



# NATIONWIDE

A publication of the Department of Information Services



# Cricket World Cup 2007: A Nation Prepares

**“Committed to hosting the best cricket world cup ever”**



Artist impression when completed



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# Cricket World Cup 2007: A Nation Prepares

## Committed to hosting the best cricket world cup ever

*The following is an Executive Summary The Saint Lucia Bid for Cricket World Cup West Indies – 2007.*

Saint Lucia has been selected as one of the eight venues to host matches for the Cricket World Cup to be held in the West Indies in 2007. On July 13th 2007 Saint Lucia was awarded the blue package of matches (Blue Group) which involves hosting of six first round matches in the group led by the English team and also hosting one of the two semi-final matches.

The initial bid to host matches was a joint bid for Barbados and Saint Lucia firstly to share a green, the blue and the back group, if eight suitable venues could not be identified in the West Indies, and secondly to share the blue and black groups. Following the Venue Assessment Team (VAT) Verification Visit, Saint Lucia opted to continue working with Barbados on joint arrangements for the Cricket World Cup, but accepted that it would be assessed separately for the Blue group.

The following is a summary of the responses to the twenty four deliveries required in the Bid Book, highlighting the proposed enhancements at the BCG, the plans for CWC 2007 and national development initiatives. This summary is provided as a public education tool and a guide to media houses and persons requiring information on the elements of Saint Lucia's Bid.

As time progresses, World Cup Saint Lucia (WCSL) Inc. will provide more detailed information on the myriad elements of Saint Lucia's preparation to host matches in the Blue Package of the ICC Cricket World Cup 2007.

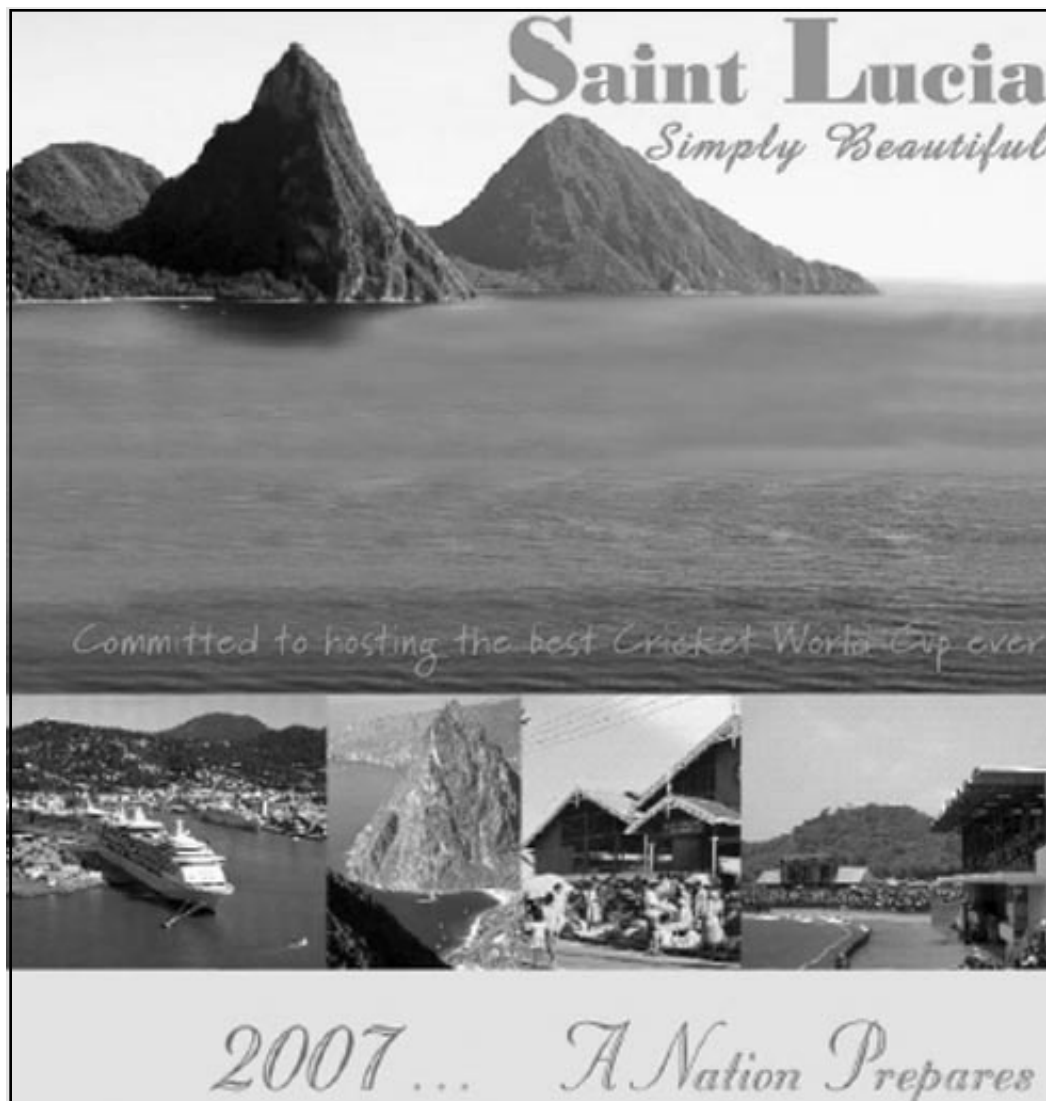
WCSL Inc. looks forward to collaborating with everyone in the hosting of the third largest sporting event in the world.

