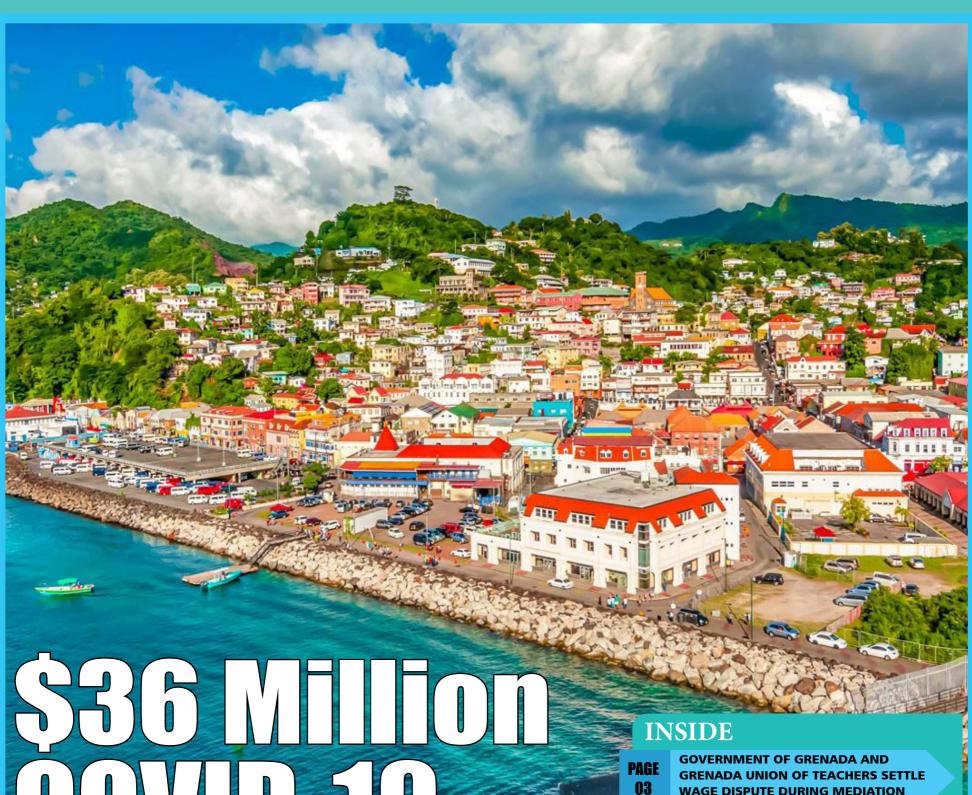


GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICE

Wednesday, August 04, 2021

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Prime Minister Announces \$36 Million COVID-19 Economic Stimulus Package

Close to 9,000 Grenadians will benefit from several another COVID-19 economic stimulus package that will soon be implemented by the Government.

Prime Minister, Dr. the Right Honourable Keith Mitchell disclosed during his national address on July 29 that the package is worth \$36 million. In addition to the direct beneficiaries, Government expects another 10,000 persons to benefit indirectly.

The new package of economic support will be rolled out in September.

The package will be funded by the Government of Grenada in collaboration with the Caribbean Development Bank, under the Inter-American Development Bank/Caribbean Development Bank Global Loan Programme, which is designed to build health, social and economic resilience in OECS member states.

Dr. Mitchell disclosed that, "The stimulus package will target vulnerable persons, who are most impacted by the pandemic, and will include, but not limited to, persons in the cultural sector whose livelihood depends almost exclusively on cultural activities, farmers, agro-processors, caterers, operators of entertainment centres, former cruise ship workers, taxi drivers, water taxi operators, tourist vendors, bus operators, former hotel employees, and LIAT workers."

He added, "Beneficiaries will receive support ranging from one-off payments to monthly transfers for up to six months, based on the category of eligibility."

According to the Prime Minister, Government was very diligent in designing the stimulus package and engaged in broad-based consultation with stakeholders in the public and private sectors, as well as the CDB, to ensure the widest possible reach for the stimulus support package.

