



NATIONWIDE

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LET'S USE OUR POWER TO CHANGE FOR THE BETTER

MESSAGE BY PRIME MINISTER
DR KENNY D. ANTHONY
TO MARK THE
27TH ANNIVERSARY OF
SAINT LUCIA'S INDEPENDENCE
22 FEBRUARY 2006

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

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daily
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25 Honoured In Indepedence Day National Awards

Her Excellency the Governor General, Dame Pearlette Louisy, has announced the names of twenty five St. Lucians who have been honoured in this year's Independence Day Awards. The list of persons named to the Order of Saint Lucia is headed by a former civil servant, educator and government minister, Dr. Leton Thomas, who received the Saint Lucia Cross. The full list of those honoured is as follows.

ORDER OF SAINT LUCIA

The Saint Lucia Cross (SLC) - Dr. Leon Felix Thomas (For distinguished and outstanding national service in the fields of Education and Public Administration).

The Saint Lucia Medal of Honour (Gold) SLMH - Luther Renaldo François (For long and meritorious service in the field of music); Most Reverend Gabriel Malzaire (For dedicated service to the growth of the Church in Saint Lucia).

The Saint Lucia Medal of Merit (Gold) SLMM - Miss Lawrence Martha Priscillia Laurent (For long and meritorious service in the fields of Education and the Arts); Dr. Susan Margaret King (For long and meritorious service in the field of medicine).

The Saint Lucia Medal of Merit (Silver) SLMM - Miss Felicia McFarlane (For long and meritorious service in the field of Education) Mrs. Clarissa Dwarkasingh (For long and meritorious service in the field of Agriculture).

Les Pitons Medal (Gold) SLPM - Mrs. Gertrude St. Helene (For long and meritorious contribution in the Public Service); Mrs. Eleanor Grant-Collymore (For long and meritorious contribution in the Health Service).

Les Pitons Medal (Silver) SLPM - Ms. Mary Clara Edwards (For long and meritorious Community Service) Mrs. Mary Yvette Nathaniel (For long and meritorious service in the field of Education); Mrs. Lucy St. Cyr (For long

and meritorious Community Service).
Les Pitons Medal (Bronze) SLPM - Miss Theresa Howell (For long and meritorious Community Service); Mr. Frankie Gustave (For long and meritorious Community Service).

THE PUBLIC SERVICE LONG SERVICE AWARD

Her Excellency the Governor-General has been pleased to award the Public Service Long Service Award in respect of Independence Day, 2006 to the following persons:

St. Lucia Teaching Service - Mr. Jones JN Baptiste.

St. Lucia Public Service - Mrs. Shela Charlemagne; Miss Joan Georgiana Dolcy Charles.

Royal Saint Lucia Police Force - Assistant Superintendent David Pierre; Corporal Augustin Mathurin.

Saint Lucia Air & Sea Ports Authority - Corporal Raymond Henry Biscette; Constable Samuel Eugene.



Mr. Leton Thomas

Saint Lucia Fire & Emergency Services - Miss Gloria Mathurine Cyril; Hayden Charles

Bordelais Correctional Facility - Mrs. Patricia Volney; Bertram Fontenelle.

SCENES FROM INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS



P. M. Dr. Kenny Anthony about to embrace former P. M Sir John Compton at Independence Day Ecumenical Service.



Singers at the Ecumenical Service



Students at the Independence Day Youth Rally



International Community Congratulates Saint Lucia

The Government and People of St. Lucia have received messages of congratulations from the international community as the country celebrates its 27th anniversary of independence from Britain. Among the messages was one from His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI to her Excellency the Governor General, who said; “I pray that Almighty God will bestow abundant blessing on the people of St. Lucia and sustain the efforts of all who strive to promote the well- being of the country through integrity, social justice and solidarity.”

The Prime Minister of St. Kitts and Nevis, in his message to the Prime Minister

ister Kenny D. Anthony, also congratulated him on his tenure in office, saying “The achievements which St. Lucia has been progressively making under your good governance reflect that the confidence entrusted in you nine years ago at the polls has not been betrayed. Nonetheless, on a wider gamut they also embody regional accomplishments which echo the interests of the CSME... May you and the people of St. Lucia continue to work in collaboration as we endeavour to make our region a CSME compliant one.”

Among the countries sending messages were, the Republic of Korea, Spain, Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, the United States and Venezuela.

Message from Australia

The Government and People of St. Lucia have received a 27th Independence Anniversary congratulatory message from the Prime Minister and the Government and People of Australia.

In a message to Prime Minister Dr. Kenny D. Anthony, Australian Prime Minister John Howard expressed his “warmest wishes, together with those of the Australian Government and People” on the occasion of St. Lucia’s celebration of 27 years of Independence.

According to Prime Minister Howard: “Australia and St. Lucian enjoy warm and friendly relations underpinned by our shared membership of the Common-

wealth and sporting linkages.”

“We look forward to the further strengthening of the bilateral ties between our countries in the coming year,” said the Australian leader.

Despite their distance from each other, St. Lucian and Australian – both of which are islands have maintained excellent diplomatic relations since St. Lucia became independent in 1979.

The two countries both belong to the British Commonwealth, of which the Queen of England is the Head of State.