### Political Environment

The Saint Lucia bid is widely supported by the general public and national organisations representing the private sector, the tourism and hospitality sector, sporting organisations and trade unions. Letters of support from some organisations were attached to the bid. The results of a national survey conducted three weeks prior to the submission of the bid indicated that among the 500 persons interviewed, 81.4% knew that the Cricket World Cup would be held in the West Indies, 93.6% said the Beausejour Cricket Ground should be a venue; 66% said they will attend matches; 61.4 % said they were willing to serve as volunteers and 44% said they were willing to rent out rooms in their houses to visitors.

### Local Organising Committee

A Local Organising Committee (LOC) was established, according to the guidelines set out in the Bid Book and the Host Venue Agreement, with directors who possess experience and expertise in administration, cricket operations, tourism, ground and air transportation, security, finance and law. The official name of the LOC is World Cup Saint Lucia (WCSL) Incorporated and it is chaired by Dr. James Fletcher, Secretary to the Cabinet of Ministers.



The LOC will have direct access to senior public officers responsible for a wide range of key areas including customs and immigrations, national emergency management, security, traffic management, information and communications technology, tourism and sports. The corporate office of WCSL Inc. will have six full time staff. WCSL Inc. reports to a Cabinet sub-committee chaired by the Prime Minister and including the Ministers responsible for sports and tourism respectively.

### Host Venue Agreement and Related Legal Issues

The Government of Saint Lucia signed the Host Venue Agreement on July 13th 2004. This agreement identifies the obligations of WCSL Inc., CWC 2007 Inc., the commercial rights, intellectual property rights, finances and budgets and inspection and confidentiality issues.

### Finance

The Government of Saint Lucia is committed, through various methods of funding, to meet all the costs related to training facilities, stadium development, enhancement of air and seaports and provision of portable structures. The overall estimated cost is approximately EC\$35 million.

### Event Bid Packages

The Saint Lucia LOC bid for the blue group at the BCG and for warm up matches at the National Stadium. The main venues proposed are the Beausejour Cricket Ground and the National Stadium in Vieux-Fort. This bid was accepted by CWC 2007 Inc, and Saint Lucia has thus far been awarded the opening round matches with England as the seeded team, and one of the two semi-finals. A decision has not yet been

made on the award of warm-up matches.

### Cricket Grounds

The Beausejour Cricket Ground has a square of six pitches, three of which are camera ready and a fourth will be camera ready in 2005. At present, the BCG meets all the ICC equipment requirements for practice and match day operations and the current list includes rollers, lawn mowers and blowers. Additional equipment to be obtained includes special grass cutters, fertilizer spreader and a small tractor. There are four practice pitches with a fifth to be constructed by 2006. There is one electronic and one manual scoreboard and any requirements for relocation of these will be met.

The National Stadium in Vieux-Fort will undergo temporary alterations to host warm-up matches and will be ready for 2006. If this venue is successful, it will also have the potential to accommodate day/night matches.

### Cricket Stadia

The Beausejour Cricket Ground (BCG) is a modern fully serviced cricket stadium, constructed to international standards, with a seating capacity of 12,487 and completed in 2002 at a cost of US\$16 million. It will be upgraded to 21,000 seats, 7878 of which will be covered, for 2007. Among the other enhancements proposed for 2007 are the provision of self-contained areas for physically disabled persons, technology for the hearing impaired, ringside arena seating, 20 electronic turn styles at the east and west gates, appropriate directional signage, up to 20,000 square feet of tent area for catering operations and hospitality, and

additional storage space for food vendors. Waste management facilities will include a variety of bins and collection/storage points.

Facilities for players will be upgraded to include separate secure entrances and dining areas for teams and an increase in the numbers of lockers. At present there are 18 sky boxes, four of which will be converted into two presidential suites for 2007. WCSL will make provisions for the main ticket outlet to be located either at Beausejour or in the City of Castries.

### Match Day Operations

The necessary staff and structure are available at the BCG to ensure smooth match-day operations. Full time staff undertakes tasks related to pitch repairs, maintenance, line marking and cleaning. An extensive volunteer programme will be implemented ahead of 2007, and this will include special training under the new government initiative – Youth Apprenticeship Programme. A clean-up plan will be designed and tested to ensure that the operations meet

the highest international standards in sanitation and hygiene.

### Media Facilities

At the Beausejour Cricket Ground, Saint Lucia will provide 170 temporary press boxes for the print media and up to 175 overflow seats, all to be located in the players' pavilion. A 1000 square feet room for press conferences has been identified in the players' pavilion. Positions for up to 38 photographers are identified at the northern and southern ends of the ground. Beausejour Cricket Ground is equipped for 23 camera positions and two camera gantries at the northern and southern end of ground, capable of covering any of four pitches being used. Four television commentary boxes and two in-vision boxes will be made available in the media centre and 10 temporary radio commentary boxes will be constructed in the North West 1 stand.

A 6000 square feet broadcast compound will be created, with 300 square feet allocated for satellite dish area, all located adjacent to the broadcast control room. The BCG is capable of providing a wide variety of telecommunications options for use by the media, including high speed Internet at 2Mbps, ADSL, Wi fi and connection to the national fibre optic ring. 127 secure parking areas and drop off zones are identified for use by media personnel. Hotels and catering services for media personnel were identified within a two mile radius of the ground. A core of trained volunteers will assist in the media operations. Two hundred and seventeen (217) seats may be lost due to

a reconfiguration to accommodate additional media personnel.

