

Prime Minister Gonsalves Addresses Vincentian Diaspora in High Wycombe

25 April 2013

High Wycombe, ENGLAND: Following the Commonwealth high level conference on governance for small island states in London, the Prime Minister Gonsalves led delegation visited the SV2G School of Pan Music in High Wycombe before the Town Hall meeting organised by the SVG High Commission.



R-L: Hon. Dr Ralph Gonsalves – Prime Minister; Yvette Thomas – Chairperson; H.E. Cenio Lewis – High Commissioner; Eloise Gonsalves

Dr Ralph Gonsalves, Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) addressed Vincentian Nationals, friends of SVG and other interested parties on developments in the country, at The Royal Grammar School in High Wycombe.



R-L: Susan Dougan – Cabinet Secretary; Doris Charles – Minister Counsellor; Hon. Maxwell Charles – Minister; Eloise Gonsalves; Hon. Dr Ralph Gonsalves – Prime Minister; Jacqueline Roberts; Chevanev Charles; Dr Christopher Stange – Hon. Consul

The ceremony was attended by the Hon. Maxwell Charles – Minister of National Reconciliation, Public Service, Labour, Information and Ecclesiastical Affairs, H.E. Cenio Lewis – High Commissioner for SVG to the UK, Eloise Gonsalves, Susan Dougan – SVG Cabinet Secretary, Doris Charles – Minister Counsellor, Dr Christopher Stange – Hon. Consul for SVG to Northern Ireland, Levi Odoe - Hon. Consul for SVG to Nigeria, Cllr. Chaudry Shafique & Perveen Shafique – Mayor/Mayoress of High Wycombe, Cllr. Sebert Graham & Beulah Brown - Deputy Mayor/Mayoress of High Wycombe, officials from Bucks New University, dignitaries, nationals and executive members of the various SVG National Associations in the UK.

The main speakers included: Prime Minister Gonsalves, Minister Maxwell Charles, High Commissioner Cenio Lewis, Mayor of High Wycombe Chaudry Shafique, chaired by Yvette Thomas with the SVG national anthem led by members of staff from the SVG High Commission and prayers offered by Joel Paris.

Dr Gonsalves updated the packed auditorium about all sectors of the economy in SVG, providing a background and context from the overall impact from the world economic crisis and what the government is doing proactively to create a better future for all Vincentians.

He detailed the government's commitment to infrastructure development, tackling climate change, shifting towards a green economy utilising geothermal and other renewable sources, CLICO/BAICO, BLA, creative and expanding foreign policies, debt/GDP ratio, transport including new LIAT fleet and expanding routes, reparations from slavery and genocide against our indigenous people, Kingstown/Arnos Vale master plan, agricultural diversification, National Heroes, education/wellness revolution, low to no income housing, tourism and direct foreign investment (Buccament Bay, Canouan and Bequia).

Argyle International Airport is expected to be completed and fully operational early 2014 with airlines to be announced in the coming months.

Musical and cultural renditions were provided by Kemuel Spence and Frank Robertson followed by a question and answer session with the Prime Minister. Staff of the SVG High Commission presented gifts of thanks to the various dignitaries and VIPs that attended the event.

The evening finished with a vote of thanks from David DaSilva, refreshments and time to speak to the Prime Minister before his departure.

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