

# *Cuba Strengthens Support for CARICOM*

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Kingston, January 26 (RHC-JIS) — The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) will benefit from increased support from Cuba in the areas of health, education, disaster response, and support for the disabled, the Jamaica Information Service reports.

Cuba's Ambassador to Jamaica, Bernardo Guanche Hernández, said his government will be financing the establishment of the Caribbean Regional School of Arts in Jamaica; and the Center for the Treatment of Physical Disabilities to assist physically-challenged children and youth, which will be based in Guyana.

“We will increase under-graduate scholarships as well as post-graduate scholarships for specialization in medicine; in-patient intake from CARICOM states for free medical care; as well as training in disaster risk reduction and response to natural disasters,” he reported, noting that support will also be provided in the areas of construction and sports.

The remarks were made during a reception held at the ambassador's residence in Kingston to mark the 56th anniversary of the Triumph of the Cuban Revolution.

He said that Cuba values its friendship with Jamaica, noting that both countries “should be really satisfied with the relations between our governments, parliaments and peoples.”

He said Cuba's quick response to a request from the Government of Jamaica to assist with the training of medical personnel in response to the Chikungunya virus and in preparation for the Ebola threat “opened a new chapter in the excellent relations between our two nations.”

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