



NATIONWIDE

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UHC LOGO UNVEILED

The logo for the Universal Health Care Programme was unveiled by Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony at an official ceremony at the National Insurance Corporation last Thursday.

Speaking during the unveiling, the Health Minister, Hon. Damien Greaves, said that Universal Health Care was a great initiative for all Saint

Lucians. "When, as a people, we can say that all of us, regardless of our condition in life can be guaranteed that we can get all necessary health services, including hospital services, medicines, necessary overseas care and emergency services to save our lives and save our children's lives, let us say that that is good."

The National Insurance Corporation, under the direction of Emma Hippolyte,



was given a mandate by the Cabinet of Ministers to develop a health care system in Saint Lucia. The programme was started with a pilot project for Diabetics and hypertensives, including free screening and medication. Over 25,000 persons have been screened so far with screening and medication also taking place at various schools on the island. The Logo, created by the Orange Media Group, will provide a permanent identity for the UHC which carries a tag line, "A State of Good Health".

SLMDA DOCTORS WORKSHOP ON CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

The St. Lucia Medical and Dental Association (SLMDA), in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and UNICEF, will be hosting a workshop for doctors on Child Sexual Abuse, on Saturday, October 28, 2006.

The aim of the workshop is to equip physicians with the knowledge and skills to enable them to better identify victims of child sexual abuse as well as impress upon them

the importance of mandatory reporting.

The workshop is in preparation for the Association's latest public awareness campaign on child sexual abuse and prevention to be launched on November 1, 2006. The Theme for the campaign is: "Good Touch. Bad Touch. Know the Difference."

A number of presentations will be made throughout the half-day workshop which is part of the Continuing

Medical Education series by the SLM-DA. The workshop opens at noon with a welcome address by Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Stephen King. Special guest at the workshop will be Dr. Michele Lashley of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Barbados, who will make a presentation on the Barbados Protocols regarding Child Sexual Abuse.

Topics to be covered during the workshop include: Diagnosis of Child

Sexual Abuse, Child Sexual Abuse and HIV, Child Sexual Abuse and the Disabled and the, Rights of the Child, Incest in St. Lucia, A Psychological Perspective of Child Sexual Abuse in St. Lucia, Mandatory Reporting and its Legal Implications for Healthcare Workers, Child Abuse: Prevention and Management Protocols in St. Lucia

The workshop for doctors will be held at Auberge Seraphine.

Youth at Risk and Entrepreneurship Training Workshop

The Commonwealth Youth Programme and the Ministry of Commerce, Investment and Consumer Affairs will be hosting a training workshop for youth at risk between the ages of 18 and 35 from October 30th to November 03, 2006. The objective of the programme is to stimulate entrepreneurial activity among the youth across St Lucia who are

marginalized, victims of social exclusion, unemployed or under-employed. The training will be in Achievement Motivation, Life Skills Orientation and Business Identification.

The training is scheduled at the Human Resource Development Centre in Entrepot. The training activities will take the form of mini-labs, lectures, role playing, inter-active learning and positive reinforcement.

At the end of the workshop participants are expected to be in a position to (1) Nurture a positive self image and the motivation for achieving personal success, (2) Identify with entrepreneurship as a healthy and manageable form of social engagement/re-integration, (3) Access existing entrepreneurship programmes in St Lucia and receive follow-on training and financial support to be estab-

lished as young entrepreneurs and (4) Orient and mobilize other youth at risk in the community for positive engagement through entrepreneurial activity.

Participants will be encouraged to commit to social compact of long-term community involvement in youth development and entrepreneurship for youth at risk.

Each Diabetic Is Different

Here is an important piece of advice to diabetics: "No two diabetics are the same." This means that each person with diabetes must have his/her own special treatment regimen prescribed by a medical professional. This is a warning that is stressed by all health professionals because all too often, when a prescribed medication works for one person, there is a tendency to think that it will be just as beneficial for someone else. This is indeed a dangerous practice and with diabetes taking someone's medication without first consulting a health professional can be deadly! Each diabetic is different. And when it comes to medication there are several factors that a doctor considers.

