

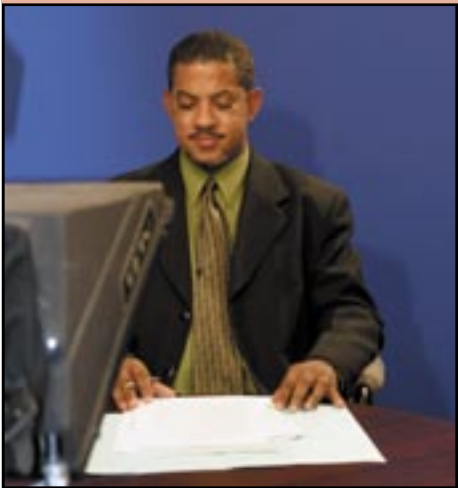


NATIONWIDE

A publication of the Department of Information Services



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MODERN FERRY COMPLEX TO OPEN SOON



ROAD VIEW



SEA VIEW



“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



Government Delivers on Au Tabor Housing Project



A number of completed projects in the Au Tabor Housing Relocation Project in the Anse La Raye/Canaries constituency was officially handed over to the residence of that community on Tuesday, August 31, 2004.

The Au Tabor Relocation Project, located about one mile from the Village was conceived as part of the post

Tropical Storm Debbie Rural Housing Resettlement project, which involved the relocation of some Anse La Raye residents most affected by the passage of Tropical Storm Debbie in 1994.

The Au Tabor Development comprises the subdivision of slopping lands into 89 residential lots ranging in sizes 2,600 square feet to 11,249 square feet, with the construction of all basic infra-

structures.

Approximately 14.02 acres of land was purchased by the Government and the European Union for the relocation exercise. The Ministry of Physical Development, Environment and Housing – the project managers – designed and implemented the project with the assistance of the Ministry of Communi-

cations, Works, Transport and Public Utilities.

Provisions have also been made for the construction of a recreation park, and a human resource development centre. A satellite warehouse will also be constructed as part of the National Emergency Management Organization's programme.

The new Ferry Complex to open later this month will facilitate Caribbean visitors. This group ranks third among all visitors to St. Lucia. The US and UK rank first and second respectively.



CXC results are out, Ministry Officials Celebrate!

Officials from the Ministry of Education, Human Resource Development, Youth and Sport are celebrating an improvement in the performance of St Lucian Students in the May/June 2004 CXC Examinations.

In a statement released by Minister of Education, Human Resource Development, Youth and Sports, the Hon Mario Michel, it was revealed that students had registered a one per cent increase in this year's CXC examination.

"Last year, the overall pass rate in the General and Technical Proficiency subjects was 70.63 per cent, while this year, it climbed to 71.62 per cent.

Eleven of the 19 secondary schools recorded improved performances this year, with over five percent increases being recorded by the Babonneau Secondary, the Clendon Mason Memorial, the Vide Boutielle Secondary, the Anse Ger Secondary and the SDA Academy," Minister Michel informed.

Seventeen of the 19 secondary schools that entered students in the exam registred overall pass rates in excess of 50 per cent. Five schools attained pass rates of over 80 per cent - St Joseph's Convent with 96.17 per cent, St Mary's College at 91.05 per cent, Leon Hess Comprehensive at 84.07 per cent, followed by Castries Comprehen-

sive and Vieux Fort Comprehensive at 81.46 per cent and 81.14 per cent, respectively.

The top five St Lucian performers at CXC this year were Skeeta Carasco with nine Grade Ones and a Grade Two, Lisa Mohammed, Phylisia Joseph, Huanna French, and Kelvin Cenac, who all scored nine Grade Ones.

The improvement in this year's CXC results follows improvement recorded earlier this year at the Primary School Level in the Minimum Standard Test and the Common Entrance, making 2004 a good year for St Lucian students.



Hon. Mario Michel

RSS Places Greater Focus on Security



RSS Team: (left to right) Colonel Maynard, General Ross, and Colonel Ogilvy

A Strategic Review Team of the Regional Security System (RSS), was on the island recently, on a fact-finding mission, regarding the provision and state of security surrounding a number of issues and institutions.

