



A publication of the Department of Information Services

Households Satisfied - Survey

A survey designed to help monitor the welfare and social trends for St. Lucia's urban and rural poor has found that while some feel their economic situation has worsened in the past year, an overwhelming majority are satisfied with the basic human and social needs and requirements provided by the Government.

The Core Welfare Indicators Questionnaire (CWIQ) Survey was

conducted here by the Government's Statistics Department between October and December of this year. It covered a national sample survey of 1,306 households across the country, over a seven-week period.

The CWIQ survey compared findings today with what existed in 2001, when the last National Census was carried out by the Statistics Department.

However, it offers a quicker method for monitoring poverty than the Survey of Living Conditions (SLC), which

contains extensive expenditure and income modules and which was last conducted by the Department in 1995.

An international pilot project developed by the World Bank principally for the African region, St. Lucia is the first Caribbean country in which the CWIQ exercise was carried out.

The survey's findings provides indicators of living standards for the households and household members, including such areas as land assets, home ownership, type of home construction, fuel for cooking, ownership of selected household goods, literacy levels, employment, health and nutrition.

It also provides indicators of access, utilization and satisfaction, such as access to clean water, primary and secondary school services, utilization of facilities by way of enrolment rates by gender, satisfaction with school and medical services.

Aimed at communities that ought to be the focus of the Government's poverty reduction strategies, the 2004 CWIQ Survey found that most persons interviewed were satisfied with the basic social services provided by Government, especially Housing, Water, Health and Education.

Household Characteristics

The Survey looked at the provision of services in Water, Sanitation and the Environment.

In terms of water, it found that almost all households in the areas surveyed had direct access to a water supply, or access to such a supply was less than 15 minutes away.

In that regard, it found that 99% of the urban poor and 97% of the rural poor had access to a water supply. The survey also found that 92% of all the households surveyed had access to safe, pipe-borne water -- an increase from 89% in 2001-- and out of that, 95% of urban households had safe water, compared with 88% of rural households.

Two-thirds (66%) of the households reported having safe means of sanitation, with flush-to-sewage or septic tank systems -- up from 53% in 2001; and 95% of the households reported using improved waste disposal methods, with their household waste either collected or disposed of in a skip bin.

With regard to environmental practices at home, the survey found that 92% of the households use non-wood fuel for cooking (up from 88% in 2001) and 90% use electricity for lighting, an increase from 87% three years ago.

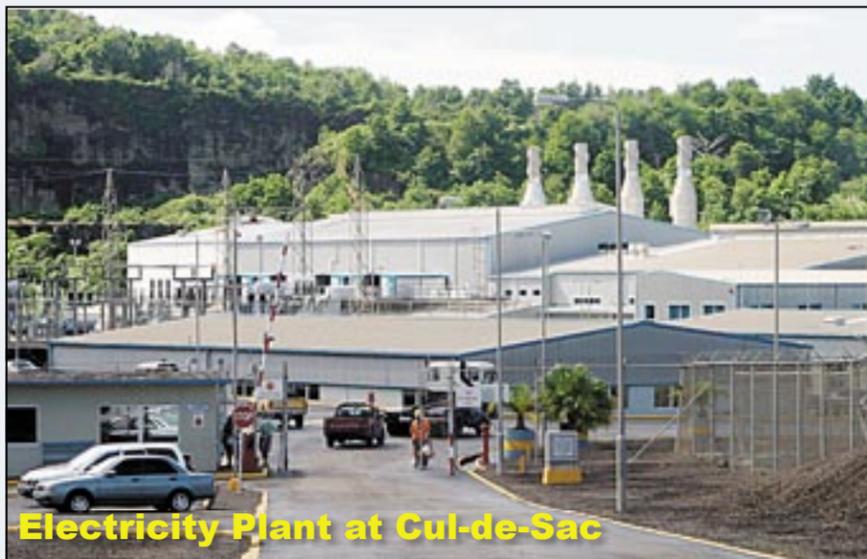
In the area of household assets, the survey found that three-quarters (75%) of households interviewed owned their own homes; and a quarter of those interviewed (25%) owned a vehicle -- down from 28% in 2001, mainly on account of the clean-up effects of the Environmental Levy that put a ban on used vehicles over five years old.

The majority of those interviewed (88%) live in a separate private house and two-thirds (66%) own the land on which the house is built, either with title or through the family. It also found, however, that only 44% of the urban poor own the house plots on which they live.

