



# NATIONWIDE

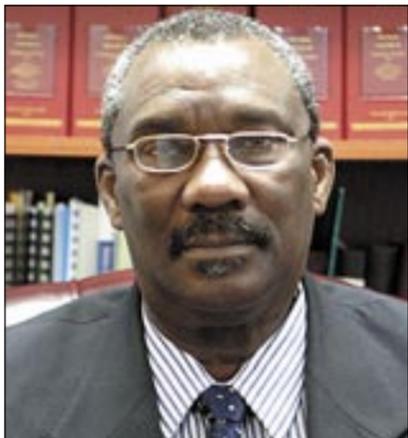
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## THE RECENTLY BUILT CICERON SECONDARY SCHOOL



# THE CONCEPT OF UNIVERSAL SECONDARY EDUCATION



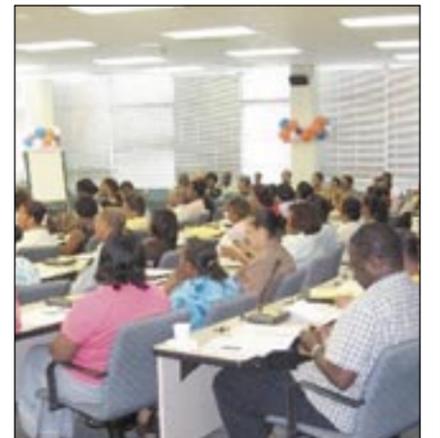
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Every Friday at 6.15 p.m. on **NTN**, Cablevision Channel 2.

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# SIR JOHN TAKEN TO TASK ON SECURITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

## **PM says of UWP plan: 'Sir John will halt Construction of new Police Stations!'**

**F**ormer Prime Minister Sir John Compton has repeated an earlier statement that a UWP Administration will not build any more new police stations. But Prime Minister Dr Kenny D. Anthony says government will not be deterred from continuing its policy of improving the working environment for the island's police and fire officers.

The UWP Leader said in Micoud last weekend that a UWP administration would only finance new stations from local revenue.

However, the Prime Minister said earlier this week that "Compton's approach will take back the police and fire service personnel to the past."

He said such an approach "will result in police and fire officers being forced to continue to live and work under the dreadful conditions that obtained throughout the reign of successive UWP administrations."

The Prime Minister reiterated on Wednesday evening that the Government's policy of improving facilities and conditions for police and fire officers throughout the island will definitely continue.

He announced that three more new police stations will be built this year, bringing to a dozen the number of new and refurbished police and fire stations commissioned by the present administration in the past three years.

The Prime Minister has also made it quite clear that "there will be no policy change" in financing the new police and fire stations.

Responding to a caller during a live interview on DBS Newsmaker Live with Timothy Poleon on Wednesday evening, he said Sir John's announced course of action "will leave too many police and fire officers in the horrendous conditions inherited from the UWP."

Dr Anthony said: "The repeated

public statements by Sir John Compton that a UWP administration will change existing financing mechanisms will delay the much needed improvements at several stations around the island."

Noting that "this is not the first time Sir John has pronounced against the police of constructing new police stations as a priority," the PM said it was "amazing that the UWP Leader still does not accept or understand that the police and fire officers need better accommodation and a better working environment."

Under the Labour administration's policy of providing better accommo-

modation for police and fire officers, two brand new police stations have been constructed in Vieux Fort and Anse La Raye, while other dilapidated police stations have been renovated and refurbished at Marigot, Canaries, Soufriere, Laborie, Choiseul.

A brand new police station and fire station are currently under construction at Micoud and the Prime Minister on Wednesday night announced construction of another three new police stations for Bexon, Richefond and Dennery.

Meanwhile, three brand new fire stations have already been constructed at Gros Islet, Vieux Fort and Dennery.



The new Vieux Fort Police station

## **Home Affairs Minister Denounces Sir John on Security Services Bill**

**M**inister of Home Affairs and Internal Security, Senator Calixte George, has denounced a statement by UWP Leader, Sir John Compton, regarding Government's intention to enact a bill in parliament to regulate private security firms operating on the island.

In an address in Micoud last weekend, the UWP Leader said: "Now the Government is privatizing security through a new Security Bill which seeks to create and regulate a parallel security force in competition with the regular Police Force."

According to the Internal Security Minister: "This statement by Sir John

Compton, a former Prime Minister of Saint Lucia, is really and simply outrageous, absurd and blatantly dishonest."

