



President of the Commonwealth of Dominica

**Remarks to be Delivered
by
His Excellency the President
Charles A Savarin, DAH
At the Presentation Ceremony of
The President's Charities
Foundation
Cash Donations to Eleven (11)
Charitable Organizations
on
Monday, 14th November 2016
State House Conference Centre**

Salutations:

- Your Excellency Eliud Williams, Former President of Commonwealth of Dominica, and Mrs. Williams
- Honourable Lady Catherine Daniel, Minister for Social Services, Family and Gender Affairs
- Miss Careen Prevost, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Social Services, Family and Gender Affairs
- Mr. Leroy Morvan, Acting Chief Welfare Officer
- Mrs. Verna Liverpool, Wife of former President Dr. Nicholas J.O. Liverpool
- Counselor Wei of the Chinese Embassy
- Sponsors and contributors of the 2016 President's Charities Dinner
- Chairman and Members of the President's Charities Foundation
- Mrs. Jennifer White, former Member of the President's Charities Foundation
- Representatives of the eleven Charitable Organizations
- The Media

Good morning all.

It is indeed a great pleasure for me to again welcome you to the State House Conference Centre for another President's Charities Foundation's Presentation Ceremony of Cash Donations in the form of cheques to eleven (11) charitable organizations. The President's Charities Foundation provides cash contributions to 17 charities on the island every year, from the proceeds of its annual fund raising dinner. The charities are:

- Dominica Association of Persons with Disabilities
- St. Jerome's Ministry
- Dominica Council on Ageing
- REACH
- House of Hope
- Roseau Branch of the St. Vincent De Paul Society
- Northern Branch of the St. Vincent De Paul Society
- Roving Caregivers Programme
- The Social Centre (**Towards the St. Ann's Day Nursery**)
- Operation Youth Quake
- Mahaut Senior Citizens Home
- Grotto Home for the Homeless
- Alpha Centre
- Workshop for the Blind
- Dominica Infirmary

- The Northern District Home for the Aged Inc.
- Care of the Elderly, Portsmouth

Today, eleven (11) of the seventeen (17) charitable organizations will receive cheques from the proceeds of the Thirteenth Annual Fundraising Dinner which took place on Saturday, 16th July 2016 at the Fort Young Hotel. The other six (6) charitable organizations will receive their cheques during my usual annual Christmas visits.

This year the gross receipts for the President's Charities Foundation Fund-Raising Dinner was \$84,476.42. Total expenditure stood at \$32,807.99 thus realizing a surplus of \$51,668.43. From this surplus, \$38,500.00 will be distributed among 17 charitable organizations; \$5,000.00 has been forwarded to the Office of Disaster Management to go towards the Haiti relief effort; the balance will go towards the hosting of the President's Charities Foundation Annual Children's Christmas Party for disadvantaged children from ages 5 to 12, which will be held in the north eastern part of the island, and towards the re-establishment of the Reserve Fund which is set aside to respond to emergency situations.

Today's presentation ceremony would not have been possible without the continued support of the sponsors, contributors and patrons of the President's Charities Foundation Dinner. A formal Vote of Thanks will be given later but I wish to take the opportunity to acknowledge our sponsors whose names are printed at the back of the programme, they are: FLOW, HHV Whitchurch & Company Limited, Ross University School of Medicine, DOMLEC, Petro Caribe, The Embassy of the People's Republic of China, Dominica National Petroleum Company Limited, Print Xpress, Archipelago Trading, National Bank of Dominica, Dominica Social Security, First Domestic Insurance, J. Astaphan & Company Limited, Fine Foods Incorporated; Secret Bay, Cave Canali of Guadeloupe, Marpin 2K4, and FirstCaribbean International Bank (Dominica) Limited.