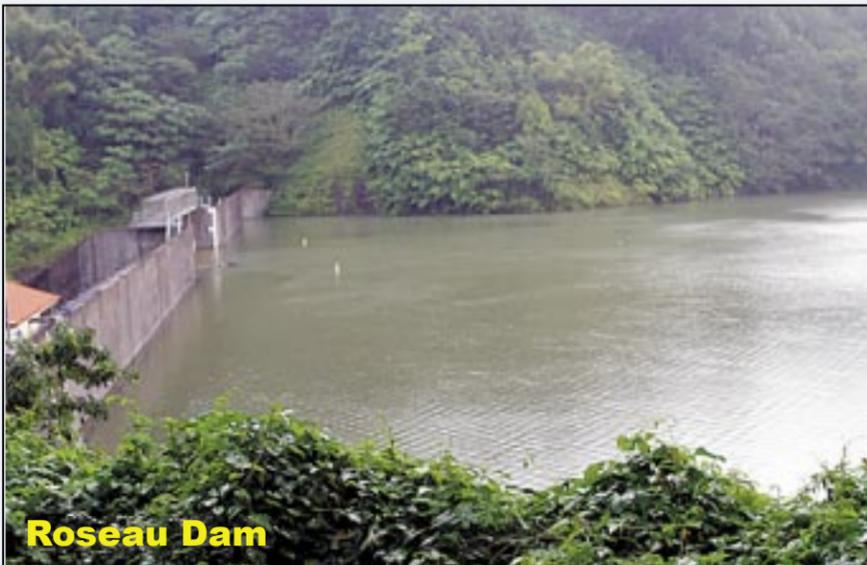
In terms of household items owned by the urban and rural poor, the survey found that: 92% of households reported owning a stove; 85% had at least one television set (as against 79% in 2001; 61% own at least one mobile telephone (a major increase from 2001, when the level was only 14%); and 50% of households had a washing machine.

Only 18% of households of the urban and rural poor have a computer today, but that's up from 13% three years ago; and Internet connections exist in only 10% of households, but that's up from 8% in 2001.

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Electricity Plant at Cul-de-Sac



Roseau Dam



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New Criminal Code comes into force on New Year's Day



Attorney General, Philip La Corbinere

The recently-amended Criminal Code will come into force in the New Year. That's the word from Attorney General Philip La Corbinere, who recently signed a Commencement Order to that effect.

The Order, which was signed on December 2, 2004 and published in an extraordinary Issue of the St. Lucia Gazette on Tuesday, December 14, 2004, states that the Criminal Code No. 9 of 2004 will come into force on the 1st day of January, 2005.

The old Code, which dates back to the 1920s, had its origins in London and was designed for use in West Africa. It was first amended in 1957 and again in 1992.

However, most of the previous changes were largely cosmetic.

Approximately one year ago, following a comprehensive review, a new Criminal Code was presented to Parliament by the Leader of Government Business in the House of Assembly,

Hon Mario Michel.

The new Code comprises 1,264 Sections and seven Schedules in 868 pages. It is part of the Government's efforts in the past seven years to revise and modernize the country's laws.

In the December 6, 2004 edition of his weekly radio address "Conversation With the Nation," Prime Minister Dr Kenny D. Anthony said several provisions of the Old Code were removed during the modernization process.

But, he added, "Some of the old provisions were also retained because of

their continuing relevance; some clauses were refined with textual amendments; and in other cases, new provisions were introduced."

The Prime Minister said: "Everyone has a stake in this new Code, as it takes a comprehensive look at every aspect of crime."

The new Code introduces several new provisions, including outlawing of kidnapping, stalking, and sexual harassment at the workplace. It also outlaws computer fraud.

Under the Code, it is now an offense for parents or guardians to refuse to



Dr. Kenny Anthony

report cases of sexual abuse that are within their knowledge.

The new Code also outlaws "out of court" settlements aimed at compensating victims in cases of rape or sexual abuse, as such "arrangements", according to the Prime Minister, "pervert the course of justice."

The laws on rape have also been amended in the new Code to include a re-definition of carnal knowledge to

involve any gender.

Any unlawful homosexual act can now constitute rape and rape is now defined as any unsolicited or un-consensual sexual act with any other person.

"Marital Rape" is also a new offense under the new Code.

The new Code has introduced stiffer penalties for some common crimes. A person who commits rape can be imprisoned for life; the offense of unlawful sexual connection can attract a penalty of fourteen years in prison; and the penalty for theft on conviction on indictment renders the offender liable to imprisonment for fourteen years.

Aggravated burglary (burglary committed with a firearm, explosive or any weapon of offense) renders the offender liable, on indictment, to imprisonment for life; and any person who is guilty of preventing another person from giving evidence in court is liable, on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for seven years.

The new Code provides for Offenses Against the Person, such as homicide, assaults, sexual offenses, theft, forgery, bankruptcy, fraud, extortion and damage to property.

It also identifies Offenses Against Public Order and Offenses Against the Administration of Justice; and it makes provisions for Arrest and Bail, Search and Seizure, Trials, Appeals, Punishment, Imprisonment, Parole, Probation, Fines and Compensation, Pardon, Remission and Reward.

Attorney General La Corbinere says all the provisions of the new Criminal Code are in place and efforts will continue to ensure that facilities are in place so that they are enforced and complied with after they come into force on New Year's Day.

Households Satisfied - Survey

Continued from page 1

Education

The CWIQ survey found that the adult literacy rate in the households surveyed stood at 89% and in keeping with the national average, it was higher for women (90%) than for men (87%).

Two-thirds (66%) of the households had good access to a primary education, while just over one-third (33%) had good access to secondary education, with schools located less than 15 minutes away.

