

## NATIONAL LAUNCH OF THE 2ND PHASE OF THE CARIBBEAN GROWTH FORUM (CGF):

The national launch of the second phase of the Saint Lucia Chapter of the Caribbean Growth Forum (CGF) was held from January 12 to 13, 2017. Officials from the public and private sector along with civil society attended the event. The Prime Minister (Honorable Allen M. Chastanet) and other Government Ministers attended the launch; Honorable Guy Joseph Minister for Economic Development, Housing, Urban Renewal, Transport and Civil Aviation, Honorable Herod Stanislas), Minister in the Ministry of Economic Development, Housing, Urban Renewal, Transport and Civil Aviation, Honorable Dominic Fedee Minister in Tourism, Information and Broadcasting and Honorable Bradley Felix Minister in the Department of Commerce, International Trade, Investment, Enterprise Development and Consumer Affairs. Also in attendance were the Deputy

Governor of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (Mr. Trevor Brathwaite), Senior Country Officer, World Bank Group (Mr. Juan Diego Alonso) and Mr. Ronald James from the Caribbean Development Bank.

This second phase launch continues from phase one which was first launched on January 22, 2013.

The purpose of this initiative is to foster equitable, inclusive and sustainable growth in every country of the region. The CGF brings together high level representatives from government, the private sector and civil society organizations into a dialogue platform aimed at identifying and prioritizing concrete actions that



Prime Minister Hon. Allen M. Chastanet



Left to right

Cynthia Alexander, Hon. Guy Joseph, Aviva St. Clair, Hon. Allen M. Chastanet, Tracy Polius, Juan Diego Alonso & Alicia Stephens

can contribute to the enhancement of private sector led growth. During the first phase, participants were assigned to three working groups at the event and attended working group sessions from January to March, 2013. At the end of the period they identified 51 reforms across three broad thematic areas: Investment Climate, Logistics and Connectivity and Skills and Productivity.

The following were the results upon completion of phase one of the CGF:

- 19 reforms commenced under Logistics and connectivity, with 4 completed.
- 16 reforms commenced under Investment Climate, with 9 completed.
- 16 reforms commenced under Skills and Productivity, with 6 completed.

What were the lessons learnt from this process:

- Prioritize reforms to bring greater focus, attention and implementation.
- The need to define reforms clearly, with realistic timelines and associated performance indicators.
- A more structured feedback mechanism to help assess reform implementation should be included, with more continuous stakeholder involvement throughout the process.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM KEYNOTE BY HONORABLE ALLEN M. CHASTANET:

- The Honorable Prime Minister informed the group that growth is on the verge of extinction, as Saint Lucia has registered negative growth over the last three years.
- The level of growth is not at the requisite level to change the quality of life of the citizens.
- Furthermore, The Honorable Minister emphasized that we must prepare the people of Saint Lucia for growth and that growth alone is not the measure of success, but it must resonate to the people and sustainability of Saint Lucia.
- Honorable Chastanet told the group that there is a need to reflect on the following:
  1. **Capacity:** is the human, technological, physical and financial capacity sufficient to absorb the initiatives that are being proposed?
  2. **Utilization:** we must fully utilize available resources as utilization affects marginal cost. The example of factories running three shifts a day, seven days a week was given.
  3. **Productivity:** a focus on utilization leads to greater productivity.
  4. **Competitiveness:** there is a need to focus on how to remain competitive.
- The Honorable Prime Minister also shared on the need to re-engineer the Public Service and put staff in a structure where they can be more productive.
- The Honorable Minister also noted the need to modernize the processes in the Public Service via technology and innovation, as low growth, high unemployment and high debt means that the modus operandi is not working.



*From left to right;*

Honorable Dominic Fedee

Mr Juan Diego Alonso

Mr Trevor Brathwaite

Honorable Guy Joseph

Honorable Allen M Chastanet

Honorable Herod Stanislas

Honorable Bradley Felix

- Honorable Chastanet said that Saint Lucia needs to stop running deficit budgets by increasing profitability and growing the economy.
- The Honorable Prime Minister also noted the need to harness our tremendous capacity for growth and make Saint Lucia a lower taxation destination, to attract more businesses.



## PRIORITIZATION OF REFORMS:

The participants engaged in various exercises during the course of the two day consultation, in an effort to streamline the reform dashboard to ensure greater implementation success. Seventeen (17) reforms were proposed based on participants’ recommended changes to the original dash board. However, participants were then asked to prioritize reforms according to four criteria: funding, implementation time, complexity and impact. The following were expressed as priority reforms:

Area of Focus	Reform
<b>Skills and Productivity</b>	Developing benchmarking tools to support productivity in the private and public sectors.  Prioritize soft skills training into the national education system to improve employability.
<b>Investment Climate</b>	Establish a platform for online credit/debit payments for e-government services.  Enhance transparency and simplify processes and procedures related to investing in St. Lucia.
<b>Logistics and Connectivity</b>	Improve the Electronic Window used in trade and transport to ensure information is standardized and documents have a single-entry point to enhance trade facilitation.  Improve the flow of traffic in and out of Castries.



The progress of two additional reforms will be monitored as part of the CGF process, although they were not selected as priority initiatives, namely improving the procedures for construction permitting and operationalization of the break bulk scanner at the Port.



## RAPID RESULTS INITIATIVE (RRI)

- The Government of Saint Lucia in collaboration with the World Bank Group launched the Rapid Results Initiative (RRI) Framework on January 10, 2017, as part of the Caribbean Growth Forum (CGF). The RRI Framework was introduced to improve the implementation of recommendations emanating from the dialogue under the Caribbean Growth Forum Initiative. The RRI is a team based approach to deliver results on specific goals within 100 days.

The Following three Reforms were selected for the RRI pilot:

- Improving procedures for construction permitting.
- Improve the safety and reliability of the Public Transport system.
- Increase the number of individuals trained to Caribbean Vocational Qualification (CVQ) level 3.



## NEXT STEPS

The Economic Planning Unit of the Department of Economic Development, Transport and Civil Aviation will undertake the following:

- Define reforms clearly and develop a detailed work plan to identify the key performance indicators.
- Signing of a memorandum of understanding with the Private Sector Observatory (PSO) in continued support and to capture feedback and ensure accountability.
- Enhance continuity of stakeholder involvement by implementing a structured and regular series of communications.
- Prioritize reforms to bring greater focus and attention.

For further information please contact the following:

Mrs. Avivia St. Clair—CGF Focal Point

Tel: 468-2414 Or email [afredericks@gosl.gov.lc](mailto:afredericks@gosl.gov.lc)

Mrs. Ivy Remy-St Helen

Tel: 468-2431 or email [ivy.sthelen@govt.lc](mailto:ivy.sthelen@govt.lc)