**Security**

The LOC will adopt the CARICOM security plan for CWC WI 2007, with a strong emphasis on public safety and security. A National Security Committee will be established, which will be based on strong collaboration between the national law enforcement agencies and private security companies. Saint Lucia has the required legislation to address all security issues. On match and non-match days, security plans will include the use of enhanced lighting, and close circuit television. All spectators and vehicles entering the BCG compound for matches may be subject to searches and electronic scanning.

All ports of entry are equipped with the necessary equipment required for CWC 2007.

**Disaster Management**

A fully equipped and staffed Incident Command System (ICS) will be set up to ensure access and egress areas are properly manned, adequate signage is established, aisles remain clear and there is no overcrowding. Public Health agencies will perform pre and post match environment safety checks. The ICS will form part of the Venue Operations Centre (VOC) and will collaborate with the National Emergency Management Organisation.

**Accreditation**

A 3000 square feet temporary accreditation centre will be erected on the southern end of the media centre. The centre will be equipped with adequate power and telecommunications capacity for the full operation of up to 14 computer terminals, and will contain offices for the centre manager and the ticketing manager. Suppliers and contractors will be expected to comply with the accreditation procedures. There will be twenty-four security and dedicated parking for the centre.

**Medical Services**

A Central Medical Services facility will be established with emergency room capabilities, mobile X-ray and laboratory services. Seven medical centres and five ambulance positions will be established to service all areas and patrons, including VIPs, media personnel, spectators and players. Nine doctors, sixteen nurses, and 12 emergency management technicians will service the medical facilities. The medical team will form a critical part of the VOC. An integrated medical, security and disaster management plan will be implemented, which will detail among other things, access by land and air to other medical facilities on the island. An ICC approved Doping Control Facility will be established at the ground.

**Transport**

The vehicle and pedestrian transportation for the matches will be based on a Match Day Transportation Plan (MDTP). This plan will utilize the principle of Park and Ride, which utilises a minimum of five dedicated parking areas and a shuttle: 30/40 seat shuttle buses which will move spectators to and from the ground. Parking at the ground will be restricted to official and team vehicles, emergency transportation, VIPs and shuttle buses. There will be separate vehicle routes to and from the ground for official vehicles on the one hand and spectators on the other. A team of traffic police officers and specially trained wardens equipped with wireless communication systems will form the core of personnel to manage the plan. A public awareness plan will be developed to publicise the details of the MDTP. Extensive studies and

infrastructural works on road safety and development are being undertaken in Saint Lucia with funding from the French Government and the Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Economic Development.

**Communications**

The ground is fully equipped with direct dial fixed lines, high speed Internet with sufficient bandwidth for web streaming and to meet the requirements for match operations. All three telecommunications operators - Cable and Wireless, Digicel and AT&T, provide GPRS services at the grounds and can expand their current capacity on demand.

**Accommodation**

In the 2004 budget presentation, the Prime Minister of Saint Lucia announced fiscal and other incentives for the development of the accommodation sector to achieve a target of 7500 rooms by 2007. The majority of rooms to be used by officials, sponsors and teams are located within a three mile radius of the BCG. Security will be strengthened at hotels with the establishment of a satellite VOC in the main hotel. The Ministry responsible for Tourism, in collaboration with the National Development Corporation and the St. Lucia Tourist Board, will give high priority to the expansion of the hotel room stock, but in the unlikely event of inadequate rooms, cruise ship accommodation will be considered. The LOC will give due

International Cricket Council (ICC). Saint Lucia will provide wet weather contingency plans and welcome areas for sponsors' guests.

**Marketing Support**

Saint Lucia will promote CWC WI 2007 through a wide range of marketing approaches and strategies, coordinated by the St. Lucia Tourist Board (SLTB). A marketing and public relations committee will be set up to work closely with the St. Lucia Tourist Board, St. Lucia Cricket Association, and the National Development Corporation to increase local awareness and attract regional and global visitors to Saint Lucia. Extensive outdoor advertising and signage will be used at all air and sea ports, in selected local communities, and through facilities used by the SLTB.

A supplementary budget of EC\$7.8 million was proposed for promotion of Cricket World Cup by the SLTB, working in close collaboration with WCSL. Local public and privately-owned media agencies expressed their support for the promotion of CWC2007.

