



AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY

Welcome Remarks

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Caribbean Leadership and Transformation Forum:
Delivering Results

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Good morning.

Welcome to the Caribbean Leadership and Transformation Forum: Delivering Results. We at the Caribbean Development Bank are honoured to be hosting this event today. I noticed from the invitee list that we have with us today participants from as far away as Malaysia and the United Kingdom and as nearby as Saint Lucia and right here in Barbados. We thank you all for coming, especially those of you who have traveled far distances to share with us your knowledge and expertise.

Today's event is a milestone in CDB's ongoing efforts to support a stronger focus on results in our Region, and could not have been timelier. Many of our Caribbean countries are facing the challenge of high levels of debt and low growth, high incidences of crime and violence, comparatively poor performance on "doing business" indicators, and vulnerability to natural disasters. Although solutions to our problems abound, our commitment to economic and institutional reform has been weak and the

implementation of solutions is an enormous challenge. For example, several of our Borrowing Member Countries record Public Sector Investment Programme implementation rates below 50 percent.

This meeting brings together a distinguished group of people from across the Region. We have business leaders and captains of industry, government officials from ministries of finance and planning, academics and other stakeholders from regional organisations. This gathering represents a unique opportunity to identify potential solutions to the challenges our Region faces and explore new ways of thinking and new approaches to delivering results. It is an invaluable opportunity to draw upon a diverse range of practical experiences and lessons learnt.

Over the next two days, we will explore the concept of “delivery” and the “delivery unit”. Delivery units are small teams that track the progress of key priorities on a continual basis, promote accountability to stakeholders, and help solve problems when

implementation bottlenecks arise. It is our hope that the outcome of your deliberations will provide a platform to advance and support a regional focus on delivering results.

At the end of this Forum, we expect that you will walk away with new knowledge on how best to improve implementation rates and fast track development priorities in order to transform our communities, businesses, economies and societies in ways that sustainably improve our livelihoods.

Closing

In closing, I would like to commend the Staff of the Caribbean Development Bank for planning and organising this Forum. I encourage you to take full advantage of the opportunities for learning, dialogue and exchanging ideas. Prepare yourself to be challenged, excited, and inspired! On behalf of the Caribbean Development Bank, again, welcome.

Ladies and gentlemen, I thank you.