Australia’s interests in the region are represented by a High Commissioner, John Mitchell, who is based at the Australian High Commission in Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago.

LET US USE OUR POWER TO CHANGE FOR THE BETTER

Message by Prime Minister Dr Kenny D. Anthony to mark the 27th Anniversary of St. Lucia's Independence 22 February 2006

Twenty-seven years of anything, by any measure, is a milestone. By the yardstick of anniversaries, it is more than a Silver Jubilee. But by the measuring tape of history, it is but a short space in time.

Our 27th anniversary of Independence is, like every other, a time for the usual reflection and projection. But this year, as we take steps at home and abroad that will decide much about our future as a nation, we must also focus on what is that makes us proud citizens of St. Lucia and examine the potential locked in the collective power that we have as a people.

We have chosen as our theme this year "C'est peyi nou. Pouvwah se sa nou!" For the many St. Lucians who still have to grapple with our indigenous language, this means "It's our country. The power is ours!"

It is not for nothing that we have chosen to select a theme this year to be acclaimed in the Kweyol language. If anything, we wish to highlight the continuing importance of recognizing the place and role our native tongue plays in our history and our development. Indeed, the St. Lucian nationality is incomplete without at least an understanding of the native tongue.

It is not for nothing that our Mother Tongue was elevated to the status of having equal recognition to the official language we inherited from the Mother Country. People can hardly miss the sense of pride and satisfaction displayed by the sons and daughters of St. Lucia every time our Governor General delivers the annual Throne Speech in Kweyol. It is an affirmation of the fact that when it comes to our language that was once frowned upon and suppressed, we today give it the reverence it deserves.

Yes, St. Lucia is our country. And the power is ours to do what we have to, to take it to the next stage.

Our first 25 years have seen us forge for ourselves a place among the nations. Our Nobel Laureates have placed us on a pedestal that is as much a pinnacle of achievement as our Pitons are twin peaks of world beauty and environmental heritage. Our bi-lingual and multi-cultural heritage adds to our diversity, but also makes us unique.

Indeed, we are special.

But even while we are special, we are also citizens of the universe, of the wider world – a world that is increasingly becoming a global village.

We are no longer tied to the apron strings of our former colonial masters. We are today masters of our own destiny. But we are also the bearers of the historic responsibility of shaping the destiny of our young nation.

Where others are celebrating the growth of civilizations, we are deciding who the St. Lucians of tomorrow will be. Yet, even as we shape our fu-



Prime Minister Dr. Kenny D. Anthony

ture, we cannot do so in isolation from what's happening around us.

The changes in the regional Caribbean landscape and the fast-moving developments in the wider world all have their impact on what we do. The dawn of a new Caribbean is being forced by the realities of the new global dispensation. The inequality of global trade is increasingly influencing how well we survive, or if at all.

But the challenges also bring with them the opportunities we must take. They offer the opportunity to unlock that power of potential that resides in each and every one of us.

As we observe our 27th anniversary of Independence, it behoves us to remain true to our objective of setting the pace and establishing the foundation of generations to come.

How we approach the problems and challenges of today will decide what our future will be. The tasks we face may be monumental, but there is no mountain too high for us to climb, just as there is no valley too low for us to cross.

As we celebrate our 27th year as an independent nation, we do so as we face challenges that will determine our place in history. Our challenges are many, but definitely not too much. We have overcome difficulties in the past and we can in the future.

Here's hoping that we are all willing to face the challenges and accept our responsibilities as we lay claim to our country and the power that we have, as a people, to make a difference for our country and for our children, today and for tomorrow.

"C'est p[eyi] nous; Pouvwah se sa nous!" This is our country and the power is ours. Let's use that power to change for the better – always!



P.M Dr. Kenny Anthony meets students at the Independence Day Ecumenical Service

Government Invests Heavily in Sports Infrastructure

Address by the Minister of Education, Youth and Sports, Hon. Mario Michel at the 2006 National Sports Awards Ceremony



Hon. Mario Michel

It is with mixed feelings of sadness and satisfaction that I take to the podium for the ninth successive year to address a National Sports Awards Ceremony.

The sadness derives from the knowledge that this is likely to be the last occasion when I address a National Sports Awards Ceremony as the Minister with responsibility for Sports in St. Lucia and from the fact too that I have not accomplished all that I would have liked to in the course of my tenure as Minister for Sports.

The satisfaction though derives from the several significant achievements which have been realized during the nine years that I have had the honour and pleasure to serve as Minister for Sports in the Government of my country.

The achievements include the following: (1) The elevation of the portfolio of sports from its previously obscure status to that of a full-fledged Department of Government, along with youth, led by its own Permanent Secretary.

(2) The restructuring and reorganization of the St. Lucia National Lottery to enable it to play a more significant role in the funding of sports in St. Lucia, which led to the Lottery becoming the principal financier of the Beausejour Cricket Ground.

(3) The construction of several new playing fields and the upgrade of several others from Gros Islet in the north to Vieux Fort in the south.

(4) The construction of several new multi purpose courts and the improvement of several others all around St. Lucia.

