



OUR LEADERS SHINE

Caribbean Prime Ministers present their platform to the US president. Prime Minister Dr. Kenny D. Anthony leads on the economy, security and Haiti.

Far away from the capital cities in the Caribbean, government leaders from the Bahamas, Grenada, Guyana and St. Lucia were in New York having breakfast with the president of the United States of America, George W. Bush.

It could have been tea and cake, or even a drink, for the more substantial part of the encounter was the interchange, the discussions and the unflinching position of the Caribbean leaders on their relations with Cuba. It was late September 2003, and the leaders were in New York for the United Nations General Assembly.

Flanked by Prime Minister Hon. Dr. Kenny D. Anthony of St. Lucia and Prime Minister Perry Christie of the Bahamas, George W. Bush spoke excitedly about his discomfort with the regime of Fidel Castro and the wish of his government to ensure democracy in Cuba.

Led by the most recent convert, Prime Minister Perry Christie of the Bahamas, the Caribbean leaders responded arguing that the relationship with Cuba was based on humanitarian and economic grounds. It was pragmatic to continue to work with Cuba, Christie noted, adding that over 100 Bahamians were in studying in Cuba in

2003. This figure paled in comparison to the hundreds which Cuba has trained from St. Lucia, Guyana and Grenada. George Bush agreed with the leaders that Cuba has made significant strides in the areas of health and education, but he was concerned about the existence of a communist regime in the "neighbourhood".

For Guyana the issues on the table related to the economic survival of the region. President Jagdeo said the region needed to secure financing from international institutions at concessionary rates. "We don't want a free ride" he said, "but listen to our pleas."

Prime Minister of St. Lucia Hon. Dr. Kenny D. Anthony was concerned about two critical issues in the neighbourhood. The

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Prime Minister Hon. Dr. Kenny D. Anthony is welcomed by the US Secretary of State Colin Powell, to the breakfast meeting. Looking on are US President George W. Bush and President Baraht Jagdeo of Guyana.

EDITORIAL

WELL-DESERVED KUDOS

The focus of the nation was so much on George Odlum's passing early last month, that the news of a very significant accolade for local industry could have easily escaped the attention of many St Lucians.

In a competition saluting the successes of the 'crème de la crème' in regional business, Laurie Barnard, the chairman of St Lucia Distillers Ltd., copped the prestigious Ernst & Young 2003 Caribbean Entrepreneur of the Year (EOY) award.

He goes on represent the Caribbean at the Ernst & Young World EOY awards scheduled for Monte Carlo next May. Previous Caribbean EOY winners who have had that honour include St Vincent's O.A. "Ken" Boyea, and Barbados' Ralph 'Bizzy' Williams who did the region proud by winning a category of the global awards.

Mr. Barnard's win is a much-deserved accolade for his visionary leadership of St Lucia Distillers Ltd. From its factory nestled among the banana fields of the Roseau valley, St Lucia Distillers has been innovating, adding exciting new products to its line, conquering export markets near and far, and earning much-needed foreign exchange for St Lucia.

Sales of the company's 27 different brands of rum, liqueurs, creams and punches currently total US\$11 million a year. Not surprisingly, the company's performance contributed significantly to the impressive growth achieved by local manufacturing last year in support of Government's economic diversification drive.

St Lucia Distillers truly represents what the spirit of St Lucian enterprise ought to be in this challenging period of globalization. What indeed is ironic is that out of the bosom of the banana industry, whose see-sawing fortunes during the past decade have had a dampening effect on St Lucia's economy should come this bright spark of hope for the future.

The inspiring message of Mr. Barnard's achievement to the private sector in particular, and the nation as a whole, is that we must reach for the stars because the stars are within our reach.



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FRANK DIALOGUE IN NEW YORK

HON. PHILIP J. PIERRE SPEAKS TO ST LUCIANS ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ISSUES

Saint Lucians living in the United States maintain a keen interest in what is happening back home. This was very much evident when a government delegation led by Minister for Commerce, Tourism, Investment and Consumer Affairs, Hon. Philip J. Pierre, met with a cross-section of the St Lucian community in New York in late September.

Prime Minister, Hon. Dr. Kenny D. Anthony, was originally scheduled to speak at this event. But he fell ill days after addressing the United Nations General Assembly and taking part in a breakfast meeting with US President George W. Bush, and had to be hospitalized. As a result, Pierre deputized for him.

"I know you have a lot of questions to ask me and I really want you to ask me the questions," Pierre told the audience. "We have to be frank with each other." In so doing, the minister set the stage for an open, lively discussion on issues ranging from the economy, crime, to the abortion debate.



Hon. Phillip J. Pierre
addressing St. Lucians in New York

Beginning with an overview of the recent performance of the economy, Pierre noted that Saint Lucia, like the rest of the Caribbean, was experiencing "trying economic times" as a result of the impact of globalization and recession in the leading industrialized countries, especially the United States.

