



NATIONWIDE

A publication of the Department of Information Services



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WE HAVE THE RIGHT...

TO PROTECT OURSELVES FROM HIV/AIDS
RESPECT THAT RIGHT
FIGHT AIDS: USE A CONDOM EVERY TIME YOU HAVE SEX

GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS HIV/AIDS PREVENTION AND CONTROL

The Government of St. Lucia continues to invest substantial sums of money to ensure that persons living with HIV and AIDS and their affected families are provided with the best support.

Last week, a EC\$21.1 million St. Lucia HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Project was launched at the Sandals Grande Resort, bringing together repre-

sentatives from the public and private sectors, non-governmental organizations, and secondary schools.

Continued on page 8



PM Anthony



Symptoms of the disease



“Take ②” - A fifteen minute news review of the week.
Every Friday at 6.15 p.m. on **NTN**, Cablevision Channel 2.

Government Notebook
A fresh news package daily
on all local radio stations



US \$7.5 Million project to protect Dennery Waterfront from flooding



The Government of St. Lucia has secured a total of US\$7.5 million from two World Bank agencies to help protect the Village of Dennery from floods during adverse weather conditions.

When Prime Minister Dr. Kenny D. Anthony visited the village following Tropical Storm Lily, where he promised to seek international assistance to save the beach front and adjoining properties from eventual destruction by the sea.

This week, the Prime Minister, who is also Minister of Finance announced that the Government had secured a loan for US \$3.7 million from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and a credit of US\$3.8 million from the International Development Association (IDA), both of which will go towards the cost of the Second St. Lucia Disaster Mitigation Project.

The PM said the Government decided that part of the amount would go towards Coastal and Flood Protection Works in the village, which has over the years, become increasingly threatened by heavy waves and resul-

tant floods from hurricanes and tropical storms.

"Life in the village gets tough when the seas get rough," said the Prime Minister. He noted that the village's waterfront area "is particularly vulnerable to storm surges and damage by wave action and high seas, as evidenced from the damage by Hurricane Allen in 1980, Tropical Storm Debbie in 1994, Tropical Storm Lily in 2002 and Tropical Storm Ivan in 2004."

"These storms," Dr Anthony added, "have all resulted in significant beach erosion and have also threatened life and property."

According to the PM, the Government plans to undertake a project in two phases. Phase One will provide frontline protection to residents and infrastructure between the waterfront and High Street, by constructing a buried revetment. The revetment will be 415 metres long, starting from the Dennery River in the South and going as far north as (approximately opposite) St. Peter's Church.

Phase Two will involve the construction of three offshore breakwaters

— two each at 50 metres long and a third 60 metres long — going from south to north, to be sited in two to three metres depth, each with a crest elevation of +1.5 metres.

Phase Two will also involve construction of an armoured berm at the north end of the bay and immediately north of the Daito; filling behind the berm to create a landfill area at the elevation of +1.5 metres with a volume of landfill estimated at 3,600 square metres.

The second phase will also involve construction of a revetment along the north boundary of the village for a linear distance of 50 metres.

According to officials attached to the Project Coordination Unit, sand clearing and placement will be an ongoing component of the works to be implemented during both phases. This entails clearing of the north of the Dennery River and the placement of that sand on the beach front of the revetment, in the south central part of the beach.

The construction period for the works planned for Phase One is estimated by the Unit to take 24 weeks,

while that for Phase Two is estimated to be 30 weeks. However, both phases will be treated as a single contract.

The Project Coordination Unit of the Second Disaster Mitigation Project is now inviting sealed bids from eligible contractors for the procurement of works for the Coastal and Flood Protection of the Dennery Village and bidding will be conducted according to World Bank guidelines.

Complete sets of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders from January 10, 2005 from the Project Coordinator at the Ministry of Physical Development, Environment and Housing and sealed bids must be delivered to the Secretary of the Central Tenders Board at the Ministry of Finance by noon on March 15, 2005.

Late bids will be rejected and sealed bids will be opened in the presence of bidders or their representatives on March 15.

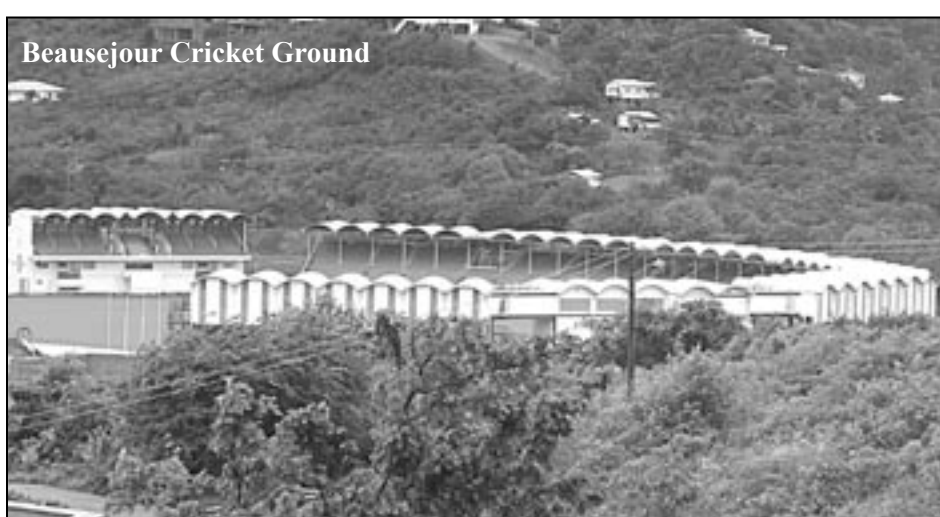
Meanwhile, a site visit will be undertaken on February 17 at 10:00 a.m., during which bidders and other interested persons and agencies will be given the full details of what is to be done.

World Cup Saint Lucia Inc. meets with Rushmans

World Cup Saint Lucia met with Rushmans on Monday, 7 February 2005, to discuss issues pertaining to event management, security, accreditation, media management, and the volunteer programme for the 2007 ICC Cricket World Cup.

