



# NEW HIGHWAY

## VIEUX-FORT TO SOUFRIERE ROAD PROJECT WITHIN BUDGET

### ADDITIONAL STRUCTURAL WORKS CAUSE DELAYS

Construction work on the new 28-kilometre-long Vieux Fort to Soufriere highway is well within budget, but will not be completed by December 2003, as originally expected.

At a briefing on Tuesday, August 19, for journalists accompanying Prime Minister, Hon. Dr. Kenny D. Anthony, on a tour of Government projects along the west coast and in the south of the island, project officials blamed numerous unforeseen challenges for the delay.



**Project officials explain to Dr Anthony how a new earth retaining technology is allowing the widening of the road on the steep hill next to the Choiseul cemetery.**



*Diwi Consultant Derek Farr gives reporters an update.*

Topping the list was an inordinately high amount of public utilities-related work, particularly dealing with telecommunications cables, which the contractor first had to get out of the way. Soil conditions also presented a major challenge, making it necessary for design adjustments to some aspects of the project.

The good news, however, is that after a year the project is still well within budget as just 34 per cent of the contract price of \$EC43.7 million was

used up to the end of July. And Lagan Holdings, the main Irish contractor, is promising a quality road that will serve St Lucia well into the future.

“What we encountered right at the beginning of the job was a massive increase in the amount of utilities work that we had to do,” said Derek Farr, project manager of Diwi Consult International GmbH, an engineering firm hired by the Government of St Lucia to manage its entire road development programme.

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**The Caribbean Development Bank-financed project started on July 1, 2002 and was originally expected to last for 18 months. The new highway is intended to facilitate faster and smoother travel between Soufriere and Vieux Fort, and boost economic activity in the south of the island.**

## EDITORIAL

### A SUCCESSFUL YEAR!

Time surely does fly!

A year ago, we brought out the first issue of *Nationwide*. With this issue, we are marking our first anniversary of publication.

What an exciting first year it has been, traversing the length and breadth of St Lucia, witnessing how Government's policies and programmes are helping to make life better for hundreds of people in the various communities, and relating their stories to you!

*Nationwide* was launched for a specific purpose. Namely, to fill what was a noticeable void in print media coverage of critical issues of national development by providing in-depth reporting and explanation of Government's programmes and policies.

Like the rest of the Caribbean, St Lucia stands at a historical crossroads as globalization rewrites the social and economic landscape and presents countries and individuals with unprecedented challenges of adjustment.

Access to meaningful information has assumed greater importance in the present. Thanks historical context. In coming up with *Nationwide*, Government felt that if citizens are provided with critical information about the environment in which they live, they would be in a better position to make wise decisions about their lives.

*Nationwide* has attempted to do just. Whether it is through providing extensive coverage of sittings of the House of Assembly, the social reengineering interventions of the Poverty Reduction Fund (PRF) and other related agencies, explaining the sweeping reforms underway in the education and health sectors, or the Government's concerted attempt to diversify the economy whilst securing a future for bananas, etc. etc.

Feedback from readers generally has been encouraging. In an email, for example, one reader observed: “I did not realize so many positive things were taking place in St Lucia because we focus so much on the negative in this country. Reading *Nationwide* has opened my eyes about a lot of things and made me proud and appreciative about what is happening in St Lucia.”

Thanks St Lucia! We are pleased to be of service to you!



“Take ②” - A fifteen minute news review of the week. Every Friday at 6.15 p.m. on **NTN**, Cablevision Channel 2.

**Government Notebook**  
A fresh news package daily on all local radio stations



# CLUB MED TAKE-OVER COMPLETE

## NDC EXPECTS MORE INVESTMENTS TO FOLLOW

If investment keeps rolling in, as the National Development Corporation (NDC) is very much hoping, Vieux Fort could very well become St Lucia's newest tourism hot spot in a matter of years.

Upbeat after closing a much-anticipated deal to put the former Club Med resort back in operation, the Government's recently restructured investment promotion agency expects the re-branded property to encourage other investors to bring more hotel development to the south.

"It definitely will make our work in NDC attracting other hotels a lot easier," says General Manager, Wayne Vitalis.

Club Med, the leading hotel in Vieux Fort for the past two decades, ceased operations two years ago. It was a casualty of worldwide restructuring by the international resort chain which moved to stem heavy financial losses resulting from the combination of a global economic slowdown and the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

### New Hotel - A Top Priority

Because of its economic significance for the south, especially in providing employment, securing a deal to reopen the NDC-owned property became a top priority for Government and Prime Minister, Hon. Dr. Kenny D. Anthony, in particular, who is the parliamentary representative for Vieux Fort South.

