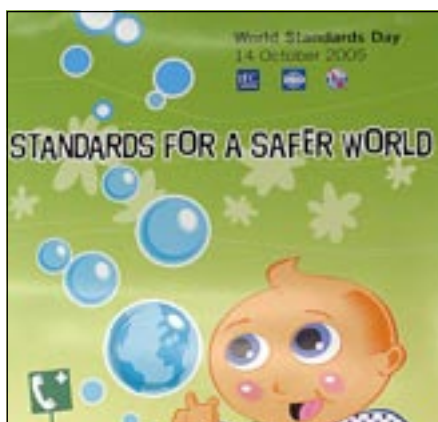




# NATIONWIDE

A publication of the Department of Information Services



Standard for a safer world  
- page 2



Corporate citizens against crime  
- page 3



Let us fight hatred in our society  
- pages 4 & 5



Grow what you eat and eat what you grow - page 6



Credit Unions - A more friendly sector - page 7

## ENERGY TASK FORCE

**T**he Government of St. Lucia has appointed an Energy Conservation Task Force to advise Cabinet on ways and means of energy conservation and consumption in these times of continuing fuel price rises.

The Task Force will, among other things, also recommend strategies to ensure that St. Lucia has an adequate supply of energy in the short term and in the long term, as well as make recommendations to ensure that St. Lucia maximises energy efficiency and explores the production of renewable energy.

The Energy Task Force will also act as a body to engage in discussions with the Venezuelan authorities on the PetroCaribe initiative and to recommend measures to maximise potential benefits accruing from this initiative.

Members of the Energy Conservation Task Force are: Mr Louis Lewis of the Ministry of Finance; Mr Evaristus Jn Marie of the Petroleum Dealers Association; Mr Trevor Louisy of LUCELEC; Mr Michael Sewardor of the Ministry of Communications, Works, Transport and Public Utilities; Mr David Cox of the Ministry of Foreign Af-



Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony

fairs; and Ms Judith Ephraim, the Sustainable Development Officer in the Ministry of Physical Development.

The Task Force is expected to hold its first meeting soon.

## PRIME MINISTER WELCOMES DECISION OF PETROLEUM DEALERS

**P**rim Minister Dr Kenny D. Anthony has welcomed the decision by local petroleum dealers to call off their decision to effect early closures and return to normal working hours.

The Petroleum Dealers announced over the weekend that they had taken the decision after they met last Thursday to review its effectiveness. They also said they took the decision after being assured by the Prime Minister that the Government would soon bring into force the Evidence Bill, which will allow Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) images to be admissible in court.

The Prime Minister said: "I am very pleased by the decision. While all of us must be concerned about crime and we must remain vigilant, it is also vital that we don't engage in acts that appear to give in to criminal acts or criminal behaviour. We all must fight the criminals, every step of the way."

Dr Anthony said since meeting with the Petroleum Dealers as an association, he has also met separately with the local representatives of Texaco West Indies Limited and asked them to carry out an audit of the security at gas stations. He said Texaco had "responded positively, indicating that they had commissioned a security firm to undertake that task."

The Prime Minister said he would also make a similar request to the agents for Shell, Simpson Oil Limited (SOL).

In addition, the Prime Minister pointed out, the police have carried out an assessment to determine how many gas stations around the country have surveillance cameras and other adequate security arrangements in place. This information, he added, will be made available to the petroleum dealers to better inform and guide them in their present and future security arrangements.

The Prime Minister also indicated he had directed the Attorney General to take the necessary steps to bring the new Evidence Act into force to allow for the admissibility of video images into court as evidence.

## CREOLE HERITAGE MONTH



A group of young Magwits about to retire after their stage performance



"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





# STANDARDS FOR A SAFER WORLD

**HON. PHILIP J. PIERRE** MINISTER FOR COMMERCE, TOURISM, INVESTMENT & CONSUMER AFFAIRS DELIVERED THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE ON THE OCCASION OF WORLD STANDARDS DAY, OCTOBER 14TH, 2005

Each year, World Standards Day provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the importance of Standardization to our country. This year's theme "Standards for a Safer World" is significant because it highlights the reality that Standards make life safer, easier, and more convenient - without standards, everyday actions that we take for granted would be chaotic.

The Government has the responsibility to put measures in place to protect the health and safety of consumers and the environment and at the same time stimulating the economic and social development of our country. This is an extremely complex task particularly in an environment of globalization and liberalization and the end of trade preferences for developing countries like St. Lucia.

The Government of St. Lucia is committed to the application of international models of Good Regulatory Practice that promote the use of Standardization based on impartiality, openness, trans-

sparency and the desire for a better, safer world. Whether viewed on a micro level - helping to protect the health and safety of consumers, individuals and communities, - or on a macro level - e.g. securing global information technology systems, or communications or international trade, and transportation - globally recognized standards address

safety needs in the home, in the workplace and the environment. I was heartened on Wednesday to listen to young persons debating the subject of Standardization, as part of the Standards Week activities for 2005. If there was one point that both the Proposition and the Opposition agreed on, was fact that standards are important in any society. As consumers we all understand that when we purchase in an environment in which compliance to standards, codes and guidelines is the norm, there is added confidence in the products and services. Without Standardization, confidence is replaced by the baseless hope that a given product is safe for use, that it conforms to some minimum or basic requirements, or that it has been tested or put through a conformity assessment process.

The Government will therefore continue to place emphasis on the sustained development of the Saint Lucia Bureau of Standards, to ensure that the products and services provided in Saint Lucia are recognized for quality and safety.

