



**PERMANENT MISSION OF SAINT LUCIA TO THE
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS)**

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INDEPENDENCE STATEMENT

by

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As we celebrate the 42nd Anniversary of our Independence, the lines “A Resilient Nation, We can, We will” are profound in that they highlight the battle we have fought over the past year and the hurdles still ahead. This as we navigate the effects of COVID-19.

Lives lost and lives at risk, both at home and here in the Diaspora are primary in my thoughts, and I extend my condolences to all who have suffered the loss of a loved one as a result of this pandemic. My thoughts and prayers go out to those we know who struggle with its aftereffects.

Inasmuch as there are promises of vaccines on the horizon, Saint Lucia, as a small country must continue to advocate ceaselessly for access to all solutions that will protect us from further ravages. We must all however continue to play our own individual part to protect ourselves and those around us, by practicing social distancing and the wearing of masks along with following the regulations of relevant authorities wherever we may reside. Complacency is not an option. To our Diaspora who has supported Saint Lucia through this difficult time, thank you. Thank you for housing your brothers and sisters when they were stuck here and unable to

go home; thank you for your support of each and every fundraiser that has been launched to support amongst others, our first responders and our youth; and thank you for your continued direct support to your families back home, even when I am sure that you were yourself struggling to make ends meet.

While the pandemic is like nothing we have faced before, our Saint Lucia will come through unbowed. We will recover economically, see jobs return and see our nation's future bright in our children's eyes. Let not virtual celebrations temper our enthusiasm and commitment to Saint Lucia. Let them only strengthen our resolve.

Wishing all our nationals a Happy Independence and may God continue to bless you and our Saint Lucia.