



ZERO TOLERANCE

Minimum harsh penalties for sexual and other serious offenses

The government of St. Lucia is pursuing a tougher line on crime through amendments to the Firearms Act and the Criminal Code. These amendments were approved by the House of Assembly at a marathon monthly sitting on Tuesday, November 12. This move follows the recent good news that Police are achieving unprecedented success in the war on crime.

to go to the lowest possible end of the discretion," said Prime Minister Dr Kenny Anthony in his contribution to the debate in Parliament on the bill to amend the Firearms Act.

"Moreover," Dr Anthony went on, "(the Judiciary has) utilized a provision in the Criminal Code to exercise discretion to ensure that whatever punishment they prescribe, it is outside the provisions of the legislation itself."

The provision in question – Section 1284 of the Criminal Code – states the following: "Unless otherwise expressly provided, a court may sentence any offender to any less punishment other than death than that prescribed."

Minimising Discretion

What this meant, House Leader Mario Michel explained, was that a magistrate did not have to follow the sentence recommended by the law as passed by Parliament. So that if the law recommended a fine and the magistrate chose to reprimand and discharge the offender, the judicial officer was perfectly within his rights to do so and there was nothing Parliament could do about it.

"What we are proposing is to remove certain provisions, certain offenses from that discretionary ambit formerly exercised by judicial officers whether magistrates or judges and to ensure that the intention of Parliament is carried out," said Michel, explaining the reason for the amendment to the Criminal Code.

"Whereas we do not here and now seek to remove that discretion altogether in every category of offense, we believe that there are certain categories of offenses where the clear intention of Parliament must be carried out so as to send the strongest possible signals to offenders," the Member of Parliament for Gros-Islet added.

As a result of the amendment to the Criminal Code, judicial officers can no longer exercise discretion in sentencing offenders for violations under the following laws:

- The Drugs Prevention of Misuse Act.
- The Firearms Act.
- The Money Laundering Prevention Act.
- The Proceeds of Crime Act.
- The Sexual Offenses Act.

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Prime Minister Dr Kenny Anthony clearly spelt out Government's tough stand on gun-related offenses.

The amended Firearms Act imposes stiffer penalties – heavy fines and lengthy terms of imprisonment — for various gun-related offenses. The amendment to the Criminal Code limits the discretion exercised by magistrates and other judicial officers in imposing sentences for certain serious crimes.

In such cases, magistrates must now impose the minimum penalty as prescribed by the law. For example, if someone is convicted by a magistrate's court for illegal possession of a firearm, the magistrate has to impose a fine of not less than \$10,000 or a term of imprisonment of not less than five years.

"Parliament has been driven to take that approach because where the discretion was conferred otherwise, we have noticed a clear tendency on the part of the Judiciary



In this historic court building in Castries, major changes have taken place in the modernisation of the administration of justice. The courts must now be prepared to impose the stiffer sentences, which have been approved by the legislature.

EDITORIAL

THE TELECOMS TUSSE

St Lucians are witnessing the opening round of much-anticipated competition in the telecommunications sector. And if it's a clear indication of what's to come, consumers can surely look forward to some tremendous benefits.

Digicel, one of the new service providers which has entered the market following recent liberalization, is attracting considerable attention as it takes on the former monopoly, Cable and Wireless, in a keen tussle for a share of the fast-growing cellular market, one of the first segments of the industry which has opened up to competition.

The new company is arguing that, at present, consumers are paying too much for cellular phones, and is hinting it will offer a better deal. The two telecommunications service providers have also exchanged views in the local press, on the negotiations on interconnectivity.

Except for press advertisements announcing various job openings, AT&T, the other player granted a cellular license, has been relatively quiet. But according to reports, the American company too has been busy putting down its infrastructure, and continuing its information dissemination in preparation for a start-up of service. Consumers, no doubt, are eagerly waiting to hear what they too have to offer.

As the marketing battle heats up, the question of what should be Government's role is likely to surface in the debate. Government sees its role largely as a referee who is simply there to ensure the various companies play according to the rules of the game, and the rules are enforced.

As far as determining who wins and who loses, Government thinks that's a matter best left to market forces. Once St Lucians are getting a good, reliable service at the best possible price, that's what really matters in the final analysis.

Competition in the telecoms industry so far is proving to be good for St Lucia. Rates continue to drop. Things are turning out just as Government had expected from liberalization.



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HARSH PENALTIES FOR GRAVE OFFENCES

from page 1.

"All of these are serious bits of legislation concerning very serious offenses that we have determined that the society at this point in time, we wish to clamp out and send the strongest possible signal with respect to and we cannot allow the arbitrary exercise of discretion that goes against the clear intent of Parliament," said Michel.

"No longer will you have serious sexual offenses being committed sometimes against minors and a magistrate making a determination that a tap on the back is as much as he wishes the offender to leave the court with," he added, in apparent reference to a recent controversial case.

picture 2/1

House Leader Mario Michel:
Parliament's intent must be carried out.

Both amendments attracted bipartisan support, fulfilling Government's wish for crime to be treated in a non-partisan manner.

Speaking on the Criminal Code amendment, Opposition Leader Marius Wilson observed: "The class of offenses that form the subject matter of this amendment ... are indeed serious offenses which should attract a particular measure of punishment and therefore judicial officers should be disposed to following the will of the legislation in this regard."

