



NATIONWIDE

A publication of the Department of Information Services



\$954.1M Budget - No new Taxes
- pages 1 & 2



Throne Speech - "Continue to Progress and Prosper pages 2 & 7

\$954.1M BUDGET NO NEW TAXES

I am pleased to report to this Honourable House that there will be no new taxes imposed by this Budget" This was one of the major announcements made by Prime Minister and Minister responsible for Finance Hon. Dr. Kenny Anthony in his budget address on April 19th 2005. Presented under the theme "Consolidating Gains, De-



Canadian Investors explore Saint Lucia - page 3



Leap to Enlightenment - Conversation with the Nation - pages 4 & 5

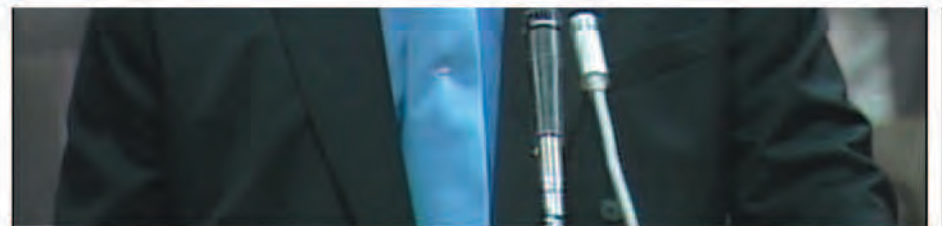


Managing HIV/AIDS - page 7

productive sectors, tourism and also social groups including households displaced by disasters, farmers, students, the elderly and pensioners.

Dr. Anthony, who is Minister of Finance, Economic Affairs, International Financial Services and Information stated "The total planned budgetary outlay amounts to EC\$954.1 million, 24.1% higher than in the previous year". EC\$557.2 million will be allocated for recurrent expenditure and planned amounts for capital expenditure is EC\$335.7. The capital expenditure includes planned infrastructural works to prepare Saint Lucia to host matches in Cricket World Cup 2007.

The budget will be financed from a combination of recurrent revenue,



Prime Minister Kenny D. Anthony addressing Parliament

loans and excess revenue from the financial year 2004/2005. EC\$546.2 million will come from recurrent revenue, EC\$188.4 from new bond funding, EC\$77.8 million from grant funding and EC\$51.4 million of savings from the previous year.

According to the Prime Minister, "Tax revenue accounted for the major source of growth in 2004/05. I would like to point out that the Inland Revenue

Department exceeded its forecast by \$41.0 million, while the Customs and Excise Department surpassed its revenue target by \$23.7 million. This provides overwhelming evidence of the substantial expansion in the economy".

The performance of the national revenue collection agencies was among the overall cases of success and favourable performance of the economy last year, which Dr. Anthony said provided the confidence and bases for continuing investment in the country "The main impetus for GDP growth in 2004 emanated largely from the expansion in hotels and restaurants (5.9 per cent), government services (4 per cent), wholesale and retail trade (7.8 per cent), communication (4.6 per cent), banking and insurance (4.7 per cent) and agriculture (2.1 per cent). These indicators together accounted for 95.5 per cent of total value added. Reductions in value added were recorded in manufacturing (2.5 per cent), electricity and water (3.9 per cent), while construction activity remained high but increased only marginally by 0.4 per cent" the Prime Minister said.



Governor General Dame Pearlette Louisy delivering the Throne Speech

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\$954.1M Budget No New Taxes

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Among the major new initiatives announced in the budget include a student book rental programme costing EC\$1.7 million, increases in the allocation for homes for the elderly by 25% for the next two financial years, and the programmes for the relocation of households displaced fire and landslides.

The Prime Minister also announced that out of the total budget, EC\$274.3 million will be allocated to the Social Services, \$162.7 million to the Ministry of Education, EC\$2.6 million to the National Youth Skills Development Centre, and EC\$32.7 million to the Ministry of Physical Development, Environment and Housing.

In relation to the Ministry responsible for health the Prime Minister said "In an attempt to deal with the challenges confronting us in the health sector, I propose to increase the budget of the Ministry of Health by \$16.7 million. The recurrent budget is increased by \$3.3 million, of which an increase of \$1.4 million is provided for the Victoria Hospital, and the capital budget is

increased by \$13.5 million".

The allocation for the Ministry responsible for tourism is EC\$23.9 million of which EC\$23 is earmarked for tourism and marketing. In relation to agriculture, Dr. Anthony announced that there will be renewed focus on agricultural diversification. "This year, the Agricultural Diversification Programme is expected to be implemented and I have allocated a sum of \$11.8 million to the Agriculture Diversification Project. The Agricultural Diversification Agency has been established and will be charged with the responsibility for the implementation of projects".

