



# NATIONWIDE

A publication of the Department of Information Services



**I**n order to further strengthen its presence in the Caribbean, American Airlines resumed Monday, November 1, 2004, non-stop daily service flights to St. Lucia from its Miami hub. The airline, which is normally full out of Miami with 142 passengers, picks up some 50 passengers from St. Lucia.

Prime Minister, Dr. Kenny Anthony was positive, noting that the

airline was back for good, because of the buoyancy of the tourism sector, and in particular, with some 700 additional rooms coming from the construction of new hotels and expansion of existing ones, including Coconut Bay in Vieux Fort, Discovery Bay in Marigot Bay and Coco Creole in Rodney Bay.

The airline stopped that service in 1999, after the route became uneconomical. In its place, American Airlines started the American Eagle service out

of Puerto Rico, which is still in place.

American Airlines will fly the route with a Boeing 737 aircraft, one of the newest aircraft in its fleet, with seating for 16 business-class and 126 coach-class passengers, bringing to 990, the number of additional seats available to St. Lucia on a weekly basis out of Miami.

Dr. Kenny Anthony, joined by other Ministers of Government and tourism officials was at Hewanorra International Airport to welcomed Captain John Osborne and his crew. He commended American Airlines for the decision to resume flights to St. Lucia, even as the airline industry grapples with the tough economic times.

“When therefore, an airline in these very difficult circumstances decides that it is going to start a new flight, it is not without very careful thought. It is a statement of confidence yes, it is a statement of the potential of the market, but more than this, it is also an indication that they are willing to consider needs, perhaps in a territory that they are familiar with. American Airlines is synonymous with the Americas, we are part of the Americas and we would not have wanted to be left out,” Dr. Anthony said.

With more than 30 years of service to the Caribbean, the airline sees this new service as underscoring its commitment to the region. “American Airlines and the Government of St. Lucia are partners in tourism and this new service will offer a greater number of connecting opportunities for travellers

to visit this beautiful island. Why St. Lucia? All you have to do is come here and you wouldn’t have to ask why St. Lucia. This is my sixth trip to the island and I am hoping that some day soon, I could come and relax here and enjoy all the beauty that I see. All it takes is for someone to do a little research on ST. Lucia and see the beautiful hotels, the beaches and the friendliness of the people”, said Philip Olivieri, Regional Managing Director for American Airlines in the Caribbean.

Tourism Minister Hon. Phillip J. Pierre said the new one-stop daily service to St. Lucia is seen as part of efforts to enhance the island’s tourism industry and assist in its continued economic development: “We can only gain by having American airlines come to St. Lucia. We can only gain by increasing the amount of air seats into St. Lucia. As Tourism continues to prosper, I understand that for the first six months of 2004, our tourism increased by over six percent and arrivals from the US increased by double digit figures. With the addition of American Airlines and the network of the American Airlines family, St. Lucia will prosper, our industry will improve.”

The new American Airlines non-stop service to St. Lucia is providing direct benefits to 25 persons as a result of the new jobs that have been created.

American Airlines is the largest airline in the world with some 2,500 flights daily.



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

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# St. Lucia to receive Five Star Diamond Award

**T**he International Five Star Diamond Award will be bestowed on St. Lucia on Friday, November 5, 2004, by the American Academy of Hospitality Sciences. The award, which recognizes the best of the best in the world of tourism, will undoubtedly result in more interna-

tional prominence for the island as a tourism destination.

Chairman of the Marketing Committee for the St. Lucia Hotel and Tourism Association (SLHTA), Allan Chastanet, said that Friday's award formed part of a week-long program of activities hosted by the SLHTA, to celebrate

the return of American Airlines to St. Lucia after a seven year lull in this part of the region.

The SLHTA along with American Airlines, the Government of St. Lucia and Cable and Wireless are sponsoring the week of activities, which also include the Kenny Rogers and Maxi Priest concert at the Pigeon Island Landmark on November 6, proceeds of which will go towards the Grenada relief effort.

"All the top hotels in the world, all the top airlines in the world have received this award in the past. Only a year ago, the academy decided that they will bestow the award on a destination, and in fact there was a national holiday to recognize and receive this award. We are very excited and I think the Prime Minister, who will be receiving the award officially on Friday night is excited too. It is a great honour for St. Lucia", Mr. Chastanet said.

Mr. Chastanet said that the presentation of the Five Star Diamond Award on Friday would be witnessed by tour operators, travel agents, and members



Allan Chastanet

of the Press from North America. He noted that there was a lot of optimism for the tourism industry in St. Lucia.

