



A Moment of silence: A nation observes the death of Sir George F.L. Charles



Sir George F.L. Charles and the Struggle for Self-determination and Nationhood: A Secure Historical Legacy

By Anthony Darius

The death of Sir George Frederick Lawrence Charles, Unionist, Politician and above all a true Saint Lucian Patriot, provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the tremendous contribution he made to the social, economic and political development of our society. More importantly, his passing provides an occasion for the nation to ponder upon his historical legacy.

George Charles' historical legacy and contribution to national development can best be appreciated by examining his involvement in the labour movement, the anti-colonial/anti-imperialist struggles and the rise of party politics in Saint Lucia. The local labour movement in the 1930s, was an offshoot of a broader reformist movement, which swept through the Anglophone Caribbean in response to deplorable working conditions, depressed socio-economic circumstances and the absence of representative and responsive government. The reformist movement of the 1930s had two other important elements, namely, a democratic movement and an anti-colonial/anti-imperialist struggle. These elements served to reinforce each other and were situated within an atmosphere of a broad-based ideological populism.

In Saint Lucia, as was the case in the other British West-Indian colonies, the fundamental objective of the labour movement was to dismantle the legal framework which governed the relationship between capital and labour in the post-emancipation period. It is worth noting that the plantation economy in the Anglophone Caribbean was built on a nexus between cheap labour and capital. Consequently, with the advent of full emancipation in 1838, the plantocracy attempted to maintain a labour regime which was at best semi-feudal or closely approximated to the system of coerced labour which prevailed during slavery. To this end, the plantocracy was determined to have at its disposal a surplus labour force which



Sir George F.L. Charles at the ceremony renaming Vigie Airport in his name

would in turn help reduce the collective bargaining power of the ex-slaves, as well as suppress the wage rate.

Furthermore, new laws and ordinances were enacted throughout the British West Indian colonies in an effort to tie the ex-slaves to the plantation, deny them opportunities of finding alternative employment and forestall the development of an independent peasantry. Still, there was the enactment of legislation which was specifically designed to ensure that the ex-slaves could not combine as free men to obtain better wages. In Jamaica, a law of 1839 made it illegal for free men to assemble or strike for the purpose of fixing the wages of labour and for regulating and controlling the mode of carrying on manufacture, trade or business or the

cultivation of any plantation. Such action was deemed injurious to trade and commerce, dangerous to the tranquility of the country and especially prejudicial to the interest of all concerned parties.

In Trinidad, the Habitual Idlers Ordinance of 1918 was designed to discourage indentured labourers whose terms had expired from leaving the plantation. The Strikes and Lockouts Ordinance, which was first enacted in 1920, was a temporary measure which prohibited strikes and provided for arbitration between employers and employees in the event of disputes. When this ordinance expired, it was replaced by the Industrial Court Ordinance, which was designed to achieve the same ends, but on a more permanent basis. In many of the

colonies, the Colonial Government enacted Sedition Acts and legislation. It became apparent, therefore, that the legal framework which emerged in the post-emancipation period to govern capital/labour relations was designed specifically to coerce and make labour subservient to the needs of capital.

Consequently, from the very outset, the labour movement in the British West-Indian colonies assumed an unconstitutional and extra-legal character. George Charles in his personal memoir, *The History of the Labour Movement in Saint Lucia 1945-74* (1994) stated "In all their struggles, the Agricultural Workers had been bogged down by a minimum wage instituted by a Government drawn from the privileged friends of a Colonial Governor based in Grenada, and who was committed to enhance the fortunes of his compatriots in the United States. An agricultural worker's life was of no significance to the slave master and imperialist so that a demand for increased wages, whether singly or collectively, could be interpreted as an act of treason."

