



# PAPAYO!

*The Quarterly Newsletter of the SVG Hotel & Tourism Association*

April-June, 2023

VOL. 10 ISSUE 2

## Our President Speaks



### What's Inside....

- **Marketplace 41** Page 2
- **Opening of the Villa Beach Recreational Facility** Page 3
- **Welcome New Members** Page 3
- **MOT Community Outreach Activities** Page 4
- **COVID-19 Status** Page 5
- **Before, During & After a Hurricane** Page 6
- **Celebrating Tourism** Page 7
- **Taking Care of Our Employees** Page 8
- **Vincy Mas 2023 Programme** Page 9

**BE A PART OF THE  
SOLUTION  
GET INVOLVED!**

**A**s we begin the second quarter of 2023, we are reminded that we are now officially in the Hurricane Season. With so much concern being expressed on the impacts of Climate Change on practically everything - through the web-based reality of today, we are all naturally concerned about what lies ahead during the period June to November. But such concerns should not be dealt with in isolation. We are confronted regularly with information on energy concerns, conflicts of war, conflicts of poverty, examples of selfish actions, and of course the difficulties many of us are experiencing in 'making ends meet'.

We continue to work with the powers that be to develop and grow a stronger, sustainable and more inclusive tourism industry. We urge all tourism stakeholders and the wider community to get involved in this movement to develop a strong tourism sector in SVG.

We congratulate the Min. of Tourism along with National Parks, Beaches and Rivers Authority on the opening of the Villa Beach Facility on 3rd July 2023. We look forward to the facility being well managed by the relevant authority with the support of beach goers and stakeholders. As most hotels on St. Vincent should be enjoying high occupancies during this carnival season, I wish everyone a safe and successful Vincy Mas Holiday.

**DON'T BE A BYSTANDER. GET INVOLVED. WE ALL HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY!**



Members of the Association were offered the opportunity to attend CHTA Marketplace in May of this year. The SVG Tourism Authority sponsored a booth. The delegation included Minister Carlos James, Glen Beache CEO and Kathique Haynes from the Tourism Authority, Kim Halbich President SVGHTA/ Paradise Beach Hotel, Jayba Harry - Soho House, Canouan, Tessa Glass - Blue Lagoon Hotel & Marina / The Liming / Plantation House and Storm Halbich - Fantasea Tours. Beachcombers Hotel booth was manned by Tolga Acayli. Breeze Travel Inc and Palm Island Resort were also represented at Marketplace. Feedback from participants was positive with many making great contacts and planning on attending next year even more prepared. We would like to encourage our members to plan on attending next year's Marketplace which would be held in Montego Bay, Jamaica. **SEE YOU THERE!**



## BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION

1. Access the Caribbean in one location
2. Expand business by diversifying into new markets and new products within the Caribbean
3. Keep up to date with product offers and trends in the region
4. Meet face to face with decision makers

## OPENING OF THE VILLA BEACH RECREATIONAL FACILITY

On 3rd July, 2023 the Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Sustainable Tourism and Culture celebrated the grand opening of the Villa Beach Recreational Facility, a remarkable addition to their community sustainable tourism product offerings. The facility is a two story complex comprising of a reception and security area, wash-rooms, deck, vending kiosk, showers and change rooms.



## WELCOME!

We extend a hearty welcome to our new Allied members in 2023.

Bliss - Beauty Spa  
495-4893  
[blisspalonis@gmail.com](mailto:blisspalonis@gmail.com)

Discovery Pre School  
[discoverypreschool1996@gmail.com](mailto:discoverypreschool1996@gmail.com)

Lynch Caribbean Brokers (SVG) - Insurance Brokers  
453-3300  
[svgha@lynchcaribbean.com](mailto:svgha@lynchcaribbean.com)  
Web: [lynchcaribbean.com](http://lynchcaribbean.com)