After a painstaking search for an investor, NDC presented Jamaican entrepreneur, Carl Hendrickson, earlier this year as the new operator. The take-over by way of a lease agreement was recently finalized after some unexpectedly protracted negotiations, and extensive renovations to the property are now expected to get underway by month-end.



**NDC General Manager Wayne Vitalis: seeking more hotel investment in south.**

But NDC has more reason to be optimistic about a possible tourism take-off in the south. Without going into specifics, Vitalis says other investors have expressed interest in pursuing hotel development on the Anse des Sables beachfront, directly opposite the Hewanorra International Airport.

In addition, the NDC has had encouraging response from investors and is proceeding with preliminary work on its proposal to construct a luxury resort at Bois Chadon, next door to the former Club Med property.

The proposed hotel is earmarked to be managed by Beaches, sister brand of Sandals, the Jamaican chain which operates three properties on the island.

"As we speak, we are doing the Environmental Impact Assessment and as

**Some US\$5-6 million will be spent on renovations over the next 15 months and the upgraded luxury property is expected to be ready for reopening in time for the December start of the 2004-05 winter season.**

soon as that is completed, we will be in a position to bring all the stakeholders together to discuss the project," Vitalis explains.

Once the EIA gives the all-clear for the project, the next stage involves the carrying out of a financial viability study.

Through the purchase of shares in a development company the NDC is setting up to own the property, the average St Lucian will be given an opportunity to acquire a direct stake in the island's growing tourist industry.

It's already been decided, among other things, that there will be a grand new entrance, the existing swimming pool will be re-designed and upgraded, and there will be some restoration of the beach.

"During the construction when the renovation is taking place, we expect 100 to 120 persons to be employed," Vitalis says. "We anticipate in the region of some 300 persons to be employed when the hotel is completed."

Local suppliers, especially of agricultural produce, are expected to benefit in a



**AERIAL VIEW: The old Club Med property as seen from the air.**

Carl Hendrickson and family are coming to St Lucia with outstanding credentials in hotel management and business in general. They operate four highly successful properties in Jamaica and the NDC is naturally hoping that under the leadership of this family, the same success will be replicated at Vieux Fort.

The take-over deal involved the repurchase from Club Med of the remaining portion of a 75-year lease on the property and the putting together of a new lease arrangement between NDC and the Hendricksons, who are registering a company called National Continental Hotels to run the property.

In preparation for the start of renovations, a team of engineers and designers came in from Jamaica last week to have a look at the 260-room property and to decide on a new lay-out, as well as structural and other changes to be made.

significant way when the property reopens. Vitalis says the new operators will be pursuing a policy of sourcing supplies locally wherever possible.

Some US\$5-6 million will be spent on renovations over the next 15 months and the upgraded luxury property is expected to be ready for reopening in time for the December start of the 2004-05 winter season.

As a clear demonstration of how eagerly the new operators are looking forward to doing business in St Lucia, they have already started marketing the hotel along with their Jamaica properties for the 2004 winter. Two are business class hotels, the others are all-inclusives catering to the leisure market.

"Their hotels are almost always booked," says Vitalis, who visited one of the



**ARTIST'S IMPRESSION: A section of the proposed Beaches Resort.**

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# CLUB MED TAKE-OVER

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properties – The Sunset Beach Resort & Spa in Montego Bay — to see first-hand the type of product which the Hendricksons are bringing here.

“The average occupancy is in the region of 80 per cent. For this coming winter, you’ll hardly be able now to get a room and that’s how it is,” he adds.

The Vieux Fort hotel will be all-inclusive. The concept places emphasis on providing top quality accommodation quality at an affordable price, in an open and inviting business atmosphere.

“They try to offer you a four-star or three-star hotel at a two-star price and that’s what makes it different,” says Vitalis, explaining a key aspect of the Hendricksons’ approach.

The Bank of Nova Scotia provided a US\$12 million loan to finance the take-over of the property by the Hendricksons.

Some unexpected delays during these negotiations have pushed back the original renovation schedule. The NDC, however, is optimistic that everything will be in place for a December 2004 reopening.

“Without the support of the Prime Minister, we would not have been able to overcome some of the challenges that we faced. He kept the interest and confidence of the investors,” Vitalis says.

