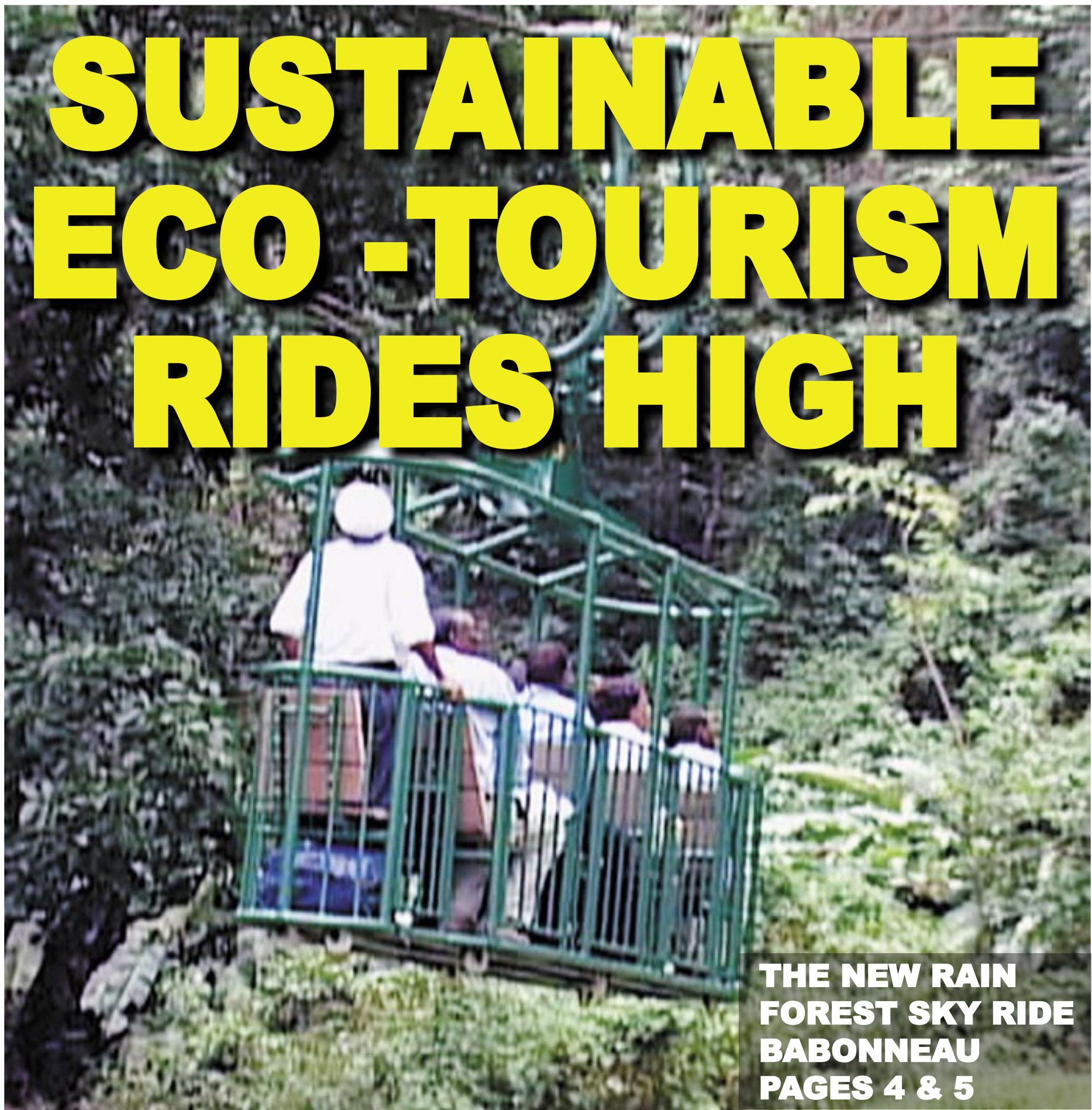




# NATIONWIDE

A publication of the Department of Information Services



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BABONNEAU  
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# WIBDECO Gives Back To Banana Farmers

**T**he Board of Directors of the Windward Islands Banana Development and Exporting Company Limited (WIBDECO), meeting in St. Lucia on Wednesday, March 8, 2006, approved a package of assistance to banana growers in the Windward Islands.

The Board is pleased to announce that the sum of EC\$5.1 million will be made available to assist banana growers during 2006.

The assistance package, which was recommended by management, is aimed at boosting banana production, particularly of Fairtrade bananas, to meet growing market demand for that

product. The package comprises of two components:

(a) EC\$1.350 million in subsidy on cost of inputs. WIBDECO will subsidise the cost of fertilizer by 80% until this amount is exhausted. Receipt of this fertilizer will be linked to participation by the grower in a Production Management Efficiency Programme.

(b) EC\$3.789 million in subsidy on cost of Leafspot control. WIBDECO will meet the full operating cost of aerial spraying by helicopter and subsidise the cost of fungicides and spray oil by 50%. WIBDECO will purchase the helicopter and manage the spray-

ing operations in the four islands. Until the programme is in place, WIBDECO will contribute EC\$1.5 per lb towards the cost of Leafspot control, effective Load Week 11. This means that the deductions made from the payments to banana growers by the local banana companies for Leafspot control should be reduced by that amount.

The Directors are also pleased to announce the payment of dividend to shareholders amounting to EC\$4.725 million. However, most of the dividend will be set against recent advances to the shareholder companies and other debts due from them to the WIBDECO.



Boxing Wibdeco Bananas

## Government Approves Funds For Diabetes And Hypertension Pilot Project

**T**he Government of St. Lucia has approved the funding for the Pilot UHC Pharmaceutical Project for the treatment of Diabetes and Hypertension. The Pilot Project is expected to cost approximately EC\$3.1 million.

The overall purpose of the Pilot Project is to create means to address the effective treatment of persons with Diabetes and Hypertension for improved health.

In a presentation to Cabinet on Monday, Ms. Emma Hippolyte,

UHC Chairperson and Ms. Dawn Byng, UHC General Manager, pointed out to ministers: "Based on the present level of consumption of medication to treat diabetes and hypertension, it is obvious that there is tremendous "undertreatment" of these diseases and so it is not surprising that these diseases are accounting for such a significant burden of disease in Saint Lucia."

