



Cricket World Cup Venue Assessment Team Pleased with St. Lucia



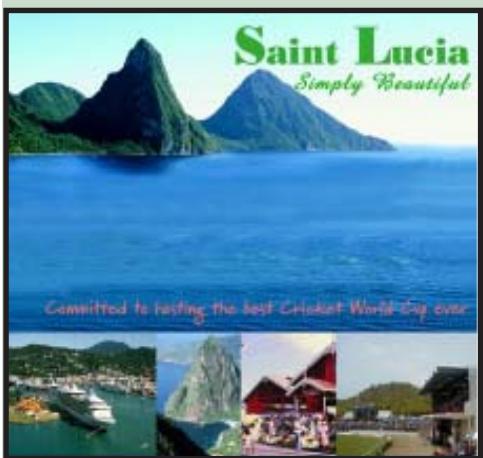
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"Take 2" - A fifteen minute news review of the week. Every Friday at 6.15 p.m. on NTN, Cablevision Channel 2.

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



Prime Minister Dr. Kenny D. Anthony is New Chairman of OECS.

St. Lucia's Prime Minister, Honourable Dr. Kenny Anthony on Wednesday, May 19, 2004 took over the Chairmanship of the St. Lucia headquartered Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), when OECS Heads of Government meet in neighbouring St. Vincent and the Grenadines from May 19th – 21st.

Wednesday's opening ceremony carded for the Peace Memorial Hall, will hear from Prime Minister Anthony, who succeeds out-going Chairman,

Montserrat's Chief Minister, Hon. John Osborne. Antigua & Barbuda's new Prime Minister Hon. Baldwin Spencer, host Prime Minister Hon. Dr. Ralph Gonsalves and Director General Dr. Len Ishmael will also make presentations at the opening session.

The ceremony will also include the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the OECS member states and Puerto Rico, to facilitate closer collaboration in economic, social and cultural matters.

Heads of the nine-member grouping, during their plenary sessions scheduled for the Conference Room of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, will deliberate over a packed agenda on the 20th and 21st. Among items for discussion are measures to advance the OECS Economic Union process, including a proposed OECS passport; and economic development issues impacting on the sub-region, with emphasis on tourism, agriculture and information and communications technology.

The meeting will tackle several social and sustainable development issues, including an assessment of the OECS Schools System and the Grenada-headquartered Caribbean Knowledge and Learning Network. Talks will also be held on the OECS position on ongoing external trade negotiations involving the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME); the Free Trade Area of the America (FTAA); World Trade Organization (WTO); and Economic Partnership Agreements with the European Union (EPA/EU).

British Minister Visited St Lucia

British Home Office Minister, Baroness Scotland of Asthal paid an official visit to St Lucia from 25 to 26 May 2004 - the latest stop in a five-nation Caribbean tour.

Baroness Scotland, who has ministerial responsibility for the reform and modernisation of the UK Criminal Justice System was in Trinidad last week where she addressed the region's top law enforcement officers at the 19th annual conference of the Association of Caribbean Commissioners of Police. She also made an address to the Barbados Bar Association at a luncheon seminar.

During her visit to St Lucia, she met with the Prime Minister, Dr the Hon Kenny Anthony, the Attorney General, Senator the Hon Petrus Compton, the Minister for Home Affairs and Internal Security, Senator the Hon Calixte George and officials of the OECS secretariat. She also had lunch with members of the legal community.

Previously she was Parliamentary Secretary at the Lord Chancellor's Department from 2001 to 2003, and Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office from 1999 to 2001. In addition to her Home Office responsibilities, she is spokesperson for the Department of Trade and Industry on Women and Equality issues in the House of Lords.

Baroness Scotland was born Patricia Scotland in Dominica and went to the UK as a child. She was created a peer as Baroness Scotland of Asthal in the County of Oxfordshire in 1997, and was raised to the Privy Council in July 2001. She is married and has two sons

Following her visit to St Lucia, Baroness Scotland will visit Antigua and Dominica.



