

Petrocaribe Assists Former Sugar Workers in St. Kitts and Nevis



[Basseterre](#), April 01 (teleSUR-RHC) The government of Venezuela, through the *Petrocaribe* initiative, has donated \$16 million to help the government of St. Kitts and Nevis provide for former workers in the sugar industry.

Venezuela's ambassador to the twin island federation Bernardo Alvarez handed the check to Prime Minister Timothy Harris at a ceremony in St. Kitts and Nevis. The ambassador said talks on this initiative were cordial and arrangements were finalized quickly. He also spoke of the significant role of *Petrocaribe* in assisting ALBA member states.

"This is a moment to talk about the importance and nature of *Petrocaribe*. *Petrocaribe* is an energy agreement between countries based on the vast natural resources that Venezuela possesses ... It is a tool for economic and social development. This is why under the umbrella of *Petrocaribe* we can have these social programs," he said.

The Kittitian Prime Minister praised the government of Venezuelan for its continued support to former sugar workers. "They had been involved in the building of homes for some of the former sugar workers and they therefore had become interested in assisting the government in meeting this very major policy initiative that we had announced," said Harris. St. Kitts and Nevis once dominated the global sugar industry, but about ten years ago, its cane fields and sugar factory were closed, following crushing losses.

The government says the *Petrocaribe* funds will help deal with the shortfall in the compensation package to the former workers. The government of St. Kitts and Nevis will convene a press conference on Thursday April 2, 2015, to provide detailed information on how it plans to distribute the funds received from *Petrocaribe*.

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