The primary school enrollment rate was found to be a whopping 93%, while secondary education enrollment was 79%.

Further broken down, primary school enrollment rates were 94% for females and 91% for males, again reflecting the national tendency for females to be more likely to be in school. At the secondary level, however, a more significant gender gap was found with 86% females in attendance and only 72% males attending.

Enrollment rates were found to be similar for urban and rural areas, but secondary school enrollment was lower for the poorest households, especially in the rural areas (67%).

However, females were found to have higher attendance rates, lower drop-out rates and higher literacy rates than males.

Accessibility to education was found to be significantly higher in urban areas than in rural areas; and the poorest access to education was reported in Laborie, Choiseul and

Soufriere.

But children reported satisfactory levels of 90%, with no problems at school.

Medical and Health Services

The survey found that over half the population had access to a good health facility less than 15 minutes away, but there was a noticeable difference between the urban (60%) and rural (50%) households. In this regards, households in Choiseul and Laborie reported the poorest access.

It was found that 11% of the population studied reported a sickness or injury in the four week period preceding the survey, which was taken as an indicator of the need for such medical services. This need was higher at 12% in rural areas, as against 9% in urban areas.

The survey found, however, that overall, 15% of the population consulted a health practitioner in the four weeks preceding the exercise, which was taken as an indicator of use.

It also found that only one-fifth (20%) of those who consulted health facilities were dissatisfied with the medical services received; and among them, half (50%) gave slow service as the major reason and 44% gave cost (particularly of private medical services) as another reason.

In the area of Reproductive Health and Child Care, the survey found that nearly all of the 96% of women who had a live birth in the year preceding the survey had pre-natal care. It also found that of all the babies born in the past five years, only 2% were not delivered at a hospital or maternity home, or

with professional care.

Teenage Pregnancy was found to be low at just 3% of all live births in the past year, but for the urban poor this proportion was higher at 9%, indicating a disproportionate number of young females coming to urban areas.

Gender

The results indicate that female-headed households exist often in less favourable circumstances. Half are reported as being unemployed, with 25% falling into the poorest category, as against 18% of male-headed households.

The survey also found that female-headed households are less likely to own assets such as land (61% vs 65% of male headed), housing 76% vs 80% or vehicles (14% vs 34%).

Employment

The unemployment rate was determined by the survey to be 18.8%, up from 17% in 2001. There was a significant gender difference, however, with unemployment among males at 14%, as against 25% for females.

Youth unemployment was markedly higher at 39%, with the figure for female youth being five percent higher at 44%.

The overall under-employment rate was 8%, with 6% in the urban areas and 11% in the rural areas, or 10% among males and 6% among females.

Usefulness of Report

Director of Statistics Edwin St. Catherine, who authored the report, says it "will be useful to the St. Lucia Government." He also said it will assist other "key local, regional and international

agencies concerned with poverty alleviation and monitoring."

Among the agencies identified by Mr St. Catherine to benefit from the survey were: the Ministries of Social Transformation, Education and Health; the Basic Needs Trust Fund (BNTF) and the Poverty Reduction Fund (PRF); as well as the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

According to St. Catherine, the report can also be helpful in putting together St. Lucia's Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Action plan, which is awaiting further formulation in 2005 to reach a full Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP).

"Nonetheless," he added, "St. Lucia, in common with its OECS neighbours, must increase efforts and deploy resources to improve the coverage and frequency of its monitoring it is to adequately follow the achievement of its poverty reduction targets."

He said both sets of surveys were important.

The SLC, he explained, is needed "to cover the economic aspects of poverty, such as the poverty gap."

But welfare surveys like the CWIQ, he added, "can offer a complementary tool as a less demanding rapid and less costly solution to measuring household access to, use of and satisfaction with services, as well as providing independent measures of household and population welfare in terms of assets, amenities, education and health."

FCCA Staff hosts Christmas Party for the underprivileged



Queuing for Santa's merry words and gifts



FCCA staff enjoying the moment

The Entrepot Human Resource Centre came alive on Wednesday, 15th of December 2004, when the staff of the Florida Caribbean Cruise Association (FCCA) hosted a Christmas Party for underprivileged children from the constitu-

encies of Babonneau, Castries East and Castries South East.

The event was complete with carol singing, distribution of toys donated by the staff of the FCCA, eats and drinks.

The Christmas party, which is held

annually, was coordinated by officers of the Ministry of Tourism, who were on hand to welcome the FCCA team to Saint Lucia. The team is expected to continue to bring Christmas goodies to unfortunate children in several other islands of the Caribbean.

The FCCA works with Governments, ports and all private sector representatives to maximize spending by cruise passengers and crew. They also work to enhance the destination experience and increase the number of cruise passengers returning to the island as long-stay visitors.

Ministry of Health steps up Inspections of Food Establishments

The Ministry of Health, Human Services, Family Affairs and Gender Relations expresses concern over issues of food safety. These concerns are expressed particularly in light of the growing need to perfect food preparation practices, as part of the

wider service industry that is becoming more competitive.