Cash Money Auto SVG - Auto Parts Supplier  
451-2300  
[info@cashmoneyautosvg.com](mailto:info@cashmoneyautosvg.com)  
Web: [cashmoneyautosvg.com](http://cashmoneyautosvg.com)

Perfection Nails - Nail Salon  
[patriceknights2025@gmail.com](mailto:patriceknights2025@gmail.com)  
496-5379

Sugar Mill Academy  
494-1967  
[sugarmillacademy@gmail.com](mailto:sugarmillacademy@gmail.com)

# MINISTRY OF TOURISM COMMUNITY OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

**T**he Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Sustainable Development and Culture will embark on a series of outreach activities throughout the various communities in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. These activities will seek to provide a forum for stakeholders to discuss matters related to tourism development and to further sensitize the communities about the transformation of the Tourism and Hospitality Industry.

The **main objectives** of the **2023 National Community Tourism Consultation** are as follows.

- Sensitize the communities throughout SVG about the transformations taking place in the tourism and hospitality industry;
- Highlight the roles, benefits and importance of the communities in the overall transformation of the tourism industry;
- Strengthen partnerships within the communities;
- Provide support to community tourism groups;
- Ascertain the needs of the communities as it relates to tourism development.

The first 2023 National Community Tourism Consultation will be held on **17<sup>th</sup> July, 2023** at the **Kingstown Methodist Church Hall** from **9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.**

A tentative schedule is provided below.

- 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2023 9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. Department of Tourism Strategic Planning Session NIS Conference Room
- 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2023 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. National Consultation Kingstown Methodist Church Hall
- 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2023 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Stakeholder Engagement Union Island & Canouan TBD
- 27<sup>th</sup> July, 2023 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Stakeholder Engagement Bequia TBD
- 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2023 9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. Ministry of Tourism Strategic Planning Session NIS Conference Room
- 19<sup>th</sup> August, 2023 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Caravan/Tourism Fair/Festival North Leeward
- 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2023 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Community Consultation East & West St. George
- 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2023 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Community Consultation South & Central Leeward
- 24<sup>th</sup> October, 2023 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Community Consultation North Windward
- 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2023 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Community Consultation Marriaqua
- 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2023 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Community Consultation South & North Central Windward

**For further information, please contact Communications Manager,  
Mrs. Jewelene Charles-Scott, at [tourism@gov.vc](mailto:tourism@gov.vc) or 4571502.**

## Never punish a learner

# COVID-19 STATUS

May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**C** COVID-19 will no longer be categorised a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC), WHO Director General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has confirmed. The announcement, on 5 May 2023, marks a turning point in the pandemic: 1,221 days after the WHO first learned of a cluster of cases of pneumonia of unknown origin in Wuhan, China, its health experts no longer consider the world in crisis mode – although COVID-19 remains a global health threat. Last week COVID-19 claimed a life every three minutes – and that's just the deaths that as we know about. As we speak, thousands of people around the world are fighting for their lives in intensive care units, and millions more continue to live with the debilitating effects of post COVID-19 condition. This virus is here to stay. It is still killing. And it is still changing.”

– Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director General

A PHEIC is the strongest global alert the World Health Organization (WHO) can formally make and helps to trigger a set of measures and legally binding obligations that facilitate a coordinated international response. This includes temporary recommendations of health measures that states may introduce to prevent or reduce the international spread of disease.

It is not the same thing as a pandemic – an epidemiological term that describes the global spread of a pathogen – which WHO does not officially declare the start or end of. Rather, WHO declares a PHEIC when an emergency is "serious, sudden, unusual or unexpected", with implications for health beyond the affected state's national borders. Several PHEICs – most recently [Mpox](#) – have not related to pandemics, while several sustained global epidemics, such as the [7th cholera pandemic](#) and [HIV/AIDS](#) have not been assigned PHEIC status. WHO has previously declared six PHEICs, two of which are still ongoing: [polio](#) and [mpox](#).

