International Nurses Day

Message

Honourable Nickolas Steele

May 12, 2020

Fellow Grenadians,

I wish to express gratitude to all our frontline workers, who have proven themselves beyond valuable and heroic during this COVID-19 pandemic.

Someone once said that the care and compassion of nurses aremore effective and valuable than the medication prescribed by physicians.

Today, I wish to salute that particular group of unsung heroes of the healthcare industry, who work in the trenches daily, to ensure that we are all protected.

To our nurses, yours is a calling that you exercise with true sacrifice, grit, and compassion and everyone of us has been touched by it, in one way or another, throughout our lives—maybe never more so than now.

You have the enormous personal responsibility of caring for us, while at the same time preserving our dignity...and you do so in spite of your own personal emotional turmoil or challenges.

In this public health crisis, we know that you confront fear and uncertainty daily, but you still manage to work with a smile, and with diligence and grace.

We do not hear your complaints, although we are certain that you have them.

We do not see your tears, but we imagine that they are there.

What we hear instead, are your tireless footsteps, up and down the halls of our health facilities; your steady steps, as you walk alongside our loved ones, caring for them; and your soothing words as you bring comfort to the sick, and hope to the hopeless.

What we see, are your capable, steady hands, and your absolutely unwavering dedication to your craft, and to your patients, in their toughest moments.

In those moments, always be mindful that we all see you. We appreciate you, and we value you.

In return, we will continue to work on your behalf to ensure that you are safe and protected, and that your working conditions improve. We are a long way from making it optimal, but we hope that each step we take demonstrates how committed we are to giving back to you a little of what you give us daily.

We are exceedingly grateful for the kindnesses you show, and the service you deliver—but, even more than that, we are grateful for your humanity.

Happy International Nurses Day!