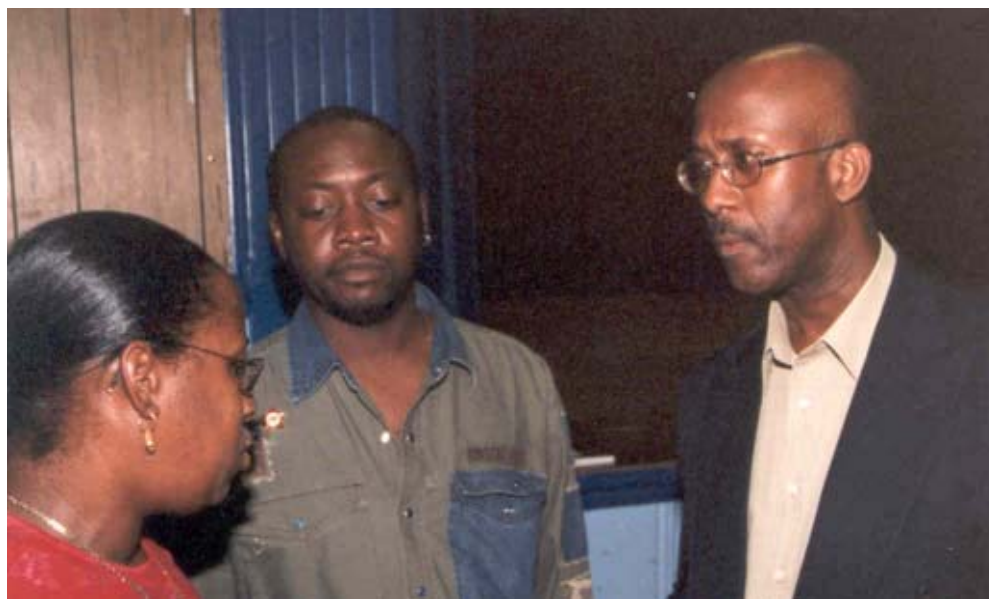
Despite having to grapple with these unprecedented challenges, Saint Lucia was holding its head above water and was the only member country of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) which managed to post real economic growth last year, Pierre said.

Encouraging growth in tourism and manufacturing are among present bright spots in the island's economic performance. Tourist arrivals up to August climbed to a new record, surpassing the

figure for the whole of 2000 which Governments considers a benchmark year.

There was a one drawback, however. Tourism earnings are down because visitors are not spending like before. This is particularly so in the case of US visitors, who account for most visitors to the island, and whose spending seems to be influenced by the recession at home.

"The tourism industry is one of the most viable industries that Saint Lucia has," Pierre pointed out. "We have a competitive advantage as far as tourism is concerned."



St. Lucia's Ambassador to the United Nations H.E Anthony Severin speaks to St. Lucian residents in New York.

Driven largely by the contribution of three leading exporters – Saint Lucia Distillers, Baron Foods, and Windward and Leeward Brewery, manufacturing has had a five per cent increase in output. As a result, Pierre said, more manufacturing jobs are opening up for Saint Lucians.

He also made reference to the fact that a growing number of Saint Lucians are going into business, as a result of incentives and other forms of support available from Government.

New General Hospital

Despite having to operate with less than half of the foreign exchange which banana exports previously injected into the economy, Government is doing a lot, Pierre said. He pointed to extensive road works underway throughout the island, plans for the construction of a new general hospital, and the construction of four secondary schools since 1997 with two more to follow shortly

"In terms of education, our goal is to achieve universal secondary education," Pierre said. "What that means is that every child who wants a place in a secondary school will be able to get a place. This year at the Common Entrance Exam, we accepted the highest number of students every accepted in secondary schools in Saint Lucia."

The audience wanted to know what Government is doing to combat crime. A lot, Pierre stressed. He made clear; however, that because the problem was complex with many contributing factors, including the repatriation of Saint Lucian-born convicts from the United States, there was no easy solution. Further, he pointed out, crime has become a global problem.

Government has taken a multi-faceted approach to the crime problem, beginning with improving the working environment for policemen and equipping them with more manpower, equipment and the necessary skills through training to be more effective in discharging their duties.



Sen. Julian R. Hunte
spoke on local issues and his role at the United Nations

"Efforts are being made but it is not easy," Pierre said. "And anybody who tells you they have a solution will not be speaking the truth."

Pierre was asked by a female member of the audience why the Government had legislated abortion without debate. First, he had to point out that that information was incorrect because no such law has been passed.

He explained Government was revising the Criminal Code to bring it up to date and there was provision for legal abortions in cases of rape, incest or severe medical problems that pose a threat to the life of the pregnant mother.

Pierre explained further that the existing Criminal Code allows a doctor to perform an abortion in cases where he or she deems that there is a serious threat to the life of the pregnant mother.

"Any woman who is raped or who is abused by her father or stepfather should not have to go to a back alley (to get an abortion). They should be able to have a legal and a medical abortion and that is all the Government is saying," he said.

The Rochamel issue involving the former Hyatt hotel on the Pigeon Island causeway also came up. Pierre took the opportunity to spell out the facts to clear up misinformation which has surrounded the issue.

