



# TOUGH MEASURES AGAINST "DIRTY" MONEY

## TIGHTER REGULATION FOR CRITICAL FINANCIAL SECTOR



Prime Minister, Hon. Dr. Kenny D. Anthony: committed to ensuring St Lucia operates a 'clean' financial services sector.

On September 2, 2003, the House of Assembly took another step to avoid the pitfall of blacklisting which has befallen several Caribbean countries engaged in offshore financial services. The House passed a revised Money Laundering Prevention Act, further tightening the regulatory framework for the island's financial services sector.

The law was introduced against the backdrop of concerns expressed by developed country interests, fuelled in part by the 9/11 terrorist attacks on America, that a lot of money laundering takes place in the

Caribbean. There has also been suspicion of possible terrorist links to some regional transactions.

"...the events of September 11 have forced a major rethinking of the approach to money laundering, especially as the links between money laundering and terrorism have been exposed," said Prime Minister, Hon. Dr. Kenny D. Anthony, as he introduced the bill for its second reading.

He added: "...the small jurisdictions are under the most intense pressure where this issue

*cont'd on page 2*

### EDITORIAL

#### UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY

Last Tuesday, St. Lucia began its year-long presidency of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), with Minister for External Affairs, Senator Hon. Julian R. Hunte, taking the chair.

It's an interesting coincidence that St Lucia has assumed the leadership of this influential global forum a mere two days after the collapse of crucial agricultural trade negotiations under the auspices of the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

The breakdown stemmed, in large measure, from apparently irreconcilable differences between developed and developing countries over how the multi-billion-dollar trade in agricultural commodities should be liberalized.

At the aborted talks in Cancun, Mexico, developing countries showed for the first time since the establishment of the WTO that there is strength in numbers and unity of purpose. Their insistence on free but, more importantly, fair trade, sends a clear message that they are no longer prepared to jeopardize their economic interests by accepting a trade agenda defined by the developed countries.

Badly scarred by the banana battle between the United States and the European Union, St Lucia stands as testimony to the world community of what free trade without fairness really means. That's why it's so important, as Senator Hunte has been urging, for the UN to shift its focus back to development issues.

Agriculture shows up the double standards in the free trade debate. On one hand, developed countries are pressuring developing countries to free up their markets. But in a case of not practising what you preach, the developed countries want to continue subsidizing their farmers.

Through its UNGA presidency, St Lucia has a unique opportunity to focus international attention on the burning issues of development and to influence global public opinion in the hope of securing a fair deal for the world's poor and powerless.



Caribbean journalists on recent tour of China reporting on trade issues. Earl Bousquet of St. Lucia in the middle. (See story on page 8)



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# TIGHTER REGULATION

from page 1

is concerned (but) .... there can be no question that the jurisdictions where the greatest amount of money laundering takes place are precisely those jurisdictions who are exerting the pressure on these small states."

Following the blacklisting of several financial services jurisdictions by the Paris-based Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and in response to protests from several developing countries, OECD members agreed to give a one-year grace period to allow those jurisdictions with deficient regulatory frameworks, to bring them up to date.

Despite its 'clean bill of health', St Lucia took the opportunity of the grace period to review its own regulatory framework during the past year with the assistance of Mr Rich Power, an official from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

## Financial Intelligence Authority

The revised Money Laundering Prevention Act is a product of that exercise which examined, among other things, the Money Laundering Prevention Act No. 36 of 1999 and the recently enacted Financial Intelligence Authority Act No. 17 of 2002.

"What the Government has effectively decided to do is to take the opportunity to bring the Money Laundering Act up to date by engaging in a series of amendments and, at the same time, absorbing the Financial Intelligence Authority under the Money Laundering Act so that we will now have one entity dealing with issues of money laundering," said Dr Anthony, explaining the purpose of the bill.

Having one entity to monitor activities in the financial services sector was Government's idea all along. However, the international powers-that-be who set standards for the industry didn't agree with this approach. As a result, St Lucia had a monitoring committee for money laundering which operated separately from the Financial Intelligence Authority whose job is to constantly monitor the movement of money through the financial system.

## International Standards

The UN official following his review recommended merging the two bodies and it has now been accepted by the same powers-that-be as making practical sense. Exactly what the Government had been trying to convince them all along.

**Despite its 'clean bill of health', St Lucia took the opportunity of the grace period to review its own regulatory framework during the past year with the assistance of Mr Rich Power, an official from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.**



**Recent developments in the local financial sector have introduced a series of new approaches to financial individual and corporate financial management.**

"In effect," explained Dr Anthony, who has ministerial responsibility for the financial services sector, "this legislation will make it abundantly clear that there is only one entity with responsibility to drive policy and policing on matters related to money laundering and related offences."