Arthur Lewis observed that legal obstacles were placed in the way of the development of trade unions in the British West Indies. According to him, trade unions did not have the right of peaceful picketing or protection against actions in tort, two rights conferred in Great Britain by an Act of 1906. More importantly, Lewis, in a view consistent with that expressed by George Charles noted that "the colonial administrations had not rid themselves of the notion that trade unionism is treasonable. Union leaders are in some places continuously shadowed by the police, and the mildest utterance may provoke a prosecution for sedition."

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Body of Sir George F.L. Charles exposed in Parliament

Joint Statement by the Prime Minister of St. Lucia and the Prime Minister of Jamaica

On the occasion of the official visit to St. Lucia by the Prime Minister of Jamaica, the Most Honourable P.J. Patterson from July 1 – 2 2004, the Prime Minister of St Lucia, Dr. The Hon. Kenny D. Anthony and the Prime Minister of Jamaica held discussions on matters of mutual interest between their two countries including bilateral relations as well as recent regional and international developments.

They hailed this first ever official visit to St Lucia by a Prime Minister of Jamaica and Prime Minister Patterson’s historic address to the Joint Sitting of the St Lucia Parliament as a reaffirmation of the warm and fraternal relations that have traditionally existed between the peoples and governments of Jamaica and St Lucia. They therefore agreed to continue to work for the further deepening of these relations and in that regard discussed issues relating

to education and the fight against the trafficking of illegal drugs in the Caribbean. They agreed to strengthen mechanisms for further cooperation between Jamaica and St. Lucia in the combating of the illicit drug trade.

They noted with satisfaction the private sector linkages that had developed between St. Lucia and Jamaica, particularly in the field of tourism, and in view of the meeting that had taken place between Prime Minister Patterson, representatives of the Jamaican sector and members of the St. Lucia Private Sector, called for the widening of these linkages and further collaboration between the private sectors of the two countries.

The Prime Ministers pledged their support for the growth and development of the regional integration process of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and in that regard agreed to work assiduously with the other member

states of Caricom to bring the Caribbean Single Market and Economy to fruition by the target date of December 2005.

They praised the recent progress that had been made towards the establishment of the Caribbean Court of Justice and looked forward to its inauguration later this year.

They also agreed to promote the continued discussion and search for suitable new governance structures for Caricom that would lead to the strengthening of the Caribbean Community to enable it to better fulfil its goal of the economic and social advancement of the peoples of the region.

In reviewing recent regional developments, they once more expressed their regret at the events that had led to

the interruption of the democratic process in Haiti and to the consequential departure of President Jean Bertrand Aristide from office. Recalling that the members states of the Caribbean Community have always steadfastly ascribed to the principles of democracy, democratic elections and the rule of law and their efforts in the past to bring Haiti into the democratic fold, they looked forward to the early restoration of the democratic process in Haiti and the emergence there of a democratically elected government.

The Prime Ministers also discussed matters for deliberation at the forthcoming Twenty-fifth meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community in St Georges, Grenada on July 4 – 7, 2004.



Prime Minister Patterson followed by Dr. Kenny Anthony inspecting the Guards

Radio CARICOM Launched

Residents of St Lucia were among the first to listen to RADIO CARICOM, when it hit the airwaves on July 4, 2004. Joined by listeners in Barbados, Belize and Grenada, citizens of these four islands were the first to benefit from this new service provided to members of the Caribbean Community.

Dr. the Rt. Hon. Keith C. Mitchell, Prime Minister of Grenada and Chairman of CARICOM explained at the Opening Ceremony of the Twenty-Fifth Meeting of the Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community, held in Grand Anse, Grenada, on 4 July 2004, that Radio CARICOM was a service that would ensure that Caribbean nationals are kept more abreast of developments within the Caribbean Community. Prime Minister Mitchell explained that although at this stage Radio CARICOM served only four islands, the service would soon be expanded to all Member States.

The Technological and Scientific advancement of the Region was also a primary concern at this 25th meeting of CARICOM. Prime Minister Mitchell stated that the Region should actively pursue the development of alternative energy sources and cooperate on issues relating to these sources.

