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SCHOOL PERIMETER MADE A NO VENDING ZONE!

Castries, May 15, 2017 - In an effort to improve safety and security around the Ave Maria Girls' Primary School, the Castries Constituency Council has taken a decision to relocate the vendors who plied their trade there.

The street-side vendors on a number of occasions had met with the Mayor of Castries, His Worship Peterson D Francis and other management officials, where a proposal to relocate was presented and agreed to.

According to Jason Hullingseed, Press and Communications Manager within the Office of the Mayor, "The relocation of vendors was very critical given the circumstances the learning institution was faced with. It is also important to note that the school's perimeter should remain a no vending zone to allow for free access to and from the school, especially in case of an emergency."

The Ave Maria Primary School failed miserably in a simulation exercise conducted by the St. Lucia Fire Service, with a view to assessing the safety and security of the school and its students particularly should there be an emergency of sorts.

Speaking to the measures taken, Mayor Peterson D Francis thanked the vendors greatly for their cooperation and understanding.

"This situation could not have been permitted to continue. It is part of a broader problem in the City, where people vend all over the streets. Vendors seize the sidewalks with metal and other structures making it uncomfortable and dangerous for pedestrians. We are contented that the vendors chose other areas that are comfortable to them."

The Mayor added, while he is not opposed to anyone obtaining an income through vending, standards should be a priority in order that the City of Castries is made a safe and viable place to conduct business.

ENDS