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Heritage Prayer Rally Unites Nation in Faith, Culture and Identity at Chatoyer National Park

A declaration of faith, culture and national pride unfolded on March 1, at the historic Joseph Chatoyer National Park as citizens gathered for the Heritage Market and Prayer Rally under the theme: “Appreciating Our Identity, Preserving Our Heritage with Pride.”

Set against the sacred backdrop, National Hero Joseph Chatoyer, the rally brought together Government officials, members of the Clergy, cultural performers, Artisans, Vendors, families and youth in a vibrant celebration of Vincentian and Indigenous legacy.

Delivering remarks, Minister of State in the Office of the Prime Minister Hon. Chieftain Neptune, reflected on Psalm 27:1, declaring that the courage of the nation’s ancestors particularly National Hero the Right Excellent Joseph Chatoyer remains a beacon of resilience and strength. “Our heritage is not a relic of the past,” he stated. “It is a living, breathing force shaping our present and guiding our future. We must carry it with pride, pass it on with purpose, and protect it with responsibility”.

Minister of Youth, Sports, Culture and Creative Industries Hon. Kaschaka Cupid, emphasized that cultural preservation is foundational to national development. He reminded attendees that Chatoyer’s resistance was not merely territorial, but a defense of identity, dignity and heritage values that must continue to define the Vincentian spirit.

Minister of Social Welfare, Community Empowerment, Ecclesiastical Affairs and National Heritage, Hon. Shevern John, described the rally as more than an event, calling it “a declaration of renewal.” Quoting Deuteronomy 32:7, she urged citizens to remember the days of old and draw wisdom from elders, stressing that heritage must be actively preserved and not passively inherited. “This is heritage alive,” she affirmed. “Not locked away in books, but living, breathing and celebrated in our food, our craftsmanship, our worship and our unity.”

Minister John also announced that heritage celebrations will culminate later this month in Kingstown with expanded market activities, increased vendor participation, and regional engagement, including a visit from cultural representatives of Dominica.

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