



CLICO Mortgage and Finance begin operations in Saint Lucia - page 2



Dame Pearlette Louisy at Regional Meeting - page 3



Let's tackle the culture of vandalism - pages 4 & 5



Police recover 139 illegal firearms - page 6



Proudly hosting the best ICC Cricket World Cup ever- page 7

PM WELCOMES CRICKET ACCOMMODATION INVESTMENTS

19 PROJECTS GET INCENTIVES TO CONSTRUCT 1,117 ROOMS FOR CWC 2007

Local investors have shown astonishing interest in providing the needed extra accommodation for Cricket World Cup and have been making full use of incentives offered by government to build new hotels, condominiums, villas, apartments and town houses for the great event in 2007.

In his last budget address, Prime Minister Dr Kenny D. Anthony outlined the main features of incentives granted under the Tourism Accommodations Incentive Act to encourage construction of the extra hotel rooms that will be needed to house visitors for the international event.

He pointed out that the incentives would range from accommodation in the form of hotels and condominiums to apartments and individuals upgrading or renovating homes to provide bed-and-breakfast facilities.

To date, 19 locally-based investors have been given incentives worth almost one billion EC dollars to construct entities to provide accommodation. According to the latest figures,



Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony

the incentives for the 19 projects submitted amount to \$994.18 million and when completed they will provide 1,117 rooms.

Of the 19 investments that have

sought and received incentives, four have already started construction, while approval from the Development Control Authority (DCA) is being awaited for the other 15 to get off the ground.

Among the projects already completed or under way are: the \$5 million Tropical Homes at Cap Estate being undertaken by local developer Bernard Johnson; the \$100 million Lazy Lagoon Hotel at Choc Bay (which is a refurbishment of the old St. James/Wyndham/Morgan Bay hotel under new ownership) with 100 additional rooms; and the 111-room \$44 million Coco Resorts at Rodney Bay, which has already opened.

Among the major projects soon to get under way are: the \$320 million Landings at Rodney Bay which will provide just over 500 rooms; a \$118 million project to be undertaken by the Cap Estate Group of Companies to construct villas and town houses with 80 rooms; and the \$29 million Cap Maison at Cap Estate which will provide 17 apartments with 50 rooms.

Continued on page 8



Local media tour work in progress at the Beausejour Cricket Ground in preparation for ICC World Cup 2007

CLICO Mortgage and Finance begin operations in Saint Lucia

P Prime Minister and Minister for Finance Honourable Dr. Kenny Anthony last Friday, October 7th, welcomed the launch of CLICO Mortgage and Finance Corporation – CMFC – onto the St. Lucian business market.

The latest development in CLICO's local investment portfolio is being described as the first phase of the CLICO Mortgage and Finance strategic expansion into Eastern Caribbean territories.

Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony says whenever competition is intensified the consumer is the one who benefits; therefore he says young people should capitalise on favourable market conditions to obtain assets such as house and land at this time.

Dr. Anthony complemented CLICO's timing for opening the facility.

He said the investment comes on stream at a time when the economy has readjusted after the difficulties of September 11th 2001 terrorists' attack.

"I am confident, solidly confident that this economy has made a major turn around and it is now a question of us handling the future with care, with confidence, and appropriate adjustments." Dr. Anthony went on to explore the factors that have helped to stabilize the economy.

"What has led to this recovery? In large measure, it has been due to the outstanding performance in tourism earlier this year. Indeed we have experienced a growth rate of some 21 % but despite the slight slow down in September the overall growth rate has been maintained. Interestingly too some of that contribution has come from an extremely robust construction sector. It has been confirmed that cement imports have increased by some 17 % over the same period."

Dr. Anthony said: "CLICO is entering the market at a time when the demand for housing is high and the private sector is leading the way in the construction sector."

Chairman of the CLICO Group of Companies Mr. Leroy Parris says the CMFC will capture CLICO's enterprising spirit and bring a healthy dose of competition to the business market. Meanwhile Mr. Parris underscored the company has displayed a lot of faith in the St. Lucia economy.

"Many of you might be wondering why St. Lucia as opposed to any of the other countries where we do business. There are a number of reasons but most importantly, CLICO has a large investment portfolio in St. Lucia including our residential communities, the Rodney Bay Development and St. Lucia Distillers

For its part the Chairman says CLICO



Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony cuts the ribbon at the opening of the new CLICO financial centre

Holdings has been expanding into several business markets. He says CLICO Holdings has just recently completed the purchase of the Sam Lord's Castle in Barbados.

Mr. Parris said, "We intend to take advantage of this favourable climate for expansion, as we believe that our sover-

eignty is dependent on our spirit of co-operation, the fundamentals of which are enshrined in the 1973 CARICOM Treaty of Chaguramas to deepen the process of integration".

CLICO Mortgage Finance Corporation is located in Castries on Brazil Street.

PROSPECTS FOR CHINA-SAINT LUCIA TOURISM

With the World Tourism Organization predictions that by the year 2020 China will become the world's top tourist destination and fourth in outbound tourist numbers, local officials are confident that St. Lucia will get its fair share of the oriental tourism pie.