Rushmans, an international company with significant experience and expertise in the hosting of major events, has been contracted by ICC Cricket World Cup WI 2007 Inc. to advise and assist with Event Management and Security issues for the 2007 Cricket World Cup.

During the 4-hour meeting, which was held at the Beausejour Cricket Ground, the members of Saint Lucia's



Local Organising Committee and Rushmans shared perspectives on the management of the security arrangements

for the tournament. It was agreed that as far as is practicable, the two, Pakistan versus West Indies One Day Inter-

nationals to be held in Saint Lucia this year, would be used to introduce some of the new security procedures.

The operation of the volunteer programme also received significant attention during the meeting. The various levels of volunteers and the time frame for the recruitment and training of these volunteers were discussed. The Rushmans team was impressed with the arrangements for volunteers already used in Saint Lucia during Saint Lucia Jazz, and with the proposals to utilize the Youth Apprenticeship Program and the National Skills Development Centre as vehicles to train new volunteers.

The meeting also discussed the recommended staffing levels for the event, and was apprised of the progress that has been made in Saint Lucia, in the recruitment of permanent staff for World Cup Saint Lucia Inc.

The very successful meeting concluded with a tour of the new office for World Cup Saint Lucia Inc., which is

Be alert! look out for the Silent Killer says Nurse Wilson

More persons suffer from diabetes and hypertension than are recorded in the books of the Saint Lucia Diabetics and Hypertension Association.

This was disclosed by the organization, which had mounted a booth at the recently staged second Annual Health Fair at City Hall, to capitalize on the opportunity to disseminate public education on the diagnosis and treatment of the two diseases.

Registered nurse and staff of the St. Lucia Diabetics and Hypertension As-

sociation, Lorna Wilson, said the organization believed there was an increasing number of undiagnosed persons in the wider community.

"Presently, at the association we have started a data base and we've had over 318 clients whom we serve. But stats per say in Saint Lucia, we really don't have a proper number on diabetics. All we know is that the incidents are increasing, younger persons are being affected with Type Two especially, which is very preventable," Ms. Wilson said.

Nurse Wilson said although easily prevented or controlled hypertension is often very difficult to detect and is therefore known as the silent killer. She explained that unless persons were very alert to changes in their bodies, they may never suspect the presence of the disease.

"A lot of times there are no signs or sometimes to hypertension. That's why they call it the silent killer. We have some fortunate persons who say that they feel the back of their neck is hurting them, they feel dizzy and when

they finally do go to a doctor, their blood pressure is high. Diabetes on the other hand you have quite a few, you have frequency in urination, excessive thirsts, some men suffer from impotence," she said.

The St. Lucia Diabetic and Hypertension Association said the services offered to the public are both motivational and educational. The grouping has appealed to persons to come in to their offices in Castries to access more information.

Measures in place to detect and control water loss



WASCO's Headquarters in Sans Souci, Castries

Government has announced measures to stem the loss of some 4 million gallons of water per-day as a result of illegal connections and possibly damaged mains below the ground.

Minister for Public Utilities Honourable Felix Finisterre said a number of bulk meters had been acquired and would help determine where the unaccounted-for water is going.

"The meters are already on island. The award has already been granted and in that way, we will be able to do two things - detect and determine where this water is going, how it is being lost, the quantum of it and therefore, we will be able to take steps at both the individual meters and the domestic level, and the bulk metering process to stem that problem," Minister Finisterre said.

The Minister said some \$54,000 was being lost by the Water and Sewerage Authority (WASCO) per-day as a result and does much to slow down plans by the company to improve its service on

the island. He informed that the bulk metering process would not account for all the water being lost, but would enable WASCO to deal with present cash flow problems, and allow it to secure funding to deal with the many issues that continue to plague its operations.

"The more enlightening from the World Bank Mission is their willingness to consider forthwith as a short term loan, an immediate injection of cash into WASCO of some \$4.5 to \$5 million dollars to do some critical works," Minister Finisterre said.

Those works he informed would involve increased pumping capacity from the Roseau Dam to the 20 inch pipeline dedicated to getting water to the North of the island. In that process some 15 to 20 miles of pipeline of varying sizes which hamper the free-flow of water from the Dam into the T R Theobalds Treatment Plant at Ciceron would be eliminated. The capacity of the Ciceron Plant will also be increased in order to reduce the problems with water shortages on the island.

Architects propose Master Plan for the re-development of Soufriere

Members of the St. Lucia Architects' Institute have given the nod to a lecture by Secretary of the organization - Jason Louis, which proposes a Master Plan for the re-development of Soufriere using the Urban Resort Concept.

Mr. Louis, who holds a Masters Degree in Tropical Architecture said the entire nation must ponder the grand day that lies ahead on February 14th, when the Official Inscription Ceremony of the Pitons Management Area as a World Heritage Site will take place.

He added that the upcoming historical event also begged the question: Can Soufriere live up to the prominent role it is being called upon to assume in Saint Lucia's tourism development, given its present infrastructure?

According to Mr. Louis what is left of Soufriere's architectural heritage



Town of Soufriere

must be guarded jealousy throughout the course of the town's modern development. Otherwise he said, the unique ambience of Soufriere will be quickly lost.

"Over the centuries the distinct character of Soufriere remained unchanged. Even after emancipation and the prominence of Castries as the capital city and economic centre. The image of

the town was however, scarred when in 1955 a ravenous fire gulped approximately half the town. Buildings, which had recorded the town's rich history had gone up in flames. Half of the heritage was lost. A rebuilt Soufriere became a double-faced town. Soufriere, like Willemstad was dichotomous in character. History and timber to the south and concrete and modernism to the north", he informed

Noting that Soufriere not only embraced the Pitons, but also the Sulphur Springs and the Diamond Falls, all known to attract thousand of tourists, the architects concede that the town possessed sufficient invaluable assets to demand more policy intervention and legislation to protect its integrity.

