

NATIONWIDE

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OPTIMISM IN 2004



Dr. Kenny D. Anthony, Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Economic Affairs, International Financial Services and Information

Prime Minister Dr. Kenny D. Anthony presents the platform for more economic growth in Saint Lucia' twenty fifth year of Independence

The following is the full text of the Prime Minister's New Year's address broadcast to the nation on January 11th 2004.

"Fellow Saint Lucians, as we reflect upon the year just concluded, we will find that there were tales of commendable achievements, and disappointments, echoes of praise and criticism, and demonstrations of pain and mourning.

The challenges of the past year, though formidable, provided the government with the opportunity to fortify its will, character, resolve, courage and commitment in working towards the betterment of all Saint Lucians.

We continued to work assiduously over the past year to lay the foundation for our country's economic recovery and to address the social needs of our island. In the process we have made great strides in the areas of health and

housing, education and sports, diplomacy, tourism and fisheries, parliamentary democracy, prison reform, telecommunications reform and law reform.

As we endeavour to create a better society, individual Saint Lucians are also playing their part in bringing recognition and pride to their homeland. They continue to excel on both the regional and international stage.

The election of Senator Julian Hunte to the Presidency of the United Nations General Assembly was Saint Lucia's biggest achievement on the world stage. This was a signal honour bestowed on us, making ours the smallest country ever to hold that important international diplomatic position.

This should make the Saint Lucian nation and indeed the wider Caricom region proud.

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Port Castries was busy in 2003 and during the first days of 2004, with many visitors arriving on cruise ships. Tourism arrivals continue to increase, one of the indicators of growth of the St. Lucian economy.

EDITORIAL

HEALTHY NEW YEAR

It is customary that members of any family, organisation or society approach all things new with some measure of restrained excitement, and in many cases with anxiety.

In their first public greetings to their citizens in any New Year, leaders of any country take cognisance of event of the previous year and carefully consider the selection of new initiatives. The most recent event of the previous year come to mind, and often temper sometimes dictate the tone of the New Year's Message.

Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony was unequivocal in his message when he told the people of St. Lucia that there is a strong basis for optimism in 2004.

The word optimism evokes confidence, brightness, and a clear path for the positive to triumph over the negative. It is the other side of pessimism, if not addressed will lead the society down a path of cynicism, low productivity and ultimately even the lack of care for oneself.

It is therefore very instructive that in his New Year's message, the St. Lucian leader also clearly stated the bases for this optimism.

There was on the one hand positive changes in most of the indicators of a country experiencing economic growth, social development and whose institutions and being modernised. We will recall a series of notable developments from January to December 2003, from the successful visit of US President Bill Clinton, to the IMF announcement of economic growth for the island in 2003.

On the other hand, there were announcements of new programmes for the New Year, with added emphasis on tackling problems related to the individual and public health of St. Lucians.

We join the call for a healthy 2004 for all St. Lucians, particularly our leaders in the private sector community groups and non-governmental organisations and of course government.



"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



ST. LUCIA LEADS IN E-GOVERNMENT READINESS

It's a quiet but significant achievement that didn't quite make the headlines, but which is a sure indication that we're getting ready for the world of the future. St. Lucia has been declared as leading other Caribbean islands in E-Government readiness and the island is preparing to host a top meeting on the subject later this month.

E-Government (like in the case of e-commerce) is a concept aimed at encouraging governments to use less ink and paper and more electronic information technology in their day-to-day affairs.

disclosed that St. Lucia out-ranked the rest of the Caribbean in e-government readiness.

The United Nations agency responsible for the conference disclosed the results of a global survey on e-government readiness in which St. Lucia topped the list among Caribbean countries surveyed.

According to the survey, the USA is at the top of the rankings with a score of 0.927 on the e-government readiness index. St. Lucia, which placed Number 59 among 173 countries surveyed, also placed first in the Caribbean with a readiness index of 0.438. St. Lucia's score was ahead of the

to use the technology as well as the kind of infrastructure that exists here all contributed to the island's ranked readiness for e-government."

Cellular Telephones

He says the island's cell phone penetration was significant to the island's high ranking in the survey, "as it indicates we are a society that is receptive to and can be ready for the transition to e-government."

According to Dr Bertin, "besides the enabling environment, government has created to foster access to and use of the latest information technology, government

St. Lucia, which placed Number 59 among 173 countries surveyed, also placed first in the Caribbean.



Deputy Director of Public Sector Reform in the Office of the Prime Minister, Dr Cletus Bertin

When the visitors from the rest of the Caribbean and other parts of the world come here for the conference, they will undoubtedly be astounded by the level of cell-phone penetration. They will be acquainted with the number of children and students using computers to access the Net and to play games. They will be able to see the number of IT businesses that have been opened here, and the number of businesses and other private sector entities that have switched to e-commerce and have integrated IT in their overall administration. They will see the introduction of IT at schools, as best exemplified by the state-of-the-art technical and vocational education school recently built at Ciceron.

And, of course, they will see for themselves the strides made in preparing the country generally for the world of IT, e-commerce and e-government. St. Lucia awaits their arrival.

The screenshot shows the Government of Saint Lucia website. At the top, there are navigation links: Home, Feedback, Site Map, Contact Us, and Search. The main heading is "Government of Saint Lucia". On the left, there is a sidebar with links to: Governor General, Prime Minister, The Cabinet, The Senate, House of Assembly, The Constitution, Saint Lucia Gazette, Press Releases, Speeches, Features, Notices, and Vacancies. The main content area features a news article titled "SLTB Announces Jazz Line-up 2004" dated Wednesday, January 14, 2004, 2:47:00 pm. The article text reads: "With the announcement of the line-up for the 2004 St. Lucia Jazz Festival, tourism officials say bigger and better things are in store for the festival's overall structure, patrons, business interests and the local economy. Tourism Minister Honourable Phillip J. Pierre told media representatives at the Friday, January 9th 2004 press launch that the changes were brought about as a result of the growth of the event over its thirteen year history. (full story)". Below the article are links for "Other Stories" and "Official Documents". To the right of the article, there are media links: "Listen to the News Now" with a "Government Notebook" icon, "Kwéyòl News Edition" with a "Nouvèl Nou Menm" icon, and "Read Nationwide - News and Information Supplement". At the bottom right, there is a link for "NEMO AWARDS 2003".