Through direct Government support, the Bureau has been restructured and recognised by all to better respond to the new regional and international quality and safety challenges that face us. Over the past five years, as a direct consequence of safety concerns expressed locally, and in some instances precipitated by regional and interna-



**Hon. Philip J. Pierre**

tional occurrences, the Saint Lucia Bureau of Standards has engaged in the development, adoption and implementation of a number of standards and codes of practice for various products, services and sectors, all with an overriding safety and developmental objective. Through the efforts of its Technical Committees, the Bureau continues to pay close attention to safety standards for various sectors of the economy such as construction and engineering, transportation, food, petroleum and petroleum products, and the electrical sector. More recently,

efforts have focused on the service sectors such as health and tourism.

The Bureau's Conformity Assessment Programmes, such as the Import Monitoring Programme, monitoring of the local retail market and local manufacturing plants, the Product Certification Programme, the Certificate of Free Sale and the Weights and Measures Verification Programme, have been designed to provide consumers with the assurance that products offered for trade meet minimum safety and quality standards. In addition, some small manufacturers in Saint Lucia have benefited tremendously from these services and are now able to have their products retailed not only on the local market but regionally and internationally. Through these programmes, consumers are guaranteed that locally manufactured products that fall under the Product Certification Scheme, are safe, wholesome and fit for consumption.

As we come to the close of Standards Week 2005, I encourage all St. Lucians to get involved in Standardization activities as St. Lucia joins the rest of the world in setting standards for product safety, quality, and reliability. Together, we can all work to produce "Standards for a Safer Saint Lucia, a Safer World" and always remember that there is only one standard, i.e. the international standard.

I thank you.



**Standards poster**



**Dr. Anselm Gittens of the SLBS presents calibration equipment**



**Monitoring fuel pumps**

## Public Sector Negotiations Update

**The Government Negotiating Team (GNT) continues its schedule of meetings with various unions on the island. On October 12th the GNT met the National Workers Union (representing daily paid workers employed by the Government of Saint Lucia). A separate meeting was held with the Saint Lucia Teachers Union. Both meetings focussed on fringe benefits for the triennium April 2004 to March 2005, April 2005 to March 2006 and April 2006 to March 2007.**

The National Workers Union (NWU) expressed concern that other unions were undertaking the representation of daily paid workers. Officials of the NWU were of the view that the Government should recog-

nize the NWU as the sole representative of daily paid workers.

In response the Government Negotiating Team informed the NWU that it is not the mandate of the GNT to decide which workers unions represent, however, the Team agreed that the issues related to the bargaining unit should be addressed by the Labour Department and the NWU agreed to make a formal request to the Labour Commissioner for his intervention.

A number of new articles proposed by the NWU have been agreed upon. Others were deferred pending analysis and costing by the Ministry of Finance. Another meeting is scheduled with the NWU for Thursday, 27th October 2005.

Meanwhile the Saint Lucia Teachers

Union SLTU and the GNT have reached agreement on most of the new non-financial Fringe Benefits for teachers proposed by the union. Some articles were deferred pending further analysis and costing by the Ministry of Finance.

The Government Negotiating Team will continue to meet with the unions as follows: Wednesday, 26th October 2005, 10:00 a.m., Nurses Association; Wednesday, 26th October 2005, 14:00 p.m. Fir, Service Association; Thursday, 27th October 2005, 10:00 a.m., Civil Service Association; Thursday, 28th October 2005, 10:00 a.m., Police Welfare Association; Thursday, 28th October 2005, 14:00 p.m., Prisons Service Association; Thursday, 27th October 2005, 14:00 p.m., National Workers Union.



**Mr. Victor Poyotte GNT Chairman**

# CORPORATE CITIZENS AGAINST CRIME

## CAR DALERS, HOTELIERS PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO POLICE AND PRISONS

The Minister of Home Affairs and Internal Security has welcomed the donation of vehicles to by enterprising and concerned private citizens and private sector entities to assist in the overall fight against crime.

First on the list of thanks from the Minister of Home Affairs and Internal Security, Senator Calixte George, was the management of Beachcomber Ltd, the local agents for the Toyota Corporation, which recently donated a brand new vehicle to the ministry for use at the Bordelais Correctional Facility.

On September 30, Beachcomber Managing Director, Mr David Devaux, responded positively to a request by the minister for a vehicle for Bordelais, by donating a Toyota Grandace worth \$79,500.

Senator George said the response was “gracious, immediate, timely and generally supportive.” He said it “also epitomizes the kind of partnership my ministry wishes to establish with the private sector in matters of safety and security.”

Mr George said that “while it may be seen as a simple gesture of handing over a vehicle,” it was indeed one that was also “truly symbolic” and which “has far reaching implications which



Sen. Calixte George

pertain to that partnership which ought to be deepened and strengthened with the private sector in combating crime and addressing security and safety in general.”

For his part, Mr Devaux said Beachcomber and the Toyota Corporation “feel that, as corporate citizens, it is our duty to assist an establishment such

as the Bordelais Correctional Facility, whose administrators have the very hard task of taking in and looking after persons in remand.”

Mr devaux noted during the handover ceremony that “in most cases, these are our youth, who, for some reason or other, have chosen the wrong road in life and ended up at Bordelais.”

Meanwhile, the Minister earlier this week also had special words of thanks and appreciation for local hoteliers, who had made similar offers of material assistance to the police in the fight against crime.

Topping the list was Mr Colin Hunte of Villa Cottages, who donated a vehicle equipped with Geographic Positioning Systems (GPS) to the Rapid Response Unit of the Police Force. The vehicle is to be used for patrolling the tourism district in the island’s north.

Mr Hunte also indicated that his hotel was prepared to provide up to six months worth of free lodging for any overseas consultant invited to assist the local authorities in developing strategies to fight crime.

The Minister also this week thanked another local hotelier, Mr Allen Chastanet of Coco Kreole and Coco Resorts, who offered to build a sub police station at Rodney Bay, to replace the current

miniscule outpost that serves the rapidly expanding Rodney Bay Village.

