



LOW INCOME HOUSING GETS MORE SUPPORT

GRANT FUNDING TO START NEW HOMES

Government's goal of creating opportunities for as many St. Lucians as possible to become property owners, is receiving a major boost through a unique financing facility launched here recently with the support of the European Union (EU).

The EC\$7.5 million facility, falling under the EU's development aid programme with St. Lucia, will certainly provide a welcome kick-start for hundreds of low-income earners in their bid to acquire a piece of land for building a home.

"We are very excited about the facility," says Wilfred Pierre, St. Lucia's National Authorizing Officer for EU development assistance. "What it does is provide low income persons with an avenue where they can receive grant funds which will assist them in going to the banks to access funds to build their homes," he adds.

Here's how the Low Income Housing Credit Facility works. If you earn up to EC\$30,000 annually and are looking to purchase a piece of land, you can apply to receive a grant of \$10,000 which you can use at any participating financial institution as the down payment to qualify for a loan.

Participating financing institutions include the St. Lucia Mortgage and Finance Company, the National Research and Development Foundation (NRDF), the St. Lucia Credit Union League, and the Bank of St. Lucia.



Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony and Hon. Damian Greave turn the sod at La Caye



Many of the low-income housing projects are located in the north of the island

"People can walk into the participating institutions, indicate that they heard about the facility and want to be a part and parcel of it," says Pierre. "Once the banks realize that they can pay back the loan – and that is the very first thing – then they will allow the person to get the loan."

The facility removes a long-standing obstacle – the inability to come up with a down payment – that has prevented many St. Lucians down through the years from accessing credit to purchase a piece of real estate.

The facility has a second dimension. If the person is also going to build a house on the land, he or she is entitled to an additional grant of up to \$10,000 to help meet the cost of the design of the house, as well as to pay legal, other mortgage-related fees and insurance.

With such assistance, a person earning, let's say \$30,000 a year can apply for a 15-year mortgage of up to \$100,000 covering house

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EDITORIAL

THE SECURITY QUESTION

A disturbing piece of news has surfaced, two weeks after the Government of St Lucia announced tighter port and other security measures to thwart international criminals from using the island.

According to a report in the Washington Post of Friday, March 21, a Saudi-born Al Qaeda suspect, who was being sought by American authorities, may be using a Guyana or Trinidad and Tobago passport to get around.

If everything this leading US newspaper reported is true, then it is perhaps the clearest sign yet that the Caribbean is not beyond the reach of the hidden hand of international terrorism. It underscores the timeliness of the measures taken by the Government of St Lucia and also reinforces the point that we can no longer take our security for granted.

Adnan G. El Shukrijumah, 27, was described by US law enforcement as an "imminent threat to U.S. citizens and interests" and "a possible terrorism organizer in the style of Mohamed Atta", the suspected ringleader of the Sept. 11, 2001, Al-Qaeda terrorist attacks on America.

The mere association with the Caribbean means this development has potential far-reaching implications for our region. Recognizing the harsh realities of the present time, St Lucia, as an open country dependent on tourism, took the wise move to deal decisively with the threat through tighter passport controls, among other measures.

Globalization has not only open up national borders to an increased flow of goods and services, but also to some unwelcome elements through a freer flow of people. No matter what some critics may say, it is impossible in this present era to treat security as a strictly domestic issue. Ignoring the critical international dimension carries far too serious risks.

The recently-introduced measures require the support of every St Lucian so that they can achieve their objectives, and spare St Lucia from the agony of negative publicity which has unfortunately befallen our neighbours.



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Every Friday at 6.15 p.m. on **NTN**, Cablevision Channel 2.

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



MORE SUPPORT FOR HOUSING

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and land, with a monthly repayment of between \$600 and \$800.

What's particularly exciting about the facility is that beneficiaries have no repayment obligations. The \$20,000 is 100% free money going towards advancing the social objective of improving access to housing.

Grant money is also available under the facility to finance retrofitting and remodeling of homes.



Hon. Ignatius Jean
Minister for Physical Planning,
Environment and Housing

Over the last few weeks, Pierre and other officials have been marketing the housing credit facility and other EU supported-initiatives during appearances on radio and TV talk shows, and community meetings around the island.

The housing facility is supposed to last for three years in the first instance but it is likely that available funds may dry up sooner because of anticipated heavy demand.

Prime Minister, Dr. Kenny D. Anthony, says the facility is particularly good news for hundreds of marginalized St. Lucians to whom Government is giving an opportunity to purchase land under his Labour Administration's PROUD initiative.

Orderly Developments

These persons – estimated at 2,500 – have been illegally living on Crown land for as long as 60 years. PROUD – the Programme for the Regularization of Unplanned Settlements – is allowing them to buy the piece of the land but, in many instances, dwellers are unable to satisfy the conditions of lending institutions to access loans.

"The Low Income Housing Facility will certainly assist many of those persons who may wish to tap into those funds to build their homes," says Dr. Anthony.

The Caribbean Development Bank-funded PROUD initiative is targeting the following communities: La Ressource, Derriere Morne, La Tournay, La Croix, Piaye Village, Choiseul; Pays Perdu, Garrand; Des Barras; Ravine Poisson, L'Abbayee, Cendre de Feu, Sarrot and Bexon.