“Seismic studies have shown, without a doubt, that we have tremendous oil and natural gas reserves in our waters...in our attempt to utilise this untapped resource, we must all work speedily towards settling boundary delimitation agreements among our respective countries.”

As CARICOM Head responsible for Science and Technology, Mr. Mitchell expressed the need to strengthen the capacity of the Caribbean Renewable Energy Development Project so that it could focus on utilising the potentials of Solar and Wind Energy. He also called for the establishment of the Common Fisheries Regime, which he said would impact on the sustainability of marine resources not only with respect to fisheries, but also in relation to energy supplies for the Region.

His Excellency Edwin W. Carrington, Secretary - General of CARICOM was very concerned about HIV/AIDS and its devastating impact on Caribbean social life. At the Summit in Grenada, Mr Carrington stated that decisive and sustained regional action was absolutely necessary to successfully deal with the growing problem of AIDS and its debilitating effect on the economic growth of member states.

The CARICOM Secretary General declared that it was time for CARICOM to accelerate the Region’s own Integration process. He referred to recent elections held in Europe, and commented on the fact that the Europeans were able to enhance their own integration process and agree on the naming of a New Commission president, Prime Minister Jose Durao Barroso of Portugal. Mr Carrington exhorted the timely implementation of decisions already taken by CARICOM, including the inauguration of the Caribbean Court of Justice and the introduction of the Caribbean Community Passport.

Haiti was still foremost in the mind of The Most Honourable P.J. Patterson

of Jamaica, when he addressed the CARICOM Summit He informed his colleagues that CARICOM was actively advocating Haiti’s case for substantial financial resources from the World Bank, the Inter - American Development Bank, the European Union, and that CARICOM was even considering Haiti’s participation in the Caribbean Development Bank.

With preparations for Elections already underway in Haiti, the Community Council of Ministers had its Second Special Meeting on July 3, 2004, to review an update on Haiti provided

by the CARICOM Secretariat. At this meeting, chaired by the Hon. Elvin Nimrod, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of Grenada, the Community Council also received an update from Jean-Yvon Simeon, Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Interim Administration in Haiti. Mr Simeon responded to questions posed by the Council Ministers on a number of political, economic and social issues, as well as on matters of security, human rights and the state of the Judiciary.

P.J. Patterson and Dr. Kenny Anthony strong on Caricom





Sorrow at the Funeral of Sir George F.L. Charles

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The existence of these legal impediments was largely responsible for preventing labour from organizing and for creating the conditions which allowed for the exploitation of labour by the owners of the factors of production. George Charles (1994) remembers working conditions in Saint Lucia during the 1930s “As a period of low wages, long hours of work, no rest on Sundays and public holidays, employment of child labour, little or no health facilities, no vacation leave, no compensation for industrial injuries and limited educational facilities and 90% of the people were illiterate and disenfranchised. George Charles observed that “there was a limit to human endurance and these conditions meshed into a power keg which exploded in 1937, involving nearly every island in the Caribbean with strikes, riots and violence.”

The strikes, riots and violence were aimed primarily at drawing attention to the plight of the working class. However, it had the added consequence of undermining the constitutionality of the anti-labour legislation which was contrived to subordinate the rights of workers to the interests of capital. However, the strikes, disturbances, demonstrations and workers’ protests were by and large spontaneous, unorganized and ineffective. George Charles’ prominence within the labour movement in Saint Lucia was a direct result of his efforts to organize, mobilize, raise the collective consciousness of the workers and articulate and situate their

struggles within a broader ideological context which was essentially anti-colonial/anti-imperialist and broadly democratic.

George Charles’ activism and advocacy among the various categories of workers contributed significantly to the growth and development of trade unions in Saint Lucia. More importantly, it led to the introduction of trade union legislation which, by 1948, fully established the legality of trade unions on the island. The labour movement pioneered by him and other trade union stalwarts was significant because it awakened the hopes and aspiration of working class people who, for the first

time, experienced collective interest in their welfare.