Ricky LaForce is a qualified FIFA football referee. When on the field he runs non-stop. That keeps him in peak condition. One day while

driving, he realised he couldn't see the road clearly and the numbers on his speedometer seem to be dancing before him. He had blurred vision, one of the symptoms of diabetes. A visit to his personal physician diagnosed him with diabetes. He has been a diabetic for nearly 12 years.

Dunstan Fontenelle had an interest in bodybuilding and packed a robust physique into a towering 6'3" tall frame. He was active in community life and was a well known carnival reveller, carrying colourful costumes weighing hundreds of pounds. He remembers drinking soft drinks, followed by water to quench a thirst that just wouldn't go away. No sooner he drank, he would be in the bathroom. For weeks this continued until he collapsed and went into a six weeks coma. That was some 30 years ago. Mr. Fontenelle injects himself with insulin; Mr. La Force doesn't.

These two life stories are just examples of different ways people can find out about the "silent killer" within

- Diabetes. Thankfully, both men have been able to make the required adjustment: healthier food choices, getting required physical activity (exercise) and see their doctors regularly. These are the three pillars to making the transition to leading normal lives as a diabetic. However, just because they have both been diagnosed with diabetes, Dunstan could not substitute his treatment for Ricky's and vice versa. Each diabetic and the treatment each requires is different.

One other important factor in making the transition is having supportive family and friends who are always hawk-eyed about the foods they consume. Ricky likes wine which he continues to have but not in the quantities he would have were he not diabetic. His family ensure he doesn't go overboard with food that he likes and ensures he takes his medication on time. It's the same for Dunstan. He says his children keep him on his Ps and Qs making sure that he too stays on the right track.

Today, both men are members of

the St. Lucia Diabetic and Hypertensive Association, a support group for those with the condition. They both have become spokespersons for the association in educating other St. Lucians about the disease. In recent radio interviews, Ricky and Dunstan told their life stories, hoping that by getting the word out that others will be moved to do the right thing and get tested earlier than they did. Both were adults when they were diagnosed. They are, however, both living examples indeed, of how early detection, proper care, control and management of diabetes can enhance the quality of their lives. But now, the Diabetes Pilot Project by UHC (Universal Health Care), funded by the government of St. Lucia, is urging St. Lucians to move fast to get screened early. The diabetes test (and testing for hypertension) is free as is the medication for those diagnosed with diabetes.

34 Artistes Receive Grant Funding under NDC/CDF Micro-Financing Project

The names of thirty-four (34) artistes have been announced as recipients of the National Development Corporation/Cultural Development Foundation Micro-Financing for Creative Industries Project.

The names were released at a ceremony on Friday, October 20th 2006 at the CDF Conference Room at Barnard Hill. The ceremony was attended by Social Transformation and Culture Minister Menissa Rambally along with NDC and CDF officials. A wide cross section of artistes and entertainers on the island were also present at the 9:30am event.

Under the pilot project, some \$250 thousand dollars is being made available to artistes and entertainers in the form of grants ranging from three to twenty thousand dollars.

CDF Executive Director Teddy Francis explained that whereas the selection process was narrowed down to 34, well over 100 applications were received. Francis added that the grant distribution spans the entire music genre and will go towards CD production, Studio equipment, and Video production etc. In visual arts, grants were awarded for Painting, Arts & Craft, Sculpture, Dance, Drama, Literature and critically Steel Pan. According to Teddy Francis, the geographic distribution was well represented "with artistes coming from every corner of the island." The names of grant awardees are as follows: (1) Cedric Matthew George, (2) St. Omer Art Magic, (3) Lyleton Cornwallis Lisson, (4) Ignatius "Invader Tisin", (5) Eastern Folk Band, (6) Mantius Cazaubon, (7) Marileen "Lady Leen" Baptiste, (8) Mami La Kaye' Folk Band, (9) Lambert Soomer-James (Amate'), (10) Jonathan "Ninja Dan" St. Rose, (11) Shala S.T. Emmanuel, (12) George St. Croix, (13) Jallim Eudovique, (14) The Chicken Co-op, (15) Peter "Mathias" Simeon, (16) Athanasius La Borde, (17) Tennail Thomas, (18) Barbara Ann Cadet, (19) Courtney Louis, (20) Linus Elcock, (21) Francis "Leebo" De Lima, (22) Werner "Semi" Francis, (23) Prolific, (24) Emerson Nurse, (25) A.G. Simpson, (26) Rudy Auguste, (27) Family Affairs, (28) Wenhil "Alpha" Gerald, (29) Michel "Meshach" Nestor, (30) Mathurin Emmanuel, (31) Travis Weekes, (32) Steel Pan Assembly, (33) Emerald Steel, (34) Ron Louis.

