# Hurricane Beryl Strengthens to Category 3, Targets Caribbean with Major Impact



**Hurricane Beryl Approaches Caribbean with Strengthening Winds**

Hurricane Beryl, currently a Category 3 storm, is forecasted to intensify into a powerful Category 4 hurricane as it nears the southeast Caribbean. The storm's approach has prompted extensive preparations across the region. Hurricane warnings are in effect for Barbados, St. Lucia, Grenada, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The National Hurricane Center in Miami has indicated that Beryl's center will pass approximately 70 miles south of Barbados early Monday, bringing life-threatening winds and storm surges. As of now, Beryl is positioned around 335 miles east-southeast of Barbados, traveling west at 21 mph with sustained winds of 120 mph.

Meteorologists have labeled Beryl a historic hurricane, being the first major hurricane east of the Lesser Antilles in June. Philip Klotzbach, a hurricane researcher at Colorado State University, noted Beryl as only the third Category 3 hurricane on record in the Atlantic for June.

Prime Minister Mia Mottley of Barbados has urged residents and visitors, including those in the country for the Twenty20 World Cup final, to take the storm seriously and prepare adequately. Emergency services and shelters are being readied, and businesses are instructed to close by Sunday evening.

In St. Lucia, Prime Minister Philip J. Pierre declared a national shutdown starting Sunday evening, with closures extending into Monday. Forecasters anticipate severe weather conditions, including a storm surge of up to 9 feet and significant rainfall.

As Beryl progresses, Caribbean leaders are also monitoring a nearby cluster of thunderstorms that may develop into another tropical depression. Beryl represents an early and significant event in what is predicted to be an above-average hurricane season, which typically runs from June 1 to November 30.