Accepting a recommendation by the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank, which also did an assessment to determine if St Lucia's money laundering legislation conformed to international standards, the revised Money Laundering Prevention Act corrects a deficiency in the previous version.

## Financial Action Task Force

The old law had excluded from its monitoring provisions the following entities: finance houses, credit unions, merchant banks, mortgage institutions, trust companies, unit trusts, credit card companies, general financial services providers, and entities engaged in the business of securities.

Under the new Act, their financial activities will be monitored from now on, as required by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), a watchdog of the global financial services industry.

## World Bank Assessment

"I want to drive home the point that this is an all-encompassing legislation and to put all those agencies on notice that they have to get their houses in order," Dr Anthony said. "We are part of the international financial system.... and whether we like it or not, we have to make these adjustments."

A team from the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) is due on the island shortly to carry out a joint assessment of the financial services industry. The aim is to determine whether St Lucia has met all the international requirements for dealing with money laundering and financial intelligence issues.

Compared with other Caribbean jurisdictions, St Lucia is a relative newcomer in the international financial services industry. With Government looking to diversify the economy, the sector does provide considerable opportunity for supporting economic growth and the modernisation of the economy.

Fortunately for St Lucia, it's always been regarded as a 'clean' jurisdiction.

Because the industry is subject to continuing review to close any existing loopholes that may permit abuse, Dr Anthony held out the possibility that the revised law itself may have to return to Parliament in a matter of months for any recommended amendments.

The powers-that-be are already saying to developing countries that if they do not have the resources to put the necessary infrastructure in place to operate an internationally acceptable financial services industry, they should get out of the business.

Failure by any country to implement any recommended adjustments opens them to the possibility of being blacklisted. "Once you are blacklisted, to get off that list is not easy," Dr Anthony warned.

## Steady Growth in Offshore Services

Offshore financial services have been recording "steady but cautious" growth, Dr Anthony revealed during presentation of the Government's 2003-04 budget earlier this year, "the result of a deliberate policy as St Lucia has seen the consequences of robust but uncontrolled growth elsewhere in the region."

"Our cautious and thorough approach has helped us to avoid the scandals and pitfalls that have blackened the reputations of so many other jurisdictions," Dr Anthony also said on that occasion.

Up to April this year, 848 international business companies had set up operations on the island, 436, or more than half, doing so within the past year. There were also nine captive insurance companies, three trust companies, and a private mutual fund. Only one offshore bank was registered to operate.

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# GETTING RID OF RATS

## A THREE-PRONGED ATTACK ON RODENT POPULATION

**Government is embarking on a national mobilization next month, in preparation for the launch early next year of a coordinated, all-out campaign against a potentially deadly human enemy.**

**This opening salvo in a three-pronged attack strategy against disease-carrying rats, will take the form of an intensive public awareness and education exercise. The aim is to spur St Lucians into action by making them conscious that rats only thrive because humans allow them to.**

For example, if you litter the place with fast food boxes containing remnants of meals, you are providing welcome food for the elusive furry creatures. Similarly, if you keep your surroundings untidy, allowing abandoned household items to pile up around the house, you are providing a comfortable breeding ground for them.

"Wherever there are human settlements, you will have rats but we can keep them under control if we do a number of simple

The committee is planning to hand in its report to Dr Anthony by November and is aiming to get the eradication campaign in full swing early in the new year. Besides the Office of the Prime Minister, other members of the committee come from the Ministries of Agriculture, Tourism, Health, Castries City Council, St Lucia Chamber of Commerce, and the St Lucia Solid Waste Management Authority.

### Understand their Behaviour

The rat nuisance isn't unique to St Lucia. Other Caribbean countries and some metropolitan cities, for example Chicago, are grappling with similar challenges. It boils down to a simple fact: rats are everywhere and are looking to survive by outsmarting humans who unwittingly allow them.

If humans get to understand rats, however, it could be the other way around. While rats are highly intelligent creatures, Dr. Fletcher says the fact that their behaviour is predictable is what makes them vulnerable.

**By moving now on the issue, Government is seeking to safeguard public health, protect the economy, and save lives and money by preventing an uncomfortable situation from becoming worse.**

things like being a little more circumspect about the way in which we deal with our garbage and how we keep our surroundings," says Cabinet Secretary, Dr James Fletcher.