Meanwhile Minister of Culture Menissa Rambally commended the NDC/CDF for their efforts in undertaking the initiative, which she said "is a much needed step in the right direction, one that will allow artistes and entertainers to better position themselves in the Arts and Entertainment industry." The Minister added that the onus was now on artistes to put their shoulders to the wheel and see their projects to fruition.

The Minister also spoke about the

value of culture to St. Lucia "The talk of Culture Industry can be real for us. St. Lucia has what it takes to make entertainment a real part of our economic livelihood and there is absolutely no question about that. I believe that you

have demonstrated by putting forth your talent that you are capable and that you are ready to take this business of promoting culture and promoting the arts in a very serious way."

The Micro-Financing for Creative

Industries Project was first announced by Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Economic Affairs, International Financial Services and Information Dr. Kenny Anthony during the 2006/07 Budget Address.



Hon. Menissa Rambally



Mr. Teddy Francis



Some of the Artistes/Entertainers

An Extra \$100,000 For Artistes Assistance Programme

An additional \$100,000 is to be made available to local artistes under the Financing for Creative Industries Project. The latest injection of funds was announced on Thursday a few days after the National Development Corporation and the Cultural Development made public the names of 34 artistes who were selected for grant funding under the initiative.

The pilot project had originally earmarked quarter of a million dollars in grant funding to artistes,

thereby providing them an opportunity to better position themselves in the Arts and Entertainment industry via sustained income generating activities.

A four-member joint committee overseeing the selection process says the latest injection of \$100,000 will benefit additional artistes whose proposals were previously denied selection under the fund.

Chief Executive Officer of the NDC Mr. Wayne Vitalis notes this decision was prompted by the number of high quality proposals received, but which

was not selected given the limitation of the original fund. According to Mr. Vitalis, "We were compelled to go that way, since we could not deny such good proposals an opportunity to materialize. We therefore expect an estimated twelve additional projects to come to fruition as funding has now been made available."

This will bring to approximately 50, the total number of recipients to benefit from grant funding under the Micro Financing for Creative Industries Project.

THE NATIONAL CRIME SYMPOSIUM - A REPORT

Introduction

The Government of St. Lucia took another step in tackling the problem of mounting violent crime in the country when it staged a major symposium on crime last Saturday. Key public and private sector interests, NGO's, private citizens,

met at the National Insurance Corporation Conference Room to engage in intense deliberations on the nature of the crime problem in St. Lucia today and on the formulation of a multi-faceted approach to addressing it.

Speaking at the commencement

of the symposium minister for Home affairs and Internal Security Calixte George said crime is one of the things that can shake the very foundation of a society's civilization and as such any response needed to be very comprehensive and thorough.

As you know the security of life, limb

and property is the bedrock of all progressive civilizations and peoples and so we need a continuing sense of security for human development. All citizens need to function in a climate that is free of that numbing fear of their lives or the lives of their loved ones who may be at risk. All citizens need the assurance that

the things they're have worked so hard for, to provide for themselves and their families are safe."

Prime Minister, Dr. Kenny Anthony asserted that notwithstanding what history had bequeathed the government and people, the onus was now on all citizens to deal with the level of

crime today, adding that this was the objective of that day's forum and other initiative against crime..

"But we must go beyond this. We also have to be highly realistic and indeed to face the full reality of what confronts us. My message this morning is that we must approach this issue with absolute

realism. ... Clearly we need to go beneath what initially appears as attractive logic and argument and seek to fathom the deeper issues that lie below the surface.