Arthur Lewis noted that the labour movement in the British West Indian colonies was not inevitable. He contended that the labour movement occurred simply because of the absence of constitutional machinery for the redress of grievances. Within the context of the colonial state, government and employers were always hostile to collective bargaining and the political constitution was framed to exclude the workers from any control of the legislature.

Consequently, one of the major obstacles to the workers’ programme

of redistribution was the constitutional structure imposed by Crown Colony Government. Under the system of Crown Colony Government, which was instituted in the post-emancipation period, the constitution vested all powers in the Governor, who, through the control of the Executive Council and the legislature, was able to implement policies which reflected the needs of special interests, while at the same time being antagonistic to the rights and interests of workers.

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Funeral Service for Sir George F.L. Charles



Prime Minister Dr. Kenny D. Anthony delivering the eulogy



Family members of Sir George F.L. Charles



Children playing at after-funeral reception



Friends and relatives at after-funeral reception

Govt Welcomes Beausejour’s Selection as a 2007 Cricket World Cup Venue

“It’s a Great Day for St. Lucia,” says Acting Prime Minister Mario Michel

Acting Prime Minister Mario Michel says St. Lucia’s selection as a venue for the Cricket World Cup just two years after construction of the Beausejour Cricket ground is “yet another major achievement for the island.”

“It’s a great day for St. Lucia,” the Minister said, noting that the announcement came less than a week after St. Lucia’s world famous twin peaks, The Pitons, were declared a World Heritage Site by the United Nations.

Mr Michel said St. Lucia’s successful bid was the result of “a combination of foresight, years of hard work and special preparation on the part of the Government of St. Lucia and the local Bid Committee.”

Commenting minutes after Monday morning’s announcement of the eight venues selected by the International Cricket Council (ICC), Mr Michel, who is also Minister with responsibility for Education, Human Resource Development, Youth and Sports, said it was “also the result of years of hard work that started back in 1998.”

He recalled that 1998 was the year “when a decision was taken not to rehabilitate the Mindoo Philip Park, but to work towards establishing a world class venue for cricket in St. Lucia.”

That decision, he recalled, was followed by another taken in 2000 to have architects draw up a design for the Beausejour Cricket Ground, and then there was the eventual commissioning of our new national cricket facility of international standards in 2002.”

He continued: “The hosting of first class, world-class cricket matches at Beausejour following its commissioning, the establishment of the high-powered Bid Committee and the meticulous planning that went into our bid effort, all contributed to today’s success.”

“To have been selected as a venue for World Cup Cricket just two years after constructing the Beausejour Cricket Ground,” Mr Michel noted, “is not just a signal honour, but also a great tribute to our collective, team efforts.”

Mr Michel said he was “not surprised” that St. Lucia was selected as a venue and paid special tribute to the late Chairman of the St. Lucia Tourist Board, Mr Desmond Skeete, “who, as Chairman of the Bid Committee,

contributed significantly to the success of the Committee’s work at home and abroad.”

According to the Acting Prime Minister: “The entire Cabinet of Ministers joins with the rest of the

country in celebrating the successful bid, and we look forward to even more good news next Tuesday (July 14) when the announcements will be made regarding what matches will be played where.”



Government ministers and sports officials responding to the news

Make Use of Incentives for Cricket World Cup Accommodations - Tourism Minister

Minister of Commerce, Tourism, Investment and Consumer Affairs Hon Philip J. Pierre says the entire tourism fraternity is very

pleased with the announcement that the island will be a World Cup venue. He also urges the local business community to make use of generous

incentives offered by the Government for accommodating the thousands expected to visit for the events.