(5) The realization of a long-held dream

of generations of sporting enthusiasts in St. Lucia, namely, the establishment of a modern state-of-the-art National Stadium catering to the sports of football and track and field.

(6) The construction of the best cricket facility in the Caribbean at this time – the Beausejour Cricket Ground.

(7) The successful bid by St. Lucia to host the prestigious Blue Group of the Cricket World Cup 2007.

(8) The facilitation and support of private sector entities in the construction of the only 18-hole golf course in the Eastern Caribbean and the only 25 metre swimming pool and aquatic centre in the sub region .

(9) The promulgation of a national sports policy and a national policy on physical education and school sports.

(10) The recent amendment to the Income Tax Act to enable corporate sponsors of sports to benefit from special tax concessions.

The cost of the improvements made to the sporting infrastructure in these nine years – not including the privately-owned facilities like the Golf Course and the Aquatic Centre – is well over ONE HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS. Add to this the FIFTY SIX MILLION DOLLARS which government is expending on St. Lucia's preparation for Cricket World Cup 2007, about half of which will be used to improve the Beausejour Cricket Ground and four other playing fields in St. Lucia, and one can see the extent of the investment by government in sporting infrastructure in this country over a period of less than a decade, and one can understand why

I feel a sense of satisfaction over what has been and is being accomplished under my watch as Minister for Sports in St. Lucia.

Of course, when one adds to these improvements to the sporting infrastructure, the sporting achievements during this period of people like Darren Sammy, Nadine George, Dominic Johnson, Lavern Spencer, Julian Felix, Michelle Rogers and several others, then one can appreciate why I feel a special sense of pride and honour about the coincidence of my tenure as Minister for Sports with all of these wonderful things happening in sports in St. Lucia.

In terms of the sporting year 2005 in particular, the performance of our sportsmen and sportswomen is a mixed bag of ups and downs.

On the down side, our seemingly invincible male volleyball team lost the OECS championship for only the second time in the twenty years since the inauguration of the championship in 1986, ending up third behind St. Kitts and St. Martin. Then too the previously active and successful sports like bodybuilding, darts, cycling and shooting almost did not take place in St. Lucia in 2005; while the sport of basketball – which is being played by almost every St. Lucian male under forty years old and over five feet tall – had no national tournament last year, nor did St. Lucia participate in any regional tournament, except of course for the school's basketball team selected by the Department of Youth and Sports to represent St. Lucia in the Windward Islands Secondary School Games. Also on the down side was St. Lucia's loss of the Windward Islands Secondary School Games championship which we had won in the two previous years.

On the up side, there was Darren Sammy's performance in the regional one-day cricket tournament (the KFC Cup) in which he was adjudged the best all rounder, his selection on the West Indies A team which toured Sri Lanka last year and his selection on the West Indies one day team which participated in the Hong Kong Sixes Cricket Competition. Why Darren - after being adjudged the best all rounder in the regional one day tournament - was not selected on either the West Indies one day squad currently playing in New Zealand or the West Indies A team which will be engaging the English A team in five one day matches next month (including two in St. Lucia) still baffles me. Also on the up side was Dalton Polius's selection as a member of the Windward Islands Under 15 Cricket Team for the regional Under 15 tournament in Trinidad, his copping the man-of-the-match award in the Windward Islands' first three encounters in the tournament, his capturing of the most valuable player award for the Windward Islands in the tournament, his appointment as the captain of the Windward Islands Under

15 team, his selection on the West Indies Under 15 All Star Team and his selection as well on the Windward Islands Under 19 Team while still aged 14. It was a great year for Dalton Polius, but one in which he somehow failed to impress the National Cricket Association's adjudicators for the Youth Cricketer of the Year Award.

On the other side of the age divide, Verena Felicien continued in 2005 to bat, bowl and field outstandingly in local, regional and international women's cricket, representing the West Indies in the 2005 ICC Women's World Cup where she topped the bowling aggregate.

Then there were the high-flying successes of our two principal athletes in 2005 – female high jumper, Lavern Spencer, and male high jumper, Darvin Edwards – both of whom recorded heights in 2005 that no other St. Lucian high jumpers have ever recorded before. Darvin earned himself the No. 1 ranking in male high jump in the OECS for 2005 and silver medals at both the Carifta Games and the Pan American Games, while Lavern earned herself not only the No. 1 ranking in female high jump in the OECS for 2005, but also the No. 1 ranking in female high jump in Central America and the Caribbean for 2005, along with a gold medal at the CAC Championships. Young Tressa Ann Charles' shot putt exploits in 2005 were also worthy of note, setting new national records and medalling at the Carifta Games.

Then there were the performances of some of our other elite sportspersons in 2005, like the ever-green tennis ace, Vernon Lewis, and his junior protégé, Alberton Richelieu Jr.; our table tennis ace, Adrian Albert, who won every singles competition in which he participated in 2005, including the OECS Men's Singles Championship, and his female counterpart, Robertina Cyril, who not only won the OECS Ladies' Single Championship in 2005, but was also part of the winning team in the Ladies' Doubles and Ladies' Team Championships at the 2005 OECS Table Tennis Tournament; our Trinidad-based football goal-scoring machine, Earl "Ball Hog" Jean, who became in 2005 the first player ever to score one hundred goals in the Trinidad and Tobago Professional Football League; while Dedra Mathurin was in 2005 virtually the netball equivalent of Earl Jean, by displaying her goal scoring prowess in all of the netball competitions in which she participated last year; young Roxanne Snyder was also outstanding in the sport of netball in 2005; our young swimming sensations, Danielle Beaubrun and Christian Wayne, were outstanding in 2005, with Danielle becoming the first St. Lucian swimmer to win a silver medal at the Central American and Caribbean Swimming Championships, while also winning one gold and two silver medals at the Carifta Swimming Champi-

onship last year.