Local officials are basing their optimism on the World Tourism Organization predictions that more than 100 million Chinese will travel abroad every year by the year 2020. Hundreds of Chinese visitors bound for the Caribbean, are however encountering difficulties due to repeated denials for travel visas to the United States, a critical intersection for getting to the Caribbean.

Addressing a 17-member Caribbean media delegation last month, China's Deputy Director of the Department of American and Oceanian Affairs in the Ministry of Commerce Jin Xu expressed the hope that Caribbean countries would do all in their power along with his country, in calling on the US administration to adopt a more flexible visa policy toward his country's 1.3 billion population.

Meantime Minister for Commerce, Tourism, Investment and Consumer Affairs Honourable Philip J. Pierre says given the many gains in attracting greater numbers of visitors from the orient, St. Lucia and China earlier this year, signed a cooperation agreement seeking to boost tourism.

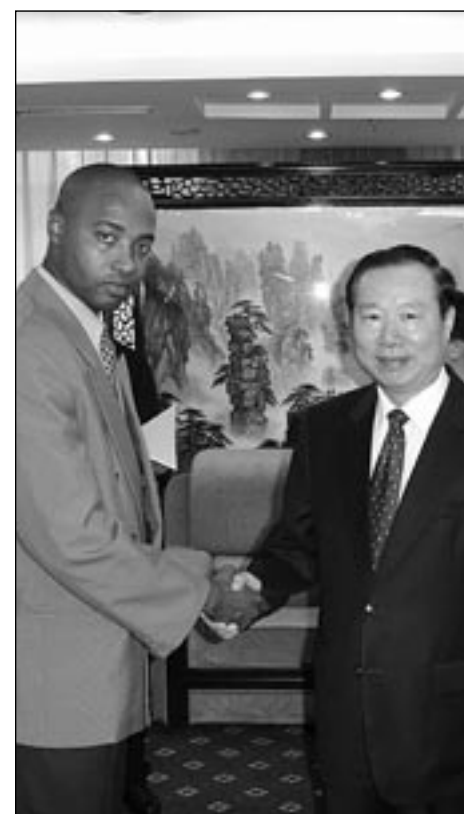


Caribbean journalists tour the Xinhua News Agency

"We would very much like Chinese visitors visiting St. Lucia. There are questions in terms of airlift and as soon as potential tourist reaches London or New York, then St. Lucia is just a few hours away. So we are looking forward to an influx of visitors from China. China is the world's fastest growing economy and because of the

serious diplomatic relations that we have with China, we are sure that as time goes on tourism between China and St. Lucia will expand and improve to the benefit of our local tourism industry" said Minister Pierre.

According to the World Tourist and Travel Council, China's travel industry



John Emmanuel of GIS Saint Lucia meeting with Chinese official

could grow by 10.4% a year over the next ten years, elevating China to the forth rank in terms of industry size.

People's Republic of China to Finance Local Micro-community Projects

Having recently completed an official visit to the People's Republic of China, Minister for External Affairs, International Trade and Civil Aviation Senator Honourable Petrus Compton is back with good tidings for the island's overall development.

The Minister has reported that a number of community projects will soon come into effect in various districts around the island. He said those projects can be singled out as being the outcome of a proposal submitted by the government of Saint Lucia for consideration by the People's Republic of China.

Minister Compton says dialogue with the Chinese officials was successfully



Senator Petrus Compton

concluded during his visit to China in August.

"I signed an agreement between the government of China and Saint Lucia whereby the government of China has agreed to grant US\$500,000.00 to the government of Saint Lucia for a series of small community projects throughout Saint Lucia. The purpose of this programme is to assist communities particularly with reference to youth activities and activities in sports."

The Minister said the projects will be primarily administered by the Poverty Reduction Fund. Minister Compton says the funds are expected to be used to achieve an impact in the lives of persons. He says so far the projects have already being identified.

"They target mostly a lot of courts, the resurfacing of courts, the lighting of courts, the fencing of the multi-purpose courts, in one instance there is a water project for a community to alleviate the water woes of that community" A beautification project in one community has also been suggested. "We are also looking at the development of a park in on another community." He said.

Minister Compton says government is well aware that quite apart from projects which have a national impact, attention must also be placed on those that bring direct benefits to communities. This he says is all part of the process of community improvement.

Constitutional Review Commission to be launched soon

The long-awaited Constitutional Review Commission will be officially launched at the House of Assembly next month.

That’s the word from Prime Minister Dr Kenny D. Anthony, who says that short of one major appointment, “preparations are well under way” for next month’s historic launching of the body to review the island’s Independence Constitution.

The Commission will be headed by prominent retired St. Lucia judge, Justice Suzie d’Auvergne, who will serve as Chairperson. It will also comprise representatives of the Opposition, as well as a wide range of representative national bodies.

The Prime Minister says the Government of St. Lucia has named its representatives to the Commission, which will also include representatives of non-governmental organisations.

He says “letters have also gone out to the representatives of the national organisations inviting them to name their nominees.”

“The only outstanding matter,” according to the PM, “is the nomination of a Deputy Chairperson for the Commission, which person must be recommended by the Leader of the Opposition, but who is yet to do so.”