Much attention will be paid in the coming year to continued investments in the country's infrastructure including the main road network and the airports and seaports. Over EC\$100 million will be spent on the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the Castries to Gros-Islet highway and the East Coast road which according to Dr. Anthony will inject "a major inflow of resources into the economy, and boosting Saint



Parliamentarians at the Budget Presentation

Lucia's economic and social infrastructure."

Government, the Prime Minister said, has been very cautious in its projection for current revenue for the financial year 2005 to 2006, and real economic growth for 2005 is projected at 2.8%. "The major reason for this cautious projection is the worrying trend of increasing oil prices, which peaked above \$58 in the first week of April, and the concomitant erosion in the revenue base as a result of the sustained high prices. We have therefore projected recurrent revenue at \$546.2

million, \$19.9 million below last year's collections".

Dr. Anthony exhorted all St. Lucians to approach the new financial year with renewed energy and optimism. "This Government shall continue to approach the months ahead with great expectation and excitement for our nation. And we should be filled with absolute determination to make the most of our opportunities. Together we must go forward with confidence and resolve, being the best we can be, and advancing the agenda of national progress" he said.

The Throne Speech - "Continue to Progress and Prosper"



Governor General, Dame Pearlette Louisy

On Tuesday, April 19, 2005, Saint Lucia's Governor General, Dame Calliopa Pearlette Louisy opened the Fifth Session of the Eighth Parliament. Her Excellency in her Throne Speech to the joint seating of Parliament stated that the Saint Lucian nation should not simply concern itself with economic growth but also social development which underpins and renders the material advancement of the society. She cited disease, poverty, ignorance, injustice and opportunity denied as the real enemies of the nation. She therefore called upon all Saint Lucians to unite to confront the forces that conspire against our mutual interests and our common good.

Crime, she said, is threatening to rob Saint Lucians of the quality of life to which they have become accustomed, their sense of security and the liberties that we once took for granted. She noted that all law-abiding citizens are custodians of the nation and have shared responsibilities for the preservation of our cherished way of life. She urged the nation not to adopt a helpless posture

where crime is concerned but rather to turn its energies from complaint to co-operation.

Her Excellency identified the steep rise in oil prices on the global market as a potential threat to the economic stability of developing countries. She claims that volatility in global oil prices can undermine economic security and signals increase vulnerabilities in the face of larger political and economic agendas. She therefore contends that high oil prices provide a unique opportunity for Saint Lucia to reduce its dependence on fossil fuels and increase the use of renewable energy.

Dame Pearlette expressed the view that the legislative agenda is a necessary component of Government's efforts to build a rational, modern society and to lay the foundation for good governance. Accordingly legislative reform agenda to be undertaken include licensing and regulation of offshore universities and colleges. She announced Government's intention to introduce a Universities and Colleges (Licensing and Control) Bill to structure and regulate the environment within which these universities and

colleges operate.

She also signalled Government's intention to introduce legislation establishing a Drug Treatment Court as a means of providing alternatives to custodial sentences for drug addicts. In the critical area of money laundering prevention, new legislation will be introduced to consolidate and update relevant Money Laundering and Proceeds of Crime Legislation. The updated legislation will cover smuggling, as well as declaration and disclosure requirements in respect of inbound and outbound movements of cash and other bearer instruments. Such legislation will empower authorities to monitor, manage and share information with third country authorities regarding the source, destination and use of funds.

Her Excellency stated that the Caribbean Community (Movement of Factors) Bill will be introduced to give effect and substance to certain provisions of the Revised Treaty of Chagaramus, and the establishment of the Single Market and Economy. To this end, legislation will be introduced to allow nationals of the Caribbean Community to exercise the right of establishment, the

right to provide services and the right to move capital into or out of Saint Lucia, particularly where such transfers originate or terminate in other member states of the Community. As part of the legislative agenda the Government also intends on introducing a Bill giving recognition to Non-Governmental Organizations, thus conferring on them legal status and creating an enabling environment that would allow them to operate and thrive.

The establishment of a Universal Health Care System is one of the key policy objectives of the Government. Her Excellency during the Throne Speech indicated that legislation will be enacted to create an appropriate environment for the introduction of the UHC. Among the provisions cited is a change in the governance system for Victoria Hospital, Golden Hope, and Turning Point to the extent that a single Board of Directors will be appointed to govern these agencies. The Board will have authority over, and responsibility for, the proper and efficient management of these institutions and their respective resources.

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Speaker of the House and President of the Senate listen to the Throne Speech

Canadian Investors Explore Saint Lucia

The Government of Saint Lucia is considering a unique proposal for the island to become a main provider of pharmaceutical products and a training ground in pharmaceuticals for professionals in the Caribbean. The proposal to develop the pharmaceutical sector has come from the Toronto Institute of Pharmaceutical Technology (TIPT) whose representatives visited the island to dialogue with government on the feasibility of establishing the two-fold project which promises to expand the educational and employment opportunities available to the general public.



