

*Entitled: SVG LMIS*

The St. Vincent and the Grenadines Labour market Information System (LMIS) was officially launched in April 2011. With technical assistance from the International Labour Organisation (ILO) sub regional office in Trinidad, the project was first piloted in St. Vincent and the Grenadines in 2008. It is currently being tested in most of the other OECS countries including the Dutch territory of St. Maarten. Since 2011 the Department of Labour has been moving towards enhancing the management and operations of the system while receiving continued support from the Trinidad Office.

***The LMIS and its Objectives***

The LMIS is a computerised mechanism put in place at the Labour Department to collect, analyse and disseminate labour market information on a regular basis. Information is collected on most areas of employment, labour and other income earning opportunities; as well as on our human resource capacity through the local education and skills training system.

Information collected on labour and employment include all complaints made to the Department, workplace inspections carried out, queries dealt with either in person or by telephone from individuals and business establishments, industrial disputes handled, redundancies recorded, job-brokering, and processing workers for the Canadian Farm Programme.

The Department also collects data on the number of foreign nationals seeking employment in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, the number of graduates from the various TVET and other skills programmes, the enrolments figures from our general education system and the number of trained professionals who are either returning from overseas or have accessed such training locally.

The main objective of the new system really is to provide important labour and employment information and statistical data to a range of users; the data which the Department provides would be useful to the Government not only in assisting them to formulate relevant policies on employment and labour but would also

encourage them to develop appropriate programmes and projects design to enhance the marketability of those who are out of work and actively seeking work; the data would also be beneficial to those responsible for passing appropriate legislations; for persons who are engaged in labour market research and analysis, and it would also be beneficial to employers and jobseekers in respect of recruitment and job vacancies.

### ***The Components of the LMIS***

The SVG-LMIS consists of two main components namely: the computerisation of all the Department's administrative records and procedures using standardized forms and, the establishment of an internet- based information system that provides links to some key local and international agencies and institutions such as the National Insurance Services (NIS) and the International labour Organisation (ILO). The system also supports the establishment of national registers of all business establishments, collective agreements, registered trade unions, employers' organizations, private employment agencies, and all TVET and other skills training institutes among others.

### ***Current activities***

The Department of Labour is currently working with the ILO Consultants in upgrading the system so as to make it more efficient and user-friendly. We continue to partner with all TVET Skills Training institutions in providing up-to-date information on the types of programmes which they offer and the number of students enrolled and graduated over the last three years. This information would be uploaded to the database and would be made available on this website. Efforts are being made to strengthen the partnership arrangements with the National Insurance Services (NIS), the Central Statistical Office and the Youth Empowerment Services (YES) Programme, as well as with the National Qualification Sector Skills Development Agency, the Ministry of Education, the Service Commissions' Department, and all private employment agencies.