The Government of Saint Lucia web site - paving the way for e-government.

Throughout the world, governments are in fact latching on to the moves towards greater utilisation of Information technology in the daily conduct of official business.

In Estonia, for example, the entire Cabinet room has been rid of pens and paper, with each minister having a computer on his or her desk. Laws are made by the click of a mouse and votes are cast in like manner.

No Pens and Paper

In the Caribbean, we are nowhere near dispensing with use of pens and paper at government offices, but the region's governments have agreed to work towards that possible eventuality. They have begun taking institutional and policy steps that will lay the basis for societies that would be ready for e-government. And it's begun to pay off - especially in St. Lucia.

At the just concluded World Summit on the Information Society held in Geneva, Switzerland in December 2003, it was

Dominican Republic, Jamaica and the Bahamas, Trinidad & Tobago, St. Kitts and Nevis, Barbados, Cuba, Antigua & Barbuda, Grenada and St. Vincent & The Grenadines, in that order.

Deputy Director of Public Sector Reform in the Office of the Prime Minister, Dr Cletus Bertin, who attended the Geneva conference, says the ranking was "based on a global study by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs."

He says the indicators used in the ranking "took into account the progress made as a result of the liberalization of telecommunications in St. Lucia, the OECS and the Eastern Caribbean, especially the wide use and availability of cell phones.

According to Dr Bertin, "with over 50% of the population having access to cell phones and other forms of modern telecommunications, the ability of persons

has also taken steps to ensure e-government becomes a major plank in its efforts to reform the Public Service." To this end, Dr. Bertin was appointed to his new post and given special responsibility for E-Government.

Since his appointment last year Dr. Bertin, has represented St. Lucia at several Information Technology conferences abroad including a two week seminar in China and Washington prior to the Geneva conference.

Meanwhile, Dr. Bertin says that as a follow-up to St. Lucia's top ranking in e-government readiness, the island will later this month host the 5th Ministerial Consultation and High Level Workshop on E-Government.

This meeting will take place in Castries on January 20 and 21, 2004 and will bring together some of the top government officials from around the world involved in E-government.

GOOD web SITES

<http://www.slasp.com>
<http://www.slumet.gov.lc/>
<http://www.stluciagc.com/>
<http://www.slumaffe.org/>
<http://irdstlucia.gov.lc/>
<http://commerce.gov.lc/>
<http://www.education.gov.lc/>
<http://www.opsr.org/>
<http://www.stluciandc.com/>
<http://climatechange.planning.gov.lc/>

MANAGING OUR LAND - OUR BUSINESS

The Ministry of Physical Development, Environment and Housing has embarked on the formulation of a National Land Policy. This new Policy will provide guidance on land use, land markets, land management and land administration in the country. It will be a major public policy statement that will impact on all sectors of the society and the economy, and will lead to important changes in the way we all use and manage land in Saint Lucia. This article is the second in a series of six articles that present the rationale for this National Land Policy, and the main issues that it seeks to address.

Why a Land Policy?

Land is one of the most important resources in any country. Without land, there can be no economic growth and no social development.

Land plays a central role in national and community development, as it provides the space for human settlements and infrastructure, while supporting all forms of economic activity.

Land needs to be managed carefully in order to achieve all major development objectives, including economic growth, poverty eradication, social integration and environmental sustainability.

Many of the issues that currently affect land development and management in Saint Lucia impact, ultimately, on economic, financial and environmental sustainability at the national and community levels. Our patterns of land use, for example, have led to the degradation and loss of fertile soils and productive lands, including critical watershed areas.

Land for Public Utilities

Urban growth and land development are placing unsustainable financial burdens on the State and its agencies, which have to provide public utilities and a range of other services to communities all over the island.

Current trends in land development, if they are not reversed, will inevitably lead to a crisis of multiple proportions, including land prices and markets that will be inaccessible to the majority of people, especially the poor; the loss of prime agricultural lands to other uses; the radical transformation of many landscapes; and unavoidable consequences on food security, agriculture and tourism development, social cohesion and quality of life.

New Directions

The Government of Saint Lucia is aware of the urgency and severity of land issues in the country, and is committed to addressing these issues equitably and progressively. Over the past few years, a number of policy instruments have been introduced with the aim of improving and rationalising the use, management and administration of this critical resource.

The recent initiation of this new land policy formulation process is further testimony of government's commitment to addressing land issues in a comprehensive and integrated manner.

When we refer to a "National Land Policy" for Saint Lucia, we refer more specifically to a formal statement that is formulated and approved by the Government, on behalf of the nation, to provide specific direction to the use, management and development of land in the country.



A significant percentage of land must be earmarked for public use.

What is Land Policy?

Policies can best be defined as the formal and informal rules, agreements, measures, guidelines and programmes that govern behaviour in society.

When we refer to a "National Land Policy" for Saint Lucia, we refer more specifically to a formal statement that is formulated and approved by the Government, on behalf of the nation, to provide specific direction to the use, management and development of land in the country. While such a policy

statement is necessarily broad, it must be translated into specific instruments and measures, such as laws, regulations, incentives, investments, programmes and other measures. In a sense, "Land Policy" is the sum of all these instruments, guided by an overarching policy statement that provides clear directions and defines the manner in which the policy objectives will be achieved.