The Ministry of Finance will provide further details of the package and the categories of beneficiaries in the coming weeks.

In addition to this direct support for workers seriously affected by the pandemic, Government is also taking steps to stimulate job creation and economic activity through

initiatives designed to support the expansion of existing micro, small and medium enterprises and the creation of new ones.



Prime Minister,

Dr. Mitchell said, "More than \$12 million is Dr. the Rt. Hon. Keith Mitchell currently available for

lending on extremely concessional terms and conditions. Additionally, Government will make available \$2 million for small hoteliers and \$5 million for small businesses in other sectors, through the COVID-19 Support Fund Facility at the Grenada Development Bank. Eligible businesses will qualify for loans between \$40,000 and \$300,000."

The Prime Minister described this facility as a lifeline for the next three years that will help eligible businesses stay afloat and or expand, or encourage startups.

Additionally, he said, "Government will also inject an additional \$5 million into the Small Business Development Fund to support the development of micro enterprises. These businesses can qualify for loans of up to \$40,000. Both lines of credit at the Grenada Development Bank, offer an attractive interest rate of 1%, with a grace period of up to three years. The loans for micro enterprises are repayable over 10 years, while the repayment period for the larger loans is 12 years."

There's a further incentive for loan recipients in both categories as they can benefit from an additional \$5,000 in grant support to further bolster business operations.

Last year, shortly after the start of the pandemic, Government announced significant economic stimulus package comprising of payroll and income support among other measures, which benefited more than 7,000 Grenadians.

Government of Grenada and Grenada Union of Teachers Settle Wage Dispute During Mediation



After several rounds of talks mediated by the Labour Minister, Hon. Peter David, the Grenada Union of Teachers and the Government Negotiating Team, reached agreement on July 30, on a comprehensive settlement to the salary increase dispute which disrupted industrial relations among some public officers.

Government had sought a deferral in the payment of increases for 2021 due to economic conditions brought about the COVID-19 pandemic, and subsequently proposed that payments would begin in August. However, payment for the first seven months of 2021 was still a point of contention.

Friday's agreement effectively settles the matter. Effective August 2021, public officers will begin receiving the 4% increase due for 2021. The retroactive payment, due for the period January to July 2021, will be met by a financial institution which has agreed to accept the Government-issued 12-month bonds, in exchange for paying teachers, upfront in cash.

The 4% increase due to public officers was agreed upon in the 2019 Collective Agreement, for the period 2020 to 2022, between Government and trade unions representing public sectors employees. Starting in January 2020, as agreed, and continuing all through that year, despite the economic fallout from the pandemic, Government honoured the agreement and state employees received the agreed increase.

However, the extent of the impact from the COVID-19 pandemic which forced the closure of Grenada's borders and

a literal shutdown of the economy, resulted in a dramatic decline in Government's revenue, of more than 50%.

Unlike in some CARICOM countries where Governments were forced to cut the pay of public officers, the Government of Grenada paid the agreed upon salaries for all of 2020, only requesting a deferral of the 4% increase due in 2021, a measure intended to allow Government to help the thousands of other workers who lost their jobs and were without income for an extended period.

However, the unions and some of their members responded by taking industrial action to demand the 4% increase which the state has, so far, been unable to pay.

Now that agreement has been reached, Head of the Government Negotiating Team, Hon. Oliver Joseph and President of the Grenada Union of Teachers, Jude Bartholomew, who led the union's team, have expressed the hope that the industrial climate will be normalised.

Minister David thanked both sides for their patience during the process of mediation. He also thanked Labour Commissioner, Cyrus Griffith for his earlier efforts at conciliation and for his valuable guidance during the mediation efforts.

Government has stated that industrial stability is indispensable to the country's advancement and the ability of stakeholders to work together to achieve that objective, particularly in the face of challenges brought on by COVID-19.

Grenada's Prime Minister Extends Congratulations to Newly Elected St. Lucia Labour Party

Prime Minister, Dr. the Right Hon. Keith Mitchell, has extended congratulations to the victorious St. Lucia Labour Party (SLP), which secured 13 of the 17 seats contested in the July 26 poll.

