Acting Prime Minister of Barbados to welcome Tertiary Students from Antigua and Barbuda on CSME Field Mission in Barbados

The Acting Prime Minister of Barbados, the Honourable Richard Sealy is scheduled to engage nineteen students from tertiary institutions in Antigua and Barbuda at a welcome ceremony on Monday 28 September 2015. The students are participating in a CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) mission to Barbados next week – 28 September - 3 October 2015. The activity is part of a CARICOM Secretariat public education project which exposes tertiary students to the CSME through field missions. With funding from the European Union, the students from Antigua and Barbuda institutions are scheduled to investigate the operations of the CSME in Barbados.

Monday’s welcome ceremony is to be hosted at the CARICOM Secretariat Barbados Offices in Haggatt Hall. The students are also expected to be addressed by Ambassador Gail Mathurin from the CARICOM Secretariat and Ambassador Mikael Barford, Head of the European Delegation to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean.

The objective of the project is to engage the next generation in identifying career opportunities in the field with regard to wage employment, self employment and starting a business in the CSME. The tertiary students along with an Antigua and Barbuda CARICOM Youth Ambassador (CYA) will meet with the Barbados Government Ministries and Departments responsible for Labour, Commerce, Immigration and for issuing local CARICOM Skills Certificates. The mission will also meet senior personnel from the local Central Bank and regional service companies.

Next week’s activities and logistics are coordinated by the Barbados Office of the Prime Minister with assistance from the CARICOM Secretariat.

Accompanying the mission is the Antigua and Barbuda CSME Focal Point, and a lecturer from a tertiary institution. Since April this year, Fifty Seven tertiary students and three CYAs from Dominica, Belize and Grenada were also exposed in similar missions within the CSME. The project – Students engaging the CSME through Field Promotion -
was first initiated in 2008 to 2009 and saw 283 tertiary students exposed to the CSME. It is expected that this current project will last until the end of 2015 and another 240 students will benefit from the missions.

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