The value of Land

"Land policy" is a complex domain of public policy. The concept of land has many interpretations, and needs to be well understood by all.

Land is a resource (in terms of the space it provides, the environmental resources it contains and supports, and the capital that it represents and generates), it is a commercial asset that can be used and traded, it is a critical factor of production, it is an essential part of the national patrimony, and it is a key factor in shaping individual and collective identity, through its history, the cultural expressions with which it is associated, and the influence that it has on spirituality and aesthetic values.

Land policy must embrace all these dimensions, and must appreciate that land is one of the essential pillars of national development.

In a small-island developing nation such as Saint Lucia, a National Land Policy must be concerned with both terrestrial and marine space, including territorial waters, within the broader context of the nation's Exclusive Economic Zone. In a way, "land" means "space", including marine areas, and including the space above land and sea. Land management must therefore focus on the management of these three dimensions, and on the complex relationships that occur within these spaces.

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Land use policy in coastal communities is becoming more critical today

from page 1

Saint Lucian Pride

The election of Mrs. Berthia Parle as Caribbean Hotelier of the Year and later as President of the Caribbean Hotel Association, and the conferring of the awards of Local Manufacturer of the Year and Caribbean Entrepreneur of the Year on Mr. Laurie Barnard are commendable achievements by two of our citizens. Their successes and achievements should, once again, illustrate to every Saint Lucian that we are as good as anyone, anywhere in this region and indeed, the wider world.

Signs of Economic Recovery

The economy has, over the last two years, been a cause of much concern, anxiety and debate, especially following the global recession and the events of September 11, 2001. However, after a period of negative and then marginal growth, the economy is once again showing signs of recovery. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has estimated that the economy is likely to grow by 2.3 percent in 2003. We believe, however, that the growth rate will be closer to 2.03%

Growth within the economy was propelled largely by renewed robustness within the tourism sector. For the period ending November 2003, Saint Lucia registered an increase in stay-over tourist arrivals of 8.7 percent, while the overall projected increase in stay-over arrivals for the year is estimated at 10 percent. Although cruise ship arrivals registered a 2.4 percent decline in the earlier part of the year, increases of forty percent and eighty three percent were registered in the past two months. These increases signal a positive turn-around in the cruise ship sector.

The other critical sectors within the economy also showed signs of recovery and contributed in a meaningful manner to overall improvement in economic performance in 2003. It was estimated that Private Sector construction activity grew in every quarter during the year 2003.

\$35.6 million in Exports

The manufacturing sector also showed signs of improvement and registered a growth rate of 1 percent. Of greater significance perhaps are the strides made in increasing the volume of manufactured goods exported to regional and international markets. In 2003, Saint Lucia's export of manufactured goods to foreign markets was valued at an estimated \$35.6 million dollars. This figure represents a 4.9 percent increase over the previous year.

The liberalization of the telecommunications sector is also beginning to bear dividends, with consumers being the major

beneficiaries. Overall reduction in fixed line and cellular rates and general improvements in the quality of service have given rise to a significant expansion of that sector.

The agricultural sector however, remains a source of concern. Growth within that sector remained sluggish for most of the year. Overall agricultural production, which is by and large contingent on banana output, suffered setbacks due to declining prices and reduction in output, particularly during the first half of the year.

However, indications are that there is a resurgence in banana production. New fields are coming into production, with high yielding tissue culture plants. In the past two weeks, exports have crossed the 1,000 ton mark for the first time in the past twelve months, and we expect shortly to reap the benefits of our substantial investments in drainage and irrigation.

A good indication of confidence in our economic recovery is the increase in commercial lending by domestic banks. Liquidity remains buoyant and banks have become more competitive as they seek new clients. There is evidence of increases in loans for housing - a key indicator of social progress - tourism, manufacturing, entertainment and the distributive trades.

In general, given the encouraging performance of the lead economic sectors in 2003, the prospects for growth and development in the New Year look promising. However, the economy continues to face many challenges and its sustainability and viability will, in large measure, depend on how these challenges are met. In order to safeguard the economic gains made in 2003, it is imperative that we check any further deterioration of the fiscal balances, continue efforts to invigorate Private Sector growth, preserve the macroeconomic stability that we have achieved and contain public debt. These will be issues for us in the 2004/2005 Budget.

New Investments

There is another reason why we ought to be optimistic. This year we should see new and significant investments in the Public and Private Sectors.

On the Public Sector side, the Government's emphasis will be on road rehabilitation and development. Work continues on the construction of the highway linking Vieux Fort and Soufriere. New roads are under construction from La Ressource to Derniere Riviere, Deglos to Trois Piton and Grand Riviere to Trois Piton. In March 2004, the Tertiary Roads Rehabilitation Project commences. Twenty-seven roads from Gros-Islet to Anse La Raye, thirteen roads from Canaries to Choiseul and sixteen roads from Dennerly to Vieux Fort are targeted for reconstruction.



The expansion of telecommunications infrastructure.

OPTIMIS



Increased banana yields expected from new tissue culture plants.

In the Tourism Sector, all of the hotels which were closed following September 11, 2001, should be fully operational by the end of the year. Renovations are in progress at the Orange Grove and the former Club Med in Vieux Fort. Construction within the next few weeks should commence on the Discovery Bay hotel complex, in Marigot. Plans for the construction of the new hotel at Praslin are on course. The promoters of the Beaches Hotel in Vieux Fort are finalizing the design of that hotel. Like all of you, I await the sod turning ceremonies to confirm these investments.