"I think those things, in and of themselves, will cause a significant reduction in the rat population," he adds. "And that is what we are tackling at the first point, making people aware that some of the things they are doing are contributing to the problem."

### Inter-sectoral Approach

Dr. Fletcher is chairing a broad-based inter-sectoral committee which Prime Minister, Hon. Dr. Kenny D. Anthony, appointed earlier this year to come up with an effective solution to the rat nuisance. After several meetings, the committee has agreed on a three-pronged strategy of action.

Besides the media-based public awareness/education drive, other components are a massive island-wide clean-up campaign to reduce breeding grounds for rats and an extensive baiting operation using rodenticide to kill the creatures which spread the killer disease, leptospirosis.

"If a rat is in your house, it will always use the same path to get from point A to point B," he points out. "So there are certain patterns that allow us to deal with rats and the public needs to be aware of those patterns."

And that's exactly what the forthcoming public awareness/education campaign will seek to address, among other things.

By moving now on the issue, Government is seeking to safeguard public health, protect the economy, and save lives and money by preventing an uncomfortable situation from becoming worse.

### The Cost of Control

While the committee's focus is on eradicating rats, its work will have a simultaneous similar impact on other public health menaces, especially mosquitoes which cause dengue fever and the giant African snail which poses a serious threat to food crops and can cause disease in humans.

A critical issue which the committee hasn't yet determined is the cost of the overall campaign and how the bill will be split.



**Dr. James Fletcher: chairman of the committee pursuing a solution.**

Because rats are also a headache for the commercial sector, Government is hoping business houses will pitch in and play their part. One thing is clear, however. External support will have to be sought.

"We have asked the Ministry of Health to explore the possibility of getting technical assistance from PAHO (Pan American Health Organization) and the Ministry of Agriculture to see whether the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization) would provide technical assistance to help us from an agricultural point of view," says Dr. Fletcher.

"We obviously have to mobilize resources locally and externally," he adds. "The final cost will be partly determined by the choice of rodenticide we will use."

When Dr. Fletcher was permanent secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, he often came face-to-face with the damage caused by rats. Coconut and cocoa farmers in particular would complain about the extensive damage rats were causing to their crops. One cut flower farmer even reported rats were eating the buds of orchids being grown for export.

Dr. Fletcher believed all along that a coordinated, inter-agency approach offered the best route to an effective solution. However, putting it together was a challenge for the Ministry of Agriculture because other agencies were separately doing their own thing.

So that when the Prime Minister established the committee earlier this year and asked him to serve as chairman, Dr. Fletcher unhesitatingly accepted the assignment because he was familiar with the problem and agreed Dr. Anthony was taking the right approach.

The committee is considering the possible use of a Cuban-developed rodenticide that reportedly has delivered spectacular results in controlling rats in Cuba and several Latin American countries. The product is also said to be environmentally friendly in the sense that it dries up the rats after killing them, thereby reducing the problem of stench.

The committee, however, has a major concern. The active ingredient in the product is a strain of the salmonella bacteria which causes food poisoning in humans. The Cubans say the strain of salmonella being used is deadly only in the specific case of rats but, otherwise, is safe with humans and other creatures.

St Lucia, however, is doing its own assessment of the product in conjunction with other OECS countries working along with the Caribbean Epidemiology Centre

*cont'd on page 7.*

## **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY**

### **SOME TIPS ON HOW TO CONTROL RATS**

**Keep all garbage cans covered.**

**Put garbage out only on the day it is collected**

**Do not leave food or water outside for pets. Rats will drink water, eat food, and build nests nearby.**

### **TO PREVENT RATS FROM NESTING NEAR YOUR HOME**

**Remove all piles of tires, old furniture or other refuse from your yard.**

**Elevate - dog houses and piles of wood at least 18 inches off the ground.**

**Keep thick shrubbery away from your house, if possible.**

**Compost piles attract rats. If you decide to make a compost pile, use leaves and vegetable waste only. Do not use meat or fish scraps. Do not compost your garbage. Buy or build a compost that does not sit on the ground, but instead rests on a frame above the ground.**

**Remember Rats carry diseases! Any person or child bitten by a rat should be brought to a doctor or hospital emergency room for treatment.**

# THE MEDIA AND INTEGRATION

## Prime Minister Dr. Kenny D. Anthony's charge to Media and Communications Executives of the Caribbean region

With member states of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) moving towards the establishment of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME), Prime Minister, Hon. Dr. Kenny D. Anthony, sees a crucial role for the region's media in the success of this initiative, especially in relation to the free movement of resources.

