

GOVERNMENT OF BARBADOS  
PARLIMENTARY STATEMENT  
IN THE MATTER OF THE NATIONAL VACCINATION FUND  
AND BARBADOS' ACQUISITION OF VACCINES

The following is a summary of the *National Vaccination Fund (NVF)*:

Date the National Vaccination Fund was established:	March 01, 2021
Number of donors to date:	87
Amount received in the NVF as at 24 September 2021:	\$10,898,514.01
Amount transferred to the Consolidated Fund March 30, 2021:	(\$7,358,647.69)
Vaccines Purchased:	
Pfizer -	Number: 14,040      Cost: \$689,245.81
Sinopharm –	Number: 30,000 <u>Cost: \$546,750.00</u> (\$1,235,995.81)
Balance in the Fund:	\$ 2,303,870.51

At the end of the financial year 2020 – 2021, along with the \$7,358,647.69, a further \$7,263,602.31, for an overall total of \$14,622,250.00 was transferred from the Consolidated Fund to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for the sole purpose of sourcing and purchasing vaccines. To date it has not been necessary to utilize any of this amount.

As soon as it was known that vaccines were available, the Government of Barbados began significant efforts to source the vaccines. These efforts resulted in Barbados being one of the first countries in CARCOM to obtain a donation of 100,000 vaccines from the Republic of India. Some of those doses were shared with our CARICOM neighbours.

Being well aware of the profound impact that constant shutdowns would have on the Barbadian economy and the impact on lives and livelihoods, the Government of

Barbados continued to search for more vaccines.

Barbados was able to make purchases from the COVAX Facility along with contributions from the COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Charity. Donations of vaccines were also received from the People's Republic of China, the United States of America and Canada.

Recognizing the ongoing need for vaccines especially as approvals were given for 12–17-year-olds to be vaccinated, and that in the future boosters will need to be administered, the Government of Barbados continued its search for both donations and to make purchases of vaccines.

To this end the Government of Barbados was approached by one of the Directors of Radical Investments Ltd. who indicated his willingness to assist with the sourcing of vaccines for Barbados and other countries in the region given the minimum order quantity of one million doses.

It was agreed that the Government of Barbados' resources would not be provided for the purchase of the vaccines up front but once the vaccines landed in Barbados and were approved by the Barbados Drug Service the Government of Barbados would purchase the vaccines.

Barbados did not enter into an agreement with Radical Investments Ltd.

As was the case from the onset of the pandemic, the Prime Minister has led a team to source vaccines for Barbados. It was felt that this was the best approach, given the significant workload of the Minister and staff of the Ministry of Health and Wellness. Once arrangements were settled the Ministry of Health and Wellness would be involved in the actual processes for the vaccines to arrive on island. Since this point was never reached with respect to the sourcing of the vaccines by Radical Investment Ltd., the Ministry of Health and Wellness' involvement was limited.

It should be noted that the Government of Barbados has taken care with regard to its sourcing of vaccines. With another supplier to which some advance payment was made, when it was recognized that the delivery date was likely to be missed, and vaccines had become available from other sources, the return of the funds was requested and the company complied.

Barbados will continue to use multiple sources to procure vaccines in the best interest of the population and to protect the lives and livelihood of Barbadians.



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