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Centre for Enterprise Development Inc.

BUSINESS GUIDE NO. 15

Guidelines for Operating a Business at Carnival

*“Developing the local economy, one
business at a time”*



The principles involved in operating a business around carnival time is much the same that you would have to observe if you are operating a business all year round on a full-time basis.

Here are reminders of some of the rules that you need to bear in mind:-

1. Only start a business that you like or have the experience to operate successfully.
2. Put in place a system of managing your money and keeping records, including a check of your stock.
3. Cost and price your products (goods and services) so that you can make a profit and at the same time get them sold.
4. Have one person responsible for handling the finances:
 - *receiving money and making change*
 - *paying for purchases*
5. Have a safe place where you can keep the cash you receive. Invest in a cash pan with a lock if you have to.
6. Deposit money as soon as possible. You do not want to have too much cash lying around at your place of business or on your person.
7. If you are operating a food business make sure you have:
 - *your Food Handlers Licence.*
 - *a reliable supply of running water.*
 - *A refrigerator to keep cold foods cold.*
 - *a warmer to keep hot foods hot.*
 - *receptacles to store the garbage by your business.*
8. Prepare food in a sanitary environment.
9. Keep your surroundings clean and attractive.
10. Do not sell alcoholic beverages without a licence.
11. Never sell alcoholic beverages to children or minors.
12. Do not credit your goods. This is a temporary business. You might never get paid.
13. Do not purchase too many supplies that you cannot return. Try to make arrangements, especially with drinks, to take them on credit and return the unsold quantities after carnival.
14. If you are hiring extra help make sure that they can provide quality customer service.
15. Avoid exploiting foreigners because you think they are not familiar with local prices. You want to make money, but try not to do so at the expense of your country.
16. If you have borrowed a loan repay as soon as possible.
17. Observe all the standing and special regulations, such as the “No Bottle Policy”, that govern the operation of businesses in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.