He pointed out that the use of a government guarantee – which is at the centre of the issue – was not unusual in cases where it

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A section of the gathering at the meeting of St. Lucian residents from New York.

OUR LEADERS SHINE

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first was the survival of the economies of the small states which depend on banana exports for a large chunk of export earnings. The disappearance of preferential treatment for the region's bananas on the European market, and the competition from the Latin American region, has negatively affected the social and financial contribution to the economies of the Caribbean.

The economy

The economy of Dominica, according to Dr. Anthony, was in bad shape, and he was worried about this "contagion" spreading across the region. The direct request was for a USAID mission to visit the region to look at economic issues. Bush nodded, and also Secretary of State Colin Powell who was part of the seven member US delegation at the breakfast.

The second message from Dr. Anthony was for additional support for the efforts of CARICOM to resolve the political crisis in Haiti. As CARICOM's lead prime minister on governance, Dr. Anthony explained Haiti's slow march into the regional body against the backdrop of a seemingly unending political crisis.

Security of the Region

The third message from Dr. Anthony was the issue of security in the region, threatened by the expanding drug trade. The anxiety was shared by Roger Noriega, Assistant Secretary for Latin America and the Caribbean.

The US already has a history of support for regional security initiatives, with substantial investment in the Regional Security System (RSS). But in all the talk about security and some concern over the spread of terrorism, there was no mention of Iraq or the US wars in the Middle East and Afghanistan.

The breakfast chatter never ceased and President Bush did not fail to punctuate



Prime Minister Dr. Keith Mitchell (Grenada); President Barahat Jagdeo (Guyana); Prime Minister Hon. Dr. Kenny D. Anthony (St. Lucia); Prime Minister Perry Christie (Bahamas) - the four leaders who met US president George W Bush in New York in September 2003.

the discussions with his (sound) bites on Cuba. One solution he recommended was to block remittances to the country as a means of hurting the regime. No way! was the response from the Caribbean leaders and the US officials.

The discussions headed towards a proposed visit of the US president to the region, where the President Bush "will share the same platform" on one of the islands to discuss the issues of common concern in the "neighbourhood" – illicit trade, illegal migration, (refugee cases have come up recently), the diversification of the economies and Haiti. While Powell took notes, Prime Minister of Grenada, Dr. Keith Mitchell quickly attempted to pitch for US representation at the twentieth anniversary of the UN-led invasion, which ended the rule of the revolutionary regime in Grenada.

US troops stormed into Grenada following the slaying of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop.

But George W Bush welcomed a proposal by Dr. Mitchell to support the establishment of a regional Centre for Excellence in Technology. Retooling and retraining the workforce, Dr. Mitchell noted, was seen as a priority for the large body of Caribbean workers displaced by the changes in trade brought about by globalisation.

In summary the breakfast talks was about democracy, economic development and security in the "neighbourhood". President Bush acknowledged that the "neighbourhood" was in good shape

compared to the rest of the world, conceding that Cuba is "not 100% awful". If Cuba is free then economic development for all the people will follow. This situation, for Prime Minister Christie, was a paradox. The region would welcome any moves to broaden democracy in Cuba; the opening up of the market is likely to cripple the tourist industry in the region.

When the breakfast was over, seventy minutes later, the US president said he would consider sending a team to the region to explore all the issues put on the table. For their part the Caribbean leaders would welcome this but were resolute on the importance of their relationship with the Cuban government and its people.

DIALOGUE IN NEW YORK

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provides support for investments that bring significant benefits to the economy.

"Yesterday we met some investors and they said to us they had just built a 35 storey building with a guarantee from the City of New York," he noted. "If you want to have a seed development, if you want something that hasn't been developed before, you need to have some sort of government involvement."

Were it not for the 9/11 terrorist attacks which badly hurt global St Lucian tourism and contributed to the folding of Hyatt's Saint Lucia operations because of financial problems, the use of the government's guarantee would not have been necessary, he explained.

"When you are talking about \$12.5 million in a hole, let me tell you the benefits that hotel has brought to Saint Lucia," Pierre told the audience.

"That hotel pays over \$1 million a month in wages, it pays \$250,000 a month in terms of hotel occupancy tax, it pays \$100,000 in terms of utilities, it buys \$1 million worth of produce from farmers and fishermen, and it causes work of over \$500,000 for taxi drivers. So it is not money in a hole."

"I can hear you loud and clear and I like that," replied a female member of the audience who raised the question.

Saint Lucia's newly appointed Ambassador to the United Nations, His Excellency Anthony Severin, chaired the evening's proceedings. Also present was Minister for External Affairs, Senator Hon. Julian R. Hunte, who is presiding over the 58th Regular Session of the United Nations General Assembly. He was lauded by the audience for this achievement.



Caribbean leaders share an informal mement with the US president.