In a thought-provoking address to Caribbean media representatives meeting in Curacao last month, Dr Anthony said fulfilling this role means the media will have to make a fundamental shift in how they cover the central issues of regional integration at this historic juncture.

The supply of "reliable economic information" to the Caribbean public, Dr Anthony told the Annual General Meeting of the Caribbean Broadcasting Union (CBU), was indispensable for the smooth working of the 'free movement of people, capital, and goods and services' provisions of the CSME.

He went on: "The opposite also holds. Without objective information, labour and capital movement can be spontaneous and speculative. This results in instability and unemployment, with attendant social and political repercussions. Thus, reliable information and efficient communication are indispensable to accelerated growth."

With respect to the free movement of capital, the same basic argument applies. However, Dr. Anthony emphasized that as services in general and financial services in particular play an increasingly bigger role in the region's economies, public confidence in this emerging sector as well as its stability will rely on "accurate information and effective communication by the media."

### Information to Inspire Confidence

He explained: "Like most economies in the world, stability is critical for growth. Stability is a function of confidence. Confidence sustains our monetary systems, our capital markets, and our investment environment. This is certainly not unique to the

"Such issues require more than the 'he said-she said' approach to news and current events," Dr Anthony continued. "They require the kind of enlightened and comprehensive debate which the regional media alone have the power to deliver and sustain."

### Media Responsibility

"Let me go further: an informed media have the right – and must exercise that right – to place irrational and irresponsible pronouncements in their deserved context. The media must draw confidence from its convictions, because it has a responsibility to itself and to the public to ensure that opinion is distinguished from fact and fact from fiction."

Dr. Anthony said the traditional "he said-she said" approach to news coverage was inadequate in the current context of Caribbean integration. "Throughout the regional community, we need specialist skills beyond generic journalism. A healthy media must be competent in matters of international trade, economics, law, art, health, business and finance, to name but a few areas of specialisation."

"Only with such subject matter specialists at hand," Dr Anthony added, "can the media help to sustain objective debate so critical for informed decision-making and for the sustenance of our democracy."

### A Vision of Collective Destiny

Though it's more advanced than the other CSME provisions, Dr. Anthony saw an equally important role for the media in so far as facilitating the free movement of goods and services within the region. Especially in informing and educating the general public about existing trade arrangements.

"Regional producers, manufacturers, traders and consumers are less informed than they ought to be on many subjects affecting their livelihoods," he noted. "There is a role here for the media to act both as catalyst and conduit in the dissemination of trade-related information."



Prime Minister, Hon. Dr. Kenny D. Anthony.

According to Dr Anthony, regional integration, at its very root, is about "the convergence of vision and values, the vision of a collective destiny"

"In the same way that Karl Marx recognized that popular power and the collective will required a commonality of perspective to be effectively mobilized, the regional integration process requires a similarly shared perspective," Dr Anthony contended.

"Information and communication are the vehicles by which we arrive at that point; that point where collective consciousness, despite the isolation of individuality, recognizes the common cause and rise to a single, larger, unifying purpose."

Dr. Anthony continued: "As caretakers of information and communication, the regional media is at the heart of this process. They share the responsibility of educating the people of this region about the commonality of our circumstances, the similarities that bind rather divide us, and the common solutions we might apply to our development."

It was Dr. Anthony's second address for the year to a major gathering of Caribbean media representatives. In late January when the Eastern Caribbean Press Council was officially launched here, he delivered the keynote address.



New and improved telecommunications infrastructure has made the dissemination of information much easier today

On the specific issue of free movement of people, Dr Anthony said: "It is in our collective interest to ensure that people have reliable economic information and can move in response to real economic opportunity."

"Skills deficiencies for one economy should represent employment opportunities for another. Economic opportunities represent training opportunities for yet another sector; and training translates into income enhancement, which translates into a larger, more viable market for us all."

Caribbean but it is of special significance, precisely because our integration process rests on the creation of a single economic space."

"That single economic space requires not just information but complete information of the type that inspires confidence and rational economic decision-making. Such processes require more than superficial coverage of issues and must avoid giving credence to media-hungry pundits making irrational, irresponsible or sensational utterances.



Digital technology has facilitated the speedy production and exchange of information

# ON GUARD AGAINST TERRORISM

Many St Lucians may not remember the Cuban civilian aircraft which anti-Castro exiles blew up off Barbados in 1976. Seventy three persons were killed, and it was perhaps the Eastern Caribbean's first face-to-face encounter with modern international terrorism. The 27<sup>th</sup> anniversary is next month.