"Winning a great bid for World Cup Cricket and now, with the Five Star Diamond Academy Award, and I understand that St. Lucia, next weekend is going to be bestowed with another award, I think Minister Pierre is going to be receiving that so it is really an exciting time for St. Lucia, and we are all very optimistic about the upcoming Winter period", Mr. Chastanet said.



Artistic impression of Coco Creole expansion

## SLASPA remains obligated to place high priority on Port security

**T**he Saint Lucia Air and Sea Ports Authority (SLASPA) remains obligated to place high priority on security measures to satisfy the regulations of the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code.

The ISPS Code, which came into force in July 2004, introduced tougher security measures to prevent and suppress acts of terrorism against ships.

Managing Director of SLASPA, Mr. Vincent Hippolyte said that any decision SLASPA decided to implement, must be compatible with the new focus on security that the code brought to bear upon the management of Sea Ports.

"We have, as you know a patrol vessel and that patrol vessel is activated to provide that level of security, whenever we have activities that merit it. In addition to this, we have our own police force, which will provide the necessary security presence in order to ensure that the level of security can be attended to. I should also tell you that the whole ISPS Code recognises levels of state security so you can be operating at different levels; it's like the United States", Mr. Hippolyte said.

Meantime, Mr. Hippolyte said SLASPA was still addressing the situa-



Bananes Bay

tion regarding Bananes Bay at LaToc, through a mitigation plan. He informed that SLASPA was working with the Ministry of Planning to ensure that the Fishers, who once occupied Bananes Bay are relocated elsewhere.

Earlier this year the fishers were instructed that they could no longer continue their seafaring activities in that area, as SLASPA attempted to comply with the provisions of the code by the July 1, this year.



Dr. Cletus Bertin

**B**eginning Thursday, November 4, 2004 Information technology professionals will participate in a two-day Open Source Business

**Seminar highlighting how various software models can assist organisations in meeting their developmental goals.**

Dr. Cletus Bertin, Deputy Director of Public Sector Reform with responsibility for Information Technology (IT) and E-government, said that the seminar would aim to foster awareness of various software models while addressing issues surrounding software licenses.

"One of the action points adopted at the World Summit in Geneva in December 2003, was that all countries

would try as best to promote awareness of the possibilities offered by different software models, the means of their creation; and that includes proprietary, open source and free soft ware in order to increase competition, freedom of choice and affordability, and therefore enable all stakeholders to evaluate which solution best meets their needs", Dr. Bertin said.

Dr. Bertin informed that the seminar would pool from research, which reflected current trends for open source software models: "Open source model says, while the person who developed

the application still retains his intellectual property rights, he still allows free use or access of the software, and more so, that persons around the world could modify and redistribute; that's really a model of sustainable development in terms of software distribution".

Local participants will be joined by experts from Cuba, Trinidad & Tobago and Martinique, who will draw experiences of using open source software in the Spanish, French and English speaking territories. The two day workshop will be conducted at the NIC Conference Centre.

## Government pushing computer software to assist organisations

*Freedom House releases global Press Freedom survey...*

# PM Welcomes St. Lucia's Top World Ranking for Press

**Prime Minister Dr Kenny D. Anthony says St. Lucia's recent high world ranking for Press Freedom was one of the positive results of the Government's consistent policy of respect for Freedom of Expression and tolerance of criticism.**

Commenting on the results of a global survey of political rights and civil liberties in over two hundred independent and disputed territories last year by a major international monitoring agency, the Prime Minister said the country's top ratings also defied claims at home that the Government is out to stifle or muzzle the press and that it introduced legislation to jail journalists for speaking and writing.

Dr Anthony was commenting on the results of the latest annual survey by Freedom House, a respected international monitoring body with

offices in New York and Washington and with branches on both sides of the Atlantic.

In its latest report on the State of Press Freedom in 192 Independent countries and 18 related and disputed territories across the globe, Freedom House ranked St. Lucia as having the ninth highest ranking in Press Freedom throughout the world.

The report (which can be found at the organization's website [www.freedomhouse.org](http://www.freedomhouse.org)) is entitled: "Freedom in the World 2004" and documents events from January 1 to November 30, 2003. It was published in New York on September 23, 2004.

According to Freedom House in a Press Release accompanying the report: "Countries are assigned ratings... based on thorough research and analysis and on the survey's rigorous methodology." The survey results are documented in detailed charts, tables and

graphs depicting individual country scores, regional breakdowns and social and economic indicators.

