

THE AGENCY FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION

P.O Box 608, Kingstown, St Vincent and The Grenadines

Tel: (784) 456-1600, Fax (784) 456-2430

Email: apisvg2023@gmail.com

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<u>Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines Pushes for PayPal</u> <u>Accessibility</u>

The Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines is making significant strides in its ongoing negotiations with PayPal to enable access for Vincentians to the popular digital payment platform. Hon. Camillo Gonsalves, Minister of Finance, confirmed that discussions with PayPal are advancing, though the process has been slower than anticipated.

"For too long, Vincentians have faced unnecessary obstacles in accessing PayPal services, despite being part of the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union with harmonized financial laws," said Minister Gonsalves. "PayPal initially expressed concerns about differing legal systems, but we've clarified that our systems align seamlessly with those in other member states like Antigua and Barbuda. We're optimistic that we are now on the verge of achieving parity."

The Government has emphasized the importance of platforms like PayPal for young entrepreneurs, digital creators, and small businesses looking to expand their reach globally. Minister Gonsalves added that while progress has been made, the government will continue advocating for equitable access at a regional and international level.

"We understand how critical PayPal is for digital creators and online entrepreneurs, and we are committed to breaking down these barriers," said Gonsalves.

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