

# **KALINAGO COUNCIL**

ST.CYR RESOURCE CENTER, ST.CYR, KALINAGO TERRITORY,  
COMMONWEALTH OF DOMINICA

**TELEPHONE: 767.2772679 / 767.2858758**

[kalinagocouncil@gmail.com](mailto:kalinagocouncil@gmail.com)

**16 September, 2024**

**Mr. Chad George**

**Director**

**Government Information Service**

**Roseau**

**Commonwealth of Dominica**

Dear Mr. George:

I write to express the total disappointment of the Kalinago Council, and the Kalinago Peoples about the behavior of the Government Information Service (GIS) at the Inauguration of the Kalinago Chief, and Kalinago Council held on Wednesday, 11 September, 2024. It has been the practice and precedent that important Inaugurations of Town and Village Councils are normally carried live by the Government Information Service and it was expected by the Kalinago Council and the Peoples of the Kalinago Territory that past practice in this respect would hold for this Inauguration. Most concerning was the lack of communication from you, or any GIS official expressing regret, and a reason for not being able to do so.

This behavior at this September ceremony at which Her Excellency, Mrs. Sylvanie Burton, President of the Commonwealth of Dominica, officiated, and also at which presentations were made by Honourable Cassani Laville, Minister of Health and Cabinet Member representing the Prime Minister, Honourable Greta Roberts, Minister of Local Government, Sports and Culture, Honourable Cozier Frederick, Minister of Environment, Kalinago Affairs and Rural Modernization and Parliamentary Representative for the Salybia Constituency defies reason, and any modicum of respect to the First People of Dominica.

Let me underscore that your absence was a display of distasteful conduct by GIS, and I must hasten to add that the Kalinago Peoples of Dominica view this act as another example of continuing discriminatory behavior towards our community and particularly to women since this behavior came at a time when the Kalinago people took great strides in accomplishing Gender

Equality for Kalinago women. We find it incredulous that this could have happened at this very important, historical event in our Territory.

The Kalinago Council hereby seeks a public apology from the Management of GIS for what we consider to be an egregious and discriminatory act directed at the Kalinago Peoples. Never again should such indiscretion be meted out to Dominica's Indigenous Peoples, or to any community in Dominica.

We look forward to more responsible action by the Government Information Service, particularly when the President of the Commonwealth of Dominica officiates at an official event.

The Kalinago Council looks forward to a response in writing to this complaint about the regrettable behavior of the Government Information Service.

Sincerely yours,

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Chief Anette Sanford  
Chairperson  
Kalinago Territory Council



**Kalinago Council**  
**St. CyR Resource Centre**  
**Kalinago Territory**  
Commonwealth of Dominica  
Tel:(767) 265-5915/277-2679/276-4404

Cc:

Her Excellency, Mrs. Sylvanie Burton, President of the Commonwealth of Dominica  
Honourable Roosevelt Skerrit, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Dominica  
Honourable Greta Roberts, Minister of Community Development, Culture, Youth & Sports  
Honourable Cozier Frederick, Minister of Environment, Kalinago Affairs, and Rural Modernization  
Mr. Glenroy Toussaint, Local Government Commissioner  
Dr. Damien Dublin, Chairperson of the Dominica Broadcasting Corporation.

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COMMONWEALTH OF DOMINICA**

**TELEPHONE: 767.2772679 / 767.2858758**

**[kalinagocouncil@gmail.com](mailto:kalinagocouncil@gmail.com)**

16 September, 2024

Mr. Cecil Joseph  
Manager  
Dominica Broadcasting Service  
Victoria Street  
Roseau  
Commonwealth of Dominica

Dear Mr. Joseph,

I write to express the total disappointment of the Kalinago Council, and the Kalinago Peoples about the absence of the Dominica Broadcasting Service (DBS Radio) at the Inauguration of the Kalinago Chief, and Kalinago Council held on Wednesday, 11 September, 2024. It has been the practice and precedent that Inaugurations of Town and Village Councils are normally carried live by DBS Radio and it was expected by the Kalinago Council and the Peoples of the Kalinago Territory that past practice in this respect would hold for this Inauguration. Not only was DBS Radio absent, but most concerning was the total lack of communication from you, or any DBS Radio official expressing regret, and a reason for its absence.

Your absence at this September ceremony at which Her Excellency, Mrs. Sylvanie Burton, President of the Commonwealth of Dominica, officiated, and also at which presentations were made by Honourable Cassani Laville, Minister of Health and Cabinet Member representing the Prime Minister, Honourable Greta Roberts, Minister of Local Government, Sports and Culture, Honourable Cozier Frederick, Minister of Environment, Kalinago Affairs and Rural Modernization and Parliamentary Representative for the Salybia Constituency defies reason, and any modicum of respect to the First People of Dominica.

Let me underscore that your absence was a display of distasteful conduct by DBS Radio, and I must hasten to add that the Kalinago Peoples of Dominica view this act as another example of continuing discriminatory behavior towards our Community. We find it incredulous that this could have happened at this very important, historical event in our Territory when it is customary

that DBS Radio undertakes live coverage of every Inauguration ceremony for local government authorities in Dominica.

The Kalinago Council hereby seeks a public apology from the Management of DBS Radio for what we consider to be an egregious and discriminatory act directed at the Kalinago Peoples. Never again should such indiscretion be meted out to Dominica's Indigenous Peoples, or to any community in Dominica.

We look forward to more responsible action by DBS Radio, the Nation's radio station, particularly when the President of the Commonwealth of Dominica officiates at an official event.

The Kalinago Council looks forward to a response in writing to this complaint about the regrettable behavior of DBS Radio.

Sincerely yours,

Kalinago Council  
St. CyR Resource Centre  
Kalinago Territory  
Commonwealth of Dominica  
Tel: (767) 265-5915/277-2679/276-4404

.....  
**Chief Anette Sanford**  
**Chairperson**  
**Kalinago Territory Council**



Cc:

Her Excellency, Mrs. Sylvanie Burton, President of the Commonwealth of Dominica  
Honourable Roosevelt Skerrit, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Dominica  
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Mr. Glenroy Toussaint, Local Government Commissioner