According to the survey's findings, the only countries with higher rankings than St. Lucia were Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland. Of these, Denmark, Iceland and Sweden tied for first place.

The survey ranks St. Lucia higher than any other country in Africa, the Americas, Asia, the Pacific or the Caribbean. The only countries that placed before St. Lucia are in Europe, except for New Zealand.

Freedom House ranked St. Lucia higher than the United States of America, which ranked fifteenth (15th) in the worldwide survey. St. Lucia also placed higher than any other country in North, South or Central America.

Commenting Tuesday (November

2), the Prime Minister, who is also responsible for the Information portfolio, welcomed the news and reiterated the Government "will continue to engage with the Press and to respect the people's inalienable rights of Freedom of Expression, Freedom of the Press and Freedom of Information."

He added: "It is our intention to continue to respect the plurality of the media and to provide the stable climate for its growth, development and expansion."

"We shall also continue to respect the views of our critics and to encourage free and responsible expression of public opinion in the state-run media."

Prime Minister Anthony reiterated however, that "where the Government considers it has been misrepresented, it will continue to exercise our right of reply in order to establish the truth."

## Government to enhance St. Lucia's ability to cope with unforeseen disasters



**Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony keen on developing and protecting people and country**

**A** resolution seeking to enhance St. Lucia's ability to cope with unforeseen disasters was past at a sitting of the House of Assembly today. The resolution permits government to borrow US \$3.7 million

from the National Bank of Reconstruction and Development of Trinidad and Tobago, mainly for physical and infrastructural work needed to safeguard several parts of the island from unwanted disasters.

The motion received across-the-board support from parliamentarians.

The initiative will form part of the second phase of a disaster mitigation plan for St. Lucia. It follows the establishment of satellite houses and disaster committees in districts around the island, under phase 1. Recent events in Grenada and at Tapion resonated, as Parliamentarians overwhelmingly supported the passage of the motion.

Prime Minister, Hon. Dr. Kenny Anthony in tabling the motion, highlighted the need to prepare for disasters of any kind, noting, "I have had the opportunity over the last few years to see a growing confidence among St. Lucians, as they face the inevitable challenges of disasters, in fact an increasing maturity in the society, and this certainly is to be welcomed".

The project to be funded through the US \$3.7 million dollar loan will see among other things, the construction of retaining walls in communities like Marchand, in the vicinity of the

Marchand Combined School and at Pavee. It will also see the commencement of works for the protection of Dennery Village shores, from sea swells associated with hurricanes.

Minister for Communication, Works, Transport and Public Utilities Hon. Felix Finisterre said that this complemented the annual allocation by government for the de-silting of rivers around the island.

"This project is going to have an impact physically and economically, on every single community in St. Lucia. Some of the other major works which have to be undertaken is the construction of three major bridges and the rehabilitation of one major drain. Those bridges are at Deglos in Marc, La Reviere Ti-Bois Bridge in Laborie, which I know the member has been agitating for, and the Boguis River", Minister Finisterre said.

The bridges, Mr. Finisterre said, are already being designed with a view to getting them funded under this initiative. Major ravine works he said would be done on the La Clery main drain, which will be retrained and cleaned up. He said there would also be smaller works for the stabilization of slopes with the use of gabion baskets in many communities on the island.

## Parliament authorises borrowing of US\$12.7M for development work

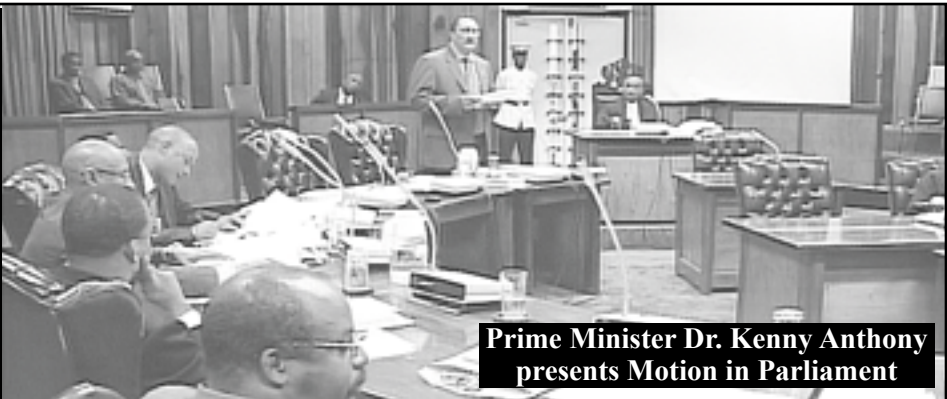
**T**he Saint Lucia House of Assembly met today, November 2, 2004, and authorises the borrowing of US\$12.7M for development work. This was contained in three motions, which were considered. These are: to authorize the Minister for Finance to borrow the sum of US\$3.7 million from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for the purpose of refinancing the Second Disaster Management Project; to authorise the Minister for Finance to borrow the sum of US\$3.2 million from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for the purpose of refinancing the HIV/

