



**OECS Secretariat, Castries St. Lucia Tuesday, January 19, 2010.** The OECS Secretariat has received a third batch of antiretroviral medicines from Brazil to treat **Persons Living with HIV and AIDS (PLHIV).**

Francis Burnett who heads the OECS Pharmaceutical Procurement Service says the medicines will assist patients in controlling the virus and reducing mortality: ***“The evidence is there that the patients being treated with antiretroviral medicines have been living a longer life. It has decreased the mortality and morbidity rate of PLHIVs. We have clear evidence. In fact, in the OECS, there are clearly documented instances where the morbidity and mortality associated with HIV/AIDS have been decreased and partly attributed to the use of ARVs in the OECS, at least for the past five years. We could say now, we boast of an uninterrupted supply of ARVs and patients can be guaranteed continuous treatment because it’s important to have full adherence.”***

The antiretroviral medicines component is part of a long term technical agreement between the OECS and the Government of Brazil. The donation is valued 250 thousand EC dollars



**Port-au-Prince, Haiti (19 January 2010) - The OECS Secretariat announced today that the third shipment of antiretroviral medicines from Brazil has arrived in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. The shipment, which was received by the Ministry of Health, contains 100,000 doses of the medicines, which will be distributed to the various health centres in the country.**