The Low Income Housing Credit Facility has come on to the market at a time when mortgage rates are at their lowest in 20 years, the result of successful interventions by Government to make credit a lot cheaper.

Mortgage rates at some institutions today are 7.99 per cent, compared with rates as high as 11 per cent several months back.

National Housing Corporation

The launch of the facility also coincides with buoyancy in the building market where both residential and commercial properties are going up around the island. The facility is expected to add to this momentum, as well as complement the efforts of the National Housing Corporation (NHC) to meet the robust demand for low income housing.

"There are great opportunities in housing," says Prime Minister Anthony, urging private developers to make use of government incentives and get involved. "The demand far outstrips the supply."

He adds: "... In Vieux Fort at the moment, there are so many applications for housing lots that the Government and the National Housing Corporation are totally unable to satisfy the demand."

Government provides land, in some cases, as well as tax and duty incentives to private developers who are building for the low-income market in particular.

Dr. Anthony's remarks were made on Monday, March 17, at the sod-turning ceremony for an \$EC31 million middle-income housing project, going up at La Caye, Dennery, on the wooded 22 acre site opposite the police station.



Mr. Wilfred Pierre -
National Authorising Officer based at
the Office of the Prime Minister

The development, being undertaken by financial services company CLICO, will put a total of 74 houses on the market, beginning at \$223,000 for house with 917 feet of floor space and land.

CLICO President, Leroy Parris, says the project offers "a quality living environment within easy access to all major services".

"I believe that we cannot just sit and wait on the government," he says. "We in the private sector have to get up and let the Government know we are willing to back them in any way we possibly can."

"It is our belief that Government and private sector must work closely in order to achieve the quality society that we all desire," he adds.

Government provides land, in some cases, as well as tax incentives to private developers who are building for the low-income market in particular. Low income earners who chose to build on their own, are also eligible for concessions, including a waiver of import duties and consumption taxes on specific quantities and types of building materials.

CLICO purchased the 22-acre site from the National Development Corporation (NDC).

Against the backdrop of a less than satisfactory track record of some local private developers, Government is applauding CLICO's commitment to building quality houses at Dennery, along with adequate roads, drainage and supporting infrastructure.



CLICO President - Leroy Parris

Just as it intends to see that CLICO meets its commitment, Physical Development, Environment and Housing Minister, Ignatius Jean, says his ministry will work similarly with private developers to ensure that they always deliver quality homes to St. Lucians.

"Our ministry will continue to work with the private sector in developing the private/public sector partnership for the development of affordable housing for as many St. Lucians (as possible)," he says.

VACANT POSITIONS AT BORDELAIS

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for appointment to the following posts at the Bordelais Correctional Facility, Ministry of Home Affairs and Gender Relations.

ASSISTANT ACCOUNTANT I

Duties and tasks include: Day to day maintenance of the books of accounts and related records of the Bordelais Correctional Facility; Ensuring that accurate records and complete accounting records are kept in order to provide timely financial data; Reconcile the Facility's accounts with Treasury and makes necessary adjustments; Supervises the day-to-day operations of purchases, payments by controlling payment of various orders, contractors bills and utilities.

Salary is in the range of \$25,852.73 - \$27,814.57 per annum (Grade 7)

ACCOUNTS CLERK

Duties and tasks include: Maintain balanced accounts on all items of revenue and expenditure on a monthly, quarterly and yearly basis; Processes salaries paid to monthly and/or other paid employees; Maintain the Facility's imperest and staff fund (petty cash) System; Assist in the preparation of Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the Bordelais Correctional Facility.

Salary is in the range of \$14,082.37 - \$16,184.32 per annum (Grade 3)
The point of entry will be determined by the applicant's qualifications and experience.

Applications on the prescribed form along with references and 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 April 25, 2003.

THE WAR IN IRAQ: ISSUES FOR OUR NATION.

Address to the Nation

By

**The Hon. Prime Minister
Dr. Kenny D. Anthony**
Sunday 23rd March 2003



Dr. Kenny D. Anthony
Prime Minister of Saint Lucia

"Since Wednesday March 19th 2003, we have witnessed on our television screens on a daily basis, the full drama of the horrors of war as the armed forces of the United States and the United Kingdom supported by their coalition partners engage in military action against Iraq. This war has brought into sharp focus the full consequences of man's inability to commit himself to the ideals of peace and mutual co-existence. There is no doubt that these events have challenged each of us, personally as individuals and collectively as a civilization. They have forced us to fundamentally rethink and to reflect on our hope that present and future generations will not relive the horrors of war suffered by past generations.

No war is ever popular. Some wars are more unpopular than others. This war has attracted demonstrations throughout the world, even in the countries which lead the offensive against Iraq. These demonstrations are as much a powerful statement about the integrity of democratic values in these countries as it is about the fear of war, its horrors, pain and anguish. Just as we share the agonies of the people of the United States and the United Kingdom, we must also reach out to the people of Iraq, in particular the women and children, who are bound to be innocent victims, whether or not that this war is justified.