As a consequence the Ministry of Health, Human Services, Family Affairs and Gender Relations will be moving towards greater enforcement of the Public Health Act in order to regulate the food industry.

Acting in accordance with the Public Health Act and the interest of the public, the Ministry of health will step up on routine inspections of food and drink establishments with immediate effect. Proprietors and vendors, whose operations are found to be below the required standards will be taken to task.

During these inspections, the inspectors will not be limited to permanent establishments, but also occasional vendors. The inspectors will be examining all aspects of the operation, as well as the validity of operating licenses and food handler's permits of the operators and their employees.

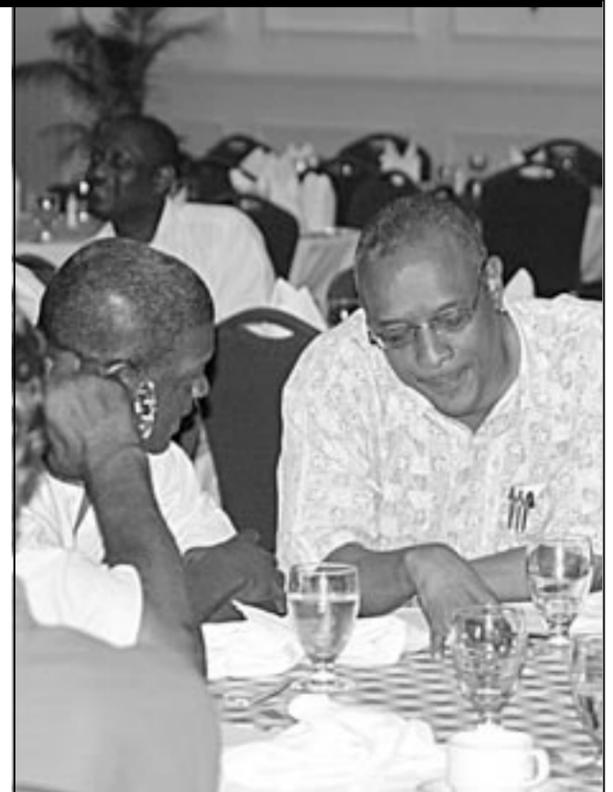
Sandals with 3 top resorts here honours Taxi Drivers



Berthia Parle, CHA President tells them to feel important



Hon. Felix Finisterre urges them to keep up the good works



“Silent Revolution”

Health is a

PM in conversation



Prime Minister, Dr. Kenny D. Anthony

Good Morning again, citizens of Saint Lucia, I hope you had an enjoyable weekend and that you are in the best of health.

I have cast my salutations this way because I want us to talk about health and health care.

I get the impression that when we speak about health, we only think of the absence of diseases. But health and health care are much broader, much bigger than just the absence of diseases. It also involves a state of physical, mental, social and spiritual well-being or if you prefer the term in vogue these days, “wellness”. Health is a resource – a very, very important resource. It is a resource that enables people to take control over and improve their lives - a resource without which a country cannot hope to develop.

It is often said that the “health of the nation is the wealth of the nation.” You may have heard this saying so often, that you may now take it for granted. Have you ever stopped to think of the possible impact of an unhealthy population on the development of Saint Lucia? Frankly, the consequences are too dire to even consider. So I prefer to adopt the position of those wise persons, who often say that prevention is always far better than cure. Hence the reason we are investing so much in the health sector.

Expectations of the public

As we continue to adjust to changes

in the health sector, we cannot ignore the expectations that, you the Saint Lucian public, rightfully demand of your health sector. I know that you want a health sector that is capable of providing quality services when and where it is required. You want a health sector that is capable of supplying timely and quality diagnosis and treatment at all times. You also want a health sector that works for everybody; rich, middle class and poor.

But I know too that you are also concerned about how much of your tax dollars is spent on the health sector. I have to tell you though, that it is very difficult to put a price tag on health care. You see, we are working with limited resources, and every dollar spent on health care is a dollar that cannot be spent on education, roads or the legal system. The health services we want must be paid for, whether by taxes or by you, the consumers of health care. It cannot be provided entirely free of cost. We simply do not have the means to do so. Nothing in life is free, they say.

Silent revolution in health care

This Government has embarked upon a programme of health sector reform which is broad and far reaching both in scale and in scope. These changes are occurring almost unnoticed and without fanfare. Indeed one may say that a “Silent Revolution” is underway in the Health Sector.



Victoria Hospital

You may ask, what are the features of this “Silent Revolution”? Well, let me tell you. There are four clearly identifiable pillars of this “Silent Revolution”. Firstly, there are Infrastructural Developments to be undertaken. Secondly, there are initiatives to introduce Universal Health Care. Thirdly, efforts are underway to change the system of Governance of the health System. Fourthly, efforts will be made to empower the community and health service workers in the management and delivery of health services.

Infrastructural developments

Let us quickly review the proposed infrastructural developments. In an attempt to relieve the ever mounting pressure on secondary care institutions, (Victoria Hospital in particular) and to further deepen access to health care, the Government has begun major renovation and expansion of all health centers island wide. But that is only the tip of the iceberg.