The Prime Minister indicated now that there was agreement on the Chairperson, the formal launching of the Commission is slated for Friday, November 18, 2005 at the House of Assembly.

Asked whether the Commission should be launched before the next general elections, the Prime Minister said there was “no better time, as the Commission will have time to observe first-hand the election process.

“By so doing, it will also be able to identify weaknesses -- if any—and recommend changes to strengthen the independence of the electoral process.”

He offered an example: “For example, there have been suggestions that the Boundaries Commission be dissolved and its responsibilities reassigned to the Election Commission.

“This is a view which has some merit, providing the Elections Commission could be truly independent and earn the respect of all parties.”

The Commission was the result of a bipartisan parliamentary agreement initiated by the Prime Minister almost two years ago, in keeping with his Government’s promise on first taking office in 1997 to make Constitutional Reform a priority.

It was on November 21, 2003, that the

Prime Minister and then Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Arsene James, jointly announced there was bipartisan parliamentary support for the establishment of the proposed Commission to Review and Reform the Constitution of St. Lucia.

They told a joint press conference at the House of Assembly that they had agreed that the review and reform process was necessary, as the Constitution was then about to be 25 years old.

The Prime Minister outlined the approaches and steps necessary to activate the commission, including nomination of members and agreement on a Chairman.

It was also agreed that the Commission would include nominees of the Government and Opposition parties, and Civil Society, but it would exclude members of the House of Assembly or the Senate.

The Terms of Reference of the Commission give it two years to complete its work.

Justice d’Auvergne’s appointment was jointly agreed upon by the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition and she will be appointed by the Governor General.

On February 17, 2004, the House of Assembly adopted a Resolution on the Establishment of the Commission. The Senate adopted the same resolution on April 14, 2004.

Known as Statutory Instrument No 50 of 2004, the Resolution of Parliament was published in the official St. Lucia Government Gazette on July 16, 2004.

The objectives of the exercise, according to the Resolution, would include “promotion of a meaningful expansion and widening of democratic participation by Citizens in Government.”

It would also “address possible weaknesses in the Constitutional framework which political practice has highlighted over the years.”

In addition, the exercise would “refashion the Constitution so that it better accords with our changing social and political circumstances” and it would also “promote better governance and greater equity in the constitutional framework generally.”

On September 20th, 2004 Prime Minister Anthony wrote to various national organizations and entities inviting them to name nominees for the proposed commission.

The Prime Minister says the Commission will be mandated to report “no less than 24 months after its appointment,” and he expects its work to continue “beyond the next general election.”

NOMINATIONS FOR NATIONAL AWARDS 2006

The National Awards Committee invites nominations for National Awards to be announced on our Twenty-Sixth Anniversary of Independence on 22nd February, 2006. The Society of Honour known as the Order of Saint Lucia was established as from 13th December, 1986.

The grades are as follows: (1) The Grand Cross; (2) The Saint Lucia Cross; (3) The Medal of Honour in classes of Gold and Silver; (4) The Medal of Merit in classes of Gold and Silver; (5) The Les Pitons Medal in classes of Gold, Silver, and Bronze; (6) The National Service Cross; (7) The National Service Medal.

GRAND CROSS: - The Grand Cross is for award only to a person appointed to the office of the Governor-General.

NATIONAL SERVICE CROSS: - Nominations for an award of the National Service Cross can only be made by the Chairman, Public Service Commission as this award is intended for Gazetted Officers of a certain rank in the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force, the Saint Lucia Fire Service and the Saint Lucia Prison Service.

NATIONAL SERVICE MEDAL: - Nominations for the National Service Medal can only be made by the officers in charge of the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force, the Saint Lucia Fire Service and the Saint Lucia Prison Service.

The general public should therefore be concerned with nominations for the following four (4) grades: (a) The Saint Lucia Cross; (b) The Medal of Honour; (c) The Medal of Merit; and (d) The Les Pitons Medal.

SAINT LUCIA CROSS: - The Saint Lucia Cross is to be awarded to persons who have rendered distinguished and outstanding service of national importance to this country.

MEDAL OF HONOUR (SLMH): - The Medal of Honour is to be awarded in any two (2) classes (Gold or Silver) to persons rendering eminent service of national importance or performing an outstanding brave or humane act to a national of Saint Lucia or of another country.

MEDAL OF MERIT (SLMM): - The Medal of Merit is to be awarded in any two (2) classes (Gold or Silver) to persons contributing long and meritorious service in the Arts, Science, Literature and other such fields.

THE LES PITONS MEDAL (SLPM): - The Les Pitons Medal is to be awarded in any of three (3) classes (Gold, Silver, or Bronze) for long and meritorious service to Saint Lucia, tending to promote loyal public service, national welfare or inculcating and strengthening community spirit.

Members of the public, organisations, statutory authorities and other public or private institutions are requested to submit nominations for awards to the National Awards Committee for its consideration. Your nomination should be submitted to: The Secretary, National Awards Committee, C/O Prime Minister’s Office, Greaham Louisy Administrative Building, The Waterfront, CASTRIES.

