



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

3/3/2026

Prime Minister Calls for Stronger Regional Integration and Strategic Vigilance Following 50th CARICOM Heads Conference

Prime Minister Dr. Hon. Godwin Friday has reaffirmed St. Vincent and the Grenadines' commitment to deeper regional integration, principled diplomacy, and proactive economic management following his participation in the 50th Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) held in Saint Kitts and Nevis.

Addressing Cabinet and members of the media on Tuesday March 3rd, the Prime Minister described the conference as substantive and forward-looking, highlighting key regional decisions with direct implications for Vincentians.

Prime Minister Friday said the Heads of Government reaffirmed their collective commitment to restoring peace and facilitating elections in Haiti by February 2027. The mandate of the Eminent Persons Group was extended to support Haiti's political transition efforts. "As a member of CARICOM, Haiti's stability is our shared responsibility," Prime Minister Friday stated. "Peace and constitutional governance there are essential for regional security."

CARICOM also agreed to coordinate humanitarian assistance for Cuba amid worsening economic and social challenges. Prime Minister Friday confirmed that St. Vincent and the Grenadines will play its part in the regional initiative. "Solidarity remains a defining Caribbean value. When one of us faces hardship, we respond collectively."

A key development from the conference was the expansion of the CARICOM Skilled Nationals Program to include additional aviation categories including flight attendants, aviation security inspectors, accident investigators and operations inspectors enabling freer regional movement of these professionals. Prime Minister Friday noted the recognized global shortage of aviation personnel presents a strategic opportunity. “This opens the door for targeted training programmes and job creation opportunities for Vincentians within a growing and high-demand sector.”

Regional leaders also discussed a United States proposal concerning the possible use of Caribbean territories as transit points for migrants intercepted at sea. Prime Minister Friday stressed that any such arrangement must be: Clearly defined, transparent, time-bound, legally sound, supported by adequate financial and security resources. St. Vincent and the Grenadines is a small island developing state and added that any engagement must fully safeguard our sovereignty, national security, and social stability.

Turning to global developments, the Prime Minister warned that escalating tensions in the Middle East could impact fuel prices, shipping costs, tourism flows and inflation across the Caribbean. “We may not be directly involved in that conflict, but we are connected through trade, energy markets and tourism. We are therefore monitoring developments closely and preparing responsible responses.”

He noted potential risks of rising fuel prices, supply chain disruptions and imported inflation, emphasizing the importance of early planning and fiscal vigilance. “The best approach is preparedness. We cannot control global events, but we can control how we respond.” Prime Minister Friday concluded that the 50th CARICOM Conference underscored renewed urgency in deepening regional integration while strengthening national resilience.

--End--