**Climate and Environment**

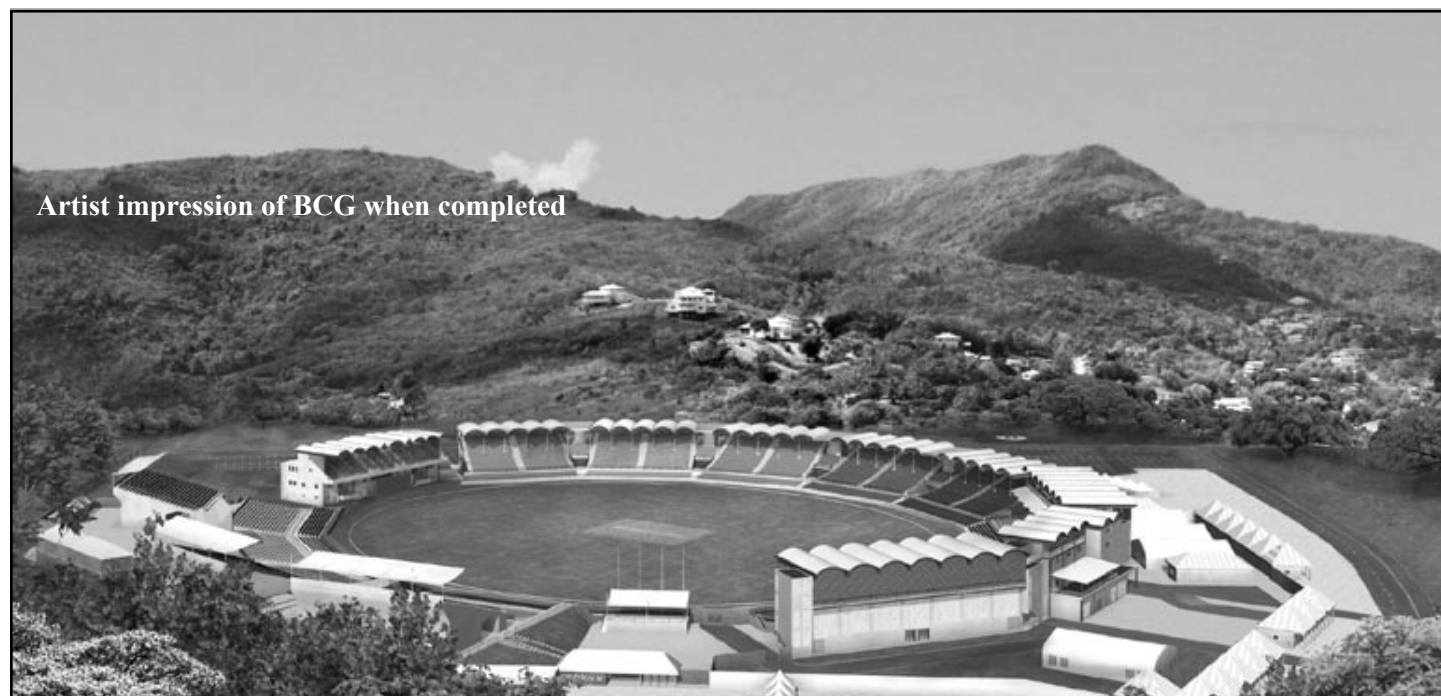
Saint Lucia will implement an extensive beautification programme which will extend beyond CWC 2007. Among the main features of this programme are the establishment of community parks, erection of street lighting and bus stops and the enhancement of the environment of the major ports of entry. The programme will be designed

**Generic Event Functions**

An extensive programme of social and cultural activities will be developed for the entire period of the Cricket World Cup. On match days cultural presentations will be mounted before and after matches and during lunch-time intervals. An open theatre will be established at the Mascot Park at the BCG to be used for performances on match and non-match days. A specially designed exhibition highlighting the social and cultural richness of Saint Lucia will be mounted at the ground. Additionally, entertainment and cultural experiences will be created for locals and visitors on non-match days at the Pigeon Island Landmark, the Derek Walcott Square and the town of Gros-Islet, among other venues. Tour packages will be developed to take visitors to the numerous heritage sites and the standing events in all the communities around the island.

**Economic Impact Assessment**

An assessment was done to establish the best possible package for Saint Lucia. It was determined that the Blue package, involving the England team, provided the best possible return to Saint Lucia. England represents a major tourism market for Saint Lucia and the England team is well known for the tremendous support it receives from its thousands of travelling fans. Additionally, the hosting of a semi-final would allow exposure of Saint Lucia



Artist impression of BCG when completed

consideration to the additional demand on hotel rooms during the period when hotel occupancy is high due to the Saint Lucia Jazz Festival.

**Immigration and Customs Clearance**

Customs and Immigrations operations in Saint Lucia are operated according to international standards and conventions. Enhancements for 2007 will include additional immigration desks, computerised immigration, and more baggage carousels. New X-ray equipment will be installed at seaports to accommodate the increased volume of visitors. Saint Lucia will institute pre-clearance and pre-checking-in procedures to speed up the movement of officials, teams and cricket patrons in and out of the country. Departure lounges will be enhanced to accommodate increased passengers.

**WICB Rights/Sponsor Contractual Obligations**

The Local Organising Committee will adhere to all the contractual obligations related to the provision of a clean stadium, protection against ambush marketing and brand violation, and commitment to the general guidelines in all area operations established by the

to encourage community participation, based on previous beautification competitions, and also invite the corporate and business community to become an integral part of these efforts. Scoping studies and impact assessments will be conducted to assess the environmental impact of CWC2007 and the necessary mitigations measures will be implemented.

