May 7 2020

Hon. Minister Mary Isaac

Statement on Corona Virus Disease

When WHO advised all countries to ensure preparation for containment, as a result of the dreaded Corona Virus, the Department of Health and Wellness in St. Lucia prepared for the worse case scenario, and immediately sensitized key stakeholders and the public to ensure early detection and efficient management of COVID.

To facilitate quarantine and isolation of persons identified through contact tracing and those returning from high risk COVID-19 areas, five public health facilities were established in hotels and a hospital was retrofitted as a respiratory hospital.

To date, 900 persons have undergone quarantine. We have had 18 positive cases of COVID-19 in St Lucia, 2 of whom were repatriated, and all local cases have fully recovered. This is the 2nd time during this pandemic that St. Lucia can report that we have no positive cases of COVID 19 on Island.

The government and people of Taiwan were instrumental in donating thousands of medical masks to Saint Lucia in April 2020. We applaud the ability of Taiwan to contribute thousands more to the United States, United Nation territories and member states, diplomatic allies, Latin American countries and other Caribbean territories.

It is important to note, that as of April 29, 2020, Taiwan confirmed 429 cases of COVID-19 in a population of 23 million people, thereby preventing a major outbreak. This was achieved using a centralized command structure, border control, early case detection and containment, and the regulation and equitable distribution of medical supplies including masks. Consideration should be given for Taiwan to contribute further to the control of this COVID-19 pandemic through the World Health Organization and the World Health Assembly as it demonstrated not only the ability to control COVID-19 at home, but also the capacity for global intervention in the fight against this pandemic.

On behalf of the Government and People of St. Lucia, I Thank you.

Hon. Minister Mary Isaac.