Speaking to journalists, Dr Tedros said: "Yesterday, the Emergency Committee met for the 15th time and recommended to me that I declare an end to the public health emergency of international concern. I have accepted that advice. It's therefore with great hope that I declare COVID-19 over as a global health emergency.

"However, that does not mean COVID-19 is over as a global health threat. Last week COVID-19 claimed a life every three minutes – and that's just the deaths that as we know about. As we speak, thousands of people around the world are fighting for their lives in intensive care units, and millions more continue to live with the debilitating effects of post COVID-19 condition. This virus is here to stay. It is still killing. And it is still changing."

The WHO's Emergency Committee has met every three months since the PHEIC was declared on 30 January 2020. At its [last meeting](#), the committee acknowledged that the COVID-19 pandemic may be approaching an inflexion point, but decided PHEIC status was still required to maintain global attention to COVID-19. Its lifting is a sign of the progress made in the past year.

Prof Didier Houssin, Chair of the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee on COVID-19 said: It is true that there are many uncertainties, particularly regarding the evolution of the virus. It is true also that there are big gaps in surveillance, reporting and healthcare, particularly in the most vulnerable countries. However, the situation has markedly improved with less mortality and an increased immunity against the virus – immunity which is vaccine-induced, or naturally induced – and a better access to diagnostics, vaccines and treatment."

Despite this progress, Dr Tedros warned that the risk of new variants emerging that could cause new surges in cases continued. "The worst thing any country could do now is to use this news as a reason to let down its guard, to dismantle the systems it has built, or to send the message to its people that COVID-19 is nothing to worry about. What this news means is that it's time for countries to transition from emergency mode, to managing COVID-19 alongside other infectious diseases.

"If need be, I will not hesitate to convene another emergency committee should COVID-19 once again put our world in peril." Dr Seth Berkley, CEO of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, which co-leads COVAX, the global initiative for equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines, said: "After more than three years of this pandemic, the world is ready to move to the next phase. But while today marks a historic milestone, we must also be clear about the need to continue to protect our most vulnerable people, as we do for other deadly but preventable diseases. Around three out of ten older adults in lower-income countries have not yet received two doses [of COVID-19 vaccine], and we know they are among those most likely to become severely ill or die from COVID-19. "During the pandemic, countries delivered more vaccines than ever before in history. With multiple outbreaks, millions of children missing out on routine vaccinations, and the certainty of future pandemics, the urgent question is – how can we best apply what we have learned to reach more people with lifesaving vaccines than ever before?" **[Source: WHO]**

# Before, During & After A Hurricane



## BEFORE THE HURRICANE

- Create Your Emergency Committee
- Assess Vulnerability & Risks
- Establish an Early Warning System
- Involve Staff & Guests in Your Plan
- Liaise with Tourism & Disaster Management Organizations
- Identify your Needs & Establish Mutual Agreements
- Get Insurance Coverage
- Write your own Plan & Establish Mutual Agreements
- Revise, Update & Test your Hurricane Procedures Regularly
- Follow the Hurricane Plan & Procedures in an Emergency

## DURING THE HURRICANE

- Assign Responsibilities (for different Phases of the Hurricane)

## AFTER THE HURRICANE (RECOVERY PHASE)

### *AFTER THE ALL-CLEAR IS GIVEN*

- Convene a Meeting of the Emergency Committee after the All-Clear

*(Source: Multi-Hazard Contingency Planning Manual (OAS/CDERA 2007))*

**IT'S BETTER TO BE PREPARED  
AND NOT HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY,  
THAN TO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY  
AND NOT BE PREPARED.**



# CELEBRATING TOURISM

**W**orld Tourism Day is celebrated each year on September 27 to spread awareness about the importance of tourism and its impact on our society.