MORE SUPPORT FOR HERITAGE TOURISM

EUROPEAN UNION FUNDS TO BUILD CAPACITY FOR INDUSTRY

Saint Lucia's internationally-acclaimed Heritage Tourism Programme, a five-year-old, community-based, government initiative to improve the distribution of tourism benefits among the population, is entering a new developmental phase.

With heritage tourism now firmly established as an integral part of the Saint Lucian tourism product, attention is shifting over the next two years to addressing several critical issues identified as necessary for strengthening this aspect of tourism, and promoting its sustainability.

Under an EC\$2.4 million Heritage Tourism and Community Development project launched last month, the emphasis will be on the development of policy, legislation and regulatory measures to enhance the quality of heritage tourism. Small and medium sized businesses in the industry also stand to benefit from technical assistance and financial support.

EC\$1.4 million

The two-year project, backed by the European Union, Government and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), also provides support for capacity building initiatives, management and marketing of heritage tourism sites and attractions, and training of businesspersons in management, product development, standards, quality control, and marketing.

The EU, through the Office of Private Sector Relations (OPSR), is contributing EC\$1.4 million of the total financing. Government is contributing \$557,000, \$160,000 is coming through an OECS environmental



Tourism Minister, Hon. Philip J. Pierre sustainability project, and the Heritage Tourism Programme is pitching in with \$290,000.

"All business persons and companies involved in the nature heritage tourism sector are eligible to participate in and to benefit from the funds being made available, whether they are members of the Saint Lucia Heritage Tourism Programme or not," says head of OPSR, Adrian Augier.

Community Initiatives

Since its launch in 1998, heritage tourism has breathed new life into many parts of rural Saint Lucia that previously were disconnected from tourism. Anse-la-Raye, for example, has been able to reap considerable benefits through the highly successful Seafood Friday initiative. Some villagers, who previously were unemployed, are earning a steady income as a result of this venture.



Head of OPSR, Adrian Augier Similar ventures, albeit on a smaller scale, have also sprung up in Dennery and Vieux Fort.

Through heritage tourism, a number of agricultural plantations have found a new revenue stream by allowing visitors to experience their rich history. For example, Fond Doux Estate in Soufriere where the Battle of Rabot was fought in 1795 between the French and the British. The plantation grows cocoa for sale to US-based international chocolate maker, Hershey.

Other heritage tourism attractions include the Fond Latisab Creole Park, the Piton Flore Trail, the Folk Research Centre, the Toraille Waterfall and Gardens, the Eastern Nature Trail, LaTille Falls, and Fond D'Or Heritage Park.

Strategic Planning

"\$1.4 million is just a start," says Wilfred Pierre, National Authorizing Officer for the EU aid programme in Saint Lucia. "There are additional resources that we can make available to nature tourism because in the strategic plan of the European Union, this is an area that they have asked us to focus on..."

The Heritage Tourism Programme was launched in 1988 with a grant of EC\$5.8 million. The programme initially was to run for three years but has been extended, in this latest instance, for further two years thanks largely to continuing EU support and Government's commitment.

"This programme has a very clear vision of where it would like to go and the more we do that, we find the easier it is in fact to devote resources because there's a clear focus, a clear mandate, a clear objective," Augier explains.

Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Saint Lucia and the EU for the \$1.4 million in project financing, took place on Friday, October 10, 2003.

"It is a new and unique sector and the potential is tremendous," says Heritage Tourism Programme Chairman, Leo Clarke. "We have already had some successes and we look forward to further successes as we move forward..."

Benefits to People.

Clarke and members of the board volunteer their time in support of the development of heritage tourism. Among other things, they have established criteria defining the characteristics of a genuine heritage tourism product.

By bringing benefits to ordinary people through their involvement in various enterprises, Minister for Tourism, Hon. Philip J. Pierre, says heritage tourism serves to promote popular acceptance of tourism which is necessary for the industry's success.



Heritage Tourism location

"Regardless of how the Director of Tourism speaks about tourism and promotes it in the US, England and wherever he can, unless the people of the country see a benefit from it, the product will not be good and the marketing efforts would have been wasted," he notes.

"The Nature Heritage Tourism Programme (promotes this acceptance) by bringing tourism to the communities, by causing somebody in Anse la Raye and Canaries to be able to reap the benefits of tourism," he adds.

Government's commitment to the development of heritage tourism is reinforced in a new tourism policy to be adopted shortly. The participation of Saint Lucians in tourism, both directly and indirectly, is a key objective of that policy. This is exactly what heritage tourism is about.



Wilfred Pierre, EU aid coordinator



Sylvestre Clauzel, SLHTP director.

ECO TOURISM

The two-year Heritage Tourism and Community Development project addresses the following specific issues:

- The need for a policy framework that provides the enabling environment for heritage tourism development: facilitating entry into the industry by small entrepreneurs and independent operators; facilitating access to niche markets either directly or through select tour operators; facilitating community access to common property resources as assets in community-based tourism ventures; encouraging geographic distribution of activities, infrastructure and benefits.
- The need for specific policy measures and instruments in a wide range of domains: development and adoption of standards and environmental management systems; coordination and harmonization of user fee systems; standardized training programmes and activities; provision of fiscal and market-based incentives, etc.



found all over the island.