Correcting Anomalies

"(The) adjustments to the Firearms Bill are a direct result of efforts by the Judiciary in a number of cases to go beyond the spirit of the intention of the legislation enacted by Parliament. We are correcting anomalies that have appeared in judicial decision-making," said Prime Minister Anthony.

Dr Anthony added: "I am one of those who believe that Parliament was elected to govern, that Parliament was elected to reflect the wishes of the people of the country and subject to ensuring that what Parliament does is moral within the Constitution, ... then Parliament must have the courage to act in that regard and where Parliament transmits that will into law, then that law ought to be respected."

The Penalties

The amendments relate to the following firearms offenses and include the following penalties:

- Possession of an unlicensed firearm: a fine of not less than \$10,000 or imprisonment for not less than five years.
- Use of a firearm to endanger life, threaten or cause injury to a person or property whether or not any injury has been caused: a fine of at least \$20,000 or at least five years imprisonment.
- Use of a firearm or imitation firearm to commit an offense or in aid of the commission of an offense or to resist lawful arrest: a fine of at least \$20,000 or imprisonment for at least seven years.

"No longer will you have serious sexual offenses being committed sometimes against minors and a magistrate making a determination that a tap on the back is as much as he wishes the offender to leave the court with."

- Use of a firearm to commit the offense of kidnapping, abduction robbery, drug trafficking, rape or unlawful carnal knowledge: at least 15 years imprisonment.
- Use of a firearm to intimidate, threaten or cause injury to the Governor-General, Member of Parliament, Judge, Master or Magistrate, Clergyman, Priest or Pastor, or public officer carrying out his or her lawful duties: at least 10 years imprisonment.

"It is vital that in our communication to the public we make absolutely clear what this legislation says," stressed Dr Anthony. "For that reason, I hope that our public relations efforts will concentrate on drawing attention to the consequences involved in breaching this Act."

Use of a firearm to commit the offense of kidnapping, abduction robbery, drug trafficking, rape or unlawful carnal knowledge: at least 15 years imprisonment.

Picture 2/2

The Police Force is being strengthened to ensure the effective prosecution of offenders

"Parliament has been driven to take that approach because where the discretion was conferred otherwise; we have noticed a clear tendency on the part of the Judiciary to go the lowest possible end of the discretion."

Possession of an unlicensed firearm: a fine of not less than \$10,000 or imprisonment for not less than five years.

GOVERNMENT MINISTERS Urge St. Lucians to Save More

Government is stepping up a campaign to get St Lucians to save more, using various financial instruments it has created for this purpose.

"I have always thought that one of the great weaknesses of our country has been its capacity to save," remarked Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Dr. Kenny D. Anthony, as he piloted an Income Tax Amendment Bill through the House of Assembly at this month's sitting.

"Our propensity to save is very low, one of the lowest in the Eastern Caribbean, partly because we are still in the consumption

business. St Lucians are heavy, heavy consumers," he observed.

Dr Anthony's call to save reinforces a point made by Tourism, Commerce, Investment and Consumer Affairs Minister, Philip J. Pierre, that St Lucians need to save more to safeguard their interests in light of the economic uncertainty resulting from globalization and the present downturn in the world economy.

"There are a number of (savings) instruments that this government has crafted and ... people can make use of (them) to great effect because they can achieve substantial

reductions in income tax if those facilities are available," the PM pointed out.

The instruments include registered annuities plans which allow a tax deduction of up to \$8,000, savings with credit unions and cooperatives, for which depositors can now claim a tax break of \$5,000 as a result of the amendment bill, and registered home ownership savings plan allowing individuals to claim up to \$6,000.

"I am really very pleased by the number of young people who have made use of (the home ownership savings) facility," said Dr. Anthony.

Dr Anthony recommended property ownership to St Lucians as a sound investment, urging that they channel some of their earnings into the purchase of land.

He pointed to a current debate in neighbouring Barbados where foreigners are making use of an open door policy on property ownership to buy up prime land – a development which is putting pressure on the land ownership aspirations of Barbadians.

"We as small countries have to jealously guard our resources," said Dr. Anthony, hinting that his government would not allow a similar trend to develop here.

"...while on one hand we are being driven by the pressures of globalization, the new world and the removal of all these barriers, at the same time we have to be realistic," he said.

"...if we have to act in defiance of those international norms ...to protect the patrimony that we have, ...I make no apologies when the government decides to move in that direction."

GUARDING OUR NATIONAL PRIDE AMIDST THE GLOBAL TIDE

Cabinet Selects Theme for Independence Celebrations 2003. Plans advance for Anniversary.

Of the many themes submitted by St. Lucians, the theme chosen by Cabinet for Independence Celebrations 2003 is **"Guarding Our National Pride Amidst the Global Tide"**. The theme was submitted by Julian Jackson of Hospital Road, Castries. It is expected that Mr. Jackson, apart from winning a plaque with the theme engraved, will be invited to attend several of the activities held in commemoration of Independence 2003.

The theme will form an integral part of St. Lucia's 24th Independence Anniversary activities. According to Cabinet Secretary Victor Poyotte, who is also Chairman of the Standing National Independence Anniversary Committee (SNIAC), government has highlighted its intention to promote this national event to a scale comparable to the St. Lucia Jazz Festival or Carnival celebrations in the future.