The aim is to rethink tourism for development, including through education and jobs, and tourism's impact on the planet and opportunities to grow more sustainably. 27 Sept 2022

**World Tourism Day 2022 was celebrated under the theme of “Rethinking Tourism”.** Zurab Pololikashvili UNWTO Secretary-General, in his Message said “The theme embodies an essential step **for fully realizing our sector’s enormous and unrivalled potential to deliver positive change and opportunity for people everywhere, while at the same time meeting our responsibilities to sustainability and climate action.**

“Rethinking tourism means reassessing every part of our sector – **what we do and why we do it.** It also means rethinking how we communicate what we do and why we do it. On World Tourism Day, UNWTO will provide an update of our work, guided by the specific theme of that year’s celebrations. Tourism’s annual observance is the natural backdrop for an honest reflection on where UNWTO as an organization and tourism as a sector have come from and where we are going.

“This first edition, naturally, is largely focused on the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on tourism. It makes clear the scale of the challenge that faced us, collectively and individually. But then it also charts how UNWTO seized opportunity out of crisis, to set the foundations for the transformation of tourism. Through strengthening UNWTO’s position within the United Nations and on the global agenda, achieving unprecedented public visibility and establishing a new narrative, as well as through accelerating progress in key areas like innovation, climate action and financing and investments, this new report bears testament to our sector’s proven ability to adapt to adversity and bounce back stronger.”

**November is officially Caribbean Tourism Month.** The celebrations carry the recurring theme, ‘One Sea, One Voice, One Caribbean. The CTO encourages all of its members to celebrate Caribbean Tourism Month at the national level.

The objectives of Caribbean Tourism Month are:

- To raise awareness among Caribbean people of the importance of tourism in the Caribbean,
- To enhance the profile of the Caribbean tourism sector in the marketplace,
- To reflect on the invaluable impact of tourism on the economic, social and cultural well being in the Caribbean,
- To attract positive media coverage for and of the Caribbean and the local tourism product and;
- To celebrate the diversity of what the Caribbean offers.

*Start Planning Now!*

**WORLD TOURISM DAY 2023 THEME: “TOURISM & GREEN INVESTMENTS”**

**CTO STATE OF THE INDUSTRY CONFERENCE : OCTOBER 8-14, 2023,  
TURKS & CAICOS**



## TAKING CARE OF OUR EMPLOYEES

**T**he St. Vincent and the Grenadines Hotel and Tourism Association Inc. (SVGHTA) launched a Group Life & Health plan for members of the hospitality industry. The association thought with life's uncertainties it was necessary to have such a programme.

The Group plan took effect from November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 and is being administered by Lynch Caribbean Brokers (SVG) and Sagikor Life the insurer of choice. The group comprises three tiers— Earth, Sky and Sun, and persons up to age 59 years can enroll through their respective companies.

Health benefits covered by the plan include, but are not limited to:

- **Consultation Fees**
- **Air & Ground Ambulance Expenses**
- **Nursing Care**
- **Physiotherapy**
- **Prescription Medication**
- **Chemotherapy**
- **Maternity**
- **Diagnostic Procedures**
- **Preventative**
- **Surgical Procedures**
- **Hospital Expenses**
- **Orthodontia**
- **Vision**
- **Dental**



**SVGHTA**  
Group Medical Plan

### Summary of Tiers:

- **Earth**
  - Active Employees under age 65 (Lifetime Maximum for Health) \$ 200,000
  - Active Employees age 65 & over & Retirees(Lifetime Maximum for Health) \$ 100,000
  - Group Life flat benefit \$10,000
- **Sky**
  - Active Employees under age 65 (Lifetime Maximum for Health) \$ 1,000,000
  - Active Employees age 65 & over & Retirees (Lifetime Maximum for Health) \$ 200,000
  - Group Life flat benefit \$50,000
- **Sun**
  - Active Employees under age 65 (Lifetime Maximum for Health) \$ 1,000,000
  - Active Employees age 65 & over & Retirees (Lifetime Maximum for Health) \$ 300,000
  - Group Life flat benefit \$100,000

This plan also signals the importance of having such a benefit as companies can now offer their members not only compensation but also a benefit of necessity to show commitment to their employees' wellbeing along with attracting and retaining the highest caliber of talent.

