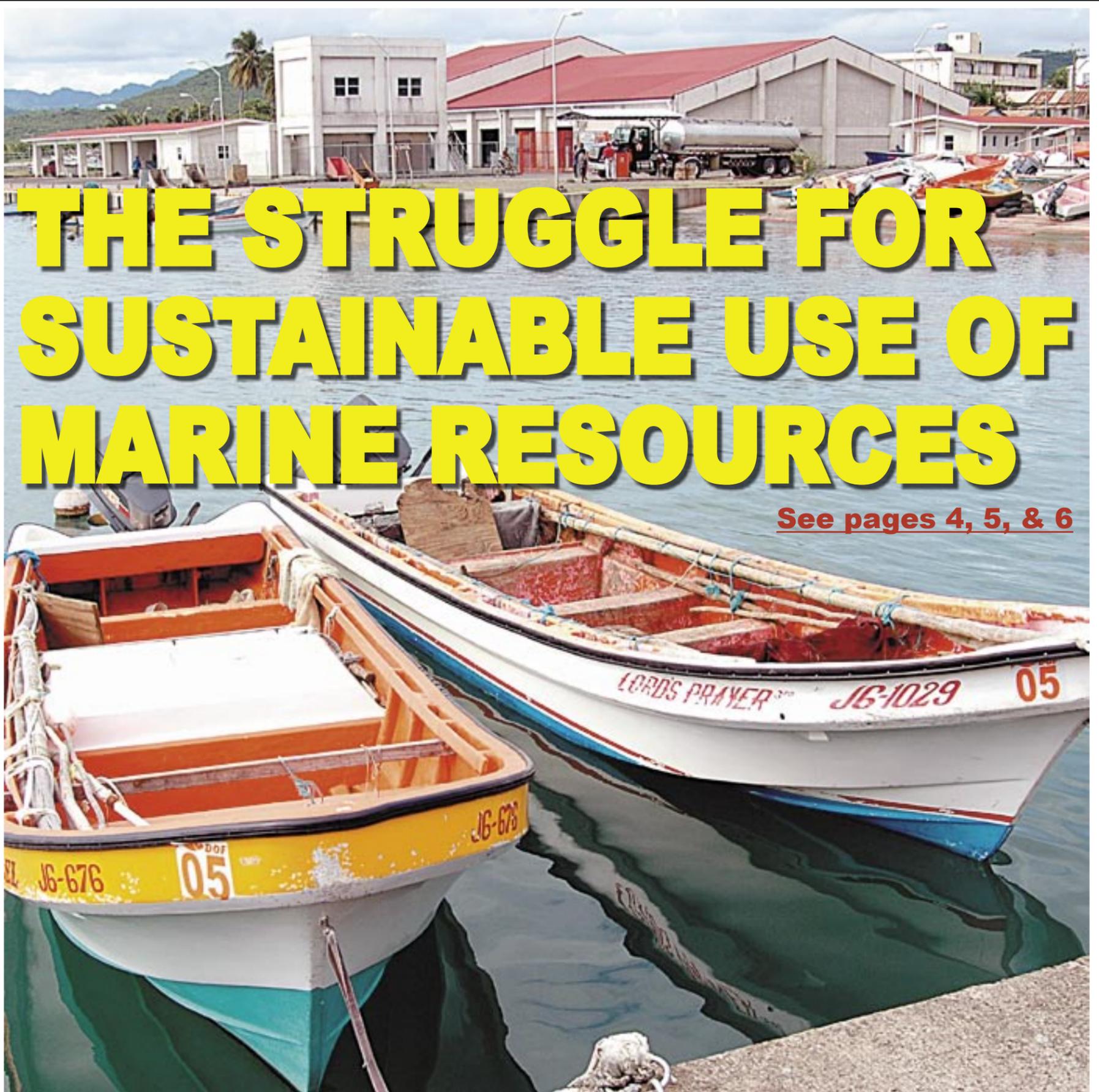




NATIONWIDE

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SAINT LUCIANS ON 2006 QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS



Justice Suzie D'Auvergne



Hon. Velon John



Ms. Emma Hippolye

A number of Saint Lucians have been named and approved for the following honours in the Queen's Birthday Honours List, 2006.

To be Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George C.M.G. - Miss Suzie Agnes-

Ida D'Auvergne, (for services to the judiciary).

To be Ordinary Officers of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire O.B.E., Honourable Velon Leo John (for services to the public and the community) and

Miss Emma Hippolyte for services to the government and public service).

To be Ordinary Members of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire M.B.E.: Victor Aloysius Alexander Eudoxie, (for services to banking), Winston Andrew

Taylor (for public service), and Dr. Charles Keith Scotland (for services to the field of veterinary surgery).

The British Empire Medal (Civil Division) – Victor Archie Edward (for services to agriculture) and Philson Leonard Joseph (for services to agriculture).

Government Mourns the Passing of "Sister Frances"

She always inspired and encouraged the women of Saint Lucia, in particular, and the working people, in general, to struggle to play their equal part in the politics and governance of their country

The Government of Saint Lucia and the ruling Saint Lucia Labour Party have both issued statements of condolence and regret over the death of former diplomat and Labour Party stalwart, Frances Michel.

Acting Prime Minister Philip J. Pierre says the late Frances Michel "will be remembered for her lasting contribution to the politics of Saint Lucia and the development of the trade union movement, among other things

The Acting Prime Minister said, on behalf of the Cabinet of Ministers, that "her services to the state, as a Senator and as a diplomat, will also be remembered by those who knew of her significant but often under-stated contri-

butions to the struggle for progressive change in Saint Lucia."

Mr Pierre recalled that "Sister Frances, as she was better known, served her people and country, at home and abroad, and she was instrumental in the struggle for better wages and working conditions for workers."

According to Mrs Pierre, "Mrs Michel will, however, best be remembered as the firebrand woman politician, trade unionist and Senator, who helped imbue a sense of pride and encouragement among Saint Lucian women.

He said she "always inspired and encouraged the women of Saint Lucia, in particular, and the working people, in general, to struggle to play their equal part in the politics and governance of

their country."

For his part, General Secretary of the Saint Lucia Labour Party, Leo Clarke, says Mrs Michel will be remembered by the ruling party "for her contribution to its rebirth and its eventual return to power in 1979."