The sport of boxing was one of the big movers in 2005, with new boxing gyms being established and the sport being popularized both in the media and in schools and communities around St. Lucia. St. Lucian boxers also participated in three regional tournaments last year, including the Caribbean Amateur Boxing Championship in which St. Lucia won a total of four medals, comprising one silver and three bronze.

The St. Lucia swim team was consistent in 2005, again setting several new national records and winning the OECS Swimming Championship yet again, while also putting on their best ever performance at the Carifta Swimming Championships - winning two golds, seven silver and two bronze medals - and their best ever performance as well at the Central American and Caribbean Championships, where Danielle Beaubrun won St. Lucia's first silver medal and Christian Wayne became the first St. Lucian male swimmer to reach a final at this championship.

Our netballers were also at the top of their game last year, winning the OECS Under 23 Netball Tournament, the OECS Champion Club Tournament and the Helen of the West Championship – with the Elite netball team carrying the flag for St. Lucia in the two last-named competitions. Although the Netball Association had some problems last year, the girls did not appear to allow this to affect their performance on court.

Our tennis players were also at the top of their game in 2005, with Vernon Lewis winning the Independence Open, the BVI Open Singles and Doubles Championships and the OECS Singles and Mixed Doubles Championships, while Alberton Richelieu Jr. won both the St. Lucia Open and the Singles and Doubles Championships at the ITF Coca Cola Junior Tournament.

Our table tennis players also had a good run in 2005, winning five of the seven titles at the OECS Table Tennis Championships in St. Vincent last year.

The St. Lucia Rugby Football Union also had a good year in 2005, hosting the St. Lucia International Carnival 10's Tournament, which the St. Lucia team won, and participating in both the North American and West Indies Rugby Association Championship, in which St. Lucia reached the finals, and in the Rugby World Cup Qualifiers, in which St. Lucia beat St. Vincent but lost to Guyana.

I would not wish to end the catalogue of sporting successes in 2005 without mentioning the achievement of the Northern United Football Team of Gros Islet in reaching the semi finals of the CONCACAF Champion Clubs Tournament in 2005, becoming in the process the first St. Lucian football team to reach so close to the championship.

So 2005 had its fair share of highs, but a few lows as well, in terms of the performances of our local sportsmen and sportswomen and the improvements to our sporting infrastructure, and one can only hope that 2006 will be an even better year for local sports.

There will be lots of infrastructural improvements to sporting facilities in 2006, led of course by the undertakings of Cricket World Cup St. Lucia Inc, but including as well other undertakings of the Government of St. Lucia through the Department of Youth and Sports and the undertakings of two national sporting associations and one foreign government.

The undertakings of Cricket World Cup St. Lucia Inc will involve the upgrade of the Beausejour Cricket Ground, the Mindoo Phillip Park, the Gros Islet Playing Field, the La Fargue Playing Field and the Dennerly Cricket Field. The undertakings of the Department of Youth and Sports will include the continued construction and upgrading of playing fields and multi purpose courts around St. Lucia. The undertakings of the two national sporting associations involve the construction of the St. Lucia Football Association's football facility at Union, financed by FIFA on lands provided by Government, and the upgrading of the Beauchamp Cricket Field in Micoud using the ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND US DOLLARS provided to the National Cricket Association by Mr. Allen Stanford. The undertaking of the foreign government referred to is the Vigie Playing Field Rehabilitation Project.

This is the fourth consecutive Sports Awards Ceremony at which I have had occasion to speak of the Vigie Playing Field Rehabilitation Project. At the 2002 Sports Awards Ceremony held on Friday 15th, 2003 I first announced the intention to undertake this project with financing to be provided by a grouping of local and regional companies. At the 2003 Sports Awards Ceremony held on February 20th, 2004 I announced that the corporate sponsors of the project had reneged on their promise and that alternative sponsors would be sourced for the project. At last year's Sports Awards Ceremony on February 19th, 2005 I announced that the Venezuelan Government would be undertaking the project and that the Venezuelan Ambassador to St. Lucia had assured me that the project would commence as soon as a team of engineers from the Venezuelan army had completed an assignment which they were undertaking in Venezuela resulting from floods which had affected that country.

I certainly thought that by the time of this year's Sports Awards Ceremony I would have been announcing the completion of the Vigie Playing Field Rehabilitation Project and counting it as another of the achievements realized under my watch

as Minister for Sports. But that was not to be and the position now is that a team of twenty engineers from the Venezuelan army has been mobilized and will be traveling to St. Lucia in the course of the next few months and will spend a period of forty-five days in St. Lucia undertaking the project. This is the information conveyed to me by the Venezuelan Ambassador but, regrettably, she has not been able to indicate the precise date or month when the team will arrive in St. Lucia, only that it will be in the first half of this year.