As a Government, we are forever mindful of Saint Lucia's historical and economic ties to the UK and the USA, the two countries which are most committed to the use of force against Iraq. We also have rich historical, cultural and diplomatic connections to France, which is the European power most vocal in its opposition to the war. In essence, two of our closet friends the United States, and the United Kingdom are at war with Iraq, while another close friend, France, has vehemently opposed it. Saint Lucia can only hope that the diplomatic fissures which have resulted will be quickly healed. In the aftermath, every opportunity will have to be taken to return to an atmosphere of peace and normalcy among nations. Without peace and goodwill among men and nations there can be no global prosperity.

THE ISSUE BEFORE US

The issues before us in this debate are clear. As a Government, a small country, and a region committed to peace, stability and economic prosperity, we are opposed to all weapons of mass destruction regardless of who possesses them. Humanity can only be richer for the dismantling and destruction of these deadly weapons. Future generations can only hope that these weapons will never be used in offense or defense, whatever the circumstances. To accept anything less is a telling statement of our failure as human beings to boast of a civilized humanity. Those who do not have these weapons should never be allowed to obtain them and those who have them must engage in an international effort to get rid of them.

CARICOM'S POSITION

Along with the rest of Caricom, Saint Lucia, has already joined the universal condemnation of terrorism and of countries that support terrorist activity. We remain steadfast in that condemnation. We have also

argued that no state should promote the development of weapons of mass destruction in any form including chemical or biological agents.

We regret that no heed was paid to Caricom's exhortation that diplomacy and peace should have been given every opportunity to work, and that the use of military force should have been avoided.

Together with the rest of Caricom, we have declared our reaffirmation of the principle that the United Nations through its Security Council is the sole entity that is charged with the legal and moral responsibility for maintaining peace and stability. We have argued that global governance must be based on multilateralism and not on unilateralism. Whilst as a small country we continue to battle against the injustices inflicted upon us by multilateral institutions such as the WTO, we however remain steadfast in the belief that the price of unilateralism will be far heavier. We also believe that the United Nations is still the best option to arrive at a collective approach to solving the problems which face humanity and our civilization. We must strive to preserve the integrity of the United Nations system and promote international confidence in the multilateral process.

We must also remember that the existing global institutions have been relatively successful in maintaining World Peace since the end of World War II. It is these institutions and structures which assured our independence and which thus far, have safeguarded the sovereignty of all nations, weak and strong alike, but particularly the weak. We must ensure that these structures are not set aside at the whims of powerful nations.

GEO-POLITICAL ISSUES CONFRONTING SAINT LUCIA

The current conflict in Iraq is one of the occasions when small states like Saint Lucia must speak on the basis of principle. Despite our smallness, our openness to all cultures and peoples and our commitment to peace and stability give us the moral authority to use our voice in the furtherance of justice, the respect for the sovereignty of nations and the adherence to the rule of law.

THE PRESIDENCY OF THE UNGA

Indeed, this war comes at a particularly critical time for Saint Lucia, as it coincides with our preparation to assume the Presidency of the United Nations General Assembly in September of this year. We must therefore be ever mindful of this awesome responsibility in all our deliberations and statements. We will assume the Presidency of the General Assembly at a particularly crucial time in world history. This war will leave in its wake, unimagined turbulence and insecurity among nations, peoples and religions. The leadership of Saint Lucia at the General Assembly of the United Nations will surely be tested. In a curious way, the world may very well need Saint Lucia's Presidency of the UN General Assembly since our size, history and political traditions may provide us with some unique insights and the impartiality to guide the UN during this most difficult and delicate period. I wish to assure all Saint Lucians, and all our friends in the international community, that Saint Lucia stands ready to assume this responsibility.

OUR ECONOMY AND SOCIETY

We were painfully aware that whatever the motives of the action taken by the US and UK forces, we would all suffer the consequences of another war. Just when we seemed to be climbing out of the stranglehold of another global recession, we are witnessing the resurgence of global events over which we have little control and which threaten to reverse the gains that we have managed to secure.

Every sector of our economy is likely to experience severe strain. This is a period therefore which will take the strongest resolve and commitment of Government, the fullest support of the private sector and the understanding of every St. Lucian.

On February 25th and 26th of this year, at my request, the National Economic Council met with a wide cross section of civil society to explore the possible impact of a war in Iraq on Saint Lucia. The reflections of the NEC indicate the possibility of a period of immense economic difficulty for Saint Lucia. The NEC has observed that following on the heels of nearly two years of economic stagnation as a result of the world recession and the September 2001 attacks on the USA, a peaceful resolution to the crisis in Iraq could be a matter of economic life or death for several Caribbean nations.

Unquestioningly, this war has very serious implications for us and for our economy. The fear and reality of retaliatory attacks against US and British citizens, and further deterioration in the global economy as a result of the war, are expected to have a sharp and negative impact on the tourism industry, which itself has not fully recovered from the events of September 11th 2001. Understandably, there will be a greater reluctance to travel, particularly by US and British citizens, who are Saint Lucia's main source of tourism revenue. On the other hand, if the war is short, we may well see a dramatic increase in travel, particularly from the United States.

