

Tuesday, 7th August 2012, Castries, St. Lucia – Dr. Len Ishmael, Director-General of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) joins with the people of the OECS in celebration of the dominating victory won by Kirani James in yesterday's 400 metre race at the London Olympic Games.

The Director-General, in her letter to the Hon. Tillman Thomas, Prime Minister of Grenada, conveyed "warmest congratulations, on behalf of the staff of the Secretariat and of myself, to Kirani, his parents, the technical and support personnel involved in his preparation, and to the Government and People of Grenada".

"Young Kirani's illustrious career", the Director-General continues, "has been nothing short of impressive, having recently captured the World title in Daegu just last year, amongst a string of victories that include winning the World Youth 200/400 double in 2009 and World Junior 400m title in 2010. By bringing home the gold as Grenada's, and indeed the OECS's, first Olympic gold medalist, Kirani's victory has confirmed his status as the "the best quarter-miler on the planet". This is indeed a historic moment for both Grenada and the region even as Kirani broke the 44-second barrier in the history of the event. It is my hope that Kirani's success, as the son of a small fishing village called Gouyave, will provide inspiration for the youth, the population at large in Grenada and the wider OECS to continue striving for excellence despite the odds and for the achievement of greater unity among the Member States of the OECS".

James now tops the growing list of champions hailing from the OECS, which was very well represented at the London Olympic Games. The OECS Secretariat reiterates its commitment to assisting Member States with the development of sports at the national level and to promoting and supporting regional sporting events and championships.