“St Lucians and especially Vieux Fortians have a lot to thank the Prime Minister for in this project,” he adds.



**BOIS CHADON: Site of proposed Beaches Resort**

## NEMAC AND NEMO PREPARED FOR 2003.

Against the backdrop of the annual hurricane season which raises public awareness about St Lucia’s vulnerability to this type of natural disaster, Prime Minister, Hon. Dr. Kenny D. Anthony, got a comprehensive briefing on the state of the nation’s preparedness on Friday, August 15.

The presentation was made at a meeting of the National Emergency Management Advisory Committee (NEMAC) and the National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO). Dr. Anthony presided over the meeting in his capacity as chairman of both bodies.

In attendance were representatives of the National Disaster Committees and the District Disaster Committees, as well as the Police and the Fire Service. St Lucia Electricity Services Ltd. (LUCELEC) and the Water and Sewerage Company Ltd. (WASCO) attended as representatives of the private sector.

The agenda included a report on the disaster management activities conducted by each committee for the period of 2002-2003 and a report on the preparedness activities for the present hurricane season.

Several key disaster management points were discussed such as the availability of supplies (food, water, fuel) and of transportation (terrestrial and aerial) in the case of an emergency. In both cases, availability would be ensured by the supply management committee, the private sector and the transportation committee, with the assistance of the National Council on Public Transportation.

The Council provided the National Transport Committee with a list of buses including routes, names of drivers and telephone numbers who would assist in emergency operations.

Regarding emergency shelters, additionally to the yearly revision of shelters that has already been done, a revision of some specific buildings will be conducted by the Ministry of Works in order to determine if they should remain as shelters.

Regarding Anse la Raye, the problem of evacuation in the case of a threat of a flood due to a hurricane or to another meteorological phenomenon was discussed. There was concern that people should be more aware of the threat and of



**Chairman of NEMAC Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony and NEMO Director Dawn French.**

the role they have to play to protect their lives and property.

The importance of evacuation was highlighted and the need for the population to collaborate and to evacuate when the authorities indicate so was largely discussed. The need for specific evacuation plans and future changes to legislation in order to make evacuation mandatory, and its disobedience a punishable offence, were also discussed.

District Disaster Committees reported on the great progress they have made through improving their organizations, by meeting with several other public, private and social organizations in the districts and by the planning and execution of simulation exercises.

Dr. Anthony praised the work of the committees and their willingness to address and solve problems in order to improve disaster management in St Lucia. He said their work has made a great change in disaster preparedness in recent years. NEMO director, Ms. Dawn French, said though she was pleased with progress made in disaster management at the committee and agency level, there was still

concern for preparedness at the grass roots level.

She pointed out that St Lucians were a helpful people who disliked planning. As a result, the average person would not attend a committee meeting but would appear on the scene of a disaster to provide response assistance, not having had the benefit of training. It was an area that the committees had to be aware of and find strategies to address, she noted.

At the end of the meeting, Arturo Lopez-Portillo, Emergency Planning and Mitigation Advisor to the NEMO for the last two years, said the level of preparedness achieved in St Lucia and the work of the Disaster Committees were an example to follow not only by other Caribbean countries but also by countries outside the region.

He mentioned that the level of preparedness should be maintained and increased by a permanent planning process.

NEMAC’s next meeting will be in November to assess the 2003 hurricane season and to evaluate various activities carried out in the previous months.



**Members of NEMO and NEMAC at the bi-annual meeting**

# SELF-HELP TO EMPLOY THREE COMMUNITIES SHOW THE WAY

When Urania Joseph became Social Mobilization Officer for Anse-la-Raye/Canaries a few years ago, one of the first things she did was to carry out a needs assessment to determine what the pressing social issues were and how she should tackle them.

Not surprisingly, unemployment topped the list. In Canaries, for example, Brabo, a plant which stamped cartoon characters on combs, brushes, key rings etc. had recently closed, putting some 25 residents out of work. One of the first persons they turned to in the hope of finding new employment was Mrs. Joseph.

Moved by their plight, Mrs Joseph decided she definitely had to do something. She looked at a variety of options but the one she finally decided on was a soap-manufacturing venture, emphasizing a self-help community-based approach to generating employment.



**LOOKING TO THE FUTURE:**  
*Cana-Belle chairman, Gregory Deterville*

Belle, as the project is called, has come a long way since then and has now reached a critical stage, thanks to the assistance and support of the Ministry of Social Transformation and several agencies.