The impact of the war on the price of fuel is another issue which causes us grave concern. Indeed, prior to the formal commencement of hostilities there were clear indications that the rising price of fuel was placing a severe burden on Government's finances as we have continued to cushion our citizens from the fluctuations in world oil

prices. The commencement of hostilities has nudged reductions in the World market price of oil, but it is unclear whether these reductions will be sustained in the near future. Despite these reductions, Government continues to subsidise the price of fuel though at a reduced rate, since the price reductions have not reached a point below the levels existing prior to the increase in the 2002/2003 budget. Any increases in energy costs will have consequences for the cost of goods and services in nearly every sector. The cost of manufacturing activity, electricity, transportation and other services are all expected to come under increased pressure if the war eventually leads to another cycle of rising fuel costs. We will continue to closely monitor the movements in the price of fuel on the market place.

Notwithstanding, we should make a more determined effort to be more frugal in our use of fuel and energy. We should not take the availability of fuel for granted.

US AND UK SECURITY MEASURES

I also wish to take this opportunity to remind all Saint Lucians to expect that more stringent restrictions will be placed on persons traveling to North America and the United Kingdom. This is a period when you will encounter increased scrutiny and delays as you seek to visit Europe and North America. I therefore urge you to be cognizant of these realities and to exercise greater vigilance and care as you embark on your travels.

ST. LUCIANS IN THE ARMED FORCES

Fellow Saint Lucians, the impact of this war on our lives cannot be measured only in its economic consequences or in the increased difficulties we will face when we travel. Sadly, we are also directly connected to the conflict through the scores of young Saint Lucian men and women who have enlisted in the British and US armed forces over the past few years. I wish to take this opportunity to assure the families of all Saint Lucians whose sons and daughters are serving in the armed forces of North America and Britain that they remain continually in our thoughts and our prayers. By now, it is well known that in recent times nearly three hundred young Saint Lucians joined the armed forces of the United Kingdom. The Government will maintain close contact, particularly with British officials, in order to be kept informed about the welfare of these young Saint Lucians. We wish them well. Their safety and well-being remain our primary concern and further compels us to urge a quick and speedy resolution to the conflict.

CONCLUSION

Saint Lucia therefore joins the majority of countries and people on the world in looking forward to a speedy and urgent return to peace. We pray that the current conflict results in the minimum loss of life and destruction. We also hope that the world can soon focus on the other burning issues which have undermined the validity of the international community, and that the same commitment can be shown by all states to resolving these issues. After the action in Iraq, the world will still be haunted by poverty, AIDS, debt, the survival of small island developing states, and the continued proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. I wish to assure you that Saint Lucia will be using its voice in the United Nations to assist in the search for solutions to the problems that confront all of humanity. I bid you good night, and an evening of peace, of rest and God's richest blessings."

\$18 MILLION BOOST FOR BU

If you've been following the international debate on economic development during the past decade, you definitely would've heard a recurring reference to the private sector as "the engine of growth".

That's a pretty accurate description of the role played by business in the United States and other leading industrialized countries. In these developed market-driven economies, private sector activity is the main contributor to the production of goods and services, the creation of new wealth, and resulting increases in national prosperity.

However, when it comes to the majority of developing countries, which are seeking or, better yet, struggling in some cases to adopt market-driven economies, it's quite a different story. Generally speaking, their private sector lacks the capacity to be effective in the assigned role of "engine of growth" because of historical and various other reasons.

The absence of a strong tradition of entrepreneurship particularly stands out. It's this attribute, more than anything else, which helps to fuel growth in a market-driven economy. It comes through entrepreneurs who are willing to risk their money in the development of potential business opportunities, in the pursuit of creating new wealth.

Through a three-year-old initiative jointly funded by the European Union (EU) and the Government of St. Lucia, the government is making a concerted effort to strengthen and reposition the St. Lucian private sector to become the driving force in economic development. A related goal



**Mr. Adrian Augier - Director
Office of Private Sector Relations**

is improving the island's international competitiveness.

Under phase one of the Private Sector Development Programme (PSDP) which ran from 1999 until last year, some EC\$3.3 million were spent on various projects to create the necessary "enabling environment" for private sector development, as well as to enhance the capacity of local business to confidently take on the role of "engine of growth".

\$15.8 million for PSDP II

Pleased with the outcome of PSDP I following a review last year, the EU is making available an additional \$15.8 million to help fund PSDP II, which runs from this year until 2006.

"You keep hearing about the private sector being the engine of growth but you must have fuel in the engine for it to function," says Erstein "Mallet" Edwards, programme manager with the Office of Private Sector Relations (OPSR) which manages the PSDP. "We are pumping some fuel into the engine so that it can function effectively and efficiently."

OPSR was set up in 1998 as a division of the Office of the Prime Minister, primarily to implement the Labour Government's private sector strategy. Another success story of the near six-year-old administration, OPSR operates with a staff of four and is headed by Economic Advisor to the Prime



**Ambassador John Calighorou
European Union (EU)**

Minister, Adrian Augier, a former executive director of the St. Lucia Chamber of Commerce.