The St. Lucia Hotel and Tourism Association (SLHTA) also offered to pay the passage for the Police Commissioner to travel to the United States to observe how crime fighting strategies are implemented in the tourism areas in the state of Florida.

The Minister, who attended a special meeting called by the SLHTA on Monday to discuss crime related issues as they affect the tourism industry, was accompanied by Police Commissioner Ausbert Regis and both addressed the hoteliers.

Senator George says he is “heartened and encouraged by the gestures by the Toyota agents and the local hoteliers, who have all demonstrated in tangible ways, their willingness to engage in the sort of partnerships that are necessary if the fight against crime is to be effective.”

The Minister urged that “these examples of stepping up to the plate and actively getting involved be emulated by other concerned members of the private sector, as well as by those who would resort to the easy way out by criticising constantly, without making one single contribution to the search for solutions, or responding positively to requests for assistance for those engaged in crime prevention.”

## More Project Management Professionals

Eighteen more persons have been recently joined the ranks of the growing core of Certified Project Management Professionals (PMPs) in Saint Lucia.

The SEDU managed, Certified Project Management Professional preparation course, of March –June 2005 resulted in 24 persons sitting the June 30th 2005 PMI administered exam. The local facilitators (all PMPs) were Dr. Vasantha Chase, Mrs. Jeanette Hughes, and Mrs. Jacqueline Garnier-Blasse. Eighteen persons passed the exam, bringing the total of local PMPs to twenty-six. The exam were held on June 30th 2005. The successful candidates were : Junia Emmanuel - SEDU; Ezra Jn. Baptiste - OECS; Solange Belizaire Charles - GG; Mkabi Walcott - SLBS; Clive Hippolyte - BNTEF; Joan Browne - SMC; Dr. Alison Plummer - SLBS; Lesley Modeste - NSDC; Julius Polius - ADA; Chanda Davis - MICROFIN; Duane Heholt Min of Planning; Sariah Best Joseph - SLBS;

Gregor Jerome - LIAT; Martha Augustin - SLFMC; Basdeo Upadhyaya - CCSS; Roger Butcher - Independent Consultant; Theresa Peter - NSDC; Elutheria JnMarie - MICROFIN.

The other eight persons(who are PMPs (as of November 2004) are Dr. Vasantha Chase - OECS; Jeanette Hughes - Min of Finance; Jacqueline Garnier - Blasse - NHC; Peter Norville - Independent Consultant; Parriet Emmanuel- Ministry of Commerce; Michel Thomas - Min of Commerce; John Lorde - LIAT; Peter Lorde - SEDU.

The Ministry of Commerce, Investment and Consumer Affairs extends its congratulations to the Certified Project Management Professionals of St. Lucia. The Ministry extends its gratitude to the collaborating agencies, Sir Arthur Lewis Community College (the Continuing Education Department), the University of the West Indies (UWI-DEC) and the St. Mary’s College (hosting the exam).

## CHANGES IN THE CITY



Preparing for a major commercial centre in the city

## Government of Saint Lucia pursuing “Vision 2020”

Many of the world’s developing countries are now faced with the challenge of preventing blindness of its population by the year 2020. This mandate has come to the fore as countries around the world held activities in October in observance of blindness prevention.

The Saint Lucian Blind Welfare Association, last week, joined the rest of the world in celebrating two major events in the lives of blind people: World Sight Day and White Cane Day. Patron of the Saint Lucia Blind Welfare Association, Saint Lucia’s Governor General Her Excellency Dame Pearlette Louisy explained that the commemoration of the two events means that the Saint Lucia Blind Welfare Association has endorsed the goal set by the Caribbean Council for the Blind of heightening awareness and education throughout the region, about sight restoration and pre-

ventable blindness. In a statement to the nation in observance of the World Sight Day, Dame Pearlette said there must be increased effort to encourage continuous support for the global initiative called Vision 2020: The Right to Sight.

“Vision 2020: The Right to Sight is a global initiative of the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness and the World Health Organisation with a collaboration of non-governmental organisations and aims to eliminate unnecessary blindness by the year 2020.

Dame Pearlette explains that prevention and treatment for vision loss are among the most cost-effective health interventions currently available. “These include cataract surgery, treatment of glaucoma, prevention of trachoma, Vitamin A for the prevention of childhood blindness and the provision of glasses for persons with re-

fractive errors like myopia or short sightedness.” The government of Saint Lucia in collaboration with the Cuban Embassy here earlier this year began an eye screening programme which should result in over one thousand Saint Lucians receiving free eye treatment.

The programme is being viewed as an opportunity to handle the backlog of cases on the island. In addition it will pave the way for a more efficient clinic when an Ophthalmologist is appointed later in the year.

The Saint Lucia/Cuba Eye Initiative dubbed the “Miracle Plan” was launched by Saint Lucia’s Prime Minister Honourable Dr. Kenny Anthony and Cuban Ambassador His Excellency Victor Ramirez. Already thousands of people have been seen by a team of Cuban doctors. Some persons diagnosed and recommended for

surgical treatment have already been flown to Cuba where they have been treated.

Another initiative soon to be undertaken by the government of Saint Lucia, towards the success of the Vision 2020 programme is an eye Health Disabilities programme which will be unveiled when the Cuban Eye Care programme is completed.

The island’s Ministry of Health collaborated with a number of non-governmental organisations including the National Council of and for Persons with Disabilities and the Saint Lucia Blind Welfare Association to formulate the programme.

Geared towards the 2020 vision of avoidable blindness, the Eye Health Disabilities Programme will help train nurses in ophthalmic surgery. Government has already identified an ophthalmologist who will be on island on a two year contract to supervise the project.



## CONVERSATION WITH THE NATION

**Is it right to hate**  
Greetings, citizens of Saint Lucia, have you ever hated anyone? Do you think it is right to hate? Can you cleanse yourself of hatred?