While here, the team focussed on port security, tourism, illegal importation of drugs and fire arms, as well as the impact of HIV/AIDS and school drop outs.

Head of the visiting Strategic Review Team of the RSS, retired General Cameron Ross, explained that they would be in consultation with a number of stakeholders to discuss the various security needs of the state. He added that the RRS would also be examining whether their own structure, organisation and funding met the present requirements to effectively deal with the anticipated

security threats to the region.

Referring for example, to the ability of people to walk to school and work in the market place without the threat of some security attack against them, General Ross said, "The RSS perhaps has a role in this, because drugs are a major factor, fire arms are a major factor in the security dynamics. Each country cannot afford to deal with these issues as a single entity. It is very clear that there must be a pooling of resources and this is perhaps what the RSS can assist in."

During the RSS short visit, they paid courtesy calls on Governor General, Her Excellency Dame Pearlette Louisy; and Prime Minister, Honourable Dr. Kenny Anthony. The visiting delegation also met with members of the local media.

**THIS WEEK ON NTN**

Sept. 3rd – Sept. 10th, 2004

- Find out the latest in the region's attempts to stamp out one of the main agricultural pest, the Giant African Snail – Monday September 6th 7:10 p.m.
- Also on Monday, Primus Hutchinson provides an update on the Roads Development Project (RDP 3). From 7:20 p.m.
- In anticipation of the staging of Rod-erick Walcott's the Banjo Man begin-ning September 9th, NTN throughout this week presents a special Issues and Answers providing St. Lucians a glimpse into the upcoming production.
- NTN continues to delve into the operations of the European Develop-ment Fund (EDF) through the National Authorising Office. Find out how St. Lucians from various walks of life are benefiting from the various programmes administered by the Fund. Wednesday, September 8th 8:30pm.
- This week Principal Information Of-ficer Mr. George Jude also explores the CSME and its relations to Agriculture.

Remember to tune in for:

- GIS News Breaks and Kweyol News daily from 6:30 p.m.
- Issues & Answers/Mondays at 8:00pm:
- Interview/Tuesdays at 6:15pm :
- Konsit Kweyol/Tuesdays at 8:00pm (Kweyol Discussion):
- Your Right to Know/Thursdays at 6:15 p.m. (Min. of Ed. Prog).
- Take 2/Fridays at 6:15pm (Week in Review)
- Weflechi/Fridays at 6:40pm - (Week in Review—Kweyol)

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

Cabinet Press Briefing – Tuesday August 24, 2004

Attorney General:

1. Acquisition of Interests in Land Through International Business Companies

Cabinet agreed that the International Business Companies Act, 2003 may be amended to state that where an International Business Company holds shares in a local company, any lands purchased or transferred by the local company are to be subject to all applicable licences and taxes.

2. Caribbean Court of Justice (Agreement) (Amendment) Act

Cabinet approved the "Caribbean Court of Justice (Agreement) (Amendment) Act", and directed its transmission to Parliament for enactment into law.

Ministry of External Affairs, International Trade and Civil Aviation:

1. Agrément -Non-Resident High Commissioner - Canada

Cabinet noted the granting of Agrément to the Government of Canada for the appointment of Mr. Michael Welsh as the new Canadian High Commissioner to Saint Lucia with residence in Barbados.

2. Launch of Economic Partnership Agreement Negotiations, Kingston, Jamaica, 16th April 2004

Cabinet considered noted:

- (i) the launch of CARIFORUM/EU Negotiations for an Economic Partnership Agreement in Jamaica, on 16th April 2004; and
- (ii) the proposed negotiating structure and schedule for the completion of the negotiations.

3. Accreditation of Non-Resident Ambassadors of the Argentine Republic and the Republic of Poland to Saint Lucia

Cabinet approved the granting of Agrément to:

- (1) The Government of the Argentine Republic for the accreditation of H.E. Mr. José Luis Vignolo as Am-

- bassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, with residence in Trinidad and Tobago;
- (2) The Government of the Republic of Poland for the accreditation of H.E. Mr. Wojciech Tomaszewski as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Poland, with residence in Mexico.

Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security:

1. Establishment of the Police Complaints Commission

Cabinet noted the appointment by the Minister for Home Affairs and Internal Security of the persons listed below as members of the Police Complaints Commission:

- (1) Mrs. Ianthe Leigertwood-Octave, Chief Registrar, Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court (nominated by the Chief Justice) – Chairperson;
- (2) Mr. Francis Compton, Regional Mediation Coordinator (nominated by the Chief Justice);
- (3) Mr. Beresford Harding (nominated by the Minister);
- (4) Mr. Conrad James (nominated by the Minister);
- (5) Mr. Hazel Charles (nominated by the Commissioner of Police).

Cabinet approved the following remuneration as per Regulatory I:

- Chairperson : \$500.00 Retainer plus \$150.00 per meeting
- Member : \$150.00 per meeting.

Cabinet further noted that the approval is based on an arrangement that the Commission will meet twice monthly in the first year so as to clear the backlog of disciplinary matters.

Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security:

1. Appointment of a Board of Visiting Justices for the Bordelais Correctional Facility:

Cabinet, pursuant to Section 39 of the Correctional Services Act, No. 24 of 2003 agreed to appoint the following persons to the Board of Visiting Justices for the Bordelais Correctional Facility, for a period of two (2) years:

- 1. Mr. James Prudent – Chairman
- 2. Monsignor Theophilus Joseph – Deputy Chairman
- 3. Mrs. Joan Deveaux
- 4. Ms. Andrea Bourne
- 5. Archdeacon Randolph Evelyn
- 6. Mr. Eusebe Lawrence
- 7. Dr. Kenneth Louisy
- 8. Mr. Twain Edward
- 9. Mr. Keith Smith
- 10. Mr. Obed Regis

Cabinet also approved the following remuneration as per Regulatory I:

- Chairman : \$500.00 Retainer plus \$150.00 per meeting
- Member : \$150.00 per meeting

Ministry of Health, Human Services, Family Affairs & Gender Relations:

1. Signing And Ratification Of Framework Convention For Tobacco Control (FCTC)

Cabinet approved the ratification and signing of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), by Saint Lucia's accredited Ambassador to the United Nations.

Office of the Prime Minister:

1. Special Framework of Assistance 2004

Cabinet agreed to use funds under SFA 2004 to maintain the traditional thematic areas, with a focus on Human Resource Development

2. Imposition of Tighter Entry Visa Requirements Into Saint Lucia

Cabinet approved the recommendations for the imposition of tighter entry Visa requirements into Saint Lucia.

Gracias Cuba ... for the Scholarships Too!

PM in conversation with the nation



Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony

Introduction

Hello St. Lucia,

Last week, the Cuban Embassy observed the 15th anniversary of formal relations between St. Lucia and Cuba with a photo exhibition at the Castries City Hall. Actually, diplomatic contacts were established soon after Independence in 1979, but direct people-to-people relations began long before that.

Indeed, St. Lucians have been going to Cuba long before the 1959 Revolution that brought Fidel Castro to power.

Our forefathers travelled to Cuba in the early part of the 20th Century to work on the Cuban sugar plantations. Their descendants continue to live in Cuba. So much so, that there are many grandparents and other aged relatives of St. Lucians who have been re-establishing contacts with their St. Lucian roots, both independently and with the help of the Cuban and St. Lucian governments.

Friendship Not For Sale

I took the opportunity at the opening of the exhibition to re-iterate that

St. Lucia's friendship with Cuba is not for sale and that Cuba is a member of our Caribbean family. Our geography, our history, our shared passion for a fair and just world, binds us together. I reminded the audience that Cuba defended us in the banana dispute with the United States. Cuba often berated those Latin American countries who were determined to annihilate the banana industry of the Windward Islands. Cuba has always fought for the poor and the oppressed. It is a country that understands sacrifice. In the process, it has stood tall, proud and most times alone, reminding the world that there is no price for a people's dignity.

Celebration Overshadowed

As you will have realised, the celebration of 15 years of formal relations with Cuba was regrettably overshadowed by attempts to encourage controversy over the government's decision to implement a loan scheme to finance the provision of passages and monthly stipends for our students in Cuba.

Let us put the issues in perspective.