I also want to take this opportunity to make special mention of the following organizations/individuals who purchased in excess of five (5) tickets for this year's dinner, these are:

- Ross University (20)

- AID Bank (15)
- DIGICEL (10), and for sponsoring a door prize
- Mr. Duncan Stowe (13)
- Chinese Embassy (5)
- Astaphan family (7)
- Nassief family (6); and
- DOMLEC (5)

I want to express my special thanks and appreciation to the Members of the President's Charities Foundation for sharing their time, energy, talents and skills. They are:

- Mrs. Clara Savarin, ex-officio member
- Mr. Antoine Raffoul, Chairman
- Mrs. Shermaine Green-Brown, Public Relations Officer
- Mrs. Zandra Phillip, Treasurer
- Mrs. Noelise Knight Didier, Secretary
- Mrs. Hazel Johnson, Legal Secretary
- Mr. Robert St John
- Mr. Oliver St John;
- Mr. Henry Volney
- Mr. Julius J. Corbett

- Mr. Jeffrey Baptiste
- Mr. Hilkih Lavinier
- Mr. Damian Whitchurch-Aird
- Miss Donille Blackmoore, President's Secretary and Assistant Secretary/Treasurer of the Foundation

Today, an additional cheque will be presented to the Grotto Home for the Homeless and Operation Youth quake from the Erika Relief Fund of the President's Charities Foundation. The sum of \$22,475.80 will go towards constructing a new septic tank and soak-away system for the new Grotto Home at Bellevue Rawle, and the sum of \$28,414.55, towards the following components of the Farm Development Project of Operation Youth Quake:

Module 1 - \$22,980.00 for the building of two (2) terraces on the 1.2 acres of sloping land at the back of the building to create more usable land space for

planting and to enhance the ambiance of the premises;
and

Module 2 - \$5,434.55 for the development of the farm with a view to revamping farm production of fruits, vegetables and provisions, chicken and other small stock, thus providing fresh produce for the use of the residents and for sale where possible, as well as training in proper small scale farming for the residents.

As I mentioned to you at last year's presentation, the President's Charities Foundation Incorporated launched an (Erika) Relief Fund with a start - up amount of EC\$27,000.00 from the Foundation's Reserve Fund, setting a target of raising US\$100,000.00 (EC\$270,000.00). A special 8 man sub-committee was set up comprising 4 members of the Foundation and 4 members from the private sector, charged with the responsibility of managing the effort, and to raise the targeted amount by soliciting financial support from individuals and businesses locally

and overseas. The intention was to help provide medium term relief and comfort to the families, more particularly school children, who reside in two of the worst affected communities on the West Coast, namely Colihaut and Coulibistrie, and to provide infrastructural development support to Operation Youth Quake, which provides a home away from home for at-risk youths from ages 7 to 18, and the Community Hostels Incorporated, formerly known as the Grotto Home for the Homeless.

The Subcommittee was able to raise EC\$205,818.52, thanks to significant contributions from external and local benefactors. The President's Charities Foundation has already disbursed EC\$60,000.00 to the Ministry of Education for the construction of a multi-purpose hard court at the Coulibistrie Primary School; and \$92,600 for purchasing and installing 16 doors and 59 windows, and sourcing items of school furniture from China, for the Colihaut Primary School, in addition to some 58 gallons of Sissons Paint from Ansa Coatings Ltd. of Trinidad for the repainting of the schools.

I want to recognize the selfless contribution of the persons who served on the Foundation's Erika Relief Fund Sub Committee namely:

- Mrs. Shermaine Green-Brown, Chairperson
- Mr. Antoine Raffoul
- Mr. Oliver St. John
- Mr. Jeffrey Baptiste
- Mr. Julius J. Corbett
- Mr. Hilkieh Lavinier, and
- Mr. Damien Whitchurch-Aird

Let me once again express my thanks to the members of the Foundation, the sponsors, the contributors and the patrons of the President's Charities Foundation Fund-Raising Dinner. Your support is deeply appreciated, and we do look forward to your continued support to our humanitarian effort.

May the Good Lord continue to bless you and your families,
and our beloved country.