In a letter dispatched to the Prime Minister-elect, Philip Pierre, the Grenadian leader also extended personal congratulations to Mr. Pierre who received the nod from his constituents for the sixth consecutive time.



Prime Minister, Dr. the Rt. Hon. Keith Mitchell

Dr. Mitchell stated in his letter, "The people of St. Lucia have spoken decisively, voting for SLP candidates in 13 of the 17 constituencies. This is a resounding vote of confidence in a period when so many things are uncertain, as we continue to contend with the widespread impact of the COVID-19 pandemic."

Dr. Mitchell referenced a post-election interview in which Mr. Pierre spoke about his commitment to being a Government of inclusion and one that will listen to the people and pay particular attention to the youth.

Dr. Mitchell wished the Prime Minister-elect a successful term in office and noted that they will be working together at the regional level.

He said, "As the current Chairman of the OECS Authority, I

look forward to working with you at the regional level, particularly in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and the regional tourism industry, as it relates to cruise tourism and the accommodation sector."





31 Teachers Complete UWI Early Childhood Education Programme



Thirty-one early childhood education teachers were presented with certificates of completion from an Early Childhood Education Care and Development programme on July 20, at the University of the West Indies Open Campus in St. George.

The UWI Open Campus was contracted by the Ministry of Education, through the Grenada Education Enhancement Programme (GEEP), to train 47 Early Childhood Teachers, from August 2019 to September 2020. To date, 31 teachers have completed and passed the one-year programme, which is being conducted at a cost of more than EC \$150,000.

Minister for Education and Human Resource Development, Hon. Emmalin Pierre, commended the teachers for making an investment in their education and professional development and encouraged them to think about how their newly acquired certification can benefit the education system. She noted that it was a priority for Government to allocate resources from the Grenada Education Enhancement Programme for capacity building.

"What does it profit the education system if we invest all that we have in infrastructural development and we don't invest in our teachers and that is why I'm extremely happy that the Ministry of Education took the decision that we are going to use out of the resources that we have for development of the education system to pour into the development of our teachers," Hon. Pierre said. "Out of that same pool too we're spending over a million dollars in training teachers in special education and they are at the St. George's University."

The Education Minister said she hopes the results of this programme will be evidenced in improvements in the quality of early childhood education in the classroom. She also encouraged early childhood education teachers to continue in their chosen area of specialty.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Chief Education Officer, Angella Finlay, expressed her pleasure at their achievement, advising the teachers to continue their professional development.

She said, "Please ensure that you grasp every opportunity you have to enhance yourself professionally and, in so doing, impart back to your students that greater excellence in achievement."

Dr. Nicole Phillip-Dowe, Head of Site at the UWI Open Campus Grenada, encouraged the teachers to continue their education.

"We take this opportunity to say congratulations to the teachers on your achievement," Phillip-Dowe said. "I am challenging you to take one step further and come back to the UWI and complete your undergraduate degree with us."

She reminded them of UWI's reputation as a tertiary institution. Phillip-Dowe said, "The UWI is very well poised to offer quality education. We are ranked number one in the Caribbean and among the top four percent of universities in the world."

Micah Fraser, the most outstanding student, speaking on behalf of her colleagues said, "Over the year, our experiences with our lecturers and colleagues were truly impactful, as they imparted their knowledge to us and as we learned from each other. Acquiring the knowledge is the first part, but what we do with the knowledge obtained makes the difference."

Five teachers are currently completing what is expected to be a final semester leading to their receipt of the Early Childhood Care and Development professional development certificate.

Education Minister Announces Changes to Entry Requirements for Teachers College



The Minister for Education, Human Resource Development, Religious Affairs and Information, Hon. Emmalin Pierre, has announced plans for improved access to teacher certification at the Teachers College.

Hon. Pierre said the number of years a teacher is in service will no longer be an obstacle. Until recently, teachers had to complete five years as a permanent teacher to access Teachers College.