New Jobs

On the manufacturing and industrial front, two new investments are expected in the next six months. On January 08, the National Development Corporation signed a lease agreement with Display Creations Limited for the establishment of a major manufacturing operation at Union concentrating on the manufacture of display units for retail outlets. The company is expected to commence operations later this month. This investment will initially employ approximately 120 persons, increasing to 280 within three years.

The Government, through the National Development Corporation, has also facilitated investment in the Information Technology Sector. From an investment perspective, our focus involves taking advantage of the opportunities which presently exist in Business Process Outsourcing (BPO). The Government will soon be in a position to announce the entry of a major contact centre, which is expected to create as many as 400 jobs within two years.

Governance

Our past experiences should confirm by now that advances in economic development must be matched by advances in the social and political spheres. In this regard, the Government will continue to create an enabling environment for the operation of Civil Society organizations. Our Constitution is now twenty-five years old, and while it has generally served us well, it has become clear that the time has come to make it more relevant to our developmental needs as a

society. The Constitution is the foundation upon which our society is based and it is, therefore, essential that at all times it truly reflects and represents the aspirations of the people it is supposed to serve.

Constitutional Review

Accordingly, late last year, the government and the opposition announced their joint intention to undertake a review of the Constitution. A Constitutional Review Commission will be appointed jointly by the Government and the Opposition to undertake this sensitive assignment. The Commission will be mandated with the task of engaging in the widest form of consultation throughout the island and with Saint Lucians living abroad, so that every one who wishes to contribute can be heard.

I urge every citizen to participate in this exercise. Let all ideas contend; let the Commission hear your views; make a contribution to the future good governance of our society as we all seek to make Saint Lucia a better place for ourselves and for future generations.

This government is committed to upholding the political and civil liberties of its citizens. This commitment is manifested in our proud record of



"In the course of this year, the Government has announced that sixty (60) Police Officers, twenty-eight (28) have retired or resigned."

free expression. While we do not lay claim to the introduction of free speech, this government has certainly created the atmosphere where every citizen now feels sufficiently empowered to speak freely on any matter, whether or not it involves the government. The proliferation of talk shows is but one manifestation of our government's commitment to such free speech.

We have been in the vanguard of encouraging citizens to speak out freely without fear of sanction so long as such speech remains within the confines of the law.

But freedom of expression is a double-edged sword. While it affords citizens an avenue to freely comment on matters of concern, it also allows the unscrupulous among us to make the most vile and baseless accusations against the innocent.

Many would have heard allegations emanating from the opposition about corruption in government. Not surprisingly these allegations are made in the broadest and vaguest terms possible and once accusers are confronted to specific

1 IN 2004

Identify areas of corruption, none can be produced. There are those who believe that if you say something often enough and loudly enough, however untrue, people will believe it. I know because I am a victim.

When we first entered into office, we found an Integrity Act without teeth. We repealed and replaced it with stronger, more encompassing legislation. The Act clearly defines corruption. Allegations of corruption can be reported to the Integrity Commission for investigation. Mechanisms are also available to all citizens to report misdeeds and acts of corruption. If there is evidence of corruption, take it to the Police or take it to the Integrity Commission. It is your duty and responsibility.

Silver Jubilee Celebrations

Twenty-five years ago, our country took the decision to sever its umbilical cord with England and ventured into the international community on its own.

This year, we celebrate the Silver Jubilee of our independence under the theme "Taking Responsibility for Our Country's Development". We have achieved much during our relatively short life as an independent nation. Therefore, this year



ent will recruit for training a further
) of whom will replace officers who

ould be about a celebration of these achievements and a recommitment to working for the continued growth and development of our nation.

The activities that have been planned by the Cabinet-appointed Standing National Independence Anniversary Committee reflect a balance between celebration and introspection; between reflection on the achievements of the past and anticipation of a future laden with possibilities and potential; and between a commitment to utilize the tools and technology of the present to go boldly to the future and a reaffirmation of our intention to uphold the values of respect, civility, justice and quality that have always characterized our interactions with each other.

During this Silver Jubilee year, I want to urge all Saint Lucians to do as our theme implores – take responsibility for our country's development. This translates into each of us playing our part in not just our economic development, but also our social and spiritual growth. I will have more to say on the observance of this important achievement, in a few

weeks, but in the meantime I wish to encourage everyone to join in the celebration of this milestone.

As I stated earlier, our nation turns twenty-five years old this year, and we believe that at this stage it is fitting that we squarely confront some of our more pressing economic and social needs. As a society and government we have four major decisions to make in the course of this year.

Universal Health Care

First on the priority list is Health Care. We are a small country with limited resources, and one of the disadvantages of our resource constraints is that necessities such as health care may find themselves priced out of the reach of many of our citizens. Too often, we hear of persons who are not able to receive health care because they cannot afford it.

In the first quarter of 2002, the Cabinet of Ministers appointed a Task Force to consider the feasibility of introducing a System of Universal Health Care. There has been extensive background research, and the Task Force has held several consultations, which have now culminated in a report on the implementation of a Universal Health Care System in Saint Lucia.

Cabinet has deliberated on the recommendations of the Report and has agreed on an approach for the operationalization of a system of Universal Health Care. Later this year, the Task Force will take the first steps towards explaining the proposed system of Health Care to the public at large. In these discussions, the fundamental issue we have to resolve is this: how do we finance health care to ensure that all citizens get access?

While significant changes and strides have been made in the health sector over the past years, we will all admit that there are areas in need of attention and improvement.



Victoria Hospital - serving St. Lucians until the construction of a new hospital

If Universal Health Care is to succeed we have to move purposefully and deliberately towards the implementation of Health Sector Reform so as to allow this critical sector to operate more efficiently and to make better use of the human, physical and financial resources allocated to it. As you are aware, we have finalized the financing arrangements for the new General Hospital and the new Psychiatric Hospital. But, these facilities will not operate optimally if the environment within which they are managed remains unchanged.



