

From: Embassy & Permanent Mission of St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Sent: Thursday, December 26, 2013 12:22 PM
To: Embassy & Permanent Mission of St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Subject: Aftermath of torrential rains in SVG on Christmas Eve

Fellow Vincentians,

Compliments of the Holiday Season to you!

As you may already be aware, what would have otherwise been a season of quiet reflection and merriment in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, has turned out to be one tragedy, as torrential rains on Christmas eve pummeled the country. The light of Christmas Day revealed the extent of the damage, as it was confirmed that 8 persons are dead, 5 still missing and at least 62 people left homeless due to the damage to, or complete destruction of their homes. Many others are still without water as the Central Water and Sewerage Authority conducts its restorative work in many affected areas.

The Director of the National Emergency Management Organisation, Howie Prince, has confirmed that the damage assessors have not yet concluded their work. An assessment of the damage will continue into today. However, it is already apparent that the greatest immediate needs will be food, medical supplies for the hospital, building materials and money. Our Embassy expects to receive later today, an initial report from both NEMO and the Milton Cato Memorial hospital as to what precisely is needed. This information will be shared with you as soon as it is received. We hope that you, the Vincentian community, will be in a position to come forward and assist those in need in our homeland.

While many families have lost their homes and their contents, the need for clothing is **not** an immediate one. However, should anyone still wish to provide assistance in that regard, new or very gently worn tropical attire will be accepted.

At this time, we also remember those in neighbouring St. Lucia and Dominica who have also suffered loss and damage. Even though Christmas has dealt us a hard blow, we can make a united effort to ensure that those in desperate need start the New Year off with some hope.

May this Christmas season be a blessing to you and your families. Happy 2014!

Sincerely,

La Celia A. Prince

Ambassador

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