"All the Government of Saint Lucia is doing," says the Minister, "is seeking to regulate private security firms, so that when a company or individual employs a private security firm, they do so in the knowledge that the private security firm is a duly registered entity."

He explained that "It is obvious that we need to regulate these companies, upgrade the standards of their security personnel and improve the overall quality of their services."

The Minister says: "Sir John has either not read the draft bill; or, having

read it, has deliberately chosen to engage in falsehoods."

Senator George points out that local private security firms "have for years now been asking for umbrella legislation to govern security services."

Against this background, the Minister sees Sir John's statement as "a fabricated falsehood, no matter how it is viewed."

But the Internal Security Minister insists that he is "not the least surprised that this falsehood was placed in the public domain by the UWP Leader."

According to Mr George: "In the end, I'm not surprised at all by Sir John's behaviour. It's the same Compton, in the style that he is best known for."



Hon. Senator Calixte George  
Minister for Home Affairs and  
Internal Security

## **Sir John Asked to Explain Tax Plan**

Prime Minister Dr Kenny D. Anthony has invited UWP Leader Sir John Compton to explain how he intends to finance the collection of the nation's garbage and waste, if, as he says, he plans to abolish the Environmental Levy.

The UWP Leader, addressing his party in Micoud Sunday last, promised that a UWP administration will abolish the Environmental Tax and reform the country's entire tax system.

The Prime Minister says, however, that the Environmental Levy enables the Government to finance the collection of garbage in communities throughout St. Lucia on a regular and timely basis.

According to the Prime Minister: "If, as Sir John says, the Environmental Levy is a 'nuisance tax', does the UWP intend to resort to its original plan, while still in office, to introduce a levy on water and electricity bills of consumers to

pay for garbage disposal?"

The fact is, says the PM, "it is the income from the Environmental Levy that has ensured better management of solid waste and the upkeep of the environment in Saint Lucia."

He continued: "Since this Government came into office, garbage collection has gone national, with every community in Saint Lucia benefiting from a prompt, reliable and efficient service."

"Sir John Compton therefore needs to

explain to the people of Saint Lucia precisely how a UWP administration plans to finance the collection of garbage and the upkeep of the environment."

According to Prime Minister Anthony, "It is not good enough for Sir John to simply make statements about tax reform, without being specific. What are his plans?"

"He must tell the people what his plans are; and he can start by explaining what will replace the Environmental Levy to earn the revenue that will be lost."

# Acting AG Explains Lawyer's Withdrawal From Roll

**A**cting Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Hon. Mario Michel, on Monday convened an emergency Press Conference to explain why a lawyer practicing in St. Lucia had to withdraw from the register of lawyers in the country. The following is the statement delivered by Mr. Michel at the start of the Press Conference.

This press conference has been called to appraise members of the local media of a particular development within the

legal profession and of course to afford members of the press an opportunity to ask any questions which they may have arising from the information presented.

In the wake of the Leonard Ogilvy affair, a number of questions started to surface about the validity or sufficiency of the qualifications of various persons practicing law in St. Lucia, and indeed the Registry of the High Court has been requested to examine the documentation presented by persons in the last five to

called to the bar and the accompanying documentation, and a perusal of the relevant provisions of the Legal Profession Act and the Legal Practitioners Ordinance, have led to the conclusion that the qualifications presented by Ms. Deterville to be admitted to the bar in December 2004, although valid, were not sufficient, in that Ms. Deterville is the holder of the Legal Practice Course certificate from England – which up to January 2006 was one of the qualifications to be admitted to practice law in St. Lucia – but she did not also have (or allege to have) five years continuous service in the chambers of a practicing barrister, which is stated to be an additional requirement in order to be admitted to practice law in St. Lucia if one holds the Legal Practice Course certificate. So although Ms. Deterville's qualifications were valid they were not sufficient and she should not therefore have been admitted by the Court to practice law in St. Lucia.

Once this information was conveyed to Ms. Deterville, she promptly made an application to the High Court to voluntarily remove herself from the Roll as a lawyer, which application was granted by the Court on Thursday last week. Ms. Deterville is therefore no longer entitled to practice as an attorney, at least until such time as she equips herself with the other requirements to enable her to be re-admitted to the bar in St. Lucia.