Your nomination should state the name, age, occupation and nationality of the persons being nominated and for which grade and class of the Order. You should also give reasons why you think the person should be honoured with a National Award together with his or her Curriculum Vitae, and a summary of the activities which he or she has/had been involved, preferably in chronological order.

Nomination Forms can be obtained at the Prime Minister’s Office, Government Information Service, Central Library, Post Office.

Such nominations should reach the Secretary on or before Friday, 30th December, 2005.

Dame Pearlette Louisy at Regional Meeting

Her Excellency Dame Pearlette Louisy Governor General of Saint Lucia is back home after attending the Tenth Conference of Heads of State of CARICOM countries which was held in Belize from October 3rd to 7th., 2005.

Dame Pearlette moderated the session on “Human Resource Development: The Basis of Sustainable Development.” Of special interest to Saint Lucia was the emphasis placed during the conference on the issue of protecting out biodiversity, given our own current efforts in this regard and the preparation of our own National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. The region’s hosting of Cricket World Cup 2007 was also discussed. The conference noted however the seemingly unresolved impasse surrounding the forthcoming West Indies Cricket Tour of Australia and expressed concern about the unfortunate effect this might have on the hosting of the tournament in 2007.

The meeting also discussed National Security, Human Resource Development, Culture, Tourism, and Infrastructure, Agricultural Policy and Biodiversity and their relationship to Sustainable Development. Dame Ivy Dumont of the Bahamas, Sir Clifford Husbands of Barbados, Sir Colville Young of Belize, Dr. Nicholas Liverpool of Dominica, Sir Daniel Williams of Grenada, Sir Howard Cooke of



Governor General of Saint Lucia
Dame Pearlette Louisy

Jamaica, Sir Cuthbert Sebastian of St. Kitts/Nevis, Sir Frederick Ballantyne of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Professor Maxwell Richards of Trinidad and Tobago all attended the Belize meeting.

The Eleventh Conference is scheduled to be held in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago in October 2006.

CRIME PREVENTION

The National Crime Commission -NCC- is of the view that all institutions and organizations working towards the reduction and prevention of crime on the island should come join forces to achieve one common goal.

Chief Executive Officer of the Commission Mr. Linwall James is of the view that a number of governmental and civil society groups are tackling the issue on different levels and at this crucial juncture, reinforcement of networking between those agencies has become absolutely critical.

The National Commission was, established by Government in 2001 to probe the root causes of crime in the Saint Lucian society and to recommend effective solutions. Recently

the Commission designated October as Crime Awareness and Prevention Month.

As activities for the month unfold, the first call of duty for the NCC is to hold wide spread public hearings with communities, civic organisations, police, and other government agencies, as well as professional and business groups. This process is aimed at collecting their concerns and suggestions for preventing and controlling crime in specific ways and to make recommendations to Government for necessary and immediate action.

Mr James says the body has been appreciative of the views of the public over the years and expects to use these criticisms to better execute its mandate

CONVERSATION WITH THE NATION

Greetings again, fellow Saint Lucians, I have another pre-occupation. This time it is the appearance of our country, our highways, our communities, our public buildings and amenities. I have a simple philosophy on this issue. If a country looks good, then its citizens will feel good about the country. It is precisely for that reason that the Government continues to invest heavily in the collection and disposal of waste, in encouraging the National Conservation Authority (NCA) to plant flowers and trees in communities and in employing caretakers to cut the grass along the verges of our major highways.

Age old problem

But we have a problem. It is a problem that affects our society and the image of our country. It is a problem that we continue to ignore. That problem is vandalism. Of course vandalism takes many forms. It can cover many sins. But when I speak of vandalism, I am referring to the blatant, deliberate and willful destruction and defacing of public property. The question real is this: Why do individuals destroy or deface public property which they share in common with the society and from



**Prime Minister of Saint Lucia
Dr. Kenny D. Anthony**

which they all benefit directly or indirectly? Why?

Complex reasons

As usual, many reasons are offered for this phenomenon. Some cite ignorance. Others blame it on poverty and unemployment. For others it is alienation, a statement by many of our young people that they are far removed from society and could not care less. Still others say it is nothing more than political protest, meaning it is one way of “getting at the Government.” In other words, if the vandals attack, deface or destroy public property, the Government is being attacked. One thing is clear. Some believe that they can destroy Government property with impunity. How often have you witnessed individuals destroying public property and when challenged they simply respond “cest bagai govedment, ki ma-laye moïn?”

LET'S TACKLE THE CULTURE OF VANDALISM



Derek Walcott Square - a popular city venue cleaned by the city council staff - protected from vandals

Vandalism – a theft of communal resources

Consider for a moment some examples of vandalism.

On numerous occasions in the past, Cable and Wireless has provided telephones for public use. However, within hours of installing these new telephones they were vandalized. Obviously, the vandals believed that they had better uses for the telephone receivers than the use for which they were originally intended. Not once did they stop to think that the telephone which they vandalized could be used to save the life of an individual who suddenly becomes ill but does not have access to a private telephone. Nor have they considered that the very telephone which they vandalized could have been used to protect property including their own. Similarly, in an attempt to reduce littering and to ensure that our communities remain clean, the Solid Waste Management Authority has furnished communities island wide with garbage bins only to have them stolen, sometimes by individuals in the same communities. The result is that indiscriminate littering continues. It does not matter

that indiscriminate littering encourages the growth of the rodent population, and the clogging of drains and flooding.