There can be no doubt that hatred is an extraordinary and powerful human emotion. It is as old as human existence. It has thrived through successive waves of human civilization and is alive in our so-called modern world.

But what has kept hatred alive, well and thriving? It is many things. For one, there is a great deal of resentment among cultures, races and religions. Such resentment occurs when cultures, races and religions attempt to assert dominance over others. Naturally, such resentment thrives on differences and becomes a powerful tool that can be effectively used to breed hatred. Differences reinforce divisions. Worse yet, differences are used as a basis for discrimination and exclusion. Hatred, in its most dangerous form, occurs when violence is used to reinforce differences. It has led to incredible destruction of human life.

### Just think for a moment

Sheer hatred led Adolph Hitler to murder over six million Jews during the Second World War, a mere sixty years ago. Hatred was part of the creed of Hitler. He exhorted the German people to "hate and again hate." He advised them that, "The lesson of life is to hate and be hard." Hatred led to the conflict in Kosovo, in former Yugoslavia. Ethnic hatred led to the systematic slaughter of nearly one million Tutsis in Rwanda by the Hutu majority. Who can forget the humanitarian crisis which was unleashed in the Liberian civil war all because of hatred? There too, thousands of innocent individuals died because of ethnic hatred. And even today, in the Darfur region of Sudan, hatred rooted in ethnic and religious differences has given rise to genocide - the systematic, arbitrary, deliberate killing of over one million persons. In all of these instances, barbarism consumed people who had previously lived peacefully as neighbours. They succumbed to the temptation to slaughter without compunction, without remorse. They yielded to savagery.

### Galvanized by hatred

No one is immune from the temptation to hate. Hatred is everywhere. It is

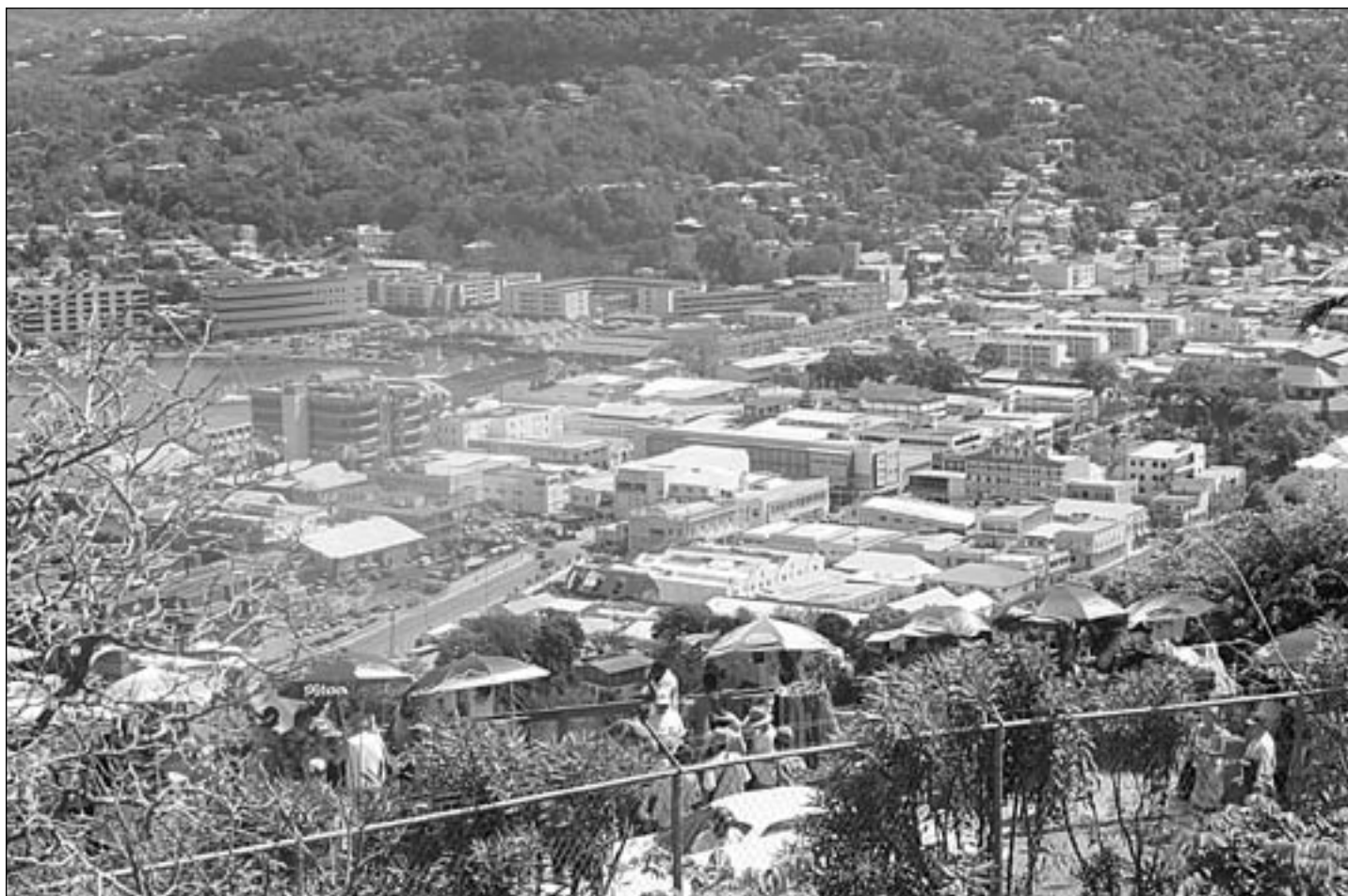


Addressing regional leaders

# LET US FIGHT HATRED IN OUR SOCIETY



Scenes of harmony at Saint Lucia Jazz



A large percentage of Saint Lucia's population live and work in the city Castries

alive in our homes, our businesses, our places of work, in our offices, clubs, in our neighbourhoods and on our television screens.