I am sure that most of you have heard but for those of you who still do not know, we will see the commencement of the construction of two new hospitals in the next year, a new general hospital and a psychiatric hospital.

The Government and people of Saint Lucia are once again the recipient of the goodwill and generosity of the Government and People of the People’s Republic of China, with whose assis-

tance a new psychiatric hospital will be built. So, we must, once again, thank the people of that great country.

Whereas it is true that Golden Hope Hospital served us well for many years, I am certain that you too will agree that it is no longer capable of meeting the island’s mental health requirements. For a very long time mental health did not receive the type of attention it deserved. As a society we treated mental health issues as a social taboo. We even mystified mental health issues. We are ashamed of those who become mentally ill, even our own relatives. We must understand that mental illness is a medical condition. It is time that we make a fresh start and treat our psychiatric patients with dignity.

I must warn you though, that the construction of the new psychiatric hospital is meaningless if we do not change our perception, attitude and awareness of mental health issues and the way we treat persons who suffer from mental disorders.

With the assistance of the European Union, construction will also begin sometime late next year on a new modern general hospital. I know that this is a development that you keenly await. The construction of a new general hospital will permit the existing Victoria Hospital to be used as the Castries polyclinic, rehabilitation hospital and step-down facility. Moreover, the construction of a new general hospi-

“n” in Health Care Resource on with the nation



Golden Hope Hospital

tal would allow for the conversion of Saint Jude to a community hospital offering a range of services but referring to the main hospital for most elective and sophisticated services.

Introduction of universal health care

The second pillar of this “Silent Revolution” is the introduction of a Universal Health Care System. Basically, Universal Health Care will be introduced as a mechanism for financing and sustaining the health care sector. It will make health care accessible to all. The Universal Health Care System, which this government proposes to introduce, will address all aspects of health care be it general, mental, emergency, diagnostic, pharmaceuticals and overseas care. But the broad intention of the introduction of a system of Universal Health Care is to deliver an improved quality of health care to the nation through the implementation of standards and the performance of regular health audits at the various service providers. The introduction of a system of Universal Health Care will ensure that the public interest is protected by making compulsory the licensing and monitoring of medical practitioners and health institutions and holding service providers accountable for the quality and quantity of health services.

Governance of health sector

The third pillar of this “Silent Revo-

lution” is about the governance of the health sector. The Government intends to give the public and medical professionals an active role in health matters. How do we intend doing this? To begin with, the management structures of the health institutions are in for a major overhaul. Already St. Judes Hospital has been statutorised, that is, a board has been appointed by law to manage the affairs of the hospital. A similar system will be introduced to manage Victoria Hospital. In effect, the Minis-

try of Health will no longer be directly responsible for the management of the hospitals.

Empowering the public

New rules and regulations will be introduced to protect the public interest and to empower the community and health personnel in the management of the hospital. This is the fourth pillar of the “Silent Revolution”. As a Government we want to empower you because we know that you have a stake in the

efficient delivery of health services. This is why we seek to put in place clear rules for all players and practitioners. We will also seek to empower key groups by further training and development. We will seek to establish a basket of health care services and overseas care. We will introduce measures to ensure standards and quality assurance. We will also introduce health and information and management systems. Laws and rules will be introduced to govern the operations of persons and institutions involved in the health sector. The new legislation will strengthen the management of health personnel, define their functions, provide for surveillance of their performance and set education and competence requirements.

We have already established a Health Services (Complaints and Conciliation) Commission as a means of oversight, and to give you an avenue to address your complaints about the professional behaviour of doctors. We must ensure that the health system works for everyone, not just those with money.

Other occasion for hiv/aids

Incidentally, I have not touched HIV/AIDS. That is a big issue. It deserves special attention. So it will be addressed in another Conversation with you.

Meanwhile take care of yourself, until we meet again, next Monday. God Bless!



Dr. King talks Universal Health Care to journalists

Castries residents urged to observe Bulky Waste Collection Day

The Solid Waste Management Authority is concerned about the manner in which bulky waste, such as old furniture, beds, mattresses and appliances e.g. stoves, refrigerators is managed by some residents of Castries.

Bulky waste is constantly placed out near roadsides or in the vicinity of communal bins by residents on non-scheduled collection days.

All residents are informed that the Authority offers a monthly bulky waste collection service to every community. Note that the bulky waste collection

service offered is a basic one and that the disposal of large quantities of bulky waste lies with the owner.

Persons who are unaware of the bulky waste collection service day are encouraged to call the Authority at 453-2208 or 450-7070.

The Authority is therefore appealing to residents to co-operate and observe the bulky waste collection day for their community.