Strengthening and repositioning the private sector to take advantage of business opportunities and to cope with various challenges, is another area where St. Lucia is leading the way in the Caribbean. The PSDP and OPSR are the only two of their

kind in the region and at least two neighbouring countries have expressed interest in replicating the model.

Over 80 developers, companies and business organizations have benefited from various forms of technical assistance and government incentives under PSDP I, which ended last year. According to OPSR, PSDP I facilitated the direct creation of some 600 new jobs.

Special Development Areas

Under the Special Development Areas Act passed to stimulate new business activity in Vieux Fort, Cul-de-Sac, Soufriere, Micoud, and Anse-la-Raye, 26 developers benefited from special tax and duty concessions for mostly tourism-related, commercial and construction projects.

"As a result of our assisting with creating the enabling environment for development in these rural areas, you have, for example, the results where construction is on the increase in Vieux Fort. You also have sales of property taking place towards the advancement and expansion of the tourism sector," says Edwards.

"There is also the encouragement of the construction of commercial and manufacturing warehousing facilities, the expansion of the tourism product in Soufriere, commercial buildings which have gone up in Micoud and Cul-de-Sac and so on. This tells you the results of those incentives," he adds.

Under phase one of the Programme (PSDP) which ran EC\$3.3 million were spent on necessary "enabling environment" development, as well as to business to confidently take



BOOSTING EXPORTS: Baron and Frootsie have benefited from technical assistance.



CUL-DE-SAC: New businesses have gone up as a result of Special Development Areas.

BUSINESS

OFFICE OF PRIVATE SECTOR RELATIONS IMPLEMENTS GOVERNMENT'S POLICY ON PRIVATE SECTOR GROWTH

Under a special incentive programme designed to encourage repairs, renovations and rehabilitation of commercial buildings in Castries, Vieux Fort, Gros Islet and Soufriere, nine companies benefited from tax and duty concessions. Another 16 companies were issued duty free shopping licenses to operate shops catering to the tourist market.

Also under PSDP I, 26 companies received EC\$541,000 in technical assistance in the fields of product development, product diversification, market development, market diversification, systems development and human resources development.

Assisting Organisations

Further EC\$898,000 in technical assistance went to various business associations. Among them, the Chamber of Commerce, the St. Lucia Hotel and Tourism Association, Small Business Association, Employers Federation, Manufacturers Association and the National Research and Development Foundation. The aim was to improve their delivery of services to members and clients.

There was, too, an EC\$880,000 investment in the St. Lucia Bureau of Standards (SLBS) to assist this quasi-Government agency's efforts to facilitate and promote adherence by private sector companies to international standards of production, packaging, labeling, weights and measures.

Private Sector Development from 1999 until last year, some serious projects to create the "engine" for private sector growth to enhance the capacity of local companies to play the role of "engine of growth".



Mr. Mallet Edwards - Programme Manager Office of Private Sector Relations

"I would say that the private sector is getting itself ready to take on the challenge of economic development," says Edwards, reviewing overall progress made by St. Lucian businesses since the launch of PSDP I.

"I think we can honestly say that the private sector associations, as a result of OPSR interventions, have a little more capacity now for delivering the kinds of services that hitherto they would not have been equipped to deliver," he adds.

Training in Business Development

"I also believe that as a result of our assistance, a number of businesses are beginning to realize the imperative of preparing for the challenges of competition and are prepared to put in whatever is required of them to meet those challenges."

Among other benefits, PSDP I provided training for over 250 persons in business development, food quality/safety-related HACCP principles, quality control and information technology. It also assisted the Poverty Reduction Fund (PRF) to set up Information Technology (IT) training centres in Choiseul, Anse-la-Raye, Bexon, and Canaries, and established a National IT Training Fund with EC\$1.3 million in start-up capital at the Bank of St. Lucia for making loans available to individuals and businesses.

"Government can help to create the conditions in which others players must do their part, after that, it is up to each one of those players to take up the challenge, live up to their responsibilities, and deliver their share to the general well-being of the society around them." EU Ambassador Calighorou

Under PSDP II, OPSR's emphasis is shifting this year from capacity building to offering increased services to individual businesses to help them to be more competitive. Support, for example, will be channeled towards the conduct of business diagnoses, development of business plans, and the implementation of business enhancement strategies, among other things.

OPSR also plans to develop a cadre of local consultants to handle applications for assistance from businesses and some other-related tasks it does right now. In addition, it will give attention to improving St. Lucia's policy; legislative and regulatory environments to further help facilitate business development.

"By 2006, we would have hoped to have assisted a large number of private sector enterprises in being able to compete more favourably nationally, regionally and internationally," says Edwards. "By 2006, we also would want to be able to point out tangible evidence of companies penetrating markets within and outside the region, increasing exports and increasing economic growth."

At a December 16, 2002 signing ceremony with Prime Minister, Dr. Kenny D. Anthony, for an EC\$30 million aid package to finance PSDP II and two other projects, EU Representative, Ambassador John

Calighorou, lauded the Government of St. Lucia for the approach it taking to economic development. He also offered some points to ponder for those who are always quick to criticize governments when things go wrong.

