



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
13-15 ST. CLAIR AVENUE, ST. CLAIR
Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Attention: HEAD OF NEWS and EDITOR IN CHIEF

MEDIA RELEASE

BELIZE

16 FEBRUARY, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

No. of Pages: 1

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CARICOM HEADS DISCUSS PRESSING REGIONAL ISSUES

Today, Tuesday 16th February, 2016 marked the first full day of the Twenty-Seventh Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). The Trinidad and Tobago delegation is headed by Prime Minister, Dr the Honourable Keith Rowley and includes Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs, the Honourable Dennis Moses.

During today's session the Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda the Honourable Gaston Browne presented on the issue of corresponding banking and the implications of the de-risking or de-linking of foreign banks to smaller banks operating in the CARICOM region.

The urgent public health issue of the Zika virus and the eradication of the aedes aegypti mosquito, which carries the virus, also made its way onto the agenda with Executive Director of the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) Dr James Hospedales, addressing the conference. Prime Minister Dr Rowley made the point that Trinidad and Tobago fully supports CARPHA and is aggressively treating with the issue of Zika, with a view to eliminating the mosquito which carries the virus. He also made a call for the establishment of organised protocols to treat with the issue across the Region.

Up to the time of this release the Heads of Government were in a caucus meeting.

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