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**PRESS RELEASE**

**PRIME MINISTER ATTENDS CARICOM MEETINGS IN ST.LUCIA**

**July 3, 2019** - Prime Minister, Dr. the Right Honorable Keith Mitchell, left the state Wednesday to attend Caribbean Community (CARICOM) meetings in St. Lucia. He is accompanied by Minister for Trade, Industry, Cooperatives and CARICOM Affairs, Hon. Oliver Joseph.

Today, Dr. Mitchell who is also the Minister of Finance, will chair the 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council for Finance and Planning which will address matters relating to the functioning of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy.

This afternoon, at 4:30 p.m. the Prime Minister will join fellow leaders from across the region for the official opening ceremony of the 40<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community.

The implementation of measures to enhance the CSME; an interim report from the CARICOM Commission on the Economy; the situation in Venezuela and blacklisting are among the main agenda items for the two-day meeting.

Consideration will also be given to a paper that will be put forward by Dr. Mitchell which deals with deepening collaboration and increasing the integration of science and technology institutional capabilities in the region.

The Prime Minister will return to the state on Friday. In his absence, Honourable Gregory Bowen will serve as Acting Prime Minister.

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**Photo Caption:** Prime Minister, Dr. the Right Honorable Keith Mitchell and Minister for Trade, Industry, Cooperatives and CARICOM Affairs, Hon. Oliver Joseph are pictured just prior to their departure Wednesday morning for the CARICOM meetings in St. Lucia.