



LCA01491/01S.03/2021

Castries, Saint Lucia, 19th July, 2021

**Mr. Tim Durand,
General Manager,
Dominica News Online.
Roseau,
Commonwealth of Dominica.**

Dear Mr. Durand,

I make reference to the note posted on July 5th, 2021, at your respected newsroom titled "Linton welcomes construction of new Marigot hospital", particularly to the following statement:

*"I was the first individual to point out that Dominica had enough money from its Citizenship By Investment Program to build the hospital at Marigot and therefore did not need **to be waiting indefinitely on the \$13.5 million that has been promised by Mexico,**" Linton said while speaking during the debate of the Hospital Authority Bill in Parliament recently."*

In that regard, considering that the quoted statement could lead to a misperception in detrimental to the image of Mexico in Dominica, I would like to clarify the following:

- The Governments of Mexico and Dominica subscribed in December, 2018, a Contract for the Donation of Resources for the project of construction of the Mexico-Marigot Hospital.
- In January, 2019, the Government of Mexico allocated the funds in the amount of US\$5 million dollars (\$13.5 million EC dollars), contracting the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) as financial intermediary.
- Given the request for changes to the original project subscribed, which contravened the terms of the Contract for the Donation of the Resources, in March, 2020, the Mexican Government requested the return of the resources.
- The remaining funds resources were returned by UNOPS to the Mexican Government in August, 2020.
- The Government of Mexico reiterated its willingness to further continuing managing development cooperation projects with the Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica, following the relevant established procedures.

In this context, and taking into consideration that the Mexican Government fulfilled its commitment to the Government and People of Dominica by allocating the promised resources, I consider that the referred statement is not accurate and, therefore, I will appreciate your kind support to post this reply in your valuable newsroom.

Looking forward to your valuable assistance, I convey my kind regards.

**Sincerely,
Oscar Esparza-Vargas
Ambassador of Mexico to the OECS Member States.**