Senator Petrus Compton

Chief Executive Officer of the Toronto Institute of Pharmaceutical Technology Dr. Alexander McGregor on Wednesday April 13th, made a presentation of his proposal to several concerned parties including the Managing Director of the OECS Pharmaceutical Procurement Service of the OECS Mr. Francis Burnett.

He says if given the political green light the island should be able to boast of a reputable pharmaceutical plant and a training institute in some 18 to 24 months time. He says the initiative stands to lower the high cost of procuring pharmaceutical drugs including HIV/AIDS medication, for OECS states.

"St. Lucia would have access to these drugs through the methods that we have put in place, to allow the transfer of intellectual value from those countries that have already developed those products and already have technologies in those products. Therefore access to these drugs will be a lot easier."

At this point says Dr. McGregor, he is optimistic that the governments of the sub-region will all come on board and tap into the vast potential of the proposal which intends to serve the Caribbean as a whole.

"To put a dollar value on all the phases together we're talking about almost a one hundred million dollar busi-

ness that we're trying to introduce to St. Lucia and I anticipate that 50 to 60 percent of that will come from private investors."

According to Dr. McGregor if approved, the first phase of the project will entail the establishment of the post graduate institute. This institute, he says should attract students from the entire world. He says a generic pharmaceutical "assembly only" manufacturing plant will be set up shortly after.

While on the island Dr. McGregor and his team took time out to conduct some preliminary research to ascertain the status of the local pharmaceutical sector.

According to Dr. McGregor, although there is limited infrastructure; in many cases starting a project from scratch facilitates the inculcation of best practices from the very beginning.

"The pharmaceutical sector is somewhat fragmented; it's mostly a procurement system where you're importing pharmaceuticals. You don't have a manufacturing base and a lot more can be done in regard to regulations and compliance. So we're offering a lot of ideas and initiatives to elevate the standards which building a pharmaceutical

industry."

Meanwhile the Ministry of External Affairs says the recent repositioning of St. Lucia's foreign offices to focus more on developmental activities have begun to yield the desired outcomes. Minister for External Affairs, International Trade and Civil Aviation, Senator Honourable Petrus Compton says the country's overseas offices now share responsibility for attracting economic opportunities to the island.

Only this week the Ministry of External Affairs International Trade and Civil Aviation hosted several prospective investors from Canada. Among them were representatives from the Toronto Institute of Pharmaceutical Technology (TIPT) who were on the island to explore the possibility of establishing a \$100,000,000 pharmaceutical school and assembly plant. Minister Compton says St. Lucia's consulate in Toronto, Canada was the point of initial contact for Dr. Alexander McGregor, Chief Executive Officer of the Toronto Institute of Pharmaceutical Technology and the main proponent of the proposal.

"When I visited Canada our Consul General Mr. Joshua had arranged a series of meetings with a number of per-

sons for me who were interested in investing in St. Lucia, persons who were interested in seeing what opportunities there were in St. Lucia for their particular enterprises and Dr. McGregor was one of the persons whom I met. I had an opportunity to visit his laboratory and the training facility and I came away very impressed with the work he was doing and saw a lot of wonderful opportunity for us here in St. Lucia."

The Minister says although the Ministry of External Affairs is not directly responsible for managing development, its offices serve as a very strategic liaison between St. Lucia and oversees based entrepreneurs and investors.

"Because we have connections with all of the governments with which we have diplomatic links, we have offices all over the world where we don't have offices we have representation in the form of Honorary Consuls we are ideally placed to tap into possibilities to tap into investments for St. Lucia more than any other body so where NDC can go we already are."

According to Mr. Compton the Ministry would then hand the process over to the relevant government entities for continued dialogue.



One of the areas for potential investment is manufacturing of Pharmaceuticals

Success in Rodent Control



Dr. Perlinda Dupre - RCCU

The Rodent Control Coordination Unit (RCCU) says it has recorded significant success in lowering the population of rats on the island specifically within the City of Castries.

The RCCU which started its campaign in September of 2004 says the six-month period of the programme yielded a change in the public's at-

titudes to proper waste disposal as a means of curbing the rodent problem. However the RCCU affirms more work needs to be done in that area.

Coordinator of the Rodent Control Coordination Unit Dr. Perlinda Dupre says the unit is particularly pleased with the progress made at the Victoria Hospital, the Castries Market and the CDC housing and commercial buildings in the city centre, which were part of a pilot project in the initial stages of the campaign.

"We've been getting a lot of positive remarks from the public especially in the market and the CDC area. There has been a 60% reduction of rats that are there. The Victoria hospital the same - all of this is feedback that we have been getting from hospital personnel who use to see all the time and then now there is definitely a reduction," Dr. Dupre said.