**Ambush Marketing**

The Local Organising Committee will implement a multi-prong strategy to ensure there is no ambush marketing during CWC2007. Among the components of the strategy are the enactment of sunset legislation, the engagement of consultations with marketing and public relation companies to address the requirements of the sponsors of the event, public awareness programmes aimed at sensitising the various publics on the consequences of involvement in ambush marketing, early registration of appropriate trademarks and logos, and collaboration with planning authorities to ensure compliance with the requirements for CWC 2007. The LOC will also implement a sponsorship protection programme to police venues to be used for the event. An appropriate investigative adjudication process will be implemented to discourage and penalise offenders.

to an over 1 billion strong television audience. Economic data available from the hosting of activities such as Saint Lucia Jazz, the Atlantic Rally for Cruisers, and the One Day International cricket matches between West Indies and New Zealand, and West Indies and England supported this decision. Saint Lucia Jazz, which has been held for the past 14 years and is the largest special event in the country, attracts over 12,000 visitors and brings in excess of US\$40 million in revenue. An estimated 12,000 to 15,000 thousand United Kingdom visitors are expected to follow their team to Saint Lucia, and the impact of their stay in the country is expected to be significant. In addition, the media coverage of Saint Lucia as a tourism destination that will be provided by CWC 2007 is worth millions of dollars in terms of public relations and marketing. The Blue Group, therefore, should yield a longer lasting and more important tourism marketing and economic legacy than any of the other groups.

**Bid Commitment and Guarantees**

The Local Organising Committee provided the letter of Undertaking and the Certificate of Endorsement, and made the deposit of US\$25,000.00 as required in the bid process.



# Drugs: That Scourge

## Damage and Destruction



Good Morning Saint Lucia,

I want to converse with you today about an issue that consumes me, indeed that tortures me. It is that scourge called drugs.

At some point, you must have seen in your community, some young person, spaced-out, dirty, shoddily dressed and begging for help or food. You must also have seen the number of groups of young people who gather in various places doing nothing but selling, buying and consuming drugs.

I have often wondered why so many of our young people get attracted to drugs and become victims when they can see all around them the obvious damage to their peers and to our society.

Drugs – especially the hard drugs like crack and cocaine – have consumed so many young and talented St. Lucians. Indeed, we know of the ravages they have caused, because we often describe the victims as “Jumbies” or “Zombies”.

We know of families that have been torn apart by drugs; that have lost property because addicts -- their own relatives -- steal and sell or pawn household property to raise money to purchase these hard drugs.

Why is it that if the destruction is so obvious all around us, that our young people continue to consume those drugs? We are losing entire communities to the scourge of drugs, yet its use continues. Why?

All sorts of reasons are offered as to why people get hooked on drugs. Some blame it on frustration induced by unemployment. If so, why do individuals employed in good jobs get into drugs? Why is it that people who hold jobs, engage in trade and become drug dealers and traffickers?

When Prime Minister PJ Patterson of Jamaica was here at the beginning of July, he said in our Parliament that many are involved in drugs, not just for consumption, but because it is a way of life and an economic system for them. I agree. But what this also means is that if it's a way of life and an economic

PM Converses with Nation

system, then it cannot be fought as if it was just a bad habit.

### Drugs and Guns

Everyone knows the link between drugs, guns and crime. The drug traffickers need to protect their ill-gotten gains from firstly the Police, and secondly, from other gangs. They trade drugs for guns. These gangs know one language – death. The drug lords recruit young men and arm them with guns to enforce their will and bidding. They become consumed with their power and in no time seek to enforce their will on those around them. Young people murder each other for their masters – the drug lords and barons. Is it little wonder that the majority of murders these days are drug-related?



Journalists examine drugs confiscated from Wilton's Yard raid

In order to keep the gangs intact, to feed and clothe them, the drug leaders must earn money from their evil trade. They maintain gangs of terror and fear to enforce their will, protect their turf and trade. It is a business that uses intimidation, terror and brutality. Yet, we tolerate their existence and find excuses for what they do. Why?

### Drugs All Around...

By the way, when we talk about drugs, we must include alcohol and tobacco. We have been seeing for years what alcohol can do and has done to so many in our society, both young and old. We see its victims in and outside the rum shops and bars or lying on the pavements, unable to get home.

The effects of tobacco consumption are less obvious, but no less harmful to the body. Indeed, St. Lucia was just recently praised by the international health institutions such as the WHO and PAHO for what our Government has been doing to stem tobacco consumption in our country.

The tobacco companies in the USA are now being sued for causing death to people who smoke the cigarettes they produce. They are being made to pay millions, if not billions, in individual and class action law suits. These law suits have been brought by persons who have become addicted to cigarettes through the misleading and unhealthy advertising of those companies.

### Getting Away With Murder...

I therefore ask: If the consumption of drugs is so addictive and if persons are losing their lives through drugs, then should those who traffic in drugs be allowed to get away with just incarceration in prison? Shouldn't they too be liable for damages for causing the death of others? After all, they make the killer drugs available...

If the consumption of drugs leads to death and creates such loss of life, aren't the drug dealers also responsible? Shouldn't we amend our laws to penalize such persons more seriously?

### Individual Decisions

In the case of alcohol, the societal acceptability of this drug necessitates at first, an individual decision about consumption. Either we decide not to consume alcohol or, if we do, we do so with a level of moderation and restraint, bearing in mind the ultimate harmful effects on the mind and body.

In the case of cigarettes, it is also a personal decision: either we don't smoke, or we do so at the risk of knowing that it is dangerous to our health and will unleash cancer and respiratory diseases.

In the case of marijuana, even though it is described as a soft drug, the lessons are the same: excessive use does have its harmful effects on the mind and body.

But in the case of crack or cocaine, it is much worse, as can be seen in the examples I quoted earlier.

### More Than Just A Personal Decision

Using drugs of any kind – alcohol, cigarettes, marijuana, crack or cocaine -- is more than just a personal decision. That's because, as I said earlier, it has implications for the entire family, indeed for the entire society.