"So why hasn't Soufriere accepted the challenge? Why is the town the nucleus, the main player seems so uninterested? This attitude has resulted in disjointed urban development, deterioration of historic buildings, insensitive interventions which blatantly disregard the historical context of the town," Mr. Louis said.

The lecture by Mr. Louis was one of a four part series, marking Architects Awareness Week.

PRF presents \$110,000 Broiler Project to FETCO

After much collaboration and hard work the St. Lucia Blind Welfare Association's FETCO arm, was on Sunday, February 7th officially handed a \$110,000.00 broiler production project in the Marc community. The project was sponsored by the Poverty Reduction Fund.

FETCO, also known as Fraternity, Economic, Thrift, and Consumer Organization will have overall responsibility for the management of this project. Project Development Officer at the Blind Welfare Association Debora Pamphile said finding employment for the visually impaired was generally very difficult. She said however, that the PRF was very welcoming of FETCO's proposal.

"Over the years the SLBWA has been had pressed to find innovative ways of finding employment for our clients. But with support from orga-

nizations like the PRF, we are able to move on. It is with this kind of support that FETCO was born - Fraternity, Economic, Thrift and Consumer Organization. This broiler production project was initiated as the first project of FETCO," Miss Pamphile said.

Executive Director of the PRF, Mr. Donovan Williams said the PRF was always interested in income generating proposals. He urged FETCO to view the project as a stepping stone.

"While we can be celebrating the opening today, we should recognise that it is only the start. As has been pointed out it is a business, and to make the business successful you have to be constantly at it. You have set a standard that is very commendable, but right now, you have to maintain and even perhaps, surpass that standard," said Mr. Williams.

Meanwhile, Member of Parliament for Castries South East Honourable

Menissa Rambally commended the stance taken by the blind and visually impaired, to contribute meaningfully to their personal development and their country's economic growth. The Minister hopes this example will motivate other vulnerable groups in the society.

"Today's project is an inspiration and it is a lesson to those of us who have all our faculties in place. We have no issues with sight and sometimes we sit

and wait for people to do things for us. So today, we are getting a very important message from persons whom we consider as "persons with disabilities." They have stepped up to the mark and they are saying we are making a life for our selves," the Minister said.

The FETCO broiler production project located in Marc, currently employs four full blind attendants on a full time basis.

Giving Praise in Song for 26 Years of Independence

The Standing National Independence Anniversary Committee and the Cultural Development Foundation will again this year, stage the Concert of Praise and Inspiration.

This is the 9th such concert since it was first introduced, and has become one of the keenly anticipated events of the celebration of Independence. Every year, gospel groups from different churches join in a chorus of voices to give thanks to God in song for a spiritual intervention in the country. For the 26th anniversary of Independence,

15 groups are expected to invoke the spirit of God in song when the concert is staged at the National Cultural Centre. The concert is scheduled for Sunday, February 20th at 5:00pm.

The groups down to perform are: Boys of Faith, La Bayee Chorale, Cecilian Rays, Cathedral Junior Chorale, St. Joseph's Convent, Castries Methodist Chorale, Special Blend, Sound of Justice, National Youth Choir, AVAD Dancers, Lady Gordon School, Freedom Voices, With One Voice, Royal Saint Lucia Police Band and Cable and Wireless Diamond Steel Orchestra.

Searching for our PM in conversation



Prime Minister, Dr. Kenny D. Anthony

It is good to be back with you after the Christmas and New Year holidays. There will be much to discuss and talk about as the year progresses. Today, I want to chat a little about my recent visit to French Guiana.

During the last week of January, I led a delegation on an official three-day visit to French Guiana. The delegation included External Affairs Minister, Senator Petrus Compton, and St. Lucia's Consul General to the French Antilles, Mr Cass Elias. Also on the team were representatives of the Ministry of External Affairs and the Cultural Development Foundation, as well as the Government Information Service (GIS).

I was invited to visit French Guiana -- a year ago -- by the President of the Regional Council, Mr Antoine Karram. St. Lucians in French Guiana had urged him to invite me to meet with them, to help them reconnect with their homeland and discuss how to strengthen the historical ties between St. Lucia and "Cayenne." (Actually, Cayenne is the Capital of the territory of French Guiana, which is an Overseas Department of France located on the North-Western shoulder of South America.)

The visit

The visit began on January 24th and ended on January 26th. During that time I met with the political leaders of the territory, including the Presidents of the Regional and General Councils, as well as the Mayors of Cayenne, Kourou and Matoury. I also met with representatives of the Chamber of Commerce.

During our meetings with the administrative and municipal authorities, we discussed exchanges in areas of business, sports and culture, and the general strengthening of ties with the local St. Lucian communities.

With the business leaders, we discussed the possibilities of developing commercial ties such as joint ventures between investors in French Guiana and Saint Lucia.

Our delegation visited the Guiana

Space Complex at Kourou, from where some of the world's major satellites are launched by the European Space Agency. This is a massive, state of the art space exploration complex serving the European Union. It is indeed something to see.

Meeting st. Lucians

Of all my encounters, the best were those with St. Lucians in their various communities -- whether in the urban

centres like Cayenne, or in the Amazonian river areas such as Kourou, or in the deep, hinterland areas such as Saul (pronounced Sayel), a land-locked mining community in the centre of French Guiana founded in the last century by St. Lucians.

But I will never forget the welcome reception at the Rochambeau Airport. Apart from the official welcome by our hosts at the airport, the St. Lucian associations in French Guiana organized a genuine St. Lucian welcome, featuring women decked in our national colours, men beating conga drums, children waving our national flag and the entire crowd singing and dancing to the beat of lively indigenous music. Naturally, I joined them!

Likewise, I will not forget the superb performance of the Gwan Won and other dances of our twin flower festivals, La Woz and La Magwit, put on for the visiting delegation -- and in which we also participated. Indeed, it was a most memorable St. Lucian experience outside St. Lucia.