AIDS Prevention and Control Project; and to authorize the Minister of Finance to issue a 5-year Fixed Rate Bond at an interest rate of 7.5% through First Caribbean International Bank (Barbados) Limited for the purpose of refinancing the US\$6.0 million Floating Rate Note held with Citibank (Trinidad and Tobago) Limited to pay off WASCO's debts assumed by the Government.

Two bills were considered. These are the Caribbean Court of Justice (Agreement) (Amendment), Government Corporations, and Motor Vehicle and Road Traffic (Amendment).

Among the Papers laid were the Annual Report of the National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission for the period October 2002 to September

2003, and the Report of the Operations of the Saint Lucia National Housing Corporation Corporation for the financial year April 2003 to March 2004.



**Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony presents Motion in Parliament**



# KWEYOL-LA

## PM in conversation



Prime Minister Dr. Kenny D. Anthony

**H**ello Again, St. Lucia, bon-jou encore, Ste Lisi, it never ceases to amaze me how the celebration of Jounen Kweyol has, in the past few years, touched the lives of almost every St. Lucian at home and abroad. As with Christmas, it has become a season with a standard place on the island’s annual calendar of cultural activities. Vweyman, Jounen Kweyol vini mem kon Noel!

The first celebration of Jounen Kweyol was 21 years ago, in 1983. Since then it has gone down in the history of the media of our country as the first full day of Kweyol Language broadcasting in the local media. Depi tann sala, toules-jour, toules-matin, depi siz-heur, toute-moon ka tann pawol Kweyol assou wadyo-a ek pou toute lestan jounen-a, moon ka jwen enfonmasyon assou sa ki ka pase toute oliwon la-terre-a.

### Twenty Years of Celebration

From 1984, Jounen Kweyol has been celebrated in communities across the country, throughout the island. For an entire week preceding each Jounen Kweyol, the nation celebrates its culture in its image.

This year was no different. Employees of private commercial houses and of the Public Sector adorned their normally formal and sometimes plain-coloured uniforms with touches of Madras cloth in various lengths, shapes and colours. I saw several variations of the creative use of Madras cloth, which, for a long time in our cultural landscape, only took pride of place as head ties, scarves and mouchwer worn by elderly rural women. I saw broaches creatively designed and made of miniature hats and latannier brooms. Our grandparents, our mothers and fathers, who were the original promoters and speakers of the Kweyol language, to-

day speak it with pride. No longer is it regarded or treated as the language of the persons to whom the English historian, Henry H. Breen, contemptuously and insultingly described as “the language of toothless old women.” Jodi jou, nou paka honte pou pale langaj natiwelle nou. Kon Earl Bousquet cadei, “Nou ka pale kweyol ek nez nou hosey en lezere. Nou weplase honte evek l’honneur pou langaj natiwelle nou.”

### An Explosion of Kweyol Culture

On Friday last, there was an explosion of the Creole culture in the form of Kweyol cuisine and a real Kweyol dress-down day. Nearly all government departments took part. The Office of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of the Public Service and others joined the commercial houses and the banks in dressing and cooking appropriately, en twadisyon Kweyol.

The celebrations at the offices also featured exhibitions of traditional creole items. La te ni Wob Dwiyet, Manche ek Pilon, fer passé longtan, pengne-cho, tesson, paniez, jer, lamp kawozin en kanot. La te zhik ni chilotte kat kod.

Activities last week also included the increasingly popular pageant, La Wenn Kweyol Ste Lisi, in which ladies in Creole attire participated from across the island. The competition took place at the National Cultural Centre and, as usual, it was well supported and properly patronized.

I must also applaud the schools of our island, in particular those where students were encouraged to appreciate the culture and speak our Kweyol language with pride. The schools are doing a great job in defending, promoting and expressing our culture.