To this end, the Standing National Independence Anniversary Committee established since September 2002, has been hard at work. The fundamental objective of the SNIAC is to facilitate forward planning of independence celebrations in 2003, and beyond. The Committee is also charged with initiating activities geared towards instilling a sense of national pride through educational awareness of the island's heritage, heroes, and national symbols.



The flag of Saint Lucia



The coat of arms of Saint Lucia

The SNIAC includes representatives from public sector organisations, youth and the private sector.

In that regard, the SNIAC has since formed two sub committees; one has to review the National Pledge and the other committee

has the mandate to review the existing booklet on National Symbols. It is hoped that through thorough research and broad based participation, a national pledge and publication of a booklet on national symbols will be ready in time for the island's 25th Anniversary of Independence Celebrations in 2004.

The SNIAC has also directed the Sub-Committee with responsibility to review the booklet on national symbols to regard the feasibility of publishing another concise text that encapsulates the history of St. Lucia. Such a publication would provide a history of Castries, origins of the Kweyol language, biography of the island's Nobel Laureates and other pertinent information. It has also been suggested that a recommendation be forwarded to the Ministry of Education to allow such publications to be on the booklist of texts used in schools at some stage of a student's school life. The SNIAC proffers strongly that cultivation of national pride must begin at the earliest stage of a child's life and that additional signposts must be planted along the way to adulthood to ensure the development of that pride.

Cabinet has approved a budget for next year's Independence Anniversary Celebrations and communities throughout the island are well on their way in outlining activities in keeping with the theme for Independence 2003.

NATIONAL CRIME COMMISSION The Mandate

- Collect through widespread public hearings and consultations in an organized, impartial and responsible manner, concerns and suggestions for preventing and controlling crime in specific ways and make recommendations to the minister for action.
- Examine specific strategies to enhance the role of the church, school, family and civic organizations in forging a national culture against crime and violence and make recommendations to the minister.
- Assist the Police in the development and implementation of a wide-ranging community policing programme in collaboration with local communities.
- Construct quality benchmarks in performance standards as feedback mechanisms for enhancing quality performance by the Police and the community within the framework of the community policing programme.
- Conduct periodic surveys in the various communities and in the schools to help provide a full picture of crime and deviance and a viable basis for pro-active policies by the Government, relevant institutions and the community as a whole.
- Publish or cause to be published regular statistical and crime prevention reports produced by Government agencies and the general public.
- Examine as far as possible the social and psychological factors of criminal behaviour, both adult and youth, and make recommendations for crime prevention and rehabilitation to the minister.
- Examine reasons for any significant shifts in crime trends; the various patterns of criminal behaviour in terms of geographical location and social background of offenders and victims and make recommendations to the minister
- Examine the linkages between drug abuse, trafficking and related patterns of crime and make recommendations to the minister.
- Examine appropriate local, regional and international research on crime and related matters and make recommendations for improving Government policy to the minister.
- Carry out any other function related to crime prevention.



A child runs to the exit to escape the flames and fumes of a fire which caught in another room in the house. But alas, there are burglar bars on the exit and no one is in the house to assist the child. This model highlighting the right and wrong way to improve security in the home, was one of the displays at an exhibition at the Castries City Hall, (November 19th - 22nd), in celebration of the launch of the St. Lucia Chapter of the Global Movement for Children. The issues were the rights, protection and potentials of the child.

ALWAYS WATCH HOW YOU SPEND

Government Minister on a campaign to prepare St. Lucia at home and abroad

Regardless of who you are – a banana farmer, taxi driver, hotel employee, manufacturing plant worker, civil servant, politician or corporate executive – nobody can escape being affected in one way or another by international economic developments.

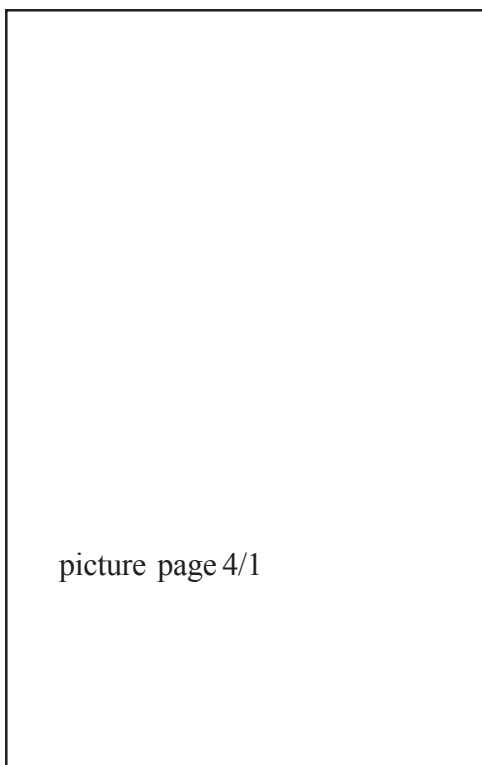
It's one of the hard facts of globalization and living in the proverbial "global village" where countries are no longer seen as separate "independent" entities, but more as components of a vast, "interdependent" global community linked by communications and technology.