The Pilot Project will be used as a test drive for the introduction of UHC. This means that the national formulary will be brought on stream, national

clinic protocols for the treatment of diabetes and hypertension will be implemented; and health personnel will be trained.

Previously the government had announced that only persons 60 years and older would be treated but under the new plan, all St. Lucians suffering from diabetes and hypertension will now be treated. Diabetes is one of the main causes of mortality and morbidity and is the leading cause of death in St. Lucia. Hypertension is the fourth leading cause of deaths. It is estimated that

there are 8000 persons with diabetes in Saint Lucia and 20,000 persons with hypertension.

According to local health officials, the earlier a patient is diagnosed and treated for diabetes and hypertension, the better it is to manage and prevent further medical complications.

The Pilot Project aims to successfully treat 70% of the population. At present, barely 20% of the population of persons with diabetes and hypertension receive the treatment they need.

## GOVT SAYS: STAR REPORT IS FALSE

**T**he Government of Saint Lucia says a claim by Castries Central MP-designate Richard Frederick that a St. Lucian national who formerly worked at the VIP Lounge at Hewanorra International Airport is currently employed in the Consulate General of Saint Lucia in Martinique is totally false.

The claim was made in an article in the March 13, 2006 issue of the Star newspaper, which quoted Mr Frederick as saying, in part:

"Cocaine was intercepted in the United Kingdom. It is established that it went through the VIP lounge at Hewanorra International Airport. When they questioned the woman she said that if they do her anything she would talk. You know what they did? She is now in Martinique working with the St. Lucian Consulate Cass Elias. Is that transparency?"

The Government of St. Lucia wishes to categorically state that the lady concerned has never been employed and is not employed at the Saint Lucia Consulate General in Martinique.

This has also been confirmed publicly here by Saint Lucia's Consul General in Martinique Mr Cass Elias, and it can also be confirmed by the lady in question, who currently resides in Martinique.

The Government of Saint Lucia once again calls on those media houses



**Mr Cass Elias**  
Consul General in Martinique

engaged in repetition and reproduction of fallacies and false allegations to check their facts before proceeding to impugn the character of persons considered unable to come to their own self-defence.

## Water Resource Management Agency Coming

**T**he establishment of a Water Resource Management Agency is closer to becoming a reality with the staging of a consultation on draft regulations regarding water resource management on the island. The exercise which involved primary stakeholders of the agency's formulation came off at the Auberge Seraphine on Thursday

The formation of such an agency, to fall under the purview of the Ministry of Agriculture, is authorized under the New Water and Sewage Act. The Water Resource Management Regulations, when enacted, will ensure the agency is effective in terms of its work, which is to manage and help conserve the island's water resources. Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture Martin Satney further explained the agency's functions: "Primarily the activities involve the regulatory aspect of fresh water resources on the island, that is water within the rivers, streams, underground etc.-and anyone who be it a private operator, a service provider-such as WASCO for example will have to obtain an abstraction licence to get water from those streams and rivers."

He says these regulations will also

ensure the island's water resource remains in a pure state and that there is sufficient water available for present and future consumption. Satney said also that another important function of the Water Resource Management Agency will relate to the proper disposal of waste matter. "The agency will be responsible in controlling that and making sure that operators and businesses dispose of their waste, their effluence in a safe manner in the environment and there are penalties that will be levied against persons who do otherwise".

The formation of the Water Resource Management Agency forms part of an ongoing Water Reform Project and according to Permanent Secretary Satney, its establishment is expected to be the final phase in the water sector reform project, which will trigger new developments in the sector. "At the moment the project management Unit and the Government of St. Lucia are looking at the question of identifying potential private sector interest and private sector investors who may wish to invest in the provision of service of water and sewage services in St. Lucia and that is ongoing as we speak. So we hope that within this year this issue will be brought to closure."

# PM MEETS TRADE UNION FEDERATION

## AND ASSURES LEADERS

# LABOUR CODE WILL PASS DURING THIS PARLIAMENTARY TERM

**P**rime Minister Dr Kenny D. Anthony has assured the leadership of the recently-established St. Lucia Trade Union Federation that the long-awaited Labour Code will be passed during the current parliamentary term.

The members of the leadership of the St. Lucia Trade Union Federation paid a courtesy call on the Prime Minister on Friday, during which the umbrella trade union organisation and the leader of Government engaged in cordial discussions on issues affecting and concerning the island's workers and their trade unions.

Dr Anthony welcomed the establishment of the local umbrella body, indicating it was "a positive development in the interest of the workers and their

trade unions, as they will now be able to speak in one voice on national issues."

The Prime Minister took the opportunity to update the workers' representatives on the status of the Labour Code and assured them that "it will be enacted in this parliamentary term."

He explained that following a long period of review by the social partners which resulted in several approved amendments and changes, "the Attorney General's Department is now making the final review for submission to the Cabinet of Ministers."

Following the final drafting by the AG's Department, the PM said, "the document will again be shared with the social partners and finalised for parliamentary approval."

The St. Lucia Trade Union Federation was established in November 2005 and it represents all the trade unions on the island, except the National Workers Union.

The Federation's President is Mr Joseph Dosserie of the Civil Service Association and its Executive includes representatives of the St. Lucia Teachers Union and the Seamen and Waterfront General Workers Union.

Also attending the meeting with the Prime Minister on Friday were members of the St. Lucia Nurses Association and the St. Lucia Fire Service staff association.

The Federation's President, Mr Dosserie, says the meeting took place "in a relaxed atmosphere and a very cordial environment."



Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony

# CONTRACTORS WARNED NOT TO UNDER-PAY WORKERS

**T**he Labour Commissioner has warned contractors engaged on Government projects to ensure that labourers are paid no less than \$50 per day as required by the law. And he has invited workers being paid less not to hesitate to contact the Labour Department for immediate redress.

Labour Commissioner Mac Stephen Aubertin says his department was activated by a report from the Prime Minister of allegations he received that Chinese contractors on three Government projects were paying labourers between \$35 and \$40 per day.