I am certain that many of you have had the experience of visiting your public library to do research on some important subject only to find out that someone has torn important sections of the recommended text or removed it from the library altogether. Can you remember how deprived you felt? Those who engage in such acts are just not bothered by the fact that they are robbing the community, society and nation of its stock of resources. Remember Nelson Mandela's visit to Saint Lucia? Remember that before the visit the Government commissioned the planting of a number of flower plants and trees in various parts of the city of Castries only to have them stolen by individuals who felt that they would do a better job beautifying their homes and yards, rather than public spaces.

Indeed, I remember well that after the 1997 Elections the Government proceeded to repair toilet facilities island-wide. Within days of being repaired, the shower heads disappeared,

the toilet seats and tanks were either damaged or stolen. In some cases, graffiti was sprayed or marked on the buildings. Within months, residents in these communities began clamouring for another cycle of repairs to these facilities. More money down the drain!

I know of another more disgusting example of abuse. In one community which shall remain nameless, the Government constructed a new sporting facility. Within weeks, the toilet bowls and tanks disappeared and the taps removed. To add insult to injury, unknown persons defecated in the building and in some instances spread their faecal deposits on the walls, presumably to send a message. Government was compelled to employ security guards at the facility.

Is graffiti art?

Those who engage in vandalism, especially the spraying of graffiti on public buildings would like us to believe that graffiti is art. Graffiti is however, the furthest thing from art. Graffiti is often the first sign that gangs are taking over a neighbourhood. Gangs use graffiti as their street “telegraph” sending messages about turf and advertising

their exploits. Graffiti identifies territorial boundaries, lists members and communicates with rival gangs. The graffiti that we see is unsightly and demeaning. It usually takes the form of obscenity and profanity and therefore ought not be encouraged or tolerated.

Vandalism is costly

Vandalism is really a theft of communal resources. Acts of vandalism also increases the fear of crime among citizens. More often than not, it results in the loss of services, and a general lowering of the quality of life in our communities. When schools are damaged or vandalised, children suffer. When public phones are out of order, those who do not own phones - usually the underprivileged members of the community - are further disadvantaged,

tional money to repair the damage. It is grossly unfair to ask the taxpayers of this country to pay for acts of vandalism committed mostly by those who contribute least to the public finances.

Vandalism also costs us in a much more powerful, but less tangible way. It costs us our pride. Vandalism is symbolic of a lack of pride in those who indulge in such acts. Evidently, vandals have no pride, no sense of ownership. The lack of pride manifests itself in their desire to destroy rather than to help build. Sadly though, acts of vandalism undermine community spirit and morale. A dilapidated society is not usually associated with positive vibes. No society can be proud of carved-up woodwork, boarded-up windows or a school defaced with graffiti. Vandal-

ism also violates our dignity. Clearly, a society that is devoid of pride cannot hold itself up before others. A community that is in a state of disrepair, that is graffiti ridden will not be looked upon favourably by other neighbourhoods. Vandalism devalues our image as a

Vandalism is a criminal offence

For those who are unaware, damage to public or private property is an offence. Indeed, persons who cause damage to fences, posts, cultivated plants or gardens, public buildings, public ways, statues, monuments, works of art, electrical poles and telecommunication fittings commit offences which render them liable to fines.

Those who are interested can review sections 453 and 456 to 465 of the Criminal Code of Saint Lucia. More serious is the offence of criminal damage to property.

This offence can attract imprisonment for fifteen years.



Strong law enforcement and leadership vital for combating vandalism

particularly in emergencies. When businesses are vandalized, business owners pass on the cost to consumers through higher prices.

We spend too much money and effort in providing social amenities only to have them nullified by acts of vandalism. Vandalism is a gross waste of resources. Instead of using our scare resources to address other issues, provide new facilities and expand the range of services available to the society, each act of vandalism only serves to place greater strain on our limited resources and to retard the entire developmental process.

The cost of vandalism

It is often felt that those who engage in acts of vandalism do so because they lack a sense of ownership and therefore absolve themselves from any responsibility for the protection of public property. However, they cannot be more wrong. Public goods belong to every member of the community, society or nation. None is excluded from its use. As such we have a vested interest in preserving and protecting our common property.

Whatever the motivation for indulging in acts of vandalism, it imposes a tremendous burden on the taxpayers of this country. Taxpayers are the ones who have to come up with the addi-



Prime Minister in conversation with senior citizens

vandalism does not fall to the Government alone. Every Saint Lucian has a part to play in ensuring that vandalism is reduced if not totally eliminated. You should challenge the vandals when you see them defacing or damaging public property. Schools and parents must sensitise their children to the cost of vandalism and must instill in them a sense of respect for communal property.