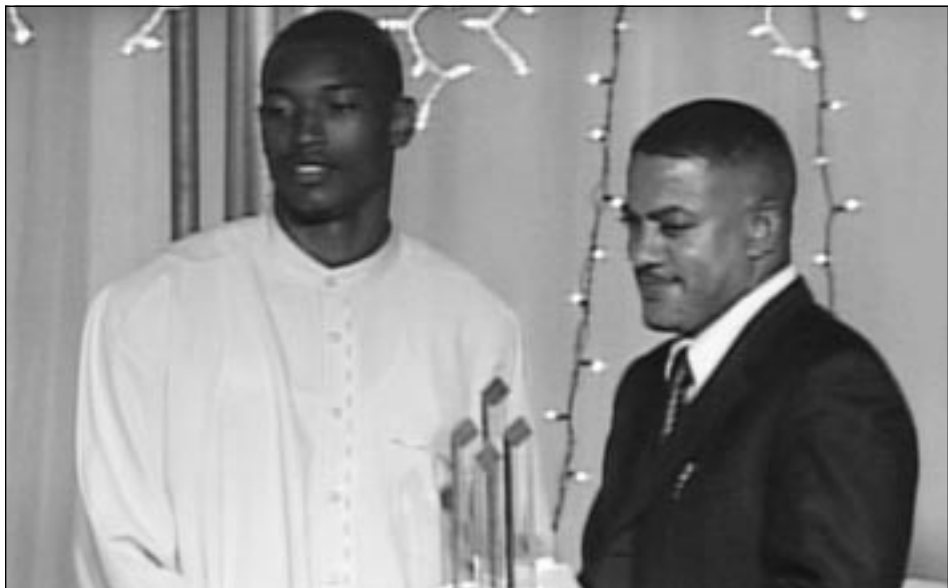
So, I want to assure Mr. Lawrence James of the Mirror Newspaper that the announcement which I made in 2005 was not a hoax and that the Venezuelan Government has not reneged on its promise and that he should feel free to speak to Her Excellency Ambassador Aponte about the position of her government relative to the Vigie Playing Field Rehabilitation Project. I feel confident though that I can rely on her assurances conveyed to both orally and in writing.

At this juncture it remains only for me to congratulate in advance the persons and organizations who and which will be receiving the various awards at this year's Na-

tional Sports Awards Ceremony; to thank all of the sports persons, coaches and administrators who contributed to our sporting successes and our sporting development, not just in 2005, but over the entire period of my tenure as Minister for Sports; to thank as well the corporate sponsors who contribute financially and in kind to sports and sportspersons in St. Lucia. My special thanks are extended to Her Excellency the Governor General, Dame Pearlette Louisy, who has maintained a one hundred per cent record of attendance at and patronage of the National Sports Awards – the sportsmen and sportswomen of this country appreciate and applaud both your presence and your patronage ever since your appointment as our country's Governor General. To the members of Cabinet and Parliament, the members of the diplomatic corps, the Permanent Secretaries and other Heads of Department, and all of our other invited guests, I thank you for joining us this evening to pay tribute to St. Lucia's sporting heroes for 2005. My thanks also to all of those listening to or viewing these proceedings, whether on site, on radio or on television. I thank you all.



Sportswoman of the Year - Laverne Spencer



Sportsman of the Year - Davin Edwards



The Beausejour Cricket Ground



Work on the Gros Islet Playing Field which is to be used as a practice venue for the 2007 ICC Cricket World Cup



Section of Guests at the 2006 National Sports Awards

Oecs Business Sectors Advised to Consolidate for CSME

The business sectors in the OECS member countries have been urged to enter into joint investments and mergers in order to maintain their viability and competitiveness in the Caricom Single Market and Economy (CSME). The call came from Economist Dr. Wayne Sandiford who recently delivered a lecture on the topic the “OECS and the CSME “in conjunction with the Ministry of Commerce, Investment and Consumer Affairs.

Dr. Sandiford, in his recommendations on how the OECS should approach the CSME, promoted the concept of economic convergence via both government and private sector initia-

tives. He emphasised there should be an intensified shift into joint investments, especially in areas like construction. .

“ By joint investment in the construction industry I mean for example you have a construction company in St. Vincent, you have a construction company in St. Lucia; there’s a project on which you have to bid but the resources of each individual construction company is insufficient to allow them to bid for this project and you have somebody from outside this country who has the resources that can do it, so there must that connection.”

Sandiford also suggested that graduates from the University of the West Indies who have entered into fields of

engineering should be among the first to explore the possibilities of business integration, having already formed relationships with each other while at school. Dr. Sandiford added that the tourism sector was another area for integration and investment.

“ I think what may be necessary in the context of OECS and its insurgence in the CSME is regional investment in tourism, hotels of course, and the development of natural and historical

sites, tours and what have you. An area that should be examined and is worth is examining is investment in shipping or sea transportation I should say. Shipping plus passenger movement.”

