



Hon. Dr. Kenny D. Anthony
Prime Minister

"The end result, and I am sure almost every resident throughout the length and breadth of St Lucia will agree, has been a much cleaner country....."

DEGLOS

A SUCCESS STORY IN WASTE MANAGEMENT

When you consider and compare where St Lucia was in the field of waste management a decade ago with where it is today, you can't help but marvel at the remarkable transformation that has occurred.

In this relatively short period, the island literally has moved from being treated as an indiscriminate dumping ground where people threw their garbage almost anywhere, to being held up by one international agency as a model country in the management of solid waste disposal.

So that when St Lucia's first sanitary landfill at Deglos, Bexon was officially opened last Monday, March 10, it was a fitting occasion to salute the sterling work of the seven-year-old St Lucia Solid Waste Management Authority (SSWMA), and the sub-regional World Bank-initiated project which was the catalyst in changing the island's approach to waste management.

With the overriding aim of reducing the amount of garbage generated in homes and businesses and improving the collection and disposal of domestic and ship-generated solid waste, the five-year-long OECS Solid and Ship-generated Waste Management Project also involved St Vincent and the Grenadines, Dominica, Grenada, Antigua and Barbuda, and St Kitts and Nevis.

"The benefit of improved waste management is an improvement in our own quality of life," Minister of Physical Development, Environment and Housing, Ignatius Jean, pointed out in a speech at the opening of the EC\$20.4 million facility.

"A cleaner country means fewer health risks," Jean added "Through the initiatives of Integrated Sustainable Waste Management; we are cleaning up our environment, preserving paradise and safeguarding our future."

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Minister of Physical Development, Environment and Housing, Ignatius Jean,
"A cleaner country means fewer health risks, through the initiatives of Integrated Sustainable Waste Management; we are cleaning up our environment, preserving paradise and safeguarding our future."



Costing EC\$20 million, the new state-of-the-art Deglos sanitary landfill will ensure environmentally friendly waste management for the next twenty years

EDITORIAL

THE VAT DEBATE

An Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) recommendation that member countries consider the introduction of a Value Added Tax (VAT) has triggered a debate in St Lucia.

Among the main contributors so far are the Civil Service Association (CSA) and leading tax consultants who have reservations about any such move, and a prominent businessman who says St Lucia would merely be following a global trend.

Government has made no formal announcement. So, as it stands, VAT is nothing more than a recommendation which Government can accept or reject. Undoubtedly, in due course, Government will make its position known.

There are two issues worthy of consideration in examining the VAT proposal. Firstly, the commitment of World Trade Organisation (WTO) member countries, including St Lucia, to the liberalization of world trade. That commitment includes a drastic reduction of import duties in the coming years.

As Caribbean governments derive substantial revenue from import duties, a viable alternative must be found to pay for public goods and services necessary for a reasonable standard of living. VAT is one option.

Secondly, VAT is an equitable tax. Every consumer pays it. Right now, there are countless St. Lucians who escape from paying taxes but enjoy public goods and services financed with the taxes of others. With VAT, such a free ride would come to an end.

The CSA has called for income tax to be adjusted should VAT be introduced. Income tax has already fallen through progressive increases in the personal allowance in recent years. Workers, however, would always welcome further reductions.

Successful implementation of VAT requires special sensitivity on the part of any Government to ensure that an unnecessary burden is not created, especially for vulnerable groups.

The challenge lies not only in finding the correct VAT rate, but in identifying which basic goods and services will be exempted, and closely monitoring initial price increases to ensure the situation doesn't get out of hand.



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SAVING THE HYATT WORKERS JOBS

Two weeks after employees of the Rex St. Lucian and Papillon hotels publicly thanked him for helping to save their jobs, Prime Minister Dr. Kenny D. Anthony says he has no apologies to make for providing similar support to workers of the former Hyatt Regency hotel.

At the first sitting of the House of Assembly for 2003 on Tuesday, March 4, Dr. Anthony lambasted the Opposition for “peddling lies from the north to the south, from the east to the west” about the nature of Government’s support for Hyatt.

“The Government intervened to ensure that workers continued to work at that hotel, continued to earn an income,” Dr. Anthony told the House. “I am not apologizing to anyone for protecting the interests and rights of the workers in this country.”