Every effort must be made to involve young persons in vandalism prevention campaigns. This can be done through the organization of graffiti clean up projects in various neighbourhoods, general clean up campaigns, tree and flower planting exercises. Young persons can further be encouraged to work with schools or arts troupes to paint murals on areas that are vulnerable to graffiti. More importantly, Town and Village Councils island wide should hold meetings to discuss acts of vandalism, its costs and solutions. So, it is not simply enough for us to complain about acts of vandalism. We must be proactive. We cannot absolve ourselves of our responsibility in preventing such acts. We must all play our part to discourage and safeguard communal property.

So do all in your power to promote the building of our society and not its destruction. I say, let us put a stop to vandalism. Until next week, be of good cheer and may God continue to bless our nation, our people and each and every one of you. Cheers!

Play your part

I simply want to tell you that we must no longer tolerate the arbitrary and wanton destruction of public property. We must prove ourselves to be mature and responsible citizens. The task of preventing or reducing acts of



Communities are responsible for upkeep of their projects

NCA staff beautifying Castries

POLICE RECOVER 139 ILLEGAL FIREARMS

- PM SAYS IT'S PROOF OF EFFECTIVENESS OF POLICY OF PAYING INFORMANTS

The Police Force may be in the firing line of public criticism in the face of the increased number of killings by the gun, but it seems to be winning the war to take guns off the streets. That's the view of those who saw and heard what the police had to show and say on Thursday afternoon (October 6), when Police Commissioner Ausbert Regis and his men displayed over a hundred illegal guns that have been recovered mainly through public co-operation.

What St. Lucians saw on TV on Thursday evening was shocking: over 100 illegal guns of 15 different types, ranging from 12-Gauge shotguns and Pump Action Double-barrelled rifles to Magnum .357, 9-Millimetre and .38 revolvers. But most shocking of all to most was the number of "Home Made" shotguns that were on display, all made locally and from raw materials available locally.

The vast majority of the guns were recovered as a result of information from informants and the rest were the result of other police interventions such as searches and execution of warrants. Most of the weapons were mainly from Castries, Gros Islet, Micoud and Vieux



Prime Minister
Hon. Kenny D. Anthony

tion leading to the recovery of illegal weapons. The policy is one year old and has already netted 139 guns. This compares very favourably to previous years, when much less were recovered.

According to police statistics, in 2001 only 55 guns were recovered; in 2002 another 56 were got by the police, with the number increasing to 60 in 2003 and going down to 49 in 2004. The figures show that with the policy of paying \$2,500 for information leading to recovery of illegal guns, the number has tripled this year over last year's. And altogether, over 300 weapons have been taken off the streets since 2001.

Prime Minister Dr Kenny Anthony, addressing a press conference at the display of the weapons at the SSU Headquarters at the La Toc Police Training Academy, said the policy was working because the informants had been "assured of strict confidentiality." He said there had so far been "no leaks, and therefore no compromising of any informant." The Prime Minister said the increased number of illegal weapons recovered also meant that "the public is more willing to cooperate with the police." He urged that this cooperation continue.

The Prime Minister said the \$2,500 paid to the informants was "a high price to pay," but he said it was "well worth it" because "each gun taken off the street saves lives and families." "Some of these guns were used to kill and it is our duty to help recover them," he said,



Sen. Calixte George
Minister for Home Affairs and Internal Security

adding: "Each gun recovered saves at least one life." The Prime Minister said that by displaying the guns, the police were ensuring that "the public sees, first hand, what we are up against."

Home Affairs and Internal Security Minister, Senator Calixte George, said "the large number of recoveries was

recovered and the "interesting mechanisms used for home-made guns" which he described as "frightening".

The minister said the firearms recovered indicated there was "a gun trade" going on and that it was "externally generated." He said the Government was seeking the cooperation of France and Venezuela on the issue, as most of the weapons came from either neighbouring Martinique or from Venezuelans – all of whom came by sea.

Mr George praised the efforts of the police, as well as the Marine Unit for their interdiction efforts "and the positive results therefrom." He however lashed out against "those negative elements in certain sections of the press who encourage mistrust of the police and harm their efforts in fighting crime." The Prime Minister and the Commissioner of Police both defended the policy of paying for the information leading to successful recovery of illegal firearms, arguing that the \$2,500 paid for each gun was worth saving each life and was much less than would have to be spent treating victims of gunshots at hospital.

The Commissioner pointed out that some of the weapons retrieved were also being subjected to ballistics tests abroad, to determine whether they are



Commissioner of Police
Mr. Ausbert Regis

Fort and came from as close as neighbouring Martinique and South America and as far as the USA and Germany. And most came into the country by sea, according to the police.

The illegal firearms were recovered largely through the government's policy of paying informers for informa-



The range of weapons recovered by the police

testimony to the effectiveness of the policy of paying informants." He expressed concern, however, about the number of locally manufactured guns

linked to murders or other gun crimes. He assured, however, that after all tests were done and the guns were cleared, they would be destroyed.

PM Concerned Over UWP-Taiwan Meeting

Prime Minister Dr Kenny D. Anthony has called on Sir John Compton to clarify the United Workers Party's policy on diplomatic relations between St. Lucia and the People's Republic of China.