One such argument, the Prime Minister alluded to, was the often cited link between unemployment and crime. While not discounting the veracity of

the issues, the Prime Minister said however that right within the Caribbean region there were instances where low unemployment was still met with high crime.

The following is a summary of the key issues raised by various parties at the Symposium.

Summary of Key Issues Raised by Stakeholders at the National Crime Symposium

A number of key issues were raised by all stakeholders attending the Symposium and a common theme among the stakeholders was also noted. It is recognized by all stakeholders that the crime issue confronting the country today, was a trend which countries around the world were experiencing.

However, within Saint Lucia's context, stakeholders noted unanimously that the problem of crime was a matter that must be addressed by all sectors of the society households, churches, the economic sectors, Government and so forth.

The problem facing Saint Lucia has historical roots – social, spiritual, community dimensions, among others.

A holistic and synergistic approach has to be taken; it is not simply about the Police or Government.

There are spiritual underpinnings - the family, the father, mother, husband, wife and so forth.

The neglect of our families is what we are seeing on the streets today. Broken homes.

There is need for a symposium on families and on the youth who have been abused.

There is need to bring fathers together.

Stakeholders noted that there is a disintegration of the Family and a degeneration of core values in the Society.

Furthermore, it was recognized by all stakeholders that the Police Department was only one element among other social and economic partners who must play their part in combating and abating crime.

The Churches recognized that as an umbrella body, they had not yet come together to examine the issue of crime, the factors giving rise to the increase in crime and solutions to confront and abate crime.

There was need all parties noted, for a Transformation of Attitudes, across all sectors in the Society.

The feeling of social exclusion which occurred in the past, where it was felt by Saint Lucians living outside the city of Castries, that Castries was Saint Lucia, given the development thrust in and around the Northern Section of the Country, had its own implications.

As a result there was an exodus of persons from the South moving to the North for employment; as a result of the absence of any fundamental development initiatives in the South.

One survey conducted among a group of farmers indicated that during the period of high income levels earned by farmers, emphasis had been placed on the incomes they derived from banana production, rather than on the development of farmers as a professional area; which would have given rise to – an upliftment of self and consciousness of self as a professional farmer. In other words, what resulted was a deduced sense of self, based purely on incomes, and with a complete absence of self-development, whereby the need to diversify and grow other crops in early years as a farmer could have resulted.

It was noted that young (males) were predominant in Prison in Saint Lucia, representing an average of approximately (98%) of the total inmate population in recent times. Whilst women constituted on average (2%) of the total inmate population.

There is need for Mentoring Programmes to strengthen communities.

There is need for Support and encouragement for Student Councils in Schools, and the Re-introduction of the Cadet Corps at all Schools.

There is need for support services to young men in particular, as well as women; who were engaging in delinquent behavior, to prevent them from graduating to crime.

The need to impress upon young men in particular, that earning \$500 a day, for example, engaging in illegal activities was certainly a destructive path; and that the upliftment of self and the dignity of self, was critical, even



Participants at the Symposium

though they would earn less a day in legitimate employment, e.g. \$50 as was an example cited by one young person.

The need for accountability on the part of administrative officials in Government; who are charged with the implementation of Government's policies and programs, and to implement them effectively and efficiently.

The need for a balanced approach to development, not merely in terms of economic growth, but equally important

is the need for development of the People of the Nation, through Public Sector Social Programs and Interventions and supported by the Private Sector.

The importance of support by the Private Sector for projects and initiatives of Youth Groups, was emphasized by Youth Leaders; and recognition of the value of Government's Social Programs such as – the Small Business Development Programs; and the Short-Term Employment Program (STEP) was noted by Youth Groups.

It was noted by all sectors that there is need for critical self-examination, and that all of us as a people must look within; and see where we, as a people, have been going wrong.

It was noted by the National Crime Commission that the largest category of Homicides committed resulted from Domestic Violence.

The Churches recognized that there was a growing trend of envy, conflict and rivalry within and among Families themselves.