- The need to build capacity among organizations involved in community development and heritage tourism, especially at the local level: involvement of local government agencies and other community-based organizations in tourism-related programmes and initiatives; strengthening of linkages and networks among community organizations and private entrepreneurs in agriculture, culture and handicraft; and facilitating access to information and technology required by heritage/eco tourism business ventures; etc.
- The need to build an appreciation and sensitivity to the heritage tourism sector by financial institutions so as to engender greater confidence in its

potential viability; and consequently build the capacity to provide funding and related technical assistance for the sector.

- The need to remove the obstacles and constraints that limit the ability of small business people, small operators and communities to enter the tourism sector: namely, through specially designed business assistance programmes, adoption of appropriate fiscal measures/incentives; training of small entrepreneurs in all relevant aspects of management and tourism development; development of broad community awareness of the tourism sector and the requirements for its sustainability, etc. •

IMF ARTICLE IV CONSULTATIONS

A team of officials from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has commenced Article IV Consultations in Saint Lucia.

At the last consultations, which concluded on November 25, 2002, it was agreed that a subsequent consultation would be conducted in 2002 in light of the prevailing economic conditions locally and internationally.

The Government of Saint Lucia is of the view that given present international, regional and domestic economic developments, the present round of consultations would be useful, so that a more responsive evaluation can be obtained of current economic conditions.

The purpose of the consultations is to give the Government an in-depth assessment of the economic and financial developments that currently affect the economy of Saint Lucia and to assess its future economic prospects.

Such consultations are carried on in all member countries of the fund. Membership ranges from developed to developing and underdeveloped countries of the world.

During their visit, the team is expected to meet with representatives from the public and private sectors, including workers representatives.

It is expected that the team will be in the country for approximately two weeks.

The results of the visit are normally published on the website of the IMF for public reading.

EDUCATION VACANCIES

The Ministry of Education, Human Resource Development, Youth and Sports is seeking to recruit a Principal for the Les Etangs Combined School, a Vice Principal for the Babonneau Secondary School, and an Education Officer for District III.

Applicants for the post of Principal of Les Etangs Combined School should possess a Bachelor's Degree in Education Administration, plus 5 years experience in Education Administration. The IOB Executive Diploma would be an asset.

Alternatively, a Post Graduate Diploma in Administration, plus five years experience in Education Administration would be accepted. Having the IOB Executive Diploma would be an asset.

The main duties of principal include: supervision of the physical safety of the pupils; application of the syllabus in conformity with the needs of the pupils of the school; allocation and supervision of the duties of members of staff; responsibility for establishing and maintaining the discipline of the school; developing and maintaining an active relationship with parents through the Parent/Teacher Association and/or Board of Management; and ensuring the observance of the Education Act of 1999 and Regulations governing the Teaching Service;

Salary is in the range of \$45,890.49 - \$48,763.03 per annum (Grade 14 – 15) per annum. The Grade will be determined by the qualifications and experience of the applicant.

For the post of Vice Principal of the Babonneau Secondary School, applicants should have previous experience in serving as a Vice-Principal. Knowledge of the culture of the particular school will be an asset.

Other requirements are a Bachelor's Degree from a recognised university, and experience in Educational Administration. A post Graduate Diploma/ Degree in Educational Administration or IOB Executive Diploma would be an asset.

The main duties of this post are working in collaboration with the Principal and the Ministry of Education, Human Resource Development, Youth & Sports; being responsible for the time-tabling and class organisation; enforcing discipline and ensuring that all students follow their programme of work; assisting the Principal generally with administrative duties; and taking charge of the school in the absence of the Principal.

Salary is in the range of \$46,366.71 - \$49,266.06 per annum (Grade 14 – 15).

Applicants for the post of Education Officer, District III are required to have a working knowledge of, and the ability to interpret Civil Service rules and regulations and operating procedures, staff orders, financial and store rules and collective agreements.

Also, they should demonstrate familiarization with the Standard Operating Procedures contained in the Ministry's "Operations Manual", potential for leadership and scholarship, decisiveness, soundness of judgment and clarity in issuing directives, and knowledge of the Education Act No. 41 of 1999, Teaching Service Rules and Regulations and Educational Developmental Plan.

Qualifications for the post are a Master's Degree in Educational Administration. The IOB Executive Diploma would be an asset.

The Education Officer is required, among other duties, to visit schools regularly to provide general supervision of the programme of instruction; advise Principals on matters of school administration and organization; ensure that schools are supplied with necessary curricula, curriculum materials and other documents essential to the planning and delivery of instructions; initiate, organize and assist with the development and delivery of appropriate in-service and orientation training programmes for Principals and staff; and provide the Chief Education Officer with assessment reports of each school in his/her District;

Salary is in the range of \$53,207.28 per annum (Grade 17 maximum)

In each case, applications on the prescribed forms should be addressed to: The Secretary, Teaching Service Commission, Stanislaus James Buildings, The Waterfront, Castries, and should reach her no later than November 14, 2003.