Number of Scholarships

In the past, very few students studied in Cuba. Under this administration, there are over 240 students currently studying in Cuba. Of that amount, 170 receive stipends from the Government of St. Lucia. These students study subjects ranging from Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, and Biochemistry to Agriculture, Agronomy, Architecture,

Engineering, Forestry, Telecommunications, and Physical Education.

At the end of their five or seven years of study, these students will return home as graduates. For example, in the field of medicine, 20 will return as doctors in 2005, another 10 in 2006, 14 in 2007, 8 in 2008, 3 in 2009 and another 3 in 2010. So, over the next six years, a total number of 58 St. Lucians will return home as doctors, having been trained in Cuba.

In effect, St. Lucia will be self-sufficient in doctors. Some of those graduates may well have to utilise the opportunities provided by the Single Market and Economy and seek employment elsewhere in the Caribbean Community.

Not About Educational Costs

University education, as we all know, is not cheap. It comes at a high price. The average student paying for a university education at the University of the West Indies (UWI), in the UK, the USA or Canada has to find thousands of dollars to finance his or her university education. That money invariably would have to be borrowed from a bank or some other financial institution. The Government helps by making the loan facilities available, paying economic cost at UWI for some students and for others in the Public Service, meeting the cost of study leave with pay. When the government agrees to provide study leave with pay, it also



Exhibition: Teenager admires portrait of Plaza de Armas in Cienfuegos, a city in Central South Cuba where St. Lucian students spend their first preparatory year

has to pay the cost of the replacement of the person on leave.

The Cuban scholarship programme is aimed at helping developing countries. The programme was originally designed for the sons and daughters of the poor, of people whose children have the academic ability but who could not afford to pay for their tertiary education. This programme began soon after the Cuban revolution and has continued throughout the years. Even after the collapse of the Soviet Union when assistance from the socialist community disappeared and the United States tightened the embargo against Cuba, the Cuban government decided to maintain its policy of providing scholarships to students from developing countries. Today, I am advised that there are over 17,000 students from 98 countries around the world pursuing free university education in Cuba. Some 3,000 are from Caricom states and St. Lucia has approximately 240 of those. The annual costs, which are borne by the people of Cuba, must amount to millions of dollars.

In the case of St. Lucia, as I have had to remind the press last week, the Government of St. Lucia has never had and still does not have to pay any costs to the Government of Cuba for the university education of our students. The students do not have to pay any costs to the Cuban government. Consequently, the students and their parents have to pay no school fees, no boarding and lodging and no meals. Of course, I am by no means suggesting that student life in Cuba is a bed of roses.

The Stipend

It is this government which dramatically increased the number of students in receipt of scholarships in Cuba. The former government had little interest in the Cuban scholarships. A few years ago, this Government intro-

duced a monthly stipend of US\$200 per student, much to the discomfort of the Cuban government. The Cuban authorities pointed out that Cuban Professors were, in some cases, paid salaries lower than the US\$200 stipend which the students received. It did not help that some students were alleged to have flaunted their stipends. Cuban students were said to be resentful because their country was sacrificing to provide scholarships and our students enjoyed privileges which they were denied. The Cubans asked a simple question: How is it that we are sacrificing to give you scholarships, yet you are providing generous stipends to your students? The Government obliged and reduced the stipend to US\$100 per student, per month. To this day, the Cuban Government is unhappy about the stipends, since, in their view, the Cuban Government meets the basic costs of the students.

Providing an Alternative

In this year's budget presentation, I announced that a loan scheme would be introduced this year to finance students in Cuba. Government decided that it would not be just, to simply withdraw the stipends without notice or without providing an alternative for the students. Consequently, the Government of St. Lucia worked out an arrangement with the Bank of St. Lucia for the establishment of a Student Loan Facility that will give those who wish to go that route the possibility of taking a loan. This decision regarding the withdrawal of free stipends only takes effect immediately in the case of the new students going to Cuba this year. For the larger number already studying in Cuba, it will not take effect until August 1, 2005 – that is, a year from now.