She said, "We have changed that. So, for the first time the number of years that you've been in the service is not going to be a deciding factor as to whether, or not, you have the opportunity to access Teachers College. Now, that, for me, is breaking the barrier that exists as it relates to making the service more professional."

Minister Pierre noted that the vision is to have prospective teachers seek training before applying to be teachers.

She said, "People who leave secondary school and are thinking about a career in education, should be considering going to the Teacher's Education Department to study to become a teacher. That shift has already started, because we do have a cohort of people who are studying – preparing to be teachers. They are not yet in the system."

The Education Minister also highlighted that teachers will no longer have to leave the classroom to seek teacher certification.

She said, "For persons who are in the system and have not yet been to Teachers College, it is no longer mandatory to leave the classroom for two years to study. We are making it possible to complete a three-year programme for teacher certification, and to continue teaching while you do it. This is what we are offering to teachers, to ensure that all of our teachers are well trained. This change also has significant financial implications for Government, meaning that if 40 teachers leave the classroom to study, we have to hire 40 people."



Extended De-Bushing Programme Scheduled

for July to December 2021

More than 3,000 Grenadians Norland Cox underscored the will benefit from government's de-bushing programme which commenced on July 26, 2021 and will continue until December 2021.

The programme is usually done seasonally at least three times per year for a few fortnights, but, this time, Cabinet has decided on an extended programme.

different areas island-wide to clear overhanging branches, drains and roadsides.

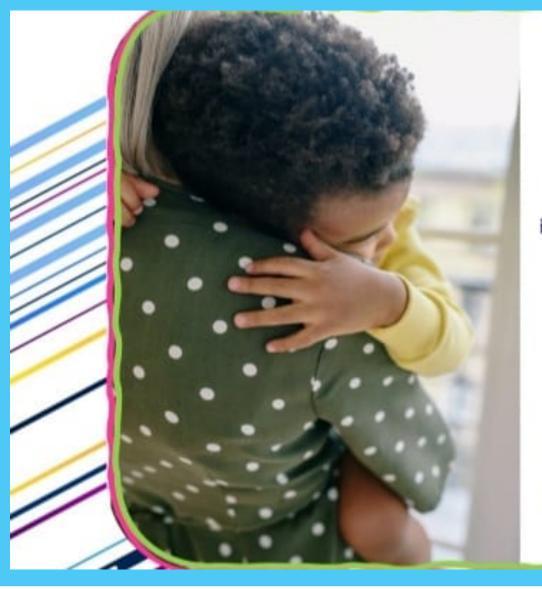
Minister for significance of Government's effort to create employment during this difficult period.

Minister Cox said, "The Government felt this is a significant move at this time. Each one of us are challenged in different ways from the negative impacts of COVID-19. No one is being spared the wrath of the virus. Therefore, this government Teams will be assigned to will grasp every opportunity to increase livelihood for its citizens."

The de-bushing programme Infrastructure serves two key objectives, one Development, Transport and of which is to ensure road safety Implementation, Sen. the Hon. by ensuring roads are safe for



pedestrians and commuters to use on a daily basis. The other objective is to provide employment for persons, particularly in the rural areas.



What do Foster Carers Do?

They help make changes and improvements in a child's life by providing a safe and secure home environment.

> For more information contact the Child Protection Authority on 435-0293, or email us at info@cpagrenada.org.





Foster Care is different from Adoption.



Adoption	Foster Care	
Is a permanent arrangement	Is a temporary arrangement	
Adoptive parents take all parental responsibilities	Responsibility is shared with biological parents, CPA and the child's foster parent (s)	
The adopted child loses all legal ties with birth parents	The foster child becomes a ward of the state but retains legal ties with birth parents	







Contact the Child Protection Authority on 435-0293, or email us at info@cpagrenada.org.





The time a child spends in care can vary from case to case.

The Child Protection Authority needs people who can provide:

Emergency care - up to one week

Short term care - up to a few months

Long term care - for years

What type of care would you like to provide?

Contact the Child Protection Authority
on 435-0293, or email us at
info@cpagrenada.org.



CARE & PROTECTION OF CHILDREN #4

"How do I know a child is in need of care and protection?"