Mr Clarke said the former Labour Party senator "helped agitate and mobilize grassroots support behind the Labour Party from the early 1970s, through to 1981, when she helped establish the Progressive Labour Party."

Mr Pierre and Mrs Clarke have both called on Government and Labour Party supporters to pay tribute to and remember Mrs Michel, who is being buried this afternoon.

Mrs Michel, who died late last week,

served as Saint Lucia's Consul General in Cuba for several years, where she represented the interests of the Government and People of Saint Lucia.

In Cuba, she also tended to matters associated with Saint Lucians studying in Havana and other provinces on Cuban Government scholarships.

After several years in Cuba, Mrs Michel, who was accompanied in Havana by her husband and two sons, returned home at the completion of her mission.

Mrs Michel also served as a member of the Saint Lucia Senate.

However, it is for her contribution to the politics of Saint Lucia and her role as a pioneer of the women's movement that Mrs Michel was best known.

As one of Saint Lucia's earliest women politicians, she stood alongside the late George Odum and Peter Josie in the heady days of the mid-to late 1970s.

Mrs Michel was also a trade unionist and served as the General Secretary of the Saint Lucia Farm and Farm Workers Union, which agitated in the banana valleys and on the streets of Castries.

As an agitator, she was a leader in the struggle for better wages and working conditions for agricultural workers on the banana estates and large private farms island-wide.

After years of difficult struggle, "Sister Frances" also helped win the battle for legislated minimum wages for farm workers in Saint Lucia.

Mrs Michel was a leading exponent of the rights of women and, through the Farm and Farm Workers Union, was quite instrumental the fight to change the law so that women in Saint Lucia would have the right to equal wages as men.

Her health condition deteriorated of late and after a long battle for survival that included a stint at hospital, Mrs Michel passed away on the weekend at the age of 71.

Strengthening Civil Aviation Security

Address by Senator The Hon. Calixte George, Minister for Home Affairs and Internal Security at the opening ceremony of the CICTE Workshop on Civil Aviation Security June 19, 2006

Ladies and Gentlemen, Many people travel today completely oblivious of the varied technical systems, procedures and processes to be complied with so as to ensure their comfort, safety and security. I must therefore acknowledge the hard work and dedication of all stakeholders including the Police, the Fire Officers, the Ministry of Civil Aviation, SLASPA, Airline Companies, ground handlers and the East Caribbean Civil Aviation Authority in ensuring compliance at all levels.

Air transportation is vital towards the success of our economy. The Tourism Sector has now been identified as the driving force of our economy. Visitor arrivals by air for the year 2005 totalled 303,069. St. Lucia has also found itself on the World Stage having been given the accolade of the number one wedding destination in the world. St. Lucia's "simply beautiful" package of natural beauty, hospitality as well as compliance with internal standards will continue to attract visitors to our shores as a preferred destination.

The standards referred to include Civil Aviation Security standards. The buzz phrase within the region at this time is CWC 2007. It is imperative therefore that a viable and competitive Civil Aviation industry be maintained. We must therefore reap maximum benefits which this unprecedented prestigious event will provide. Our small size cannot be allowed to cripple our efforts towards excellence; we need to aim high. This requires the collective effort of all relevant stakeholders in going through this professional journey.

Given the foregoing therefore, the hosting of this Civil Aviation Security Workshop by my Ministry is both relevant and timely. The workshop has targeted high level professionals. It is anticipated that the following objectives would have been realized on completion of this workshop.

(1) Appreciate the importance of mutual support and cooperation in aviation security matters, and contribute to the enhancement of security system and protocols already in existence; (2) Review and recommend enhancements to the national civil aviation security programme to better conform to ICAO standards; (3) Review the crisis management exercise requirements and determine the extent of participation by industry and other Government Departments.

As Minister with responsibility for Internal Security, I wish to reiterate that my Ministry places priority attention on matters relating to security. It is for this reason that:- A new Crash Tender will be procured for Hewanorra International Airport to be co-financed by SLASPA.

New Ambulances will be acquired, the Gros Islet Police Station has been upgraded to a Division, construction of a Micoud Fire and Police Stations is ongoing, construction of three other stations are due to commence this year (Dennerly, Ricfond, Bexon).

The above represent only some of the initiatives which will complement a viable and competitive Civil Aviation industry.

The challenge which we all face as stewards of Civil Aviation Security include:- Remaining vigilant and visionary within a dynamic ever changing global environment, harnessing the tremendous power of technological advancement so as to remain competitive, attaining international compliance whilst at the same time ensuring the comfort of travellers.

It would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the sponsors of this workshop, the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) in collaboration with the Organisation of American States (OAS). CICTE has become true friends to St. Lucia and to the region. CICTE's support to St. Lucia has been as follows: Two (2) people



Hon. Senator Calixte George

attended a conference on Legislative Action against Terrorism in the Eastern Caribbean. The objective of this meeting was to provide technical assistance to member countries in the preparation of legislation



George FL Charles Airport



Air Jamaica lands at Hewanorra Airport

Excerpt from the Welcome Remarks by the Deputy Permanent Secretary, Mrs. Ingrid GB Bullard, Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security

On behalf of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security, I am pleased to welcome all of you to this Workshop; and look forward with every expectation to the successful outcome of this very important and high level exercise on which we are about to embark.

The hosting of this Workshop in Saint Lucia should be viewed as a practical commitment of the Government of Saint Lucia to the tenets of the Inter American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance; known as the Rio Treaty, which commits the collective and mutual security, of the Hemispheric Nations, as envisaged in this Treaty.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish to record Saint Lucia's deep appreciation of the numerous contributions made by the Organisation Of American States to our country and the wider sub-region since the achievement of Independence.

The OAS deserves our commendation and applause.

This new initiative spear headed by the General Secretariat of the OAS is timely; in the context of recent developments in the

to implement the UN Counter Terrorism Conventions, UN Security Council Resolution 1373, and the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism.

Two (2) persons attended the World Maritime University's (WMU) Maritime Security and Access Control Course in Port of Spain Trinidad. This course combined maritime security issues with the evaluation of techniques used in the training of maritime security personnel.

One (1) person attended the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) Regional Forum on Maritime Security, held in Vera Cruz, Mexico. The objective of this forum was to examine and resolve problems encountered in the implementation of the International Ship and Port Security (ISPS) Code.