NEW POLICY ON YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

Government is taking a fresh, more focused approach towards supporting the development of youth and sports organizations on the island.

A new policy, being adopted by the Department of Youth & Sports, is seeking to deepen cooperation with such organizations with the aim of getting more results from resources currently available for youth development.

Strengthening youth and sports organizations to serve as effective channels for delivering government and other forms of support, is a key objective of the policy scheduled to go into effect on December 1.

The Department of Youth & Sports, which falls under the Ministry of Education, Human Resource Development, Youth and Sport, estimates there are over 300 youth and sports organizations on the island.

"They call themselves groups, clubs, teams," says Youth & Sports Officer, Patrick Mathurin. "They have all kinds of names for them."

What most have in common, however, is a general lack of proper structures. And it's this deficiency which is considered a major reason why some are not effectively meeting the needs of members.

Bringing them up to scratch, therefore, is a high priority for the Department. And because there have been instances where organizations were set up for questionable purposes, it's insisting that appropriate mechanisms be put in place to ensure transparency and accountability to members and other stakeholders.

If an organization meets the minimum standards for operating, it will be given provisional registration. Groups which fully satisfy the Department's criteria will be recognized as *bona fide* entities.

Young people — that is, persons under the age of 35 — account for over 70 per cent of Saint Lucia's population, making this island one of the 'youngest' nations in the world. With six Youth & Sports Officers serving the entire island, the Department's resources are obviously stretched to the limit.

"We realize we have to call on the community to assist us," says Programme Development Officer, Jim Xavier.

"We are not working in a vacuum. The district youth and sports councils have to be on board, the NYC (National Youth Council) has to be on board so that, in the final analysis, it will be a community effort ... to reap the success that we are hoping this policy will reap," he adds.



Patrick Mathurin, Youth & Sports Officer.

The policy follows a survey carried out by the Department. The views of a cross-section of persons were canvassed, and the conclusion was that the organizations needed assistance if they are to be effective in serving their constituencies.

"They are not functioning properly, and it means that young persons within some organizations are being frustrated," Xavier observes.

Such frustration, he points out, stems from a lack of skills and, in other cases, not

knowing where or who to turn to for assistance. Building the capacity of youth and sports organizations is intended to put them in a position to provide solutions.

"When you look at all the situations affecting young persons, you can say young persons need direction and guidance," Xavier says. "The emphasis of the Department of Youth & Sports is to channel the right programmes to target young persons and ensure that the development of young persons is properly taken care of."

In preparation for registration, the Department of Youth & Sports is already working on the certification of organizations. As part of the process, officers go into the various communities



Programme Development Officer, Jim Xavier

Youth and sports organizations have played a critical role over the years in helping young people to develop.

to determine whether organizations do in fact exist, and to see the extent to which they are functioning.

"We have guidelines as to what makes a group so as to say to them 'this is what is necessary for you to be considered a group, this is what is necessary for you to get assistance,'" Mathurin explains.

"We do all those things in order to have the groups ready," Mathurin adds. "Then we say 'you are certified, you are a bona fide group, you have put systems in place to run an organization and we have a level of confidence that if you receive sponsorship, you are going to receive it for the development of the organization.'"

Certification will be followed by registration of organizations. On December 1, the Department will invite organizations to start doing so.

If an organization meets the minimum standards for operating, it will be given provisional registration. Groups which fully satisfy the Department's criteria will be recognized as *bona fide* entities.

According to the criteria set by the Department that define what is a properly structured organization, there must be a constitution, an executive must be in place, and there must be an annual general meeting, among other things.

"The whole idea is that when you register, we would see where you're at, what level you are operating, and then we can provide

the level of technical assistance that you would require," Xavier explains.

"We are hoping this would strengthen organizations, encourage them to seek technical assistance and advice, and to work closely with the Department and the National Youth Council so that we could give them the level of support and ensure that organizations continue to do the work that they set out to do ... so that members benefit and the society as a whole," Xavier adds.

Both Xavier and Mathurin appeared on NTN recently as part of an effort to sensitize youth and sports organizations about the new policy.

Youth and sports organizations have played a critical role over the years in helping young people to develop. For the most part, they have served as nurseries for the nurturing of various talents — public speaking, leadership skills, among other things.

The Hurricane Season is still on - Be Prepared

AT CARIFESTA VIII

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in the region. The organisers of Carifesta have not decided which country will next host the event.

Regional directors of culture will be convening a meeting this year to analyse Carifesta in its entirety. The Cultural Development Foundation is of the view that something drastic needs to be done.

"The conclusion that we have made in the CDF is that there is an urgent need for the remodelling of the Carifesta activity," Francis said.

Future Focus

He added: "Carifesta is supposed to be a process of development and, in turn, must make room for live exchanges. In the end it has become a logistical nightmare and very difficult to handle.