Among them, the St Lucia Rural Enterprise Development Project (SLREP) which provided the basic raw materials to get the project off the ground, the National Research and Development Foundation (NRDF), and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

**The focus of the Millet and Anse-la-Raye (Mill-a-Raye) project is agro-processing. The production of dried fruits, fruit jellies and sauces, and green seasoning – everything grown locally. SLREP again and IICA have been helpful in nurturing the development of this community-based venture.**

After testing the market by distributing samples from booths at Balenbouche and Pigeon Island during St Lucia Jazz earlier this year, the soap-making enterprise appears to be on the verge of clinching its first major contract. It is with a local manufacturer of herbal products who wants to distribute the hand-made soap.

#### Support from Poverty Reduction Fund

Cana-Belle also is about to be registered as a cooperative – the Cana-Belle Cooperative Society. At the same time, it is looking to move out from the tiny Canaries Community Centre where it currently operates, into a building of its own which it hopes to construct later this year.

The Canaries UK Association has already made a contribution to the building project. An approach has also been made to the Poverty Reduction Fund (PRF) for assistance.

“Everything we use is natural,” says Cana-Belle chairman, Gregory Deterville, explaining the manufacturing process. “We use passion fruit, guava, glory cedar leaves which residents in the community have used for a long time for skin disorders.

“If we are using glory cedar, we pick the leaves, blend it and strain it,” he adds. “After that, we measure all of the oils, mix them together with the juice from the crushed glory cedar leaves, add a bit of caustic soda which causes the soap to lather, and we blend everything together until it gets thick.”

#### 200 Soaps per day.

“Afterwards, we take it out, put it in a mould, and usually leave it overnight to harden to get the finished soap which we later package. Right now, we can produce over 200 soaps a day,” Deterville says.

The level of production, however, is currently determined by available orders. However, if Cana-Belle succeeds in getting its new headquarters, the plan is to increase production and adopt a regular work schedule.

“We want this project to succeed,” says Deterville. “It will be a plus for us in Canaries. It will show Canaries is doing something different, it will help the young

women to earn an income, and it will give us a product to offer the tourists.”

For the communities of Millet and Anse-la-Raye, Mrs. Joseph has also been instrumental in setting up another unique self-help project that is providing a livelihood for 18 women, ranging in age from 19 to 45, who were mostly unemployed. A few were displaced by the downturn in the banana industry.

The focus of the Millet and Anse-la-Raye (Mill-a-Raye) project is agro-processing. The production of dried fruits, fruit jellies and sauces, and green seasoning – everything grown locally. SLREP again and IICA have been helpful in nurturing the development of this community-based venture.

#### New line of Products

“What we are trying to do now is focus on developing a line of products – green seasoning, candied dried fruits, green and red tomato chutney, mango chutney, pineapple jams, passion fruit and mixed fruit jellies,” says Mrs Joseph. “They are also doing pineapples squares, banana cheese, pawpaw balls, and tamarind and mango sauce.”

The group is producing according to guidelines set by the Bureau of Standards.



**PUSHING COMMUNITY SELF-HELP:**  
*Social Transformation Officer, Urania Joseph*

Rather than relying on an investor to come in, the idea was that the residents of Canaries would set up the operation themselves, obtain the necessary training, and produce the soap using local raw materials wherever possible to come up with a truly unique product from the community.

“When we had our first meeting, we had about 120 people in attendance,” recalls Mrs Joseph. “Many persons came believing we were coming to establish a soap factory but we had to explain that we were just going to provide them with the skills, the know-how, the materials, and equip them to take it from there.”

It wasn't an attractive proposition to the majority who came, but a dozen persons embraced the idea and persevered. Cana-



**PACKAGED FOR SALE:** Hand-made Cana-Belle soap in baskets also made in Canaries

# MENT

**“After testing the market by distributing samples from booths at Balenbouche and Pigeon Island during St Lucia Jazz earlier this year, the soap-making enterprise appears to be on the verge of clinching its first major contract.”**



**SHARPENING SKILLS:** Participants in the training workshop last month.

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Mill-a-Ray, whose products can be purchased at some community shops, is also at a critical point in its development. The group is looking to become more organized from a business standpoint through incorporation as the Mill-a-Ray Agro-Processing Co. Ltd and through the establishment of its own processing plant.

Construction is expected to start between late this year and early 2004.