Five (5) people attended a Regional Workshop on Integrity, held in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The workshop's objective was to promote the technical responsibility of officials involved in border control, and to share best practices for training and qualification of personnel in border control agencies.

Two (2) people attended a Container and Passenger Profiling Workshop held in Florida, USA. The objective was to sensitize participants to new methods and equipment used in targeting passengers and containers for examination.

Three (3) people attended a counter terrorism seminar for Caribbean Security

Executives in Trinidad and Tobago. The objective of this seminar was to sensitize participants to developments relating to terrorism within the hemisphere, as well as to provide a forum for sharing strategic information on related developments within the states concerned.

One (1) person attended the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Hostage Negotiation Training course in Jamaica. The objective of the course was to sensitize law enforcement participants to some of the issues and new techniques relating to the management of hostage taking situations.

One (1) person attended CICTE's second counter terrorism simulation exercise in Jamaica. The exercise was designed to promote contingency planning and the development of consequence management capacity in the region.

One (1) person attended the second meeting of Government experts on Cyber Security held in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

This workshop therefore marks the continuation of our partnership with CICTE aimed at the development of national, institutional and technical capacity through the provision of technical assistance and specialized training.

Let us all embrace the opportunity which this workshop provides. The knowledge gained should no doubt assist in elevating St. Lucia and indeed the region to yet another level of Civil Aviation Security. I thank you.

Global Spectrum; and St. Lucia is pleased to play its part in this collaborative effort.

Saint Lucia's Ambassador to the OAS, Her Excellency Ms. Sonia Johnny has been pivotal in co-ordinating preparations at the level of the OAS Secretariat together with the local OAS Office who has dealt with on-site arrangements. The Honourable Minister for Home Affairs and Internal Security, was pleased to endorse the initiative and provided His support in an official capacity.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, this Hemispheric Organisation, has from its inception, been grounded in the concept of mutual benefits and prosperity for all its peoples.

The values inherent in the OAS Charter has generated many institutions such as the Inter-American Development Bank, the CICAD and the Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism CICTE (sicktay) and several Treaties to give effect to these values.

Our interactions in the Global Community and the negative and harmful actions now in vogue, makes it incumbent on us, to mobilize the resources, ideas and our God-

fearing people to prevent; and in the very worst case scenario, mitigate the effects of Destructive Forces.

Let us therefore resolve to make this exercise more than a mere ceremonial and statistical event. Let us resolve that the outcome of this workshop enhances tremendously; our capacity to organize and implement the necessary measures that will ensure the integrity and safety of our ports of entry and the wider Region.

given the scope of issues to be discussed over the next few days, I recognize that the task at hand is an arduous one, but I know that we will all be able to shoulder our commitment and obtain a favourable outcome. To The Officials who have traveled from overseas; our distinguished delegates from OAS CICTE and the United States Department of Homeland Security; I wish to welcome you again. I know you will enjoy your stay here in Saint Lucia and please find sometime to visit our historic and cultural sites.

I can assure you that the hospitality of the people of Saint Lucia; will be indelibly implanted in your memory when you depart our shores. I Thank you



Hon. Ignatius Jean
Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Fighting for the sustainable use of marine resources at IWC 2006

Issues at the 58th Annual IWC Meeting

The 58th Meeting of the International Whaling Commission took place in St. Kitts and Nevis from Sunday June 18th to Tuesday 20th June and, as has been the custom in the last few years, it turned out to be another battleground in the fight between those countries which want the IWC to overturn its twenty year moratorium on the hunting and killing of whales and those who want to maintain it. St.

Lucia, which has been a member of the IWC from 1979, was represented at the meeting by its Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Mr. Ignatius Jean and the Chief Fisheries Officer, Mr. Vaughan Charles. St. Lucia's position on the whaling issue is that it supports the sustainable use of marine resources - a policy which is deemed crucial for small island states whose limited physical land resources makes

those of the seas around them extremely valuable. In pursuing this policy, St. Lucia and other Caribbean countries have been supporting Japan which has been trying for years to have the IWC permit it to return to commercial whaling on a sustainable basis. The following articles outline the issues which emerged at this 58th meeting of the IWC which was a landmark one for the pro whaling countries.



The Castries Fisheries Complex

Anti-whalers stumped – by the ‘Word of God’

Anti-whaling campaigners were stumped on the opening day of the 58th annual conference of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) – by the word of God.

For the second time in its history, the IWC meeting is taking place in the Caribbean, which has a deeply Christian religious background.

In this Caribbean region where most invoke spiritual guidance to help solve controversial matters, meetings usually begin with prayers. Thus, a priest was called upon to pray at the opening session of the IWC Conference, which started on the island of Saint Kitts on the morning of June 16.

Reverend Fr Isaiah Phillip, an Anglican cleric, quoted “sacred Christian writings” to call on God to guide the deliberations in a way that will allow participants to understand why regions like the Caribbean insist on their right to sustainable use of their coastal resources.

Noting that “in our region much of what we do in life is under-girded by a very strong Christian influence,” Rev Fr Phillip quoted Genesis 1:27-28, which he said was “part of the Christian understanding of the very nature of the world and human beings’ place within it.”

He said that passage “teaches us that God created the whole universe and has enlisted us human beings as part of that creation to assist him in the management of the world’s resources.”

“An important aspect of that management on behalf of our God who owns it all, is for us to use the resources of our world in such a manner that we sustain and support life, while at the same time preserve the integrity of the universe,” said the Christian cleric, to the nodding acknowledgement of the sustainable use group, which includes Caribbean delegates.

“This is an awesome task and it has to be approached with the greatest clarity of mind and depth of understanding,” said the Kittitian priest.

He noted that “for us Caribbean peoples, the seas that literally surround our lives are part and parcel of God’s blessings to us.”

Fr Phillip therefore urged the participants to “be sensitive to the real situations of peoples like us, who depend on harvesting the resources of the seas for our livelihood.”

He urged participants “not to get bogged down in and by the vociferous and well-publicized views that are bent on outlawing the harvesting of marine resources.”

“That,” he warned, “could be disastrous to the very existence of some small island communities, where people depend heavily on the fishing industry.”