"For too long, it has been a habit of blaming governments for everything that is perceived to be wrong. Yet it clear that Governments alone can never be able to achieve the developmental targets that are required for countries to drastically improve the lives of their citizens," he said.

The EU ambassador continued: "This can only be done, we believe, as a wide-ranging partnership between the Government, the public sector, the private sector, the non-governmental organizations, and all of civil society. The role of Government is, of course, important but equally so, we believe, is the dedication of the various stakeholders."

"Government can help to create the conditions in which others players must do their part," Calighorou noted. "After that, it is up to each one of those players to take up the challenge, live up to their responsibilities, and deliver their share to the general well-being of the society around them."

Certainly, some welcome food for thought!



Development Areas Act.



A facelift for commercial buildings, part of the new Government incentives.

INTERNATIONAL WATER DAY

Minister Finnisterre urges St. Lucians to protect the water catchments

“As we observe another “International World Water Day” I would like especially those of us who are not too young to take time off to reflect on our water situation today, vis-à-vis what it was two decades ago.

In so doing, I urge you to consider two key factors:

- (i) The state of the resource, and**
- (ii) The provision of water and water related services to all and sundry.**

I will address the second factor first, simply because of the progress, which we have made in this regard.

Our commitment to providing the public with a sustainable, affordable and good quality supply of water is evidenced by the numerous interventions by Government, namely :

- (I) The corporatization of WASA to WASCO;
- (II) The introduction of new legislation to govern the water sector;
- (iii) The establishment of a Regulatory Commission and the consequent development of regulations;
- (iv) The formulation of a National Water Policy, which is in the process of being reviewed by the Cabinet of Ministers;
- (v) The aggressive and uncompromising pursuit of Universal Service thanks to the intervention of agencies such as the Poverty Reduction Fund and the Basic Needs Trust Fund, and
- (vi) The high level of investment in storage and distribution infrastructure, such as the 20' pipeline project and the numerous infrastructural components of the 5th Water Project.

The Fifth Water Project

Among the main components of this project are:

* A water treatment plant to be constructed in Grace, Vieux Fort to serve approximately 20,000 residents;

* Replacement of the pipe lines in Hill-20 to ensure better service to Babonneau and its environs; as well as the Bocage reservoir for servicing the Eastern parts of Castries,

* New water pumps to be placed in Talvern, Babonneau, and

* Upgrading of the pumps on the Castries Sewer System.

Also, under the 5th Water Project the increase in bulk and domestic meters will help tremendously in water conservation – with the bulk meters it will enable WASCO to determine the amount of water in the distribution system, and ultimately to accurately ascertain the level of unaccounted water e.g. through leaks, burst pipes etc. – i.e. both under and above ground.

With Domestic meters it allows for the accurate measure of water consumed by individual households, reflecting a more accurate billing system and which finally results in encouragement for conservation by consumers.

Universal Access

Those interventions, to mention a few, have resulted in provision of potable water to significantly more of our citizens than ever before.

We must, however, be guarded when exalting our successes in the provision of services, which are dependent on a non-renewable natural resource.

Those of us who are old enough could attest to the very many rivers and streams, which have dried-up as a result of human activity. The forest canopy, which is the watershed, has been reduced to a minute fraction of what it was. It is unfortunate that we tend to focus on provision of water service while very often remaining oblivious to the state of the natural resource base.

The Government of St. Lucia, recognizing the precarious state of our water resource has taken a three-prong approach to ensure the sustainability of our water resources for future generations, that is: -

- (i) The individual,
- (ii) Communal, and
- (iii) National



The intake at Talvan - the community is participating in protection and preservation.

The individual approach seeks to continue encouraging, through the efforts of the Ministry of Physical Development and Housing, new buildings to be installed with water storage capacity; as well as the afore-mentioned improved conservation resulting from the meterization programme by WASCO.

The communal approach encourages communities to be proactive and develop projects geared towards protection and propagation of water catchments. This approach has been exemplified by the Talvern community in Babonneau whose work in community-based watershed management is now internationally recognized and replicated in other countries.

The national approach is characterized by the formulation of a policy geared towards an Integrated Water Management Strategy. This policy has led to a Strategic Action Plan, which allocates and assigns responsibilities to the various agencies critical to the sustainable management of the water resources.

Resulting from the evolving regulatory framework for the sector, new public/private and community partnerships are expected to emerge. This should lead to the exploration

of the feasibility and economic viability of developing other water sources e.g.: groundwater and de-salination.

“Water for the Future” is indeed a most appropriate theme for this year’s observation of International Water Day, as it challenges all citizens of the world to treat every drop of water as if it were the last drop. It is imperative that we balance the short to medium term ideals of provision of service with the longer-term objective of guaranteeing water for the future.

We must work closer with the Meteorology Unit, as prediction of weather patterns is indelible to effective water resource management.

In conclusion, I wish to urge St. Lucians to obey the laws enacted for the purpose of conserving our water resources and desist from engaging in illegal activities and detrimental practices.

You should also pay attention to weather predictions, which will assist in responding to prevailing and forecasted circumstances. Please, treat water with respect, as “Water is Life”.