Baroness Scotland — has ministerial responsibility for the reform and modernisation of the UK Criminal Justice System

Baroness Scotland was Parliamentary Secretary at the Lord Chancellor's Department from 2001 to 2003

Inclement Weather Slows Down Marc Road Repairs

The heavy showers of recent weeks have taken a toll on a temporary feeder road used by the St. Lucia Solid Waste Management Authority (SLSWMA) to access the Deglos Sanitary Landfill, resulting in the collapse of a connecting bridge. The incident, which occurred on Sunday, May 16th, has rendered the road impassable. Acting Public Relations Officer of the Authority Emlyn Jean, says the situation has serious impli-

cations for the transportation of waste to the landfill, because the main access road leading to the site is currently undergoing remedial works.

However, Ms. Jean says the Authority's waste disposal contractors have been using an alternative route to the landfill, as a means of ensuring that the waste disposal service continues uninterrupted. She explained that under the present circumstances, the SLSWMA had

carried out an assessment and felt that using the Marc road was the best alternative, although it lengthened the route to the landfill by some five Kilometres. Meanwhile, the contractor associated to the Trois Piton/Foresstierre road project is working feverishly at getting a temporary bypass bridge operational, in order that vehicles can utilize it. This has proven to be a challenge mainly because inclement weather conditions persist.

The Authority advises members of the public that they are to comply with the normal schedule for garbage collection and to contain their waste securely before placing it outside. Persons are also called

upon to desist from littering, particularly during the rainy season, as indiscriminate dumping of garbage has very serious consequences. "In light of the fact that the rainy season is very near or we've basically entered that particular season, the Authority encourages residents to maximise the use of the collection service offered and to desist from throwing garbage in the rivers, in the ravines, in drains or on vacant lots," Ms. Jean advised.

The Ministry of Communication, Works, Transport and Public Utilities in collaboration with Consolidated Construction International share overall responsibility for repairing the two roads.

Post of Lord Chancellor to be Abolished

• Vindicates Need for CCJ

The United Kingdom Government has advised the respective governments of the Organisation of East Caribbean States (OECS) that the post of Lord Chancellor of the United Kingdom (UK) would soon be abolished. Consequently, the OECS governments have been invited to re-examine the laws and procedures, which govern the appointment of the Chief Justice of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court.

This latest development underscores the correctness of the decision of the Caribbean countries to establish the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) to replace the Privy Council.

Prime Minister, Dr. Kenny D. Anthony, has for some time now been pointing out to the people of the region that they cannot expect the UK government to retain positions in their constitution purely to facilitate appeals from Commonwealth Caribbean countries to the Privy Council. Now, Dr. Anthony has been vindicated, but as the current chairman of the O.E.C.S., this legal hot potato has fallen squarely in his lap. Dr. Anthony, of course, is no stranger to these matters, as he is also the lead Prime Minister in CARICOM with responsibility for Justice and Governance, including the establishment of the CCJ.

The British government has pointed out that the relevant 1967 legislation establishing the East Caribbean Supreme Court provides that the Chief Justice of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court shall be appointed by Her Majesty the Queen by Letters Patent. It was decided at the time, that the Lord Chancellor would advise the Queen on the appointment and that when tendering such advice he would consult the Premier of each of the Associated States in which the Supreme Court had jurisdiction.

Most recently, the convention has been for the Director General of the OECS to write to the Lord Chancellor, informing him of the unanimous decision of the Heads of Government and urging him to advise Her Majesty to appoint accordingly. The relevant legislation also provides for the Lord Chancellor to be involved in the case of the removal of a Chief Justice of the OECS Supreme Court and the British government has indicated to the OECS Heads of Government that the Lord Chancellor's role in this respect will also need to be replaced with an appropriate mechanism.