It's the prophesized 'brave new world' for which the average citizen has not been prepared. Societies the world over have never approached teaching basic economics to citizens in the same way as reading, writing and arithmetic. The result is that the average citizen knows little or, nothing at all, about a subject with such far-reaching impact on their lives.

As St Lucia goes through the throes of adjusting to globalization, a high-ranking member of the present administration has taken on the task of trying to help the average citizen acquire at least a basic understanding of how the economy works, the powerful role of market forces, and the limited options available to both Government and individuals in the circumstances.

We are not alone

Almost every opportunity he gets – a debate in Parliament, a political platform speech, an address to economic interest groups, or interacting with listeners on a radio talk-show, Minister for Tourism, Commerce, Investment and Consumer



picture page 4/1

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

Affairs, Philip J. Pierre, always emphasizes the point that St Lucia exists in a world that's much different from 10 years ago.

"We in St Lucia are not in this thing alone. This thing is global," he explained recently. "That is the reality and that is the situation we have to deal with as a country." To cope, he advised, "you have to be responsible, you have to save, ... watch how you spend your money, organize your personal life."

Hon. Philip Pierre's aim is to empower St Lucians to make wise choices, help them reorient their thinking, and to start seeing issues from an entirely different perspective – one that places what is happening in St Lucia in a worldwide

context instead of treating these happenings as if St Lucia were cut off from the rest of the world.

Government doing its best

"When people tell you about St Lucia, you must think about St Lucia and compare St Lucia with other countries in the Caribbean and the world in general. If you do so, you will agree that this Government under the present circumstances is doing the best that it can," he asserted.

Pierre isn't denying things are tough. Which country wouldn't have a similar experience following the near destruction of its economic backbone by external forces. Only afterwards to watch the situation compounded by a world recession and terrorist attacks on America as the economy was making a successful transition.

Pierre is insisting, however, that things in St Lucia, compared with other countries, aren't as bad as some people are making them out to be. "Under the conditions that exist in the world, St Lucia is doing better than many countries, including many of our neighbours, and we should be proud of that," he said.

Reduction in Foreign Aid

The onset of the far-reaching change the world has been experiencing can be traced back to the break-up of the Soviet Union a decade ago. This dramatic world event marked the end of the 'Cold War' and the fierce ideological struggle between capitalism, the economic model of the United States-led Western world, and communism, the development model of the Soviet bloc.

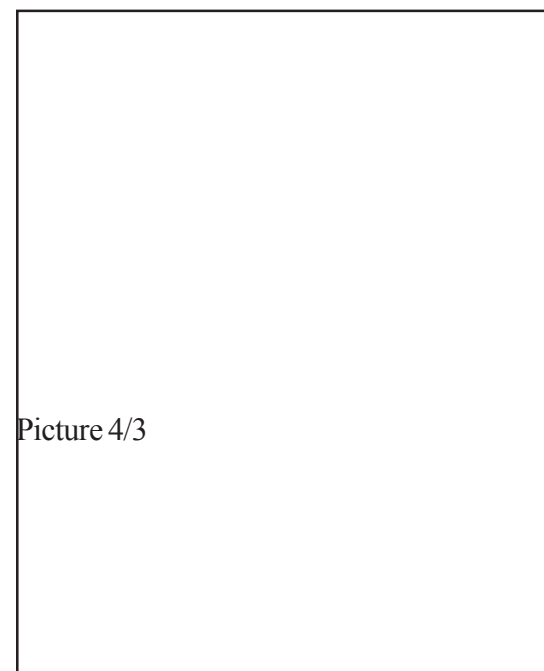
As the two superpowers jostled to get more countries on their side during the Cold War,

St Lucia never had to worry about where it would find money to build schools, roads, other infrastructure, and other needs. The United States, Canada, Britain, and other Western countries gladly footed the bill through generous foreign aid programmes.

Similarly, the banana farmer didn't have to worry about who would buy his bananas. He just had to produce and there was a guaranteed market in Britain, compliments of the Lome Convention. Such large-scale generosity is now a thing of the past.

Almost as soon as capitalism emerged as the dominant economic model, foreign aid started to dry up. And the result was that St Lucia and other developing countries had to start financing their development either through borrowing on the capital markets or with their own resources.

Next, free trade became the buzzword in international economic circles, the dismantling



Picture 4/3

Small businesses must become competitive

of protectionist regimes for bananas and other commodity exports began, and developing country producers were told, subtly and not so subtly, that they now had to compete in a free open market.