Fr Phillip urged the participants to “consider the issues on the basis of the empirical findings of the scientists” and to “come up with final decisions that allow everyone to use the marine resources of our world in a way that sustain and support all life, while preserving and protecting the environment.”

He urged “the Lord” to “gracefully direct their final decisions that they may help to preserve, support and give encouragement to the deepest aspirations and rights all peoples everywhere, who desire to uphold and participate in the sustainable use of the marine resources of the world.”

Rev Phillip also invited “the Lord” to “fill every delegation with sensitivity to the needs and concerns of others,” but, above all, “to make everyone responsive and thankful to your call and challenge to use the resources of the world to sustain and support all life and in preservation of the environment.”

The Christian cleric’s message was warmly received by the sustainable use lobby.

However, his invocation was largely ignored by the anti-whaling campaigners, who, as in the past, continued to advocate that developing countries should cease whaling and embrace whale watching.

The anti-whaling lobby – led by the

USA, UK, Australia, New Zealand and Brazil -- on the first two days of the conference, voted against every proposal by Japan and the sustainable use lobby.

As the IWC meeting entered its third day on Sunday, there was no indication that the anti-whaling campaigners had paid any heed to the priest’s urgings. They vowed to oppose Japan and the sustainable use countries on every motion and have so far been keeping their word.

“Clearly,” said one Caribbean delegate, “the big countries think and act like they’re bigger than God. They think their word is bigger than that of God.”

“But,” he concluded, “the Lord has a way of showing His power, by visiting

them with catastrophes that they are unable to either predict or avoid.”

For the first time in many years, the IWC’s annual conference continued on a Sunday -- which is the Sabbath for most Caribbean people, who prefer to go to church and pay their respects to their God.

Sunday was also Fathers Day. But as the meeting continued, it was quite clear that those opposed to whaling didn’t care that it was a Holy Day.

As they plodded ahead with their agenda, it was also clear that they were not about to pay any attention whatsoever to either what the Reverend Father said on the opening day, or what the day means to most Caribbean fathers – or even the Holy Father.



Another Fisheries Complex

Sustainable Use Countries Score Major Victory at IWC

Opponents of sustainable use of the ocean’s resources were far from graceful in defeat on Sunday night, after the Caribbean and its allies scored their first major victory in twenty years at the 58th Annual Meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC).

By a majority of one vote, the IWC’s members adopted a “Declaration of Saint Kitts and Nevis” which urged the IWC to return to its original mandate or regulating whaling, rather than seeking to stop it.

The Declaration, proposed by the host country and backed by Japan, was supported by Caribbean, African, Pacific and mainly other developing states. But it also received key backing from other key IWC member-states, including Norway, Iceland and the Russian Federation.

Not automatic - Japan’s Deputy IWC Commissioner, Joji Morishita, says it’s a “victory” for the backers of sustainable use, but sought to assure the critics that it did not automatically mean a return to commercial whaling, which will require a three-quarters majority vote.

Morishita said any future resumption of commercial whaling would be on a smaller basis than the past.

He said it would have to be a combination of “the beginning of sustainable whaling, plus protection of depleted and endangered species.”

But the USA, UK, Australia, New Zealand and Brazil – all of which opposed the Declaration – have said they will seek to overturn it – even if it does not mean an automatic return to commercial whaling.

Serious defeat - New Zealand’s Environment Minister, Chris Clarke, said it was “the most serious defeat the conservation cause has ever suffered at the IWC.”

Brazil and New Zealand said the would oppose the declaration, with the Brazilian delegate seeking – after the vote – to question the credentials of Iceland.

But while the losers balked, the winners declared this to be the first major victory for pro-sustainable use countries.

Emotionalism - The Declaration argued that “use of cetaceans in many parts of the world, including the Caribbean, contributes to sustainable coastal communities, sustainable livelihoods, food security and poverty reduction.”

It emphasised that “placing the use of whales outside the context of the globally accepted norm of science-based management and rule-making for emotional reasons would set a bad precedent that risks our use of fisheries and other renewable resources.”

Orderly development - The document recalled that the purpose of the 1946 International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (ICRW) is to “provide for the proper conservation of whale stocks and thus make possible the orderly development of the whaling industry.”

As such, the Declaration states, “the IWC is therefore about managing whaling to ensure whale stocks are not over-harvested, rather than protecting all whales irrespective of their abundance.”

It noted that in 1982 the IWC adopted a moratorium on commercial whaling, but “without advice from the IWC’s Scientific Committee that such a measure was required for conservation purposes.”

No longer necessary - Much to the chagrin of the anti-whaling lobby, the declaration noted that “the moratorium, which was intended as a temporary measure, is no longer necessary as the IWC’s Scien-

tific committee has agreed that many species and stocks of whales are abundant and sustain able whaling is possible.”

The document expressed the concern of its backers that “after fourteen years of discussion and negotiation, the IWC has failed to complete and implement a management regime to regulate commercial whaling.”

It accepted that “scientific research has shown that whales consume huge quantities of fish, making the issue a matter of food security for coastal nations...”

Unacceptable - The Declaration rejected as “unacceptable” that “international non-governmental organisations (NGOs) with self-interest campaigns should use threats in an attempt to direct government policy on matters of sovereign rights related to the use of resources for food security and national development.”

It noted that the position of some IWC member-states opposed to the resumption

of commercial whaling on a sustainable basis irrespective of the status of whale stocks “is contrary to the objective and purpose of the ICRW.”

The Declaration said, however, that “the IWC can be saved from collapse only by implementing conservation and management measures which will allow controlled and sustainable whaling which would not mean a return to historic over-harvesting and that continuing failure to do so serves neither the interests of whale conservation nor management.”

Obligations - Based on all of the above factors, the majority of IWC Commissioners expressed, through the Declaration, their “concern that the IWC has failed to meet its obligations under the terms of the ICRW.”

The majority of Commissioners also declared “our commitment to normalizing the functions of the IWC, based on the terms of the ICRW and other relevant inter-

national law, respect for cultural diversity and traditions of coastal peoples and the fundamental principles of sustainable use of resources and the need for science-based policy and rule-making that are accepted as the world standard for the management of marine resources.”

Caribbean backing - The declaration was originally proposed by the host country (Saint Kitts and Nevis) and backed by its Caribbean neighbours, including Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Grenada.

