



## THE AGENCY FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION

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### **PM Gonsalves Met with U.S Officials on Cuban Medical Programme**

Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves said that all information related to the Cuban Medical Mission here has been presented to the United States Officials.

Speaking on WEFM radio earlier today, Dr. Gonsalves indicated that on Wednesday, March 19, 2025, he met with a United States Delegation at Cabinet Room to discuss the Cuban Medical Technical Mission.

The Prime Minister noted that during the discussions, the delegation expressed surprise at several aspects of the program, including, the fact that Cuban workers receive their salaries directly through bank accounts and are issued bank cards.

Dr. Gonsalves added that there are some Cubans who are working in SVG outside of government programs, including six individuals currently employed in the education sector.

Cuban professionals under government contracts serve three-year terms, with 30 days of annual leave. If they choose to return to Cuba during this period, the SVG government covers their round-trip airfare and any other additional expenses they might incur enroute.

The Prime Minister noted that all questions from the U.S. delegation were answered with full transparency, with the relevant Permanent secretaries present to provide clarity.

He added that St. Vincent and the Grenadines maintains progressive labour laws and fully subscribes to international labour conventions, ensuring fair and just treatment for all workers.

The United States Government recently threatened to suspend the visas for Caribbean Government Officials, calling the Cuban Medical programme, a form of Human Trafficking.

Caribbean Governments have responded to Washington, noting that the programme is voluntary and transparent and is an important component of the health services in these countries as the Cubans provide life-saving treatment and expertise.

There are just over 80 Cuban Medical Experts working in the Public Health care system.

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