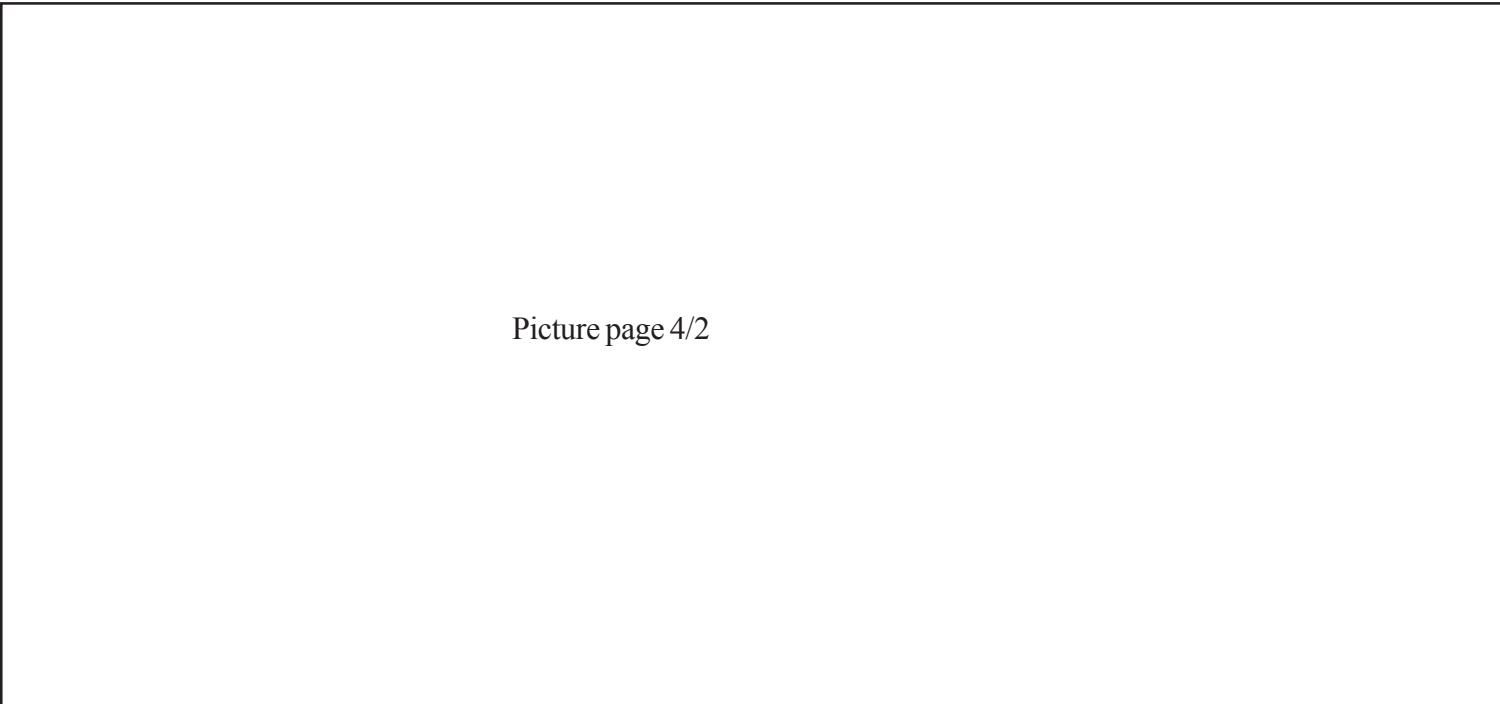
So that whereas the St Lucian producer was largely shielded from competition before, he now finds himself having to compete with the rest of the world, as the painful experience of the banana farmer attests.

And with import barriers coming down in keeping with World Trade Organisation (WTO) requirements, the St Lucian producer is literally now in a situation of having to directly compete even in his home market, with a similar producer in faraway Thailand or Indonesia.

As Minister Pierre sees it, becoming efficient producing quality goods and services, and being innovative hold the key to St Lucia successfully competing in the new liberalized world market.

Tourism is applying this formula and showing it can be done despite fierce competition. Being

Picture page 4/2



A fully serviced port with modern facilities is essential for the development of trade.

THAT MONEY

Lucians for doing business

picture 5/1

Government continues to create the environment for industries utilising highly skilled labour.

The deal fell through as a result because Government has no intention of telling St Lucians to work for such meagre wages.

Meantime, Government is encouraging and facilitating St Lucians to set up small businesses as a means of becoming self-sufficient. At the same time, it's helping established manufacturers to take on the challenges of globalization.

With the Bureau of Standards working to ensure the quality of local products is up to international standard, Government is pushing a 'Buy Local' campaign to help manufacturers use their home market as a launch pad for an eventual export thrust – a formula successfully used by Far Eastern and other industrializing countries.

Besides strengthening the economy, the 'Buy Local' campaign has another important advantage. Under WTO rules, Government can no longer intervene in the market to ban imports. However, consumers can do the job through their purchasing choices. If consumers therefore develop a "buy local" consciousness as a result of the campaign, it's very likely that demand for similar foreign-made products will fall.

Pierre pointed out, however, that "buying local does not mean anti-imports." "If you buy local," he explained, "you will strengthen the entire economy and we will have extra resources to buy those goods that you can't get in the country."

Government of Saint Lucia website
www.stlucia.gov.lc

POLICE COMPLAINTS BODY COMING

The process of Police reform has moved another step further with the passage of legislation to establish what Home Affairs Minister, Sarah Flood-Beaubrun, described as "a proper system for the receipt, investigation and determination of complaints by the public against the Police".

The establishment of the Police Complaints Commission, expected early in the new year, is another move by Government to bolster public confidence in the Royal St Lucia Police Force and to promote a good relationship between lawmen and civilians in support of the effective maintenance of law and order.

The new body, which will comprise civilian representatives, answers a longstanding complaint by St Lucians that there was no effective system for handling police complaints in a manner that inspired confidence or provided satisfaction. Alleged corruption, brutality, arrogance and inadequate performance have been the main complaints against lawmen.