The Terms of the Loans

The conditions for the loans are not onerous. Unlike the loans financed

by the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and administered by the Bank of St. Lucia, the students who apply for loans to a maximum of \$49,140 are not required to provide a guarantor or collateral such as property as security. All they provide is a personal guarantee and an agreement to allow deductions from their salaries when they graduate and become employed. Further, the Government of St. Lucia has entered into a guarantee arrangement with the Bank of St. Lucia to safeguard the risks that the bank has assumed. How then could these terms be described as callous or heartless, more so by individuals who made little use of offers by the Cuban government when they were in office?

Neither Onerous Nor Burdensome...

I have heard all the commotion, the complaints and protests by some of the students. I know that the students met recently with representatives of the Ministries of Education and Finance, as well as with a representative of the bank. I publicly stated last week that I will review the outcome of that meeting and I will take everything into account and the Ministry of Finance will work with the bank to ensure that the conditions for the loans, and in particular the insurance component, are not onerous or burdensome to the students. However, the loan facility will remain.

A Deeper Issue

There is, however, a deeper issue at stake. A Government has a responsibility to ensure fairness and equity in its policies. No other category of University student receives a free stipend from the Government. Aren't other students entitled to demand a stipend too?

Consider this. Here we have some students – not all -- who have scholarships, paid for by the Cuban people, worth over EC\$200,000 complaining about financing pocket change and an

airline ticket, when there are so many other young St. Lucians who have had to secure similar amounts by way of loans to study at the UWI, or in the UK, USA or Canada.

The argument that all the students on Government scholarships are from poor families and so should be treated differently is fallacious and dishonest. Some awardees certainly come from poor families, but not all. Government scholarships are awarded on a competitive basis, so whether you are poor, middle class, black or brown, you have an opportunity to be awarded a scholarship. Times have changed.

It is my hope that I have been able to shed light on this issue, which has unfortunately been allowed to cloud what should have been more of a celebration of our fraternal thanks to our Cuban brothers and sisters for the solidarity they have continued to offer to St. Lucia and to Caricom, through thick and thin, not only over the past 15 years but for three decades.

Vive La Woz!

Cuban scholarships apart, I note that today is also an important day on our cultural calendar. Today, Monday, August 30th, is La Rose Day, when the first of our two flower festivals is celebrated. The sweet sound of "La Woz" music has been filling the air for two weeks and there will be celebrations all over St. Lucia today.

I am proud of the manner in which we have successfully preserved our cultural traditions and this is seen in the way "La Woz" has become more accepted nationally than it was 25 years ago. I hope each and every one of you take time out to participate in or go out and see the La Rose festivities closest to your area.

Until next Monday, I salute you. And to all St. Lucians at home and abroad, in our true native tongue, I say to you: VIVE LA WOZ!



Castries La Rose Group

Attorney General's Chambers and the Ministry of Justice are Separate and Distinct Agencies

The Ministry of Labour Relations, Public Service and Cooperatives is informing all Ministries and Departments that the Attorney General's Chambers and the Ministry of Justice operate independently of each other, and should therefore be treated as separate and distinct Agencies.

It would enable both Agencies to attend to other Agencies' requirements expeditiously if:

1. Correspondence that pertains to both Agencies were addressed and sent to each Agency separately; and
2. Correspondence is directed at the Agency that deals with the subject matter of the correspondence;

In light of the above and for the avoidance of any confusion in respect of the functions of each Agency, please find below a summary of their functions:

- i. The Attorney General's Chambers, which comprises four (4) Sections/Departments is responsible for providing services in the

following areas:

- (a) General Administration (Attorney General's Chambers).
- (b) Advice and Litigation (civil/central government).
- (c) Legislative Drafting.
- (d) Registry of Companies and Intellectual Property.

The above is largely self-explanatory. However, the Advice and Litigation Section also provides representation for children in adoption proceedings; vets all Aliens Licences and documents for marriage licences; and also drafts and vets agreements and documents by deed on behalf of the Government.

- ii. The Ministry of Justice provides various services under the following six (6) Sections/Departments:

- (a) General Administration (Ministry of Justice).
- (b) Office of Director of Public Prosecutions (criminal).
- (c) Supreme Court.
- (d) Distinct Court (first and second district courts, Family Court).
- (e) Forensic Science Services.

- (f) National Crime Commission.