“What is this problem that they (the Opposition) have with assisting the workers of this country?” Dr. Anthony asked. “What is it they have with the problem of assisting the poor of this country ... or anything that involves assisting ordinary people in this country?”

US\$3.4 million for tourism marketing

The Opposition brought up the Hyatt issue as the House was considering a money resolution seeking authorization for Government to borrow US\$3.4 million from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) to finance a tourism marketing initiative and to strengthen the research and information systems capability of the St. Lucia Tourist Board.

Micoud South MP Arsene James, making his parliamentary debut as Opposition Leader, joined colleague, Dennery North MP Marcus Nicholas, in opposing the

Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony debates the issues in Parliament and presents the facts to the St. Lucian public.

resolution. James conveyed the impression that a US\$41 million dollar loan approved by the House at the previous sitting in December, had gone entirely “to finance Government’s obligations in respect of the former Hyatt hotel.

Setting the records straight

In what was a baptism of fire for the new Opposition Leader, Dr. Anthony took strong issue with this misrepresentation as well as an Opposition suggestion that the US\$41 million loan had gone to “individuals”. He called for the “individuals” to be named but got no response from the Opposition.

“Today we are hearing from the Leader of the Opposition that the Government of St. Lucia borrowed money to pay individuals,” Dr. Anthony said. “I want to ask the Leader of the Opposition where was he when he sat in this Chamber and he supported and voted for the (said) resolution?”

“What is the Leader of the Opposition telling us?” Dr. Anthony continued. “He was asleep?”

Quoting verbatim from the official Hansard account of what he had said in the debate last December in order to set the record straight, Dr. Anthony reminded the House that in addition to meeting the obligations to Hyatt, the proceeds of the loan were going to assist the financing of a farming roads project in the countryside and the first phase of the Castries to Gros Islet highway improvement.

Government’s decision to extend the helping hand to Hyatt came as the tourist industry was taking a beating in 2001 from the combination of falling demand for St. Lucian vacations, due to an economic downturn in the countries which supply most of the tourists to the island, and the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on America.

The two Rex Hotels closed during this trying period, sending home their workers. Two other hotels suffered the same fate and there were cutbacks at others. Hyatt too eventually folded in early 2002 but, thanks to Government efforts, a buyer was quickly found and in less than a year, the property reopened as the Sandals Grande and more St. Lucians found work than when it was Hyatt.

“Many have suffered and many have lost (in the Hyatt episode),” Dr. Anthony noted. “The original investors have completely lost their investment in that hotel. So too has the Hyatt family of hotels (which) has lost millions of dollars.”

Dr. Anthony recalled that when the Jalousie hotel ran into problems some years back, the present Opposition, which was then in Government, had moved money from the National Insurance Scheme as well as \$1.5 million from the Mabouya Development Company to prop up the Soufriere hotel.

“Where do we draw the lines on morality and proper political behaviour?” the Prime Minister asked.



Dr. Kenny D. Anthony
Prime Minister of St. Lucia

All government did in respect of Hyatt, Dr. Anthony explained, was “to utilize a device which initially had been fashioned by the former administration”. If this support was not given, the hotel would have closed long before it did.

That device involved a concession, which the former Government had okayed, that allowed for a moratorium on the payment of hotel occupancy tax in exchange for redeemable preference shares up to the value of taxes due, plus dividends.

“The Government intervened when Hyatt said it wouldn’t provide more money (to keep the hotel open) but Government intervened to save jobs at a time when the economy was taking a beating,” Dr. Anthony explained.

“The Government agreed that the bankers of the hotel could extend a further sum of money to keep the hotel afloat,” he added.

Dr. Anthony also refuted what he said were Opposition claims that Government had borrowed money for Sandals to buy the hotel.

“The Opposition could have asked through Price Waterhouse (the receivers who sold the property) where Sandals got the money from,” he said.

Dr. Anthony questioned the role of the press in helping St. Lucians discover the truth. “It is a tragedy that in this country there is not one independent newspaper that has the courage to speak the truth,” he observed.



The former Hyatt Regency Hotel: now the Sandals Grande.

DEGLOS.....Changes in Solid Waste Management

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Until the 1993 advent of the US\$50.5 million OECS Solid and Ship-generated Waste Management Project, garbage was disposed of in an indiscriminate and unhealthy fashion at a multiplicity of poorly-managed sites around St. Lucia. From north to south, east to west.