Dr. Sandiford who is also a published author of books on the banana industry, Value Added Tax (VAT) and most recently the OECS Economic Union emphasised the the need for the private sector to move away from traditional family-type businesses.

RSS EXERCISES IN SAINT LUCIA

The Regional Security System- an organization grouping the paramilitary forces of the OECS and Barbados and which is headquartered in Barbados- held training exercises in St. Lucia this week. The forces were based on the grounds of the Scouts headquarters at Massade in Gros Islet and began their training on Monday.

The RSS conducted a number of exercises covering among other

things, counter drug operations and drills related to the security aspects of St. Lucia’s hosting of the Cricket World Cup in 2007. Two of the drills involved mass casualty scenarios – a bombing incident on a bus and a hostage taking affair.

The exercises closed on Saturday with a march by RSS troops in the city of Castries. Meanwhile the RSS Security Chiefs held a Council meeting here on Thursday.

CARICOM WELCOMES NEW HAITIAN PRESIDENT



Mr. Rene Preval
new President of Haiti

The Caribbean Community has welcomed the election of Rene Preval as the new President of Haiti. In a statement by the

Caricom Secretariat in Georgetown on Saturday 18th February said that the news of Mr. Preval’s election had brought an end to the uncertainty which had surrounded the outcome of the Presidential elections after allegations had been made of manipulation and grave irregularities in the vote counting process.

The statement went on to say that Caricom had “also received an official communication from the Interim Prime Minister of Haiti informing of the election of Mr. Preval. CARICOM wishes to congratulate Mr. René Preval and the people of Haiti.

CARICOM Heads of Government at their Seventeenth Inter-Sessional Meeting held in Trinidad and Tobago on 9-10 February, 2006, indicated the Community’s willingness to welcome the return of Haiti to its Councils, on the basis of the electoral process having been certified as “free, fair and credible” by the groups monitoring the

elections, including CARICOM’s own Elections Observation Mission.

The voting which took place on 7 February benefited from a high level of popular participation and an absence of political violence. It was generally seen as being free. For the process to be also fair and credible, however, there had to be transparency and rigour in the vote count to ensure that the results reflected the will of the electorate.

CARICOM is of the view that it is in the interest of all Haitians to respect the outcome of the Presidential elections, in keeping with the norms of the democratic process. The Community also calls on all involved in the ongoing electoral process to do everything necessary to enhance and preserve its credibility.

The preservation of the integrity of the electoral process is of paramount importance for the legitimacy of the government, the future stability of the country and the development of the Haitian society.

Caricom/ Japan Agree On Further Cooperation

The Caribbean Community and Japan have agreed to hold consultations to examine how Caricom countries can benefit from a new development initiative announced by the Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi prior to the Sixth WTO Meeting in Hong Kong in December 2005. The agreement came at the end of the Eleventh Japan Caricom Consultation which took place in Tokyo 16 -17th February. In a communique issued at the end of the Tokyo talks, the two sides noted that the Japanese Prime Minister’s New Development Initiative for Trade “ could be utilized by Caricom States for concrete projects of interest to smaller economies.” Japan and Caricom will therefore meet to identify project proposals that could be implemented under the initiative.

Caribbean Marine Association Formally Launched With Saint Lucian At Helm

A St. Lucian, Kitts Compton, has been elected to head the Caribbean Maritime Association which has been formally inaugurated in Trinidad and Tobago. The launching of the Association took place on 10th February at a meeting of the original founding members of the CMA hosted by the Yacht Services Association of Trinidad and Tobago(YSATT).

Many Islands, One Sea is the fundamental idea behind the Caribbean Marine Association (CMA) which will present the Caribbean region as the premier destination for Yachting. The CMA will combine each island’s unique selling points to give the Caribbean a greater share of the Yachting Industry in the global marketplace. The World Bank recognizes that the contribution to GDP from Yachting is not as high as it could be, but will grow significantly once certain measures are adopted.

The initiative to establish the CMA came from the Yacht Services Association of Trinidad & Tobago (YSATT). Together with the Antigua and Barbuda Marine As-

sociation (ABMA), the Marine and Yachting Association of Grenada (MAYAG), and the Marine Industries Association of St. Lucia (MIASL), and with assistance from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the group obtained a significant grant from the EU funding agency PROINVEST in mid-2004 to finance the setup of the CMA. In February 2005, an initial meeting was held amongst regional private and public sector stakeholders in the Yachting Industry to conceptualise and establish the CMA.

This subsequent meeting focused on the adoption of the Constitution, the election of the Board of Directors, the prioritization of the workplan and the appointment of the Secretariat of the CMA. The Board comprises: Keats Compton (St. Lucia) – President; Sam Welch (BVI) – Vice president; Donald Stollmeyer (Trinidad and Tobago) – Treasurer/Secretary; George Clarke (Antigua) – Director and Justin Evans (Grenada) – Director. The Board of Directors represents a wide cross-section of the Caribbean and each country offers a unique area of expertise to

the CMA. The Secretariat will be located in Trinidad & Tobago.

The main objective of the CMA will be to promote and protect the interests of the recreational marine industry throughout the Caribbean region. This will include: increasing awareness of the industry, harmonization of legal and regulatory frameworks, protecting the marine environment, enhancing visitor safety and fostering harmonious cooperation between member countries and their governments.

