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## NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **NEMO TO HOST TSUNAMI RECOGNITION CEREMONY FOR COASTAL COMMUNITIES FROM KINGSTOWN TO ARGYLE – SEPTEMBER 15, 2023**

Coastal communities from Kingstown to Argyle that have gone through the UNESCO tsunami ready process of assessment, community engagement, simulation exercises, developing standard operating procedures for evacuation and communicating early warning messages at the community level in the event of a tsunami will be recognized during a ceremony to be held at the Beachcombers Hotel Conference Room on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2023.

These communities are the second to be certified as Tsunami Ready in St. Vincent and the Grenadines as Union Island gained recognition in 2020. According to Director of the National Emergency Management Organisation Michelle Forbes, “The Tsunami Ready Programme was funded through the International Tsunami Information Centre – Caribbean Office represented by Dr. Christa von Hillebrand and Mrs. Alison Brome from the Caribbean Tsunami Information Centre in Barbados.”

Since 2020 the International Tsunami Information Centre, the Caribbean Tsunami Information Centre and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) have been providing support to the National Emergency Management Organisation to have these communities’ tsunami ready. This included the building of local capacity in the area of mapping through a tsunami mapping exercise training. This training introduced participants to the tool for developing tsunami inundation maps. As a result of this, the Geographical Information System Team from the Physical Planning Unit provided support to develop the tsunami inundation maps for Union Island the coastal communities from Kingstown to Argyle. As part of this programme, thirty-nine signs have been installed throughout these coastal communities from Kingstown to Argyle to guide residents as to where they need to go in the event of a tsunami. The members of these coastal communities also collaborated with the National Emergency Management Organisation to develop their Tsunami Evacuation Plan for their communities. A National Tsunami Board was also formed to coordinate the certification process.

The Tsunami Recognition Ceremony will take place at 10 :00 a.m. at the Beachcombers Hotel.

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