



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

11/3/2026

MINISTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY SAYS STATE IS TACKLING SCHOOL VIOLENCE

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Security, Disaster Management and Immigration Hon. Major St. Clair Leacock has acknowledged troubling patterns of behaviour in schools across St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) and has promised to confront the situation head on.

Speaking on Tuesday March 10th, 2026 during a national consultation on school violence, Major Leacock said the issues facing schools are “more than troubling” and represent one of the most pressing challenges facing the nation.

“It is indeed the challenge of the moment in Saint Vincent. All youth, our schools, our students represent the future of our Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. If we lose them, we lose our future,” the Minister said.

Major Leacock noted that the problem requires collective responsibility involving families, communities, schools, the police, and other stakeholders.

“If you don’t acknowledge you have a problem, you cannot solve that problem,” Major Leacock told the consultation while stressing that prevention must be prioritized.

He said programmes such as the Cadet Force, police youth clubs, scouts, youth groups and faith-based initiatives must be strengthened as part of a wider social strategy while the Major underscored the importance of strong family structures and economic opportunities, saying many young people are affected by challenges in the home and unemployment.

At the same time, he warned that while prevention and intervention are critical, criminal behaviour will not be tolerated.

“Criminal behaviour will not be tolerated by this minister, by this administration, or by the Royal St. Vincent and the Grenadines Police Force,” Major Leacock said. The Minister added that government will continue providing resources to law enforcement while encouraging schools to become centres of discipline, leadership and positive social development for young people across the country.

“While at school, (students) they have to understand and appreciate what group membership means, what volunteerism means, what responsibility means, what leadership means, what obedience and appreciation of the state means, and what being proud to Vincy means. We can be small island states, but we can also be very exemplary societies. Nobody has a monopoly on that,” the Minister said.

--End--