It was also originally backed by Benin, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cote d’Ivoire, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea, Iceland, Japan, Kiribati, Mali, the Marshall Island, Mauritania, Mongolia, Morocco, Nauru, Nicaragua, Norway, Palau, the Russian Federation, Solomon Islands, Togo and Tuvalu.

The meeting continues Monday and ends Tuesday evening.



Cleaning Fish

Caribbean Ministers accuse Western countries at IWC meeting of ‘Intolerance, Disrespect and Economic Terrorism’

Four Caribbean Government Ministers attending the 58th annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) have accused four major Western countries of a combination of intolerance and disrespect for small Caribbean island-states who support sustainable use of the world’s marine resources.

At a joint press conference called here to explain the positions of their respective countries in support of a Declaration calling for a return to the original mandate of the IWC to manage whaling in a sustainable way, the Ministers from the islands of Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Saint Lucia said they rejected the notion that large countries ought to dictate to smaller states how they should vote at international fora.

Intolerance - Grenada’s Education Minister Claris Charles – a former Fisheries Minister who was also her country’s IWC Commissioner -- said Grenada rejected the demand by the USA, UK, Australia and New Zealand, backed by Brazil, that countries “should force fishermen to

stop whaling and engage instead in whale-watching.”

“We are a tolerant country. We have a vibrant whale-watching industry, but we will not be intolerant of those who wish to eat whale meat,” said Charles in response to a question.

“We are interested in conservation, but we also do not want to see people eat whales to extinction,” she added.

Ms Charles said her delegation was “concerned about the level of intolerance being exhibited by the larger countries that are members of the IWC.”

She said the countries pressuring the Caribbean were “tolerant of gays and lesbians, because they respect their right to choose their way of life; but they are intolerant of those people around the world who eat whale meat as a way of life.”

Declaring that “I do not eat whale meat,” the minister said, however, that “intolerance is intolerance, no matter who expresses it; and I would like to see more tolerance exhibited at the IWC by those who don’t agree with our positions.”

Race factor - A similar position was taken by Antigua and Barbuda’s Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries, Joanne Massiah.

Asked whether she saw the hostility of the Western states to the small island nations of the African, Pacific and Caribbean states as an expression of racism or size, she said: “I think it is more one of intolerance.”

She explained: “We are accused of selling our votes and prostituting our sovereignty. But as sovereign states we take great offence to this.

“No one questions the land-locked European states who have no oceans for whaling or whale watching, but which have joined the IWC, so it’s simply a matter of rank hypocrisy.”

But, pressed further on the race question, Ms Massiah admitted that “race would be a factor of intolerance, just as would be the case with size and sexual orientation.”

Caribbean Ministers accuse Western countries at IWC meeting of

'Intolerance, Disrespect and Economic Terrorism'

Continued from page 5

Hypocritical - For her part, the Grenada Minister, Ms Charles, said: "Race should not be ruled out, because when poor Black countries are treated in this way, it is hard not to see it as having to do with race."

Asked to respond to the insistence by the Western countries that Caribbean countries should not support a resumption of commercial whaling, Ms Charles said: "I take great umbrage to being told what to eat."

She said it was "hypocritical" of the United States, for example, "to insist that the Caribbean should stop supporting whaling when, despite their opposition to whaling, they demand a quota of North Atlantic Grey whales -- which are more threatened than other species -- for their indigenous Native American tribes in Washington and Alaska."

Disrespectful - "Disrespect is the word," said Saint Kitts and Nevis Fisheries Minister of Housing, Agriculture, Fisheries and Consumer Affairs, Cedric Liburd.

He explained: "Our countries were under Britain for many years as colonies. But now, as independent states, we have to band together to survive. Now that we are uniting on issues of mutual

interest, however, we are being accused of being bought by Japan."

The Kittitian Fisheries Minister explained that he and his fellow Caribbean colleagues "came together in March, three months ago, to discuss a joint approach to the IWC meeting."

"It was back then," he further explained, "that we decided to jointly present the Declaration of Saint Kitts and Nevis to the conference and seek its endorsement by the other IWC member-states."

Liburd said he found the Western states "disrespectful" of the Caribbean states, "because while they accuse us of taking aid from Japan to support whaling, we also get aid from the USA, the United Kingdom, Canada and others who accuse us."

Double standards - Saint Lucia's Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Ignatius Jean, also concurred, saying the countries that attacked the Caribbean and other small states at the IWC were "being emotional."

Asked whether the Western states offered any aid to the islands to help the whale watching industries, he said: "None at all. They offer no aid for whale watching."

"Our countries are inundated with calls and letters, insisting that we change our positions. Nothing is said, however, about

pollution or the risk of pollution through transshipment of toxic substances through Caribbean waters."

"They continue to pollute our Caribbean waters, but they refuse to do so much that they can do to help the world's poor in developing countries. They are clearly showing their double standards," said the minister.

"Science should prevail at the IWC, but they are letting their emotions run away with them," he added.

Jean also quoted a former Saint Lucia IWC Commissioner, Dr Edsel Edmunds -- a scientist who was also the island's Ambassador to the UN, the OAS and the USA -- who said that "science must prevail at the IWC and it should not be endangered."

According to Jean: "We must respect the diversity of cultures. Sustainability and sustainable development is a new science that the world must respect."

Threats - Asked to respond to a threat by the UK's Environment Minister, Ben Bradshaw, that "there can be a backlash by British consumers" if the islands don't cease their support for whaling and embrace whale watching, the ministers said they were not afraid, but they didn't take such threats lightly.

"Those are the usual threats," said Jean.

"We have heard these threats before, but

we will not cower. We know where we are going and we are not afraid of threats of reprisals."

Economic terrorism - For her part, the Antigua and Barbuda minister saw the threat of a tourism boycott as "economic terrorism."

"If you threaten to cut off our tourism lifeline and banish us to economic oblivion, just because we don't agree with you, it is terrorism -- economic terrorism."

The Saint Kitts and Nevis minister agreed with his Antigua and Barbuda counterpart, but said the islands would not be scared into changing their positions "just because of pressure."

According to Liburd: "We know pressure. We are accustomed to pressure. But we are committed to our goals and we will not be distracted or derailed."

Strength in unity - Liburd also pointed out that "there is strength in unity."