According to Mr Aubertin, he was summoned by Prime Minister Dr Kenny D. Anthony, who requested that an immediate investigation be carried out by the Labour Department "to determine the veracity of the reports and to take whatever corrective measures were necessary."



Construction on the site of the Gros Islet Secondary School

The Labour Commissioner said the contractors identified were engaged in public contracts to construct the Gros Islet and Marigot schools, as well as the new psychiatric hospital on the Millennium Highway.

According to Mr Aubertin, he immediately assigned two Labour Officers to go directly to the sites to investigate the reports.

He said: "The investigating Labour Officers subsequently submitted a thorough report, in which they confirmed that the contractor engaged in the school projects paid labourers a minimum wage of \$45 per day, while the contractor on the psychiatric hospital site paid a minimum of \$40 per day."

The Labour Commissioner said he officially informed the offending contractors "that their rates were in breach of the Labour Clauses (Public Contracts) Ordinance No 20 of 1959" and he also "instructed that the rates should be increased to a minimum of \$50 per day."

Mr Aubertin says he further instructed his Labour Officers "to make regular visits to all three of the offending contract sites."

However, the Labour Commissioner is also calling on citizens -- and workers in particular -- to inform his department of any employer who, by his acts and/or omissions, violates our labour laws."

Mr Aubertin concluded: "I also want to inform all contractors engaged in public contracts that no labourer should be paid less than \$50 per day and that all other rates must not be less favourable than those established in the trade or industry in the district where the work is carried out."

The Prime Minister says he is "pleased with the outcome of the investigation and the measures instituted by the Labour Department to ensure that our workers are not paid any less than the law requires."

# Saint Lucia Hosts Second Meeting On Regional Sustainable Tourism Development

**T**ourism officials within the Caribbean this week gave considerable attention to the development of a Regional Sustainable Tourism Policy Framework, as they met in an inter sectoral planning workshop at the Cara Suites in Castries. That framework will enable participating countries to foster sustainable tourism strategies within the Caribbean basin.

The consultative process is expected to enhance the tourism policies of the participating Caribbean states and their eventual implementation and promote linkages within the region.

The major issues discussed included tourism standards and guidelines, trade in tourism services, environmental management and product development.

It is felt these issues have become topical as a result of the tourism boom experienced in most territories of the Caribbean hemisphere. The island's Minister for Tourism Honourable Philip J Pierre highlighted a familiar issue, which he said is not unique to St. Lucia.

"The resource and the experience must be preserved for the enjoyment by the visitor and the people who live in the countries. Here lies the the essence of sustainability and the need to strike a balance between use and abuse. In this regard, issues regarding the use of beaches forest reserves and beach access for the public become relevant, and it is the duty of planners to find a balance between competing forces and interests," Mr. Pierre said.

The Regional Sustainable Tourism Policy Framework is just one component of the eight million Euro-Caribbean Sustainable Tourism Development Programme, funded through the

European Union. It is being formulated with the help of the Caribbean Tourism Organization, the CTO.

Representative of St. Lucia's EDF-National Authorizing Office Yasmin Walcott highlighted a very important factor in ensuring the entire region is serviced through the framework being worked on.

"I would like to impress on this workshop that in our endeavours to enhance regional tourism policy development, CARIFORUM must not omit the other Caribbean territories in particular the French outermost regions of Martinique and Guadeloupe, said the EDF official.

It is the second time such a forum is being held. The first held in Barbados in December of 2005, covered issues of health, safety and security within the regional tourism industry as well as the issues of human resource development and information and technology.



Hon. Philip J. Pierre  
Minister for Commerce, Tourism,  
Investment and Consumer Affairs



# FASHIONING SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONNMENTAL TOURISM

## RAIN FOREST SKY RIDE: A DREAM FOR MANY The Founder The Technocrats

The St. Lucia launch of the aerial tram is the continuation of a dream by company President Joaquim Von der Goltz which began some 11 years ago. Mr. Von der Goltz had the vision of opening up the rain forest to allow the public the opportunity to view the flora and fauna in the most unobtrusive manner.

Mr. Van der Goltz feels that the trams would also enable citizens to heighten their awareness to the importance of the need to develop conservation of this important natural resource.

To date the company operates two similar aerial tram rides in Costa Rica and one in Dominica which was launched in October 2003. St. Lucia's is the fourth in the continuing venture.

The Chief Operating Officer of Rainforest Aerial Trams – Caribbean Operations Herena Cao feels that the local branch of the company will be a double advantage to the island. In the first phase, Rainforest Sky Rides plans to employ about 80 St. Lucians on a permanent basis in addition to others contracted in various fields such as security services, art and crafts exhibits, food concessions and the construction crew.

Ms. Cao explains that the majority of these workers will come from the Babonneau area. "Rainforest Sky Rides is a good corporate neighbour. We respect people and the community in general. Wherever we set up business we see to it that we provide employment for residents; we train them and give them work. We believe that it is our duty to contribute to the overall development of the community and in Babonneau it will be no different."

Towards this end, sports enthusiasts in Babonneau will benefit directly form the company's generosity. In order to be able to use the Fond Assau playing field to construct the tram's cable towers, Rain Forest Sky Rides will give back to the community by fully rehabilitating the Fond Assau playing field for the full use of players in the area.

The Parliamentary Representative for Babonneau, Hon. Felix Finisterre has disclosed that the idea of a rain forest sky ride in St. Lucia had been a long held dream of his dating back to his days in heritage tourism. Speaking at the official opening ceremony of Rain Forest Sky Ride, an aerial tram system at Chassin, Babonneau, Mr. Finisterre said that while he worked in Heritage Tourism in the 1990's he and the late Desmond Skeete, the then Chairman of the St. Lucia Tourist board, had conceived of a rain forest sky ride for St. Lucia as part of a list of tourism development projects. At the time, they had identified the Millet area around the Roseau Dam as the site of the ride. However they were unable to identify funding for the project. He was therefore greatly and pleasantly surprised two years ago when the investors along with the Chief Forestry officer, Brain James, came forward with the project idea for Chassin.