Now, because I know that persons may be anxious to find similarities or differences between the cases of Nandi Deterville and Leonard Ogilvy, let me just state that the Attorney General's Chambers, which initiated proceedings



Hon. Mario Michel

against Mr. Ogilvy, has no evidence that Ms. Deterville has broken any law in St. Lucia – she did not overstay any time allowed her in St. Lucia, she did not violate the work permit laws of St. Lucia and she did not falsify any document or make any false declaration to gain admittance to the bar in St. Lucia. Ms. Deterville evidently has all of the qualifications which she said she had, only that she did not have (or allege to have) one other qualification which the relevant legislation required her to have in order to qualify her for admission to the bar, and on this basis she has voluntarily withdrawn herself from the register of lawyers in St. Lucia.



Media personnel at the Press Conference

## 2006/07 Budget To Build On 5.4% Economic Growth

Budget Day is Tuesday, April 25. That's the word from Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Dr Kenny D. Anthony.

Making the disclosure today, the Prime Minister, who has been meeting over the past weeks with finance and accounting officials of Government Departments, Ministries and Cabinet Ministers, said preparations for this year's budget are "well advanced."

The Prime Minister says "this is the final budget before the next General Elections."

He also says that "like with previous budgets, this year's presentation will be preceded by the traditional Throne Speech," which will be delivered by Her Excellency the Governor General, Dame Pearlette Louisy. No figures are yet available, but the Prime Minister says the economy registered approximately 5.4% growth last year."

"This budget," he said, "will build on that growth rate in 2006/07."

The Prime Minister's Budget Address will summarize the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the financial year 2006-07 and the Members of the House of Assembly will debate the Government's budgetary proposals after the presentation.

ten years in satisfaction of the requirements to be called to the local bar.

One particular case which surfaced in the course of the last week has justified the convening of this press conference, and that is the case of Nandi Deterville who was called to the bar in St. Lucia in December 2004. A perusal of Ms. Deterville's application to be



Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony

## PRIME MINISTER TALKS TO THE NATION ON NATION BEAT ON TUESDAY

On the threshold of the 2006/2007 Budget Debate, Prime Minister of Saint Lucia, Hon. Dr. Kenny Anthony will present St. Lucians with the opportunity to quizz him on on issues of concern to them. Acknowledging the new era in the media where the views of citizens are given greater cognisance and his government's commitment to consultation and dialogue with the people of the country, the Prime Minister will engage

the public on matters dealing with the upcoming World Cup Cricket, the CARICOM Single Market and Economy, banana recovery projects, crime prevention measures currently being undertaken by government and many other issues of importance to the socio-economic progress of the country. The live call-in programme begins at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday April 18th on NTN.

## New OAS Director Meets Prime Minister

**N**ewly-appointed Director of the Office of the General Secretariat of the OAS in Saint Lucia, Mr Paul Spencer, has had his first official meeting with the Honourable Prime Minister, Dr. Kenny D. Anthony.

During their meeting on April 6, 2003, the Prime Minister and the new head of the local OAS office exchanged views on several issues of mutual and multilateral interest to St. Lucia, the Caribbean and the wider Hemispheric community.

The Prime Minister and Mr Spencer also discussed the status of OAS

programs in St. Lucia, among them the Coastal Wetland Ecosystem and Sustainable Livelihoods project, which is being executed by the St. Lucia National Trust.

Other projects discussed at the meeting included the Electoral and Civil Registries Reform project here, as well as Caribbean multinational project activities in St. Lucia and other OAS member-states in the Caribbean.

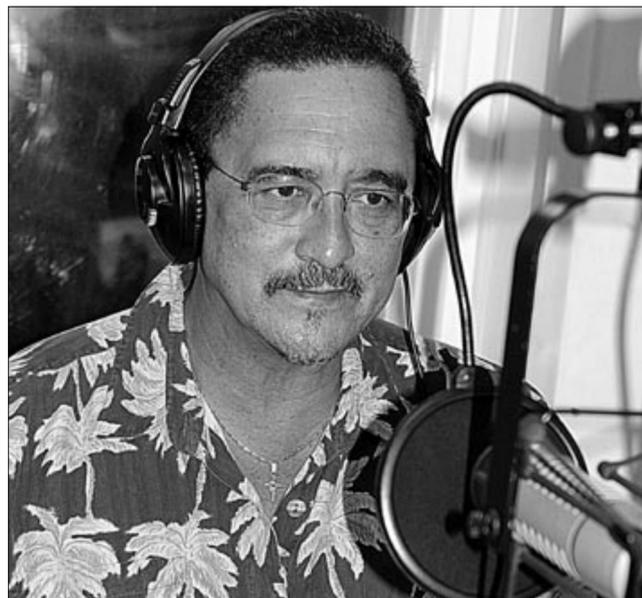
Mr Spencer, a national of Antigua and Barbuda, took the opportunity to update the St. Lucia Prime Minister on the priorities and vision of the OAS, currently being pursued under the

leadership of Secretary General Jose Miguel Insulza and Assistant Secretary General Albert Ramdin.