Closing Dump Sites

The most notorious dump, perhaps, was the Choc disposal site "with its trademark thick clouds of black smoke billowing across the highway and terrible stench ... that greeted all passers-by". Choc was eventually replaced by a site at Ciceron but initial conditions there were hardly any better. Similar dump sites were located in Anse-la-Raye, Soufriere, Dennery and Vieux Fort.

In an attempt to achieve some order out of the prevailing chaos and to introduce standards to safeguard public health and the environment, the SSWMA closed down all but the Ciceron and Vieux Fort sites among its first major decisions.

Retained to serve the north and south respectively, the Ciceron and Vieux Fort dumps soon underwent significant improvement and upgrading to the standard of sanitary landfills. A sanitary landfill, basically, is an operation in which wastes to be disposed of are compacted and covered with a layer of soil at the end of each day's operation.

Reducing smoke, flies and rodents

According to the SSWMA, a landfill requires an engineered base and a cap system to reduce long-term leachate generation and the escape of leachate to the environment. Leachate is a toxic fluid which is produced as waste decomposes. The significant benefit of a landfill is a lessening of the impact of gas, odor, litter, leachate, smoke, fly and rodent infestation that is usually associated with an open dump.



Young people displaying their understanding of solid waste management issues in dramatic form

Jointly financed by the Caribbean Development Bank and the World Bank, Deglos received its first batch of waste on Saturday, March 1. It has replaced the Ciceron site which was officially closed on the same day. The Ciceron site had reached its limit after 14 years in operation.

Despite its closure, Ciceron apparently still has some value. The SSWMA is considering a project to commercially extract methane gas from the site. Methane, which can be used for cooking, is a by-product of the breakdown of waste.

Deglos, meanwhile, is expected to last some 20 years. Excluding waste oil, lead acid batteries, and other kinds of hazardous waste, the high-tech facility will be open every day, except Christmas Day and New Year's Day,

to receive household, commercial, industrial, and health care refuse.

How did the SSWMA succeed in bringing off such a remarkable feat in solid waste management the face of tremendous odds? It largely has to do with an innovative approach the statutory corporation adopted towards refuse collection. Rather than do the job itself, as most corporations of its type in the Caribbean generally do, the SSWMA chose to contract private operators to run the island-wide refuse collection system.

Delivering the feature address at the Deglos opening ceremony, Prime Minister, Dr. Kenny D. Anthony, lauded the foresight of the first general manager of the SLSWMA, Allison King-Joseph, for recommending the model. Under strict SSWMA supervision, it has proved

efficient, effective and every community in the 14 collection zones benefits today from a service which wasn't available before.

"The end result, and I am sure almost every resident throughout the length and breadth of St Lucia will agree, has been a much cleaner country....," Dr. Anthony said.

"The St Lucia privatization model has been adopted by other (OECS) project recipients. Other countries are also considering adopting this approach," he added. "The World Bank touts the St Lucia model as an exemplary approach to waste management."

"The framework that was developed," Dr Anthony continued, "allowed contractors to attain reasonable economies of scale and to access finances that enabled them to invest in appropriate equipment to properly comply with their contractual obligations."

The tourism industry which uses waste disposal facilities on the island, contributes directly to the SSWMA's operating budget through the head tax on cruise ship passengers and airport departure tax. Both taxes were increased as part of a cost-recovery effort for the SSWMA.

Approximately 30 per cent of the Authority's budget is financed from these two sources. The remainder is financed by Central Government through revenue from the environmental levy.

"If St Lucia looks cleaner today, and I know it does, then much of it is explained by the introduction of the environmental levy for which this Government was brutally criticized," Dr. Anthony noted. "The proceeds of this levy ... guarantee the collection of your garbage."

To ensure that the south receives service en par with what the north is getting through the new Deglos facility, the SSWMA is making a significant investment to further improve and upgrade the equally well-managed Vieux Fort disposal site.

Whilst saluting the SSWMA for its outstanding achievements, including making St Lucians more conscious of the importance of proper



General Manager of the SSWMA, Geraldine Lendor, and Permanent Secretary, Martin Satney, at the ceremony.

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PUBLIC SECTOR AIMS

THE REFORM PROCESS ENTERS A CRITICAL

It's early days yet so the average St Lucian would hardly notice any significant difference. But the St Lucia Public Service is notching up some encouraging successes as it quietly goes about changing how it has traditionally done business.