"When those complaints are made over and over again and nothing is done about them, it gives the impression that the entire force are either brutalizing people or are acting in a manner that is not consistent with the work that they do," said Mrs. Flood-Beaubrun during debate on the bill in the House of Assembly.

The proposed commission will consist of five members and will be chaired by an attorney-at-law of at least 10 years standing or a retired police officer who had reached the rank of Superintendent or higher.

Two members will be nominated by the minister responsible for the Police, two will be nominated by the Chief Justice of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court, and the remaining member will be chosen by the Commissioner of Police.

The commission, in turn, will establish a Complaints Unit within the Police Force to carry out investigations into any complaint. The Unit will be headed by an Assistant Superintendent or an officer of higher rank.

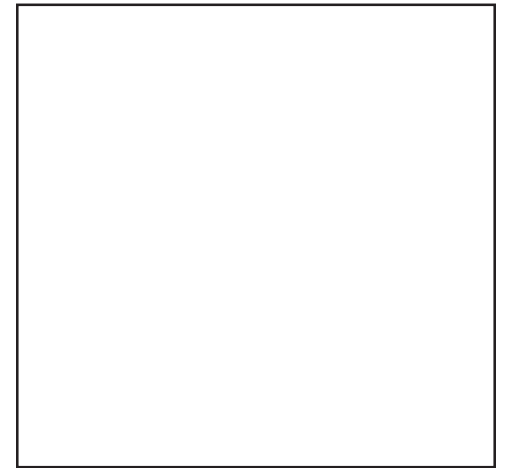
Persons making complaints to the unit will receive a certified copy as a record. And while the investigation is on, monthly progress reports will be prepared until the matter is finally determined.

"These time limits are there because, as the saying goes 'Justice delayed is justice denied,'" said Mrs. Flood-Beaubrun. "Persons need to know that the wheels are moving, that the complaint has been lodged, there is certain action that has to be taken, and that there is not an unreasonable or an indefinite time within which certain things have to be done."

"So that a member of the public is guaranteed that action will be taken within a certified period of time," she added.

When an investigation is completed, depending on the findings, the report may be referred to the Public Service Commission, the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), or the Police Complaints Commission may take action as it sees fit in some cases. Any complainant who is not happy with the outcome, can apply for a review within one month.

The Commission is authorized under the Act to hold hearings and to call witnesses. Complainants who do not turn up for hearings



Chief Justice Sir Denis Byron:
to choose two nominees for complaints body. after being notified and are unable to present a reasonable excuse, may have their cases dismissed.

Wasting the Commission's time is an offense punishable by a fine of \$1,000 or imprisonment for a year.

"If you are making a complaint, you have to be serious about it," said Mrs Flood-Beaubrun. "The Commission is there set up by law to do a job of worth and basically you must not waste the Commission's time."

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LABORIE'S POTENTIAL

The west coast village of Canaries has also received a million dollar jetty which will be commissioned soon.

Mr. Velon John, who is also the Minister responsible for Labour Relations and the Public Service, said the jetty is already having another positive economic impact on Laborie. It is supporting the development of the fishing industry whose growth was retarded over the years due to the absence of such a facility.

He observed: "...already it has touched the lives and social patterns of the number of young men who in a relaxation mode have been transformed into fishers of fish."

"While the jetty will not help in catching more fish, it certainly will make life easier for the local fisher folk," Communications and Works Minister, Felix Finisterre, told the commissioning ceremony.

He added: "Therefore, apart from the special needs of the fishers being provided for, the jetty is suitable to serve the widest variety and range of watercraft including yachts, catamarans and charter boats so popularly used for tourist day cruises, (and) commercial cargo such as the inter-island cement boats."

IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF JOURNALISM

Department of Information Services and Saint Lucia National Commission for UNESCO sponsor training programme for journalists.

Local journalists have recognised the importance of ethics in the media profession. This was among the many issues addressed during the first in a series of training workshops for journalists and media practitioners from the private and publicly owned media.

Nineteen persons including freelancers, reporters and editors from the local newspapers, Government Information Service and radio and television stations, huddled for two days (November 15th and 16th 2002) at the Bay Gardens conference room to share some of their experiences in reporting and ethical issues which confront them.

Facilitator Lennox Grant, an experienced Caribbean journalist, guided the participants through the understanding of a wide range of

The training workshops, funding for which has been secured under UNESCO's Participation Programme, form part of the organisation's efforts at "promoting the free flow of ideas and universal access to information and to contribute to the strengthening of communication and information capacities so as to empower communities and citizens"

According to a document prepared by the St. Lucia Media Workers Association which initially developed the training programme, it is expected that in addition to sharpening skills in journalism, participants will also "contribute to an increase in the quality and quantity of local material in media in St. Lucia"

Another component of the training programme is the delivery of two local workshops aimed at introducing community

Picture 6/2

Journalists and other participants at the first of a series of training workshops. The facilitator is the former editor of the Trinidad Express Newspapers, Mr. Lennox Grant

picture 6/1

Presenting some of the principles in editorial leadership Lennox Grant Workshop Facilitator

issues relating to editorial leadership, editorial management and investigative reporting. Grant, a former editor of Trinidad Express Newspapers, is of the view that all journalists must understand the social, economic and political contexts in which ethical issues are to be resolved. And good effective reporting is the result of constant and conscientious practice.