The Prime Minister says he is "aware that Sir John met with the President of Taiwan, in the presence of for Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines Sir James Mitchell, while on a recent visit to St. Vincent, during which they held private discussions."

Prime Minister Anthony has therefore asked Sir John "to indicate to the people of St. Lucia whether he made a promise to the Taiwanese President that a UWP Government, if elected, would sever ties with the People's Republic of China and re-establish diplomatic relations with Taiwan."

"Sir John must also explain whether the Taiwan President made any offers to the UWP. The sovereignty of St. Lucia is sacred and is not for sale," said the PM.

On September 1, 1997 when the late George Odium served as Minister of External Affairs, St. Lucia broke diplo-

matic ties with Taiwan and established relations with the People's Republic of China. Since then, the Chinese government has constructed a Freezone and a National Stadium in Vieux Fort, and has financed several other projects over the eight years of ties.

Just recently, an agreement was signed between the two countries for China to begin construction of a new and modern psychiatric hospital for St. Lucia that will cost some \$27 million.

The Prime Minister says he is "aware that Taiwan is seeking to re-assert its influence in the Eastern Ca-

ibbean, especially following the decisions by the governments of Dominica and Grenada to sever ties with Taipei."

The Taiwanese President's recent visit to the region took him to St. Vincent and the Grenadines and St. Kitts and Nevis, which are the only two OECS countries that still maintain diplomatic relations with Taiwan.

Just before going to press, the Office of the Prime Minister confirmed receiving information from government officials in St. Vincent that the meeting was held.

PROUDLY HOSTING

“THE BEST ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP EVER”

The hosting of matches in the ICC Cricket World Cup 2007 in the West Indies must be seen both as a bundle of economic opportunities not to be missed as well as the moment for Saint Lucia to offer the visitor a memorable long lasting experience. These were two of the recurring themes of the presentations at the ICC Cricket World Cup 2007 Caribbean road show which made stop in Saint Lucia on Saturday October 8th 2007.

In a passionate plea to the nearly 150 persons present, the chief executive officer of Cricket World Cup Saint Lucia Inc., Mr. Earnest Hilaire called

on all sectors of the Saint Lucia society to fully participate in the process of tendering for the numerous business opportunities related to merchandising, on and off site entertainment, accommodation and local travel. Mr. Hilaire noted that while the match operations will be executed according the ICC world standards, it is the legacy of an ultimate world class visitor experience which must be of paramount importance to the country. In this regard he noted Saint Lucia cannot afford to fail.

CEO of ICC Cricket World Cup West Indies 2007, Mr. Chris Dehring who presented a historical overview of the preparation of the region of the major world event also urged the representatives of public sector institutions and the private sector to recognize the tremendous legal and financial commitments of the region’s governments to the hosting of the event. He echoed the mantra of the entire Caribbean team of Local Organizing Committee (LOC) that “failure is not an option.

Other presentations at the road show, which took place at the conference room of the National Insurance Corporation (NIC), were made by Ms. Marva Roach who addressed the issues of event branding, corporate communications and ambush marketing, Chris Tetley of the ICC spoke of the measures in place to ensure that the legal obligations are met. In addition, Cliff Hamilton presented the elements of the strategy to ensure that visitors to the region enjoy a long lasting experience, and Stephen Price provided details of the areas for economic and business opportunities.

Members of the audience included sporting and cultural organizations and agencies, the tourism and hospitality sector, members of the board of directors and staff of Cricket World Cup Saint Lucia Inc.; local media agencies; security agencies and community based organizations. The proceedings were chaired by Mr. Teddy Francis, executive director of the Cultural development Foundation and one of the sector team leaders for Cricket world Cup 2007 in Saint Lucia.

Also in attendance were the Minister for Commerce, Tourism, Investment and Consumer Affairs, Hon. Phillip J. Pierre, member of the CWC West Indies 2007 Mr. Allan Chastanet, Chairman of the LOC Dr. Jimmy Fletcher.

Following the questions and answer session, the members of the audience were hosted in a reception of a high quality for which the LOC has built a reputation while the media representatives were engaged in a press conference with selected members of the ICC Cricket World 2007 West Indies team.



A section of the audience at the road show



CEOs Ernest Hilaire and Chris Dehring



Local chairman Dr. James Fletcher and entrepreneur Mrs. Charmaine Gardner



Hon. Phillip J. Pierre



LOC volunteers



The post-show press conference



Participants and media workers



The hospitality at the show

PM WELCOMES CRICKET ACCOMMODATION INVESTMENTS

19 PROJECTS GET INCENTIVES TO CONSTRUCT 1,117 ROOMS FOR CWC 2007

Continued from page 1

Three developments are also carded for the immediate Beausejour area, including the \$11 million Chateau Village that will provide villas with 60 rooms, Desmond Fostin's \$3 million Bel View Resorts that will build condominiums with 15 rooms and Stephen's Apartments that will provide another six rooms.