According to section 25, sub-section 1 of the 2010 Child

(Protection and Adoption) Act:

- (1) A child is in need of care and protection where (g) the child suffers or is likely to suffer from a mental, emotional, physical or developmental condition, that, if not addressed, could seriously harm the child and the parent does not, or refuses to obtain treatment or is unavailable or unable to consent to services or treatment to remedy or ameliorate the effects of the condition;
 - (h) the child is less than twelve years old and has committed a serious offence; or
 - (i) the child is in the custody of the Director or another person and the parent of the child refuses or is unable to resume custody of the child

For more information about the care and protection of children, feel free to contact the Child Protection Authority.





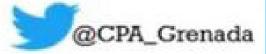
435-0293





@childprotectiongrenada







533-6990



ACT FACTS:

Medical and/or other forms of assessments may be necessary when looking into a case of child abuse and neglect.

It's in the Act!

Child (Protection and Adoption) Act, Sections 45 to 48.



For more information, consult the Child Protection and Adoption Act (2010), or contact the Child Protection Authority.





435-0293

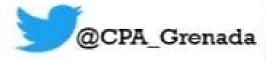


@ProtectChildrenGrenada



@childprotectiongrenada







533-6990

Grenadians Invited to Submit Applications to Lease Land at Diamond Estate Pilot Site

Grenadians are being invited to submit applications to lease land at Diamond Estate, St. Mark, under the Pilot Agricultural Land Bank Project.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Forestry is hoping that this project will help to reduce idle or underutilised arable land; improve access to fertile land for landless farmers, women and youth interested in agricultural enterprise/agribusiness; build and enhance the technical capacity of pertinent government departments entrusted with land administration and improve agricultural production. Diamond Estate is one of two Cabinet approved pilot sites, located on government-owned estates that will be used for this project.

To be eligible for selection, applicants must be citizens or permanent residents of Grenada and must be at least 18-years-old, residing in Grenada, preferably in, but not limited to the area in which the land to be used in the project is located.

The process consists of two phases: a Pre-Approval Phase, and a Final Approval Phase. All pre-approved applicants (individuals and groups) will undergo entrepreneurship training with the Grenada Investment Development Corporation (GIDC).

Application forms are available at all District Extension Offices or online at https://tinyurl.com/mtnkfvmr. All completed application forms should be submitted to the District Extension Offices or to the Ministry of Agriculture on or before Friday, August 6, 2021.

For any questions regarding the Land Bank Project or the application process, please call the Land Use Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Forestry on (473) 440-2708, ext. 26834.

The Pilot Agricultural Land Bank Project is a joint effort of the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Forestry, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), Grenada Investment Development Corporation (GIDC) and the Climate-Smart Agriculture and Rural Enterprise Programme (SAEP).

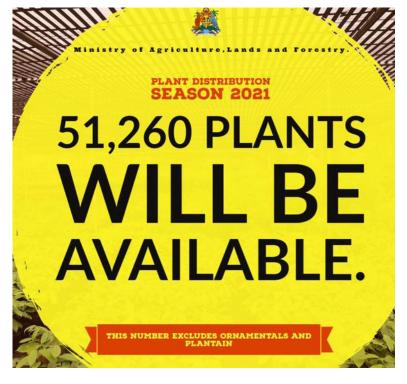




2021 Plant Distribution Season Begins

The Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, and Forestry officially opened the 2021 Plant Distribution Season on Thursday, July 29, 2021 at the Mirabeau Propagation Station, St. Andrew.

The sale of plants will begin on Tuesday, August 3. From that date until August 13, plants will be available to cocoa and nutmeg farmers approved by the Grenada Cocoa Association and the Grenada Cooperative Nutmeg Association and farmers with an application, approved by the Extension Division.



be made to persons who applied for plants, informing them of purchasing dates.

Available plants will include soursop, avocado, mango, guava, breadnut, carambola, red and yellow plums, star apple, sugar apple, cinnamon, cardamom, clove, passion fruit, pimento, et cetera.

