



**Message from The President of The Union of St. Lucian Overseas Associations
St Lucia 40th Anniversary of Independence – February 22nd, 2019**

On behalf of the Union of St. Lucian Overseas Associations, it is my honour and great privilege to congratulate all St. Lucians at home and throughout the diaspora on 40 years of resilience, leadership and independence.

The theme for this year's independence, **"All In, Our Journey, Our Future"** is indicative of our core belief that we must put forth all our efforts to impact our future and establish a legacy for our descendants. As a proud St. Lucian I am consistently inspired by our community engagement and I greatly appreciate the incredible work of the respective overseas Associations and Consular offices for their cooperation and diligence in convening our nationals living abroad.

I believe firmly in the proverb that "Family is like a forest, from the outside it is dense but on the inside it is clear that each tree has its own position". In an age of economic uncertainty, precarious employment, youth disenfranchisement and a plethora of societal challenges in the countries where we live and back home in St. Lucia we must unite as a family to solve these problems. Ignorance and apathy are far from the values we hold dear as honourable St. Lucian nationals. We must deploy strategic and sustainable measures to address the needs of our family members back home. The models of aid and subsistence are antiquated and have not advanced our agenda in the diaspora. We must look at social innovation, social procurement, and social impact practices that build the capacity of St. Lucians and drive community economic development.

The call to action is simple; less talk more action. We convene yearly but the work is really actualized in between our yearly dinner and dances. We can no longer wait on a crisis to occur to motivate us. We must act through design and not by default. We have the skills, ingenuity, and capital to impact our home. Maya Angelou once said, "Nothing will work, unless you do." Those words have guided many remarkable members of our community to achieve great success. It is my hope that these words become actionable insights for a new era of unity and collective impact, apres Bondieu!

Marche bien,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ross Cadasse', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Ross Cadasse