A response to the changing domestic and international environment, the far-reaching reform exercise is aimed at making Government more responsive to citizens' needs, providing greater value for money, delivering an improved quality of service, and helping to make St Lucia more internationally competitive. Accountability is another key objective.

A heartening sign which augurs well for the future governance of St Lucia, the seeds of change in the Public Service are germinating right now through a new style of management which executives are adopting. It's happening as the six-year-old Labour Government's ambitious Public Sector Reform initiative enters the critical stage of implementation.

Over time, as the new business culture takes hold and gradually filters down through the ranks, St Lucians doing business with the various Government ministries, departments and agencies should see tangible results in the form of an improved level of service.

More Responsive to the Public

"Public Sector Reform is about trying to make things better in the Public Service for the benefit of everyone – not just for the Government, but the Public Service employee, the ordinary citizen, and other stakeholders," says Allison Jean, deputy director, Office of Public Sector Reform.



*Mrs. Allison Jean - Deputy Director
Office of Public Sector Reform*

"We are trying to make the Public Service more responsive to the needs of the public," she explains. "We are seeking to deliver a better quality service, to be more productive, to be more cost-conscious, and to be more efficient and effective in everything we do on behalf of the people of St Lucia."



The Castries Waterfront Office Buildings where most of the operations of

Public Sector Reform represents the fulfillment of a key commitment in the Labour Government's 1997 Contract of Faith. In fact, within one year of assuming office, government established the Office of Public Sector Reform specifically to manage the process of modernizing the colonial-style Public Service to meet the challenges of the times.

A lot of behind-the-scenes preparatory work has taken place over the last five years to bring the process to the present implementation stage. Among them, a thorough diagnostic analysis of the Public Service to identify strengths and weaknesses, the publication of a White Paper on Public Sector Reform, a management audit of the key Ministry of the Public Service, and a series of team building and strategic planning seminars for managers.

Late last year, Cabinet considered and approved a blueprint for taking the process forward.

Pilot Agencies

"We are now trying to implement the various change strategies in the pilot agencies we have selected," Mrs. Jean explains. "These are the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of the Public Service, the Ministry of Physical Development, the General Post Office and the National Printing Corporation.

After we have done that, we are going to spin out into the general Public Service."

As part of preparations to get the implementation fully on the way, the Office of Public Sector Reform last week convened a two-day seminar to help the change teams comprising executive and senior managers in the five pilot agencies and the Office of the Prime Minister, to better understand the pivotal roles they will play.

Training for the task

Coordinated by Mrs. Jean and facilitated by Barbados-based management consultant Dr. Aubrey Armstrong, the March 7th-8th seminar served to develop and strengthen the leadership and change management skills and competencies of the 30-odd participants. Another objective was to develop a body of civil servants capable of effectively implementing the far-reaching changes envisaged under the Public Sector Reform initiative.

Cabinet Secretary and Head of the Public Service, Dr. James Fletcher, sees a multi-faceted role for the change teams. In remarks at the opening of the seminar, he says their function essentially involves acting as a catalyst for change, a resource for change, a stimulus for change, a model for change, and an agent for change.

Above all, Dr. Fletcher is urging change team members to be innovative and to think critically.



Poster selling the benefits of the public sector reform.

FOR EXCELLENCE

ICAL PHASE



St. Lucia Public Service are located.

Recognizing the challenges expected by other officers at all levels of the Public Service. He also highlights the importance of human resource development for the success of the reform initiative.

The seminar exposed the participants to the main issues inherent in any change process. For example, how to deal with resistance to change, how to sell the idea of change, how to be a catalyst and how to be a model for change," says Mrs. Jean.

By the very nature of being a change team member, they have to show that they themselves are for the change and that they want the change so that they can go out like salesmen and tell others about it so that they too can buy in."

Based on the positive feedback, Mrs. Jean says the seminar "fully achieved" its objectives and participants are excited about the task ahead. The change teams are expected to go back to their respective ministries and agencies, actively sell the message of change to their colleagues, and get them to sign on.

The Change Teams

From here on, in terms of the change teams, that the Public Sector Reform Unit will be doing is calling them individually to keep them informed on what is happening and to provide any necessary support," Mrs. Jean says.