"There is too much to be done by the host country. Rather, there needs to be more involvement from CARICOM in the organisational phase and the process followed in the three to four years prior to the event." Francis went on.

Despite all the organisational problems faced in Suriname, the Saint Lucian contingent admirably rose to the occasion and represented themselves in a model fashion in all the areas.

'ACTION-ORIENTED GENERAL ASSEMBLY'

SEN. JULIAN HUNTE SETS GOALS FOR THE UNITED NATIONS DURING SAINT LUCIA'S UN PRESIDENCY

Saint Lucia's year-long leadership of the international community through the presidency of the 58th Regular Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) is off to a flying start.

After one month in the job of guiding this influential global forum, Minister for External Affairs, International Trade and Civil Aviation, Senator Hon. Julian R. Hunte, is reporting solid international support for the development-centred agenda Saint Lucia has brought to the table.

Hunte formally took the chair on September 16, firmly etching Saint Lucia's name in the history books as the smallest nation state ever to preside over the deliberations of the 191-member General Assembly. It's undoubtedly a boost for small island developing states on the international scene.

The HIV/AIDS pandemic, poverty alleviation, preservation of the environment, the Middle East conflict, the various challenges facing the African continent, and US-occupied Iraq are other major issues for action by the General Assembly over the coming year.

By the time the high-level General Debate ended on October 2, some 50 heads of state, 27 heads of government, including Prime Minister, Hon. Dr. Kenny D. Anthony, and 94 Deputy Prime Ministers and Foreign Ministers had taken turns at the rostrum to spell out positions on a wide range of international issues.

It was the most impressive turn-out of world leaders at UN headquarters since the convening of the September 2000 Millennium Summit to discuss the role of the United Nations in the 21st century. The Millennium Development Goals, to which Hunte has been making frequent reference, are a product of this conference.

Common Ground On Issues

"As I reviewed the many statements, I was struck by the common ground among speakers over a wide range of issues," Hunte noted as he brought the gavel down to close the General Debate on October 2. "This makes me hopeful that we will be able to do good work in this General Assembly during the 58th Session."

The General Debate effectively sets the tone for General Assembly deliberations for the remainder of each regular session. When he opened the current session on September 16, Hunte outlined a clear vision of what he wanted to achieve during his tenure at the helm.

"I want this session to be an action-oriented one, in which decisions are implemented, and in which we work together for this purpose," he said. "The people of the world are looking to us to

give them hope, seeing that we are working to implement solutions to their problems."

UN observers have interpreted the impressive turn-out of world leaders for the high-level opening phase of the 58th General Assembly as an encouraging sign of rekindling interest in the business of the UN which has grappled with many challenges in recent years.

UN reform, under discussion for the past 10 years but on which no real progress has been made, has emerged again as a high priority issue for this session of the General Assembly.

There are two critical issues here: reform of the Security Council – the body responsible under the UN's founding Charter for maintaining peace and security, and the revitalization of the General Assembly, the UN's main oversight and policy-making body.

Hunte's plan over the last two months was to invite comments from member states on "some bold ideas" with respect to both issues. His proposals for the revitalization of the General Assembly were scheduled to be circulated among members on October 16. The proposals related to the Security Council are due out in November.

The Security Council, in practice, is the most powerful UN organ. Unlike the General Assembly whose membership is universal and decisions are non-binding, the Security Council has a limited membership of 15 countries and its decisions are binding on all member states under the UN Charter.

Five countries are permanent members of the Security Council: China, France, the Russian Federation, United Kingdom and United States. They wield what is known as 'veto power' which can effectively block any move any permanent member finds



US President, George W. Bush, has Senator Hunte's (centre) full attention as he puts America's case to the General Assembly.



CONGRATULATIONS: General Assembly President, Senator Hon. Julian R. Hunte, shakes hands with Secretary General Kofi Annan.

displeasing. The remaining 10 members – drawn from the general UN membership – are elected by the General Assembly to serve two year terms.

As Hunte sees it, veto power and permanent membership make reform of the Security Council the bigger of the two issues. The UN's present structure dates back more than 50 years ago to the immediate post World War II period when the UN was established. It reflects the reality of the world as it was then.

The world today, however, is much different place. Reflecting present-day reality, especially the fact that the UN's membership is considerably larger than it was 50 years ago, a key objective of the proposed reform is the 'democratization' of the Security Council.

Globalization and Development

Against the backdrop of globalization and trade liberalization, economic development and the prosperity of states emerged as another key issue for the current General Assembly. It's an issue of particular interest to developing countries, especially small island states whose development has suffered setbacks because of how the world is proceeding with globalization and trade liberalization.

While there's no disputing that both processes have brought benefits to the global economy, the fact is these benefits have not been evenly distributed. Indeed, the record shows a widening income gap between developed countries, on one hand, and developing countries on the other.

This evidence clearly dispels the view, put forward by globalization proponents, that the global economy is a "level playing field" giving equal treatment to all. From its own experience with the liberalization of the European export market for bananas, Saint Lucia knows very well that the situation is far from a level playing field.

