

## **Statement from The Honourable Roosevelt Skerrit, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Dominica**

**Given in live exclusive interview via ABS Radio (Antigua and Barbuda) today, 21 September 2017.**

The Dominica High Commission in response to the State of emergency declared by the Honourable Roosevelt Skerrit, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Dominica wishes to inform and appeal to nationals and friends of Dominica across the UK to mobilize efforts in obtaining resources to aid Dominica.

We are also establishing an official Bank account for those who wish to donate cash, specific bank account details are: Bank Account No: 93992330, Sort Code: 20-80-14

Individuals and groups can begin to make direct deposits with your name so we can identify and acknowledge your contributions.

The Prime Minister has made a direct call that we ask the world to help. Therefore, the Office of the Dominica High Commission is willing and open to work with all nationals, groups, societies and established associations across the United Kingdom toward this official response. We are in the process of setting up key contact points, and personnel across the UK, to facilitate a UK-wide response.

At this point we will need all hands on deck as we rise to the challenges before us. We have had hundreds of call at the office and know our nationals and friends of Dominica are ready to act. Please organise yourselves locally and then we will coordinate from our office key contacts in your region and collections dates for shipping. The Prime Minister made note of the following items as most pressing for the victims and we are prepared to accept the following select items listed below for immediate shipping:

- Water
- Building materials
- Short term roofing material e.g. Tarpaulin
- Blankets
- Communication Equipments
- Dried goods
- Medical Supplies
- Infant Supplies
- Solar Lanterns, Flashlights, Batteries

A comprehensive list will follow.

There is now limited communication from Dominica.

The Prime Minister also said that he will be attending the United Nations General Assembly tomorrow, 22 September 2017. Hurricane Maria is an example to all nations that we are very vulnerable and need access to resources in order to build a more resilient society. He will be informing them of the situations and rally for funding and support from the world.

“It is going to be long and difficult however, united as a people, we will bounce back. I am completely committed to Dominica in raising Finances” – Honourable Roosevelt Skerrit.

The Prime Minister ended the interview by encouraging the Dominican people in the Diaspora to mobilize efforts to obtain resources to help family and friend in Dominica.

As with other occasions we thank you in advance of your solidarity and outstanding support in time of national need. We will continue to disseminate information on an on-going basis as soon as it becomes available.

The Ag. High Commissioner convey her sympathies to families and friends of those who lost their lives in Dominica as a result of Hurricane Maria.

Janet Charles  
Acting High Commissioner

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