There are obvious institutional measures than can and are being employed in the fight against drugs. These measures range from persuasion to prosecution.

However, at the personal level we each have a duty to our families and communities to conduct ourselves in ways that assist in the fight against drugs of all kinds.

The way we conduct ourselves at home, for example, has implications for the overall battle.

If we consume alcohol, smoke cigarettes or marijuana, or use crack or cocaine at home, it becomes a household fixture.

If parents use any type of drugs in the presence of children, then the children will see nothing wrong with following the fashion and they too will become users -- innocent at first, but habitual and addictive in the end.

Every drug trafficker is a potential enemy. Their sole purpose is to make killer drugs available to our children, our brothers, our sisters and all who will pay. They are in it only for the money, and the power. They will fry brains simply to make the money to keep their dirty and evil trade alive.

### We All Have A Stake In This Fight!

This brief talk was not intended to be a lecture on drugs, but simply a reminder that we all have a stake in the fight against all forms of drugs in our society. We cannot allow our children to be consumed before our very eyes. We have a common enemy.

As I said earlier, we all know of the harmful effects of hard drugs because the evidence is there for all to see.

Drugs mean death. A life on drugs is a life wasted. We have lost too many. Now is the time to step up the fight, beginning at home.

Until next Monday, do take care of yourself.



# President of CCJ to be Sworn in

**The first President of the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ), the Right Honorable Justice Michael de la Bastide of Trinidad and Tobago will be sworn in on Wednesday, 18 August.**

President of Trinidad and Tobago, Dr. George Maxwell Richards will administer the Oath of Office before a gathering expected to include Prime Minister of Grenada and CARICOM Chairman, Dr. the Honorable Keith Mitchell; CARICOM Secretary General, Mr. Edwin Carrington; and Commissioners of the Regional Judiciary and Legal Services Commission (RJLSC).

The establishment of the CCJ is considered vital for the operation of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) and, as Dr. Kenny Anthony has stressed, the CCJ will not be a hanging Court. He and other CARICOM leaders have insisted on placing high priority on its establishment as "a competent body of community law to resolve disputes that will arise under the revised Treaty establishing the CSME".

The Court will function in two jurisdictions – an original and an appellate. In its appellate jurisdiction, the Court will apply the laws of the Member

States from which they are hearing appeals. In the exercise of its original jurisdiction, the CCJ will perform the role of an international Court, applying rules of international law in interpreting and applying the revised Treaty of Chaguaramas.

In 1998 at their 19th Regular Meeting, CARICOM Leaders agreed on the establishment of a Caribbean Court to replace the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council (JCPC) and the Agreement establishing the CCJ entered into force in 2002. In 2003, the Commissioners of the Regional Judiciary and Legal Services Commission (RJLSC) were appointed, and the Board of Trustees, which will manage the CCJ Trust Fund inaugurated.

At the 25th Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community held in Grand Anse, Grenada June last, CARICOM Heads collectively endorsed the recommendation of the RJLSC for Justice de la Bastide's appointment. This marked a significant step in the Region's move to establish the CCJ as the Caribbean's first indigenous court. The CCJ will be inaugurated in November of this year and its seat is Trinidad and Tobago.

Justice de la Bastide holds a first class



**P.J. Patterson and Dr. Kenny Anthony are very strong supporters of CCJ**

Bachelors Degree in Jurisprudence and Bachelor of Civil Law Degree from the Christ Church Oxford University, London. In 1961 he was admitted to the London Gray's Inn Bar and has held several portfolios in the legal fraternity. These include Chief Justice of Trinidad

and Tobago and Chairman of the Judicial and Legal Service Commission. The CCJ President also served as Independent Senator and senior partner of the de la Bastide and Jacelon Law firm. He was recently appointed to Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

## Continental Airlines Eyeing St. Lucia

**I**nternational carrier, Continental Airlines has expressed interest in beginning a new scheduled service to St. Lucia. Minister of Tourism, Hon. Philip J. Pierre, Director of Tourism, Hilary Modeste and St. Lucia Tourist Board (SLTB) Regional Marketing Manager, Lorraine St. Jules met with top officials of Continental in Newark, NJ last week, to discuss the possibility of the new flight.

Continental Airlines is scouting new areas for market expansion in the region and has singled out St. Lucia. After analyzing St. Lucia's destination statistics for the past three years, the airline's Strategic Planning Manager, Alex Heiter described St. Lucia's growth in arrivals as impressive. According to official statistics for the Caribbean, St. Lucia is one of the fastest growing tourism destinations in the region.

In the past two years, the island has been able to increase its airlift from major markets, such as the United States and the United Kingdom. Minister Pierre said, "In the past two years, we have been able to attract a new service from Delta Airlines, renewed interest from American Airlines, a new flight from British Midlands International, and increased service from Virgin Atlantic. This suggests that we are hitting the right notes in the market with our promotions, as well as the quality of our product."

The recent preliminary round of talks with Continental Airlines will be followed by another meeting in six weeks time, when the airline will present concrete plans for the proposed flight.