We have already created a work plan to support

In pursuing this vision, the mission of the reform is "to develop a Public Service, imbued with a strong ethical, professional and national development orientation which is capable of delivering cost-effective quality service".

the implementation of the reform process. It is itemized in terms of time lines and so on, so that from here, we will actually be going into changing processes, changing strategies, changing structures, and so on."

"Doing all of that is fairly easy but it is changing the attitudes, the behaviours of people that is going to be harder," Mrs. Jean points out. "We are aware of this so we are trying to design confidence building programmes, motivation programmes, and so on that will help Public Service employees to see themselves in a different light so that they can really support the changes that are going to be taking place."

Embracing Workers Organisations

The St Lucia Public Service, as currently structured, comprises 11 Government ministries, each headed by a minister, and a number of other agencies, including the Audit Department, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Electoral Commission and the Services Commission.

The Service embraces employees of the Civil Service, Teaching Service, Fire Service, Nursing and Police Service. Collectively, 7,431 St Lucians were employed at the end of 1999.

"The philosophy guiding Public Sector reform is that the State will still remain a

key player in the macro-economic management of the affairs of the country and will continue to play a lead role in providing the supportive environment for private sector development and socio-economic development of the country," says the 130-page White Paper on Public Sector Reform.

Sensitive and Cost-Conscious

It goes on: "In this regard, the State will continue to lead in areas of equity, social justice and the integration of our society. As a result, it will continue to perform these core functions (for example, maintenance of public order and national security; judicial and legislative functions; providing basic social services in particular public health, education, etc.), ... activities it feels cannot be left to private sector organizations or individuals."

The vision of Public Sector Reform, as spelled out in the White Paper, is "a more sensitive, responsive, efficient, cost conscious and accountable Public Service". In pursuing this vision, the mission of the reform is "to develop a Public Service, imbued with a strong ethical, professional and national development orientation which is capable of delivering cost-effective quality service".

Several issues have hampered the efficiency and effectiveness of the St Lucia



Dr. James Fletcher - Permanent Secretary Office of the Prime Minister

Public Service over the years. They include over-concentration of decision-making, inflexibility in dealing with day-to-day problems, rigid adherence to outdated processes, duplication of efforts, and a general sense of insensitivity to the needs of customers. Needless to say, these issues frequently have been the source of public complaints and dissatisfaction.

Public Sector Reform is a determined effort to provide solutions to such problems. Mrs. Jean is appealing to St Lucians to support the process, give it a chance to work, and not to expect dramatic results overnight.

"Change is a slow process. It is gradual," she says. "We are asking St Lucians to be patient so that the changes they want to see can be brought about successfully."



Rapt attention: Change team members at last week's seminar.

CURB ON CORRUPTION

ONE YEAR AFTER THE PASSAGE OF INTEGRITY LAW, GOVERNMENT STEPS UP PUBLIC AWARENESS

However you look at it, March 12, 2002 will definitely go down as a significant day in the modern history of St Lucia.

A day when St Lucia said a loud 'No!' to the corruption-tainted culture of public administration that's so prevalent in developing countries, and wrote into law strict new standards of conduct for persons entrusted with the task of managing public affairs.

Last Wednesday marked the first anniversary that the House of Assembly passed the landmark Integrity in Public Life Act. This piece of legislation defined for the very first time what constituted acts of corruption in St Lucia, established a number of deterrents, and empowered the ordinary citizen with effective ammunition to fight such a crime.



Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony: "The entire society must make one statement about corruption."

"This legislation is a warning, a signal, a statement to members of the public that corruption among them also will not be tolerated," Prime Minister Dr Kenny D. Anthony remarked as he piloted the bill in the House of Assembly on that historic day.

Good Governance

"Fighting corruption is not just an issue for politicians. It is an issue for members of the public," Dr. Anthony noted. "A society is as corrupt as the people of the society itself. Corruption is not peculiar to politicians and that has been the history of the major cases sweeping not only the Caribbean but elsewhere."

Passage of the Integrity in Public Life Act was a deliberate move by the Labour administration, in fulfillment of a 1997 campaign promise to provide St Lucia with "good governance".



The House of Assembly in session: Integrity in Public Life Act ensures parliamentarians and other public sector decision-makers discharge their duties with the highest integrity.