Two other training workshops are planned as part of a month long training programme organised by the Department of Information Services with funding from UNESCO. On Friday 22nd and Saturday 23rd November, broadcast journalist David Ellis of Barbados will facilitate a workshop focusing on the preparation of news for broadcast. Other issues to be addressed will be the legal constraints on investigative reporting.

The final national workshop will be held on Friday 29th and Saturday November 30th, and will be facilitated by Ms. Fae Ellington. The focus will be on presentation techniques for broadcasters. Ellington is a tutor at the Caribbean Institute of Media and Communication (CARIMAC) and has been a radio and television news anchor, and presenter/producer of magazine programmes in the Jamaica media for the past twenty years.

leaders and persons engaged in public education and public relations, to the basic principles and practices of the video production. The first workshop will be held on Saturday November 23rd at the Sir Arthur Lewis Community College for participants in the south of the island, while the second will be held at the Folk Research Centre in Castries for participants in the north of the island.

The facilitation team for these workshops will include Ernesto Che Rodriguez, an independent video producer, who has worked in several Caribbean countries, and Finber Anius, a St. Lucian videographer with over fifteen years experience working with various media establishments in St. Lucia.

The Saint Lucia National Commission for UNESCO, has also secured funding for the acquisition of computers to be used in the continuing training of media workers in the print and electronic media. In addition to support from UNESCO, the Government of St. Lucia, through the office of the Prime Minister has provided an annual grant of EC\$10,000.00 to the St. Lucia Media Workers Association to implement its training programmes.



JANUARY OPENING FOR BORDELAIS

St Lucia's newly-built penal institution, the Bordelais Correctional Facility, is to be officially opened on January 15, 2003.

The announcement was made last weekend by Prime Minister and Minister responsible for National Security, Hon. Dr. Kenny D. Anthony.

Opening of the \$48 million hilltop facility in Dennery, which is capable of housing some 550 inmates, will see a new approach being taken with respect to the punishment and rehabilitation of criminal offenders.

"Once operational, it will demonstrate to all our commitment not only to tackling

crime in St Lucia but also to providing opportunities for the rehabilitation of the young men and women who have been driven into a life of crime," said Dr. Anthony.

"We will end the inhumanity once and for all," he added.

The decision was taken by the incumbent administration to build Bordelais to address a serious overcrowding problem at the old Bridge Street prison that had led inmates to stage at least two rebellions.

Some 80 persons have been recruited and are undergoing training to serve as correctional officers at the new facility.

CRIME COMMISSION FOR FORMAL LAUNCH

St Lucia pioneers new approach to tackling crime in Caribbean

St Lucia takes a giant step in pioneering a novel approach to tackling crime, when Government formally inaugurates the much-talked-about National Crime Commission (NCC) towards month-end.

The broad-based commission is a central plank in a multi-pronged anti-crime strategy being pursued by Government to ensure that St Lucia remains a relatively safe and peaceful community for St Lucians and visitors.

Other key elements of this strategy include reforming the Royal St Lucia Police Force to enhance its effectiveness in maintaining law and order; beefing up the relevant legislation and toughening penalties in some instances, overhauling the penal system with the opening of the new Bordelais Correctional Facility and placing

Against this backdrop, CARICOM countries are expected to closely monitor the progress of the St Lucian initiative as its success is more than likely to lead other governments to adopt the 'crime commission' model in a bid to forge national consensus on tackling the vexing social issue in their respective countries.

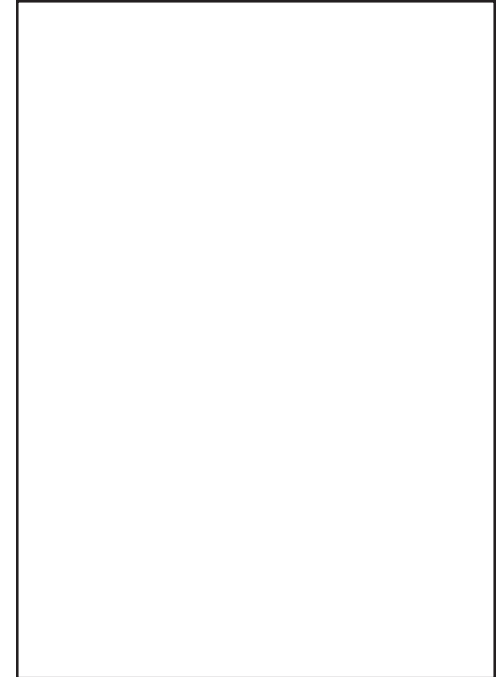
Appropriate Interventions

The idea of the Commission, which will be a permanent body, was put forward in a study on crime done for the Government by Professor Ramesh Deosaran, head of the Department of Criminal Justice at the University of the West Indies, St Augustine campus in Trinidad. Government commissioned the study because it wanted to be guided by a scientific approach in order to come up with appropriate interventions for effectively tackling crime.

giant leap forward and depoliticize," said the Prime Minister. "...Irrespective of the government which is in office, all of us must have a shared interest in fighting crime at every step of the way. Crime afflicts all of us..."