#### Government Assistance

“We have got a 12,000 square feet piece of land in Roseau from Government,” says Mrs. Joseph. “It is opposite the distillery. Our designs are completed and approved and the funds for construction are coming from the Basic Needs Trust Fund.”

As the distillery attracts lots of tourists who go on tours, the group is hoping the location of its processing plant nearby will generate some tourism business, especially from visitors looking to purchase local products to take back home as gifts and souvenirs.

Out of Mill-a-Ray has evolved a chapter of the Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers, an initiative in which IICA has been involved. The local chapter was launched a month ago.

With IICA sponsorship, Mill-a-Ray group members have had the opportunity so far to visit the Dominican Republic to take part in an exhibition where they sold some of their products.

#### Preparing for the Future

As part of a continuing effort to improve their understanding of business and sharpen their skills, members of Cana-Belle and Mill-a-Ray came together at the Anse-la-Ray Community Centre for a week-long training session in late July.

Facilitated by NRDF and the Small Enterprise Development Unit (SEDU) of the Ministry of Commerce, Tourism, Investment and Consumer Affairs, the training dealt with issues such as marketing, writing a business plan, and designing a mission statement.

## **CURBING SQUATTING**

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Physical Development, Environment and Housing, Martin Satney, has decried what he described as the prevailing problem of squatters rapidly occupying vast residential areas island wide. Satney was at the time addressing resident of Desbarras, at a presentation ceremony of the official handing over of 200 feet of access road and 28 house lots. The project was conducted under the Programme for the Regularization of Unplanned Developments (PROUD), in the Ministry of Physical Development, Environment and Housing.

According to the Permanent Secretary, the matter of squatting is of great concern to government and hence the initiative by PROUD to provide ownership of lands to formerly landless residents in the country.

The government is of the view that between 40 to 50% of the land around the country is squatted on. “This situation is of great concern to the government and therefore must be given prompt attention before it gets out of hand,” Satney said.

“Sometimes people are even taking advantage of the situation, by deliberately squatting and building homes for rent to other people. In other words they are making money off other people’s property, be it crown lands or private lands.” Satney added.

PROUD has begun an island wide programme to regularize the problem of squatting

## **FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE AUTHORITY OPERATIONAL IN SEPTEMBER**

The office of the Attorney General has assured that the Financial Intelligence Authority (FIA) for Saint Lucia will become operational next month.

The FIA was created under the Financial Intelligence Act 2002 and comprises of five (5) persons with expertise in law, accountancy, banking and law enforcement. The Authority will be supported by a secretariat made up of a Director, a number of intelligence officers and the necessary secretarial support.

Dr. Bernard La Corbiniere, former Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance has agreed to chair the Authority.

The Attorney General has observed that notwithstanding the absence of a FIA, Saint Lucia has been diligent in its pursuit of money launderers who try to use the local banking system to launder dirty money. The Money Laundering Authority

established under the Money Laundering Act 1999, has been active in ensuring that Saint Lucia responds decisively to threats of money laundering and in the process satisfying Saint Lucia’s international obligations under relevant agreements.

The Attorney General has also advised that a significant review of the Money Laundering Act and the proceeds of Crime Act are taking place with a view to creating an omnibus piece of legislation with a stronger set of powers. Additionally, a civil asset forfeiture law is being prepared for consideration by Cabinet prior to submission to Parliament for enactment.

It is expected that a thoroughly revamped and greatly strengthened legislative and administrative regime will be in place by the year-end, thereby placing Saint Lucia at the cutting edge of the fight against money laundering.

# PM CLEARS AIR ON UNSOLVED MURDERS

**GOVERNMENT is spending £35,000 on DNA testing in Britain as part of a determined effort to find evidence which will lead to the arrest and prosecution of whomever killed Saltibus teenager, Verlinda Joseph.**

**Prime Minister, Hon, Dr. Kenny D. Anthony, made the disclosure on the television talk-show, TALK, on Thursday, August 14, as he rejected suggestions that Government had adopted a "laissez-faire attitude" towards Verlinda Joseph's case and other similarly outrageous murders.**

"I want to make it very clear that it is not a situation that the Government doesn't care or ... is callous or ... indifferent," Dr. Anthony assured St. Lucians. Like "every decent St Lucian," he pointed out, Government too is agonizing over these unsolved murders.

Saying a number of things were missing in the debate that the public needed to know, Dr. Anthony used the opportunity to highlight various actions taken by his six-year-old Labour administration to fight crime in St Lucia.