He explained: "We in the Caribbean have as many as fifteen votes at all international fora -- from the United Nations to the OAS to the Commonwealth -- and these votes are important at all."

He said the Caribbean collectively proposed and backed the Declaration of Saint Kitts and Nevis urging a return to the original mandate of the IWC "because we know it's the right thing to do."

The Declaration was adopted by the IWC commissioners on Sunday (June 18) by a majority of one vote.

Saint Lucia Rejects "Back Door" Attempt to Impose French Sanctuary in OECS Waters

Saint Lucia's Fisheries Minister, Ignatius Jean, has condemned an effort by France -- with backing from a Martinique-based non-governmental organisation (NGO) -- to impose a marine mammal sanctuary in disputed waters shared between its Caribbean colonies and neighbouring independent English-speaking states.

Robin Des Bois, a French observer delegate at the International Whaling Commission (IWC) indicated last month that France "will officially launch its project to create a sanctuary for marine mammals in the French Antilles and their adjacent Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ)."

In a Press Release dated May 29, 2006 which was circulated at the 58th annual conference of the IWC taking place here, Des Bois said the project "will be committed to France's Plan of Action for Oceans, as well as its National biodiversity Strategy, in line with previously established sanctuaries in the Mediterranean, New Caledonia and French Polynesia."

The matter was raised during the plenary on June 18, by Madeleine de la Grand Maison, one of the French delegates to the meeting.

"Back door attempt" - But the Saint Lucia Fisheries minister, who also has responsibility for Agriculture and Forestry, said France seemed to be seeking to impose the sanctuary, "through the back door," on unsuspecting neighbouring island states such as St. Lucia and Dominica, which share the same territorial waters as its Caribbean colonies.

"St. Lucia is one of the countries in the region with the most intimate historical relations with France," Jean told the IWC meeting, "but on the matter of a sanctuary, we part company."

He noted, "with regret," that "the matter has been discussed (by France) with non-government organisations (NGOs) around the region, but not with the independent neighbouring states that would be affected."

Blatant disregard - "This is a blatant disregard for the Governments and people of those states," Jean told the IWC plenary.

He pointed out that "at present, negotiations are under way at the highest political levels in the Organisation of East Caribbean States (OECS) and the Caribbean Community (Caricom) in an attempt to resolve several matters of delimitation, including the agreed EEZ between France and Saint Lucia."

Jean said the matter of maritime delimitation in the area for the proposed French sanctuary was "a delicate issue" which also included discussions between Caricom and Venezuela over the status of Aves Island (or Bird Island) which is being claimed by both Venezuela and Dominica.

"Until there is a resolution of these outstanding issues," the St. Lucia minister pointed out, "no sanctuary can be established by France in those disputed waters."

He also indicated that the IWC "does not have the competence to undertake any decision or determination on the establishment of a sanctuary in the Eastern Caribbean."

Surreptitious - Saint Lucia and Dominica are wary that France's bidding is being undertaken surreptitiously by a Martinique-based NGO known to be antagonistic to those OECS and Caricom member-states which support Japan's pro-sustainable use stance at the IWC.

Called the Eastern Caribbean Coalition for Environmental Awareness (ECCEA), it also claims to be active in the OECS with representative "branches" at a private residence in Dominica and a newspaper office in Grenada.

The Chief Executive Officer of the ECCEA is Leslie Suttty, said to be a British national now residing in Martinique, who is better known for her annual campaigns against the OECS member-states that receive fisheries assistance from Japan.

Representatives of the OECS territories involved say Suttty has insultingly accused

them of being "client states" of Japan that "sell their votes" and "compromise their sovereignty in return for aid."

Implications - Suttty and Des Bois acknowledged -- in their joint press release of May 29 -- that the French proposal "has both geopolitical and geographical implications, as the sanctuary is situated between island nations that support whaling, the Commonwealth of Dominica and Saint Lucia."

They also claimed that "Other states, such as Montserrat, Barbados and the Virgin Islands, may eventually adhere to the French initiative..."

But opponents of the move point out that while Barbados is an independent state, Montserrat is a British colony in the Caribbean, while the Virgin Islands are colonies of both Britain and the USA in the region.

Suttty and Des Bois say that "adhesion by island states such as Dominica and Saint Lucia" to the proposed French sanctuary "is highly desirable."

But the Saint Lucia minister says "much more is involved" and he views the proposed initiative with "a certain degree of suspicion."

Problems - According to Jean, there were problems between France's colonies and their neighbours that first had to be addressed.

"Our biggest problem in our fisheries in the region and Saint Lucia is with illegal fishing and poaching by fishermen from our neighbouring French territories," he told the IWC meeting.

"They have mismanaged their marine resources in the French Islands and now they are engaging in rampant poaching of our Queen conch, lobsters and other delicacies," he explained.

Masked intentions - Jean accused France and the ECCEA of engaging in "the typical political strategy of appearing to be doing something for the environment and using the protection of whales as a mask for their real and hidden intentions."

"However," he continued, "no attempt is being made by France and their NGO

allies to mitigate the risk of pollution of the Caribbean Sea by the transshipment of nuclear waste through our waters."

"If France wants to establish a sanctuary in their EEZ, then this is their prerogative," the minister said, "but we will not support it without a conclusion to the outstanding issues affecting the boundary delimitation for Eastern Caribbean states."

New colonialism - "We have fought hard for our political independence and we will not entertain any new form of colonialism," Jean declared.

He said Saint Lucia was "giving notice, at this 58th IWC meeting, as we celebrate 25 years of the Treaty of Basseterre which established the OECS, that our sovereign rights must be respected."

"We simply cannot and will not support this proposal for an extension of the French sanctuary into our waters, until and unless there is appropriate consultation and the interests of the affected neighbouring states are adequately addressed."

Passion vs suspicion - Referring to the passion with which the proposal was being presented by Des Bois and the ECCEA activists in the name of France, the Saint Lucia Fisheries Minister said he hoped "that there will be equal passion for treating this matter politically."

Suttty and Des Bois claim that France's decision to extend the sanctuary into the disputed waters "strengthens the initial proposal of the ECCEA" and promised to help get support for the French proposal at the national and international levels.

