



The Registrar General's Department (RGD) wishes to inform the public that our new telephone system is now fully operational. All our branch offices are inter connected and host a compliment of 110 telephone lines; so you may contact us at any of the numbers below.

The telephone number for the **Head Office** is **619-1260** (Digicel) or **749-0550** (LIME) and our regional offices are:

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We can also be reached at www.rgd.gov.jm or information@rgd.gov.jm

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CARIBBEAN PERSPECTIVES:
An in-depth focus on Caribbean issues

Haiti at top of CARICOM leaders agenda

Sandra Ann Baptiste
Contributor

LEADERS FROM the 15-nation Caribbean Community (CARICOM) gathering in Dominica for a two-day meeting will have Haiti and high-level discussions with the World Bank at the top of their agenda.

The March 11-12 talks at the Fort Young Hotel in Roseau, the Dominica capital, will be held against the backdrop of forecast by the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) that the recovery of the region's economies will not be realised until 2011. Several CARICOM countries, most recently Jamaica, have turned to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for assistance to stabilise their economies.

Steps to accelerate the full implementation of the Caribbean Single Market (CSM) will be discussed at the Inter-sessional meeting under the chairmanship of Dominica's Prime Minister, Roosevelt Skerritt.

The Heads of Government talks are fresh on the heels of a productive inaugural CARICOM-Mexico Summit.

Support for Haiti

CARICOM Secretary-General Edwin Carrington confirmed that CARICOM's programme of assistance to Haiti, devastated by the January earthquake, would be accorded priority at the Roseau talks. He expressed confidence that the region's leaders will press ahead with measures that advance the regional integration process.

The Dominica meeting will centre on the modus operandi for CARICOM's new Strategic Office in Jamaica headed by former Jamaican prime minister, P.J. Patterson, who is CARICOM's special envoy on Haiti. The small unit in Kingston is expected to have a team of five.

The Heads of Government have also established a CARICOM Haiti Support Unit in the Secretariat, headed by Assistant Secretary-General Colin Granderson and the CARICOM Office in Haiti is also being strengthened.

Patterson will report to the CARICOM leaders on the outcome of the January meeting he attended in Montreal of the international Coordination Committee, created to organise an international conference to devise a strategic plan for the reconstruction of Haiti.

The meeting will also review plans for establishing a CARICOM Regional Health facility in Haiti, identified as the priority area of assistance for the hurricane-ravaged CARICOM member state.

The facility, expected to be set up outside of the capital Port-au-Prince, will involve the rotation of medical specialists from across the region, primarily surgeons and public health specialists.

The region's leaders will also discuss how CARICOM can best assist Chile, which was hit on February 27 by one of the strongest earthquakes in recent history.

Talks with the World Bank

When World Bank President Robert B. Zoellick meets the CARICOM leaders in Roseau, the CARICOM Secretary-General expects the meeting to focus on financing mitigation and adaptation measures with regard to climate change and "the crippling debt burden of those member states which have achieved middle-income status and, therefore, currently due to their graduation, do not qualify for concessionary debt reduction." *HAITI*

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IAN ALLEN/PHOTOGRAPHER

Two boys walk and talk with each other as residents try to rebuild in Killick, Port-Au-Prince after last month's earthquake.

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