April 13th 2017

Hon. Cecil Mc Kie

Minister of Culture and Tourism

2nd floor NIS Building

Kingstown

St Vincent and the Grenadines

Dear Minister Mc Kie

**RE: Management of the Kalinago Village**

St. Vincent is distinguished by the fact, that human history as heritage of its indigenous past of the most Caribbean neighbours has almost completely disappeared, and also lacks official recognition. St. Vincent is unique due to its national hero, the Carib Chief Joseph Chatoyer and permanent remembrance of the massive complex social changes that took place between the 17th and 19th century. Despite genocide and forced deportation by the British colonization the indigenous Carib population on St. Vincent managed to survive.

The KALINAGO are Vincentians heritage. They are St. Vincent and the Grenadines indigenous tribe, which was the nation, before the colonization by the British took place. The few descendants of this particular tribe live among the majority population, but maintain the culture and traditions of their ancestors.

Last year, the Kalinago were also asked to help the Dutch archaeologists of the University of Leiden in establishing a Carib Village at the Argyle International Airport. The village was completed by the forestry authority.

During their excavations, the archaeologists found numerous artifacts from the pre-Columbian era. It is the place of their historical roots for the Kalinago. It is also a place of their cultural foundation, because their ancestors were located there. The spiritual spirit of this place must be kept. You want to keep the spirit of the place and show their Kalinago tribe's survival and their traditional culture of the inhabitants of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, as well as foreign visitors.

Hon. Minister, please support the Kalinago and pass on to them the management of the Kalinago village. The Kalinago belong to this place, because it is the place of their ancestors.

That they are capable shows by the project "Pirogue war canoe" in an impressive way, the first traditionally manufactured large canoe, which was built again and again for hundreds of years in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and attracts many visitors. There were 5,800 visitors - including many children and students - until March of this year. The project was realized through the joint support of friends of indigenous peoples, various government departments of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and tribal members.

Thank You.

Yours sincerely,

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