A reliable water supply will be necessary for improved quality of living.

Government has therefore decided to appoint a Commission to undertake a comprehensive review of the structure of the medical services and the terms and conditions of employment of medical personnel. The Commission will be chaired by Sir. Richie Haynes, a former government minister and a distinguished medical practitioner from Barbados.

Healthy Lifestyles

I must sound a warning here, however, about the need for all of us and that includes me, to adopt healthier lifestyles. Some of the health conditions that cause the most serious problems for our nation and place the greatest burdens on our system and resources are the result of poor lifestyle choices.

Ailments such as Diabetes, Hypertension and HIV/AIDS can all be prevented or minimized by more sensible and responsible behaviour and habits. While I intend to increase the pressure on the Minister of Health to step up the Health Awareness and Education Program of his Ministry, I want to implore everyone to pay closer attention to their diets, to embark on a sustainable exercise and fitness program, and to reduce or eliminate the intake of products that can damage your health. A healthy nation is a productive nation, and in this area we can and must all play our part.

The next issue we must address is whether our country can afford Unemployment Insurance. Although almost all industrialized countries have in place some level of Unemployment Insurance, the only

During the coming year, Government intends to finalize discussions on the introduction of unemployment insurance benefits to provide much needed support to our work force, while at the same time promote economic efficiency and stability.

The Tax System

The third challenge we have to face is the reform of the indirect tax system. The Tax Reform and Administration Commission appointed by the Monetary Council of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank has recommended to all OECS countries that they replace all indirect taxes, except import duties, with a Value Added Tax or as it commonly known, a VAT. It is recommended that OECS countries take a collective decision on this matter.

The Commissioners argued that the OCES had no choice but to adopt a VAT since the WTO and the proposed Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) will force Governments to abolish the existing regime of indirect taxes. They claim that VAT "will replace a number of nuisance and other taxes such as consumption and travel taxes." (See Report, page 6).

I have invited the Social Partners and the Opposition to review and comment on the report. The Government of Saint Lucia is itself reviewing the Report and hopes to formulate a position in the course of the year. The Report is available at the Government Printery for those who wish to peruse it. It will also be available on the Government Website, WWW.Stlucia.gov.lc.

Enactment of the Labour Code

The fourth issue we must resolve is the enactment of the Labour Code. Finality must be brought to this exercise. The Government maintains its position that the Labour Code must spring from and reflect the shared consensus of all parties. We must agree on a Code that is adapted to our needs and circumstances, that protects the rights of workers and employers, and does not frighten investors, whether local or foreign. I believe we can achieve this provided that we approach the final phase of the exercise with trust, goodwill and a shared understanding of our collective future.

Assault on Crime

The vexing question of crime continues to have the government's attention and we remain committed to empowering the police in their fight against lawlessness. Our efforts have, thankfully, begun to pay some dividends as statistically, criminal activity in 2003 showed a marginal reduction over the previous year's figures.

According to police records, crimes against lawful authority reduced from 835 in 2002 to 768 in 2003; sexual offences were reduced

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons within the Public Service for appointment to the post of **Financial Analyst (Parastatal Monitoring)**, in the Ministry of Finance, International Financial Services and Economic Affairs.

Applicant should possess the following qualifications:

1. a Bachelor's degree plus post graduate Diploma in Finance, Business Administration, or Financial Management, or a related field of study, plus three (3) years experience in a post at Grade 15; OR
2. a Master's Degree in Finance, Business Administration, or Financial Management plus, three (3) years experience in a post at Grade 15; OR
3. a Bachelor's Degree in Finance, Business Administration or Financial Management, or a professional accounting qualification (ACCA, plus three (3) years experience in a post at Grade 15; OR

Applicants with specialized training in Finance, Portfolio Management, Project Management or Financial Management, will be an asset.

Duties and Responsibilities: The successful applicant will be required to report and work under the direction of the Deputy Director of Finance (Financial Administration, Evaluation and Monitoring), Ministry of Finance, International Financial Services and Economic Affairs. He/she will also be required to respond whenever necessary to the Director of Finance and/or Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance, International Financial Services and Economic Affairs on all matters related to work-in-progress.

The applicant will be required to:

1. Monitor the financial operations of Parastatal bodies;
2. Work closely with state-owned enterprises with a view to enhancing their accountability to the central Government and Parliament;
3. Conduct investigations into areas of financial irregularities as, and when required;
4. Examine the operations of Parastatal bodies with a view to determining whether appropriate systems exist to support financial management and make recommendations for improvement;
5. Evaluate financial requests from state owned enterprises and make appropriate recommendations concerning the disbursement of these funds;
6. Monitor the use of subventions given to Parastatal bodies in order to determine whether they were used for the purpose(s) intended;
7. Work closely with the Debt & Investment Unit in monitoring Government's contingent liabilities in respect of loans guaranteed by Government on behalf of Parastatal bodies;

Skills, Knowledge and Abilities: The applicant should:-

1. have a working knowledge of, and ability to interpret Public Service rules and regulations and operating and operating procedures, staff orders and collective agreements;
2. be familiar with the Finance (Administration) Act; Financial Regulations; Procurement and Stores Regulations; Approved Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure. be familiar with the Standard Operating Procedures contained in the Ministry's Operations Manual;
3. have excellent communication skills and have potential for leadership and scholarship;
4. be decisive, of soundness judgement and clarity in issuing directives;
5. have ability to analyze issues, make interpretations and recommend innovative approaches to solutions;
6. be competent in the use of information technology

Conditions

1. The successful applicant will be provided with accommodation in a congenial administrative office.
2. Institutional support will be provided through appropriate Civil Service Regulations, Statutory Instruments and Departmental Guidelines;
3. Opportunities exist for personal development and career advancement through general and specialized in-service and external training;
4. He/she will be required to maintain a motor vehicle for the proper performance of duties;
5. Travelling allowance will be paid in accordance with approved rates established by the Government of Saint Lucia
6. This post is pensionable

Salary is in the range \$57,520.69- \$58,921.95 per annum (Grade 18)

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

The Secretary
Public Service Commission

Block "A"
Waterfront
CASTRIES

to reach her no later than January 31, 2004.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for appointment to the post of **MANAGER, SENIOR CITIZENS' HOME**, Ministry of Health, Human Services and Family Affairs, and Gender Relations.