### Even pastors hate

Even religious personalities hate. Some priests, pastors and believers hate, all in the name of their faith and the God that they are supposed to worship and honour. Never mind the golden commandment, "love your neighbour as yourself." Some profess their faith on the one hand and hate with the other hand. Of course, many of them say that it is the politicians who cause, nurse and encourage hatred. Politics is responsible for the hatred in our midst, they preach. Yet, many of them are its sponsors in their sermons, teachings, utterances and the advice they choose to offer.

### Hate and power

Of course there are politicians who hate. Some are so hell bent on securing power that they gradually become consumed by their hatred for their opponents. Then there are others who have faced repeated rejection by the electorate, who are unable to accept the verdict and resort to hatred of the individuals who they think are responsible for their rejection. They become bitter, personal and venomous.

Unquestionably, politicians are the easiest targets of hate. They are the easiest to blame for misfortune. Someone loses a job, or is required to proceed on retirement and the reaction is hatred for the individual who they hold responsible. Some of it is understandable. It can't be easy if it is difficult to feed your family. But even if it is understandable, should you hate?

I can share with you many personal encounters with persons who hate. I can tell you of many experiences since my entry into politics in 1996 and until now. I can tell you about those who shout, "messenger c'est un chien" or "moin hayi h'omme sa la." So too can my colleagues. So too can other politicians. But today is not for this. Another time, another place.

cuse their neighbours - and through them the whole world - of being evil. "The person who hates is unhappy because whatever he does to achieve full recognition and to destroy those he thinks are responsible for his lack of recognition, he can never attain the success he longs for."

Sometimes, fear can feed hatred. It is a point made by the political historian



Dr. Anthony at a recent CARICOM meeting

### Hate in the media

Some among us deliberately nurse and encourage hatred. Some of us thrive on it because we believe it is one way to annihilate our opponents.

Just look at the behaviour of some of the people in our media.

Some media practitioners use their craft to nurse injured feelings to encourage hatred. Just watch, sometimes, the body language, the contortions of expression, the abuse and disrespect, the venom with which points of view, masquerading as opinions and healthy criticism, are expressed. The tools are subtle but on occasions quite blatant. Sometimes we dismiss it all and describe it as "entertainment."

### Why do we hate?

All kinds of explanations have been offered about the phenomenon of "hate."

One of the most incisive speeches on "hate" is a speech by Vaclav Havel, the former President of Czechoslovakia, now and the Czech Republic. In his other life, he was a dissident and a playwright. Havel argues that the people who hate "harbour a permanent, ineradicable feeling of injury, a feeling that is out of proportion to reality." In their subconscious "there slumbers a perverse feeling that they alone possess the truth, that they are some kind of super human or even God, and thus deserve the world's complete recognition, even its complete submissiveness and loyalty, if not its blind obedience." He surmises, that "People who hate wish to attain the impossible and are consumed by the impossibility of attaining it." They never see the cause of failure in themselves, but in their eyes, "it is the surrounding world that is to blame." They are all people "with a complex based on the fatal perception that the world does not appreciate their true worth." All haters, says Havel, ac-

John Lukacs. For examples, if you fear a political party because you could lose influence, wealth, privileges or access, then such fear could ignite or induce hatred. Hatred can be so irrational.

The great danger of hatred is that it can cease to be a matter of the mind. Hatred can, and often leads, says Lukacs, "to physical inclinations, to physical acts," and ultimately to death, destruction and as we have seen to genocide.

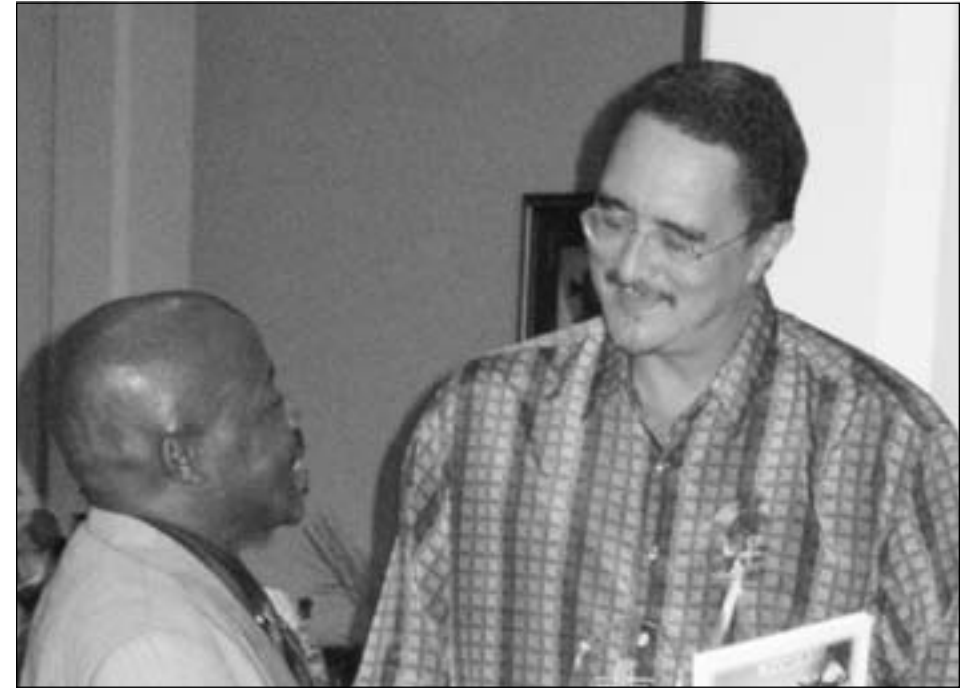
### Religion and hate

There are two areas of human activity where hatred is insidious, evil and dangerous. The first is religion.