According to Mr. Finsiterre, once a study of the project had convinced him of its value and he realised that funding was indeed available, he gave it his full support and received the cooperation and assistance of a number of other government agencies and private individuals to bring it to fruition. He cited the following: The Attorney General's office and the law firm of Peter Foster for putting together in very quick time the legal documents for the project; the Forestry Department which ensured that the project could be done in the most environmentally compliant way and that the interests of the state and the forestry department were safeguarded; the youth of Babonneau who agreed to allow the Fond Assau Playing Field to be used as a staging post to construct the project; the Toussaint family of Babonneau, in particular, Michael Patterson Toussaint, who made available land adjacent to the rain forest for the project, without which the project could not have been realized; the Cabinet of Ministers who had the foresight to drag a rural area into the mainstream of tourism development.

### A GREAT DAY FOR BABONNEAU

The official launching of the Rain Forest Sky Ride at Chassin, Babonneau on Tuesday, has been described as a great day for the people and community of Babonneau. Parliamentary Representative for the area, Felix Finisterre expressed this sentiment as he delivered the welcome remarks at the opening ceremony. Addressing the people of Babonneau, he said: "This is a great day for us. This is a facility that puts us in the economic mainstream, exposes us to the world. It is up to us in the neighbouring communities to organize ourselves so that we could optimize the benefits to our community. The operators of the Sky Ride are very community oriented; we know that they have been very consultative and they have opened up the project to the entire community. They also have other ideas on how to make the community part of this initiative."



Parliamentary Representative for Babonneau Hon. Felix Finisterre

The recent rapid growth of the tourist industry in St. Lucia which has led it to become the island's major foreign exchange earner is exerting an ever growing pressure on Government to ensure that there is sustainable use of the island's natural physical resources for the tourist industry. In other words, it is the responsibility of Government to ensure that the island's finite natural resources are not abused in the name of

tourism but that the right balance is struck between their commercial use and the preservation of the country's heritage.

The Government's involvement in two events this week show that not only is it seized of the challenge but it is also rising to meet it. First on Tuesday, government ministers and officials participated in the official opening ceremony of Rain Forest Sky Rides - an aerial tram system that will present in



View of one of the trams



Government Ministers and other guests embarking on inaugural rides at the opening ceremony

### ADDRESS BY HON. PHILIP J. PIERRE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE, TOURISM, INVESTMENT AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS TO 2ND REGIONAL SUSTAINABLE TOURISM POLICY DEVELOPMENT INTER-SECTORAL PLANNING WORKSHOP AT CARA SUITES MARCH 21, 2006

Let me welcome you to Simply Beautiful St. Lucia and invite you to not only talk tourism, but find time to experience tourism by visiting and exploring our country.

This workshop is timely as tourism is becoming the mainstay of the economies of the islands of the region. In most islands, it is the highest earner of foreign exchange and makes a substantial contribution to the Gross Domestic Product and employment levels in the economy. As is the case in other export industries, tourism does not make any physical exports, but provides an experience and use of resources that are not finite. This means that the resource and experience must be preserved for enjoyment by the visitor and for the people who live in the country. Here lies the essence of sustainability and the need to strike a balance between use and abuse. In this regard, issues regarding the use of beaches, forest reserves, and beach access become relevant and it is the duty of planners to find a balance between the competing forces and interest.

In St. Lucia, these issues have become topical as we are presently experiencing a boom in hotel construction and other tourism

related investments. The Government of St. Lucia maintains its position that all beaches must be available for public use and public beach access is mandatory. Sustainable use of resources is possible and later today, I will be attending a ceremony where a rain forest tram ride will be inaugurated - the developers working with forestry officials fashioned a development that will provide a educational, breath-taking and pleasurable experience to visitors and locals, but at the same time, allow for the rain forest to remain in pristine condition.

To my mind, sustainability relates not only to matters of environmental but to the philosophy of how the economic benefits from tourism are shared among the various sectors in the country. The economic history of the region speaks volumes on dual economic structure, structural deficiencies, leakages from the system and the ability to retain and use in the local economic earnings derived from exports. World tourism growth, as with other economic sectors is dominated by mergers, strategic alliances and vertical integration. What this means in many case is the marginalisation of small and medium sized operators. As planners, your task must be to formulate

depth aerial viewing of the island's biggest rain forest at Chassin, Babonneau. The Rain Forest Sky Ride Park covers 1250 acres of land leased from the government of St. Lucia and one care of private land. It The aerial trams will allow vistiors to virtually fly through the Forest , viewing the sub - canopy (middle part of the forest) and the upper canopy (tree tops).

Secondly, on that same Tuesday, Tourism Minister Phillip J Pierre deliv-

ered an address at the opening of a workshop on Regional Sustainable Tourism Planning Policy Development held in St. Lucia in which he outlined the St. Lucia Government's position on the use of the country's natural resources for tourism. In the following pages, St. Lucia Naionwide features the speeches and highlights from these two events indicating how Government is fashioning sustainable environmental tourism.



Some of the staff of Rain Forest Sky Rides at the opening ceremony



Tourism Minister - Philip J. Pierre

practical, workable policies that will allow for balanced growth and development in all economic sectors and development of adequate linkages between sectors. This is not easy as all sides seek to derive maximum benefits.

Many have postulated that tourism development has not seen a comparable development in agriculture, even if the need to feed our visitors is apparent. The agricultural sector accuses the tourism sector of selfishness and a reluctance to buy local produce at a reasonable price and with fair trade practices. The hotel sector on the other hand, complains of reliability and consistency and quality, poor value for money, translating to low profits and poor returns on investments. The real situation must be in between these extremes. If tourism must be economically sustainable, measures must be taken to bridge the gap and way found to cause agriculture to play a more meaningful part n the development taking place in tourism.

The situation regarding small hotel properties is another case in point. As our visitor arrival rates rise, small properties

with little marketing resources must benefit from these increases and planners have the task of devising specific marketing and promotional tools that can be used by smaller properties. In St. Lucia I recently piloted a bill through Parliament that made incentives available to bed and breakfast accommodation that meet the required standards.

Balanced tourism planning is a necessary condition for the future economic growth of our region. We must not allow for the mistakes of past plantation economic models. These existed for as long because the resource did not, to such a large extent, relate to such a diverse number of people. We know the disastrous effect that crime, even if non-tourism related, can have on visitor perception. Visitor experience is what tourism is all about and that experience related not only to physical beauty but to the attitude of people. A people who do not believe that they are sharing in the benefits of tourism will not be friendly or hospitable and can cause unimaginable damage to the industry. We must, as planners and technocrats, devise ways and means to bridge that perceived divide between sectors. I wish you well in your deliberations.