It was also recognized that many young men were attributing their delinquent behavior to the absence of fathers at home, and in many instances their fathers were not known to them.

It was noted that the integration of young people in mainstream society was critical and that Social Programs and other interventions, such as the National Skills Development Programs needed to be expanded.

The absence of vocational and technical skills in earlier years was another

contributing factor, identified as resulting in the underdevelopment of hundreds of people, who were several years graduated from Primary School, having not met the qualifying requirements for a Secondary School. It was also noted that with the establishment of Universal Secondary Education – equal emphasis must be placed on vocational and technical skills, to achieve the full potential of students, who skills preference are stronger in technical areas as opposed to pure academic subjects.

A call was made for the establishment of an Inter-ministerial Task Force to collaborate efforts at a National Level for the way forward.

It was recognized that we in St. Lucia are on the cusp of a new era. What is this St. Lucian person we would all like to see? And what is the St. Lucia we are now looking at? Were concluding observations. It was generally felt that we as a people needed to 'go back to basics of moral values and rectitude.'

Prime Minister Thanks Trinidad and Tobago Government

Prime Minister Dr. Kenny D. Anthony has thanked the Government and people of Trinidad and Tobago for financing, through the Petroleum Fund, the British Police Officers who have been recruited to serve in the Royal St. Lucia Police Force.

The Petroleum Fund was established to assist CARICOM member-states.

Dr. Anthony says he is deeply appreciative of the prompt and sympathetic response of Hon. Patrick Manning, the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, to Saint Lucia's request and he is equally pleased with the quick approval of the request by CARICOM colleagues.

The British Officers started to arrive

on the island over the weekend and are scheduled to take up duties with the police on November 1st 2006.

The cost of recruiting the police officers and their presence here will be borne entirely by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, through the Petroleum Fund.

Dr Anthony says, "The Government of Saint Lucia will not have to repay the Government of Trinidad and Tobago. In effect, the money that has been made available is a grant to the Government and people of Saint Lucia."

The British Police Officers have a mandate to assist in the work already taking place to modernize and reshape the Police Force, as well as to build capacity in key areas of policing in Saint Lucia.



Prime Minister Hon. Kenny Anthony



Prime Minister Patrick Manning

Caricom Formalises Meetings with Opposition Leaders

Recommendations from the Georgetown-based Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat on a proposal by the Prime Minister of Saint Lucia regarding the relationship between Caribbean Heads of Government and the Leaders of the Parliamentary Opposition were endorsed by the Caricom Bureau in St. Kitts and Nevis on Tuesday of this week.

Caricom Chairman, St. Kitts and Nevis' Prime Minister Dr. Denzil L. Douglas, told a press briefing that the recommendations from the Bureau Meeting will now be forwarded to the Caribbean Leaders for discussion at the 28th Caricom Summit, which is scheduled to take place in St. Vincent and the Grenadines next year.

"The important dialogue, which we believe is absolutely necessary between Governments and the Parliamentary Opposition, should in fact be



Caricom Secretary General Edwin Carrington

institutionalised. So, we would want to ensure that we continue to provide relevant information to the Parliamentary Opposition that would prepare them to appropriately be a part of the important decision-making process, as we advance the Caribbean Community to achieve our specific goals and objectives on behalf of the people of the Caribbean region," said Dr. Douglas.

He added that the dialogue with the Parliamentary Opposition "has now become an important part of the Heads of Government interaction with Civil Society."

The decision to officially engage the Parliamentary opposition at the Heads of Government level came about through a recommendation by St. Lucia's Prime Minister, Dr Kenny D. Anthony.

Dr Anthony also chaired the first official meeting between the Heads of Government and the Opposition Lead-

ers when the two sides met here in advance of the Caricom Summit held here in July 2005.

That initial meeting, which set broad parameters for the engagement between the two representative groups, also resulted in the region's collective Parliamentary Opposition appointing a representative body to discuss the parameters of cooperation with the Heads of Government.