Immediate plans for the CMA include: a comprehensive marketing and promotional plan to increase awareness of the Caribbean as the premier cruising destination; a membership drive to establish a strong network of national marine associations and related businesses to further develop the industry. There are three categories of membership: Full Members, comprising national marine associations; Associate Members, comprising regional corporations and national companies and Honorary members. Thirty seven Caribbean countries are eligible at this initial stage for membership into the CMA.



Mr. Kitts Compton, President CMA

Anse La Raye CSME Road Show Successfull

The first CSME road show staged by the Ministry of Commerce, Investment and Consumer Affairs, to enhance the public awareness of the Caricom Single Market and Economy, has been hailed as a success. That first ROAD SHOW was held in the vil-lage of Anse La-Raye on Saturday, February 18, 2006 from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

According to the Ministry’s spokes-person Lisa Louis Phillip, crowd turn out and participation were feature’s of the Anse La Raye show’s success. “There was a great turn out and crowd participation was very good. The ROAD Show provided the opportunity for persons to have direct contact with trade officials and other Government officers who provided answers to their many questions and concerns about the CSME. In that regard, people of all ages were able to enhance their understanding of the CSME process. Of course, there were the expected chal-lenges of trying to win support for the CSME but the end result is that we were

able to encourage community dialogue and debate on the many impacts of the CSME.”

Present at the ROAD SHOW were the Deputy Permanent Secretary and CSME National Focal Point, Mr. Titus Preville, other trade officials from the Ministry and members of staff. A five member delegation headed by Mrs. Yvonne Holder from the CARICOM Secretariat was also present to witness and record the activity.

The Ministry of Commerce, Invest-ment and Consumer Affairs has em-barked on an island wide activity as part of the CSME National Public Ed-ucation Programme. The objective of the CSME ROAD SHOW is to enhance and strengthen the public’s education and awareness, in particular the ‘or-dinary layman’ about the importance, benefits, challenges and opportunities of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME). The CSME ROAD SHOW continues in Canaries on March 04th from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm, in Sou-friere on March 25th from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm and in Choiseul on April 08th from 9:00 am to 12 noon.

Heritage Tourism Programme Closes

A crucial component driving community based tourism ini-tiatives on the island has come to the end of its life span.

The Saint Lucia Heritage Tourism Programme reportedly came to a close at the end of December 2005. Assur-ances have been forthcoming that a new arrangement will soon be put in place to spearhead that aspect of the tourism in-dustry.

Programme Coordinator of the Saint Lucia Heritage Tourism Programme Mr. Nigel Mitchell said the initiative which has been impacting on economic activ-ity in many communities, will be taken to the next level of development in the near future.

“ While it may be too early to elab-orate on what comes next, we assure you that the commitment of the gov-ernment of Saint Lucia in supporting community based tourism initiatives is unwavering. The new financial year will see a different arrangement which takes the lessons we have learnt to-gether with best practices and inter-

prets them in a work programme which is capable of significantly enhancing the contribution of tourism to the na-tional economy.”

Mitchell was at the time addressing a recent ceremony in which the La Pointe Visitors’ and the Mandele Centres were both handed over to the Dennery Devel-opment Foundation..

Chairman of the Foundation Mr. Benedict James says the entity is made up of committed members of the com-munity who are ready for the challenge. “ Dennery has been given the respon-sibility to manage two facilities and I think it is a sign of the confidence that the Saint Lucia Heritage Tourism under its Coordinator Mr. Mitchell felt that we should be able to manage the facilities.”

The ceremony was addressed by Par-liamentary Representative for Dennery South Honourable Damian Greaves and Minister for Tourism Honourable Philip J. Pierre. Minister Pierre reiterated his commitment to ensuring the decentral-ization of the tourism activity from the north to other parts of the island.



Heritage Tourism Activities

VACANCY NOTICE

DEPUTY DIRECTOR, PUBLIC SECTOR REFORM – (INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & ELECTRONIC GOVERNMENT)

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for appointment to the post of Deputy Director, Public Sector Reform – (Information Technology & Electronic Government).

A. RELATIONSHIPS

The successful applicant will be required to report to and work under the direction of the Permanent Secretary.

B. DUTIES AND TASKS

The Director will manage the Public Sector Information Technology and Electronic Government Project, and will be responsible for the following:

Policy and Strategy: develop the policy and plan for the use of ICT within Government and provide a framework for programme management for im-plementation, to support the Government’s objectives for improved public service delivery and administrative efficiency.

Process Analysis and Process Reengineering: assist key Public Sector op-erations that have the potential to add value and directly impact on the level of citizen & business satisfaction with public sector services.

Innovation: provide technical advice to Government Agencies on innova-tive opportunities arising from new ICT to improve efficiency and to enhance national competitiveness.

Network Infrastructure: oversee the upgrade and rationalize the use of Lo-cal Area and Wide Area Networks, including: the implementation of a VOIP network; and implement and monitor standards for the secure transmission and storage of data.

ICT Finance: in partnership with the Ministry of Finance, monitor ICT projects and provide advice on major ICT related investment decisions.