He also made it a point to explain the legal process of crime investigation and prosecution to demonstrate its independence from the executive branch of Government comprising politicians.

The Prime Minister's reference is to what's known as the 'separation of powers' principle enshrined in the Constitution.

"The fact is that once a criminal act has been committed, ... it is the Director of Public Prosecutions who commands from then on.," Dr Anthony explained. "It is not the Government of St Lucia."

"The Government of St Lucia can prod, it can encourage, but it cannot direct," he added. "Politicians, including the Attorney-General, may be wrongly blamed for things that they ought not to be blamed for."

As a result of the new Evidence Act which allows the use of DNA evidence in a court of law, the Director of Public Prosecutions, for the first time in a murder investigation here, was able to request such tests in the Verlinda Joseph case, Dr Anthony disclosed.

Because testing facilities are not available in St Lucia, samples from the crime scene were sent initially to Jamaica. However, after the labs there suggested their equipment was not sophisticated enough to carry out the requested tests, Government took the decision to send the samples on to Britain. "I think the Government is spending about £35, 000," he said.



"Very unfortunately, these things take time and it is not for lack of effort on the part of the Government because Government understands the anguish of the community," Dr. Anthony explained.

"I am hoping that somewhere down the road, it will be possible for the Governments of the region to get together and establish a regional lab that everybody can get access to because (DNA testing) is very, very expensive technology," he added.

Showing how Government's efforts at police reform are paying off, Dr Anthony reported a substantial improvement in the rate of solving murders this year.

And in a sign that public confidence in the police is on the mend, Dr. Anthony noted police have been getting "greater cooperation from the public in recent times".



**Prime Minister, Hon. Dr. Kenny D. Anthony: "Politicians ... may be wrongly blamed for things that they ought not to be blamed for."**

Dr. Anthony, who was criticized by some people for not visiting Saltibus after Verlinda Joseph's murder, explained he had good reason for not doing so.

"..... I have to be careful as the Prime Minister because once I go down there and make contact with individuals who are suspects, and then almost immediately I make a statement," he explained. "...that is the reason why I felt ... I had to maintain some kind of distance."

"I certainly at the appropriate time will make that visit," he promised.

**Modern facilities in the south of the island will provide much needed support for the police.**

## TOUGH LINE ON SEXUAL OFFENSES

*The following is the first in a series of articles examining various aspects of St Lucia's newly revised Criminal Code as it is in draft form.*

**Government is sending out a stern warning to adults who sexually abuse children. The newly updated Criminal Code, currently available in draft form for public perusal and comment, recommends a sentence of life imprisonment for any adult found guilty, on indictment, of having sex with a child under 12 years of age.**

**An adult, as defined by the legislation, is someone 18 years or older. In cases where the victim is between the ages of 12 and 18 years, the sentence for unlawful sex is 15 years imprisonment.**

In such cases, it is a defense (a) if the accused proves that the complainant consented; (b) if the person charged was not more than 21 years at the time the offense was committed and had not previously been charged with the same or similar offense, and had reasonable cause to believe and did believe that the complainant was 18 years or older. Having sex with an adopted child, step child, foster child or ward, carries a 25 years prison

sentence if the victim is under 12 years old. A 10 year sentence applies if the victim is 12 years or over.

Buggery of a minor carries a sentence of 25 years. In buggery cases, the court has the power to order the admission of the convicted person to a psychiatric hospital for treatment. The hefty 517 page bill, which covers the gamut of criminal offenses, can be downloaded from the Government Information Service's web site at [www.stlucia.gov.lc](http://www.stlucia.gov.lc).

The proposed legislation, to go eventually before Parliament, makes provision for **in camera** trial of sexual offense cases, including rape, incest, buggery, gross indecency, unlawful sexual connection.

"At any proceedings in relation to an offense to which this section applies, the public shall be excluded during the hearing..." the bill says. The presiding judge, however, has the discretion to allow in any person "whose presence is requested by the complainant or the accused." At the end of the trial, sentencing will be done in public.

Drafted by the Attorney-General's Chambers, the bill gives the courts power to order a ban on the publication or broadcast of reports "giving details of the criminal acts alleged to have been performed on the complainant" in sex-related cases if a determination is made that "the interests of the complainant so requires". Any breach of such an order may be treated as a case of contempt of court.

In sex-related cases, the bill allows anonymity for both accused and complainant after the charge is laid. Specifically, the media are barred from publishing "any matter that is likely to lead members of the public to identify a person as the complainant or as the accused..."