Besides Dr. Douglas, this week's St. Kitts meeting, which was held at the headquarters of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) was also attended by incoming Chairman, St. Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister, Dr. Ralph Gonsalves; St. Lucia's Prime Minister Dr Kenny Anthony; Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Patrick Manning, Barbados' Deputy Prime Minister, Mia Mottley and Caricom Secretary General, Dr. Edwin Carrington.

Small Vulnerable Economies Achieve Milestone at WTO level

The OECS Technical Mission to the World Trade Organisation (WTO), working with the Small Vulnerable Economies group, has won a symbolic victory for small States. This victory has been realised with the General Council endorsing a package of proposals that seeks to accommodate the needs of small States in the implementation of obligations arising out of membership in the WTO.

The acceptance by the General Council, the highest decision-making body at the WTO, of this package of proposals, now provides legal certainty to donors, that where practicable, multilateral agencies could target regional bodies for the disbursement of technical and financial assistance. While the option of direct multilat-

eral support to regional bodies has always existed, explicit recognition by the WTO of this option will greatly assist regional bodies in attracting multilateral technical assistance. In this regard, the proposals endorsed, seek recognition with respect to the following WTO agreements:

The Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) - this relates to food safety as well as animal and plant health;

The Agreement to Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) - this agreement seeks to ensure that technical procedures, testing and certification procedures, do not create unnecessary obstacles to trade in industrial goods, and

The Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) - which deals with intellectual property law in international trade.

Elliott Paige, Chargé d'affaires of the OECS Technical Mission in Geneva says the successful adoption of the proposals marks the first time that the WTO has agreed to a specific package of measures put forward by the Small Vulnerable Economies group. The OECS Technical Mission to the World Trade Organisation serves the independent members of the OECS

"It's very timely from the point of view that not a lot has been happening and not a lot has happened in a positive way for small countries and for small countries to really have a sense that the WTO is also for them. They can grow. Being members of the WTO, they need to get something out of it and this is one start. It helps to build the confidence of small countries recognizing that being a member of the WTO also has some value...

It's important for the credibility of the multilateral trading system that we are all indeed treated equally. The WTO does not normally recognize differentiation among developing countries", Paige said.

From the inception of the WTO, small developing Members have argued that the rules of the multilateral trading system do not adequately reflect the peculiar vulnerabilities of small States like those of the OECS. To this end, small States continue to demand that the legal architecture of the WTO be made more responsive to the sensitivities of its smallest and most vulnerable Members.

While WTO rules differentiate between developed and developing Member States, those rules do not provide for further sub-categorisation of small vulnerable economies

RODNEY BAY MARINA GETTING SET FOR ARC

EMPHASIS ON LOCALS EMBRACING THE EVENT

It's only a few weeks to go before this year's Atlantic Rally for Cruisers (ARC) and already Rodney Bay Marina General Manager Cuthbert Didier is appealing for more nationals to come and take part in the open events.

This year's ARC is special, being the 21st. year in succession that the event is being held and the 16th. year in a row that it will end at the marina.

Said Didier: "In essence this year's ARC is a 21st. birthday bash and we are pulling out all the stops to ensure that we have a fantastic event."

More than 230 yachts will attempt the 2,700 nautical mile crossing, sailing from Las Palmas on November 26.

But Didier said he wanted to see more St. Lucians embrace the ARC. He added: "I would like to see a lot more nationals come to the marina for the open events, bringing along their children, and using the ARC as a learning experience to see what it is all about. It's more than just sailing across the ocean. The visiting yachtsmen and the crews come from various cultures; they're interesting people and they look forward to the interaction with locals. So if St. Lucians stay away I think we are doing ourselves a disservice."

Didier said the emphasis will be to create an ARC Village at the Rodney Bay Marina from November 26 and the idea is to have daily activities even while the boats are on their way from Las Palmas to St. Lucia.

He added: "People in St. Lucia have the misconception that the ARC starts when the first boat arrives. But in reality the event really starts when they start off in Las Palmas. So the emphasis here is to have quality events almost on a daily basis.

The major events are the ARC Jam, the General Manager's cocktail party for participants and sponsors, the Bounty Distillers Party, then there is the Bounty Aqua Action Party on the beach. We also have several good national bands that will be playing on Wednesdays and on weekends as part of the 'Heineken after work lime'."