Recalling the announcement by Prime Minister Dr Kenny D. Anthony in his last Budget Address of a package of incentives for consideration by the business community in preparation for hosting an expected 30,000 to 40,000 visitors, Mr Pierre said: “It now remains for us to be able to take advantage of the incentives offered to be able to reap the touristic and economic benefits to be accrued from this decision.”

Citing the benefits to the island’s tourism product, the Tourism Minister noted that “over 1.4 billion people will be able to see and hear about St. Lucia for 51 days on their TVs, radios, Internet and newspapers.”

“That,” he added, “will be a tremendous boost for the island as a place to be visited.”

St. Lucia and Barbados made a joint bid for hosting the World Cup and both venues are among the eight selected. The others are: Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis and Trinidad and Tobago.

The minister spoke minutes after the announcement of the selected Caribbean venues by the International Cricket Council on Monday morning.

LOC Calls on External Partners to make Cricket World Cup 2007 a Success

As the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) for Cricket World Cup 2007 prepares to rise to the challenge of sensitizing the public concerning their rights and responsibilities leading up to the event, a call has been echoed for external partners like the West Indies Cricket Board to play their individual roles.

According to Cabinet Secretary and Chairman of the Local Organizing Committee for Cricket World Cup 2007, Dr. James Fletcher, St. Lucia and the region’s efforts to maximise on the world premiere event could be hampered, if West Indies cricket remains uncompetitive and fails to measure up to international standards.

Said Dr. Fletcher moments after the announcement was made, “if you have a West Indies team that is

languishing, the people’s interest in the Word Cup will diminish, and therefore, the whole role of the West Indies Cricket Board and how West Indies Cricket is developed and managed between now and 2007, I think is just as critical.”

He added: “The reason people are excited about World Cup is not because we like to see cricket, it is because we like to see West Indies doing well at cricket. When the team stops doing well, then people’s interest in the game wanes.” According to Dr. Fletcher, these were just some of the things that needed to happen, which represented a huge undertaking for the entire Caribbean. He gave the assurance that St. Lucia, as one of the selected venues was up to the challenge, and would play its part in making the event a win-win situation for all concerned.

The attention of an estimated 1.4

billion viewers for a fifty-day period is to be focused on the region, as the Caribbean plays host to World Cup Cricket come 2007.

“The reason people are excited about World Cup is not because we like to see cricket, it is because we like to see West Indies doing well at cricket.”

The individual packages for the four OECS countries of Antigua/Barbuda, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis and St. Lucia, and their four-sister territories of Barbados, Jamaica, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago, which will host the event, will be announced on July 13th.

PM Anthony Pays Tribute to Jamaica's PJ Patterson

St. Lucia's Prime Minister Honourable Dr. Kenny Anthony has paid tribute to the legacy of Jamaica's Prime Minister, the most Honourable Percival James Patterson, who wrapped up a two-day official visit to the island on Friday, July 2, 2004.

At a special dinner at the Sandals Grande Resort and Spa in the north of the island on Thursday, July 1st, 2004, Prime Minister Anthony said it was important to acclaim the efforts of the distinguished integrationist while he was still alive.

Dr. Anthony described his Jamaican counterpart as a visionary, who had played a significant role in the stabilization of Caribbean politics.

To an audience made up of government officials, private sector representatives, the legal fraternity and the diplomatic corps, Dr. Anthony painted a picture of "a man of action who spoke softly, but worked effectively," pointing to Prime Minister Patterson as a major force in the regional integration process.

"PJ Patterson has been recognized as a thoughtful and analytical mind, whose capacity to focus on the incisive issues is legendary," said Dr. Anthony, adding that no Caribbean leader since the founding fathers had presided over CARICOM with the sagacity of PJ Patterson.

"And therefore, Prime Minister, as you ponder about the future, we want



Prime Minister Patterson being introduced to Cabinet Members

to make sure that you were introduced in the flesh, to the people of St. Lucia and that we took this opportunity to place on record our deep, sincere and abiding appreciation of all that you have resolutely stood for and all that you have unrelentingly fought for," Dr. Anthony said.