Efforts to reduce the rodent population she says are ongoing. The Unit, she says, has strengthened these efforts with a National Awareness and Education Programme which included the preparation and distribution of posters and brochures, a promotional jingle and town hall meetings.

"What we really want is to improve sanitation. Because we have had the success, but then how do we maintain that success? Because the bait is competing with food being thrown out there, the poor sanitation... human faeces which is protein - the rats eat that," the RCCU official said.

A field assessment has been done in the southern town of Vieux Fort, and meetings have been held with the assistance of a Rodent Control Action Committee established there. An area has already been identified for baiting

activities that will commence soon.

The head of the Unit believes in order for the rodent numbers to be further decreased and kept down, citizens will have to continue to do their part by ensuring they embrace proper waste disposal habits and that they continue to bait. Dr. Dupre further notes that families with pet cats have the least problems with rats.

The Rodent Control Action Team comprises the St. Lucia Solid Waste management Authority, the Castries City Council, Ministry of Communication and Works, Department of Environmental Health, pest control specialists, the Chief Medical Officer and the representatives of the RCCU.



Recent successes recorded at Victoria Hospital

“Leap to Enlightenment” PM Converses with the Nation



Prime Minister, Dr. Kenny D. Anthony

The following address presented as “Conversations with the Nation” for Monday April 18th 2005, was first delivered by Hon. Dr. Kenny D. Anthony at the inauguration of the Caribbean Court of Justice in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad on Saturday April 16th 2005.

“The President of the Caribbean Court of Justice – The Rt. Honourable Mr. Justice Michael de la Bastide, Honourable Justices of the Court, Honourable Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago [and other Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community, Honourable Ministers, Eminent Guests, Your Excellencies, Fellow West Indians:

A day which resonates

This day, this inauguration of the Caribbean Court of Justice, resonates throughout our Caribbean Community as a moment of unique significance. In our shared history, we have had many “firsts” since decolonization but today, more than any other, tastes like true and final emancipation. I believe that Caribbean people recognize, intuitively what this represents – this assertion of faith in ourselves and in our custodianship of the values that are sacred to our societies, none mores than the rule of law. This is a celebration of those values, and a proclamation of our intent to preserve them at the centre of our lives.

A message of confidence

My message to the people of the Caribbean Community is summarised in one word: confidence. Confidence in the “rightness” of the step we are now taking to establish the Caribbean Court of Justice and confidence in our ability to continue the journey which that first step implies.

Let us recall that our legal profession, which is the bed-rock of our judi-

cial system, proclaims a glorious past. Excluding the older and larger countries of the Commonwealth – Britain itself, Australia, Canada and India – the legal profession in the Caribbean has been among the strongest in the Commonwealth for three-quarters of a century.

Professionals of choice

Indigenisation of our judicial system and legal institutions did not await political independence. While we still had Governors and Chief Secretaries from Britain, we had West Indian Judges and Attorneys General, often, but not always, serving in countries of the Region other than their own. When African countries came to independence almost two decades before us, they turned to the Caribbean for law-

yers to hold their highest legal and judicial offices. Caribbean lawyers filled the office of Chief Justice of Kenya, of Nigeria and of Zimbabwe. Indeed, the leaders of the Bar in this Region have long been the professionals of choice throughout the Caribbean – as, of course, they continue to be.

And, West Indian lawyers have held some of the highest judicial offices in the world. The Caribbean has provided a Judge to the world’s most senior ju-

dicial body – the International Court of Justice in The Hague. A West Indian lawyer is now the Chairman of the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea in Hamburg; our Region provides Judges to the Yugoslav and Rwanda War Crimes Tribunal and the Yugoslav Tribunal’s appellate body; we have held the Chairmanship of the Inter-American Juridical Tribunal; and, now, we have had the distinction of providing one of the first Judges of the Inter-

national Criminal Court. In per capita terms, I doubt if any other community in the world has served the world-wide cause of justice more comprehensively and more consistently than has the Caribbean.

My point is simple. It is this: The Caribbean is not a fledgling state approaching tentatively the threshold of the rule of law. We laid the foundations of strong legal professions and legal and judicial institutions many decades ago; and both at home and abroad our lawyers have risen to the highest levels of legal and judicial service. To question our capacity to complete what is after all the overdue reform of our regional judicial system is to do a disservice to ourselves.

But, even more specifically, in the matter of a Regional Court of Appeal, ‘we have been there and done that’. And, at a level of high quality. The Federal Supreme Court was our Regional Court of Appeal during the life of the Federation; it was staffed for the most part, by West Indian Judges. I was too young to have appeared before that Court, but I have read and relied on its decisions. There are some here, today, who did appear before that early Regional Court of Appeal and can testify to its excellence and eminence. The judgments were exceptional, erudite and sound. They passed the sternest tests. They earned the respect of the legal profession and of the West Indian public throughout the Region.