Meanwhile, planning for the ARC is proceeding very well, the General Manager said. There has already been a press launching for the event and the ARC Committee has been meeting nearly every week.

Didier said a phenomenal amount of sponsorship and endorsements have been received to date with several big names coming on board. These include Cable and Wireless, St. Lucia Distillers, Windward and Leeward Brewery, Royal Bank of Canada, First Caribbean International Bank and Rodney Bay Marina tenants, among them.

Didier also expressed the hope that St. Lucia Electricity Services Limited and Bank of St. Lucia would stay on board.



Yachts at the Rodney Bay Marina

"This year," said Didier, "we are also appealing to small service providers who can come up with creative concepts that we can showcase at the marina to come forward and be part of the event, whether as collateral sponsors or otherwise to help take the ARC to another level."

Meantime, St. Lucia Distillers, one of the main sponsors of the annual Atlantic Rally for Cruisers (ARC), is moving to play a greater role in this year's event, which sails off from Las Palmas, in the Canary Islands on November 26.

The company, which produces a range of alcoholic beverages, has agreed to put its marketing team behind efforts aimed at getting more nationals to participate in the ARC activities.

Among the events to be sponsored by the group of companies, is a flotilla scheduled to start on the opening day of the ARC.

This year a special celebration is being planned for the event in St. Lucia.

Brent Chung, Brand Sales Manager at St. Lucia Distillers, said his company has supported the ARC from its inception and this year, its contribution is expected to be in the region of EC\$30,000.

Said Chung, "We want St. Lucians to become excited about and throw their support behind the event because it is something that we do not want to lose. Tobago is bidding for it, so we plan to make this 21st. birthday something special."

Chung said his company was also seeking to get more mileage out of its sponsorship and part of this included getting more locals to participate in the various activities."

The November 26 flotilla will signal to everyone in St. Lucia that the ARC is underway. Fishermen from all over the island, vendors, bodybuilders and other groups are being targeted for participation in that activity.

St. Lucia Distillers has also targeted December 16 for a Bounty Aqua Fun Day, a revival of the water sports festival that was held years ago and is being revived.

Said Chung, "The plan is to have 10 teams of 10 people. Five of these teams will comprise local personnel, including representatives of sponsors, and the other five will be from the visiting boats. You would therefore have 100 people doing fun water activities and games on the beach. The public will be invited. The attempt is to bring nationals and visiting yachtsmen and crew together in an atmosphere of camaraderie and fun."

Chung said the intention is to create an avenue to make the link between nationals and visitors so as to create an atmosphere whereby both groups will be looking forward to meeting each other in the future.

"We want St. Lucians to embrace the ARC in the same way that they embrace the Jazz Festival," Chung said. "We want them to understand that this is their country and that it is important for them to come out and give the ARC, a national event, their full support."

Plans are also being formulated for a steel band activity on Saturday December 2 as well as an ARC bar running 24 hours a day from November 26 to December 26 located on the grounds of the Rodney Bay Marina.

Chung said St. Lucia Distillers is also working with four or five tenants at the Marina to create special cocktails for the ARC, using Distillers' products, and offering plaques of appreciation to persons who had sampled them all.

He added: "While we may not get back the results of this immediately, I see it as branding and associating our company with a good event, an event that is now on the island's national calendar. We want that to be a St. Lucian thing because most of our sales are in St. Lucia and the public will see us being associated with a national event."

Saint Lucia Passes CWC Sunset Legislation



Hon. Mario Michel



The Beausejour Cricket Ground

A bill, making provision for the fulfilment by St. Lucia of its commitments to the efficient and effective staging of the ICC Cricket World Cup 2007, was passed at a sitting of Parliament on Tuesday. Leader of Government Business in the House of Assembly, Minister for Education, Human Resource Development, Youth and Sports Honourable, Mario Michel, explained why the legislation had been termed Sunset legislation.