The destruction of the Cubana DC8 airliner that October afternoon was a shocking wake-up call for the region. It told the Caribbean that never mind it regarded itself as a zone of peace, the region wasn't immune from being used as a launching pad to carry out such atrocities.

If the Caribbean didn't take that message seriously then, September 11, 2001 certainly drove it home. In a very telling way, the deadly 9/11 attacks on America and the continuing threat against US and Western targets worldwide show how vulnerable virtually every country is to becoming a victim of terrorism.

It was against this backdrop that the St Lucia House of Assembly, meeting on September 9, passed tough new legislation granting sweeping powers to local security forces to join the fight against international terrorism.

## Anti-Terrorism Act

Passage of the Anti-Terrorism Act fulfills St Lucia's obligations as a member of the United Nations. It's also the latest in a series of measures implemented by the Labour Government in the aftermath of 9/11 to improve national security.

"...There are good reasons why we need to be on our guard in the Caribbean," remarked Prime Minister, Hon. Dr. Kenny D. Anthony, as he introduced the bill for its second reading.



**Terror of 9/11: New York's World Trade Centre building collapses after terrorists struck using two passenger aircraft.**



**The Government of St. Lucia has invested millions of dollars to enhance security at the island's ports.**

Dr. Anthony's comment came against the backdrop of a comprehensive US briefing on the threat of terrorism in general and with specific reference to the Caribbean, which he and other Eastern Caribbean leaders had received days earlier in Barbados.

A number of factors make the Caribbean vulnerable to terrorists bent on causing harm to American and Western interests. First, there's the question of geographical location which makes the Caribbean "the soft underbelly of the United States", as Dr. Anthony put it.

## Innocent Deaths

There's too the presence of considerable US investment in the region. Terrorists have repeatedly shown they have no qualms about striking US and other Western targets, regardless of where they are, in pursuit of their objectives.

Last year's deadly bombing on the Indonesian tourist resort of Bali readily comes to mind. That attack claimed the lives of over 200 innocent people.

"What happened in Bali is a reminder of what is possible," Dr. Anthony told the House. "God forbid if anything like that had to happen in the Caribbean. The consequences would be dramatic."

He added: "For our own good, therefore, we are compelled to take measures to protect not just a neighbour but to protect ourselves."

The measures carry a heavy price tag which Government has had to shoulder largely on its own. Earlier this year, for

example, significant sums were spent to upgrade security at the island's two airports.

Its money Government obviously would have preferred to put to other uses in these challenging economic times. However, as Dr Anthony pointed out, failure to address these security issues could have had serious repercussions for St Lucia.

A downgrading of the island's airports was one such possibility. Such a move by American authorities would have a disruptive effect on the vital tourist trade out of the US because it would signal to potential visitors that traveling to St Lucia is risky.

St Lucia's vulnerability to manipulation by criminal elements was highlighted recently when local authorities, acting in concert with US counterparts, smashed a racket involving certain Middle Eastern nationals who were using the island as stepping stone for illegal entry into the United States.

## Security of Passports

The racket, which apparently had been operating for some time, was uncovered after US authorities came here to investigate a group of Middle Easterners who, after being intercepted at the US end, were found to be without passports. The men claimed they were seeking political asylum.

According to Dr. Anthony, they had come to St Lucia, stayed for a few days in the south and then, with local help, were taken out to sea to join a ship which took them to US territory.

"The fact of the matter is whether they were merely seeking economic opportunity away

from the Middle East, St Lucia was used as a conduit to commit an unlawful act and they succeeded in doing so until they were discovered in the United States," Dr. Anthony stressed.

"What's the lesson here? It's very simple. We are close to the United States. We are a conduit. Knowingly or unknowingly, we can provide passage for those bent on causing hurt, harm or damage to others."

## Support of International Conventions

As a result of this incident, St Lucia has changed how visas are issued to Middle Eastern nationals. Previously, visas could be issued at a British Embassy without consultation with St Lucia. Now, authorization must come from St Lucia.

The new anti-terrorism law, giving effect to United Nations Security Council Resolution 1373 on Terrorism and other UN anti-terrorism conventions, offers a broad, 'almost all-encompassing' definition of what constitutes a terrorist act.

Causing serious bodily harm, serious damage to property and endangering a person's life can all be treated as acts of terrorism under the law. So too are offences involving the use of firearms and explosives, as well as actions that create a serious risk to public safety and health, among other things.