The restriction does not apply after the accused has been convicted of the offense or if either complainant or accused applies to the court for the lifting of such anonymity and the court so directs.

If the media flout this provision and publish any information which leads the public to identify either accused or complainant, they commit an offense and are liable on conviction to a fine of \$50,000 or three years imprisonment. In a case of a newspaper, it's the publisher or editor who faces

prosecution. If it's the broadcast media, it's the person equivalent to an editor. Under the revised Criminal Code, a rape conviction carries a maximum sentence of life imprisonment.

Among other things, the bill allows a wife to bring a charge of rape against her husband if he has sex with her without her consent. If convicted, the husband can go to jail for 14 years. Sexual harassment at the workplace is also addressed by the legislation.

"It is an offense for an employer or supervisor of an employee to make it reasonably appear that the prospects or working conditions of the employee are dependent upon the employee's acceptance or tolerance of sexual advances or persistent sexual suggestions..." The punishment on summary conviction is one year in jail.

The willful transmission of the AIDS-causing HIV virus by an infected person to an unsuspecting partner is an offense under the bill. Specifically, the offense of aggravated sexual assault.

Conviction means the HIV positive offender is likely to spend the remainder of his natural life in prison as the sentence is 10 years.

# ALMOST 300 JOBS COMING JEWELLERY COMPANY TO OPEN MANUFACTURING PLANT

The deal represents a major success for the NDC which is mandated to focus on attracting investment and employment opportunities for St Lucians.

A pro-active investment promotion move by the National Development Corporation (NDC) is paying off for St Lucia with the expected creation of almost 300 new jobs within the next few years.

It's the result of a decision by Diamonds International, a jewellery company which operates a retail outlet at Pointe Seraphine and does business in several other Caribbean countries, to set up a manufacturing plant here.



**FINISHED PRODUCT:** A display case at Diamonds International's Pointe Seraphine outlet.

The plant, which will be based in a 20,000 square foot NDC-owned factory shell at the Union Industrial Estate, will manufacture jewellery display cases for Diamonds International outlets in the Caribbean as well as other regional jewellery retailers.

After NDC got wind a year ago that Diamonds International may be looking at opening a production facility to serve the Caribbean because its Mexico plant was exceeding capacity, NDC approached the company and convinced them about setting up here.

"We have finally concluded a deal with them for the lease of one of our factory shells at Union for them to put that business into operation," says NDC General Manager, Wayne Vitalis. "It is envisaged that 120 people will be employed initially and within the next 12 to 24 months of operation, the number will peak at 280-290."

The company's Mexico production plant employs between 600 and 700 persons. From there, display cases are shipped

through the United States on to customers in the Caribbean.

The deal represents a major success for the NDC which was reorganised over the past year and mandated by Government to focus its energies on attracting investment to boost employment opportunities for St Lucians.

NDC previously concentrated on real estate development.

## VACANCY NOTICE

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for appointment to the position of **MAGISTRATE I**, at the First and Second District Courts, in the Ministry of Justice.

### Qualification

Applicants should possess: LLM Degree plus a Certificate in Legal Education and a minimum of three (3) years legal experience; OR Bachelor of Law Degree plus a Certificate in Legal Education and a minimum of four (4) years legal experience.

### Duties and Responsibilities

The successful applicant will be required to:

1. Preside over and determine Criminal, Quasi-Criminal and Civil Matters and Preliminary matters in the First and Second Judicial District Courts of St. Lucia;
2. Act as a Coroner and preside at inquests;
3. Perform all such other duties that may be so performed by a Magistrate;

### Salary and Allowances

Salary is in the range of \$54,508.11 - \$56,399.75 per annum (grade 17). Allowances: Legal Officer's allowance - \$1,500.00 per month; Travelling allowance - \$464.00 per month; Telephone allowance - \$24.25 per month.

Applications on the prescribed form along with certified copies of documents pertaining to qualifications should be sent, not later than September 12th 2003, to:

**The Secretary  
Judicial and Legal Services Commission  
Block B  
Waterfront  
Castries.**

# STEP INTO CLEARING PLASTIC WASTE

St Lucia is preparing to wage battle next month against an increasingly common enemy which is quietly threatening much harm to the island's natural environment. During the week of September 15, the approximately 1,000 persons employed in the National Conservation Authority's latest two-month-long National Beautification Programme will fan out in teams across the island for a major assault on unsightly plastic waste.