In the case of religion, hate is a blatant mockery of the faith we profess. It is dangerous because its messengers make us believe that it is driven by moral imperatives that are ordained,



Dr. Kenny D. Anthony



In conversation with the public

prescribed by the God we strive to honour and obey. In other words, some justify their hate on the basis that they are acting in the service of their God.

From the beginning of time religion has been used as a weapon to spread hate and distrust. Many wars and acts of violence have been committed in the name of religion and in defense of faith. There are countless examples. We have had the reformation and the counter-reformation. The Catholic In-

treeed see no logic, adhere to no reasoning and justify violence as their creed. Politicians who encourage hatred will eventually pay the price, because those who they nurse in hatred will eventually turn on them. Hatred consumes not only its victims, but eventually, those who hate.

### But do not misunderstand me.

Let us not confuse political competition with hatred. I believe in political competition. I believe that citizens



Dr. Anthony reaches out to young people

quisition in the 16th Century claimed thousands of lives. In Northern Ireland, centuries of bitterness and religious animosity between Catholics and Protestants have claimed many lives. Sectarian hatred caused the deaths of 3,636 persons between 1966 and 1999. Most of the victims were innocent civilians. Likewise, centuries of hatred and distrust between the Jews and the Palestinians have produced war and carnage. Today, religious, cultural and political differences have placed radical Islam and the Christian West on a collision course. Religious violence is sometimes unanswerable to human reason.

### Politics and hate

Equally insidious is the use of "hatred" to muster political influence and support. People who are driven by ha-

should be offered political alternatives. I believe that we must create an environment where citizens and political parties can engage in robust, and yes, fierce and passionate argument and debate. I believe we can do all of those things without hating each other. To think otherwise, or do to do otherwise, is to pave a path to tyranny, intolerance and tribalism. We must not allow ourselves to be consumed by the fire of hatred.

One thing is clear. We cannot and must not fight hatred with hatred. True, when hatred produces war there is no other choice but to reply in a like manner. Otherwise, hatred must be fought with tolerance, understanding, reasoning and peace. So, let us renounce hatred. Let us disown the messengers of hatred in our midst.

Goodbye now. Until next week, God bless and take care.



# “GROW WHAT YOU EAT, AND EAT WHAT YOU GROW”

## ADDRESS DELIVERED BY HON. IGNATIUS JEAN MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES, ON THE OCCASION OF WORLD FOOD DAY, OCTOBER 16, 2005

**Hunger and Food Security**

Adequate food is essential for an active and healthy life. Hunger affects the well-being of people, nations and the world. To be food-secure means that we must always be able to get the appropriate foods we need for a healthy lifestyle. Food security implies availability, accessibility, and proper use of food. For many of the undernourished people of the world, most of them living in rural areas, access to food is assured only if they produce the food themselves or if they have sufficient money to afford and buy it.

In St. Lucia and the wider Caribbean there is a significant imbalance in what we grow and what we eat. Much of what we eat comes from imported foods, leading to a US\$3 billion food import bill. Research carried out by the Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute (CFNI) indicate that a great proportion of the imported foods we consume indeed contribute to the many illnesses and diseases affecting our peoples and development.

Much of the earnings we obtain from exports eventually end up in treating such illnesses and diseases, thus resulting in an unsustainable health care system and dysfunctional lifestyles. The time has come for us to recognize and appreciate the fresh and healthy foods produced by our local farmers and fishers. The popular refrain “grow what you eat, and eat what you grow” is certainly relevant.



**Hon. Ignatius Jean**  
**Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries**

tribution of different cultures to world agriculture and argues that sincere intercultural dialogue is a precondition for progress against hunger and environmental degradation.

St. Lucia is replete with examples of intercultural dialogue in agriculture. Improved breeds of livestock as well as improved species of plants have been imported from various countries and are now widely used in local farming. Horses and cattle were introduced with the advent of the Europeans and coffee

at the international level, and the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) at the regional level, also facilitate intercultural dialogue in agriculture, among others, such as the many regional learning institutions (University of the West Indies, University of Guyana, Guyana School of Agriculture, ECIAP in Trinidad etc).

St. Lucia also benefits from the peaceful co-existence of descendants from various cultures such as the African, Asian, Indigenous peoples (Caribs and Arawaks) Arabs and Europeans. Foods typical of individual groups are now increasingly produced and consumed by just about everyone. For example, the Asian curries, roti and dalpuri, and the Native Indian cassava are well known and have almost become traditional.

One of the most important forms of intercultural dialogue, and probably the one that poses the greatest challenge to us as a developing country,

produce from industrialized countries is sold at, or below production costs in our countries.

In this regard, we firmly and resolutely support the view that further and much dialogue is required for the development of a fairer trading system, and I dare say, that this is a pre-requi-



**Organic farming**

site for a more peaceful, just and democratic world. This dialogue is essential to minimize, if not eliminate, the apparently consistent exploitation of the vulnerabilities of developing countries, such as St. Lucia and the wider Caribbean. Similarly, we believe that it is dialogue that will bring about a win-win situation on the review of the trading regime for bananas in Europe. Even more importantly, we believe that it is continuous dialogue that is also required to effectively manage and combat the negative impacts of globalization and trade liberalization.

At this juncture, I seize this opportunity to wish all our diligent and dignified farmers, fishers, foresters and agriculturists in general a productive World Food Day 2005. To all our beloved citizens and visitors, I wish you a fun-filled day, as you join the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and its Staff, our farmers and fishers and the international community in celebrating World Food Day 2005. Continue to support and promote local agriculture. It's our future!!