## ON AGRICULTURE AND TOURISM: REMARKS BY GOVERNMENT MINISTERS AT THE OPENING OF THE RAIN FOREST SKY RIDES

### AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY MINISTER - IGNATIUS JEAN

We in Agriculture are said to be the custodians of the environment. Our Forestry Department is charged with the responsibility of managing the natural land based resources. The department's role and function cannot be understated since the resources that we manage are so vital to almost every sector in the society.

What we seek to do is to meet the socio-economic, cultural, spiritual, environmental needs of the populace through the provision of forest goods and services, in a manner that ensures their continued availability, through the conservation of soil, water, biodiversity, and biological resources management.

I crave your indulgence to evangelize today on the subject of biological diversity. Forests provide the most diverse sets of habitats for plants, animals and micro-organisms, holding the vast majority of the world's terrestrial species. This diversity is the fruit of evolution, but also reflects the combined influence of the physical environment and people.

The maintenance of ecosystems is crucial to the conservation of biological diversity well beyond their boundaries, and for the key role they play in global climate dynamics and bio-geochemical cycles. Forests provide ecological services and, at the same time, livelihoods or jobs for hundreds of millions of people worldwide and today, the people of Chassin.

It is with this reference to PEOPLE, that I take the opportunity to salute the men and women of our Forestry Department who work tirelessly to ensure the sustainability of this important natural resource. These are the people, from early foresters like the late Gabriel 'Coco' Charles, Brian James, to current era of Michael Andrew, Michael Bob, Dr. Christopher Cox, Donald Anthony and Cornelius Isaac and their team, who have been faithful to the cause of nature, and perhaps have saved many a forest which were under attack during the

"green gold rush".

Like the game of cricket, which is said to be a game of shifting fortunes and glorious uncertainties, the fortunes of our banana industry has shifted. This community of Chassin was once a major producer of bananas. Your drive to Tete Chemin today would never give you this impression. Many of those farm families have had to find alternative means of livelihoods.

This morning's activity is testimony to the effort of the Government of Saint Lucia to ensure the sustainability of the livelihoods of our rural people. This US\$5 million project is one such effort to offer alternatives to our people. It is testimony to our policy of forging the linkages between agriculture and tourism. First, our forest offers a new product to our visitors - a bird's eye view of the natural beauty of Saint Lucia, an opportunity to get a closer view of our Amazona versicolor (the St. Lucian Parrot), the Ferns, the Gomial, Lancens, Bois Canot, Bois Demas etc.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries initiated the concept of Eco-Tourism in St. Lucia through nature trail tours. Today, this product has grown and adopted by the private sector and the private sector has become a major competitor. Last year our revenue from Forest Trail tours was \$213,625. Now, this private sector project (Rain Forest Sky Rides) takes us from beneath the canopy to over the canopy.

This is a wonderful project that will facilitate our effort at promoting the concept of sustainable use of our terrestrial resources; will help foster environmental education.

I see new opportunities for our farmer, and the Chassin Community.

Congratulations to Rain Forest Sky Rides (St. Lucia) and to all the dedicated St. Lucian workers. Well done!

### TOURISM MINISTER - PHILIP J. PIERRE

The project speaks to my philosophical belief in the tourist industry. From 1997, we spoke to the sharing of benefits from tourism. We said that tourism could not remain an enclave industry; we said that we have to diversify the offerings that we give to our tourists; we said that we have to remove the Jazz festival from opening it in an enclave;

we had to deal with enhancing the product that we give to our tourists; we spoke to nature heritage, the development of waterfalls, development of communities. We said that the benefits of tourism had to accrue to as many people as possible. That journey began with the opening of waterfalls, it is manifested in this US \$5 million project.

### PRIME MINISTER - DR. KENNY D. ANTHONY

I am fearful sometimes when the link between agriculture and tourism is drawn. It is very important that we do not counter pose the two as if they are in opposition. It is important that we seek always to explore the synergies between tourism and agriculture. It must not be tourism and no agriculture. It must be tourism and agriculture and the links that we explore between the two. With the changes in the banana sector we have to search for alternatives. When we have products like this, the question is what opportunities do we provide

for the people who live here, who depend on farming. How can we integrate farming with this project? Some of it will have to do with the maintenance of the forest, some of it will have to do with ensuring that we provide the visitors to this site with products drawn from the land. If a restaurant is built here, it must provide food coming from the surrounding land; it must be local food. We have to link our agriculture with our tourism and search for these synergies and so provide alternative livelihoods for our people.



# As Rice Meets CARICOM Foreign Ministers CARICOM US AGREE TO ENHANCE RELATIONS

Meeting in Nassau, The Bahamas on 21-22 March 2006, Foreign Ministers of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), under the Chairmanship of Minister Fred Mitchell of The Bahamas, and the US Secretary of State, Dr. Condoleezza Rice, agreed to strengthen cooperation with a view to enhancing CARICOM-US relations.

The Ministers and the Secretary of State recognized the common democratic values and traditions that have historically linked the peoples of the United States and the Caribbean. They discussed such key issues as support for the democratically-elected Government of Haiti; CARICOM integration, including the establishment of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy and trade competitiveness; the link between development and democracy; security cooperation and disaster preparedness.

Secretary Rice welcomed CARICOM's decision to re-engage Haiti, and to provide assistance for its institutional development. Both parties agreed on the importance of the international community remaining engaged in Haiti over the long term, in order to promote stability and socio-economic progress.

The Ministers and the Secretary of State reviewed initiatives to promote regional economic reform and integration,

and underscored the importance of free trade as an engine of economic growth and development. They noted the significant progress made in restructuring the economies of the region through the creation of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy – a vital component of which is a regional Development Fund. They proposed a re-configured US-CARICOM Trade and Investment Council, as well as an early meeting of CARICOM Trade Ministers and the United States Trade Representative.

