

Congratulatory Message
By the Hon. Dwight Sutherland, M.P., Minister of Youth, Sport and Community
Empowerment
for the 15th Anniversary of the
Caribbean Regional Anti-Doping Organization (RADO)

It is with great pleasure that I extend warmest congratulations to the Caribbean Regional Anti-Doping Organization (RADO) on reaching another milestone in its existence. For the past 15 years, Caribbean RADO has been a very vibrant and dynamic organization that has championed the cause of promoting a doping free sporting environment in the Caribbean. It has worked assiduously to ensure that anti-doping education, promotion and testing become vital components of the development of sports within this region. It is worthy to note that not only athletes, but coaches and sport administrators, have benefitted immensely from services offered by the Caribbean RADO.

In this regard, I wish to highlight that the tireless work of the Caribbean RADO has not gone unnoticed by the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Community Empowerment. This is especially true as the Ministry seeks to build out a Sport Industry that is based on an infrastructure that is supportive of the youth and their endeavours. The mandate of the Government of Barbados is to build a sense of strong communities in our country while empowering the nation's youth through sports. In an effort to achieve this goal, my Ministry is developing measures to elevate sports as a central pillar of excellence and to have it viewed as a critical sector which can contribute meaningfully to the social and economic development of Barbados. Barbados is therefore cognizant of the important role that the Caribbean RADO can play in this regard.

Our athletes cannot shine on the international stage without proper guidance and sound judgement as it relates to the rules and governance on anti-doping. By extension, our coaches, sporting administrators, and even communities, must understand the ramifications of supporting drug free athletes and clean sports. The efforts of the Caribbean RADO are therefore essential for the optimal development of our athletes and our Sports industries.

The Government of Barbados remains fully committed to the Caribbean RADO and is appreciative of its work in promoting drug free sports in the region over the past 15 years. We acknowledge the fact that this organization is considered to be one of the strongest RADOs globally and this could not be by accident. It must be as a result of the Caribbean RADO's dedication to servicing its member countries. Major highlights in this regard are the landmark achievements made with the introduction of anti-doping education and testing at the University of the West Indies Games which were held in Barbados, dissemination of educational materials to RADO Member States and the redevelopment of its website to make information more accessible and relevant to its stakeholders. We in Barbados owe Caribbean RADO a depth of gratitude for this level of service, commitment and efficiency.

It is with this in mind that I would like to commend the Chairman and Board, Executive Director, country representatives, Doping Control Officers, and affiliate members of the Caribbean RADO for your invaluable service, and extend best wishes for continued success in your quest to eliminate doping in Sports.