They said other partners in the French project also include the French Regional Direction of the Environment (DIREN) and the Regional Councils of the French Antilles

But the representatives of Saint Lucia and Dominica insist that their governments will continue to view the proposal with suspicion and will not entertain it until and unless there is direct discussion and negotiation between France and the independent states concerned.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS TRAINED

ADDRESS BY SENATOR THE HON. CALIXTE GEORGE, MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS AND INTERNAL SECURITY AT THE GRADUATION CEREMONY FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS (EMT's) JUNE 20, 2006

Ladies and Gentlemen, Today marks a significant milestone in the history of the Fire and Emergency Services Department. This Department assumed responsibility for the Ambulance service in 1976 and commenced its first Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Programme in 1992. Today provides the opportunity to celebrate the recently integrated partnership established between the Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security and the Ministry of Health. The collaboration which exists between these two Ministries is certainly a step in the right direction as the task of Emergency Medical Services could not be the sole responsibility of the Fire Department. In fact this ought not to be seen as a responsibility of the two Ministries only, but that of the Government and people of St. Lucia.

To date 40 persons have completed training as first responders. This represents the basic level of training in the EMT programme. Twenty of these persons will be certified as Emergency Medical Technicians (Basic/or EMT B) which is the second level of this four tiered training Module. In addition, eight persons who have been qualified as EMT's from a previous programme will now be certified as instructors.

This training experience will undoubtedly lead to the realization of the Mission Statement of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security as follows:

"To ensure the protection, safety and security of our Society through the provision of effective, efficient and professional Policing, Immigration, Fire and Emergency Services as well as the safety and rehabilitation of persons committed to our care through the utilization of a cadre of competent, management, technical and administrative staff"

Recent statistics on violence and injuries coupled with demographics (i.e. a population of approximately 160,000 with 7.2% of the population over 65 years) point to the growing importance for EMS. My Ministry is indeed thankful to the Cricket World Cup (CWC) preparations which have acted as a catalyst towards the development of a comprehensive EMS programme. When finalized, this plan is to entail: The creation of an EMT stream within the organisational structure of the department; The licencing of EMTs; The development of a special code of conduct for EMTs; A Community Volunteer Programme; The recognition of EMT's as Health Care Professionals; The provision of an up to date Communications network; The replacement of the obsolete ambulance fleet; The installation of up to date equipment in all ambulances; The development of legislation to support EMS; The identification and implementation of a special regulatory regime for EMS.; Continuous training and retraining.

The growing demand for EMS is reflected in the 8143 ambulance calls recorded for the year 2005. This data translates into approximately 22 calls per day. Most accidents, injuries and emergencies occur away from a hospital. The initial care at the scene as well as the continuation of that care during transportation to the hospital is crucial. Training as well as the acquisition and



Hon. Senator Calixte George



The trainers Bill and Gloria Gibbs



Some of the trained EMT's

maintainance of appliances and equipment are mandatory towards the quality care which is expected from EMT. I am therefore pleased to announce that the 2006/2007 budget makes provision for the replacement of five (5) ambulances as well as the acquisition of ambulance supplies.

But the provision of training, equipment and supplies though necessary is not sufficient. The management of those resources is of paramount importance. It was for this reason that a special session was held last week with the management of the Fire Services Department so that they would become sufficiently sensitized and to gain an understanding of their roles and responsibilities within the context of EMS.

To you Managers, prudence mandates the effective and efficient supervision of the newly qualified EMT's who are "ready to run" with their newly acquired knowledge and skills. In this regard therefore, you are to focus on the following:- The recognition of EMT's as advocates Information sharing, increased communication, revisiting your general management style; staff have identified the fact that a 1976 Management style is being implemented in 2006, the development of clear job descriptions, quality assurance/control, accountability at all levels and change management.

You ought to facilitate the above by becoming true agents of change as the change process unfolds. As a Fire Service and Emergency Department your mandate encompasses a tripod as follows: (1) Fire Suppression; (2) Fire Prevention; (3) EMS.

With EMS now being given the level of attention which it rightly deserves it is estimated that the lopsided tripod will gradually straighten out.

It would be remiss of me not to identify and commend the phenomenal contribution of the Ministry of Health in that regard, in particular the Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Stephen King and Dr. Lisa Charles, Head of Accident and Emergency.

Today's graduation exercise would not have been realized without Bill and Gloria Gibbs of Canada who have been the main resource persons in conducting the training exercises. The Government and people of St. Lucia are indeed thankful and appreciative of your contribution in taking us to a higher professional level with respect to EMS. I note also that Bill is a retired Fire Service Chief. It is therefore hoped that the relationship established will be sustained and deepened as we seek to further enhance the operations of the Fire and Emergency Services in general.

I did allude earlier to the fact that

EMS is to be seen as the general responsibility of the Government and People of St. Lucia. It is within this context therefore that I urge all communities to favourably consider their participation in the Volunteer Programme when this time comes.

Due to Capacity constraints within the Fire and Emergency Department the engagement of community volunteers and health workers as first respondents will be under consideration. I also look forward to the inclusion of the staff at Bordelais, the Police and Boys Training Centre within this programme. In fact the inclusion of the entire Public and Private Sectors can be considered on a phased basis.

To you our graduants the expectation from you is nothing less than quality service. Every patient is a client. Go out there and show case that level of service which they truly deserve. Our expectations of you remain high. Be the advocates and the quality care givers that you are expected to be.

Today symbolizes the closing of one chapter in your lives whilst simultaneously opening a new one. The challenges with which you will be faced are diverse. Always remember however, that success is measured not merely by the position that was attained in life but also by the obstacles which one has overcome while trying to succeed.

Learn to utilize your new found career towards mutually achieving your own personal objectives as well as that of the Emergency Services. Each one of you is endowed with special talents which can be channeled towards the achievement of your goals. Remember that talent is inherent but character has to be built as a result of human relationships and takes time to mature. As you progress in the service that you have chosen you will discover that attitudes towards fellow citizens will count significantly towards building confidence in the you, the department and by extension Government. In the course of your career you will be faced with many criticisms. Learn to gracefully accept constructive criticism and to utilize it towards the improvement of your status.

Go out therefore and be the best that you can be. I thank you.

CWC 2007: Community Teams Workshop and School Visits

The Local Organising Committee for the ICC Cricket World Cup 2007 is continuing its Public Education drive with a workshop and the launching of a school's programme. The LOC has organised a One-Day Workshop for Community Local Action Teams, Community Development Officers and Towns & Village Councils on Saturday 24th June 2006 at the Cara Suites Hotel from 9.00 am.

