a warm welcome to Ambassador Shehata, emphasising the strong and evolving diplomatic relations between Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and the Arab Republic of Egypt. She reaffirmed the nation's commitment to deepening cooperation in areas of mutual interest.



In his remarks, Ambassador Shehata conveyed greetings from President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi and the Government of Egypt, expressing Egypt's interest in fostering closer ties with Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. He underscored Egypt's commitment to strengthening South-South cooperation, particularly in climate change adaptation, capacity building, and economic collaboration between the two nations.

During the official visit, Ambassador Shehata paid a joint courtesy call to Dr. the Hon. Ralph E. Gonsalves, Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Hon. Frederick Stephenson, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, and Consumer Affairs.

Prime Minister Dr. Gonsalves welcomed the opportunity to deepen ties with Egypt, acknowledging the country's pivotal role in Africa and the wider international community. He expressed confidence that Ambassador Shehata's tenure would further strengthen diplomatic engagement between the two nations. Foreign Minister Hon. Frederick Stephenson echoed this sentiment, highlighting Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' readiness for increased collaboration in various sectors.



The Arab Republic of Egypt and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines established relations on November 16, 2010, and the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines looks forward to continued collaboration with Egypt in pursuit of a stronger and more dynamic partnership that benefits both nations and their peoples.





**L-R: His Excellency Geoffrey Patton; the resident British Commissioner and Ms. Pallavi Browne; United Nations and Commonwealth Desk**

The Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines joined Commonwealth member states in celebrating Commonwealth Day 2025 under the theme “Together We Thrive.”

To mark the occasion, the resident British Commissioner, Geoffrey Patton, and Pallavi Browne, United Nations and Commonwealth Desk Officer, participated in a flag-raising ceremony at the Financial Complex in Kingstown.

This year’s theme, “Together We Thrive,” highlighted the enduring spirit of the Commonwealth 56 independent nations united by shared values enshrined in the Commonwealth Charter. Rooted in family, unity, peace, the theme underscored the importance of fostering strong, connected communities that support and empower their members.

Across the Commonwealth, countries were marked the day with flag-rising ceremonies, school assemblies, cultural events, and civic gatherings. The Commonwealth Secretariat also hosted a multi-faith service at Westminster Abbey in London, featuring reflections, performances, and a procession of flags representing all 56 member states.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has been a proud Commonwealth member since gaining independence in 1979. Through this partnership, the nation continues to benefit from and contribute to Commonwealth initiatives that promote development, cooperation, and shared prosperity.





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