"It is an exercise to sensitize people about the negative effect which the improper disposal of plastic is having on our environment," says the NCA's National Beautification Officer, Lydia Cox.

The NCA will be collaborating in the clean-up with the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO), the St Lucia Solid Waste Management Authority (SLSWMA), the St Lucia National Trust, the Castries City Council, and Recycle It, the island's lone recycling plant. Over the past month, workers hired in the \$1 million labour-intensive programme have been rendering invaluable service sprucing up communities in each of the island's 17 constituencies.

Among other things, they've unclogged drains to reduce the possibility of flooding during the current hurricane season, they've planted flowers and ornamental plants to beautify the countryside, and they've cleaned up the surroundings of health centers, schools, and other institutions. Some unemployed persons have also been gaining work experience through job attachments to enhance their prospects of finding permanent employment. The NCA's Beautification Programme takes place at least twice a year.



**SPRUCE-UP:** When students of the Leon Hess Secondary School return next month at the start of the new academic year, they'll be coming back to safer surroundings. Over the past two weeks, workers in the NCA's National Beautification Programme have been removing grass, pruning trees, etc. and giving the school's premises a spruce-up. In this photo, three workers are busy trimming overhanging branches. In two weeks, workers get down to the task of removing overgrown grass.

# NEW HIGHWAY

from page 1

"Take the telecommunications ducts," Farr added. "We initially expected to put in around 24 and a half thousand metres of telecommunications ducts. That's now risen to about 78,000. That's three times the amount of telecommunications work we originally envisaged."

The existing road, which the new highway is replacing, is networked with telecommunications ducts, water pipes

and overhead electricity cables. Farr explained the contractor first had to get this work out of the way before getting down to the actual construction of the highway.

The Caribbean Development Bank-financed project started on July 1, 2002 and was originally expected to last for 18 months. The new highway is intended to facilitate faster and smoother travel between Soufriere and Vieux Fort, and boost economic activity in the south of the island.



Project officials explain a feature of the construction to the Prime Minister.



The new River Doree bridge under construction.

With a significant portion of the earthworks and utilities work now out of the way, Lagan Holdings is getting ready to proceed with actual road construction following the arrival of its asphalt plant here by the end of September.

"As with any major civil engineering project, geotechnics is always a problem," said Lagan Holdings' resident manager, Tam Smith, explaining the soil challenges they encountered. "The designer can do his investigations and he can guess what's below the surface but you don't actually know until you get there."

## Accommodating the Public

He added: "A lot of the geology in St Lucia is sedimentary and igneous from the volcanoes and that's notorious for changing constantly. So as you go along, it's not as you expect and you have to do design revisions to produce the job."

Lagan plans to construct the highway in two stages. The first stage will see work being done from Black Bay to the Wilrock Quarry in Laborie, which is supplying stones for the project. The next stage involves construction from Soufriere to Wilrock.

**With a significant portion of the earthworks and utilities work now out of the way, Lagan Holdings is getting ready to proceed with actual road construction following the arrival of its asphalt plant here by the end of September.**

The contractor explained this approach was decided on to prevent heavy duty vehicles transporting cement, asphalt and other construction materials from travelling over the newly finished surface.

Considering complaints from motorists, residents and the general public about the sharp deterioration of the existing road as a result of the construction work, Dr Anthony urged the contractor to "at least make the by-pass roads passable ... so as to give (the travelling public) alternatives."

"..I think that will lessen the complaints considerably," he said, whilst acknowledging the inherent difficulty presented for road construction in that part of the island.

"For my part, my concern is that we complete this road as quickly as possible," Dr Anthony said, expressing delight that project is still very much within budget and hoping that "we don't have to enter into the land of cost overruns."

Lagan Holdings said any additional costs arising from the delay in the project will only be known after the highway is finished.

Besides the new highway, the Prime Minister's day-long tour included stops at the new Soufriere and Choiseul fisheries complexes, the site where the new Vieux



Lagan Holding's Tam Smith takes questions during a roadside chat with reporters.

Fort Fire Station is going up, the new Vieux Fort Police Station, the new Vieux Fort multi-purpose courts, and a warehouse being in Vieux Fort by the National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO) to store supplies for use by the community during emergencies.



## THIS WEEK ON NTN

Highlights: Week of Aug. 4-8, 2003

*The Making of the Cuban Nation Lecture - Mon. (8:00pm)*

*Nelson Mandela Youth Rally (St. Lucia) - Fri. (8:30pm)*

**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.

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

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