



**CARIBBEAN
TELECOMMUNICATIONS
UNION**

About Us

Caribbean Telecommunications Union

- Established by CARICOM Heads of Government in 1989
- Its mission to advise on Telecommunications and ICT Issues
- Comprised of Twenty Caribbean Countries as Foundation Members
- Membership categories for Private Sector, Operating companies, Technology Companies, Civil Society, Similar international and Regional organisation

COVID-19 Impact

- COVID-19 surfaced in March 2020 in the Caribbean
- Our response: Lock down, social distancing, sanitization and mask wearing
- Severe disruption of economic activity particularly in the Hospitality and Tourism Industry
- Reduced hours of work and layoffs



Our Policy Shift

- Introduction of reduced staff in the office
- Remote working for support staff
- Increase in virtual meetings and conferences
- CARICOM Heads met regularly Online,
- All Educational Institutions adopted Virtual Learning Class Room
- More viewing of videos on demand
- Regulators made more spectrum available to meet the increased demands

Social Response

- Income support to most vulnerable group
- Distribution of food vouchers
- Deferral of Loan payments
- Government accelerated payments outstanding to the business community, especially small service providers
- Increased Government's borrowing to support these unexpected expenditures

Digital Transformation

- The Pandemic has accelerated the urgency to Digital Transformation
- The Pandemic caused many adhoc adoptions of technology
- Both individuals and businesses became very creative to deal with the pandemic.
- Disparity gaps in the application of technology were glaringly identified
- Identified the need for better connectivity: bandwidth, speed and connecting under served communities

THERE ARE DECADES WHERE NOTHING HAPPENS AND THERE ARE WEEKS WHERE DECADES HAPPEN. {LENIN}