



**The Prime Minister
St. Vincent and the Grenadines
West Indies**

April 14, 2021

Open Letter of Endorsement for the “**Global Coalition in support of St. Vincent**”

The Prime Minister of St Vincent and the Grenadines, Hon. Ralph Gonsalves and the Chairman of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, Hon. Roosevelt Skerritt, Prime Minister of Dominica, fully endorse and designate the “Global Coalition in support of St Vincent” led by Nigel Salina, an International Consultant and the Chairman Global Business Leadership Forum Ltd and the Mercy Foundation (a division of Living Water Community). This is a broad-based global coalition to support and assist the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines with the current ongoing disaster as a result of the eruption of the La Soufrière volcano. A Leadership committee/taskforce made up of the following will spearhead the Global Coalition:

- **Sir Charles Michael Dennis Byron, Chairman.** former President of the Caribbean Court of Justice, President of the Commonwealth Judicial Education Institute, President of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, and former Chief Justice of the Eastern Caribbean;
- **Hon. Camillo Michael Gonsalves,** Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Information Technology of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines;
- **Nigel Salina, Project Leader/Manager.** International Consultant and Chairman Mercy Foundation and Global Business Leadership Forum, Chair of Vaccine Confidence/Equity Project, Project Leader TTCAAC;
- **Patrick Hylton,** President and CEO of National Commercial Bank Jamaica, Chairman of Guardian Group and Director Massy Group;
- **Angela Lee Loy,** Chairperson of Aegis Business Solutions, Eve Anderson Recruiting and Caribbean Resources Ltd;
- **Anthony Sabga,** CEO of Ansa McAl, the largest conglomerate in the Caribbean;

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- **Robert Agbede**, Chairman/CEO of Chester Group Inc and Chester LNG, Director US Chamber, former Chair of US Federal Reserve (Cleveland Branch), former Advisor Secretary of Energy and Vice Chair Hatch Engineering; and
- **Dr. Didacus Jules, Director General /Dr. Carlene Radix Head of Human and Social Cluster /Lisa Taylor-Stone, Head of Development Cooperation and Resource Mobilisation**, will represent the OECS .

The international leadership task force includes representation and participation from International Organizations, NGOs, Faith Based Organisations, International Law Enforcement Agencies, Multilateral, Bi-Lateral Agencies, Community Based Organisations, Grassroots Organisations and Regional & International Private Sector corporations and leaders. This coalition will work alongside the **OECS Stronger Together campaign**:

- a. Establish a **Virtual Secretariat** fully resourced with seamless communication links to the OECS, CDEMA and the Government of St. Vincent;
- b. Establish a **Leadership Team** of 8-10 diverse leaders from within the Region (see above), the Diaspora and Internationally. This team will be fully endorsed by the OECS Commission and the Government of St Vincent and the Grenadines;
- c. Establish a **Communications Hub** with Regional and International Communications entities including Regional and International Media Companies in the US, UK and also new media entities i.e., Facebook, Instagram Twitter etc. This will be fully in sync with the communication strategy of the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. In past disasters this coalition collaborated with Digicel, C&W, FLOW etc. to provide accurate and timely information;
- d. To bring resources to the table to support CDEMA if and when necessary e.g. AECOM and other leading engineering firms already pledged their support. AECOM assisted the coalition in other disasters and since 2017 has been tasked as Project Manager with rebuilding Puerto Rico. This company operates in over 150 Countries with 90,000 employees globally;
- e. To engage the Regional and International Private Sector to assist and support the Government of St. Vincent. This will include mobilization of Chambers of Commerce, Business Organisations and large, medium and small enterprises throughout the region;
- f. Work alongside the OECS team on the **Stronger Together Campaign** for St. Vincent which includes support with Social, Print & Electronic media etc., To establish a team with Media and Communications experts from all around the world to augment the **Stronger Together Campaign**. This will be led by the former GM of one of the largest media groups in the world;

- g. Assist with **International Fund-Raising Activities** including
- i. Host an **international fundraiser** on a virtual platform in the form of a town hall with international partners-connecting to major Cities. Miami, NYC, Toronto, London etc. Invite Heads of States and Mayor Sadiq Khan of London, Mayor De Blasio of NYC, Mayor John Tory of Toronto, Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms of Atlanta, Mayor Francis Xavier Suarez of Miami, Mayor Buddy Dyer of Orlando etc. This virtual forum will also include other leaders, multilateral and bilateral agencies and other leading organisations;
 - ii. Work with Gabriel Abed to connect with partners in Silicon Valley, NYC, London, Asia etc. in the Fintech Space. To unlock donations in an unprecedented fund-raising effort; and
- h. To also engage and mobilise relevant technical teams/task forces in Health, Education, Disaster Response, Law Enforcement as things developed or are required. This will be in collaboration with the OECS, St Vincent and the Grenadines and relevant regional response institutions.

Sincerely yours,



Dr. The Hon. Ralph E. Gonsalves
Prime Minister