Following some much-publicized infelicities of the not too distant past that were highlighted by the 1998 Blom-Cooper Commission of Enquiry, the Act represented a decisive attempt to tighten loopholes and cleanse the Augean stables of the St Lucian body politic.

Commissioner, Sir Louis Blom-Cooper, had made the following observation in his final report:

"From the limited but not unrevealing perspective of the Commission of Enquiry, I have discerned a culture in St Lucia of studied indifference or, at the very least, inattention to the practice, even the concept of public accountability – a cultural climate in which administrative torpor is often the consequence, and malpractices in government (including corruption) can thrive, unhampered by detection or, if and when uncovered, by disciplinary action."

"The tragedy is that this legislation came too late... It should have been on the statutory book many, many, many years ago but no one had the courage to legislate it," Dr Anthony said.

"We have been bold enough to prescribe it," he declared.

Integrity legislation was placed on the statute books by the previous administration in early 1997. However, its scope was limited and there were a number of deficiencies which some commentators say had the effect of virtually rendering it a toothless tiger in fighting corruption.

The Integrity in Public Life Act replaced the 1997 Integrity Commission Act. It broadened the scope of the original law by making corruption a crime, defining what constitutes corruption, establishing specific deterrents, and prescribing tough penalties for violations.

Leaders Accountable

The Act applies to parliamentarians in both the House of Assembly and Senate, the Speaker of the House and President of the Senate, ministers of government and

parliamentary secretaries, permanent secretaries and deputy permanent secretaries, the parliamentary commissioner, chief technical officers and heads of Government departments, heads of diplomatic missions, the commissioner of police, head of prisons, chief fire officer and their deputies.

In addition, managing directors and managers of state-owned or controlled banks; the chairpersons, managing director, general manager, chief executive officer and departmental head of a public corporation, company or public institution in which the State has a controlling interest; the Director of Audit, and the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Under the Act, the above-mentioned persons are required to make annual declarations of their income, assets and

Under the Act, senior public officers are required to make annual declarations of their income, assets and liabilities to an Integrity Commission, appointed by the Governor-General on the advice of the Prime Minister following consultation with the Leader of the Opposition.

The legislation identifies 13 types of corruption. Among them, allowing one's private interest to conflict with one's public duties; improperly using for one's own benefit or that of a third party any government property; becoming a partner, shareholder or director of a company which has a contract with the Government;

The Act applies to parliamentarians in both the House of Assembly and Senate, the Speaker of the House and President of the Senate, ministers of government and parliamentary secretaries, permanent secretaries and deputy permanent secretaries, the parliamentary commissioner, chief technical officers and heads of Government departments, heads of diplomatic missions, the commissioner of police, head of prisons, chief fire officer and their deputies.

What the legislation does is to give any citizen who has reasonable grounds to believe that a public official has committed an act of corruption, the right to make a written complaint to the Integrity Commission for investigation and prosecution if there is solid evidence.

"...Where a person makes a complaint to the Commission (a) in good faith; (b) reasonably believing that the complaint made and any allegations contained in it, are substantially true, and in the circumstances it is reasonable for him or her to make the complaint, he or she shall not be liable to any form of reprisal or any suit whether civil or criminal," section 33 guarantees.

Addressing Complaints

"A complaint in a newspaper does not constitute a complaint and believing that you can write the press and sully and crucify the names of politicians does not constitute a complaint," Prime Minister Anthony made clear. "Neither does that prevent the person against whom the complaint is made from turning to the courts for relief."

The legislation identifies 13 types of corruption. Among them, allowing one's private interest to conflict with one's public duties; improperly using for one's own benefit or that of a third party any government property; becoming a partner, shareholder or director of a company which has a contract with the Government; acquiring property disproportionate to one's legitimate sources of income; soliciting or accepting any benefits for doing any act or omitting any act in performance of one's public duties.

"A person who (a) fails, without reasonable cause, to furnish to the Commission a declaration or further particulars thereof which he or she is required to furnish in accordance with this Act; (b) knowingly makes a declaration which is false in some material particular; (c) fails, without reasonable cause, to give such information as a Tribunal may require under section 21; (d) fails, without reasonable cause, to attend an enquiry being conducted under section 21 or gives any false information in such an enquiry, commits an offence, and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding \$50,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years or both such fine and imprisonment," Section 25.