“The Legislation is being described as Sunset Legislation, in that it has a definitive duration. It is passed before a particular event and comes to an end after the event. And very significantly the last section of the bill reads simply

as follows—this acts expires on the 30th day of June 2007.”

The legislation addresses many issues, from the most simple, the stipulation of drop-off points, to the most demanding—ambush marketing and security.

The ICC recently advised countries that had not passed the Sunset legislation for the Tournament to do so at the soonest as they ran the risk of losing the opportunity to host World Cup Cricket matches in 2007. Sports Minister Mario Michel said that St. Lucia had always planned to meet its deadline. “It was noted that Barbados and St. Kitts and Nevis had already passed their legislation. Of course we in St. Lucia always knew where we were, of what we were about

and that our agenda was in order and in fact did present this bill for first reading at the last sitting of the House.”

For the 2007 Cricket World Cup, St. Lucia will have the distinct honour of hosting one semi final match as well as the prestigious Blue Group, which incorporates six early-round matches, involving the English team among others. Several projects are presently being completed as part of the island’s preparation to hand over the venue to the International Cricket Council by January of next year. Only recently government installed state of the art flood lights at the Beausejour Cricket Ground, making it the first Stadium of its kind, within the region, to host day/night cricket matches.

Almond Morgan Bay to add 100 more rooms for Cricket World Cup

The Almond Morgan Bay Resort is joining the ranks of the many hotels on the island expanding their room capacity for the Cricket World Cup next year.

The resort, which is owned by Barbados-based Almond Resorts, has already broken ground for the

addition of 100 more rooms to the property’s two-hundred and forty six (246) rooms.

The Government of Saint Lucia has made available a generous package of incentives to increase the stock of rooms in Saint Lucia as the island prepares to host matches in cricket’s premier event.

In the last few years, Saint Lucia has recorded a flurry of activity in hotel construction, with several existing hotels having expanded and a record one billion dollars worth of investments in the tourism sector, most related to providing additional accommodation for visitors to the island for Cricket World Cup next year.

Four Lane Highway Tested

Contractors of works to rehabilitate the Castries/Gros-Islet Highway made a bold statement last Sunday in response to concerns that the route would not be able to accommodate the proposed four-lane carriageway.

The proposed four-lanes will run from the Vigie Round-about to the Sandals Halcyon entrance. To erase any doubt in the minds of sceptics, the

Ministry of Works and Transport, on the advice of contractors, separated a section of the route and allowed four trucks to drive through—two north bound and two south bound.

The demonstration was conducted just in front of the Home Depot at Vide-Boutielle, as this was the section of road mentioned most by members of the public, as being less capable of holding a four lane carriageway.

Head of the Special Projects Unit of the Ministry of Works and Transport Albert Jn Baptist explained the thinking behind the test.

“We felt that the probability of having four trucks on the four lanes at any point in time is very low. We felt that if we could demonstrate to the public that four big trucks can fit, it would be convincing enough to demonstrate to the public that almost any combination of vehicles can transit on that four-lane carriageway safely.”



THIS WEEK ON NTN

Sat. Oct. 28th to Fri. Nov. 3rd 2006

NTN – PROVIDING

INFORMATION YOU NEED

How safe are the pesticides that we use and how should we use pesticides? Answers to these questions and more – Sat. Oct. 28st, 9:30 a.m.

Junior La Wen Kweyol 2004 - Sun. Oct. 29th, 11:30 p.m.

Who can adopt children and just how many children are up for adoption? - Mon. Oct. 31st 8:00 p.m.

Facilitating Youth Development Through Sports Upgrading the Judicial System to better serve the public – Tues. Oct. 24th, 6:15 p.m.

Ronald “Boo” Hinkson speaks to the nexus between Music and Substance Abuse - Wed. Nov. 1st, 6:15 p.m.

The GIS discusses CDF’s involvement in the publication of a literary piece by well known local artistes. – Thurs. Nov. 2nd, 8:00 p.m.

National Youth Summit on HIV/AIDS Sports Talk: GM of Rodney Bay Marina discusses ongoing preparations for the ARC – Fri. Nov. 3rd, 8:00 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 : Kosit 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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