Additional information on the above may be obtained from Volume I of the Estimates or from the relevant Agency.

You are also kindly asked to note that all matters requiring the attention of the Attorney General's Chambers and/or the Ministry of Justice should be addressed as follows:

1. Attorney General's Chambers
2nd Floor, Francis Compton Building
The Waterfront
CASTRIES
2. The Ministry of Justice
Police Credit Union Building
31 Bridge Street
CASTRIES

Your close attention to the matter of correctly directing correspondence to the two (2) Agencies would help them improve their services to other government agencies and to the public.

Your co-operation• solicited.

Notices Telephone Rates

The Minister of Communications, Works, Transport and Public Utilities wishes to advise the general public and more specifically stakeholders in the Telecommunications Sector that the Telecommunications (Retail Tariff) Regulations for Saint Lucia is now available for review and public comment.

The full document is available in the official gazette and on the Government of Saint Lucia's website: www.stlucia.gov.lc.

Instructions on how to respond has also been provided.

All responses to this consultative document must be received by September 13, 2004.

Thecla Augustin
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Communications, Works, Transport and Public Utilities

Tax Appeals

Tribunal of Appeals Commissioners for Income Tax

The Inland Revenue Department, in keeping with its mission to provide impartial treatment to its customers, would like to inform the public that there is a Tribunal of Appeals Commissioners to deal with all income tax disputes.

Therefore, disputes should be addressed in sealed envelopes to: Ms. Gillian Vidal-Jules, Secretary, Tribunal of Appeals Commissioners for Income Tax, c/o Attorney General's Chambers, Legislative Drafting Department, Corner of Micoud and Laborie Streets, Castries.

CDERA will also be harmonizing its disaster events database with the new GLIDE (GLObal unique disaster IDentifier number) being used worldwide. All disaster information databases are implementing this cataloguing system so as to be able to adequately track the impact of multi-country hazards and to avoid duplication.

This effort by CDERA to establish a reliable database for the Caribbean will feed into the EM-DAT international database which catalogues emergency events from around the world. It is an essential step in CDERAs continued pursuit of its mandate as a disaster information clearing house for the Caribbean.

The Consultant will be meeting with a number of key stakeholders including the national disaster offices, the Government Statistical Services, the FAO, IICA, PAHO, Seismic Research Unit of the UWI, the Earthquake Unit in Jamaica, Caribbean Epidemiology Centre, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Caribbean Disaster Information Network, and the Regional Disaster Information Center for Latin America and the Caribbean.

For Further Information Contact:
Terry Ally, Public Information Specialist.

Tel: (246) 425-0386

Email: pubinfo@cdera.org

Database on Disasters coming

A lack of accessible comprehensive information on the impact of natural and man-made disasters in the Caribbean has been hindering the work of disaster management organizations in the region.

An initial effort to address this is being taken by the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA). The Agency is establishing a comprehensive database which will include types of disasters, types of hazards, countries affected, numbers of casualties and fatalities, number of

buildings/facilities loss or damaged (such as schools, utilities, health care institutions, roads, hotels, commercial/industrial, parks and beaches, agricultural produce). It will be made available in the form of an online searchable database on the CDERA website and through the first annual Caribbean Disaster Data Book to be published in 2005.

"Data for Decision Making" is the focus of this exercise which is being supported with technical assistance from

the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) under the Caribbean Disaster Management (CADM) project. JICA has provided the services of Mr Masaru Arakida, Senior Researcher at the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC). The Centre has considerable experience in collecting, collating, and publishing statistical disaster information for the countries in Asia. Mr Arakida will be working with CDERAs Public Education and Information Unit to develop the database structure and a collections procedure.

Roving Exhibition on Biodiversity in Soufriere; Vieux Fort next

A roving exhibition on St. Lucia's Biodiversity is currently on at the Soufriere branch of the Bank of St. Lucia, and the Town Library at New Development.

The Roving Biodiversity exhibition reflects the spirit of United Nations Earth Summit of 1992, where UN member states pledged to make eco efficiency a guiding principle for all the people of the world, business and governments so as to ensure a singular approach to the conservation of irreplaceable natural resources and reduction of pollution of the planet.