### Celebrating at Home and Abroad...

But it is not only in St. Lucia that Jounen Kweyol is celebrated in a grand way. In fact, I am told that everywhere you find gatherings of St. Lucians, there is a celebration in one form or another. St. Lucians at home and abroad put aside their differences for the period of the celebration to enjoy Creole food and expositions of Creole culture with friends and family. Those at home basked in the glory of having it all, while those abroad let it be known that St. Lucia is wherever they are. They make it clear to all that we never leave our Kweyol spirit at home. Nou ka pote Kweyol-nou epi nou, nepot kote nou alle assou laterre-a.

### Doing Business in the Language of the People...

It is my belief that while Government can encourage the population to promote its culture and language, Government must also lead by example. That is why we have encouraged our government officials to conduct the daily business of the nation in the language of the people. This is in fact being done. The Governor General has set the tone with her Annual Throne Speech to Parliament. The rules in Parliament have been changed to allow our Parliamentarians to use Creole in their presentations.

But while we all applaud what has become a norm even that is not



Family enjoying Jounen Kweyol

# KA BWIYE!

## n with the Nation

enough. We all need to do more – much more -- to continue to promote our native language. It must always be taken from one stage to the next. We must always aim to ensure that no stone is left unturned to ensure our National Language is brought to life. Nou ni pou pousse Kweyol-la pli ek toujou twavay pou mettay Kweyol assou mem pa ek Anglais.

### A Language of Survival

Kweyol has survived all the discrimination of those who felt threatened by the fact that it was a language that encouraged and promoted social cohesion among the displaced persons of African descent in our country. Back then, the colonizers fought the lan-

guage tooth and nail. Their heirs and successors sought to keep it outside the framework of normal discourse. They tried to diminish our spirit and our thirst for freedom by suppressing our most reliable form of communication, our Kweyol. Pli yo te goumen kont kweyol, pli yo te ped. Apwezan, yo ped lajerre-a kont Kweyol totalman!

So, we have triumphed.

### Respect Due...

In singing praises to Kweyol, we must give respect where it is due – especially to those who have laboured to bring it to where it is today.

First of all, we must continue to sing praises to Monsignor Patrick Anthony

and the founding and remaining members of the Folk Research Centre, who blazed the trail, who set the path we follow along today. Annou bayo wespe-a you vweyman mewite!

We must applaud the writers and performers who, over the years did their part to preserve the language, give it respect, keep it alive and place it on the world map. We must applaud also the indomitable spirit of Dame Sessenne Descartes, who has lived long enough to make us proud of what she has done to keep our creole culture alive and well, through music, song and dance. Wespe, Dam Sessenne!

We must pause and recognize the early research and painstaking efforts of

persons like the late Mr Jones Monde-sir, a former Chief Education Officer who laboured to compile our first complete Kweyol Dictionary – one of two that are of immense use to students of the language at home and abroad.

We must give praise and thanks that there is also a New Testament in Kweyol, compiled by local and foreign linguists and researchers.

We must commend the broadcast media for keeping the language alive – our own National Television Network (NTN), the GIS and Radio St. Lucia; the private radio and TV stations too – they and their Kweyol broadcasters have all helped -- and they still help to keep the language alive every day and every night of the week – and yes, that includes Jook Bwa, who continues to both entertain and annoy every morning and every night.

### Kweyol Separates us From the Rest!

Indeed, I want to share the sentiments expressed in the editorial of the latest issue of the Mirror newspaper, in which it says, and I quote:

“The mass interest in Kweyol heritage activities is a testament to the importance of the language and the values it expresses to national identity. Though aware of the historical importance of Kweyol, many people regard it for sentimental and marketing purposes only. But a significant number of people still depend on the language to participate in the day-to-day business of an increasingly sophisticated society, whose values are constantly being altered under the pressure of the global economy. In this period of global media culture, we need Kweyol more than ever before. Kweyol is the one factor that separates us from the rest.”

Indeed, Kweyol has led to the discovery of our soul and our spirit. Once it was treated as a bastard language; today it is recognized as the language of St. Lucians, the Mother Tongue of our nation, the language we best speak and understand. Kweyol-la pa bata encore; vwey-man, Kweyol, Lang Mama-nou, ses legitim!

I am sure that most if not all of you, in one way or another, participated in Kweyol observances over the weekend. Whether in Babonneau, Mon Repos, Belle Vue or Anse la Raye, I have no doubt that you were able to refresh your minds and reassure yourselves that ours is a language that has found itself and which is moving on up. Vweyman, Kweyol-la vivan; i ka bwiye!

Here’s hoping that you thoroughly enjoyed the week of Jounen Kweyol observances, which culminated our four weeks of activities in observance of Kweyol Heritage Month. Now, let’s sober-up and get back to work.