The law is not intended to be applied arbitrarily. The context of the crime is intended to guide the authorities in determining when such offenses constitute a terrorist act. So that if two men down the road are involved in an altercation and a

*cont'd on page 6*

# ON GUARD AGAINST TERRORISM

from page 5

stabbing occurs, the charge of grievous bodily harm will not be classified as a terrorist offense.

Under the Act, the police are given power to intercept the communication of any person suspected of involvement in terrorism, for use as evidence in a court trial. However, the final say is not with the police. There are checks and balances to prevent abuse of the measure.

“Our government felt there ought to be safeguards in that provision,” Dr Anthony explained. “Rather than going the route of some countries where these powers are carte blanche, the power can only be exercised on the order of a judge, he added. “An application has to be made to a judge and the judge has to be satisfied that the Attorney-General concurs with the application of the police officer.”

## Harbouring Terrorists

There's provision in the Act for the police to detain anyone suspected of involvement in terrorist activity. Once the court grants a detention order, the suspect can be held initially for 48 hours. On further application to the court, the period of detention can be extended to five days.

Any person who allows personal property – be it a house, car, boat, or whatever – to be used to facilitate a terrorist act, faces 25 years imprisonment on conviction for the indictable offence. The property is then liable to forfeiture by the state.

Twenty five years imprisonment is also the penalty for persons found guilty of harbouring or giving any form support to terrorists in committing an offence. Arranging meetings in support of terrorist groups is outlawed as well as membership of such organizations.

Fulfilling their obligations to the international community, other Caribbean and Commonwealth countries have enacted similar UN-inspired legislation in the aftermath of 9/11. St Lucia drew on their experiences in coming up with its own version of the Act.

“There can be no doubt that this is draconian legislation. There can be no doubt that the consequences are far-reaching but when we are dealing with terrorism, we are not dealing solely with domestic acts. The chances are we are dealing with entities beyond our domain,” Dr. Anthony remarked, as he wrapped up the debate.

“By its very nature, terrorism is organized, sophisticated, far-reaching, difficult to identify, knows no boundaries, knows no morality, no decency of any kind,” Dr. Anthony went on.

“As much as I detest that we have to proceed to enact such legislation, I have to recognize that unless we get our house in order, unless we put in place appropriate security measures, we can become a danger not only to ourselves but to others and that is the fundamental reality we have to face.”



**Do St. Lucians really care about protecting the environment? Whenever one comes across scenes of environmental degradation like what's in this picture, one really can't help asking the question.**

**Despite the numerous warning about the consequences of indiscriminate dumping on public health and the environment, this Castries waterway is clogged to the brim with plastic and other waste. A sure recipe for flooding, in the event of persistent heavy rain!**

**This past week, the National Conservation Authority, National Emergency Management Organisation, Castries City Council, St Lucia Solid Waste Management Authority, St Lucia National Trust, and Recycle It joined forces in a campaign to rid the island of plastic waste.**

**From all reports, the five-day campaign was a success. Let's hope, as a result of the public-spirited effort of these organizations, that St. Lucians will start taking the message of environmental protection more seriously. After all, if we don't care for our environment, nobody else will.**



**HAZARD MITIGATION AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT**  
Representatives of local Emergency Management Committees, public and private sector agencies listen to a presentation from Miss Elizabeth Riley of CEDERA (Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency). The occasion was the national consultation in St. Lucia, convened to discuss the draft national Hazard Mitigation Policy. Many persons attended the session at the conference room of the National Insurance Corporation, on September 11th 2003. The St. Lucia initiative is part of the Caribbean Hazard Mitigation Capacity Building Programme (CHAMP) being coordinated by the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMO), in collaboration with the Caribbean Development Bank's Disaster Mitigation Facility for the Caribbean.

## VACANCY NOTICE

Applicants are invited from suitably qualified persons for appointment to the post of **Director of Product Development** in the Ministry of Tourism.

### QUALIFICATIONS

Applicants should possess:

1. A Master's Degree in Tourism Management, Business Management or related field with at least three (3) years experience in a post at Grade 15 and above; A Bachelor's Degree plus a Post Graduate Diploma in Tourism Management, Business Management or related field with at least three (3) years experience in a post at Grade 15 and above; An Advanced Certificate in Tourism Management, Business Management or related field with at least four (4) years experience in a post at Grade 15 and above.

### DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The successful applicant will be required to work under the direction of and report to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Tourism on matters related to work in progress.