Updates from home

Through our meetings and in numerous radio, TV and newspaper interviews, I updated the St. Lucians in French Guiana on issues such as the banana industry, developments in secondary education, investments in

tourism, developments in the telecommunications sector, road construction, water and electricity and the plans for the construction of the two new hospitals, as well as our continuing fight against crime.

Invariably, in their questions and comments, St. Lucians said they appreciated that my visit was the first official visit by a St. Lucian Prime Minister to meet and talk with them. They all welcomed the historic opportunity to establish official ties with their homeland.

Touching moments

There were also those touching moments that underlined the historicity of the ties between St. Lucia and French Guiana.

Most touching of all was the experience of Miss Linda Brice, a Foreign Service Officer at the Ministry of External Affairs, who was in charge of the protocol arrangements for the St. Lucia delegation. Miss Brice knew she had a sister in Cayenne, but she'd never met her. All she had was an old picture. She happened to mention this fact in a radio interview and within a day of our arrival someone who heard her on the radio went out and found her sister. They cried tears of joy as they hugged for the first time.

Cass Elias, our Consul General, told



Welcome flowers fitting for a Leader at Rochambeau Airport in Cayenne

roots in Cayenne!

n with the Nation

us that when he first visited in 1999, he met his father and he also met three brothers and a sister for the first time. Cass introduced one of his younger brothers to us in Kourou.

Kerwin Xavier, the GIS cameraman and reporter on our delegation, was surprised to have met a cousin in Cayenne.

A representative of the Chamber of Commerce of Cayenne was eager to meet Mrs Barbara Du Boulay, the representative of the CDF, because his mother is a Du Boulay from Chaussee Road in Castries.

Significantly, most of the important personalities we met had St. Lucian roots or connections. The mother of the President of the Regional Council is from Vieux Fort. The President of the General Council is married to a Tობierre – one of the prominent families from Vieux Fort – and their daughter is married to prominent Vieux Fort businessman, Brian Daher.

I met St. Lucians who are councilors in municipal authorities and who are leading political personalities in their communities.

I met people from Babonneau, Choiseul, Laborie, Soufriere – in fact, from every corner of St. Lucia. I met a blind lady who made her way to our first meeting with St. Lucians to inquire

about Thecla Deterville, Fred Walcott and Felix Finnisterre. And my Press Secretary begged for some time off to visit his wife's aunt.

Truly, our roots run deep in French Guiana and throughout the 90,000 square miles of that French Antillean territory in South America.

Reconnecting with our roots

But I must share with you my own thoughts on what to me was one of the most enlightening and enjoyable overseas trips I have ever made.

First of all, it was an important step towards reconnection with the St. Lucians and descendants of St. Lucians in French Guiana. Our people first migrated to that distant territory in the 1900s -- as they did to other parts of the region like Panama, Cuba and Guyana – in search of new opportunities. Like the trek to Guyana, they went to Cayenne in search of gold. Many remained to build another life.

Equally enthralling were the sentiments expressed by the people of French Guiana about St. Lucians and their role in building the territory from scratch. They will tell you, with a deep and visible sense of gratitude “C’est St. Lucienne ki bati Cayenne; c’est St. Lucienne ki bati Guiane!”

Indeed, on my visit to Saul (pro-



The Vice President of the General Council of French Guiana presents a token to Dr. Rosemary Antoine, as PM Anthony looks on

nounced Sayel), where I met the descendants of the earliest St. Lucian gold miners, I was also told of the neighbouring community called Saint Elie, which was also originally established by St. Lucians mining gold in the very centre, the heart of French Guiana.

I am most proud of the gratitude of the local French Guianese population for the role of St. Lucians in building their country. St. Lucians can be found today in every single area of activity in

French Guiana – from the highest levels of administrative decision-making, to the Civil Service and the Municipal bodies; from the commercial sector, to the agricultural sector; from the Space Centre at Kourou, to the Municipal Market in Cayenne. Our influence in French Guiana is really disproportionate to our size.

Indeed, in French Guiana, St. Lucians stand tall and proud, wave their flag, beat their chest and proclaim from the highest peaks to the lowest valleys: “Mwen c’est un Ste. Lisienne!” “I am St. Lucian -- and proud of it!”

Reaching out to the antilles

What we have begun in French Guiana is a continuation of this Government’s policy of reaching out to St. Lucians in the French Antilles just as we have done over the years with St. Lucian communities in other parts of the world.

This policy of reaching out to St. Lucian nationals in the French Antilles began several years ago, when I held discussions with President Jacques Chirac of France. Those discussions resulted in the decision by the French Government to abolish the need for visas by St. Lucians traveling to the French Antilles. Subsequently, the French Government agreed to devolve power to the local administrative bodies in the French Antilles, to allow them to develop closer economic, commercial, cultural and sporting ties with St. Lucia and the English-speaking Caribbean. Since those decisions, the movement in trade and people between Martinique and St. Lucia has blossomed.

Conclusion

The resurrected links with our people in French Guiana is a priority for this Government. But most of all, each and every one of us with relatives in French Guiana must re-establish ties and maintain those ties. Let us therefore negate the neglect of the past and reach out to re-establish links with a land that our people have shaped!

Until next week, God Bless -- and do have a nice day.



PM, Mrs. Anthony and External Affairs Minister Petrus Compton discuss the “Touloulou” carnival costumes with Mayor La Fontaine of Cayenne at the Mayor’s Hall.

Help Guyana - Dr. Anthony

P rime Minister Hon. Dr. Kenny Anthony, who is chairman of the National Emergency Management Organization [NEMO], has activated NEMO to respond to the Flooding situation in Guyana. This follows a meeting chaired by Dr. Anthony, between a team of officials from NEMO and other government agencies, and the St. Lucia/Guyana Association last Thursday (February 3).

It was agreed that there should be a combined effort between the Guyanese community here and the Government of St. Lucia, to stimulate greater support among the private sector and individuals.