Until next week, may the Good Lord bless and keep you; and do enjoy the rest of the day.



# OECS calls for protection of its pharmaceutical market from counterfeit Drugs

**The 18th annual meeting of the OECS Pharmaceutical Procurement Service Tenders and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) opened on Monday, November 1, 2004 in Castries.**

Addressing the delegates, Director of the OECSPPS, Francis Burnett stressed the need to protect the OECSPPS Market for public sector pharmaceuticals from counterfeit drugs. Burnett, referring to the World Health Organisation revealed that counterfeit drugs account for about 7% of total sales in interna-

tional commerce. “There is approximately 28 billion dollars worth of counterfeit drugs circulating worldwide. We have been getting a lot of disturbing reports about counterfeiting anti-retroviral drugs for HIVAIDS, which is very distressing”, Burnett said.

To help protect its market, the OECSPPS has embarked upon a mechanism to ensure that all manufacturers of pharmaceuticals are regulated and registered by the Country Drug Regulatory Authority. This is to help ensure that

products marketed in the OECS meet international standards and norms.

The OECSPPS market for Pharmaceuticals and Medical Supplies realizes about 10 million EC dollars per year.

The TAC conference has so far reviewed the list of pharmaceutical suppliers over the last contract period. Nichole Felix, the Unit’s Research Quality Control Officer reported that approximately 80% of the suppliers have performed above average.

“We are pretty much satisfied with the most of the work we have been

doing with them for the past contract cycle”-Felix

Suppliers of the OECS PPS Unit are assessed on a scale of 1-5 under several categories including shipment, invoicing, quality and expiry date.

On Friday November 5th, the OECSPPS TAC meeting climaxes with a lecture on Healthy Lifestyles for Preventing Chronic Disease by Dr. Geoffrey Frankson, a Medical Researcher from Trinidad.

Major health care workers will be among those attending the lecture. Burnett states that many chronic diseases such as diabetes and hypertension are associated with lifestyles. He noted obesity as a lifestyle that is significantly linked to chronic diseases.

The OECS PPS has been able to maximize the health resources in the sub-region in reducing the unit cost of pharmaceuticals by about 40%. This has enhanced the purchasing power of and access to a variety of drugs for consumers.

## EU attempts to shield ACP bananas

**Responding to a World Trade Organization (WTO) ruling for a change in its system of quotas and duties, the European Union (EU) yesterday, proposed a new banana duty of US\$290 per ton, beginning in 2006.**

The move, EU officials say, will hopefully help Caribbean and other banana producers in African, Caribbean and Pacific grouping from losing

to growers in Ecuador and other Latin American countries.

But Arnhim Eustace, former chairman of the Windward Islands Banana Development and Exporting Company, told the BBC Caribbean, the duty has to be higher to protect the region from external market forces.

He said a duty of US\$349-381 would be better and serve to help the struggling sector survive.



Reception Depot at Odsan

## CARICOM Education Ministers Pursue Action for Managed Migration

**Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Ministers of Education have agreed to work closely with the Commonwealth Secretariat, which will undertake a study, to articulate the implications of the managed migration of the Region’s skilled human resources.**

During a press conference following the conclusion of the Eleventh Meeting of the CARICOM Council for Human and Social Development (COHSOD), held in Georgetown on 28-29 October, the Ministers expressed satisfaction that much ground had been covered at the two-day forum where the issue of skilled migration was high on the agenda.

As part of the managed migration scheme, which hopes to primarily address the departure of teachers and nurses from the Region to developed countries, the Region will look to the recipient countries to play a leading role in providing training for those persons, to ensure that they are fully equipped for the international job market.

Another major accomplishment of the Education Ministers at the Meeting of the COHSOD was the agreement to establish a preliminary framework to standardise the accreditation of Associate Degrees in the Region. Against this backdrop, the COHSOD has mandated the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) to collaborate with Regional community colleges and training agencies for the rationalisation of Associate Degrees.

Guyana’s Education Minister, Dr Henry Jeffrey told the media that the COHSOD has earmarked April 2005, for the formal institution of a common standard across the Region for the accreditation of Associate Degrees.

Meanwhile, the issues of drug abuse and violence among the Region’s youth

were also discussed by Education Ministers, who hope to soon preside over a draft document which will speak to early childhood development. According to Minister of Education of Trinidad and Tobago and Chairperson of COHSOD, Senator the Hon. Hazel Manning, the draft document conceptualises the introduction of a Caribbean Sesame Street for pre-school children within the Region.