The applicant will be expected to :

1. Lead, supervise, and co-ordinate activities within the specific tourism sector of the Ministry, with respect to the execution of approved policies and programmes; 2. Ensure the effective implementation of policy decisions, programmes and projects in the Tourism sector; 3. Identify, develop and direct programmes and projects in the Tourism sector. 4. Supervise/oversee the process of duty-free entries submitted by the hotels/restaurants in accordance with the interpretation of the various Cabinet Conclusions; 5. Supervise, draft and/or prepare memoranda to the Cabinet of Ministers; 6. Collect and compile analyses of tourism statistics and keep Government informed of the performance of the sector; 7. Collaborate and liaise with the various tourism organizations (i.e. St. Lucia Tourist Board, Caribbean Tourism Organization, St. Lucia Hotel and Tourism Association, Caribbean Hotels' Association) and other organizations whose activity is concerned with tourism development; 8. Advise the Ministry where necessary on technical matters relating to Tourism and its development and to increase the attractiveness of St. Lucia as a Tourism destination.

Salary is in the range of \$57,520.69 - \$58,921.95 (Grade 18)

Applicants on the prescribed form along with certified copies of documents pertaining to qualifications should be addressed to: **The Secretary, Public Service Commission, Block A, Waterfront, CASTRIES**, to reach her no later than **October 31, 2003**.

# GETTING RID OF RATS

from page 3  
(CAREC). The findings will guide determination as to whether the product will be used.

Determined to crack the problem, the committee is approaching the assignment in a scientific way. Using proven methods, it is seeking to come up with a reliable estimate of the size of the rat population on the island.

Such information, for example, will guide decisions as to where to focus resources, including the amounts of bait to be applied, etc. As the campaign progresses, it will also allow the committee to evaluate the effectiveness of the campaign by giving a fairly accurate picture of the number of rats killed.

Based on available information, Castries, which has the highest concentration of population on the island, is believed to also have the highest number of rats. Agricultural areas, especially where cocoa and coconuts are grown, come next.



The cacao pod: frequently attacked by rats.



International Trade, World Peace and the Plight of Banana Farmers - A Photo Essay from China.

## Forum in China

from page 8  
It was during her visit to the Caribbean, Madame Wu continued, that she invited the governments and business communities to consider sending delegations to China to exhibit and expose the trade and investment possibilities and opportunities in their part of the world. She was therefore glad, she said, "to see those initiatives given life in the presence in Xiamen of the government and business delegations from the Caribbean."

Since diplomatic relations were established with the eight countries, the Vice Minister revealed, China's relationship with each of them has been improving and developing steadily, "as evidenced by the increased number of visits" by high level Chinese delegations to the Caribbean "that have resulted in increased opportunities for cooperation and exchange."

Madame Wu said the Chinese government "attaches great importance to its relationship with the Caribbean." She expressed the Government's "thanks for the One China policy upheld by the eight Caribbean countries, as well as their support for China's accession to the WTO and in its bid to host the World Expo in Shanghai in 2010." "Likewise," she continued, "China supports the Caribbean integration process and the efforts of countries in this region to achieve special and differential treatment in the Doha trade negotiations."

"On the basis of the principles of peaceful coexistence," said Madame Wu, "the Chinese government would like to work with the Caribbean countries to build a comprehensive relationship of common development and cooperation."

She expressed the official view in China that it and the eight Caribbean countries present "are all developing countries" and therefore, "further strengthening and deepening of bilateral economic and trade exchanges and cooperation is in the fundamental interests of all."

# QUICKER COURT PROCEEDINGS

**Government has made a decisive move towards enabling the court system to deliver justice more speedily, as the St Lucian public has been demanding.**

**On September 9, the House of Assembly passed legislation allowing magistrate's courts proceedings to be recorded using either audio or video equipment. An improvement in the efficiency of the court system will result.**

Leader of Government Business, Hon. Mario Michel, said the new law making the recording of court proceedings mandatory would bring an end to the "tedious process" of magistrates and judges having to write down "every single word said by every single witness in every single case".

Passage of the Recording of Court Proceedings Act followed the successful conclusion of a pilot project in the magistrate's courts. The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) provided recording equipment used in the project.

Recording equipment is on order.



Castries Magistrate's Court: electronic recording of proceedings expected to lead to improved efficiency

"Finally, after years of operating under a relatively antiquated system, this government has taken our court proceedings along with several other things into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century," Michel said.

A benefit of the new system, Michel pointed out, is that virtually instantaneous transcripts of court cases will be available. The payment of a fee will apply, except in the case of law officers of the Government.