Solid waste is my business, your business, our business. Help protect our health, our economy and the envi-



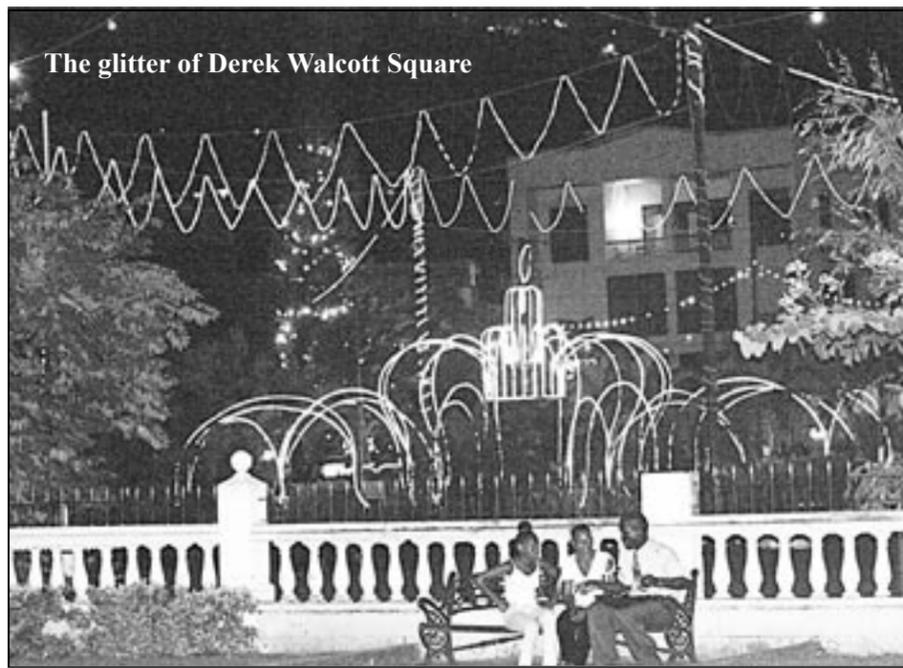
Bulky waste

ronment.

The Solid Waste Office can be reached at 453-2208, and the Sol-

id Waste Hot Line at 450-7070 for all issues relating to Solid Waste Management.

National Festival of Light Celebrations: A Proud Achievement for Micoud



The glitter of Derek Walcott Square

Aspectacular display of fireworks brought the curtains down on this year's National Festival of Light Celebrations held in the village of Micoud on Sunday, December 12, 2004.

Among the dignitaries at Sunday's Festival were the Minister of Culture, Honourable Menissa Rambally, Parliamentary Representative for the area Marius Wilson, and members of the French, English and Chinese Diplomatic Core.

A huge crowd gathered in the St. Lucy's Church Yard to witness the extraordinary parade of lanterns. First prize in the Original category, 7-16 age group was captured by Curtley St. Martin of the Clendon Mason Memorial for his submission 'Candy Cane Christmas'. The second and third place prizes went to Craig Ftienne of Clendon Mason and

WaydelDescartes, respectively.

Under Traditional, the Ti Rocher Combined School walked away with the first and second prizes, while the Micoud Primary captured third place. Special prizes were won by Cladlee Mphonse for his Candy Store Lantern, and Micoud Secondary School for Ancient Lamps.

Kersheik Charles won the second prize in the National category for his display of the JQ Plaza, while the Micoud Primary made off with the top prize for their lantern titled: Darren Sammy, our Hero.

Special prizes were also awarded to Rick Valcin and Alex St. Martin, Sountouch Valcin for Valcin's Mansion, and Dilon James for the Coat of Arms in the 16 and over age group.

The Lantern Parade was followed by impressive cultural presentations from calypsonian Walleigh, the Mon Repos Choral Group, the Royal Saint Lucia Police Band, Collin Ferdinand, Special Blend, Majorettes and Jenusse Dancers.

Ivan's Impact: ECLAC's Statistics Surprising

How badly did Hurricane Ivan damage the Cayman Islands? Answers from a report by the UN's Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) are grim.

Cayman's damage from Ivan is greater than the total hurricane season damage this year to Grenada, Jamaica, the Dominican Republic and the Bahamas combined.

The total amount of damage and loss is equivalent to almost two years of Cayman's GDP. A per resident estimate stands at CI\$75,700, the highest ever encountered by ECLAC.

On Tuesday, 7 December, ECLAC's Ricardo Zapata Marti presented the report's findings to Cabinet. That evening the Leader of Government Business, The Hon. McKeeva Bush, went on Radio Cayman to share the news with the nation.

The report identifies impacts in three sectors: social, productive and infrastructure. The impacts are then classified in two ways; the report speaks first of damage, or the actual impact on physical assets; and second of loss, or the effects on future economic and social flows.

Readers should understand that these are preliminary highlights that were made available pending the release of the completed report.

The major findings of the report are: (1) The total impact of the disaster on the Cayman Islands was CI\$2.8 bil-

lion, more than this year's damage to Grenada, Jamaica, the Dominican Republic and the Bahamas combined. (2) The total amount of damage and loss is equivalent to about 183% of Gross Domestic Product. This is almost two years' worth of the total value of goods produced and services provided within these Islands. (3) The amount of damage is estimated at \$75,700 per person, the highest ever encountered by ECLAC. (4) Over 80% of the impact reflects damage to and destruction of assets. Housing suffered the largest impact. The remaining roughly 20% of the impact is in the form of losses to future flows. (5) Within the past 10 years, Cayman's best year resulted in construction permits for about CI\$400 million, or one-sixth of the direct damage of CI\$2.8 billion.