NEMO, the Guyana/Saint Lucia Association and the Saint Lucia Red Cross have launched an appeal to the Nation to open their hearts to yet another sister State affected by a disaster. The flooding in Guyana has resulted in major loss to private and commercial properties.

Honorary Council for Guyana to St. Lucia, Lokesh Singh said, "We will be working with the government agencies through the post offices, in coordinating collections of materials from individuals in the society for consolidation in containers for shipment to Guyana. In addition to that, the government of St. Lucia has discussed the review of possible cash allocation to the government of Guyana towards the relief efforts".

Mr. Singh said to date, the contributions from the international donor community towards the Guyana relief effort was in excess of US\$2 million. Other agencies such as PAHO, CEDERA and the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), have pledge their support to Guyana, which has suffered millions of dollars in damages

"We are speaking of this flood affecting at least a third of the population of Guyana, we are talking of loss of households items, we are talking of loss of property, loss of businesses, compa-

nies and the country being completely dislocated", Mr. Singh informed.

While most of the water has receded, the country continues to experience heavy rains. A needs list issued by the National Emergency Management Organization indicated that clothing was not required. The focus at this time is

on medical supplies, layette, toiletries, and cleaning items.

Packages should be labeled NEMO and taken to the Saint Lucia Red Cross Building at Vigie in Castries or to any Post Office. A container is scheduled to leave Saint Lucia on Thursday, February 10th, 2005.

Long-term impact of floods to be assessed

A n advance team of the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLAC) is in Guyana for two days to prepare for an assessment mission of the long-term impact of the floods, which is planned to start as of 21 February 2005.

World Food Programme (WFP) is working with national partners and implementing organizations (CDC and the Guyana Red Cross) on storing other logistics aspects for delivering food rations. Assessments are in progress. For registering the food distribution, WFP will receive support from the Humanitarian Supply Management System (SUMA) team, organized through PAHO.

The following partners are involved in water relief efforts: Ministries of Health, Housing & Water, Environmental Protection Agency, CDC/JOC, Guyana Water Incorporated (GWI), Environmental Protection Agency, UK/DfID, The Guyana Red Cross/IFRC, WHO/PAHO, UNICEF, Oxfam, the Catholic Relief Services, and GCIFR.

Water distribution is continuing with increased transport capacity to reach the affected populations. However, the GWI has informed through the JOC that there is a need for 10 trucks in addition to the 32 already in operation.

It is estimated that 70,000 house-

holds and essential public infrastructure such as schools and medical facilities, are or will be in need of cleaning and sanitizing as floodwaters recede.

At a meeting convened in Georgetown on 28 January, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Member States agreed to develop a plan of action to assist the Government of Guyana to avert what could develop into a health crisis in Guyana if urgent, appropriate action is not taken.

Under this plan, experts of the Caribbean Epidemiology Centre (CAREC) will assist in developing laboratory capacity for parasitic and enteric diseases, as well as in public education for food safety. CAREC will work closely with PAHO in the immediate and medium term.

The Caribbean Environmental Health Institute (CEHI) has offered environmental health experts to assist in shelter management and water quality monitoring, while the Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute (CFNI) intends to work in the area of food safety and security, as well as nutrition education for vulnerable groups.

This situation report, together with the information on contributions and other ongoing emergencies, is also available on the OCHA Internet Website at <http://www.reliefweb.int>.



Guyana Floods

Justice Rolston Nelson Appointed a CCJ Judge

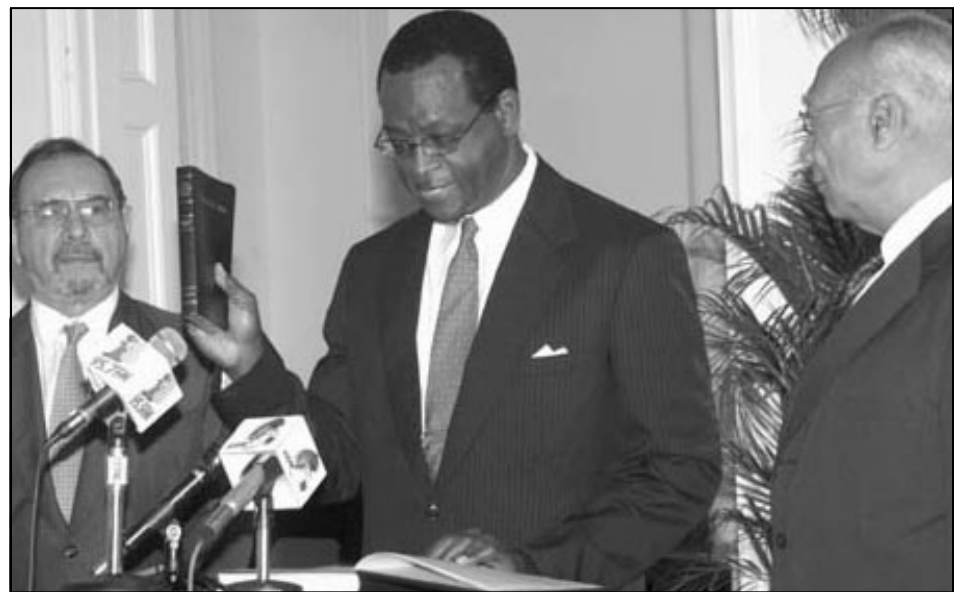
J ustice of Appeal of Trinidad and Tobago's Supreme Court, Rolston Nelson, was sworn in as a Judge of the Caribbean Court of Justice on Tuesday, February 1, at President's House, Port of Spain.

Justice Nelson was appointed a Justice of Appeal in 1999 directly from the private Bar where he practiced as an advocate for 24 years. He was called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn in 1970, Jamaica in 1973 and Trinidad and Tobago in 1975 and took Silk in 1993.

The new CCJ Judge is an Honorary Distinguished Fellow of the University

of the West Indies. He has honours degrees in French and Spanish and Jurisprudence from Oxford University and the LLM from the University of London.