**"the airline's Strategic Planning Manager, Alex Heiter described St. Lucia's growth in arrivals as impressive. According to official statistics for the Caribbean, St. Lucia is one of the fastest growing tourism destinations in the region"**

## Courts donates forensic equipment for Police Laboratory



**Ausbert Regis**  
Police Commissioner

**Hon. Philip Pierre**  
Minister of Ministry of Commerce, Tourism, Investment and Consumer Affairs



# Government's Credit Facility Benefiting Students

**T**he Government of St Lucia has begun the implementation of its Human Resource Development Credit Facility with the Bank of St Lucia and the St. Lucia Credit League.

Through the Human Resource Development Credit Facility, the Government of St. Lucia is providing grant funding to persons desirous of obtaining loans to pursue course of studies both locally and abroad.

The loan component under this programme is used to cover cost related to tuition, boarding and lodging. Under this Programme persons can receive a grant of up to \$25,000, depending on their requirement and cost of study. The grant funds are to assist students:

1. Repay their loans or/and;
2. Meet security requirements or/and;

3. Repay interest during their studies.

To date some 65 persons have received loans from the Bank of St Lucia. Under this programme 2/3 of the grant funding is directed at persons already employed and desirous of enhancing/improving their skills, while 1/3 is directed at persons (students) desirous of pursuing courses of study in overseas institutions.

Priority will be given to students pursuing studies in local institutions and courses that are on the Government of St Lucia priority list.

There are still opportunities available for accessing grant funds in support of Human Resource Development, especially for persons already employed and are willing to enhance/improve their skills through training and or complementary studies in local institutions.



Bank of Saint Lucia on Bridge Street

## Draft Family Law Report Submitted to Government

**T**he Report of the Family Law Committee of the St. Lucia Civil Code Reform Project was officially handed to the Government of St. Lucia on Thursday, August 12, 2004 at

the Registry. The report was funded jointly by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the Government of St. Lucia.

Speaking at a ceremony to mark the

occasion, Attorney General Senator Petrus Compton said that the report was part of a revolution in the judicial system, to repair years of neglect which has brought the system to near

collapse.

"In 1997, the judiciary was in as bad a state as it is today. When I was called to the bar in 1992, one of the first things I was told by senior lawyers was that I may not have very long to practise because the whole system was about to collapse. Thankfully, due to the hard work and dedication of those who work in the system it has not yet collapsed. But it was clear to the honourable Prime Minister and myself that we had to effect a revolution in the judicial and legal system of this country," the Attorney General said.

He said that the Family Law Review together with the complete reform of the criminal code, constitutional reform and changes to the magistracy were part of the revolution, which had been progressing steadily.

Minister for Health Human Services, Family Affairs and Gender Relations, Honourable Damian Greaves said that the report had long-ranging implications for all areas of family interaction: "There is going to be a radical transformation of the society insofar as that corner stone called the family is concerned, issues regarding maintenance ... custody of children ... physical and sexual abuse ... how much does a father pay in a situation of divorce... the family law situation is not the panacea for the change we are looking for, but it must be accompanied by other requisite changes in the society."

He referred to changes in the way social workers practise their craft, education as well as the academic side of drafting legislation.

The Attorney General's Office has promised a public campaign to put the draft report in the hands of every St. Lucian, who are desirous of reading it. The report will be made available on line, as well as through the office.

Senator Compton also gave a commitment to instituting a system to receive feedback on the draft report.

## East Coast Road to be Repaired

**T**he Ministry of Communication, Works, Transport and Public Utilities is preparing for rehabilitation work on the East Coast Road.

The East Coast Road is that stretch of road linking Castries to Vieux-Fort via Dennery. Minister for Communications Works, Transport and Public Utilities Honourable Felix Fenisterre said that the road is littered with pot-

holes and is an annoyance to motorists.

The road works will involve filling potholes and using a seal to cover the new works to prevent further deterioration. "This is only a temporary measure to ameliorate the intolerable conditions ahead of major works for the reconstruction of the road", Mr. Fenisterre said.

The Minister said that the kind of upgrading to take place on the East Coast

Road was stressful on the ministry's budget, which really should be going to the upkeep of community roads. But he pointed out that it was a necessary exercise at this time, as the complaints were becoming deafening and a source of frustration for all.

Presently, the Government of Saint Lucia is in the process of reconstructing and rehabilitating over 50 primary and tertiary roads on the island.

## New culvert works at Choc nearing completion



# GuyExpo 2k4: Exploring Business Opportunities in Guyana

The Ministry of Commerce, Investment and Consumer affairs is urging local companies and individuals to participate in "Guyexpo 2k4", a trade exposition to be held at the National Exhibition Centre, Sophia, Georgetown, Guyana from September 23 – 27, 2004.

Guyexpo 2k4 is a great opportunity for all who are interested in doing business in Guyana. This biennial activity attracts approximately 250 manufacturers, exporters, buyers and investors from Caricom, Latin America, the United Kingdom and North America.

The exposition will showcase an array of products and services available in Guyana, including agro processed foods, rums and beverages, pharmaceuticals, furniture, forestry, mining, tourism, and information technology. It will also include a seminar on "Doing Business in Guyana", one on one meetings with Manufacturers and visits to manufacturing operations in Guyana.



Frosts brand of local products

## Move Towards an OECS Chamber of Agriculture



Workshop participants

A recommendation from OECS Ministers of Agriculture, that the Secretariat develops an OECS Chamber of Agriculture has moved a step forward, with the hosting of a one-day meeting at its Headquarters on Wednesday August 11, 2004.