The report also covers the impact on the country's public finances, GDP, and consumer prices. The overall fiscal balance of Government was CI\$24.3 million pre-Ivan. Now Government has an overall fiscal balance of negative CI\$38.7 million. This is a change of minus CI\$63 million in Government's financial position.

The ECLAC study also looked at macroeconomic impacts and projected a drop in the Cayman Islands' GDP from the pre-storm level of 3.1% to a negative growth rate or contraction of -2.2% post-storm. The Consumer Price Index is expected to increase from 1.9% to 3.1%.

Damages and losses reported by sector are as follows: Social Sector: Total damage and loss to the social sector amounted to CI\$1.5 billion, or 53% of the total impact. The most severely affected sub sector is housing, which had a total impact of CI\$1.4 billion. The impact on education totalled CI\$44.8 million.

Productive Sector: The total impact to the productive sector equalled CI\$931.4 million, or 33% of the total impact. The two most impacted sub sectors are commerce and tourism. Commerce suffered an impact of CI\$463.4 million and tourism experienced an impact of CI\$462.4 million.

Infrastructure Sector: The total damage and loss to infrastructure amounted to CI\$407 million or 14% of the total impact. The most severely impacted sub sector was road transport, which had a total impact of CI\$194.9 million, followed by telecommunications at CI\$79.5 million.

In late November, an ECLAC-led mission arrived in Grand Cayman at the request of the Cayman Islands Government and with the support of the United Nations Development Programme. The mission's purpose was to prepare a multi-sector, integrated damage and loss report. Government's Economics and Statistics Office assisted. The ECLAC methodology for such a report was developed over the past decades and is recognized by international public and private sector organizations.

ECLAC is one of five regional UN commissions. It was founded to contribute to the economic and social development of Latin America and the Caribbean, coordinate actions towards this end, and reinforce economic relationships among the countries and with other nations of the world.

In the meantime, Cayman continues its recovery efforts. The international financial services industry was interrupted for one week. After the restoration of power, water, and telecommunications, the industry was once again operating. Cruise ships returned on 1 November and stay-over tourists were welcomed back on 20 November, though several hotels, condos, restaurants and other tourist businesses will continue their recovery efforts through March 2005 and possibly later.

Government priorities have been to assist residents in re-building and repairing homes and removing storm debris.

Ivan is the worst disaster to have ever impacted the Islands. The last storms that had similar impacts were experienced in 1932 and in 1944.

The government places major emphasis on provision of public shelters to withstand catastrophic hurricanes and only two people died in the Cayman Islands as a result of Hurricane Ivan. These tragic deaths, the loss of homes, and the interruption of business will be studied, and future mitigation will be based on the lessons learned from the Ivan experience.

UNEP to present findings on environment of small island states

The small island developing states (SIDS) of the Atlantic/Indian Ocean, Caribbean and Pacific are among the most diverse countries on the planet, rich in wildlife and natural beauty, and destinations for millions of tourists each year.

But these unique places are threatened by a rising tide of pollution, waste, loss of species, freshwater shortages and climate change.

On 6 January, 2005 in a press conference, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) will present its findings on the state of the environment of small islands, along with recommendations on how they may be helped onto a more sustainable track.

The findings come in advance of the Mauritius International Meeting (10-15 January) where governments will meet to carry out a 10-year review on delivering sustainable development in

SIDS

The press conference will take place at 11.00am at the headquarters of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), 4 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7SR.

Those scheduled to attend are Klaus Toepfer, Executive Director of UNEP and Ambassador Koonjul of Mauritius and chair of the Alliance of Small Island Developing States (AOSIS).

For More Information Please Contact Nick Nuttall, UNEP Head of Media, on Tel: 254 20 623084, Mobile: 254 733 632755, E-mail: nick.nuttall@unep.org.

In London, on behalf of UNEP, Mehjabeen Price, UK Director of the Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future, on Tel: 0207 803 0740, Mobile: 07717 436 907 E-mail: mprice@stakeholderforum.org.

GIS gets new look: The face of things to come



New look Julita Peter

New look Virnet St. Omer-Fontenelle

Report of the investigation into the circumstances relating to the "Helenites building" located at 438 East 49th Street, Brooklyn, New

Continued from last week's issue

One President of one of the St Lucian associations who is employed with a not-for-profit organization had similar views on the 501C3 status. He stated that upon attaining that status you are allowed to raise funds by the Federal Government and exempt from the payment of taxes but you also come under close scrutiny and must file a Form 990 on an annual basis to the Federal Government. He supports the new project but emphasizes that there must be good and proper management by capable people.

I think the new project is worthy of immediate consideration by the Government of St Lucia which has a representative on the Board of the Council as described above.

One President of an Association told me that the Centre has been rented out from May of this year to the present time and he has never seen a statement of the accounts. I mentioned this to the Accountant and he admitted this to be the case. I recommend that the Accountant give to the Council of Saint Lucian Associations periodical accounts and

statements on monies derived from rental of the Centre.