Prime Minister Manning of Trinidad addresses the Ceremony

The Caribbean Court of Justice is therefore, not a leap into the darkness. It is a leap of enlightenment. This Region has the most sturdy credentials for creating a Regional Court of Appeal that can respond, and respond with finality, to the most rigorous standards of the rule of law. These are credentials which should have vouchsafed us a more supportive environment for reform from all concerned, even from those who still decry our aspirations.

This inauguration is, therefore, not about the abolition of appeals to the

Privy Council; that will ultimately be its consequence, and an important one. This inauguration is about something much more profound and positive – it is about establishing for ourselves through the Caribbean Court of Justice what the House of Lords does for Britain – and what the final appellate courts of the overwhelming majority

Faith in our capacities

As with all noble undertakings there will be some who are fainthearted; who question competence; or who are ill at ease with changing the status quo in which they were nurtured. To them I say with confidence: banish your fears; have faith in our Caribbean capacities



Justice Adrian Saunders takes his oath

of jurisdictions in the Commonwealth do for their respective countries. We are not breaking ranks; we are joining a progressive process in the Commonwealth, which process will not be stayed.

and in our collective ability to sustain and enhance a regional jurisprudence of which every corner of our Region can be proud. In the end, the rule of law cannot be in safer hands than our own. This Region, hands clasped together, will strengthen the rule of law, binding our separate societies.

We can and must have our own Caribbean Court of Justice with original regional and final appellate jurisdiction. We shall do so; and we shall do so, of course, by due process of law, even when we believe that a judgment is flawed, unsound and laced with intellectual bigotry. Such is the ethos of law that pervades our regional societies. We must not be balked by fear or intimidated by sophistries which would contrive other outcomes.

This court is one of the institutions we must establish in furtherance of our regional goals; but I believe that its establishment – as a manifest act of mature commitment and resolve – will itself make more probable the attainment of those larger goals and purposes. In that context, this act of inauguration this morning is of monumental import.

May God’s blessings, Mr. President, attend the efforts you and your colleagues will make in laying the foundations of the Caribbean Court of Justice? I am certain that as you go forward you can be assured of the enduring confidence of the vast majority of the people of the Caribbean in your undertaking.

I thank you, Mr. President, for giving me the opportunity of sharing this historic moment with you, other colleagues, and the people of our Caribbean Community.



President de la Bastide carries the CCJ Seal



Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony addressing the Ceremony



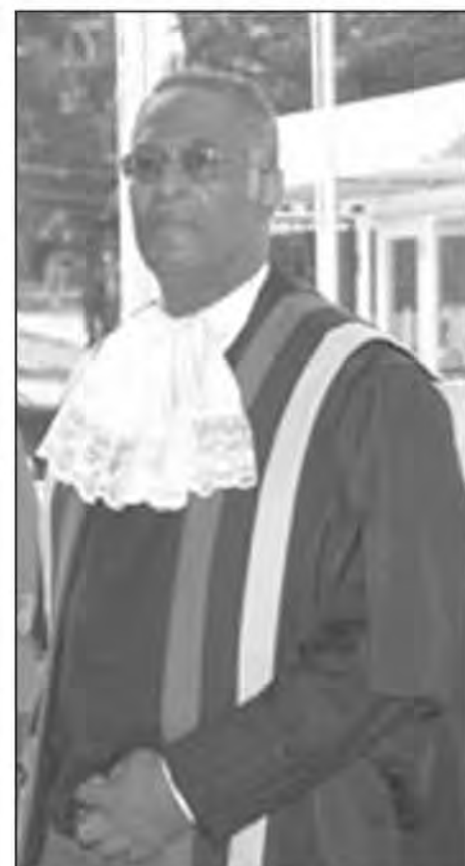
Prime Minister Owen Arthur of Barbados and Percival Patterson of Jamaica



Dr. Anthony and Mrs. Anthony



President Bharrat Jagdeo of Guyana and President Ronald Runaldo Venetiaan of Suriname



Sir David Simmons of Barbados

Fresh start for the N.C.A.

Statement by Minister Rambally

The report on the investigation into the National Conservation Authority (NCA) is now complete. The Investigator has submitted the findings of the management audit of the NCA from the period 2001 to the present.

The report was subsequently reviewed by Cabinet and the outcome of that process leaves now for me, in my capacity as Minister with responsibility for the NCA, to report on the findings and indicate the way forward. The investigation carried out a detailed assessment of allegations made. The main findings include:

1. Allegation of cheque issued to H & M Holdings Inc. to purchase cellular telephones in 2001

It was alleged that this cheque was endorsed by the General Manager of the Authority and cashed by him.

The findings revealed that a company registered under the name H & M Holding existed in 2001. The cellular phones were purchased from the Company. The proceeds of the cheque went into the Company's account and were not cashed by the General Manager.

