

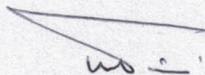
**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**VINCYMAS 2020**

The Ministry of Tourism, Sports and Culture has received recommendations by the Carnival Development Corporation (CDC) (copy of letter of April 1, 2020 attached) relative to Vincymas 2020. Their recommendations were influenced by submissions by all three components: Pan, Calypso and Mas by way of letters in late March 2020 after consultations were held with their affiliates.

The recommendations of CDC were accepted by the Cabinet of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to cancel Vincymas 2020 in its original format scheduled for June-July 2020. However, Cabinet leave open, if circumstances permit, for the holding of a popular festival at a later date in the summer of 2020, involving all interested stakeholders.

This acceptance of the recommendations relieves the CDC from their various obligations of planning for Vincymas 2020.

The Economic Review and Stimulus Package which will be presented to Parliament on April 7, 2020 contains provisions to assist persons who are actively engaged in carnival and the cultural industry.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'W. C.', is written over a horizontal line.

Ministry of Tourism, Sports and Culture  
April 02, 2020





**VINCY Mas**  
THE HOTTEST CARNIVAL IN THE CARIBBEAN

**CARNIVAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

Victoria Park,  
Kingstown,  
St. Vincent and the Grenadines  
West Indies

TEL: (784) 457-2580  
Email: [cdcofsvg@vincysurf.com](mailto:cdcofsvg@vincysurf.com)  
website: [www.carnivalsvg.com](http://www.carnivalsvg.com)

1<sup>st</sup> April 2020

Mrs. Laverne Grant  
Permanent Secretary  
Ministry of Tourism, Sports and Culture  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, NIS Building  
Upper Bay Street  
Kingstown

Dear Mrs. Grant,

The Carnival Development Corporation (CDC) has been monitoring very closely the progress of the Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, and its effect on the local, regional and international community.

With this in mind, the CDC has had discussions at the board level with the representatives of the three main components of Vincymas, Pan, Calypso and Mas, as well as with some of our other stakeholders in Vincymas.

After discussions with their own memberships, the three component governing bodies, the Youlou Pan Movement (YPM), the SVG Calypso Association (SVGCA), and the Carnival Bands Incorporated (CBI) have written to the CDC recommending the cancellation of Vincymas 2020. See copies of letters from the components attached.

In summary, the components have identified the following issues that guided the decision-making process:

1. The physical distancing guidelines as recommended by the health professionals means that the preparation and rehearsals for the three components are on hold and would be severely impacted, thereby resulting in a significantly compromised quality of the festival.
2. Rural carnivals and all preliminary competitions would be curtailed, resulting in a significantly reduced build up to the national festival.



3. A number of corporate sponsors are or would be financially impacted and have indicated that they may be forced to reduce or cancel sponsorship of component members this year.
4. The closures of regional and international suppliers have resulted in difficulty sourcing materials for components in a timely manner.
5. The postponement of local and regional academic examinations would impact participation at all the junior levels of the festival.
6. The economic impact and the uncertainty of the travel restrictions imposed on our regional and international source markets have already resulted in cancellations and are expected to critically impact registrations and participation in masquerade bands and reduced attendance at many of the private and CDC organised events.
7. The economic impact at the local level means reduced disposable income and Vincymas would not be a priority at this time.
8. It is felt that the excellent international image of St. Vincent and The Grenadines and Vincymas would be harmed if we proceeded to play mas and party and appeared to be insensitive to the plight of others affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The board of the CDC has taken the concerns of the components into consideration, and with the continued uncertainty surrounding the trajectory and impact of the pandemic, we support their position.

The CDC would, additionally, like to outline the following:

- a. There are several persons in the creative industries field who are dependent on Vincymas as a significant source of income, and who would be severely impacted by this cancellation. We would like to recommend that a portion of the identified support measures for the creative industries be focussed on support for these persons through a mechanism to be identified.
- b. A number of masquerade bands have begun preparations and incurred expenses, including the securing of the usual cash advances at the National Development Foundation. A discussion would need to be held to secure a moratorium on repayment of these advances where bands have already invested in materials and labour.
- c. As soon as is practical, from an economic and social stance, the CDC will seek to create additional opportunities for components to participate in events to whet the cultural appetite of our nation, while providing some economic activity for the creative industry sector.



- d. The CDC will use this period to pursue developmental programs with the components and continue to address its own structural reform program in the areas of capacity strengthening and infrastructural maintenance.
- e. The CDC will work assiduously on an even more focussed marketing strategy for Vincymas 2021.

We are acutely aware of the potential economic and social impact of the cancellation of Vincymas 2020, but believe that with the continued uncertainty surrounding COVID-19, and the importance of the health of the nation, we can work with the GOSVG, the components and the stakeholders of Vincymas to ensure that we come out of this with a rejuvenated product that can make all Vincentians proud to proclaim Vincymas as "The Hottest Carnival In the Caribbean!"

Yours in Culture,  
  
Ricardo Adams  
Chairman

**CARNIVAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

**cc. Hon. Cecil Mc Kie – Minister of Tourism Sports & Culture.**