The legislation also bars public officials from accepting gifts valued at more than \$500. Where the value exceeds this amount, it must be reported to the Integrity Commission – along with the name and address of the donor and description of the gift — for a determination.

The penalty for corruption, on summary conviction, for a first offender is a fine not exceeding \$100,000, or a term of imprisonment not exceeding five years, or both. In the case of a second or subsequent offence, the fine is up to \$300,000, or a maximum of seven years imprisonment, or both.

Where the conviction is on indictment – that is, following a judge and jury trial, the fine for a first offender is a maximum of \$500,000, or up to 10 years imprisonment, or both. For a second and subsequent offence, the fine moves up to a maximum of \$1 million, up to 15 years imprisonment, or both.

"By enacting these provisions and by making a statement about where it stands on matters of corruption, this Government satisfies the requirements of several conventions, both regionally and extra-regionally," Dr. Anthony noted.

"I believe that it is true to say that with the possible exception of Jamaica (which has a Prevention of Corruption Act on its statute books), this Government has gone the furthest (in the Caribbean) in ensuring that we lay standards of behaviour for persons in public life," he added.

Government's crusade for a corruption-free St Lucia also extends to the private sector. When the new Criminal Code comes before Parliament for approval and passage into law, it will address private sector corruption, Dr Anthony promised.

"It is not enough to bring an end to corruption in public life," he said. "It is equally our responsibility to bring an end to corruption in private life ... and all of us must make that stand."

liabilities to an Integrity Commission, appointed by the Governor-General on the advice of the Prime Minister following consultation with the Leader of the Opposition, to administer the law. Spouses are subject to scrutiny in cases where property is acquired while their partner holds public office.

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"If you want to be a politician these days, think twice ... because your private business is available ... for public scrutiny," remarked Dr. Anthony, putting political aspirants on notice. "All is exposed – your little bank account with \$15, \$20, the bank account with its heavy overdraft. All of that is exposed and you have to make a decision how far can you endure this."

"The invasion is deep, it is incisive, and it is the cost of public life," he added.

Charges of corruption against public officials are commonplace in the Caribbean. Sometimes, the grounds are factual but, more often than not, such charges are peddled solely for political reasons with the intention of smearing reputations.

The Ministry of Education, Human Resource Development, Youth and Sports needs an Accountant III.

Qualifications are: Level III ACCA plus five years experience in auditing or accounting; or CGA Level IV, plus five years experience in auditing or accounting; or, a Master's Degree in Accounting plus two years experience in a post at Grade 12 or above; or, a Master's Degree in Accounting plus four years experience in a post at Grade 10; or, a Bachelor's Degree and Postgraduate Diploma in Accounting with three years experience in a post at Grade 12; or, a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting plus four years experience at Grade 12.

The successful applicant will be required, among other things, to supervise the operation of the Accounts Section; assist all departments in the Ministry on finances and accounting matters; monitor and control the budget of the Ministry; and prepare monthly revenue and expenditure statements for the Ministry. Salary is in the range of \$51,635.57 - \$53,527.21 per annum (Grade 16)

Applications on the prescribed form, along with certified copies of documents pertaining to qualifications should be sent to: The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Labour Relations, Public Service and Cooperatives, Waterfront, Castries, no later than March 31

A vacancy exists for a Registrar of Cooperatives in the Cooperative Department, Ministry of Labour Relations, Public Service and Cooperatives.

Interested persons should have a Master's Degree in Business Administration, Management Studies, Cooperative Management or other relevant qualifications, plus three years experience in a post at Grade 14 and above; or, a Bachelor's Degree in the same subjects plus five years experience in a post at Grade 12 and above.

Applicants should have, among other things, the ability to interpret and apply cooperative laws, regulations and by-laws; identify, develop and implement Human Resource Development Programmes for the Cooperative Sector; strong accounting/financial analytical skills. Salary is in the range \$54,507.99 - \$56,399.72 per annum (Grade 17)

Applicants must reach the Secretary, Public Service Commission, by March 31

TIGHTER CONTROL AT PORTS OF ENTRY

A compelling lesson from the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on America, and the subsequent deadly strikes on tourist resorts in Bali, Indonesia and Mombassa, Kenya, is that no country today is immune from the threat of terrorism.