The objectives of the Workshop are to: Evaluate and review the status of the Local Action Teams;

Provide a forum for the Local Action Teams to discuss issues and obtain feedback from Key Stakeholders; Clarify the roles of the Local Action Teams in the Special Events Calendar of the LOC ; Foster greater collaboration and networking among stakeholders in the preparation for the ICC Cricket World Cup and create greater awareness of the legacy benefits of the ICC Cricket World Cup 2007

The workshop will also be attended by the CEO of the Local Organising Committee Mr. Ernest Hilaire and a representative of the Ministry of Social Transformation, Culture and Local Government.

Meanwhile, the Local Organising



Mello meeting some students at the Vigie Airport

Committee's last week launched another aspect of its Public Education Programme, a schools' programme. The LOC has begun a series of visits to schools in order to sensitise children on the up coming ICC Cricket World Cup 2007 and to encourage their involvement in the sport of cricket. Each school visit is expected to last 45 minutes and children will be introduced to the Mascot Mello.

Last week Event Manager, Ms. Oc-

tina Emmanuel, who is conducting the visits, spoke at the following schools: Fond Assau Primary; Babonneau Primary; La Guerre Primary; Bougis Primary and Des Barras primary. On Monday 19th June from 9.00 am she was at : Babonneau Secondary; Balata Primary; Dame Pearllette lousy Primary and the Corinth Secondary. Ms Emmanuel has described the response from the school children as enthusiastic.



Mr. Ernest Hilaire
CEO Local Organising Committee

ECUMENICAL SERVICE MARKS OECS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

OECS citizens have been encouraged to take credit for their development over the last 25 years. Director of the Division of OECS Economic Affairs Randolph Cato says the achievements of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States are many, and these milestones have become models used by many jurisdictions around the world, including the European Union.

Mr. Cato spoke on OECS Day, Sunday at an Ecumenical Service held to mark the 25th Anniversary of the sub-regional grouping and the start of OECS week. The first multi-national judicial system involving sovereign countries—in the OECS, the first multi-central bank in the world, executing autonomous monetary policy for sovereign states

buttress by a shared currency—in the OECS. The pharmaceutical procurement System that has become a world model with efforts to replicate it in part of the world—in the OECS.

He also mentioned as a first for the world, the formation, by the OECS, of the Eastern Caribbean Telecommunication Regulations Authority ECTEL and the OECS Aviation Regulatory and Management system.

Mr. Cato says the nine countries of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States should not be contented with these current achievements, but should strive for even deeper integration. It is a view which was echoed by Pastor Emmanuel Mc Larren of the Bethel Tabernacle who delivered the message at the service held at the Castries Cathedral.

Pastor Mc Larren called on sub-regional leaders to embrace the idea of a better church and state collaboration.

"If we can strive after all values of forming the community we can achieve one social space. And here I mean one mind-set and value system that promotes equality, personal and collective prosperity. I speak of a social oneness removing every barrier, ethnicity, prejudice—small island calling each other small island with unfounded arrogance."

OECS head of Government on Wednesday this week returned to the birth place of the OECS—Basseterre St. Kitts, where a new treaty of economic union was presented. A OECS flag was also unveiled for the first time as part of activities to mark the 25th anniversary.

New Carifesta Model Launched

Under the theme Celebrating Our People: Contesting the World Stage, a new model for the staging of the Ninth Caribbean Festival of Arts (CARIFESTA IX) was unveiled on Monday 12 June in Trinidad and Tobago, host country of the largest cultural festival of the Caribbean.

The new CARIFESTA, which was approved by CARICOM Heads of Government in 2004 at the Twenty Fourth Meeting of The Conference held in Grenada, takes place from 22 September-1 October. It is envisioned as an avenue to showcase Caribbean art and culture, giving impetus to developing the arts, and facilitating and encouraging artistic and intellectual exchange within the Region. The new CARIFESTA is also considered an event that will accrue trade and

economic benefits to the Region.

Over the course of ten days, CARIFESTA IX will feature performances by over 1200 artists representing at least 30 countries from the English, French and Dutch-speaking Caribbean, along with Latin America, which have signaled their intention to participate.

Signal events in which distinguished individuals or groups (Master Artists) from the artistic Caribbean Community will be invited to present their work, as well as a CARIFESTA Calypso Competition are also earmarked as new elements of the Festival. This feature of the festival has come in for praise from Dr. Earl Lovelace, celebrated Caribbean author and Artistic Director of CARIFESTA IX, who believes it "can give unconditional acceptance of our people and celebrate the monumental contribution they have made in art and culture".

In outlining other artistic avenues of CARIFESTA IX, at its recent launch, Festival Director, Ms. Joy Caesar noted that artistic displays by various arts groups including the performing, literary, culinary and visual arts will be on show. In addition, a grand cultural market and trade fair are also expected to be major components of the event.

CARIFESTA is a project of the Regional Cultural Committee, the advisory body to the Ministers of Culture of CARICOM and is currently supervised by the CARICOM Secretariat and implemented by the Host Country Management Committee of CARIFESTA IX. This is the third time that the twin-island Republic will be hosting CARIFESTA, having previously staged the cultural extravaganza in 1992 and 1995.



THIS WEEK ON NTN

Sat. June 24th to Fri. June 30th, 2006

NTN – PROVIDING

INFORMATION YOU NEED

25 years after its inception, what has the OECS achieved and what does the future hold for the organization? - Sat. June 24th, 11:00 a.m.

The Spelling Bee Competition: Find out which school won - Sun. June 25th, 11:30 a.m.

A young St. Lucian author describes his experience as a budding writer - Mon. June 26th – 6:15 p.m.

Every year the Ministry of Education organises the schools' Maths & Science Fair: Discover exciting projects – Tues. June 27th, 7:10 p.m.

OAS Lecture Series: Revealing & Informative - "Challenges Facing the Caribbean and Latin America" - Wed. June 28th, 9:00 p.m.

The FRC discusses preservation of historical materials and black music research by an American institution – Thurs. June 29th, 8:00 p.m.

Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony addresses the SLBC's 5th Annual General Meeting – Fri. June 30th, 7:10 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