

# SVG Prime Minister elated at start of Argyle International Airport

August 12, 2008

**KINGSTOWN, St Vincent:** Work to clear the way for the construction of Argyle International Airport on mainland St Vincent started with Prime Minister - Dr Ralph Gonsalves using a bulldozer to demolish one of the buildings that was to be removed so earthworks could commence.



Prime Minister of SVG - Dr Ralph Gonsalves operating a bulldozer

Following Gonsalves' symbolic start of the construction, Vincentian and Cuban heavy-duty equipment operators started the earthworks with heavy machinery equipment provided by the Venezuelan government.

Prime Minister Gonsalves said, "This is a dream come through for the people of St Vincent and the Grenadines. Naturally, I feel very humbled because I am at the centre of getting this done."

Gonsalves said the start of the earthworks was very symbolic, since it was also the birthday of the former Cuban leader, Fidel Castro, whom shared the vision for the airport and former leader of Gonsalves' Unity Labour Party (ULP), Sir Vincent Beache whom saw Argyle as the most appropriate location on the mainland.

Estimates provided by the International Airport Development Company (IADC), are the construction of the airport to cost EC\$589 million with completion date set for late 2011.

Dr Gonsalves has been able to accomplish the formidable task of assembling together a number of countries in today's tough economic and global world, including Cuba, Venezuela, Taiwan, Mexico, Austria and Trinidad and Tobago; which he terms "the coalition of the willing", to aid in the construction of the airport.

## ENDS

Consulate of St. Vincent and the Grenadines  
16-18 Glen Road  
Comber, Co. Down  
BT23 5EL Northern Ireland  
UNITED KINGDOM