President of the Martinique Chamber of Agriculture, who was at the meeting, shared his organisation's success story with representatives of stakeholder groups in St. Lucia.

The OECS Agriculture Ministers had mandated that the OECS Chamber be comprised of National Chapters in each Member State. The Ministers suggested that the Martinique experience could guide decisions on the Chapters' structure, operations and services.

The Martinique Chamber of Agriculture is made up of ten sections; Farmers, Retired Farmers, Cooperatives, Credit establishments, Insurance companies, wage earners (who work the land but don't earn it, wage earners as a group, land owner, and Trade Union representatives.

The St. Lucia meeting was attended by representatives of the St. Lucia Agricultural Society, the Marketing Board, the Chamber of Commerce, the Minister of Agriculture, and the President of the Caribbean Agricultural Business Association (CABA).

The meeting heard that St. Lucia had already started to move towards creating its Chamber of Agriculture. The St. Lucia Agricultural Association (SLAA) is taking the lead in this exercise with support from the Office of Private Sector Relations (OPSR). Their consultants are currently looking at various models in consultation with the OECS Secretariat.

Wednesday's meeting was coordinated by the Secretariat's Agricultural Economist, Mr. George Alcee. He was supported by Senior Economist, Dr. Wayne Sandiford and Greg Rawlins, the Trade Specialist assigned to the Secretariat by the FAO to execute the "Promoting CARIFORUM/CARICOM Food Security project.

## OECS Assisting Small and Medium Enterprises

The OECS Export Development Unit (EDU) on Thursday August 12th, continued its technical assistance to small and medium sized businesses in St. Lucia.

EDU's USAID-funded Small and Medium Enterprise Development Project held a one-day workshop on "Managing Growth in the Small Business" for its St. Lucia clients. Fifteen of the twenty-one St. Lucian companies associated with the project attended the workshop.

The workshop was aimed at taking the pain of out growth by helping managers identify the cause of any growing pains and explore how to adopt a simple, planned approach to overcome the problem of growth.

Participants were also helped to understand the main problems facing a

growing firm; identify their own main growing fears; and understand the importance of planning and how to find time to plan. They were also helped to identify and develop the right team for growth; understand how to keep their finances under control; how to create the space for growth; focus on growth products; and how to develop a future growth strategy and remove future uncertainty through planning.

Workshop coordinators were Project Coordinator for the Small and Medium Enterprise Development Project, Daniel Arthurton, and Business Advisor, Melbour Phillip.

The Dominica-based Small and Medium Enterprise Development Project has been providing direct technical and financial assistance to more than 75 companies across the sub-region over

the past three years. The Project's work in St. Lucia has identified the area of managing growth as one of the emerging challenges to be tackled.

The SMED Project is geared towards increasing export by OECS small and medium sized companies through increased competitiveness and productivity.



Workshop participants



# Soufriere in the Spotlight

• Showcases recent successes

## Feeding the under-privileged

**The community of Soufriere has started a feeding programme for street beggars and indigent persons.**

The soup kitchen programme, which is being managed by the St. Vincent DePaul Society, is expected to benefit the town, as it grapples with the problem of tourist harassment and other illegal activity, which are more likely to be committed by street beggars and indigent persons.

The National Community Foundation (NCF) has added its support to the initiative, which is struggling to find funds to remain viable. A recent grant of EC\$4,800 was presented to the Soufriere Parish Council to assist the project. According to Chairman of the NCF Emma Hippolyte, the NCF's contribution will cover the salaries of the cook and one helper.

Member of the Soufriere Parish Council and Former Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Tourism, Mr. Percival McDonald said that the St. Vincent De Paul project cost almost \$20,000.

He said that the idea was to keep all the drug addicts and mental patients away from the streets to reduce harassment, pointing out that he had written to the Ministry of Health, in an effort to monitor the medication of the mental patients. "All that is to try and make Soufriere a tourism friendly place where people can come – no harassment- and hopefully, our senior people will get the assistance that they really want," he said

The soup kitchen was established in June this year, and now caters for 45 needy residents.



Pitons on World Heritage List



Malgreoute Home for the elderly gets gifts from Guadeloupe



Last Tuesday's Celebrations



Two Carnival Queens - Candy at right



Police has crowd under control



District Representative Walter Francois

**NTN THIS WEEK ON NTN**

Aug. 20th – Aug. 27th, 2004

•Sports in Action with Joseph "Reds" Perreira. Among his guests are David Christopher of Black Promotions and Andrew Marquis of SLMDA – Friday August 20th, 8:00 p.m.

•Press Conference on the 51st Meeting of the ECCB Monetary Council – Monday, August 23rd, 7:10 p.m.

•Issues and Answers – What does CSME mean for business? George Jude speaks with the experts.

•The Way Forward in Agriculture – Tuesday, August 24th, 7:10 p.m.

•Soufriere's Recognition Ceremony in honour of the Pitons designation as a World Heritage site along with the achievements of three outstanding Soufriere residents. – Wednesday, August 25th, 9:00 pm.

•An Emancipation Lecture with Proff. Hilary Beckles of the Cave Hill Campus (UWI) Thursday 26th–August, 8:00 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 Rview—Kweyol)

For the complete programme guide, log on to our website at [www.stlucia.gov.lc](http://www.stlucia.gov.lc) and then click on the NTN icon.

[www.stlucia.gov.lc](http://www.stlucia.gov.lc)

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