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Saint Vincent and the Grenadines ‘Kicks Off’ 47th Independence Anniversary Month with Official Flag-Raising Ceremony

In recognition of the nation's upcoming 47th anniversary of independence, an official flag-raising ceremony was held on October 1, at the Financial Complex in Kingstown, officially commencing a month of national pride and celebration. The theme for this year's celebrations is 'Hand in Hand, Uplifting our Nation'.

The ceremonial proceedings featured a guard of honor by the Royal Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Police Force (RSVGPF), led by Acting Commissioner of Police Trevor Bailey. The Royal St. Vincent and the Grenadines Police Force band performed a rendition of the national anthem to accompany the official hoisting of the flag.

The National Anthem was also performed in the Garifuna Language, by students from the Fancy Government School, alongside cultural performances by the Rose Hall Drummers and the Avenue Dancers.

Minister of Sports, Culture and the Creative Industries, Hon. Kaschaka Cupid, in his opening remarks emphasised the importance of cultural heritage, youth engagement, and national pride. Minister Cupid said this year's theme is a direct call to action for every Vincentian, especially young people, to recognize that our progress rests firmly in our collective hands.

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Minister Cupid said independence is the right to determine our own destiny and the responsibility to build the nation we want. “Hand in Hand, Uplifting Our Nation, must become our attitude as a people,” Minister Cupid said. “Our collective strength is greater than our individual differences.” Minister Cupid said that every citizen has a role to play in building a stronger nation.

Delivering the keynote address, Prime Minister Dr. The Hon. Godwin Friday reflected on the historic journey of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, highlighting the resilience of the Vincentian people and the necessity of national solidarity.

Prime Minister Friday noted that nation-building is never the work of a single administration or a select few; it demands the shared purpose, energy, and commitment of every citizen.

He said the vibrant green in the flag represents “not only our fertile land”, but the extraordinary vitality and perseverance of our people. The Prime Minister said that “uplifting our nation” also means uplifting each other.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines officially gained its independence on October 27, 1979. The flag-raising event serves as the ceremonial launch for a series of cultural, civic, and educational events scheduled to take place across the islands throughout October. Citizens and residents are encouraged to participate in the upcoming events as the country reflects on 47 years of sovereignty, resilience, and cultural heritage.