Minister Manning said through the early childhood programmes that will be developed in the schools curriculum, educators hope to impart moral values and life lessons that will guide future action and stem the reduction of violence in the school system.

The Eleventh Meeting of the Council for Human and Social Development (COHSOD XI) of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) was convened at Le Meridien Pegasus Hotel, Georgetown Guyana on 28-29 October 2004, under the theme, “Investing in Human Resources with Special Reference to Education and Training.”

The Meeting was chaired by Sen. the Hon. Hazel Manning, Minister of Education, Trinidad and Tobago and Outgoing Chairperson of the COHSOD, at the request of the Incumbent, Hon. Bertrand Joseph, Minister of Education, Antigua and Barbuda.

In attendance were: Hon. Bertrand Joseph, Minister of Education, Antigua and Barbuda; Hon. Reginald Farley, Minister of Education, Barbados; Hon. Henry Jeffrey, Minister of Education, Guyana; Hon. Maxine Henry-Wilson, Minister of Education, Youth and Culture, Jamaica; Hon. Idabelle Meade, Minister of Education, Health and Community Services, Montserrat; Hon. Mario Michel, Minister of Education, Saint Lucia; Hon. Michael R.C. Browne, Minister of Education, St.

Vincent and the Grenadines; Hon. Walter Sandriman, Minister of Education, Suriname; and Hon. Lloyd Black, Minister of Education, British Virgin Islands. Belize, Dominica, Grenada, and the Turks and Caicos Islands were also represented.

Also present were the following institutions: the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS); University of the West Indies (UWI); Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery (CRNM); Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and other Health Professions; Caribbean Congress of Labour (CCL); Caribbean Examination Council (CXC); Caribbean Youth Ambassadors Programme (CYAP); National Training Agency, Trinidad and Tobago; Technical and Vocational Education and Training, Barbados; United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF); and University of Guyana (UG).

Dr. Greene noted the intricate linkages between social and economic policy, particularly in the context of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) and of the benefits derived from the inter-sectoral approach to challenges relating to social and economic issues. He cited major achievements in all areas of Human and Social Development over the past year and specifically mentioned the role of the CARICOM Secretariat in preparations for Cricket World Cup 2007 in respect of health and disaster management, the development of a security plan, and the drafting of sunset legislation. Reference was also made to critical mandates in respect of human and social development in the context of the World Summit on Social Development, the Summit of the Americas, the Barbados Programme of Action and the Millennium Development Goals.

Dr. Greene asserted that the Caribbean Community and the Council for Human

and Social Development needed to take a proactive role and advocate in international for issues of importance to the Region.

Hon. Henry Jeffrey, Minister of Education, Guyana welcomed Delegates on behalf of the Government and People of Guyana, noting that this was the first meeting of the COHSOD since the recent hurricanes. He noted the packed agenda of the Meeting but expressed the hope that Delegates would take time to experience the beauty of Guyana and its people.

Sen. the Hon. Hazel Manning, Minister of Education, Trinidad and Tobago and Outgoing Chair of the COHSOD, reflected on the engagement of Ministers of Education in the regional, hemispheric and international arenas over the past year. She noted, in particular, the progress, which had been made in respect of a Caribbean Strategy for Education through the two Ministerial Retreats held in Barbados and Guyana in December 2003 and June 2004, respectively.

Minister Manning adverted to several issues of importance: technical education; communications technology; and teacher migration. She cited as challenges capacity- and capability-building and resource location and allocation.

She expressed Trinidad and Tobago’s appreciation for the support it had received during its tenure as Chair of the COHSOD and stressed her country’s commitment to regional development and its desire to work with sister CARICOM States to address geopolitical realities.

Amb. Lolita Applewhaite, Deputy Secretary-General, CARICOM Secretariat, welcomed Delegates to the Meeting and conveyed warm greetings from H.E. Edwin Carrington, Secretary-General, CARICOM, who was unable to attend the Meeting due to pressing regional commitments.



# Countdown starts for annual Atlantic Rally for Cruisers

Officials at the Rodney Bay Marina are preparing to receive hundreds of yachts and their crew, as the countdown started, ahead of the annual Atlantic Rally for Cruisers (ARC). General Manager of the Marina, Cuthbert Didier is expecting a large international media presence, and is certain that small properties in the Rodney Bay area will benefit from the influx of visitors.

item for the local organisers, and Mr. Didier feels this year will be as good as ever.