The parties discussed the important relationship between democracy and development; and agreed to enhance cooperation to strengthen the capacity of Governments of the region to continue to deliver the benefits of democracy to all their peoples.

The Ministers and the Secretary of State agreed to support regional efforts to enhance law enforcement and security cooperation, air safety and oversight and disaster preparedness. Both parties confirmed their intention to collaborate on an arrangement against the illicit trade in firearms.

The Secretary of State agreed that the United States will support the CARICOM preparations for the security of Cricket World Cup 2007, with particular focus on border security.

The Ministers and the Secretary of State welcomed the recent resolution



Dr. Condoleezza Rice  
US Secretary of State

of the US Congress to commemorate Caribbean American Heritage Month in June. The resolution is recognition of the deep and lasting human ties that bind the United States and the Caribbean.

The Ministers and the Secretary of State underscored the desirability of regular dialogue between the parties. They agreed to convene a Conference on the Caribbean at a mutually convenient time in 2007.

Ministers and the Secretary of State expressed their appreciation to the Government and people of The Bahamas for the excellent arrangements made for the holding of their meeting.

## Murdered Vincentian Broadcaster Laid To Rest

**“Unthinkable, unbelievable and unacceptable!” That’s how the head of the Methodist Church in the Eastern Caribbean has described the gruesome murder of the late Press Secretary and Personal Aide to Prime Minister Dr Ralph Gonsalves of St.Vincent and the Grenadines.**

Officiating at Wednesday’s funeral for the late Glenn Jackson, Reverend Victor Job, Superintendent of the Methodist Church in the sub-region said it was “a demonic tragedy.”

Addressing the thousands who gathered inside and outside the small Kingstown Methodist Church in the centre of the nation’s capital, Rev Job said: “While the anthropologists say that man is superior to the other animals because he can imagine his own death, no one could imagine dying like Glenn Jackson was killed.”

Jackson’s dead and naked body was found in the back of his parked vehicle near his home on March 6 with multiple stab wounds, but the pathologists said he died from a single bullet to the back of his head.

The Methodist minister took issue with those who said “it was the will of God” that he should die this way. He said: “Such is never God’s will, as He too suffered when His Son was crucified for our sins.”

Rev Job called on mourners and the entire Vincentian nation to “use this tragedy to begin a process of healing and change for the better.”

Also attending and addressing the funeral service was Prime Minister Gonsalves, who was visibly distraught as he recalled the life and times of his close friend. He promised that “the assassin or assassins will be caught and punished.”

Several members of Jackson’s family – his wife, his mother and step father, as well as professional and political colleagues addressed the funeral service, which lasted approximately three hours.

Following the funeral service, a massive carnival-like procession left the Kingstown Methodist Church and headed for the nearby cemetery, with thousands of mourners from all walks of life singing, chanting and dancing their way to the gravesite where the final remains of the nation’s best known broadcaster were laid to rest.

Prime Minister Gonsalves has indicated that a scholarship will be established in the name of the late broadcaster for students of journalism, so that Glenn Jackson’s legacy and example as a pioneer of talk radio on the island could be emulated.

Jackson was admired for his role as the talk show host who led the battle in St. Vincent and the Grenadines against the challenge to the Windward Islands Banana Industry by US companies in Latin America, as well as for his role in galavizing national support for removal of the telecommunications monopoly that eventually resulted in the introduction of cellular telephones in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Jackson was 44 when he was killed and he left to mourn his wife Susan and two children, Glendon and Ian.

## Air Jamaica’s Saint Lucia New York Radio Promo A Success



Air Jamaica landing in St. Lucia on resumption of the New York Service

A successful promotion on Z100, New York’s “number one hit music station”, has given Air Jamaica’s new non-stop service to St. Lucia a big boost in the marketplace. In February, Air Jamaica and Coco Resorts’ boutique hotels in the Rodney Bay area, offered free vacation packages to more than 100 lucky winners who experienced the wonders of the unspoiled Caribbean nation.

“The promotion was aimed to ensure that our Lovebird Service from JFK airport got off to a great start and it certainly did,” said Air Jamaica’s George deMercado, Miami-based senior sales and marketing executive.

Allen Chastanet, managing director of Coco Resorts, says that offering hotel rooms and airline seats in the marketing pact goes a long way in promoting the destination and the non-stop service to St. Lucia. “It was clearly a sacrifice for both of us, but in today’s competitive marketplace innovation and the creative use of resources are

key to developing new business,” said Chastanet, himself a former Air Jamaica executive.

Z100’s popular morning show was broadcast from the pool-side at Coco Resorts, where the island put on its best performance for the guests and the people they had left behind in freezing New York. The action reached fever pitch with a private party for the Z100 winners, featuring Barbados-born music sensation Rihanna, now a hit across America, and artiste Ray J, brother of pop singer Brandy and host of the Black Entertainment Television (BET) show, The BET.com Countdown. Local St. Lucian band “Impact” also wowed the guests.

The event drew Z100 radio fans and an equal number of mainly young St. Lucians, who came to get a preview of the talented Barbadian beauty and dancer before the St. Lucia Jazz festival, where she will appear in May.

Air Jamaica offers non-stop Lovebird A320 service from New York’s

JFK International Airport to the island of St. Lucia, three days a week.

JM092 operates on Sundays, Mondays and Thursdays, departing New York at 7:00 a.m. and arriving St. Lucia at 12:35 p.m. On the return leg, JM093 departs St. Lucia at 6:35 p.m. and arrives in New York at 10:15 p.m.

Air Jamaica provides more non-stop flights to Jamaica than any other carrier with more than 270 flights per week from Atlanta, Baltimore/Washington, Chicago, Ft. Lauderdale, Los Angeles, Miami, Newark, New York (JFK), Orlando, and Philadelphia in the U.S., Toronto, Canada and from London to Montego Bay and Kingston.

The airline also offers intra-regional service with flights between Jamaica and Bahamas, Barbados, Bonaire, Cuba, Curaçao, Grand Cayman, Grenada and St. Lucia. The airline’s code share agreement with Delta Airlines, its joint fare arrangements and compatible schedules with United, and other U.S. carriers, extends its access to more than 150 cities within the Continental U.S.