Prime Minister Anthony reiterated his support and that of the Government of St. Lucia for the OAS and expressed his sincere appreciation for the many project activities being carried out on St. Lucia by the Hemispheric institution.

During the last few weeks, Mr. Spencer has also been meeting with various Ministers and senior functionaries of the Government of St. Lucia to sensitize them to the work of the OAS in the Hemisphere, especially in relation to St. Lucia.

**PM Converses with the Nation**



Prime Minister Dr. Kenny D. Anthony

# THE CONCEPT OF UNIVERSAL SECONDARY EDUCATION

## A PLACE FOR EVERY STUDENT BUT NOT A REASON FOR UNDER-ACHIEVEMENT

**G**ood Day, Saint Lucia, quite recently, a parent shared with me a very unusual conversation she had with her son. As with many other parents, she chastised her son for watching television instead of preparing for the upcoming Common Entrance Exams. But her son replied that she should not worry, "because the Education Minister had said that very soon, under Universal Secondary Education, every child will get a place in secondary school." His point was: Why study when a place for him in secondary school is guaranteed?

Obviously, this young man is wrong. He still needs to study because it is the quality of his results that will ultimately determine which secondary school he will eventually attend.

There are many other parents who find themselves in a similar predicament. Homework and study may no longer matter because it is believed that a place will be available in a secondary school for every child. We have to discourage this thinking because Universal Secondary Education cannot be about under-achievement. Parents must continue to inspire their children to help them realise their gifts and potential.

Bearing all of this in mind, I decided to dedicate today's Conversation to the concept of Universal Secondary Education and to explain why it is such an important development for the future of our country.

### Why a problem?

Some of you may well wonder why, after 27 years of independence, Saint Lucia was unable to provide every child with a place in a secondary school. To hear it from Sir John Compton in his address to the "National Council" of the UWP in Micoud recently.

"There has been a great deal of talk about Universal Secondary Education. This is a policy actively pursued by the Government of the United Workers Party. From four secondary schools in 1964 with an enrolment of less than one thousand to 16 secondary schools of 12,000."

It was an active policy of the UWP, Sir John claims, but yet, up to 1997, he and his team were unable to provide 50% of primary school students with places in secondary schools. In fact, here is the historical record. In 1987, under Sir John and the UWP, only 28% of primary school children were assigned to secondary schools. That number increased to 43% in 1996. In 2005, however, under this administration, the number climbed to 60%. In 2006/07, this Government hopes to take it to 100% of all eligible primary school students.

### Education: the cure to poverty

Why is Universal Secondary Education so vital to our future?

As I indicated in my New Year's Address to the nation, since assuming office in 1997, this Government has emphasised that economic growth is not incompatible with social re-engineering.

Given the importance of education to our developmental process, its role in dismantling socio-economic barriers, walls of injustice and prejudice, this Government has relentlessly pursued the goal of attaining Universal Secondary Education. Without education there can be no empowerment individually or otherwise.

In essence, this Government believes in the dictum of our esteemed Nobel Laureate, Sir Arthur Lewis, that "the cure for poverty is not money, but education."

But secondary education is vital for other reasons. Few can make it to University or other tertiary institutions without a secondary education. As a developing country, at least 10% of our secondary school population should enjoy university education. However, as of now, only 4% make it to university. It is only by expanding access to secondary education that we can improve the numbers at universities.

### A monumental milestone

There can be no doubt that the attainment of Universal Secondary Education will be a monumental milestone in our development. Since assuming office, we have worked steadily towards the achievement of that goal. It is finally becoming a reality.

### Making more spaces available

**How are we going to achieve it?** - During the tenure of this Government, four new secondary schools have been built. The construction of these four new secondary schools has increased considerably the existing stock of secondary school places available in Saint Lucia.

The construction of three more secondary schools will serve to further augment the available stock of secondary school places. Construction has already begun on two of these new schools at Gros Islet and in Marigot.

The Gros Islet Secondary School is being built on 8.32 acres of land at Massade. It will contain 20 classrooms, three science labs, one computer lab, one learning resource centre, an art room, segregated sick bays for male and female students, a staff room, offices for the principal, the vice principal, the school bursar and school counsellors and an auditorium designed to accommodate 1,000 persons. This school, when completed, will be a four-stream five-form secondary school designed to accommodate 700 students.