"The General Assembly has an important role to play in ensuring that globalization and trade liberalization are compatible with achieving equity in the global economy, and that the aspirations of all countries for sustainable development, prosperity and peace are met," Hunte stressed in his inaugural address on September 16.

He went on: "The Assembly has been the guiding light behind a decade or more of summits and conferences, the objectives of which are to assist member states, particularly those in the developing world, to meet their development goals. The international community must deliver on the promises made in these forums, more especially in working towards the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals."

An important event which will take place during Hunte's tenure, is a review of the UN's 10-year-old Plan of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) that came out of the 1994 UN Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island States in Barbados.

The review, which received strong support during the General Debate, will take place at a follow-up conference next August on the Indian Ocean island of Mauritius. Many commitments which the international community gave to small island states at the Barbados conference remained unfulfilled.

Small island states are naturally looking for action this regard. Hunte has an obviously keen interest in the Mauritius conference. He has singled out highlighting the special needs of small island states, especially the case for 'special and differential treatment' in global trade, as a top priority during his presidency.

"Our leaders have given direction to the work we are to do and political support for it."

HIGH MARKS FOR ST. LUCIA AT CARIFESTA VIII

Saint Lucia received a standing ovation for the performance of its major musical drama at Carifesta 8, held recently in Suriname.

The Caribbean Festival of Arts is a regional cultural event held every three to four years, and is geared towards showcasing the many talents which exist in the Caribbean region, South and Central America, as well as other parts of the world.

a forgotten component of the Saint Lucian experience.

"Over the years, I found that we lost out on our spirituality with the drums. With the move to Esoteric (a new group formed by Laborde), I wanted to bring back spirituality in the whole thing," he said.

Saint Lucia received many requests for encores of the musical production but was unable to respond due to the tightness of the schedule.



The Esoteric Drum Ensemble led by Athanasius Laborde on stage during Carifesta VIII in Suriname.

People from the outskirts of Paramaribo, the Surinamese capital, also witnessed the performance of the Saint Lucian musical and were very impressed. At this community event, there were also presentations from other nations. The aim of the event was to bring Carifesta to the ordinary people of Suriname.

Arts and Craft

Two other areas which received tremendous attention were the craft and the visual arts sections. People from all walks of life came by to inquire about the various types of arts and craft that could be found at the Grand Market.

Saint Lucia's arts and craft were a hit at the Grand Market.

"We need to make special mention of the interest in our visual arts and the arts and craft exhibition with the sales being quite a hit," said Francis. "The sales outside the market through informal connections proved useful for the artists," he said.

The Book Fair also proved to be quite a success for the Saint Lucian contingent.

"We were one of the few countries placing emphasis on the book fair," Francis said "With our tradition of literature throughout the Caribbean well established, with our Nobel laureate being well known, we thought that with the guidance of John Robert Lee we were outstanding."

The Book Fair provided Carifesta patrons with an opportunity to get to know the literary giants of the region, as well as the cultures of the various nations present. The paintings in the visual arts section were a display of Saint Lucian folk culture from various artists.

Carifesta in its present form has come in for serious criticism from visitors, artists as well as official representatives of culture

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The gala opening of CARIFESTA was a great expression of Suriname's heritage

Teddy Francis, Executive Director of the Cultural Development Foundation, was extremely proud of the presentation made by the Saint Lucian contingent, especially the performance of the musical drama.

"The Cultural Development Foundation was very pleased with the performance and presentation of Saint Lucia in Suriname. We were very pleased with the level of discipline and commitment from the artists which is always a challenge," he said.

Traditional music and dance

Entitled "the Afro-Caribbean Potpourri - the Journey," the musical is divided into two parts. The first part pays tribute to the African God, Ogoun, and the God of metals. Part two is a display of the various influences on Saint Lucia's culture.

Part one reveals the African influence through the chants to Ogoun. Part two brings to light the traditional dances of Saint Lucia such as the La Comet, the Gwan won and festivals such as La Rose.

The entire production essentially reflects the evolution of Saint Lucian culture. Director of the musical drama, Athanasius Laborde, says it was an attempt to rekindle

Saint Lucian performed titbits of the musical drama at the Grand Market prior to the staging of the main event. The Grand Market is a gathering of the countries participating in Carifesta for the purpose of displaying the arts and crafts of the various nations.



Local drummer, dancer and dramatist Carlton Ishmael tuning up for a performance



THIS WEEK ON NTN

Highlights: Week of Nov. 10 -15, 2003

CARICOM:
Sharing the Vision.
Tuesday at 7:30 pm.

Tune in Weekly For:

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Issues & Answers (Discussion Programme) Mondays at 8:00pm
Interview/Tuesdays at 6:15pm
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Your Right to Know/Thursdays at 6:15pm
Take 2/Fridays at 6:15pm (Week in Review - English)
Weflechi/Fridays at 6:40pm (Week in Review—Kweyol)
KiddiCrew.com/Saturdays at 9:30 am

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

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