



**ARRIVAL STATEMENT OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM) ELECTION
OBSERVATION MISSION TO ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES
GENERAL ELECTIONS, DECEMBER 2015**

The Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines by way of letter dated 12 November 2015 invited CARICOM to deploy a mission to observe the General Elections which will be held in the country on 9 December 2015.

As a result an eight (8) member Group representing the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) is now in St. Vincent and the Grenadines to observe the General Elections.

The Group is headed by Mr. Gasper Jn. Baptiste, Chief Elections Officer of Saint Lucia. The other members of the Group include two members of staff from the CARICOM Secretariat and the following representatives from the CARICOM Member States:

Antigua and Barbuda - Ms. Karen ManWarren;

Barbados - Mr. Larry Smith;

The Bahamas - Mr. Sherlyn Hall;

Jamaica - Ms. Coydette Green; and

Trinidad and Tobago - Ms. Pamela Ogiste.

An advance Group including Mr. Jn. Baptiste along with the staff of the CARICOM Secretariat arrived in the country over the period 4 to 5 December 2015 with the others arriving on Sunday, 6 December.

Since arriving in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, the advanced Group met with Ms. Sylvia Findlay-Scrubb, Supervisor of Elections, Ms. Wendy Bynoe, Public Relations Officer, St. Vincent Teachers Union, Mr. Noel Jackson, General Secretary of the National Workers Movement, Ms. Beverly Richards, President of the National Society

of Persons with Disabilities, representatives of St. Vincent and the Grenadines Public Service Union and Mr. Michael Charles, Commissioner of Police.

The Mission will meet with Senator Julian Francis, General Secretary of the Unity Labour Party (ULP), the Honourable Arnhim Eustace, Leader of the Opposition, Mrs. Anesia Baptiste, Leader of the Democratic Republican Party and other Civil Society and Private Sector representatives ahead of Wednesday's polls.

On the day of Elections the Group will monitor activities including the Opening of the Poll, Voting, Close of Poll and Tallying of the ballots in 13 of the 15 constituencies.

The following day the Mission will issue a Preliminary Statement based on its observations to be followed later by a full report to H.E. Irwin LaRocque, Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community.

The CARICOM Election Observation Mission is happy for the opportunity to support and strengthen the democratic process in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and appreciates the high level of support and cooperation received since its arrival in the country.

**GASPER JN. BAPTISTE
CHIEF OF MISSION
7 DECEMBER 2015**