Reacting to this latest move by the British Government, Dr. Anthony says the decision to abolish the post of Lord Chancellor "will have serious repercussions, as it may compel changes to the constitutions of the OECS countries." As a result, urgent consultations will be held with the Attorneys General of the OECS to assess the implications and to agree on a joint approach.

Prime Minister Anthony is expected to visit the UK to discuss the implications of the change with British officials.



Prime Minister Dr. D. Anthony welcomes Baroness Scotland at his Official Residence, Vigie

Primary School Students to Sharpen their Public Speaking Skills

Primary schools students island-wide from grade 4 to 6 are being targeted for an Effective Public Speaking Competition. The competition is being organised by the Water Resources Unit (WRU) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, as part of its Schools Water Network and in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Human Resource Development, Youth and Sports.

The participating students will be expected to speak on the topic "Water and Disasters," the theme for World Water Day 2004, which is observed on March 22nd annually.

Communications Assistant, Jeanne Joseph says the district level of the competition got underway on Monday May 10th and was to end on Friday, May 14th. However, schools have been given until the 20th to prepare for the finals on Friday, May 21st, where they will choose one school to represent their particular district.

According to Ms. Joseph, the aim is to offer primary schools students the experience of speaking on a public platform, the incentive to formulate ideas on an important subject, in that case, "Water and Disasters", and the discipline in dealing with a topic in a limited time.

The adjudicators will attach great importance to the content of the speeches and the logic and weight of the arguments developed, along with the impact created on the audience.

Prizes will be awarded to both the participating schools and students. The winning school and student will receive the MAFF-WRU Trophy, while each member of the winning, second and third

place teams will receive an individual award and an award for their school. Some of the prizes will include book vouchers, a TV-VCR, Internet Cards and Dinner Vouchers.

This first ever Effective Public Speaking Competition for Primary Schools will above all, provide the participants the opportunity of learning and practising high standards of expression and presentation.



School Debate

Mobile Library Servicing Rural Areas

The Central Library this week embarked upon a new chapter of library services and community outreach, with the launching of its Mobile Library, in Foresstiere, on the 17th of May.

Foresstiere is one of the many communities that will be provided with mobile library services. In recognition that knowledge and books play a critical role in the educational, social and personal development of citizens, Director of Library Services, Ms. Brenda Paul says, the Department of Library Services is proud of this attempt to provide everyone with access to library services, particularly those persons who do not have a library located within or near their communities.

She notes that it has always been the intention of the Library Department, which falls under the umbrella of the Ministry of Education, Human Resource Development, Youth and Sports to address the need to provide rural and isolated communities with library services, to promote reading as a tool for personal development and to promote positive reading habits, not only to children but also the adults.

"We in the Department of Library Services recognised that a number of communities were without the services of libraries and we also recognised that we could not at this time establish full time libraries in all those communities, so we decided to pursue the idea of mobile library services which would be able to serve a number of communities at a time," remarked Ms. Paul.

As explained by Ms. Paul, the initial concept of the project was to serve ten communities. However, the project will be executed in two phases. The first phase will include the communities of Foresstiere, Ti Rocher, La Croix Maingot, Ti Rocher and Bexon, and later it will be expanded to include more communities.

The mobile library will operate as a pseudo library, providing most of the regular services offered by libraries, and will subscribe to the same rules. The unit will be managed by a librarian and an assistant, who will make several weekly stops in various communities.

Funding for the project was provided by the Organisation of American States, the OAS, to facilitate the purchasing of the vehicle which has the capacity to hold over one thousand books on shelves and

standing room for about three adults. However, the mobile library will in the main operate outside of the vehicle, using a classroom to create a makeshift library, where persons can conveniently sit to read or carry out research using the library's reference material.

The Library will consist of two main categories for Adults and Children respectively, featuring a range of fiction to non-fiction books. The Director also

made special mention of a special series of "How To" books which she hopes persons will use to enrich their lives.

Overall the mobile library project which coincides with Reading Extravaganza Month is pitched at enriching the lives of both adults and the youth. Ms. Paul says the library is equipped with books and electronic materials for persons of all age groups, covering a wide range of categories, subjects and interests.