We must, however, be guarded when exalting our successes in the provision of services, which are dependent on a non-renewable natural resource



The flow in rivers has reduced over the years due to a wide range of factors including deforestation.



Recognizing the precarious state of our water resource, government has taken measures to ensure the sustainability of our water resources for future generations

BORDELAIS CORRECTIONAL FACILITY JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for appointment to the following posts at Bordelais Correctional Facility, Ministry of Home Affairs and Gender Relations.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (OPERATIONS)

Duties and tasks include:

Ensure that procedures during all escorts outside the prison, and in particular, to local hospitals, are appropriate to maintain security; Ensure that systems of communication and security surveillance operate to required standards; Make appropriate arrangements for the operation of the Magistrate's Court, and the production of prisoners to all Courts as required.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (CUSTODIAL)

Duties and Tasks include

Oversee the routines and functions within all residential areas; Give management, direction and leadership to the Unit Managers on all operational issues within the residential units; Responsible for all managers in the areas designated. This includes its staffing, routines, systems, security, administering and monitoring of prisoners - this will also include the Health Care Centre in terms of discipline, routines, Sentence Planning, Incentives and Privileges for interview; Responsible for ensuring cleanliness and hygiene within the residential areas by means of regular inspections.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (ADMINISTRATION)

Duties and tasks include:

Oversee the routines of functions of the Administration Department to agreed standards; Ensure an effective human resource management system to meet the staffing, training and development needs of all personnel working in the Facility; Manage an effective system for managing inmates' records and thereby proper sentence calculation and correct release arrangements for inmates; Responsible for the parole system in liaison with the Parole Clerk, and ensure the effective delivery of completed parole decisions to the Parole Board; Arrange audit on all areas of responsibility and ensure compliance with the contract and other relevant legislation or rules.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (REHABILITATION)

Duties and tasks include:

Oversee and co-ordinate the functions that include Work and Inmate Industries, Catering, Inmate Programme, Healthcare Services, Education and Library Services, Sports Activities and Religious observances; Supervise the work programmes of managers and supervisors, this includes staffing, routines, systems and security of all relevant areas; Initiate and develop collaborative relationships with external organizations, agencies and business in order to promote Education, Training and identify employment opportunities for inmates in custody and upon release

Salary for the above four positions is in the range \$54,508.11 - \$56,399.75 per annum (Grade 17)

STOREKEEPER III, II, I

Duties and tasks include

Responsibility for the store-room and its operations, protecting and keeping safe custody of its stock; Maintenance of a balanced flow of office supplies to meet the operational needs of the Bordelais Correctional Facility; Keeping an account for all receipts, issues and goods in stock by recording stock movements and balances.

Salary ranges are as follows:

Storekeeper III - \$25,852.73 - \$27,814.57 per annum (Grade 7)
Storekeeper II - \$22,209.60 - \$24,661.78 per annum (Grade 6)
Storekeeper I - \$19,407.09 - \$21,508.91 per annum (Grade 5)

The point of entry will be determined by the applicant's qualifications and experience.

SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR

Duties and tasks include:

Enhancing existing systems and develop new systems with good use of information systems design and development techniques; Responsible for full data administration, encompassing business, data and process modeling and the control and maintenance of all database management systems required by the prisons; Maintenance of local area network and supervision of the network users; On-site staff training; Conduct annual inventory, and forecast needs based on findings; Maintenance of computer software and hardware; Ensuring that the Bordelais Correctional Facility hardware, software, and data are protected from computer crime, natural disasters, major human errors.

Salary is in the range \$45,890.49 - \$47,782.13 per annum (Grade 14)

**The Secretary
Public Service Commission
Block "A"
Waterfront
CASTRIES**

**All applications must be submitted
before April 25th, 2003.**

**Applications on the prescribed
form along with references and
certified copies of documents
pertaining to qualifications should
be addressed to:**

SPORTS CO-ORDINATOR

Duties and tasks include:

Assist with and advise on decisions, selection of sporting activities, sporting equipment, budgeting, programming and fund allocation; Mobilize and motivate inmates towards meaningful participation in all sporting activities; Organize and conduct relevant training programs particularly in the areas of personal development, leadership development and programme development.

Salary is in the range \$33,979.97 - \$36,221.96 per annum (Grade 10)

SECRETARY IV, III

Duties and tasks include:

Receive and direct incoming telephone calls or visitors, handle inquiries, record scheduled meetings, arrange appointments and make traveling reservations for the Director of Corrections; Prepare documents, agenda, minutes, etc. for official meetings and circulate them as required, as well as summon meetings at the discretion of the Director of Corrections; Maintain files of correspondence, reports, circular and other written or typewritten records;

Salary ranges are as follows:

Secretary IV - \$28,515.09 - \$30,476.88 per annum (Grade 8)

Secretary III - \$25,852.73 - \$27,814.57 per annum (Grade 7)

PROGRAMME MANAGER

Duties and tasks include:

Ensure that a full range of well researched and accredited rehabilitative programmes are available and oversee their effective implementation and management; Coordinate the delivery of the programmes by Corrections Staff, the Education Department, and other external organizations; Develop training modules for Corrections Officer; Develop and implement work-plans, schedules performance standards of Corrections Officers, budget and reports on rehabilitative programmes; Evaluate the performance and progress of the Programmes Department and prepare analytical report for review by Directors.