**Additional information on the plan can be obtained from Lynch Caribbean Brokers (SVG) at 784-453-3300 or by emailing [svghta@lynchcaribbeanbrokers.com](mailto:svghta@lynchcaribbeanbrokers.com)**



# VINCYMAS TICKET OUTLETS!

- Entice**  
(Victoria Park)
- CDC Lotto Booth**  
(Peace Mo)
- Vee Jays**  
(Kingstown)
- Lano Lano Bar**  
(Heritage Square)
- Video Xtreme**  
(Questelles)
- Gate 3**  
(Arnos Vale)
- 4 Shells**  
(Calliaqua)
- Johnny's Barber Shop**  
(Georgetown)

## EVENTS/ADMISSIONS

<b>JUNE 30TH</b>	<b>FANTASTIC FRIDAY</b>	regular <b>\$20</b>
<b>JULY 1ST</b>	<b>JUNIOR CARNIVAL</b>	children <b>\$10</b> regular <b>\$15</b>
<b>JULY 2ND</b>	<b>JUNIOR PANORAMA</b>	children <b>\$10</b> regular <b>\$15</b>
<b>JULY 4TH</b>	<b>JUNIOR CALYPSO/SOCA</b>	children <b>\$10</b> regular <b>\$15</b>
<b>JULY 6TH</b>	<b>STEEL &amp; GLITTER</b>	regular <b>\$20</b> gate <b>\$30</b>
<b>JULY 7TH</b>	<b>EVO/ RAGGA SOCA</b>	early bird <b>\$30</b> regular <b>\$30</b> VIP <b>\$75</b>
<b>JULY 8TH</b>	<b>SOCA MONARCH</b>	early bird <b>\$40</b> regular <b>\$60</b>
<b>JULY 9TH</b>	<b>DIMANCHE GRAS</b>	early bird <b>\$20</b> regular <b>\$60</b> gate <b>\$30</b>
<b>JULY 11TH</b>	<b>MARDI GRAS</b>	children <b>\$10</b> regular <b>\$15</b>



ST. VINCENT  
GRENADINES

# VINCYMAS

**JUNE 30th - JULY 11th**

**LIVE STREAMING  
OF VINCYMAS SHOWS**

VISIT  
**WWW.VC3.TV**  
TO PURCHASE THE  
FOLLOWING SHOWS

- ★ **FANTASTIC FRIDAY**..... US \$5  
FRIDAY JUNE 30TH 2023
- ★ **STEEL & GLITTER**..... US \$10  
JULY 6TH 2023
- ★ **EVO A NIGHT OF RAGGA SOCA**.. US \$15  
JULY 7TH 2023
- ★ **SOCA MONARCH** ..... US \$20  
JULY 8TH 2023
- ★ **DIMANCHE GRAS** ..... US \$10  
JULY 9TH 2023
- ★ **5 SHOW PACKAGE** ..... US \$50  
Don't want to miss any show? Get our 5 show package which gives you access to streaming of Fantastic Friday, Steel & Glitter, EVO Ragga Soca, Soca Monarch and Dimanche Gras at a discounted price.

VISIT **WWW.VC3.TV** AND REGISTER TODAY

April—June, 2023

## SVG HOTEL & TOURISM ASSOCIATION

The St. Vincent & the Grenadines Hotel and Tourism Association is a non-profit organization registered under the Companies Act of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. It was first established in 1968 as the St. Vincent Hotel Association but was expanded in 1999 to encompass the entire tourism sector, hence its present designation. The main areas of focus of the Association are Training and Human Resource Development, Advocacy, Product Development, and Marketing and Promotion.

VOL. 10 ISSUE 2

# Stronger Together

## PAPAYO!

Is the Official Quarterly  
Newsletter of the  
SVG HOTEL & TOURISM  
ASSOCIATION



ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES HOTEL & TOURISM ASSOCIATION

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