



Basic Needs Trust Fund (BNTF) Programme

PRESS RELEASE

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SEAFARERS TO COMMENCE SAFETY TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION IN TRINIDAD

Seafarers from Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique are moving to acquire new skills and certification in basic safety at sea.

The Basic Needs Trust Fund (BNTF) will support about 100 sea farers to participate in Standard of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW). The programme will be conducted in Trinidad at the Caribbean Fisheries Training and Development Institute (CFTDI), which offers training and certification in accordance with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) standards.

In addition to improving safety practices at sea, certified persons will also be in a better position to seek employment in the marine sector. Twelve persons were trained in 2014 with support from BNTF.

Speaking at the orientation session yesterday (21 September, 2015) at the Gouyave Fishing Complex, Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture, Honourable Alvin DaBreo urged the seafarers to take advantage of this opportunity and to make Grenada proud. He spoke of the financial and social burdens placed on families when seafarers get injured or suffer losses at sea.

BNTF's Project Manager, Mr. Isaac Bhagwan spoke of the importance of certification and noted the high enthusiasm among the target group.

The first batch of 14 seafarers, including 2 women from Carriacou, will leave Grenada on 27 September, 2015 for Trinidad. The training will be conducted over 9 days. Three batches of seafarers will be trained by the end of 2015 and 5 other batches between February - June, 2016.

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Figure 1 BNTF Staff Addresses Seafarers During Orientation on 21 September, 2015 at Gouyave Fishing Complex

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Figure 2 Cross Section of Seafarers at Orientation for STCW Training

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Figure 3 Honorable Alvin DaBreo Addresses Seafarers during STCW Orientation on 21 September, 2015 at Gouyave Fishing Complex

The Basic Needs Trust Fund (BNTF)

- The Basic Needs Trust Fund (BNTF) is a grant-funded programme by the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB);
- Started over 30 years ago in Grenada and now in its eight cycle (BNTF 8);
- A key CDB instrument for addressing poverty reduction;
- Provides access to basic infrastructure and services in disadvantaged communities;
- Has implemented over 2,000 projects directly impacting more than 2.8 million people in the Caribbean;

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