All COVID-19 protocols, approved by the Ministry of Health, will be strictly observed.

From August 16 onwards, plants will be sold to the public at the Mirabeau, Maran, and Boulogne Propagation Stations from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Mondays to Fridays. Calls will

Due to the infestation by the Croton Scale Insect in the Ashenden area in St. David, the Ministry has suspended the sale of plants from Ashenden Propagation Station, until further notice.



Meet the Farmer - Atkinson Felix



Atkinson Felix developed a love for agriculture through his involvement in the 4-H Movement at the St. Michael's Roman Catholic School (St. Andrew).

In his youthful days, Felix loved participating in the 4-H competitions, organised by this club and even recalls the days when his school won several. Being an active member of the club, he was recognised for his outstanding performance as a 4-H member. He said that was the reason he continued with agriculture, a love that encouraged him to pursue a career in the field, which has spanned approximately 30 years, providing technical support to banana farmers as an extension officer.

Following his retirement and having contributed to some

of the developments in the banana industry, Felix began farming full-time, providing different types of bananas and planting material.

Ackie, as he is known in the village (Caruth), grows a wide variety of crops – sweet potatoes, tomatoes, cabbages, carrots, beets, cauliflower, beans and other crops, but prefers plantains. For the last 35 to 40 years, he has been cultivating plantains, because of the demand for it. Ninety-five percent of what he produces on his six-acre plot is consumed by his family.

Identifying the Banana Leaf Spot Disease as one of his major challenges, Felix said important agronomic practices such as field sanitation, fertilisation and weeding have helped.

Another challenge is praedial larceny.

Felix said, "At one time, I almost gave up. Every week I was losing about five to six bunches of plantains. In two and a half months, 45 bunches of plantains were stolen."

Although disappointed by this repeat occurrence of praedial larceny, he continued with his plantain plot, because he likes farming.

He said, "If I had to do it all over again, I would and I encourage anyone to get into agriculture because of its dynamism."

For a farming venture to be successful, Felix said location, availability and access to landare important factors. "You must pay attention to these attributes," he said. "Imagine if you have to walk with produce or if you're farming in the low-lands and you don't have irrigation - simple things like these can be frustrating."

He also suggests that young farmers be educated about the type of crops they are selecting and do research on the market demands.

Things to note about Atkinson "Ackie" Felix:

- He is an experienced banana farmer.
- He farmed even though he had a full-time job as an extension officer.
- He became a full-time farmer after retirement.

The Farmer's Perspective

"This business is very profitable. You have to be prepared to make the investment; you have to spend money to make money. If you put in hard work; the hours, farming is going to build you houses, buy you cars and even take you to Paris, if you like."





Post-Harvest Handling of Soursop

After removing the fruit from the tree:

- Fruits should be placed in boxes, baskets or crates to prevent mechanical damage or bruising.
- Boxes should be kept in the shade, protected from rain, wind and dust.
- After harvesting, soursop fruits should be stored on racks, at 20°C in the shade.

At the Packing House, all fruits should be:

Clean - free from soil, foreign matter or chemical residues Fresh, showing no signs of shrivelling

Firm and mature with no physical damage
Free from insect damage

Free from the presence of insects e.g. scales and mealybugs

Prepared by:

Lauren St. Louis

National Consultant Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)



MANGO CORN BREAD

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup corn meal
- 1 cup flour
- ½ tsp each cinnamon & ginger
- ¼ cup sugar
- 4 tsp baking powder
- ¼ cup oil
- ¼ cup coconut milk
- ½ tsp salt
- 1 cup mango puree
- ½ cup chopped firm ripe mango
- 1 beaten egg

METHOD

METHOD

Combine all dry ingredients.

Mix beaten egg,mango puree, coconut milk and oil. Add dry ingredients. Mix well. Stir in chopped mango.

Pour into a greased loaf pan, and bake in a moderate oven at 350°F for 25 -30 minutes.

