

Prime Minister Gonsalves Addresses Vincentian Diaspora in Reading

01 August 2010

Reading, UNITED KINGDOM: Dr. The Hon. Ralph E. Gonsalves, Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) addressed the Vincentian Diaspora on developments in SVG, at The Avenue School in Reading, followed by a question and answer session.

The Avenue School in Reading caters for children with special needs and is twinned with its counterpart – The Sunshine School in Bequia.

**Dr. The Hon. Dr Ralph Gonsalves
Prime Minister of St. Vincent and
the Grenadines**



The event was organised by the High Commission for St. Vincent and the Grenadines in London and hosted by the SVG Reading Association.

The ceremony was attended by dignitaries, nationals and the respective Chairs of the various SVG UK National Associations. The main speakers included: Prime Minister Gonsalves, Mrs Doris Charles - Minister Counsellor for SVG in London, Mrs Sue Browne - Head Teacher of The Avenue School, Mr Lennox Da Silva - Chair of the National Executive Committees of SVG Associations and Mr Luke Browne – ULP Candidate East Kingstown with prayers offered by Elder Ormiston Nicholls.



L-R:

Doris Charles, Minister Counsellor; Gloria Jack, Chair SVGA Reading; Dr Christopher Stange, SVG Honorary Consul in Northern Ireland; Marcella John; Luke Browne, ULP Candidate East Kingstown; Eloise Gonsalves; Dr The Hon. Ralph E. Gonsalves, Prime Minister; Ormiston Nicholls; Vibert Cornwall, Chair SVGA Coventry; Wendy Sampson, Chair WMCO; Lenox DaSilva, Chair of NEC SVGAs and Chair of SVGA Birmingham; Norris Bullock, Chair SVGA Luton; Noel Lewis, Treasurer NEC SVGAs

Prime Minister Gonsalves explained to the packed audience the government's commitment in building a modern, post-colonial economy on a national, regional and international level. Significant advancements have been made in all sectors, including public health, housing, education and wellness revolution, fuel and water storage facilities, promotion of youth to fill the country's technical requirements, scholarships, roads and bridges, agricultural diversification, as well as, updates on Buccament Bay and Argyle International Airport that will not only improve infrastructure and accessibility but provide employment and ancillary benefits.

Today is about commemorating SVG's Emancipation and celebrating the impact Vincentians make, not only at home but globally. The Vincentian Diaspora plays a huge role in the development of the SVG economy, remittances and assisting the government in its efforts.

The celebrations included music, poetry and a banquet of food with the Prime Minister entertaining questions from the audience. These questions focused on SVG's challenges and key areas of development.

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