Justice Nelson is an adjunct lecturer of the University of the West Indies Faculty of Law LLM programme and a tutor at the Hugh Wooding Law School in Trinidad. He is also a founding tutor of the Norman Manley Law School in Jamaica. He has served as a Director and Chairman of the Trinidad and Tobago Unit Trust Corporation and a Director of Republic Bank Limited.



Justice Rolston Nelson being sworn in as a Judge of the Caribbean Court of Justice by President Richardson Feb 1. At right is President of the CCJ, Michael de la Bastide

OECS Secretariat conducts Study on Impact of CSME on Sub-region

T he OECS Secretariat is conducting a study into the impact on OECS Member States of their participation in the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME).

The Study is being done with the assistance of the sub-regional office of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN-ECLAC), and is being financed through the CIDA financed OECS Trade Policy Project. It will be presented to OECS Heads of Government prior to their next meeting, scheduled for May 26-27.

The CSME is expected to pose significant challenges to the small OECS economies, with the greatest of these being to economic activities, companies and workers. The Governments have stated that while they agree with and are committed to the broad principles of the CSME, they also recognize the need for a clear understanding of the issues, effects and implications of the agreement. In particular they want to see how Chapter Seven of the Revised treaty of Chaguaramas, which deals with the Special Regime for Disadvantaged Countries, Regions and Sectors, could be used for the benefit

of the OECS, and what could be the responses of the people in the OECS.

The study will, among other things, provide the governments with an assessments of the market situation in CARICOM to identify possible trade opportunities for the OECS. It will examine the current production structures and capabilities in the OECS to determine the potential for intra-regional trade, and examine the current trade flows between the OECS countries and the rest of CARICOM to see if there are current trade benefits. It will also assess how the OECS could use the provisions of Chapter Seven to deal

with any imbalances arising from the CSME.

The CSME is scheduled to take effect later this month when the three countries which have achieved compliance – Barbados, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, sign on to the agreement. The other countries, including the OECS Member States, are expected to be fully compliant by December 2005.

For further information please contact OECS Communication Officers Kendol Morgan or Raymond Okeiffe at Tel (758) 452-2537; email: kmorgan@oeccs.org; or rokeiffe@oeccs.org

The Banana Saga: How the European banana market works

The following is an examination of the current workings of the European Union market that determine the prices obtained by farmers, as well as the security of their trade.

Although the European Union (EU) is made up of twenty-five Members, they do not each have their distinct national market. There is just one Europe-wide market with a common system for the importation of goods that can subsequently circulate freely within the EU once they have crossed the border of any of the Member States. Also, import policy is no longer made by the national governments, but by the EU itself. The European Commission formulates and manages trade policy under the overall direction of the Council of Ministers, which is made up of a representative of each of the Member States

The importation of bananas is governed by special rules, the Common Organisation of the Market (COM) enshrined in EC Regulation 404/93, which has since been amended and been supplemented by various other Regulations.

The European market is supplied with imported and domestic bananas. The latter, roughly 850,000 tonnes yearly, are grown in the Canary Islands, Martinique, Guadeloupe, Madeira, Crete and Cyprus. There is no limitation on production but income support or subsidies are paid to producers only up to the 850,000 tonnes limit. Not surprisingly growers do not produce more since they will not receive support.

Bananas are also imported under various quotas. The one that is reserved exclusively for ACP bananas is 750,000 tonnes, the main suppliers being Cameroon, Ivory Coast, the Windward Islands, Jamaica, Dominican Republic, Belize and Surinam. Other quotas, totalling just over 3 million tonnes, are available for bananas imported from all origins. Access, though, is highly competitive and dominated by low-cost suppliers, principally Ecuador, Colombia, Costa Rica and Panama, with smaller volumes coming from Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Venezuela, Brazil and Mexico. Banana



Bananas being shipped to Europe

imports within the quotas pay a customs duty of 75 euros except for ACP bananas that enter duty-free. Bananas can nonetheless be imported beyond the quota, but would attract a punitive duty of 300 euros if coming from the ACP or 680 euros if coming from other sources. The result of such high tariffs is to make the surplus bananas unsaleable, so there is no significant trade beyond the quota limits.

The effective restriction of volume ensures that the market is not oversupplied. This is of critical importance because the EU banana market is what economists classify as "inelastic." In Europe, the banana is a basic and low-cost food item, and shoppers decide on the amount of bananas that they will buy according to their tastes and habits. If banana supplies increase the public will not automatically eat more. Consequently suppliers will force prices down as they compete with each other to dispose of their stocks. If the EU market is even minimally oversupplied, it becomes a buyers market with the resulting decrease in price disproportionately large vis-à-vis the increase in supply. This is no theoretical conjecture but has been borne out by actual experience. In the past, whenever there has been even modest oversupply, actual prices have declined substantially. Hence, the quotas have been essential for market balance and for securing remunerative prices for

producers. I remember many years ago when Geest marketed our bananas, on occasion some bananas would be "left back" and dumped or given away. This seemed wasteful but the company was seeking to avoid oversupply because sacrificing the proceeds from the sale of a few tonnes of bananas was overall less costly than permitting the market to be even minimally over supplied, since the resulting price drop affecting all bananas would have had a greater net impact on total earnings.

The regulated EU market is in stark contrast with the unrestricted world market where wholesale prices are 40% lower. Access to this relatively lucrative market of the EU is not on a free-for-all basis, but is rather controlled by licences for which only registered operators are eligible. The operators are classified as traditional or non-traditional. The traditional are those who had been engaged in the banana trade since the mid-1990s and the others are the newcomers. The traditional operators are assigned 83% of the licenses based on their trade during the three-year period 1994-1996. The decision as to sourcing of bananas is entirely that of the operator, who being in business to make profit, will choose those sources that are most lucrative.