The Soufriere exhibition, which will run until September 10, forms part of a six-month campaign by the Biodiversity Enabling Activity Project Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. It constitutes the second leg of the exhibition, which ran for the last two weeks at the Blue Coral Building show windows, the Central Library and the Waterfront branch of the Bank of St. Lucia in Castries.

"We have deliberately mounted these displays in locations that require little

effort by potential viewers, beyond stopping and browsing. When you think of it, our biodiversity can be extremely unobtrusive. It's just there for as long as we keep it there Biodiversity is all around us. That is the same way we have set up these exhibitions," says Mrs. Joan Norville, Director of Agricultural Services in the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and Project Coordinator of the Biodiversity Project.

The displays have been placed along

main thoroughfares where the ordinary citizen frequently traverses. The intent is to bring the Biodiversity to our attention, in the same way nature presents it to us.

The Soufriere run will end on September 10, and thereafter, the display will move to Vieux Fort. There, it will run from the Maria Islands Interpretation Centre to facilitate organized tours and at show windows along Commercial St in the centre of the town.

The Roving Biodiversity exhibition reflects the spirit of United Nations Earth Summit of 1992, where UN member states pledged to make eco efficiency a guiding principle for all the people of the world, business and governments so as to ensure a singular approach to the conservation of irreplaceable natural resources and reduction of pollution of the planet.

PM Welcomes New Website for OECS-based Newspapers

Prime Minister Dr Kenny D. Anthony says the presence of a newly-launched website linking Eastern Caribbean newspapers will help bridge the gap crated by the dearth of news from the smaller islands of the sub-region on the Internet.

ECNETNEWS.COM is designed by its regional creators as “a new website liking newspapers of the Organisation of East Caribbean States (OECS) sub-region into an on-line, up-to-the-minute forum for accurate exchange of news and debates on issues of primary concern to development and the region.”

Addressing the official launching of the new website at the OECS Headquarters at The Morne on Friday morning, the Prime Minister said that as “a recent convert” to the Internet, he has been “perusing the World Wide Web every morning in search of up-to-date news on what’s happening around the world.”

The Prime Minister, who is also Minister for Information and Broadcasting, said he “always goes first to the website that provides news from Caribbean newspapers across the Caricom region.”

He noted, however, that “even though there were a few newspapers from a few islands, St. Lucia included, there is a noticeable shortage of news from the member-states of (OECS).”

Leslie Pierre, Editor of the Grenadian Voice newspaper and a prime mover behind the new initiative, explained that the ECNETNEWS.COM website is intended “to complement the existing weekly publication of newspapers in the Eastern Caribbean and reduce the gap in public information and awareness on Caribbean integration and development issues for regional users, the Caribbean Disapora and the world at large.”

Mr Pierre said “links are provided to the individual sites of participating newspapers, other Caribbean newspapers and sites.”

Interactive in focus, he added that “ECNETNEWS.COM is also expected to include a number of elements and news products to satisfy the thirst of all categories of users.”

At the level of the media industry, Mr Pierre said, “ECNETNEWS.COM engenders a new focus in capacity building based on the need for new skills in on-line journalism, management and marketing of journalistic products and services.”

Prime Minister Anthony, who is also the current Chairman of the OECS Authority (Heads of Government) told participants at the launching that the initiative by the ten sub-regional newspapers to establish this new website

“will remedy the dearth of information from the OECS on the net.”

Preaching the virtues of the Internet, the Prime Minister said that since his conversion to computerisation he has always sought to encourage persons with computers at home to use the Internet, “because the ’Net is a great equalizer.”

The Prime Minister, on behalf of his OECS colleagues, thanked the participating newspapers for their decision to establish their own website, saying it will certainly enhance “not only the dissemination of information, but also the exchange of news within the sub-region.”

The opening ceremony, which took place at the OECS Secretariat, was also attended and addressed by the Advisor on Communication and Information to UNESCO’s Caribbean Office, Jocelyn Josiah.

Ms Josiah said the launching of ECNETNEWS “sets us in the region firmly on the path of technological development for information-poor societies.”

Noting that “the new information technologies have truly conquered time and space” Ms Josiah said they had also succeeded in “making distance irrelevant” when it comes to communicating information around the globe.