I trust that I have fulfilled my mandate. It remains for me to thank the Government of St Lucia for giving me the opportunity to serve in that way. I wish also to thank the many persons in the Prime Minister's office who assisted in making all the arrangements for the exercise in St Lucia. The Minister of External Affairs, the Ambassador in New York and the staff members of the Mission were most cordial and helpful. Special thanks also to Miss Rita Stan-

islaus who acted as my secretary in St Lucia and New York.

All the people I met and spoke to in St Lucia and New York were very cooperative. I was very much impressed with the representatives of the various St Lucian associations in New York who are eager to have a proper place as their own. I am confident that they will be able to take over and manage any new facility for the benefit of all their peers.

Albert N.J. Matthew
October 25, 2004

Parliament authorises Government to guarantee US\$7M for World Cup Cricket



Artist impression of Beausejour Cricket Ground

Government has received authorization to guarantee US\$7 million to meet financial and other obligations on the part of World Cup St. Lucia Incorporated. The resolution and two other bills were passed at a sitting of Parliament on Tuesday, December 14, 2004.

Government, as part of its agreement with the International Cricket Council on its award of the Blue Package (the

hosting of 6 opening matches and one semi-final match) is obligated to providing concessions to companies, organizations, players and others legally affiliated with World Cup Cricket 2007.

Sports Minister Honourable Mario Michel said the other seven host venues would be taking similar steps as part of their commitments to the ICC: "Before anybody forms the view that in fact the World Cup is about St. Lu-

cia spending a whole set of money, we expect it to be exactly the reverse. The World Cup will be about St. Lucia earning a whole lot of money. But in order for us to do so, we must put certain things in place. Just as we must put cricket facilities in place, the roads and other aspects of physical infrastructure must be in place".

Though the resolution received the approval of all Parliamentarians, some expressed concern about accountability of the finances and the assurance that the benefits of the 2007 World Cup would trickle to those at the grass root level. Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Honourable Dr. Kenny Anthony in allaying those fears, said government intended to present a 'Master Plan' to the nation. He said the Plan would detail the benefits, which Government expected the various sectors to accrue, as a result of Saint Lucia's hosting of World Cup matches.

"I believe that the Member for Micoud North indicated that the people of Saint Lucia have not received the Master Plan. They can be rest assured they will get a Master Plan. They can be certain that they will have ample opportunity to see that plan and to properly identify their role and place in the process. I need however to point out Mr. Speaker that already, critical ele-

ments of that programme are falling into place", the Prime Minister said.

Dr. Anthony said the accommodation sector was moving at a very satisfactory pace, as the government continued to ensure that the island's room stock increase steadily in the hospitality sector.

The final sitting of parliament for 2004 also saw the passage of two other bills. These included the National Lotteries Authority Amendment Bill, which changes the language of the 1998 National Lotteries Authority Act for the granting of management contracts, and the Government Corporations Bill, which further regulates Government Corporations to ensure better financial accountability. The Water and Sewage Bill, which was down for first reading, was moved to the first sitting of Parliament in 2005.

Sandals Butlers show off at a ceremony to honour tour operators worldwide



THIS WEEK ON NTN

Sat. Dec. 18th - Fri. Dec. 24th ,
2004

National Trade & Services Exhibition Dec. 18th , 7:10 p.m.

· St. Lucia Jazz Festival 2002 – Sat. Dec. 18th, 2004 – 9:00 p.m.

· SPORTS IN ACTION: The GIS goes behind the scenes of this year's ARC and speaks with participants and the general manager of Rodney Bay Marina Ltd. in an exciting 30 minutes feature - Sat. Dec. 18th, 8: 30 p.m.

· Gospel Explosion 2001 Sun. Dec. 19th, 9:00 p.m.

· Venezuela – 21st Century Revolution – Mon. Dec. 20th, 9:00 p.m.

· The GIS discusses the OECS Legal Reform Initiatives – Tues. Dec. 21st, 8:00 p.m.

· The CBU presents a special discussion on the HIV/AIDS pandemic – Wed. Dec. 22nd, 8:00 p.m.

· KiddiCrew.Com (New Edition) – Thurs. Dec. 23rd, 7:30 p.m.

· Bagay Noel – Learn to bake your Christmas Black Cake and much more – Fri. Dec. 24th, 6: 30 p.m.

Remember to tune in for:

· GIS News Breaks and Kweyol News daily from 6:30 p.m.

· Issues & Answers/Mondays at 8:00pm:

· Interview/Tuesdays at 6:15pm :

· Konsit Kweyol/Tuesdays at 8:00pm (Kweyol Discussion):

· Your Right to Know/Thursdays at 6:15 p.m. (Min. of Ed. Prog).

Take 2/Fridays at 6:15pm (Week in Review)

· Weflechi/Fridays at 6:40pm - (Week in Review—Kweyol)

For the complete programme guide, log on to our website at www.stlucia.gov.lc and then click on the NTN icon.

www.stlucia.gov.lc

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