Applicant should possess the following qualifications:

1. A Masters Degree in Sociology, Psychology, Social Administration or Social Work, plus four (4) years experience in a post at grade 10 or post qualifying experience; OR
2. A Masters Degree in Sociology, Psychology, Social Administration or Social Work, plus two (2) years experience in a post at grade 12 and above or post qualifying experience; OR
3. A Bachelor's Degree in Sociology, Psychology, Social Administration or Social Work, plus two (2) years experience at grade 13 and above or post qualifying experience; A Certificate in Geriatric Education plus five (5) years administrative experience at a Geriatric Institution would be an asset.

Duties and Responsibilities: The successful applicant will be required to work under the direction of and report to the Director of Human Services and Family Affairs. He/she will also be required to respond whenever necessary to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health on matters related to work in progress. The applicant will be required to:

- (1) manage the activities of the Home and plan its daily programme;
- (2) allocate staff duties and co-ordinate training of staff;
- (3) prepare the annual budget and manage the quarterly financial allocation;
- (4) advise the Director of Human Services on admission and discharge of residents and appointment and evaluation of staff;
- (5) co-ordinate the activities of voluntary organizations having an input in the programme of the Home;
- (6) foster and maintain effective relationships between relatives and friends and residents of the Home;
- (7) advise the Board of Visitors as may be required from time to time;
- (8) submit a monthly report on work in progress;
- (9) undertake procurement of the daily requirements of the Home;
- (10) any other duties that may be assigned from time-to-time.

Skills, Knowledge and Abilities The applicant should have:

1. excellent communication skills in both Creole and English;
2. a high degree of affinity to elderly people and their needs;
3. organizational skills and the ability to relate well with staff, administrators and members of the Public.

Salary is in the range of \$48,763.03 - \$50,654.67 per annum (grade 15)

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for appointment to the post of **Manager, Boys' Training Centre**, Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security.

Applicant should possess the following qualifications:

1. Master's Degree in Social Work, Sociology or Psychology plus two (2) years experience in a post at Grade 12 and above; OR
2. Master's Degree in Social Work, Sociology or Psychology plus four (4) years experience in a post at Grade 10 and above; OR
3. Bachelor's Degree or equivalent qualifications in Social Work, Sociology or Psychology plus two (2) years experience in a post at Grade 13 and above

Duties and Responsibilities: The successful applicant will be required to report and work under the direction of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security.

The applicant will be required to perform the following duties:

1. policy initiation and implementation;
2. be a planning and statistical co-ordinator;
3. liaise and co-ordinate with Ministries and other departments;
4. co-ordinate programmes and projects which are geared towards the rehabilitation of wards and development of staff;
5. maintain overall responsibilities for the Boys Training Centre, its staff, wards, buildings, equipment, records and property;
6. ensure, adherence to the relevant statutory rules and regulations governing the Centre;
7. advise the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Legal Affairs, Home Affairs and Labour on matters concerning the administration and operation of the Centre;
8. assure the responsibility for the purchase and issue of all requirements for the Centre as approved by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs;
9. submit as requested Annual Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure and adhere to government's approved financial accounting system;
10. market goods produced at the Centre;
11. submit to the Management Committee and Ministry, reports on the activities and work in progress at the Centre or such other reports as may be requested from time to time.

Skills, Knowledge and Abilities The applicant should have:

1. good organization and communication skills;
2. the ability to relate to and work with administrators and staff;
3. the ability to relate to delinquent boys;
4. a thorough knowledge of government administrative and accounting procedures.

Salary is in the range of \$48,763.03 - \$50,654.67 per annum (Grade 15).

Applications on the prescribed form along with certified copies of all documents, should be addressed to: The Secretary, Public Service Commission, Block 'A', Waterfront, CASTRIES. to reach her no later than **January 31, 2004.**

MINISTERIAL MOVEMENTS



Hon. Fergusson John, being sworn in as the new Minister for Physical Development, Environment and Housing.

Prime Minister Dr. Kenny D. Anthony announced changes to the Cabinet of Ministers during to address to the nation on Sunday January 11th, 2004, at 8.00 p.m. Hon. Fergusson John was sworn in as a Cabinet Minister on Tuesday January 13th, at a brief ceremony at Government House.

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"I now turn finally, to the issue which has generated intense interest and discussion, the much talked about Cabinet Reshuffle. Some, for their own purposes have exaggerated intent and expectations.

Earlier in my statement, I indicated that I would establish a Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security. In this configuration, Home Affairs will be reunited with the Police. In effect, Internal Security which essentially deals with Police matters will be added to the existing Ministry of Home Affairs. The Department of Gender Relations will be reassigned to its former home the Ministry of Health, Human Services and Family Affairs. This Ministry will once again be styled, the Ministry of Health, Human Services, Family Affairs and Gender Relations. Senator Calixte George, will be reassigned from the Ministry of Agriculture to head the Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security.

Senator Petrus Compton will be required to focus exclusively on the work of the Office of the Attorney General and the usual matters pertaining to the courts. He will continue to hold the Office of Attorney General and Minister for Justice, but as indicated, will no longer be responsible for the Police.

