



Government of Saint Lucia



COVID-19 Social Stabilization Plan

APRIL - JUNE 2020

Presented by Prime Minister
Hon. Allen M. Chastanet



Full Commissioning of OKEU Hospital

The OKEU Hospital was fully commissioned on 27 March 2020, with the provision of all services previously offered at the Victoria Hospital.





Victoria Hospital converted into dedicated Respiratory Hospital

VH to be used as a Respiratory Hospital to treat COVID-19 patients as part of our National COVID-19 response actions.





Saint Lucia

COVID-19 Responses

- 5 Respiratory Clinics across the island
- 3 Hotels used as Quarantine facilities
- Over 100 Nurses and Doctors from Cuba
- COVID-19 Responses including OKEU & VH

\$30 Million





Unemployment Relief

NIC to provide 3 months of Subsistence Allowance to persons who lost their jobs.

Range- \$500- \$1500 monthly
Phase 1: (April-June, 2020)

\$65 Million





Self Employed Subsistence Allowance

Government to provide subsistence allowance to non-contributors of NIC (taxi drivers, vendors, small business persons, creative industry etc). Those who have been displaced (through loss of employment/income) as a result of COVID-19.

\$500 monthly for 3 months.

\$16.8 Million





Extension of Corporate Tax Installment Payments

An extension of time will be granted for Corporate Income Tax installment payments due on March 31, June 30, and September 30, 2020.

The extension of time is for one (1) month in each instance.





Extension of time for filing of Income Tax Returns by 1 month

This pertains to all individuals, enterprises, companies and other entities. Persons and entities are all encouraged to use the Inland Revenue Department's Electronic Filing Platform to file their tax returns and make payments online, as it is a convenient, safe and reliable medium.





Waiver of Interest and Penalties on all Tax types for March 2020

All payment due dates for the months of April to September will be extended by 1 month. For example, Value Added Tax (VAT) payments due on April 21 st 2020 will now be due on May 21 st 2020. Personal Income Tax payment due on March 31, 2020 will now be due on April 30, 2020.

\$3 Million





Tax Credit to Companies and other entities which retain at least 30% of their staff

The tax credit will be tiered, based on the number of employees that are retained by the entity.

The company would have to obtain a tax clearance certificate to show that they are not indebted to the government for the payment of taxes.





Moratorium on bank loan repayments (principal and interest) for 6 months

Displaced workers and businesses adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic will obtain greatly needed relief from the commercial banks from April to September 2020.

Government working on similar relief with Credit Unions





Government seeking relief from Financing Partners

The Government is also working closely with the Saint Lucia Bankers Association, the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank, the Caribbean Development Bank, the World Bank, and the other international development partners to seek financial assistance which includes a moratorium on debt payments, grant funding, policy-based loans and budgetary support.





Government in discussion with Insurance companies to provide assistance to persons affected by COVID-19

The assistance being considered is in the form of premium insurance certificate where individuals would receive a moratorium on the payment of their insurance premiums, however they would still be provided with insurance coverage.





Engagement with Utility companies to assist those who have suffered job loss.

Measures to be considered include: providing services at cost and the suspension of disconnections for the next 6 months (April to September 2020) for individuals and businesses which have suffered losses as a result of COVID-19.





Commencement of Duty Free Barrel Concessions Earlier

Proposed start date June, 2020 as opposed
to the previously established start date of
December.

\$4 Million





Concessions to Companies that produce Sanitation and Health care products

These products include face masks and hand sanitizer.

Government also encourages local entrepreneurs to produce alternatives to Vitamin C supplements for local consumption.

\$ 5 Million





Reduce Import Bill by implementing a strong "Buy Local" campaign

Facilitate diversification, spur investment in local enterprises, foster greater consumption and assist in generating some level of employment.





Suspension of all rental payments for six (6) months for Small, Medium & Micro Enterprises renting from Government

This includes vendors and operators of hospitality operations, including restaurants, which are accommodated in units owned by the government, for SMMEs that can demonstrate loss of business.





Provide Direct Support to Farmers

Support increased productivity and inputs to farmers including fertilizer, seedlings and other inputs to help increase food production to supply the local and regional markets.





Fuel Rebate to Bus Drivers

Facilitate the payment of the requested fuel rebate to minibus operators.

Government is also considering the waiver of Vehicle License fees for Bus Drivers and Taxi drivers.

\$1.1 Million





Government to increase purchases from local Farmers & Fishermen

Provide targeted support to farmers and fishermen adversely affected through the purchase of products from farmers and fishermen.





Government Assistance to local Entrepreneurs producing the following:

- Hand sanitizer
- Liquid hand soap
- Rubbing alcohol
- Facemasks
- Disposable gloves (latex/surgical)
- Bathroom tissue
- Paper towel

\$7.4 Million





Incentives to support the Manufacturing of Household Cleaning Items

- Bleach
- Soap Powder
- Disinfectants
- Liquid Soap

\$3.4 Million





Government to Procure Medicine/Supplements for Distribution

Bulk purchase and distribution of the following medicine supplements.
(At no or low cost)

- Vitamin C
- Pain relievers
- Cold/flu medicine
- Cough medicine
- Allergy/Sinus Medicine
- Decongestant Medicine





Price Gouging Legislation

The implementation of Price Gouging legislation to protect consumers.

In order to protect consumers from abuse by unscrupulous business persons, who are attempting to maximise earning through price hikes on items which are currently in high demand, price gouging legislation will be developed.





Financial Assistance from Development Partners

- World Bank
- International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)
- Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB)
- European Union (EU)





Preparing for Recovery

- World Bank
- International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)
- Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB)
- European Union (EU)





National Meals Programme

Collaboration with the SLHTA, Ministry of Agriculture and other key stakeholders to commence the preparation and distribution of meals to commence Easter Sunday, April 12th, 2020.

Approximately 5,000 underprivileged persons to benefit.

