

## THE AGENCY FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION

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## <u>"FIRST-CLASS HEALTHCARE IN A THIRD WORLD COUNTRY"-</u> <u>MINISTER OF HEALTH</u>

Minister of Health Hon. Jimmy Prince said the healthcare system in this country has gone through remarkable development, where life-saving services are free, being subsidized by the Government and what is being offered is "first-class healthcare in a third world country."

Minister Prince speaking on radio on Wednesday, noted that people come to St. Vincent and the Grenadines to use these services, because of the access and because they are very inexpensive. He emphasized the quality of care being offered at the Milton Cato Memorial Hospital, including specialized services for HIV and AIDS, maternal health, dentistry among others and Dialysis, Oncology and MRI services at the Modern Medical and Diagnostic Centre.

The minister announced plans to revamp the country's mental health services, shifting it to a community-based approach rather than centralizing care at the Mental Health Institute in Glen. "We are dealing with Mental health as a non-communicable disease," Minister Prince said, noting that it is a key priority for the government.

Further infrastructure developments are also in progress, with new polyclinics set to be built in Byera, Belair, Diamonds, South Rivers, Lodge Village, and Paget Farm, Bequia, along with other locations throughout the country.

"These health services, clinics, and hospitals are part of the overall transformation of healthcare in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines," the minister emphasized. He highlighted the substantial progress made, which ensures the continued advancement of healthcare for the benefit of all citizens.

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