

Friday 13th July 2018 – 4:50pm

Barbados

Prepared by: Mikael Herrera, Economic Analyst (Research & Analytics)

mikael.herrera@firstcitizenstt.com

Economic Alert: IMF Staff Concludes Visit to Barbados

- The IMF team led by Bert Van Selm visited Bridgetown between July 2-12 for discussions on IMF financial support for the Government of Barbados's economic recovery and transformation plan.
- The Barbadian authorities are taking effective steps to address current economic vulnerabilities and the IMF stands ready to partner with Barbados to restore macroeconomic stability in order to secure strong, durable and inclusive growth in the coming years.
- Fiscal consolidation alongside a comprehensive debt restructuring exercise is critical for restoring debt sustainability and policy credibility.
- The authorities made a revision on the budget for 2018/19 which was approved by Parliament on June 11th.
- This revised budget targets a primary surplus of 6% of GDP.
- To achieve this target, measures will focus on reducing expenditure particularly by improving the efficiency and effectiveness of public services, reducing government transfers to state-owned enterprises by reviewing user fees, exploring options for mergers, and providing stronger oversight.
- Continuing open dialogue and sharing information will remain important in concluding an orderly debt restructuring process.
- The team expressed that significant progress had been made during this staff visit on the plan that could underpin financial support from the IMF.



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