Findings

Cheque for \$3,000.00 in 2001 was presented for payment at the Royal Bank of Canada. Royal Bank of Canada confirmed that the cheque was deposited in the H & M Inc. account.

The investigation revealed that the company H & M Inc. is a registered company in St. Lucia. (Contrary to the ridiculous

ment to Mr. Charles in Magna Point rewards and whenever a NCA vehicle had to be supplied with petrol the card presented to the service station was that of Mr. Henry Charles.

Findings

The investigation revealed that Mr. Charles, General Manager is in possession of a Magna Card.

A letter received from the Manager, Magna Rewards St. Lucia Ltd. dated March 3, 2005, confirmed Magna transactions from the inception of the Magna program in St. Lucia. The bulk of the spending was done at one of the participating supermarkets. The Magna card has not been in use since May 2003. The total value of cheques redeemed was \$115.10. (Appendix 19A of Report)

4. Sale of used gymnasium equipment to the National Conservation Authority by Ms. Cepal in 2001

It was alleged that the equipment was defective and never became fully functional. The investigation revealed that the sale was legitimate, however a recommendation for the application of a set of standards and procedures needed to be employed in effecting such purchases.

The Investigator confirmed that the equipment was located. At the time of the investigation two (2) pieces of equipment were defective.

5. Preparation of Financial Statements

It was observed that there were no financial statements prepared for 2000/2001. Dur-

Recommendation

It is recommended that this outstanding advance be recovered.

7. Alleged misuse of National Conservation Authority Funds

A cheque for \$500.00 was issued to the Gaming Authority in 2002 to purchase a gaming licence application form for a prospective hotelier to be refunded to the Authority. The amount has not been recovered.

As per Par 4 Section 12(1) of the Act, the Authority shall apply its funds towards the discharging of its obligations or performing its functions under the Act. The report suggests that this transaction did not comply with the said provision.

In summary, the report reveals the following: (1) Deficiencies in the management operations of the National Conservation Authority; (2) The Board did not provide adequate oversight and policy direction to the NCA and; (3) Operating and accounting systems and procedures are weak in some instances.

It should be noted that the investigation dates back to the financial period 2000/2001 to the present, and that there have been improved procedural practices during the period under review. Notwithstanding, the current Board and Management of the NCA must take responsibility for the deficiencies.

In this regard, taking into account the recommendations as presented by the Investigator and following Cabinet's consideration of the said report, I am convinced that what is required for the NCA at this time is a fresh start. Consequently, I have decided to revoke the appointment of the existing Board with immediate effect.

As you may be aware, during the investigation the General Manager served on a month-to-month basis. Consistent with the position that I have just outlined, the post of General Manager will be advertised. Mr. Charles' tenure with the National Conservation Authority has come to an end. A new Interim Board of Directors will be appointed under the Chairmanship of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Social Transformation with immediate effect.

The Board shall comprise the following: (1) Chairperson – Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Social Transformation; and will include among others; (1) Senior official from the Ministry of Social Transformation; (3) Representative of the Ministry of Finance; (4) Representative of the Ministry of the Public Service; (5) And other representatives from the private sector.

The Interim Board will have a life of 90 days and will be mandated to oversee the implementation of the following: (1) Manage the operations of the NCA during the said period. (2) Implement the recommen-



Hon. Menissa Rambally

ation for a proposed new structure of the NCA. (3) Supervise the process of recruitment of personnel. (4) Report regularly to the Minister during that period.

I wish, in closing, to reaffirm my commitment to the continued fulfillment of the mandate of the Authority as stipulated in the National Conservation Authority Act No. 16 of 1999. Further, I want to reassure the public of my Ministry's commitment to the continuation of the programmes which are serving the interest of communities through out St. Lucia.

Ladies and Gentlemen, now that the review process has concluded and a way forward has been defined, I look forward to the co-operation of all to ensure the successful restoration of confidence in the operation and management of this vital public institution.

A copy of the Executive Summary is provided for your information. Full copies



Mr. Henry Charles
former General Manager of NCA

can be obtained by members of the public from the National Printing Corporation. An electronic copy of the full report will also be available on line at www.stlucia.gov.lc



STEP workers employed through the NCA

suggestion that the initials represent "Henry and Menissa", the registry confirms that it is a company owned by H. Sallapudi and M. Vaswani. Hence the initials H & M.

The General Manager of H & M confirmed that ten (10) cellular phones were purchased. The telephones were distributed to the Ranger Department. Some of these telephones are still in use while others are under repair.

2. Payment to Mr. Daniel Louis for procurement of radios for the use of the Rangers.

The findings revealed that Mr. Daniel Louis was paid on January 17, 2001 the sum of \$30,857.00. The ordered items on one (1) invoice for US \$425.25 were confirmed received by the National Conservation Authority. However, the radios and accessories have not been received.