Research: identify and communicate key technology trends, opportunities, threats and risks for Government and for the use of ICT for economic and social development.

Supplier Management: in partnership with the Ministry of Finance, man-age the relationship with suppliers to Government and conduct supplier analysis.

C.EVALUATION METHOD

Work Performance will be evaluated on the basis of:
Demonstrated policy making capabilities in the area of ICT and e-govern-ment for development;

Demonstrated technical skills and quality of advice and recommendations on ICT adoption and implementation;

Timely completion of reports and meeting of task deadlines, duties and as-signments.

D.SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITIES

A comprehensive knowledge of the structure of the Public Service and the machinery of Government’s administrative policies and procedures;

Ability to plan and organise work and prepare clear and concise reports’

Ability to set-up and configure LANs and WANS;

Ability to analyze issues, conduct research and recommend innovative ap-proaches to the integration of ICT in Public Administration.

E. QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

A University Degree in the area of Informtion Technology, including Network Engineering, Database Management and Systems Analysis. A Post-graduate degree and Business Process Analysis and Project Management Skills will be assets.

A minimum of five (5) years working experience. Plus, if which, at least four (4) years should be at middle management level.

F. REMUNERATION

The successful applicant will be employed on contract and will be paid a salary commensurate with his/her qualifications.

Applications along with certified copies of qualifications should be sub-mitted to:

The Secretary
Public Service Commission
Ground Floor,
Sir Stanislaus James Building
Castries Waterfront
SAINT LUCIA

To reach her no later than March 10th , 2006.

LIGHTS FOR THE BEAUSEJOUR CRICKET GROUND



A crane about to lift the lights into position

The lights which will allow the staging of cricket matches at night at the Beausejour Cricket Ground (BCG) were being installed at the cricket stadium this week. Sometime last year the BCG authorities had announced that lighting facilities would be added to Beausejour to permit the playing of night matches making St. Lucia, the first West Indian country to be able to do so. The lights are expected to be used for the first time next month for two one day internationals between West Indies A and England A on the 9th and 11th March but they will be tested first at practice games early next week. The installation of the lights is part of the process of upgrading the Beausejour Cricket Ground for the hosting of matches in the ICC 2007 Cricket World Cup.

ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP SAINT LUCIA CALLS THE NATION TO ACTION

A performance by the renowned Trinidadian Calypsonian superstar David Rudder will be the highlight of events when the ICC Cricket World Cup Saint Lucia Inc. stages what it has termed “THE NATIONAL CALL TO ACTION” on Sunday 26th February 2006 at Pigeon Island National Landmark from 3.00 p.m. The event was conceived by the Local Organizing Committee (LOC), as part of its Public Education activities and Mobilization efforts.

It will provide the public with in-

formation on some of the critical issues related to the hosting of the ICC Cricket World Cup by St. Lucia and the other West Indian countries starting in February 2007. The focus will be Ambush Marketing, Accommodation, Ticketing, Licensing and Merchandising and Volunteerism.

A cast of entertainers, headed by the legendary David Rudder, will complement the information segment of the event. Rudder’s calypso, “Rally Round the West Indies” is now used as the official anthem of West Indies cricket. Local calypsonians, Wally the 2005 Calypso King, Invader, Nicole

David are also on the bill along with singer Sally Elwin, and the masters of local stage comedy, Che Campeche. The back up band is Spectacle.

This will be the first major public event to be hosted by ICC Cricket World Cup Saint Lucia Inc as it prepares for the World Cup. According to the company, “the successful hosting of the ICC Cricket World Cup 2007 can only be achieved through the involvement of Saint Lucia as a nation” so its National Call to Action is structured to disseminate information and sensitize the public on all the different aspects of hosting the Cup.



THIS WEEK ON NTN

Sat. Feb. 18th to Fri. Feb. 24th, 2006
NTN – PROVIDING INFORMATION YOU NEED

The GIS discusses Ambush Marketing & Other Legal Issues Pertinent to Cricket World Cup 2007 -Reorganizing Agricultural Sites

Feb. 18th, 11:00 a.m.

Sports Talk – The GIS discusses the upcoming National Sports Awards - Sun. Feb. 19th, 11:00 a.m.

Junior Panorama 2006 – Mon. Feb. 20th, 8:30 p.m.

Nobel Laureate Week Lecture 2006 -Tues. Feb. 21st, 7:30 p.m.

Learn more about your laureates

– Wed. Feb. 22nd, 6:30 p.m.

The GIS discusses a programme teaching abstinence from sexual activity undertaken by some schools in St. Lucia Thurs. Feb. 23rd – 8:00 p.m.

Developman Lanng Kweyol-la Part 1-Thurs. Feb. 23rd – 9:00 p.m.

Developman Lanng Kweyol-la Part 2 – Fri. Feb. 24th, 9:00 p.m.

Remember to tune in for: GIS News Breaks and Kweyol News daily from 6:30 p.m.

Issues & Answers/Mondays at 8:00pm:

Interview/Tuesdays at 6:15pm :

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

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

Take 2/Fridays at 6:15pm (Week in Review)

Weflechi/Fridays at 6:40pm - (Week in Review—Kweyol)

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

www.stlucia.gov.lc

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

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