The Marigot Secondary School will be built on 10 acres of land alongside the Marigot Playing Field. It too will also contain 20 classrooms, three science labs, one computer lab, one learning resource centre, segregated sick bays, a staff room, offices for the principal, the vice principal, the school bursar and school counsellors. This school will also be a four-stream five-form secondary school designed to accommodate 700 students.

In order to meet the stock of secondary school places required to make Universal Secondary Education a reality, the Grande Riviere Senior Primary School will also be transformed into a full-fledged secondary school. A new three-storey concrete structure will be constructed on the existing site. An existing building will be expanded and upgraded to make provisions for specialist rooms, an existing toilet facility will be upgraded, a wooden building on the compound will be repaired and the school site will be landscaped. The new secondary school will contain between 15 and 20 classrooms, two science labs, one computer lab, an auto mechanics room, a learning resource centre, a home economics room and the appropriate administrative facilities. The school will be either three-stream or four-stream, accommodating between 525 and 700 students as resources permit.

### Expansion, upgrading and rehabilitation

In addition, three existing secondary schools, namely, the Choiseul Secondary, the Clendon Mason Memorial Secondary School and St. Mary's College, will be expanded, upgraded and rehabilitated.

A new building will be constructed on the compound of the Choiseul Secondary School. An existing building on that site will be expanded and all existing buildings will be given a facelift. The school will be expanded from its present capacity of 525 students to 700 students. When the expansion is completed the school will be transformed from a three stream to a four stream five form secondary school.

A third floor containing six classrooms will be added to the existing accommodation of the Clendon Mason Memorial Secondary School in

Denney. Existing rooms in the school will be refurbished and reorganised. Particular attention will be paid to science labs, a learning resource centre and accommodation for teachers. The school will be expanded from its present capacity of 550 students to a four stream five form secondary school accommodating 700 students.

St. Mary's College will also undergo major expansion. The college, which is currently a four-stream secondary school, will be transformed into a five-stream secondary school. On completion, St. Mary College will accommodate as many as 875 students.

### At long last!

All these investments in our education infrastructure will ensure that Universal Secondary Education becomes a reality.

As I did three months ago, I again salute Hon. Mario Michel, our Min-

ister of Education, Human Resource Development, Youth and Sports on this remarkable achievement. We owe him a debt of gratitude. He has made it possible for every child to get a place at a Secondary School.

What appeared impossible has been achieved. Every parent can now be secure in the knowledge that a daughter or son will no longer have to end their educational career on the benches of a primary school.

This is a signal achievement that we can and must all be proud of. Indeed, we are giving full and true meaning to Sir Arthur Lewis' admonition that "the cure for poverty is not money, but education."

### Conclusion

Until next week, may God bless our teachers and our students; and, of course, may the Good Lord bless and keep you, till we speak again.



Construction work on the Marigot Secondary School



Construction of the Gros Islet Secondary School



When the Ciceron Secondary school was under construction

**HOMework AND STUDY MAY NO LONGER MATTER BECAUSE IT IS BELIEVED THAT A PLACE WILL BE AVAILABLE IN A SECONDARY SCHOOL FOR EVERY CHILD. We HAVE TO DISCOURAGE THIS THINKING BECAUSE UNIVERSAL SECONDARY EDUCATION CANNOT BE ABOUT UNDER-ACHIEVEMENT. PARENTS MUST CONTINUE TO INSPIRE THEIR CHILDREN TO HELP THEM REALISE THEIR GIFTS AND POTENTIAL.**

# OECS 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Media Launch in Dominica

**D**ominica's Prime Minister Mr. Roosevelt Skerrit and OECS Director General Dr. Len Ishmael last Thursday staged a joint press conference in Roseau to officially launch OECS 25th Anniversary celebrations.

Before a big gathering of media representatives, Prime Minister Skerrit praised the OECS Secretariat for the tremendous work it continues to do on behalf of the sub-region, and said his country and the rest of the OECS benefit tremendously from the considerable technical assistance in a number of areas provided by the Secretariat.

He singled out the recent Category One upgrade for the OECS civil Aviation sector through the work of the Eastern Caribbean Civil Aviation Authority (ECCAA) and the savings provided by the joint procurement of medical supplies by the OECS Pharmaceutical Procurement Services (PPS). Prime Minister Skerrit repeated praised the Secretariat for the OECS NewsLink programme which he says he listens to regularly as it keeps him informed of



**Dominica's Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit and OECS Director General Len Ishmael**

developments across the OECS.