**Fisheries technology**

is world trade. Experts contend that both opportunities and threats exist in the present system of World Trade, but so far, for developing countries the threats appear to be more evident. Due to our special circumstances our farmers are finding it difficult to compete in international markets while subsidized



**World Food Day Fair in Choiseul**

This year the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations celebrates its 60th anniversary and the 25th anniversary of World Food Day. World Food Day affords us an opportunity to focus our attention on food security, and its interaction with hunger and environmental degradation. It also allows us the opportunity to examine the true worth of agriculture, fisheries and forestry and their role in the reduction of poverty and hunger and the sustainability of human development.

The theme for this year's celebration is “Agriculture and Intercultural Dialogue”. This theme explores the con-

was introduced from Africa; cocoa and maize from Central and South America; Bananas, breadfruit and coconut from the Far East. The richness of our dishes is a perfect manifestation of the “Potpourri” of cultures that have made us who we are today.

More recently, we've had a constant stream of visiting agricultural experts from the Caribbean, U.S.A., Canada, France, the UK, China, Japan, Cuba and Latin America. Our experts have also been trained in these countries, as well as elsewhere. Institutions such as the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and FAO



**Promoting bananas for local consumption**



# Credit Unions – A More User Friendly Sector



**Hon. Velon John**

*Minister for Labour Relations, Public service and Co-operatives Hon. Velon John has called on Credit Unions in Saint Lucia to continue the work of the upliftment of people particularly those in rural communities. In a national address marking International Credit Union Day on October 20th 2005, the minister also urged the organisations to consolidate the gains which they have made thus far. The full text of the Minister's address follows:*

"At this time which embraces International Credit Union Day and Week, we wish to congratulate all Credit Unions in St. Lucia for the inestimable role they have played and are playing in the socio-economic life and development of the people of this country.

And further we would like to exhort them to continue the work of people upliftment, particularly in those communities that are constrained by virtue of their rural character and composition.

But paradoxically it is this character and composition that have facili-

tated the bond of community between and among the membership of Credit Unions.

It is a bond of community that translates itself into a quality of service that characterizes the mode and processes of Credit Unions.

In these small islands states certain aridity would characterize our social and economic landscapes in the absence of these benevolent institutions. And it is a benevolence that engenders pride and dignity in those who constitute the rank and file of Credit Unions – the membership.

Credit Unions in St. Lucia must be perceived as the bedrock institution of the ordinary man and woman in this country and the substratum can materially be translated in the \$200 million asset mark that has been achieved and surpassed by this sector and its membership.

You the members of your respective Credit Unions have been making it happen. And though this year's theme is "Members make it Happen" it is not

a superfluous exhortation.

For the world of globalization is now upon us. Strategic postures are being assumed in the world of trade, services and finance. And in consequence thereof Credit Unions must so position themselves that the gains they have made must not be eroded by the increasing sophistication and impersonality of the emerging world of work and service.

You must make it happen while you maintain your fidelity to the salubrious principles that has assured your longevity, your ubiquitousness and your success. For Credit Unions represent a more user friendly sector of the financial sector as it provides not only ready access to favourable credit facilities, but also take into serious consideration the personal domestic circumstance of its members in a manner that protects members vulnerability while preserving their dignity.

The Credit Union sector is now positioned at a critical juncture in its extraordinary evolution.

The Single Regulatory Unit that is soon to be established will in some measure impact on the very quiddity of that institution. And, so the Credit Union in its postures of accommodation must be vigilant and resilient in the preservation of the philosophy that underlies its laudable genesis.

It is not a profit oriented institution nor a charitable one. Its alpha and omega is enshrined in that one term, "service". Service to its membership, for its membership and by its membership. And over the years it has been service that has been delivered promptly, efficiently, effectively and with integrity. And it is that last component that has veritably sustained this institution and enabled it through the instrumentality of the seven co-operative principles, to be a people's organization: an institution with a human face and heart.

In this globalised age of acute impersonal competitiveness, members must make it happen and the happening must be in terms of those sacrosanct values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity. For it is through those values that credit unions are able to advance the socio-economic needs of their membership in particular and the society generally.

It is to be noted that the existence of these financial co-operatives in the various communities around the island, (and incidentally there are 21 Credit Unions) have greatly facilitated the creation of financial and social capital and which has impacted most positively on the overall standard of living of the lower and middle income groups in the various communities.

Credit Union members can stand tall as they at this time individually, collectively and internationally observe their day, their week, and their time. Your theme is "Members Make it happen". My theme to you is, "Members continue to make it happen".



**Saint Lucian delegation at a recent conference**

## Caricom Opposition Leaders Meet

**E**fforts are under way to convene a meeting next month between Caricom Leaders and the region's Parliamentary Opposition Leaders, to discuss matters of importance to the future of the regional community.

Chairman of the Caribbean Community (Caricom), St. Lucia's Prime Minister Dr Kenny D. Anthony, confirmed today that efforts are under way to convene the meeting "to discuss mechanisms for dialogue with the region's parliamentary opposition leaders."

To this end, he said, preparations are in train to convene a special meeting of representatives of the two sides in Guyana on November 15, 2005, "to set the mechanisms in place for activating the dialogue between the Government Leaders and the region's Parliamentary Opposition Leaders."

The Caricom Government delegation at the November 15 meeting in Guyana will be led by Prime Minister Anthony, who is also the Lead Prime Minister with Responsibility for Justice and Governance in the regional community.

Other Government representatives will be Barbados Prime Min-

ister Owen Arthur and Guyana's President Bharrat Jagdeo.

The Opposition parties will be led by Jamaica's Opposition Leader Bruce Golding, Dominica's Opposition Leader Edison James and Guyana's Opposition Leader Robert Corbin.

The decision to establish the mechanism for dialogue between the Caricom Governments and the region's Parliamentary Opposition was agreed to in Castries on July 2, 2005, during the historic first summit meeting between the Caricom Leaders and the region's Opposition Leaders.

The Governments and Opposition Leaders appointed representative teams of spokespersons and when they meet in Guyana next month they are expected to agree on the modalities for giving effect to the dialogue, which both sides deem necessary for the future development of the region in the face of current and future global challenges.