**POINTE SABLE BEACH RESORT NEAR HEWANORRA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT GEARS FOR NEW WINTER TOURIST SEASON WITH 9 ROOMS, RESTAURANT AND BAR**



“For one, we expect a very large contingent, in terms of media coverage – international media, also the families of the participants and the families of the crew. A lot of existing small properties will be benefiting - the Bay Gardens, the Rainbow Hotel, now called the Rodney Bay Village, and you also have Coco Creole, which is newly established. We have been able to book a number of rooms for that event at discounted rates. We also expect a very huge contingent from England, in terms of families, based on the number of e-mails received”, Mr. Didier said.

Entertainment for the ARC participants has always been a high priority

“The entertainment this year is going to be very, very special. We have an ARC committee that is chaired by the chairman of the St. Lucia Tourist Board, Mr. Costello Michel, and we have met frequently. We have a list of not only in- house activities, but also a lot of activities that are pretty high profile, which includes venues, such as the Gaiety, certain hotels, and of course the marina”, Mr. Dedier said.

Mr. Didier pointed out that improvements were being made to the marina, to accommodate the expected 235 yachts that have been registered.

The ARC fleet will leave Las Palmas, Grand Canaria on November 21, and the early boats are expected to cross the Atlantic and arrive in St. Lu-

## Schools to develop methods of managing wastes

The St. Lucia Solid Waste Management Authority (SLSWMA) today (Friday, October 29th) will launch the ‘Greening of the Schools’ programme. The programme will provide participating schools the opportunity to develop methods for managing waste within their environment. The SLSWMA’s Education and Public Information Manager, Emlyn Jean said the participation of all schools was critical

“We know that the students can find very creative ways with respect to dealing with waste in the schools. We

are aware too, that the schools are one of the areas that generate lots of waste, and very often sometimes, some of it can be dealt with differently, instead of throwing it away, for example, Green waste generated on the compound could actually be composted”, Ms. Jean said.

However she said that those programmes would be monitored throughout the course of the school year, and hopefully, judged on World Environment Day on November.

The Greening of Schools Project is sponsored by the British High Commission.



State of the Art Ciceron Secondary School

## New Maternity Wing for St. Jude’s Hospital

A new maternity wing is being added to the St. Jude Hospital, thanks to the contribution of the Rotary Clubs of St. Lucia and Washington. At a ceremony on Wednesday marking the official start of the project, Assistant District Governor Lisle Chase said that the project which had been in the making for some 15 years now, was the brainchild of Dr. Larry Iverson, a volunteer at the institution.

“Well a lot of time passed between 1989 and now, and the project has gone through a bit of a metamorphosis, but the long and the short of it, the Rotary Club of East Belington went around the whole district of Washington and picked up another five clubs, and they put together US\$30,000, which still was not enough for the project. Dr Iverson then came home to St. Lucia and the Rotary clubs of St. Lucia put together another US\$ 24,000 towards this project”, Mr. Chase informed.

Hospital Administrator Mr. Paul Meroe remarked that the project was expected to bring about some significant improvement in alleviating the congestion, which now exists at the facility.

“It will provide space for the counselling of mothers, a nursery.....to enhance machine satisfaction”, Mr. Meroe said.

Member of Parliament for Vieux - Fort South, Hon. Dr. Kenny Anthony, who was there to witness the turning of the sod, said that the new maternity project was a reaffirmation that the hospital had not been forgotten.

“But perhaps the most important consideration is for the number of young mothers in our community, that they would have a modern and very decent facility, and so it is with great pleasure that I welcome this initiative by Rotarians here at the hospital”, the Prime Minister said.

According to Dr. Anthony, “volunteerism must really never ever die, and whatever opportunity we have to help others around us, we should utilize that opportunity”, noting that “if we can make life better for others we ourselves can feel more contented with our own lives”.

Completion date for the project has been set for February 2005. Construction will be undertaken by St. Lucian, Stephen Charles.

Meanwhile, the asbestos roofing at the hospital has caused some concern to patients, as well as the Vieux-Fort community. Acknowledging this as a major challenge, Dr. Anthony warned that the changing of the roofs is going to be a very delicate operation, and will therefore require proper timing.

**CONSTRUCTION OF DICOVERY BAY HOTEL IN MARIGOT BAY PROGESSES**





# JANY: A MOMENT IN TIME



Plunges to death



Jany’s mom, Jany’s boyfriend and Jany’s sister breathe easy as the day comes to a close



Governor-General, Prime Minister and his wife and members of his Cabinet



Sarah Flood-Beaubrun, Boo Hinkson and friends in church



Baby girl gets a view from the ‘Top’ at the cemetery



Jeff “Mighty Peley” Elva in Church