The vacancy in the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries will be filled by Honourable Ignatius Jean who will be reassigned from the Ministry of Physical Development, Environment and Housing.

Consequent on the reassignment of Honourable Ignatius Jean, I propose to appoint Honourable Fergusson John, the member for Choiseul and Saltibus to his first Cabinet post as Minister of Physical Development, Environment and Housing.

I have carefully reviewed the position of Senator Julian Hunte, President of the General Assembly and Minister for External Affairs, International Trade and Civil Aviation. Saint Lucia, like the rest of Caricom, is engaged in delicate negotiations over the treaty to establish the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), the ongoing negotiations in the World Trade Organization, and the efforts to implement the Caricom Single Market and Economy. These negotiations require focus and continuous dialogue, particularly with our Private Sector. A Parliamentary Secretary will be appointed to that Ministry to oversee the work of the Ministry in the absence of Senator Hunte.

In the ministerial configuration just indicated, it will be observed that Honourable Sarah Flood Beaubrun has not been assigned to a Ministry. I have decided to relieve her of Ministerial Office and its accompanying responsibilities. The principles of Collective Responsibility are enshrined in our Constitution. In the operation of these principles it is understood that there will be differences but there is no room for insult, disrespect, invective and calumny no matter how powerful the passion and conviction one holds. If there is no respect for and among colleagues, then Collective Responsibility will not survive.

The other Ministers will, for the time being continue in their respective portfolios. The adjustments just announced will take effect as of Monday, January 12, 2004.

Fellow Saint Lucians, like each and every one of you, I pray for a better year, economically and otherwise, for our people and our nation. I thank you and wish you God's blessings."

The new Cabinet includes twelve ministers and two Parliamentary Secretaries. A new Parliamentary Secretary for the Ministry of External Affairs, International Trade and Civil Aviation will be announced in the next few weeks.

MINISTERS

1. Dr. the Hon. Kenny D. Anthony

PORTFOLIOS

Prime Minister & Minister for Finance, International Financial Services, Economic Affairs & Information

2. Hon. Mario F. Michel

Minister for Education, Human Resource Development, Youth & Sports

3. Hon. Philip J. Pierre

Minister for Commerce, Tourism, Investment & Consumer Affairs

4. Hon. Ferguson John

Minister for Physical Development, Environment & Housing

5. Hon. Damian Greaves

Minister for Health, Human Services Family Affairs & Gender Relations

6. Hon. Menissa Rambally

Minister for Social Transformation, Culture & Local Government

7. Senator Calixte George

Minister for Home Affairs & Internal Security

8. Hon.. Velon John

Minister for Labour Relations, Public Service & Cooperatives

9. Hon. Felix Finnisterre

Minister for Communications, Works, Transport & Public Utilities

10. Hon. Ignatius Jean

Minister for Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries

11. Senator, Hon. Petrus Compton

Attorney General & Minister for Justice

12. Senator, Hon. Julian R. Hunte

Minister for External Affairs, International Trade & Civil Aviation

PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES

1. Hon. Jon Stanley Odium

Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Health, Human Services, Family Affairs & Gender Relations

2. Hon. Cyprian Lansiquot

Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries

St. Lucia Appoints New Consul General in Martinique

The Government of France has accepted the nomination of Mr Cassius Elias as St. Lucia's new Consul General to the French Antilles. Mr Elias, whose appointment took effect as of December 1, 2003 is a former Minister of Agriculture in the Government of St. Lucia (1997-2001).

He has enjoyed strong connections with the French Antilles (Martinique, Guadeloupe and French Guiana) for over two decades, having conducted business and interacted with St. Lucians in those territories, as well as with French and St. Lucian associations and other national or territorial organisations in the Antilles.

According to Mr Elias: "I am looking forward to strengthening and enhancing relations between St. Lucia and the French Antilles, to develop economic ties, to promote investment opportunities and to strengthen overall ties between St. Lucians in the Antilles.

"I am especially interested in further enhancing current relations with Cayenne (French Guiana), where many St. Lucians



Mr Cassius Elias as St. Lucia's new Consul General to the French Antilles

migrated in the 1950s and are now well entrenched in the social, economic and political life of that territory on the South American mainland."

Consul General Elias, who is married and has four daughters, is based at the St. Lucia Consulate in Martinique, which was commissioned last year. He will present his credentials to the French Prefects of Martinique, Guadeloupe and French Guiana during January 2004.

SAINT LUCIA - SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

The following is a list of activities in observance of Nobel Laureate Week 2004.

Derek Walcott Lecture presented by Msgr. Hon. Dr. Patrick Anthony at the National Insurance Conference Centre on Wednesday January 21st.
Sir Arthur Lewis Memorial Lecture presented by Dr. Selwyn Ryan and the National Insurance Conference Centre on Friday 23rd January.
M&C Fine Arts Awards Ceremony at the National Cultural Centre on Saturday 24th January.
Cultural Production by the Esoteric Drum Ensemble at the Laborie Parish Hall on Thursday January 22nd.



The following is a list of activities in observance of 25th Anniversary of Independence

Kaiso 25 Calypso Show at the Pigeon Island Side Lawn on Saturday 7th February.
National Independence Trade and Services Exhibition at the Vieux Fort Free Zone from February 11th – 15th.
"Showcase 25" National Exhibition at the Pointe Seraphine Duty Free Complex from Saturday 20th February.
Concert of Praise and Inspiration at the National Cultural Centre on Sunday 15th February.
National Youth Rally on Saturday 21st February at Beausejour Cricket Ground.
Independence Day Rally at the Mindoo Phillip Park on Sunday 22nd February.



OPTIMISM IN 2004

from page 3

from 191 to 165 and firearm offences from 182 to 156, murders too were down twelve percent.