According to Prime Minister Anthony, the Jamaican leader is a recognized face of the Third World and a distinguished voice of the Caribbean, which is respected in the corridors of international power, as in the ghettos of the dispossessed.

Prime Minister Patterson served as deputy Prime Minister under former Jamaica Prime Minister, Michael

Manley. He has served four terms and has been elected three times in succession. He is the longest serving Prime Minister among the current leaders in the region.

Before ending his St. Lucia visit, Prime Minister Patterson addressed the business community via a special luncheon of the St. Lucia Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture. His addressed focused on deepening CARICOM integration and the CSME. He also met with students of the island's premiere tertiary level institution, Sir Arthur Lewis Community College, as well as members of the St. Lucia Jamaica Association.

A Financial Boost for the Youth Enterprise Development Fund



Honourable Menissa Rambally receives cheque from Armstrong Alexis

The Commonwealth Youth Enterprise Development Programme of the Commonwealth Youth Secretariat based in Guyana, has allocated \$100 000 for the

establishment of the Youth Enterprise Development Fund in St Lucia.

During a brief presentation ceremony on Monday July 5, Regional Director of

the Commonwealth Youth Programme, Armstrong Alexis, described the Commonwealth Youth Enterprise Development Programme as a facility to provide Training, as well as Counselling in Business Development to young persons with an interest in starting their own Businesses. The programme will also offer a Small Loans Programme to provide low cost, easily accessible credit to the Young Entrepreneurs.

Mr. Alexis, who presented the Ministry of Social Transformation with a cheque valued a EC\$100,000 for the initial phase of the programme, is of the view that this initiative is quite opportune at this time, as it targets in particular, the unemployed youth of St Lucia..

"The Commonwealth Youth Programme is very happy to be making this particularly intervention at this time

because we think it is important for our young people in St. Lucia to be aware that there is an avenue for them, in terms of their own interest in enterprise and the development of small business in St. Lucia," Mr. Alexis said.

Minister for Social Transformation, Culture and Local Government, Honourable Menissa Rambally sees this programme as providing an opportunity for unemployed youth to venture into self development. Ms Rambally stated that the Youth Enterprise Development Programme was also aimed at alleviating poverty, with special emphasis on rural communities, where there are young people desirous of getting into business activity.

"There are many young people within our society, who need to begin to see themselves as the future business people of our country, and a programme such as this is providing the initial opportunity for young people, to enable them to do that," she said.

Prime Minister Anthony indicated that this new programme would empower St. Lucian youth with the means to participate in more social, economic and political activities. The Prime Minister had given the initial proclamation of the establishment of such a programme during his Budget presentation in April this year, when he cited a Budget allocation of \$94,000 for the new initiative.

The James Belgrave Fund, BELFUND, will collaborate with the Commonwealth Youth Programme in disbursing the funds for the programme. Signing of the official documents will take place in the month of August.

St. Lucia is World's 6th Destination for Honeymoons

St. Lucia has been ranked 6th Among the world's 50 most seductive destinations for honeymooners, according to a recent survey by Modern Bridge magazine.

The announcement came just ahead of news that the Pitons had made the World Heritage Site list. Using the Pitons as a backdrop, Jalousie Hilton Resort, which is to be sold and expanded has successfully marketed the property as a place to wed.

Other Caribbean islands in the top ten honeymoon destinations in the world are Jamaica (3rd), Bermuda (5th), Aruba (9th) and the U.S. Virgin Islands (10th).

Modern Bride magazine, which describes itself as "the last word on weddings," polled 3,000 travel agents on "the world's 50 most seductive destinations" for its Eighth Annual Honeymoon Sur-



Wedding sport at Jalousie

vey. The results indicate that the Caribbean is popular among honeymooners, with 18 states listed in the world's top 50 honeymoon destinations.