**The Standing National Independence Anniversary Committee is desirous of developing a National Pledge for Saint Lucia as it approaches its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Independence. Members of the public are hereby invited to submit a suitable pledge for consideration by the Standing National Independence Anniversary Committee to reach the Secretary of the Committee by Friday October 03, 2003,**

**Submissions should be addressed to: The Secretary, The Standing National Independence Anniversary Committee, Prime Minister's Office, Grahame Louisy Administrative Building, The Waterfront, Castries.**

**NEW SCHOOL ON BLOCK:** When the new 2003-04 school year began two weeks ago, there was a welcome addition to the number of secondary schools, as Government moved a step closer towards realizing its goal of universal secondary education for all by 2006.

The Ciceron Secondary School, a section of which is pictured above, opened its doors for the first time on September 1, taking in just the first batch of over 300 students for forms 1 to 3. The student roll is expected to climb to around 525 when students for forms 4 and 5 come in.

Ciceron Secondary is unique among the island's secondary schools as it's the first where emphasis is being placed on technical and vocational (TECHVOC) education as Government looks to diversify learning opportunities for the nation's children.



The new Ciceron Secondary School - a vital part of the expanding infrastructure in the modernisation of education in St. Lucia.

## St. Lucia At Caribbean Business Match making Forum in China

**Xiamen City, Fujian Province, China:** — St. Lucia and seven other Caricom member-states participated in the 7<sup>th</sup> annual China International Fair on Investment and Trade (CIFIT) held earlier this month in Xiamen City.

**Public Service and Labour Minister Hon. Velon John and Director of Trade Titus Preville** joined colleagues from Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, The Bahamas, Guyana, St. Lucia, Suriname and Trinidad & Tobago in a landmark activity that was choreographed to put the Caribbean at centre stage.

This year's CIFIT attracted overall some 10,000 delegates representing government and business entities from nearly 50 countries, exhibiting everything from machinery to hi tech tools to food processing plants to computers and 3G cell phones.

Business representatives from all over China and the rest of Asia, from Africa, the US and Latin America, from Europe and Australia milled around for two entire days and nights at the sprawling Xiamen International Conference and Exhibition Centre, offering services and hunting for commercial and trade deals.

In keeping with a promise by China's Vice Premier of the Council of State Madame Wu Yi (the most powerful woman in the country and the third highest ranking individual in the government) the eight

countries with which China has diplomatic relations were given centre stage at the 2003 CIFIT in Xiamen.

A special Investment Forum on Business Match-making for Caribbean Countries was arranged for September 9 as part of the 2003 CIFIT. The Caribbean countries were also provided with booths and facilities to display products and facilitate business. And with the Caribbean flags fluttering outside and 20 journalists from 12 Caricom countries (including four that recognize Taiwan) on hand to witness it all, September 9 was designated "Caribbean Day" at the Conference.

Madame Wu opened the 2003 CIFIT, cut the ribbon to declare Caribbean Day open and delivered the feature address at the special forum for Caribbean and Chinese business and government concerns. She also presided at the signing of an agreement between a Chinese business and a Bahamian concern to facilitate warehousing of Chinese goods in The Bahamas in transit to the USA.

In her address, Madam Wu recalled that in January 2003, she led a Chinese government delegation to the eight Caribbean countries present, during which she met with leaders of each country and discussed how to strengthen cooperation ties.

After the visit, she recalled, China followed up with 69 project proposals, including 55 projects on which initial cooperation and the



**Commerce Director Titus Preville and Minister of Labour and the Public Service Hon. Velon John in China**

Public agreements were reached with the respective governments and business communities in the eight states. Many of those projects were implemented or started in the seven month preceding the CIFIT, she said.

cont'd on page 7



**THIS WEEK ON NTN**

Highlights: Week of Sept. 22-26, 2003

*Portraits of Teachers in Difficult Circumstances (Special Feature)*  
Thursday at 8:30 pm.

New kweyol literacy series  
**"Bonjou Sent Lisi"**  
Daily at 6.05 pm.

**Tune in Weekly For:**

**Regional News & Sports with GIS News Breaks and Kweyol News** daily from 6:30 pm

**Issues & Answers** (Discussion Programme) Mondays at 8:00pm

**Interview**/Tuesdays at 6:15pm

**Konsit Kweyol**/Tuesdays at 6:15pm (Kweyol Discussion)

**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](http://www.stlucia.gov.lc) and then click on the NTN icon.

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