It's a lesson the Government of St. Lucia is taking very seriously, considering the dire implications for tourism, the lifeblood of the island's economy, and the well being of thousands of citizens who depend on the industry for a livelihood.

Following an extensive review of national security arrangements, Government is introducing a series of pre-emptive measures to close loopholes in the security system at the island's ports and elsewhere, that could be exploited by the criminal-minded in pursuit of their objectives.

"... Because of the relaxed manner in which we are accustomed to going about our daily lives, countries like ours are seen as points of weakness, potential launching pads for acts of terror and other mischief, targeted at other countries and their associated interests," Prime Minister Dr. Kenny D. Anthony said in a national radio and television broadcast on Thursday, March 6.

"We must ensure, through our vigilance, and concerted and deliberate action, that our country serves no such purpose," he added.

The most visible measure will see all outbound travelers, including St. Lucians, being subjected to passport controls, which were abolished several years ago to make the travel experience less hassle-free.

In one glaring example of how this loophole has been used, an escaped prisoner who was on remand awaiting trial for murder and attempted murder, managed to slip out of the country late last year without being noticed by local law enforcement. He was eventually picked up by authorities in Barbados and sent back to St. Lucia.

"Because of our close proximity to the US and Canada, criminal groups and others seeking entry into those countries are actively utilizing St. Lucia as a jump-off or transit point," Dr. Anthony revealed.

"It is clear that without immigration controls, it is easier for outgoing passengers who engage in criminal activity to avoid detection," he added.

Passport Security

Following the discovery of attempts to abuse the integrity of the St. Lucian passport through fraud and other means, Government is tightening up on passport security. It is urging citizens holding passports to treat them with special care and ensure that they are always kept in a secure place out of the reach of others.

Dr. Anthony warned that abuse of the St. Lucian passport could lead countries like Canada and the United Kingdom to impose visa requirements for St. Lucian nationals, as has happened to citizens of some neighbouring countries with a history of passport abuse.

"The alteration, defacing and trading in the St. Lucia Passport is a serious offense," he warned. "I wish to make it abundantly clear that the Government of St. Lucia will deal firmly and without pity with persons found to be engaged in such activities."

If you lose your passport, getting a replacement wouldn't be as easy as counting from one to three. The circumstances will be thoroughly investigated, you will have to pay an increased fee, and you will have a lengthy wait before a new passport is issued.

As part of the new security arrangements, authorities also will be closely scrutinizing persons who seek to enter St. Lucia, taking into account the island's openness and the related vulnerability.



Tighter controls have been introduced as both airports in St. Lucia. At the George F. L. Charles airport in Castries, vehicles are not permitted to park along the airport fence.

In recent months, St. Lucia's overseas diplomatic missions have witnessed "a surge" of applications for entry visas. Some of them, Dr. Anthony said, "may well be intended to test our immigration rules".

Tighter controls are also in effect for nationals of certain Middle East countries "with a high propensity for terrorist activity".

The new security arrangements, including the purchase and installation of equipment at the air and seaports, carry an EC\$11.5 million price tag. \$2 million have been spent so far. For security reasons, some measures cannot be made public.

Equipment purchases so far have included x-ray screening machines for carry-on and checked baggage, hand-held and walk-through metal detectors, communication and video surveillance machines, explosives-detection equipment, and security patrol vehicles.

Port security personnel will undergo new training at all levels and the physical facilities at the ports, including terminal buildings, fencing, barricades, etc., will be upgraded to beef up security.

The new arrangements will cause travelers some inconvenience but "their intention is to make our lives safer and more secure", Dr. Anthony said.



Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony and a group of students view the new plaque at Deglos

DEGLOS

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waste disposal through ongoing sensitization initiatives, Government says the population still can play an even greater role.

"The adoption of good disposal practices is the responsibility of everyone," Physical Development, Environment and Housing Minister, Ignatius Jean, said. "What we must realize is that waste disposal is costly and the cost must be borne by us all.

"Solid Waste is my business, your business, our business," he pointed out.

"Our efforts in litter management can never be fully effective if the man on the street does not recognize the critical importance of his involvement," Dr. Anthony emphasized.

"If people were more responsible with their litter, we would not have to spend the thousands of taxpayer dollars that we currently expend on cleaning up our communities," he added.

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Saint Lucia NATIONWIDE is published every fortnight by the Department of Information Services.

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