# PARTNERSHIP NEEDED FOR DISASTER PREVENTION AND MITIGATION

## WORLD METEOROLOGICAL DAY MESSAGE 2006

**F**ellow St. Lucians, Today, the people and government of St. Lucia join hands with the World Meteorological Organization and its 187-members world wide in the observance of World Meteorological Day 2006.

Since its establishment 56 years ago on March 23, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has played a highly distinctive and dominant role in the safety and welfare of humanity. National Meteorological and related Services, like our own local Met services, under the leadership of the WMO and within the framework of its programmes contribute significantly to: protecting life and property against natural disasters, safeguarding the environment; and enhancing the socio-economic well-being of societies in a range of areas including water resources, food security and transport.

It is in recognition of those contributions that the observance of WORLD METEOROLOGICAL DAY is extremely relevant to all of us.

The theme chosen this year is, 'Preventing and mitigating natural disasters'. This choice of theme is in recognition of the fact that: (1) 90 per cent of all natural disasters are related to weather, climate and water, and; (2) The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and National Meteorological and Hydrological Services play a crucial role in natural disaster prevention, preparedness and mitigation.

The WMO provides support for a number of programmes and initiatives that directly benefit local and regional efforts at preventing and mitigating natural disasters. These include:

- (1) Providing a global network for effective issuing of tropical cyclone early warnings.
- (2) The training of Meteorological personnel in hurricane and flood forecasting.
- (3) Support for the upgrading of the regional weather radars under the Caribbean Radar Project.
- (4) Support for the US State Department 'Third Border Initiative', which seeks to strengthen the capacity of regional Met Services in the areas of observations and communications relating to natural hazards.

It is an undisputable fact that natural disasters contribute to socio-economic decline. It is also a well-known fact that small island developing states such as ours are even extremely vulnerable to natural disasters and hazards and that their impact on our social and economic growth can be utterly devastating. The continuing struggle of our sister island Grenada, to recover from the destruction caused by Hurricane Ivan is a prime example.

We in St. Lucia have suffered serious damage from a number of natural hazards and disasters over the years.

You will recall:

- (1) The lives lost and destruction caused by the Ravine Poisson landslide some 60 years ago.
- (2) The catastrophic damage caused by the passage of Hurricane Allen in August 1980.
- (3) The extreme flooding produced by Tropical Storm Debby in Sep, 1994 and again by a tropical wave in October 1996.
- (4) The destruction of coastal infrastructure and the people displaced by the heavy seas generated by Hurricane Lenny in 1999.
- (5) The drop in agricultural production and the strain on our domestic water supply during the drought of 2001.
- (6) The Black Mallet, Boguis and Tapion landslips.

The socio-economic distress that resulted from those experiences must serve as lessons and impel us as a nation to develop effective strategies to prevent and mitigate against future events of a similar nature. In this regard, Government and my Ministry have supported and implemented a number of disaster prevention and mitigation measures:

- (1) We have strengthened the capacity of our Met Service by upgrading and strengthening the staffing structure as well as the provision of specialised equipment to ensure continuity of our Met services irrespective of weather conditions.
- (2) We continue to provide leadership and support to NEMO in the implementation of its programmes.
- (3) Flood mitigation works are ongoing in Castries and Anse la Raye.
- (4) Coastal protection works at the Dennerly Waterfront to mitigate the effect of heavy seas are also ongoing.
- (5) The drainage system in a number of areas especially along the island's road network is being upgraded.

The enormity and scope of disaster prevention and mitigation require a national effort. Government cannot do it alone. Businesses, NGOs and the public at large must form a strong partnership for effective prevention and mitigation of natural disasters. To this end they must engage in a number of good policies and best practices such as:

- (1) Planning ahead for natural disasters and supporting disaster management agencies and personnel.
- (2) Practicing and encouraging proper garbage disposal and environmental management
- (3) Promoting personal and institutional strengthening in areas related to natural disaster prevention and mitigation.
- (4) Following safe guidelines and codes in building homes and other structures.

The level of tropical cyclone activ-

ity during recent hurricane seasons and the severity of individual hurricanes necessitate a national wake-up call. The effects of global warming and climate change will most likely present a host of new challenges in the future. The 2004 Tsunami in the Pacific and Indian Oceans has also raised the question of our own vulnerability to those devastating naturally-occurring events. I therefore urge all of us to remain vigilant, committed and to be mindful of changing circumstances in our environment and to continue working hard toward the goal of effective disaster prevention and mitigation.

Finally I would like to join the Secretary-general of WMO in inviting our national authorities, communities, and non-governmental organizations, the private sector, the media and the public to play their part and to do all we can to



**Hon. Felix Finisterre**  
**Minister for Communications,**  
**Works, Transport and Public Utilities**

support of the Met services in the pursuit of a safe and better St. Lucia.

The government and people of St. Lucia salute the WMO on its 56th Anniversary and in the process we also wish to take our "Hats off" to the staff of our Meteorological Services for their excellent service to St. Lucia over the years.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

The Licensing Authority wishes to inform the public that as of April 1st 2006 the following procedure will become effective.

A change of ownership is required when a vehicle is sold or transferred to a new owner by the registered owner.

A motor vehicle owner who has sold his or her vehicle must notify the licensing authority in writing of having done so this notice must be accompanied by a copy of a picture id - preferably a driver's license.

A change of ownership transaction will not be carried out unless this notice has been received from the seller.

The public is also reminded that it is an offence if an application for a change of ownership is not done within seven days.

This procedure is supported by the Motor Vehicle & Road Traffic Act No. 10 of 2006, and is being implemented to help in safeguarding against fraudulent activities especially where stolen motor vehicles are concerned.

The licensing authority solicits the understanding and cooperation of the public.

Licensing Authority  
Ministry of Communications, Works, Transport &  
Public Utilities

March 16th 2006





**The new road to Beausejour Cricket Ground from the Gros Islet Highway under construction. This road will be critical to proper traffic management during CWC 2007.**

## CWC SAINT LUCIA TO TEST TRAFFIC/SECURITY SYSTEMS

**World Cup Cricket St. Lucia Incorporated will, over the next few weeks, be focusing on testing the traffic and security management systems to be implemented for the 2007 ICC Cricket World Cup. The May 10th Day/Night contest between the West Indies and Zimbabwe at the Beausejour Cricket Ground will provide a unique opportunity for this.**

For that match the system of vehicular passes for residents of Beausejour, Bonne-terre and Kaie Manje will be distributed. Communications Officer with World Cup Cricket St. Lucia Incorporated Jennifer

Gaston says in order for this to be accomplished a verification exercise will first have to be conducted in these areas. She explained that the passes will not be for everyone living in the area.