She said the new information technologies have also made communication “easier and cheaper”, which would therefore continue to make information more accessible to more people in more countries, in the shortest possible time.

The UNESCO Regional Adviser said the launching of the new website was “a seminal event and a milestone for Caribbean media” and indicated

that UNESCO’s International Programme for the Development of Communications (IPDC), which funded the project to the tune of US\$40,000, was “highly impressed” with its objectives and looked forward to its success.

Ms Josiah said she hoped the new sub-regional newspapers’ website “will become a springboard” for similar endeavours in the future and urged that the region’s “teaching institutions make use of it” as a tool in the learning and communication process.

The launching ceremony, which coincided with an orientation workshop on the ECNETNEWS website, was chaired by the Grenadian Voice Editor, who played a leading role in coordinating the new service.

The participants, who came from the territories and newspapers represented on the ECNETNEWS website, discussed issues under the theme “Convergence and the Future of Eastern Caribbean Print Media.”

The workshop also included a demonstration of the website by Grenadian journalist Odette Campbell and an interactive presentation on “Media Convergence, Online Journalism and its Impact on Small Print Media” by Dr Mwangi.

Other topics addressed included “The Way Forward for Small Prime Media” and “An Eastern Caribbean Vision for ECNETNEWS.COM”.

Other officials attending the ceremony included Senior Communications Officer at the OECS Secretariat Kendol Morgan, Head of the OECS Economic Affairs Secretariat, Mr Randy Cato and Dr Sam Mwangi of UNESCO, who is seconded to the Caribbean Institute of Media and Communications (CARI-MAC).

Saint Lucia and Ethiopia Established Diplomatic Relations

The Governments of Saint Lucia and the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia have established formal diplomatic relations with effect from August 3rd 2004.

At a ceremony held at the offices of St. Lucia’s Permanent Mission to

the United Nations, the two countries signed an Agreement on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations, committing themselves to “strengthening relations between the two countries and developing bilateral cooperation in different fields of mutual concern”,

on the basis of an interest in developing relations between the two countries and their peoples.

The countries confirmed that the new relationship would be guided by the principles of the of the United Nations Charter and the Vienna Convention on

Diplomatic Relations, and would be pursued on the basis of equality, sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, and non-interference in each other’s internal affairs.

The Agreement was signed on behalf of St. Lucia by H.E. Mr. Anthony Severin, Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations, and for the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, by its Ambassador and Acting Permanent Representative to the United Nations, H.E. Mr. Teruneh Zenna.

In signing the Agreement, the representative of Ethiopia congratulated the Government of St. Lucia for taking the initiative in pursuing the establishment of diplomatic relations, and observed that although separated by great distance, the people of St. Lucia and Ethiopia shared much that was common.

For his part, St. Lucia’s representative noted that the initiative was the logical outcome of St. Lucia’s desire to promote peace and friendship, develop cultural ties, and strengthen economic and technical cooperation with members of the United Nations family. He also noted that a significant segment of St. Lucia’s population already had strong emotional ties with Ethiopia, a factor which would help in strengthening the new relationship between the two countries.



Signing of Agreement - Saint Lucia’s Ambassador to the United Nations - H.E. Anthony Severin and Acting Permanent Representative to the United Nations - H.E. Mr. Teruneh Zenna

Vive La Woz! - Prime Minister

“I note that today, Monday August 30 is La Rose Day, an important event on our cultural calendar, when the first of our two flower festivals is celebrated. The sweet sound of “La Woz” music has been filling the air for two weeks and there will be celebrations all over St. Lucia today,” Prime Minister Dr. Kenny D. Anthony told the nation in his weekly radio address.

Dr. Anthony added, “I am proud of the manner in which we have successfully preserved our cultural traditions and this is seen in the way La Woz has become more accepted nationally than it was 25 years ago. I hope each and every one of you take time out to participate in or go out and see the La Rose festivities closest to your area. I salute you all at home and abroad, and in our true native tongue, I say to you: VIVE LA WOZ!”



**La Rose Groups from Monchy; Grande Riviere, Gros Islet; and Castries
celebrating at Pointe Seraphine Duty Free Complex in Castries**