Dr. Ishmael updated the journalists present on plans to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the OECS and urged that they give strong support in promoting the event in the same way that they provided overwhelming coverage of the last OECS Authority meeting held in Dominica.

The journalists heard about plans to launch an OECS Economic Union Treaty to further deepen the integration of the region. They heard of plans for an OECS flag and new logo and the plans for a major development conference. They all left with one of the attractive media kits. The three Television Stations represented received

copies of the OECS 25 TV jingle and the radio stations got audio copies.

The Dominica OECS 25 Media Launch follows a similar ceremony last Friday in Antigua and Barbuda hosted by the Director General and Prime Minister Mr. Baldwin Spencer. Ceremonies were earlier held in St. Kitts/Nevis and the BVI.



**Section of the Dominica Media at the Media Launch**

## Caribbean Disaster Management Gets Italian Support

**T**he Government of Italy and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) have signed a scientific cooperation agreement aimed at enhancing the Region's early response to natural disasters.

The Agreement on Cooperation in Hydro-Meteorological Monitoring, Natural Disaster and Early Warning was signed by Deputy Secretary-General of CARICOM, Ambassador Lolita Applewhaite and Italy's Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Siampaolo Bettamio, on Tuesday 4 April at the CARICOM Secretariat Headquarters, Georgetown, Guyana. This Agreement followed upon the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Community and Italy last July, for cooperation in several areas. These included climate change and

scientific and technical research.

Delivering remarks at the signing ceremony, Ambassador Applewhaite said the agreement would enable the conduct of a feasibility study for the establishment of a modern hydro-meteorological monitoring system, also known as an early-warning system, in the Caribbean.

Ambassador Applewhaite underscored the importance and timeliness of the agreement given its signing just nine weeks short of the official beginning of the Atlantic hurricane season.

In brief remarks, the Vice Minister of Italy said the signing agreement would strengthen existing relations between the Government of Italy and CARICOM. He also pledged Italy's ongoing commitment to assisting the Region in improving its disaster moni-

toring systems. He also noted that his country was assisting the Community in a number of areas including food security.

In July 2005, the CARICOM Secretary-General H. E. Edwin Carrington paid an official visit to Italy where he signed the MOU on behalf of the Community, to strengthen political, scientific and technical cooperation between CARICOM Member States and Italy.

At present, the Region is benefiting from technical support being provided by Italy in a number of areas. Among these are the development and implementation of CARICOM's Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Connectivity Agenda, the operation of the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCC) and a pilot project on renewable energy.

## Ambassador Hunte Chairs UN's AOSIS



**Dr. Julian R. Hunte**

**His Excellency Dr. Julian R. Hunte, Saint Lucia's Ambassador to the United Nations in New York, was unanimously elected as Chairman of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) on 10 March 2006 at the Headquarters of the United Nations. Ambassador Hunte succeeds His Excellency Mr. Jagdish Koonjul, former Ambassador of the Permanent Mission of Mauritius to the United Nations.**

The AOSIS, a coalition of small Island and low-lying coastal countries, was founded in 1990 with the main purpose of consolidating the voices of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to address global climate change. This alliance has grown to become the driving force at the intergovernmental level which brings together the SIDS from all regions of the world to give substance to the international mandate of the Barbados Programme of Action (BPoA) emanating from the 1994 Global Conference held in Barbados—where principles and strategies for development to protect the fragile environments of small Island States were elaborated. The status of the BPoA mandate was subsequently reviewed at the Mauritius International meeting in January 2005.

The Alliance comprises forty three (43) members from all around the world, thirty-seven (37) of which are members of the United Nations (UN). The non-UN members of the alliance are observers. The membership of the alliance thus represents 28% of the developing countries, 20% of the UN's total membership and 5% of the world population.



**Scenes from natural disasters in the region: Above: St. Lucia: Flooding in Castries and collapsing earth at Tapion. Bottom: Grenada: Damaged houses after Hurricane Ivan**

# UHC TRAINING FOR DIABETES PILOT PROJECT

**O**ver 70 Health professionals attended A Training-of Trainers Workshop last Saturday at the Conference Room of the NIC Building, in preparation for the start of the UHC Diabetes Pilot Project.