While the foregoing figures represent some good news, neither my Government nor I take comfort in these. As far as we are concerned the current level of criminal activity in Saint Lucia is unacceptably high and must be lowered significantly.

We cannot ignore the fact that violent crime, drug trafficking and terrorism are creating havoc throughout the world, even in countries and communities that once existed in peace and tranquility. In Saint Lucia the upsurge in violent crime is testimony to the fact that we too are not removed from the whirlwind of negative change sweeping the world. Fortunately in Saint Lucia, we have not been exposed directly to any act of terrorism, but we cannot remain passive; we must be prepared.

Royal St. Lucia Police Force

The primary guardian of our freedom, our peace and safety as individuals and as a community is the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force. We are therefore obliged to take all necessary steps to ensure that it can effectively protect us in our homes and in our communities as we go about our daily activities.

The Government has over the past six years invested significantly in the transformation of the Police Force in all areas including accommodation, training, recruitment and new vehicles. New legislation to further modernize the force is now in its final stages. The Force must now begin to deliver to the people of this country the kind of quality service citizens demand and expect.

For the past six years the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force has formed part of a larger Ministry, as a department within such a Ministry. For some years it was a department within the Ministry of Legal Affairs, then later, within the Ministry of Justice. This has meant that the Police department has had to compete with other departments for ministerial attention and time. Too often ministerial oversight could not be dedicated

to the Police Force as the relevant minister sought to confront other important challenges within another section of an assigned Ministry.

Rapid Decisions

In order to effectively combat the incidents of violent crimes and lawless behaviour on our streets, to curb and cripple the cancerous drugs business and to place ourselves in a stronger position to counter terrorism, I have concluded that along with all the other steps that Government has taken, and is taking in relation to the Police, we need to provide more focus and dedicated ministerial oversight. This will permit more rapid decision-making on matters of importance to the operations of the Force and assure the Police of the committed, consistent and strong governmental support for the tough actions necessary to ensure law and order.

I have therefore decided to reconfigure the Ministry which will now be called the Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security. This Ministry, will now comprise the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force and the departments of Immigration, Fire and Corrections. I shall indicate later in this address the Minister who will be assigned to this Ministry.

Measures to combat crime must obviously go beyond ministerial adjustments. In the course of this year, the Government will recruit for training a further sixty (60) Police Officers, twenty-eight (28) of whom will replace officers who have retired or resigned. Of the thirty two (32) other officers, twenty-one will be specially trained for service in the Special Services Unit and assigned permanently to Vieux Fort some time later this year to lend support to the regular Police in the southern section of our island.

Respecting Young People

As a society we must continue to display in very tangible ways, our tremendous admiration for the young people of Saint Lucia who continue to engage all of us in their efforts to find new ways of addressing recurring challenges.

The extensive network of youth and student organisations must be encouraged to use very creative methods to address the issues of governance, economic and community development, HIV/AIDS and sports development.

Government recognises the role of sports in the growth of children, students and young people, and will continue to provide facilities and playing fields that are safe and accessible, with the additional administrative support for organised competitions. We have to reinvigorate our club structure to not only facilitate high quality competitive engagement, but also provide our youth with an avenue to develop administrative and organizational skills.

A strong platform for job creation among young people has been the National Skills Development Centre which, in the past year, trained 550 persons in the areas of hospitality studies, information technology and building trades and small appliance repairs. Six hundred persons are projected to receive new skills in 2004.

As we participate in activities to observe the Year of the Child, young people must, together with the adults in our society, present themselves as positive role models for our children. In many situations, young people spend extensive periods with children and are charged with providing safety and guidance while they work and play.

We will continue to provide support for youth and students, whether organised or unattached. We encourage the youth to continue to engage government and the private sector in sober reflection on our vision for a truly democratic society, in critical appraisal of policies and practical approaches to implementation of programmes and projects.

Young people have an important role to play in pulling adults out of the rolling dusk of callousness and cynicism, to an emerging spirit of vibrant family and community living, and care for each other at school, work and play. **(Turn to page 7 for the final section on Ministerial Adjustments)**

Friday January 16th 2004

MANAGING OUR LAND OUR BUSINESS



Traditional uses of land resources from page 3

A land policy statement must necessarily be a nation's policy. It must, to the fullest extent possible, reflect a consensus among all sectors of society, including the State, the private sector, civil society, and owners and users of the land. As the nation's policy, it should be formally accepted and endorsed by the Government, and it should reflect the views and aspirations of the people. Following its formal acceptance, this National Land Policy for Saint Lucia will therefore become a guide for decision-making by individuals and organisations within the public and private sectors.

Ideas, views, questions and information related to land policy should be sent to: landpolicy@planning.gov.lc or

**National Land Policy
Sustainable Development Section
Ministry of Physical Development,
Environment and Housing
Graeham Louisy Administrative
Building
Waterfront, Castries**



THIS WEEK ON NTN

Highlights: Week of Jan. 19-23, 2004

**Special Interview with
Hon. Derek Walcott
Friday 23rd at 9.00 p.m.**

**Special programming for Nobel
Laureate week and Independence
Anniversary**

Tune in Weekly For:

**Regional News & Sports with GIS News
Breaks and Kweyol News** daily from 6:30 pm

Issues & Answers (Discussion Programme) Mondays at 8:00pm

Interview/Tuesdays at 6:15pm

Konsit Kweyol/Tuesdays at 6:15pm (Kweyol Discussion)

Your Right to Know/Thursdays at 6:15pm

Take 2/Fridays at 6:15pm (Week in Review - English)

Weflechi/Fridays at 6:40pm (Week in Review—Kweyol)

KiddiCrew.com/Saturdays at 9:30 am

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

www.stlucia.gov.lc

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