In August 2001, the National Conservation Authority Solicitor, Baden Allain engaged Mr. Robert McGrath to lodge a civil claim against Mr. Daniel Louis.

Recommendation

It is recommended that recovery of the amount for Mr. Daniel Louis be pursued.

3. Magna Cards

It was alleged that there existed a statement showing thousands of dollars in pay-

ing that period, only an Accounting Clerk manned the section. The National Conservation Authority did not operate a fully functional accounting system during the financial periods 2000/2001 and 2001/2002.

The financial statements for the period 2001/2002 are being submitted in 2005 as the existing Accounting Department is working on its preparation. For the financial year 2002/2003 Bank Reconciliation Statements for the main accounts were prepared, but financial statements were incomplete.

For the financial year 2003/2004 the same applied as for 2002/2003. The investigation revealed notable improvement in the period 2004 as they related to procedural practices.

6. Adherence to Procedures

The investigation revealed that in some instances proper approval was not sought from the Board. The investigation revealed that this was not a Board policy but there were instances where such advances were made in cases that included incidence of fire, sickness or death in the family.

It was noted that the system of recovery of these advances is non-systematic and ineffective. The investigation revealed that there is an outstanding advance of \$4,000.00 from 2001 to the Chairman.



One of the NCA projects

Managing HIV/AIDS

Minister of Health Hon. Damian Greaves is leading Saint Lucia's efforts to manage the problems related to the spread of HIV/AIDS in the country. Mr. Greaves led a local delegation to Brazil in April to observe best practices used in the management of HIV/AIDS in that country. The Saint Lucia delegation was part of a larger delegation from the Caribbean region, led by the Prime Minister of Saint. Kitts and Nevis, Dr. Denzil

Douglas.

Minister Greaves reported to that the government of Brazil agreed to provide drugs to treat up to 500 cases of HIV/AIDS in the OECS region, and will also collaborate with CARICOM countries to develop programmes for monitoring and evaluation of cases as well as training. The collaborative arrangement between Brazil and the Caribbean will be carried out under the aegis of the region-wide programme on HIV/AIDS (PANCAP).



Hon. Damian Greaves Minister for Health, Human Services, Family Affairs and Gender Relations



Caption

The Throne Speech - "Continue to Progress and Prosper"

Continued from page 2

Her Excellency also reiterated the importance of the UHC as a strategy that introduces quality control and appropriate cost containment in the health sector and designed to permit Government to focus, through appropriate existing performance-based programme budgeting, on the development of national health programmes, designed to promote well-being, prevent disease and keep residents healthy and productive.

Two other key policy issues which were identified by Her Excellency to receive attention during the new financial year are the regularization of settlements and the enumeration exercise. Urban drift, indiscriminate squatting, spontaneous and unplanned communities have created the conditions urgent and systematic rationalisation of settlements to bring relief to residents and improve prospects for poverty reduction and wealth creation through the acquisition of land ownership and title. The Conway resettlement programme which will take place in three phases is the first of these initiatives.

In terms of the enumeration exercise, Her Excellency indicated that a new Electoral List will be compiled under the aegis of the Electoral Commission This has become necessary because of significant internal migration of voters and existing technology allows criminals to fabricate identification cards to confer rights and privileges on individuals who do

not qualify to be citizens. The new cards will facilitate travel to those O.E.C.S. Member States that have accepted National Identification Cards in place of passports.

At the regional level, Her Excellency cited the establishment of the Caribbean Court of Justice and the establishment of a single Caribbean passport as milestones on the long road to eventual Caribbean citizenship. Her Excellency also called upon Saint Lucia and rest of the region to view the hosting of the ICC 2007 Cricket World Cup as an opportunity to demonstrate emphatically our ability to overcome the constraints of size with commitment, resolve, pride and commonality of purpose.

In her presentation presented in English and Kwéyòl Dame Pearllette said, "Nou kay moutwé lèstan latè-a ki pititès pa ni maladi, ni péché, ni wézon pou wann kò nou koutja. An 2007 sé péyi Kawaib-la kay ni an lòt wézon pou hosé né yo. Epi Sent Lisi pa kay manchòt nonpli. Konsa annou mété tèt nou ansanm, annou mété lanmen ansanm adan yon gwan koudmen nasyonal pou fè twavay-la nou ni pou fè-a. Nou ja ni on bon fondasyon solid. Avèk lafòs, kouway épi kopéwasyon, nou kay éwisi."

She warned that the ICC Cricket World Cup is a big undertaking and its success will require strength, fortitude, cooperation, pulling together instead of apart, conquering the socio-economic divide and by crossing over to compromise and understanding.