"The residence passes will not be for residents because you are living there, it will be more for vehicular passes. It is only residents who own vehicles who will be getting these passes. It is not a matter of my sister, my mother or my brother will be coming to visit that day and therefore we will need a vehicular pass for that person. No—it is only the resident who owns the vehicle who will be getting those passes."

She said that the security management systems will involve bomb checks, stop-offs and the use of the park and rides facility. Recognizing that these will have some impact on residents, she added that would continue to sensitize the communities involved on what they should know before the May 10th 2006 match between West Indies and Zimbabwe.

"There are lots of residents who don't own cars—they have to go to work they have go about their regular business; it is not everyone that is interested in cricket, and we have taken that into consideration. There are known shuttle buses that drive

through the Kaie Manje, that drive through the Beausejour area and we will verify that and issue them will the necessary security passes, so they can do their business in terms of regular transportation of regular residents.

Miss Gaston says a system analysis exercise which will follow the May 10th

## Cricket World Cup 2007 Tickets Available May 1st 2006

**N**ow that the ICC Cricket World Cup 2007 is less than a year away, acquiring tickets is undoubtedly the number one priority for cricket lovers. Just about every fan is counting on attending this prestigious sporting event being held throughout various territories in the Caribbean including Saint Lucia.

Like everything else, there are rules, regulations and guidelines for purchasing tickets to the games. Beginning May 1st 2006, patrons can apply for tickets online via the ICC Cricket World Cup West Indies 2007 website: [www.crick-etworldcup.com](http://www.crick-etworldcup.com) or at the official ticket centre located in each host country. The Local Organising Committee (LOC) is currently in the process of finalizing a designation location for the centre.

Applying for tickets will involve filling out an application form which must be completed and returned with payment to the Official Ticketing Centre. A confirmation of application will be issued to each customer in the form of a receipt keeping in mind that once an application has been submitted it cannot be cancelled.

Persons applying for tickets will have the option to pay either by cash, credit card, debit card, money order or bank draft. Credit cards will be the only accepted method of payment for online applications. Unsuccessful applicants will not have to worry as all moneys and payments will be refunded.

Each person will be allotted as many as four tickets per match for games here and abroad, but only two persons from the same address will be able to apply. Children under two years will be admitted free of charge provided they remain seated on the parent's lap.

When it comes to seating arrangements, your party will be seated together only if tickets are ordered on the same application form or from the same address, of course subject to published ticket limits. All match venues will be accessible to wheel-chairs users with seating locations for up to one companion.

Five types of tickets will be available: Single, Venue Combination Package, Follow-A-Path package, Tour and Travel packages available from Cricket Logistics 2007 and Hospitality packages which will be available from Cricket Hospitality 2007.

Singles tickets which refers to spectator seating areas as well as the party stand, entitles you to attended one game and are offered in different categories, while Combination Packages A will offer tickets for all matches played at a particular venue in the Group in all categories with Package B offering tickets for all matches including the semi-finals and finals.

There will be three phases in the ticketing programme, with phase one starting from May 1st to July 31st 2006 for persons applying for single match tickets and packages. At the end of phase one, applicants will be advised in writing by August 31st

2006 which tickets or packages have been allocated to them.

Phase two will begin on September 1st to November 30th 2006. During that time remaining single match tickets will be sold on a 'first-come-first-serve' basis both on the website and at the Official Ticket Centres. Phase three will begin on January 3rd 2007 to the end of the tournament. Any remaining match tickets will again be sold on a 'first-come-first-serve' basis from Official Ticket Centres and Venue Box offices.

Eligibility to apply for tickets to the Semi-final matches will depend on application for tickets to either two group matches, two matches taking place during the Super Eight Stage or one Venue Combination tickets. To apply for ticket to the final, one should have also applied for tickets to either three group stage matches, three matches in the Super Eight Stages or one Venue Combination.

This ticketing policy of the ICC Cricket World Cup is designed to be fair and equitable to all cricket fans as all tickets and packages will be available at the same time to both CARICOM and international fans. This ticketing process though alien to the Caribbean is the norm and practice for all international events. Cricket lovers in Saint Lucia are urged to participate in the process and ensure that they do not miss out on an opportunity to see the "Best Cricket World Cup Ever".



### THIS WEEK ON NTN

Sat. March 25th to Fri. March 31st, 2006  
NTN – PROVIDING INFORMATION YOU NEED

**Thrilling & Mesmerizing – The National Youth Choir in Concert: The Most Recent Performance** – Sat. March 25th, 12:00 p.m.

**REBROADCAST: Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony responds to questions from members of the public on "TOWN HALL TUESDAY"** – Sun. March 26th, 11:00 a.m.

**Get all the information you need to prepare your income tax returns** – Mon. March 27th, 6:30 p.m.

**Highlights of FIFA's Goal Project** – Tues. March 28th, 8:00 p.m.

**What is the mandate of the Cultural Development Foundation? Get the answer to that question and learn much more about the CDF** – Wed. March 29th, 6:30 p.m.

**CEO of WIBDECO speaks on the latest developments in the Banana Industry in the Windward Islands** – Thurs. March 30th – 8:00 p.m.

**Soufriere steps up its mental health programme as it launches its community mental health project** – Fri. March 31st – 8:30 p.m.

Remember to tune in for:  
GIS News Breaks and Kweyol News daily from 6:30 p.m.  
Issues & Answers/Mondays at 8:00pm:  
Interview/Tuesdays at 6:15pm :  
Konsit Kweyol/Tuesdays at 8:00pm (Kweyol Discussion):  
Your Right to Know/Thursdays at 6:15 p.m. (Min. of Ed. Prog).  
Take 2/Fridays at 6:15pm (Week in Review)  
Weflechi/Fridays at 6:40pm - (Week in Review—Kweyol)

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

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

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