A new protocol for the treatment of Diabetes was introduced to the participants and will become the standard procedure at all medical facilities in St. Lucia. "The procedure we will use will be administered in a quality assured manner," stated Dr. Stephen King, Chief Medical Officer and a member of the UHC Taskforce at a recent news conference held at Victoria Hospital. "The wonderful thing about the protocol is that everyone will be speaking the same language, and will be on the same page; we are all starting at the same place and will be working towards the same goal", Dr. King emphasised.

Health teams from every health region (St. Lucia has eight health regions), and every medical facility on the island will receive training in the new protocol and these teams will return to their communities and institutions to train their team members in the Protocol, which was developed in collaboration with the Caribbean Health Research Council and the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO).

The overall purpose of the Diabetes Pilot Project – which is schedule



Participants at the workshop

to start in May 2006 and continue for a period of nine months – will provide free screening and treatment for all St. Lucians with Diabetes. The Government of St. Lucia recently approved the funding for the Pilot Project which is expected to cost approximately EC\$3.1 million. According to local health officials, the earlier a patient is diagnosed

and treated for diabetes and hypertension, the better it is to manage and prevent further medical complications.

The Diabetes Pilot Project aims to successfully treat 70% of the population. At present, barely 20% of the population of persons with diabetes and hypertension receive the treatment they need and most do not get treat-

ment early enough.

Diabetes is one of the main causes of mortality and morbidity and is the leading cause of death in St. Lucia. Hypertension is the fourth leading cause of deaths. It is estimated that there are 8,000 persons with diabetes in Saint Lucia and 20,000 persons with hypertension.

## IMPORTANT QUESTIONS ABOUT UHC

### 1. What is Universal Health Care (UHC)?

UHC There are conditions to the services and benefits that you can receive through UHC.

### 2. How will UHC work?

To access the health benefits offered under the UHC you must first be registered with UHC through the Electoral Department. You will be assigned to a hospital according to where you live or where you work. This hospital will be your health provider. However, you will be able to access emergency care at the closest emergency room.

### 3. Who qualifies for the UHC?

To qualify for services under UHC you must: (a) be a St. Lucian or (b) non-national residing in the country for at least six (6) months of the year in which you are seeking coverage.

### 4. What services will I benefit from?

Through UHC you will benefit from the following services: Hospital services, pharmaceutical services, Limited overseas care, some Specialist consultations and Emergency care.

### 5. Which institutions will provide service?

The two general hospitals, the Victoria Hospital and the St. Jude's Hospital will be the main service providers.

### 6. Will I be covered for visits to private doctors?

No. You will not be refunded for visits to your private doctor. However, if you fill your prescription at a pharmacy registered with UHC you will receive free medication if your medication is included on the list of pharmaceutical covered by UHC.

### 7. Isn't health coverage included in my National Insurance Corporation (NIC) contributions?

No. The 5% deduction from your salary for National Insurance covers your pension, invalidity and sickness benefits. The NIC in-patient hospital benefit was a special arrangement with the government and comes to an end when UHC starts.

### 8. What will happen to the coverage for health insurance that I already have?

With the introduction of UHC the insurance companies will adjust their coverage to include benefits not offered by UHC. Therefore, you may continue paying for private insurance. It is your choice.

### 9. What will happen if I need to seek treatment overseas?

The UHC includes a limited package of overseas care. UHC will cover the cost of treatment overseas ONLY if the hospital has referred you to an overseas provider.

### 10. How will UHC be funded?

UHC will be funded with a fixed flat tax on the consumption of goods in St Lucia (except for food and clothing). It will be known as the "Health and Environmental Levy and will now be charged at 5%.

### 11. Will the Health and Environmental Levy fund 100% of UHC?

No. The Health and Environmental Levy will raise just about half of the money needed for the UHC. The other 50% will be provided by Government of St. Lucia.

### 12. What else will I get through UHC?

- (a) Treatment for life-threatening illnesses and other illnesses;
- (b) Medication prescribed only by your doctor;
- (c) A letter of referral to follow-up your condition with your doctor, district hospital, polyclinic or health centre when you are discharged from the hospital;
- (d) An opportunity to make a complaint if you are dissatisfied with the service.

Visit the UHC website for additional information at: [www.stluciauhc.org](http://www.stluciauhc.org)

# MELLO LANDS HERE

## 2007 CRICKET WORLD CUP MASCOT IN SAINT LUCIA



Mello meeting school children at the George Charles Airport, Vigie.

**T**he ICC Cricket World Cup 2007 mascot MELLO arrived in Saint Lucia to crowds of children at the George FL Charles airport on Friday 7th April.