Budge 2005 - 2006 Projects The Nothern Wharf closed for major renovation works





Governor General of Saint Lucia Dame Pearlette C. Louisy inspects the guard of honour before delivering the throne speech to open the fifth session of the eighth Parliament of Saint Lucia. Dame Pealette said "So if it is to be from different ends of the political spectrum, if it is by pulling together instead of apart, if it is by conquering the socio-economic divide, or by crossing over to compromise and understanding, let us not lose sight of our own fine example and that of those who have gone before. Although much has been accomplished, there is still much to be done and we will need the strength, fortitude and cooperation of all Saint Lucians as we take our country forward into the future"

Budget Highlights

The 2005/06 Budget is proposed to be financed from the following sources:

- (1) Recurrent revenue of \$546.2 million
- (2) Excess revenue of \$51.4 million,
- (3) Capital revenue of \$1.0 million
- (4) Grant funding of \$76.8 million, of which \$61.1 million is funding from the European Union
- (5) Excess bond funding of \$22 million carried over from previous fiscal years
- (6) New bond funding of \$188.4 million, and
- (7) Other loan funds of \$68.3 million from the following sources :
 - (a) \$32.2 million from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB);
 - (b) \$29.1 million from the World Bank;
 - (c) \$5.8 million from the Kuwaiti Fund;
 - (d) \$1.2 million from Agence Francaise de Development (AFD).

Information and Knowledge Transform our Societies - Message from the Prime Minister

As Patron of the St. Lucia Internet Fiesta, I am pleased to inform you that this event is growing rapidly and living up to the theme: Internet for all. This year, activities will be held in about fifteen communities island-wide, three times as many as last year.

This Administration signaled many years ago that Saint Lucia's economy was in transition. This was due many factors; not least the significant changes that have occurred in the technological, business and economic landscape, over the last decade. Of particular relevance is the impact of the new information and communications technologies (ICTs) and the rise in importance of 'information' and 'knowledge' as the drivers of the transformation of societies to more service-oriented economies. Information and knowledge are indeed the currency of today's economy.

The Government recognizes its critical role, not only in promoting the use of Information Technology for increasing personal and organizational productivity, but also in leading by example. Information Technology is now being used in many areas of Public Administration. Several key modernization initiatives have been successfully completed and others are well advanced and will be developed further over the coming months.

These include the computerization of Departments in the Ministry of Fi-



Prime Minister makes his daily visit to the world wide web

nance: Treasury, Inland Revenue and Customs; the design of Computer Systems for the Health sector and the new General Hospital; the implementation of a computerized network solution to forecast demand and schedule production for the market driven diversification in Agriculture; the implementation of systems for Immigration Management and Border Control; and the upgrade of the Government's Wide Area Network Infrastructure, Online Services and Web Sites in the Public Sector.

On a more personal note, I myself only recently plunged into the wide

world of the web, overcoming the apprehension of coming into this somewhat "later on in the game" and into this new and unfamiliar environment of cyberspace. I must say, I haven't regretted making that bold step into the unknown! I keep in touch almost on a daily basis with developments in the region by reading the regional newspapers on the Internet. I communicate with other government officials across the region via email, and of course, everyone of you with email access can reach me directly via email at yourpm@candw.lc."

NTN THIS WEEK ON NTN

Sat. April 23rd - Fri. April 29th, 2005

- Special Week of Broadcasting
- Budget Debate 2005
- Throne Speech by Her Excellency Dame Pearlette Louisy - Sat. April 23rd 2005, 8:00 p.m.
- Budget Presentation by Prime Minister Hon. Dr. Kenny Anthony - Sun. April 24th, 8:00 p.m.
- Budget Debate Presentation by Parliamentary Rep. for Vieux-South, Hon. Dr. Kenny Anthony - Mon. April 25th, 8:00 p.m.
- Budget Debate Presentation by Parliamentary Rep. for Dennery North - Hon. Marcus Nicholas - Tues. April 26th, 8:00 p.m.
- Budget Debate Presentation by Parliamentary Rep. for Gros -Islet - Hon. Mario Michel - Wed. April 27th, 8:00 p.m.
- Budget Debate Presentation by Parliamentary Rep. for Laborie - Hon. Velon John - Thurs. April 28th, 8:00 p.m.
- Budget Debate Presentation by Parliamentary Rep. for Castries South East - Hon. Menissa Rambally Fri. April 29th, 8:00 p.m.
- Wayne Louis Memorial Lecture - Fri. April 29th, 9:00 p.m.
- Remember to tune in for:
- GIS News Breaks and Kweyol News daily from 6:30 p.m.
- Issues & Answers/Mondays at 8:00pm:
- Interview/Tuesdays at 6:15pm :
- Konsit Kweyol/Tuesdays at 8:00pm (Kweyol Discussion):
- Your Right to Know/Thursdays at 6:15 p.m. (Min. of Ed. Prog).
- Take 2/Fridays at 6:15pm (Week in Review)
- Weflechi/Fridays at 6:40pm - (Week in Review—Kweyol)

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

www.stlucia.gov.lc