But the investments that have attracted incentives are not only centred in the island's north. There are also developments beyond the Castries basin, including an \$18 million project to be undertaken by Architectique Architects in Anse La Raye to construct condominiums with 60 rooms; as well as a \$4.5 million project at Marigot Bay, already being undertaken by local attorney Richard Frederick,

which will see the construction of five villas with 17 rooms.

The Prime Minister says that "while the various investments are at different stages of development and although the Government has no way of guaranteeing that all the approved rooms will be constructed," the number of applications for incentives received so far "reflects an astonishing level of interest in hotel accommodation for Cricket World Cup."

He has also expressed the hope that "with the increasing interest in Cricket World Cup that was manifested in the large attendance at last Saturday's World Cup Road Show here, more investors will be encouraged to make use of the incentives being offered by the government."



Members of the Saint Lucia LOC with CWC W.I. 2007 Inc. staff

PM ANTHONY MEETS CARICOM SECRETARY GENERAL



CARICOM Secretary General, Mr. Edwin Carriington on Thursday October 6th paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister of Saint Lucia Hon. Dr. Kenney D. Anthony. During the meeting Dr. Anthony received an update on a wide range of initiatives implemented in CARICOM Member States and the status of obligations of countries to regional programmes. The meeting dealt specifically with the follow-up on the decisions of the

CARICOM heads of Government meeting held in Saint Lucia in July 2005.

Accompanying the Secretary General was Dr. Lolita Applewhaite Deputy Secretary General and Mr. Erwin Laroque Assistant Secretary General responsible for Regional Trade and Economic Integration.

Also attending the meeting was his Excellency Ambassador Anthony Severin of Saint Lucia who is responsible for relations with CARICOM.

CREOLE HERITAGE MONTH



Teams from Piaye and Morne Sizo will meet for the finals of the national walaba (wouelaba) competition will be held in Piaye on Sunday October 23rd. After six weeks of competition between community-based teams from all over the island, the most consistent and high scoring performers will face each other for the grand cash prize sponsored by Saint Lucia distillers, producers of Bounty rum, the principle sponsor for the games.

The national walaba competition was organized and coordinated by the Folk Research Centre (FRC) and forms a critical part of the programme for Creole Heritage Month 2005. It is the brainchild of Prime Minister Dr. Kenny D. Anthony who,

last year, invited the FRC to organize the event in an effort to revive interest and competitive skill in this game which was once a major form of recreation for Communities Island wide. The national walaba competition is receiving extensive support from the Local Organizing Committee for Cricket World Cup 2007 which sees the event as another mechanism for mobilizing community support to deliver high quality events.

Creole Heritage Month is being observed in Saint Lucia to highlight the richness of the Creole tradition in language, cuisine, social activities and organizations, entertainment and traditional technologies. Among the highlights for 2005 are a Creole film festival to be held on Wednesday Octo-

ber 26th at Alliance Franciase and Cinema 2000, the observance of La Magwit festival on Monday October 17th, Bouyon and Kalalou at Derek Walcott Square on October 21st, the La Wenn Kwéyòl competition on October 28th at the Cultural Centre in Castries, and the celebration of the traditions in schools, public and private sector organizations on Friday October 28th when International Creole Day is observed around the world.

The climax of the celebrations in Saint Lucia is all day community Jounen Kwéyòl activities on Sunday October 30th in the communities of Monchy, Dennery, Laborie and Anse La Raye. In the above picture the Piaye and Laborie teams battle for a place in the finals.



THIS WEEK ON NTN

Sat. Oct. 15th - Fri. October 21st, 2005

October is Creole Heritage Month, NTN throughout this week presents a series of programmes reflecting the development of the Creole Language

- Agriculture Minister Hon. Ignatius Jean speaks on local initiatives for Wood Food Day Mon. October 17th, 8:30 p.m.
- See how African students are mastering the art of Acrobatics in the far East – African Acrobatic Students in China - Tues. October 11th, 9:30 p.m
- As part of the build-up to World Standards Day being lead locally by the Bureau of Standards, NTN examines the operations of the Bureau and the impacts on its work on the country – Wed. October 12th, 6:15 p.m.
- With a population of over 13 million, see how the bustling metropolis of Shanghai, merges ancient ways with modern realities – Thur. October 13th, 8:30 p.m.
- Concerns for Environmental Ethics & the Launch of the Virtues Project Fri. October 14th, 9:00p.m.

Remember to tune in for:

- GIS News Breaks and Kweyol News daily from 6:30 p.m.
- Issues & Answers/Mondays at 8:00pm:
- Interview/Tuesdays at 6:15pm :
- Konsit Kweyol/Tuesdays at 8:00pm (Kweyol Discussion):
- Your Right to Know/Thursdays at 6:15 p.m. (Min. of Ed. Prog).
- Take 2/Fridays at 6:15pm (Week in Review)
- Weflechi/Fridays at 6:40pm - (Week in Review—Kweyol)

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

www.stlucia.gov.lc

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

Contact us at: The Department of Information Services, Greaham Louisy Administrative Building, The Waterfront, Castries, St. Lucia, West Indies
Tel: (758) 468 2116; Fax (758) 453 1614; E-mail: gis@candw.lc; <http://stlucia.gov.lc>