



## THE AGENCY FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION

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### **MINISTRY OF FISHERIES RECEIVES EQUIPMENT TO IMPROVE NATIONAL SARGASSUM MANAGEMENT**

The Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines today, Thursday, 19th February 2026, received specialized equipment under the Project for Improving National Sargassum Management Capacities in the Caribbean.

The items, including three tractors, two workboats, and personal protective equipment (PPE), were funded by the Government of Japan through the Japan Grant Aid and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Speaking at the handover ceremony at the Modern Port in Kingstown, Stephanie Ziebell, UNDP's Deputy Resident Representative in Barbados, highlighted that the project "...aims to build national readiness to monitor, respond to and manage sargassum, strengthen early warning operations and community awareness, equip national agencies with the right tools, protocols and training to support safe and environmentally responsible cleanups."

Hon. Conroy Huggins, Minister of Fisheries, Marine and Land Conservation and Climate Resilience, while delivering the feature address, said that these items significantly enhance this country's ability to execute rapid and organised sargassum response operations. In relation to the sargassum, Huggins noted that it is one of the most persistent and visible climate-related challenges affecting our coastline and stated that "...this project was designed not merely to respond to sargassum events but to fundamentally change how we manage them."

The sargassum removal equipment is valued at approximately USD \$2 million.

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