PRISON RECORDS OFFICER I

Duties and tasks include

Maintain accurate and up-to-date database on all inmates; Advise inmates and staff on prison sentences and court appearances; Carry out sentence calculation; Carry out checking of court lists on a daily and weekly basis and to effect the necessary amendments; Administer the sentence plan for all eligible inmates; Ensure that all internal departments and external agencies are informed of inmates pending release, whether temporary or permanent.

Salary is in the range of \$40,145.41 - \$42,387.40 per annum (Grade 12)

MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN II, I

Duties and tasks include.

General supervision and maintenance of the Bordelais Correctional Facility; Monitoring and maintenance of the mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems within the building with a view to ensuring its continued operational effectiveness and makes recommendations for improvement where necessary; Ensuring that there is an adequate supply of oil and diesel for the generators.

Salary ranges are as follows:

Maintenance Technician II - \$28,515.09 - \$30,476.88 per annum (Grade 8)

Maintenance Technician I - \$22,209.60 - \$24,661.78 per annum (Grade 6)

The point of entry will be determined by the officer's qualifications and experience

INDUSTRIES MANAGER

Duties and tasks include

Generating contract work for the laundry and workshops with appropriate pricing structures, invoicing etc. Maintains contact with customers to ensure the smooth running of contract agreements; Maintaining accounting procedures for each work area, including internal invoicing for items produced in the Engineering Shop for use in the Prison. Ensuring appropriate adherence to security procedures pertaining to tools and equipment, end of shift building searches, materials control, prisoner searching and goods movement both receipt and delivery; Supervision of workforce and application of acceptable disciplinary measures where necessary; Prepares compatible work plans to ensure workflow which yields maximum performance during daily activities.

Salary is in the range \$45,890.49 - \$47,782.15 per annum (Grade 14)

FACILITIES MANAGER

Duties and tasks include

The continued upkeep and maintenance of the physical plant and equipment; Recording and reporting any detected flaws/faults and activities which may pose a threat to operations; Ensuring compliance with Security Instructions Manual and Standard Operating Procedures.

Salary is in the range \$45,890.00 - \$47,783.13 per annum (Grade 14)

THE CARIBBEAN INVESTMENT FUND

Prime Minister Dr Kenny D. Anthony recently met with Chairman of the Stanford Group, Mr Allen Stanford, for discussion of the multi-billion-dollar Investment Fund he proposes for the Caribbean.

The Stanford Caribbean Investment Fund, as it is called, is a US\$2 billion Investment Fund to be established by the Texas billionaire to help stimulate growth in the economies of the Caribbean.

He proposes that the US\$2 billion fund will comprise of US\$100 million to be injected by Mr Stanford himself as seed money, backed by another US\$900 million from investors, another US\$700 million in conventional funding and US\$300 million more in non-cash government concessions. The proposal envisages two major complementary investment projects.

The first, according to Mr Stanford, will see 60% of the fund invested in "development of upscale tourism-related projects (to be financed and owned by the fund) in the form of five-star hotels, championship golf courses, luxury condominiums and prime commercial properties." The second aspect envisages the remaining 40% of the fund being invested in construction of "vital infrastructure developments financed and

built by the fund with permanent financing and sale to third party or parties established prior to the start of the project." Mr Stanford said these investments would be in "roads, bridges, piers, schools, low-income housing and waste treatment plants, among other things.

According to Mr Stanford, the fund will promote economic growth "in an unprecedented fashion, through construction of world class tourism development projects with a 14% projected return on investment for the fund's investors." Mr Stanford said the fund would be managed from its headquarters at the

VC Bird International Airport in Antigua, with satellite offices throughout the Caribbean. The Stanford Development Company will be the fund's general partner and the proposal is that "the fund itself will be run by a Board of Directors comprised of entrepreneurial business leaders from the region."

Mr Stanford explained that board meetings would be held monthly in different islands, with the first meeting to be held in April 2003 in St. Kitts and Nevis. "The Board of Directors will review potential projects for consideration by the fund," said Mr Stanford.

Mr Stanford, who also owns Caribbean Star airlines and has several other investments in Antigua, Puerto Rico and other parts of the Caribbean, said he was "pleased to have been able to explain the operation of the proposed fund to the St. Lucia Prime Minister." He said he'd also discussed it with other CARICOM leaders.

The Prime Minister was accompanied at the meeting by National Development Corporation (NDC) Chairman Mr Michael Chastanet and General Manager Mr Wayne Vitalis, as well as by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance Mr Trevor Brathwaite.



Chairman of the Stanford Group, Mr. Allan Standord and Prime Minister Dr. Kenny D. Anthony being interviewed after their brief meeting in St. Lucia



PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN

While government agencies are preparing to launch major initiatives in observance of Year of the Child, several projects have been implemented to improve safety of school children. In many of the urban and rural schools, sidewalks have been made safer. This side walk and railing near the Gros Islet primary school has made life safer for children and adults.

www.stlucia.gov.lc

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