The Commission's membership is drawn from across the wide spectrum of St Lucian society - the Government, parliamentary opposition, Sir Arthur Lewis Community College, National Youth Council, the Bar Association, Mothers and Fathers groups, the Christian Council, trade unions, the Hotel and Tourism Association, Employers Federation, women, Ex-Police Officers Association, the Security Industry Association, and the media.

"The philosophy of the NCC is that in order to address crime in a serious way, it must be regarded as a complex issue and it must



Home Affairs Minister, Sarah Flood Beaubrun, wants research done on sexual crimes.

to display better behaviour in order to halt the mayhem on the roads.

"People do not associate what's happening on the roads with criminal behaviour. Unless the National Crime Commission was involved to make the point, it would be missed," Cox said.

"The point is that when you drive on the road without having proper regard to the rights of other road users, or your responsibility as a person behind the wheel of a vehicle, you are breaking the law. It is a crime!"

Home Affairs Minister, Sarah Flood-Beaubrun, is hoping the Commission will undertake research into sexual crimes on the island, focusing on the possible influence of media violence, especially on television and in music, on young minds.

"We want to ensure that we can really determine what the root causes of crime are so that we can know what measures we need to put in place to ensure that criminals or persons with a tendency to commit crime are in fact rehabilitated," she said.

"If you don't know the cause...., then having the solution or the remedy is very difficult, if not impossible," she added.

(see page 3 for the NCC mandate)



Former Assistant Police Commissioner, Linwall James, is the head of the NCC

new emphasis on the rehabilitation of offenders, as opposed to only punishing them for their crimes.

"I want to drive home the point that never before has so concerted an attempt been made to deal with the problems of crime as we are seeking to do," Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony remarked as he piloted the bill authorizing the establishment of the Commission through the House of Assembly last week.

He observed: "Everywhere throughout the Caribbean, crime is increasing at an alarming rate. So much so that CARICOM heads of government have now introduced a special initiative to try to deal with the problems of crime and they have now appointed a prime minister to take charge of issues of security."



National Crime Commission is located in the Americal Drywall Building - Tel: 451 7709

Since setting up shop a few months ago inside the American Drywall complex at Vide Bouteille, the Commission has been busy laying the groundwork to carry out its mandate. It has been engaging St Lucians from all walks of life in a dialogue on crime through community meetings, seminars, and has carried out a national crime survey to test public opinion.

Broadly speaking, the Commission's mandate involves constantly monitoring the level of crime and offering advice to the Police and Government as to the solutions. Operating on the premise that the Police alone cannot fight crime, the Commission is not meant to compete with the Police but, rather, will complement and strengthen the work of local law enforcement.

"Crime is one issue that we must take a

be looked at and examined on all levels, in all its manifestations," said Crown Counsel in the Attorney-General's Chambers, David Cox, who has been working closely with the Commission.

"It represents a commitment on behalf of persons in authority to adopt a scientific approach to dealing with crime and criminal activity. It represents a commitment to look at crime from a different perspective.. and will be heavily engaged in doing research into criminal behaviour," Cox explained during a recent Radio St Lucia Constitution Park programme.

Among the Commission's most visible engagements so far has been its involvement with other organizations in a media campaign seeking to encourage road users, especially drivers of motor vehicles,



Crown Counsel David Cox

CRUISE SHIPS FLOOD PORT CASTRIES



Cruise ships docked in the Castries harbour on Tuesday November 19th 2002.

Two weeks ago, the St Lucia Tourist Board reported an encouraging turn-around in visitor arrivals, following a major slump in 2001 due to the combination of the lingering global recession and the terrorist attacks on America.

The beginning of this week provided another encouraging sign that tourism is definitely on the up. After a noticeable slowdown in recent months,

Port Castries, the nearby craft market and shopping complexes were abuzz with activity as five ships docked between Monday and Tuesday.

November is the start of the cruise season and if the trend continues, taxi drivers, vendors and others who depend on business from cruise passengers, should certainly have a lot to smile about over the coming months.

FETE MIZISYEN

picture of musician 8/1

The Saint Lucian musicians are getting many opportunities to play - the flower festivals, Jazz, carnival and just about every event to raise funds or just raise fun. November 22nd is observed every year as the feast of musicians, *Saint Cecilia's Day*. Saint Cecilia is a saint and martyr of the Roman Catholic Church. She was cruelly put to death about A.D 230...well so the story goes. In the meantime the musicians play on.

UNLOCKING LABORIE'S POTENTIAL

Government has given the south-western village of Laborie the means – a brand new jetty — to reap some welcome benefits from the island's growing tourism business.

It's in keeping with the incumbent Labour administration's sustainable tourism development policies which seeks to ensure that many St Lucian communities get a piece of the tourism pie.

The million dollar jetty which was officially commissioned Monday, November 18, enables pleasure craft and other tourism-related vessels to dock at Laborie for the first time.

With similar facilities already built or earmarked for other coastal communities, the emerging network of jetties also provides a platform for a possible resurgence of sea-based travel as an alternative to land-based transportation, as was the case many years ago.

"This jetty will be pivotal to the benign exploitation of the touristic potential of Laborie and it is in that context and from that perspective we see in great measure the ultimate justification of our community life," remarked district representative Velon John at the commissioning ceremony.

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New million dollar jetty will assist in tourism development, support the fishing industry, and re-establish community social activities



The new jetty in Laborie with potential to facilitate tourism and fishing activities.

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