Fortunately for the Windward Islands, the operator that handles their bananas, WIBDECO, is a wholly-owned Windward Island company that

has been importing bananas from the early 1990s, and therefore qualifies for licenses as a traditional operator. Other suppliers, however, are at the complete mercy of operators who can choose whichever country from which they will source their bananas and can play one producer off against another.

Among ACP suppliers it is only the Windward Islands and Jamaica that are in this fortuitous situation of having "national" companies importing their fruit into Europe. This provides them with security of access and possibilities for profit sharing that would not have existed otherwise. It is no exaggeration that without WIBDECO and its established rights and position as a registered importer and banana operator in the EU, the prospects of our industry, given our high costs and consequent unattractiveness would have been bleak indeed.

It is quite true that those farmers who can get their bananas to the market, enjoy a relatively secure position, but that comes at a price since food standards in Europe are very high and rising. Supermarkets wield tremendous power and have been in the forefront of developing the exacting Eurogap standards that farmers are being forced to meet. The benefits to be gained from the effort of enhancing quality are considerable, and should be made, since the supermarket business is much more lucrative than trade in the bulk market.

Safeguarding supermarket trade is crucial despite possible changes in the regulations. Of course supermarkets will, in the short term, respect agreements with suppliers. If, however, in the long term, the marketing arrangements change fundamentally, offering them more attractive profit opportunities from trading in bananas from other sources, they will invariably take them up, abandoning our business in the process. Hence the need to simultaneously seek to secure an appropriate market access regulatory framework that will minimise the relative cost disadvantage of our bananas. There are niche market opportunities in "fair trade" and "organic" bananas. These bananas are sold at a premium, much higher in case of "organic," but require additional effort, organisational changes and possible investment.

Yes the EU banana market is relatively good and, for the time being, secure. But, staying in it and making a profit will demand considerable and on-going effort, creativity and investment

Statement by Prime Minister PJ Patterson



PM Anthony welcomes PJ Patterson during his last visit to St. Lucia

The Privy Council has handed down its decision in the litigation concerning the Caribbean Court of Justice (the CCJ).

This judgment will affect not only Jamaica but other countries in the region with similar constitutional arrangements.

The effect of the legislation under review would have been to abolish appeals to the Privy Council and to substitute a right of final appeal to the

"CCJ Agreement represented a serious and conscientious endeavour to create a new regional court of high quality and complete independence, enjoying all the advantages that a regional court could hope to enjoy"

CCJ. The legislation would have also provided for the establishment of the original jurisdiction of the CCJ to deal with matters pertaining to the CARICOM Single Market and Economy.

The key question identified by the Privy Council was whether the procedure adopted in enacting that legislation complied with the requirements laid down in the Constitution. In reaching its judgment, the Privy Council specifically said that it had no difficulty in accepting, and did not doubt, that the CCJ Agreement represented a serious

and conscientious endeavour to create a new regional court of high quality and complete independence, enjoying all the advantages that a regional court could hope to enjoy.

The Privy Council accepted that the Jamaican Parliament could abolish appeals to the Privy Council by a simple majority of its members following the procedure that had been adopted.

However, it held that the legislation to establish the CCJ as the final court of appeal should have been passed by another procedure. It should have been passed by the procedure appropriate for amending an entrenched provision which would require, among other things, an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of each House of Parliament.

The Privy Council held that since the Acts were put forward as a package, and since it was not the intention of Parliament to abolish appeals to the Privy Council without replacing it with

the right of appeal to the CCJ, the two could not be severed.

Some of our CARICOM partners have passed legislation to establish the CCJ as a court of original jurisdiction to deal with single market matters. Others are actively in the process of doing so. We will therefore have to have consultations with all our CARICOM partners concerning the way forward with respect to the establishment of this court as a tribunal for the resolution of issues concerning the CARICOM Single Market and Economy.

The Jamaican Government remains committed to the establishment of the CCJ as our final appellate court. It intends to take the necessary steps, arising from this decision to honour our commitments to the Jamaican people and our partners in the region.

The Government's legal team is currently completing its analysis of the judgment and Cabinet will consider the matter in full on Monday.