MELLO strutted and danced his way to the arrival area to the shouts and chants of the school children representing a number of schools in the Castries district. Members of the Board of the Local Organising Committee together with management and staff were also on hand to greet the mascot to the sound of sweet steelband music.

The short welcome ceremony organized by the Local Organising Committee is expected to be the beginning of a number of activities planned for the mascot MELLO. With the focus on children and teenagers and developing their awareness and interest in the up coming ICC Cricket World Cup, MELLO will be visiting all the schools throughout Saint Lucia in the coming months. Appearances in communities through Road Shows and special events are also planned as MELLO becomes a household name and a regular sight.

Jennifer Gaston, Media Relations and Public Education Project Officer with the Local Organising Committee of the Cricket World Cup, officially welcomed Mello on behalf of CWC St. Lucia Inc. The following is the text of her address.

“Its my job today to introduce in its first official public appearance here in Saint Lucia, an individual who I’m sure will be one of the most recognized stars prior to and during the ICC Cricket World Cup next year and who is likely to claim many newspaper front page and television highlights. It’s not any past or present West Indian cricketer or regional celebrity, this individual is bigger than any such person, in size at least. That individual is the one



**Jennifer Gaston, Public Education and Media Relations Project Officer, CWCSL Inc.**

and only, Mello, the ICC Cricket World Cup 2007 official mascot.

Let me tell you a little about this character. Mello was born out of the vision of Caribbean nationals to appeal primarily to kids and kids at heart and I am happy to see so many kids here to warmly embraced Mello and all that the character represents.

Many options were explored in the development of this mascot, from animals to inanimate objects and everything in between. In conceptualizing our mascot however, careful consideration was given to ensuring the mascot character was not representative of any



one or two Caribbean countries, and to how the mascot would look in various environments, for example running on to a Cricket field to rally support from the crowd.

The chosen mascot, we knew, would generate its appeal by having a personality and identifiable character which children and teens could relate to. Mello would be all about an attitude- a feeling, a lifestyle - rather than a particular stereotype, country or culture.

Through word play and research, the name was selected. And once the name was chosen the mascot concept was born. Neither an object, animal or person, Mello evolved into a youthful, friendly, contemporary character with bright eyes, a big smile and an effervescent personality.

The realisation of this vision is the unique character which you will see today. Mello is the friendly, outgoing, energetic, charismatic and sophisticated Caribbean teenager who embodies our Caribbean lifestyle.

You will also notice that Mello also wears a red ribbon. Like many Caribbean youth, Mello is also conscious of the HIV epidemic which continues to threaten our existence on a global scale, and demonstrates support of AIDS awareness and education among youth and for the ICC/UN AIDS initiative by proudly wearing this red ribbon at all times.

As a living ambassador for the ICC Cricket World Cup 2007, Mello will embark on an outreach programme over the coming year with visits to schools, business and communities. When the tournament begins, Mello will be viewed by more than 2 billion passionate Cricket fans on television from every corner of the world who will be tuning in to view the planet’s most anticipated Cricketing tournament.

Mello represents the positive spirit in which we as Caribbean people approach the game of life, and the warmth and friendliness of all Caribbean people. Today Mello’s first appearance comes in an atmosphere of community and true Caribbean celebration and thanks to each and every one of you for being part of this historic occasion. So let all hail and welcome MELLO.....



### THIS WEEK ON NTN

Sat. April 15th to Fri. April 21st, 2006  
NTN – PROVIDING INFORMATION YOU NEED

The Eastern Caribbean Civil Aviation Authority - ECCAA – has recently been upgraded from Category 1 to Category 2 – Find out what this means for the OECS - Sat. April 15th, 9:30 a.m.  
Operation Miracle: The Cuban Eye Care Programme – Hear first-hand stories from those who benefited - Sun. April 16th, 12:30 p.m.  
Universal Secondary Education is at our door steps – the Minister of Education responds to public concerns on NTN’s Feedback– Mon. April 17th, 8:30 p.m.  
Ahead of World Cup Cricket 2007, St. Lucia presents its wares at the World Travel Market - Tues. April 18th, 6:15 p.m.  
Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony speaks on Constitutional Reform – Wed. April 19th, 8:00 p.m.  
With over two decades since its existence, the St. Lucia Bureau of Standards has done much to upgrade and uphold various standards. But what does the future hold for the organization? - Thurs. April 20th – 8:00 p.m.  
Youth Organizations dialogue with the National Crime Commission – Fri. April 21st – 7:30 p.m.  
Youth Panorama 2006 - Fri. April 21st – 8:30 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.

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