CONSTITUENCY	REGISTRATION OFFICERS	OFFICE LOCATIONS	TEL NOS.
Carriacou & Petite Martinique	Geraldine Guy	Kim's Building, Church Street, Hillsborough, Carriacou	443-6430
St. Andrew South East	Shirleen Robertson	Agriculture Office, Seaton James Street, Grenville, St. Andrew	438-5248
St. Andrew South West	Wayne Horsford	La Qua's Building , Gladstone Road, Grenville	438-5228
St. Andrew North East	Evan George Matthew Bhola	Mr. Henroy Davis' Building, junction of Paradise and Cocoa Road, St. Andrew	442-4068
St. Andrew North West	Marcia Francis	Annex to Mr. Mitchell's shop, Mirabeau, St. Andrew	442-4367
St. David	Vincent Morain	Former NCB Building, Petite Esperance, St. David Communal Cooperative, Credit Union Building, Perdomontemps, St. David	444-6025
Town of St. George	Stephen Raphael Croney	Bruce Street, St. George's (Close to exit of Sendall Tunnel)	440-4037
St. George North East	Barbara Charles	Ground Floor of Deco's Building, Tempe, St. George	435-5032
		Dr. Alexis' Building, The Greens, St. Paul's, St. George	435-9476
St. George North West	Kevin Francis	Happy Hill, St. George (Two-storey building, Happy Hill main road after Shenda Road on the left in a northerly direction)	440-5145
St. George South East	Glen Alexander	Marian Community Centre, Cocoa Road, Marian, St. George	440-6040
		Dr. Alexis Building, St. Paul's, St. George	435-9477
St. George South	Cheryl Ann Dunbar	Limes Road, Grand Anse, St. George (First building on the right entering the Limes Road)	439-7108
		Springs, St. George (Next to Liz and Rawle Restaurant)	443-3726
St. John	Catherine Hamlet	Langton Road, Gouyave, St. John (Downstairs Mr. Carlton Frederick's Building on Langton Road	437-1319
St. Mark	Samuel Britton	Queen Street, Victoria, St. Mark (Downstairs Ms. Louise George's residence at Queen Street, opposite the Fish Market	437-1101
St. Patrick East	Chrislyn LaBorde	Sauteurs, St. Patrick (GIDC Building)	442-0776
St. Patrick West	Jennifer Charles	Sauteurs, St. Patrick (GIDC Building	442-0777

Elvis Morain (Mr.) SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS (AG.)

Grenadians Encouraged to Be on High Alert for Social Media Scams Offering Sizeable COVID-19

Assistance

Grenadians are being encouraged to remain on high alert amidst a growing prevalence of social media scams that continue to impersonate Government Ministers.

Of particular concern are the scams which offer COVID-19 assistance packages, ranging from U.S. \$30,000 to U.S. \$2 million. To qualify, persons are expected to pay fees ranging from U.S. \$550 to U.S. \$50,000.

The Government of Grenada cautions Grenadians to be particularly vigilant about these scams as they will lose whatever money is invested into these schemes. With respect to the impersonation of Government Ministers to lure unsuspecting victims, Grenadians are again advised that Ministers do not initiate contact with members of the public via private or direct messages on social media platforms.



The long-standing practice is for Ministers to respond to queries submitted by persons via private messages, but contact will not be initiated using such means.

The public is further reminded that no Government assistance programme requires persons to pay a fee before receiving the benefit.

Persons are encouraged to report any online experiences that seek to extort money from them.

Further, if persons are uncertain about a digital service, website, Facebook, or WhatsApp message, they can contact the Chief Information Officer at (473) 423-1109.

Grenada Records a Marine-Based Imported Case

of COVID-19

The Ministry of Health has confirmed a marine-based COVID-19 case.

The latest positive case is a 33-year-old male sailor who arrived aboard a yacht from St. Maarten on Tuesday, July 20.

The person remains in quarantine aboard the vessel, along with the

other traveller with whom he entered the country. The yachties have been given strict instructions to remain aboard the vessel which is moored in Carriacou.

Grenada currently has four active cases of COVID-19. The other is a 25-year-old female, who arrived via air on July 14.

To date, Grenada has recorded 169 positive COVID-19 cases and one associated death.