The results also show that the Caribbean and the region have nearly 40 per-

cent of the World's 50 Best Honeymoon Destinations.

"With countless secluded beaches, an endless supply of romantic sunsets and the warmth and charm of the Caribbean people, couples are rediscovering true love in the number one warm-weather destination in the world," said Hugh Riley, Caribbean Tourism Organisation's director of marketing for the Americas.

"Aside from sun, sand and surf, newlyweds look to the Caribbean for its exotic nature, romantic atmosphere and rich culture, together with the practical value of choosing a region of diverse locales at affordable prices," Riley added.

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Consequently, George Charles as a pioneer in the labour movement represented a very serious challenge to the institution of Crown Colony Government in Saint Lucia. Whether it was intentional or an unintended consequence, the labour movement was a catalyst for constitutional reform. The propensity of the labour movement to use unconstitutional means to achieve their own ends forced the British Government to institute constitutional mechanisms to secure the freedom of the ordinary man and to enable him to protect and advance his interests. It cannot be argued therefore, that as a

champion of the labour movement, George Charles played an instrumental role in the efforts to extend to the common man in Saint Lucia, civil and political liberties that formed the cornerstone of a broader popular democracy. This is all the more evident when one considers his campaign through the labour and the trade union movements for the abolition of the system of limited franchise based on property qualification and for the introduction of Universal Adult Suffrage. His struggles to have the franchise extended to the common man and which culminated with the granting of Universal Adult Suffrage in

1951 placed him at the forefront of the anti-colonial/anti-imperialist struggles and at the helm of the popular democratic movement. Indeed, George Charles, recalling the situation at the granting of universal adult suffrage wrote, "it was the eternal glory of the working class when the British Government announced the decision to grant Universal Adult Suffrage without a literacy test to most of its colonial territories in the Eastern Caribbean in 1950. The end of colonial rule was clearly in sight, but the struggle for self-determination and nationhood had just begun." George Charles realized the limitations of the trade union and labour

movements and recognized that it was necessary to go beyond these movements in order to consolidate their gains. Sir George, explaining the establishment of the Saint Lucia Labour Party in 1930 said, "The time had come to remove the trade union movement from the immediate vanguard of the emerging political struggles so that it could confine its attention to purely industrial matters. The Union could not vacate the scene, however, without looking forward to a political arm to advance the rights of the working class and their aspiration which was understood to be paramount during a period of eleven years of trade union struggle."

Hence, the Saint Lucia Labour Party was the first political party established in Saint Lucia and served principally to serve as the political arm of the trade union movement. As a founding member of the Saint Lucia Labour Party, the late Sir George F.L. Charles played a central role in the rise of political parties and party politics in Saint Lucia. By the time he was elected Saint Lucia's first Chief Minister following the 1954 General Election, and the advent of Ministerial Government, his place in Saint Lucia's history and his own historical legacy was already secured.



Funeral procession arriving at Choc Cemetary



Family members supporting each other at Choc Cemetary



THIS WEEK ON NTN

July 9th – July 16th, 2004
Issues and Answers with the
Late Sir George Charles –
Sat. July 10th, 8:30 p.m.

- The GIS speaks with various persons on the life and times of the late Sir George FL Charles - Monday July 12th 6:15 p.m.
- The GIS speaks with Dunstan St. Omer – Monday July 12th, 9:00 p.m.
- Integrate or Perish – A look at the Caribbean Region and Challenges of Integration – Tues. July 13th, 7:30 p.m.
- St. Lucia – A Nation Prepares for the ICC's Cricket World Cup 2007 - Wed. June 14th, 6:30 p.m.
- Carnival Queen Pageant – Wednesday July 14th, 8:00 p.m.
- KiddiCrew.com– (New Edition) Thursday July 15th, 8:00 p.m.
- Budget Presentation by the Prime Minister of Dominica – Friday July 16th, 9 p.m.

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.

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