Government caring for HIV/AIDS patients and families

Continued from page 1

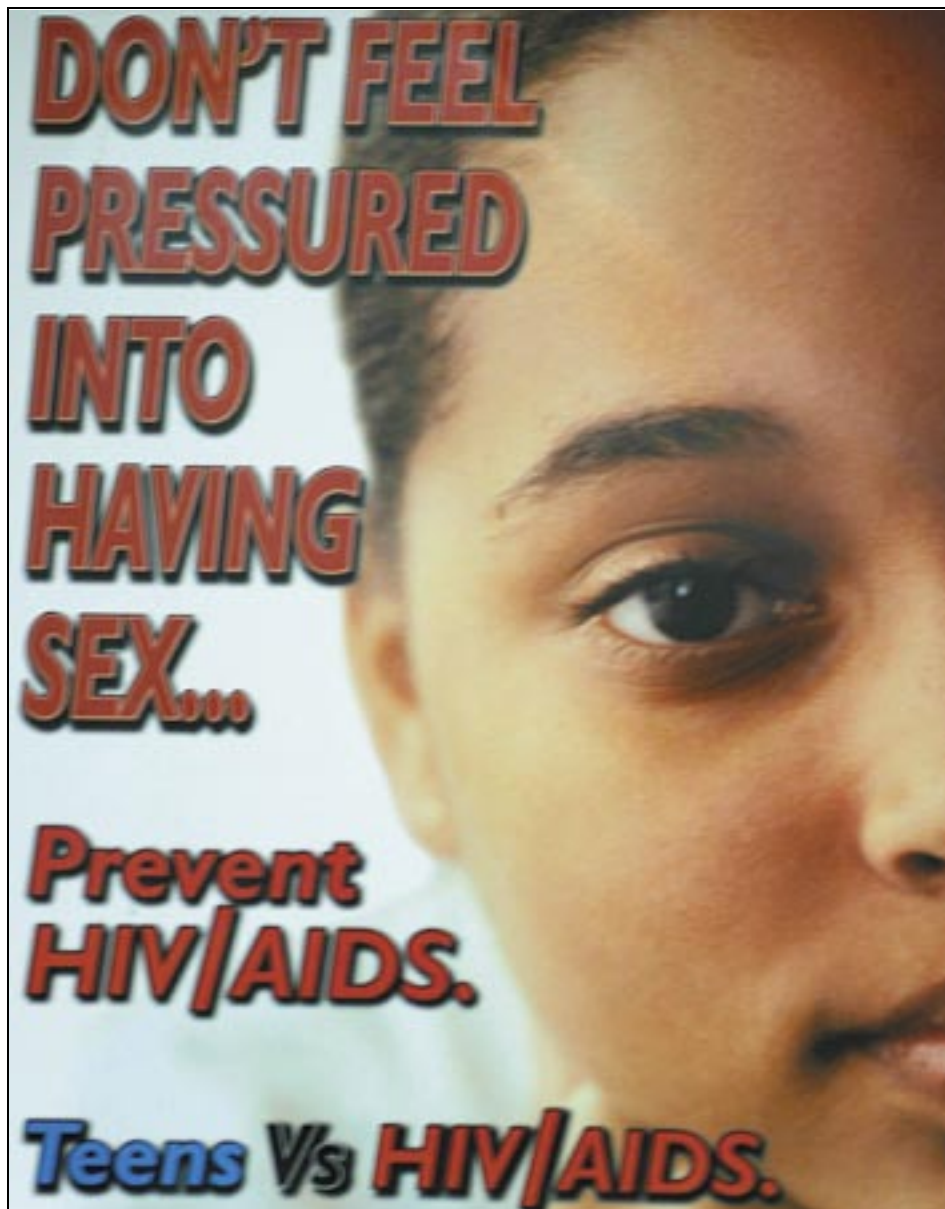
The project is funded by the World Bank as part of its support to Caribbean countries under the Pan Caribbean Partnership against HIV/AIDS.

Prime Minister, Hon. Dr. Kenny Anthony, Chairman of the National Council for HIV/AIDS revealed that the economy had lost some EC\$200 million to AIDS, since its detection in the mid 80's. He said the HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Project would provide support to civil society organizations, the Ministry of Health, and underlying ministries to implement effective strategies over the next five years.

Dr Anthony said the project fitted squarely with the wider national health reform agenda, and would concentrate on activities at the community level: "The capacity building component includes the implementation of an integrated health information system linking the entire health services from each health centre, the investment in training each community health worker to deliver the necessary health services in the community, and the investment in the bureau of health promotion to ensure the implementation of an effective behavioural change strategy".

Dr. Anthony said he was looking forward to the day when St. Lucia can have draft legislation to deal with the issues of discrimination, to protect persons living with HIV.

The issue of discrimination against HIV/AIDS patients is also a concern for Health Minister Hon. Damien



Greaves. He said the HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Project must not only focus on preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS, but on fighting stigma and discrimination.

"The complex nature of the epidemic demands an appropriate response from ministries and institutions charged with the responsibility to manage key economic sectors. Therefore, all non-health ministries must take responsibility for the protection of their employees and their clients from the spread and impact of HIV/AIDS. We look forward to our brother and sister ministries and other civil society organizations developing and strengthening their responses, as we mount a coordinated and offensive against the insidious and formidable foe", Minister Greaves said.

The health minister said the HIV/AIDS epidemic did not only affect the country's health system, but also its economic development.



Road Works continue



Police report increased success in recovering Illegal Firearms

The Royal St. Lucia Police Force (RSLPF) continues to experience greater success in retrieving unlawful firearms.

That's according to official recovery statistics provided by the police.

According to the figures, in 2002 the police recovered 14 firearms and in 2003 they recovered 16. But in 2004, the local lawmen recovered a total of 42 firearms.

The increase of over 100% in the number for 2004 is seen as a reflection of the continuing efforts of the police force to rid the streets of illegal guns.

It is also seen as a manifestation of the increasing success of the Government's programme of making a reward

of \$2,500 available to each person who provides information that leads to the successful recovery of an illegal firearm.

The Police report that the public has been increasingly cooperative on this issue, for which they are exceedingly grateful.

Meanwhile, for 2005 the police have already recovered five illegal guns.

The recovered weapons vary, but it appears that the favourite firearm of the criminal community is the 9mm pistol.

The police note that courts too, have been playing their part in ensuring that stiff sentences are meted out to those persons who have been caught with unlawful firearms.

Fines for possession of illegal firearms have ranged on conviction, from as low as \$10,000 to as high as \$50,000.



NTN THIS WEEK ON NTN

Sat. Feb. 12th - Fri. Feb. 18th, 2005

- How to Fill in Your Income Tax Return Form - Sat. Feb. 12th, 7:30 p.m.
- "Sports in Action" - The GIS speaks with Youth and Sports Officer Philip Anthony on the upcoming National Sports Awards - Sat. Feb. 12th, 8:00 p.m.
- The Ministry of Social Transformation presents "Miss Tiny Tots" - Sat. Feb. 12th, 9:00 p.m.
- The Legal issues of HIV/AIDS and Employment - Sun. Feb. 13th, 9:00 p.m.
- The GIS speaks with the President of the UWI Alumni - St. Lucia Chapter - Mon. Feb. 14th, 6:15 p.m.
- Heritage Tourism in Action - Tues. Feb. 15th, 6:15 p.m.
- Prime Minister Hon. Dr. Kenny Anthony addresses the SLBC - Wed. Feb. 16th, 8:30 p.m.
- The GIS speaks with officials of the Small Enterprise Development Unit - SEDU - Thurs. Feb. 17th, 6:30 p.m.
- From the Archives of the GIS: King & Queen of the Bands 2002 - Fri. Feb. 18th, 9:00 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 Review—Kweyol)

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

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