The Guyana meeting will be chaired by the Caricom Chairman, Dr Anthony, who also hosted the inaugural meeting in July, which took place on the fringes of the Caricom Summit in St. Lucia.

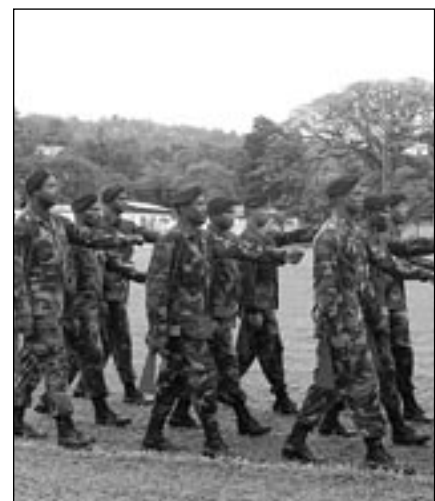
## Crime Fighting Agencies to Collaborate

**T**he 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 says 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 NCC has scheduled widespread public hearings with communities, civic organisations, police, and other government agencies, as well as



**Special services unit on parade**

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.



# 2005 ENUMERATION PROCESS UNDERWAY

A public awareness campaign for the upcoming house to house enumeration exercise has been launched. The campaign, expected to run for up to five months, is being implemented by the Electoral Commission, with the slogan "Now I Can." It will incorporate the use of electronic and print media, signage like billboards and posters as well as town and village community sensitization meetings.

Chief Elections Officer Carson Ragie says amidst all the political noise, the education campaign is critical in ensuring that accurate information is disseminated, concerning the new verification exercise expected to begin on November 1st, 2005. "Our message is that it is important to verify the existing data in our electoral register in order to reflect the current registration due to population shifts," says Ragie.

He went on, "That this verification process also informs the revision of the electoral register and that the national and electoral registers are not mere documents but lists where every living contributing St. Lucian are to be accounted for, so that their rights can be incorporated in the process of social

planning." The process will also lead to the issuance of a new, free of charge, identification card, one embedded with additional security features to combat identity theft.

The card holder according to Electoral Commission officials will be better able to express basic rights and freedoms like the ability to vote and travel, and access health care under the Universal Health Care programme, soon to come on stream in Saint Lucia. Some 440 persons, comprising 17 registration officers, 3 coordinators, 140 enumerators and 280 scrutineers, based on the recent amendment to the House of Assembly Elections Act, have undergone specialized training to conduct a fair and impartial island wide exercise.

Electoral Commission member Stephen Julian says, "This activity is largely a verification exercise and not a re-registration in the sense that all persons will be re-registered. In fact, the majority of persons are already registered. This activity is essentially to verify the residence of existing registrants and correct their registrations accordingly, so as to ensure that persons are duly registered in regard to their place of residence within an electoral district."



The Commission has issued a special appeal urging members of the public to capitalise on this service in order to be-

come registered. An overall budget of \$3.2 million has been allocated toward the project.

## Caricom Heads Meet WICB and WI Players

CARICOM Chairman, Saint Lucia's Prime Minister Dr Kenny D. Anthony, will early next month lead a team of regional Heads of Government who will meet here with representatives of the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) and the West Indies Players Association (WIPA), to discuss key issues relating to the future of West Indies Cricket and the region's successful hosting of the International Cricket Council's (ICC) Cricket World Cup in 2007.

Prime Minister Anthony, the current chairman of the regional grouping, announced that he, along with Barba-

dos Prime Minister Owen Arthur and Grenada's Prime Minister Dr Keith Mitchell, will meet in Saint Lucia on November 4 with the representatives of the WICB and the WIPA, "to communicate to the Board and the players the recommendations from decisions taken at the last Caricom Heads of Government Summit held here in July."

The summit, held at Gros Islet, was chaired by Prime Minister Anthony. He said: "It discussed the crisis in West Indies Cricket and its possible consequences for the region's hosting of the Cricket World Cup in 2007."

The Caricom chairman said the Heads of Government, when they gathered here in July, "discussed specific matters relating to the players, the administrators and the game itself."

In addition, he continued, "we also discussed strengthening mechanisms for better governance and communication at all levels, resolution of disputes, as well as deepening the institutional relationships between the Caricom and the main institutions involved in ensuring the game maintains its critical place in Caribbean integration and development."



West Indies vs England at Beausejour, Saint Lucia



### THIS WEEK ON NTN

Hidden Treasures (A Journey of Discovery to the Communities of Bouton & Fond Gens Libres)

- Sat. Oct. 22nd - 7:30 p.m.

· The Ministry of Education

Presents: Pawol Ma Mai St. Lisi

- Sun. Oct. 15th, 8:00 p.m.

· The GIS speaks with the Deputy PS in the Min. of the Public Service about a HIV/AIDS World Bank Project - Mon. Oct. 24th, 6:15 p.m.

· Highlights of Cricket World Cup 2007 Road Show - Tues. Oct. 25th, 8:00 p.m. Part 1

· Highlights of Cricket World Cup 2007 Road Show - Wed. Oct. 26th, 8:00 p.m.

· Home Economics Curriculum Officer in the Mini. of Education discusses an upcoming quiz competition among other issues.

- Thurs. Oct. 27th, 6:15 p.m.

· Women Girls, HIV and AIDS

- Fri. Oct. 28th, 8:00 p.m.

Remember to tune in for:

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

· Issues & Answers/Mondays at 8:00pm:

· Interview/Tuesdays at 6:15pm :

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

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

Take 2/Fridays at 6:15pm

(Week in Review)

· Weflechi/Fridays at 6:40pm

- (Week in Review—Kweyol)

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

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

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](mailto:gis@candw.lc); <http://stlucia.gov.lc>