Residents in each respective community are invited to orientation sessions and to access the mobile library services on the following days :

Day	Venue	Time
Monday	Forestierre	3:00 – 5:30 PM
Tuesday	Bexon	3:00 – 5 :30 PM
Wednesday	La Croix Maingot	3:00 – 5:30 PM
Thursday	Ti Rocher	3:00 – 5:30 PM
Friday	Odsan	3:00 – 5:30 PM



Mobile Library

St. Lucia is First in New Pharmaceutical Software



Dr. Stephen King

The Open Relationships for Integrative Organizations software program- ORION@MSH developed specifically for pharmaceutical stock management has been installed in St. Lucia, the pilot country.

This project is consistent with the Government's thrust at developing and supporting initiatives to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of pharmaceutical procurement, distribution and general management. Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Stephen King said, "Our whole purpose and drive in medical health systems is health for development and economic well being. We understand that countries cannot have sustainable development without good health. If you want my opinion, all pharmacies should have access to this software".

ORION@MSH, which will in time be installed in the wider region, is built on ICICI Infotech's ORION inventory program, used to facilitate stock management. Administered by the Management Sciences for Health (MSH), the software will eventually phase out the 17-year old DOS software now used by 15 - 20 countries.

Managing Director of the St. Lucia-headquartered, OECS Pharmaceutical Procurement Services-PPS, Francis Burnett, signing a Memorandum of Understanding with MSH, said OECS Pharmaceutical Procurement Services is grateful that St. Lucia was selected as the pilot site for this program. "It is really virgin territories, a new area for us and it is installed for the very first time in St. Lucia and PPS, and we intend to roll out the program in St. Kitts and Grenada later on this year," Burnett added.

The ORION software is being installed by a six-member team of information technology experts from the USA and India, who will also conduct training for selected persons over the next five weeks.

Director of SEAM Management Sciences, Keith Johnson said that the OECS-PPS was being considered a model for regional cooperation in the health field,



Keith Johnson shaking hands with Francis Burnett

adding that WHO, World Bank and other donor organizations had put PPS on their list of successes.

"Literally, any place that we go on our projects, there is recognition of the fact that it is the Caribbean that leads the world on regional procurement. Other countries have tried, but there have been very few successes. The other regional block that has really succeeded is in the Middle East, where there is a very tight group of coun-

tries set up in an effort to do procurement there, but all other efforts basically, have failed," Mr. Johnson said.

The ORION software comprises six interlinked modules to support all aspects of medical store management based on industry standards and best practices. The software is being funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, which has donated millions of dollars to improve health care in developing countries.

SLBWA Enters Era of Computer Technology



SLBWA Computer Room

Blindness in Saint Lucia has launched into the realm of computer technology, through a special Poverty Reduction Fund/ Blind Welfare Association Project, which was formally handed over to the association on Thursday, May 6th. The project, which begun in 2003, centred upon capacity building and empowerment of visually impaired persons.

Jessica Jacobie, facilitator in the new computer lab, which the Poverty Reduction Fund equipped explained that the computer software was specially designed to enable blind and visually impaired persons to access the internet, bringing to them new experiences as they are trained in email, word processing, information searches, and much more.

The lab is equipped with five new IBM computers, boasting today's most modern screen reading and reader software used

for the training of the association's clients and employees. A sixth computer will be used for students to hone their keyboarding skills. The computer lab is also equipped with a Braille printer referred to as 'embosser' used for reproducing printed information into Braille, which is the writing and communication form of the blind.

Equipped with leading software such as JAWS, which stands for Job Access With Speech, clients of the SLBWA are expected to acquire new skills, making themselves more marketable to the work force.

Under the project, costing in excess of \$300, 000 the headquarters of the association was renovated, while a low vision room, lab and multi handicapped room were also installed to broaden the scope of support and development that the Blind Welfare provides to its clients.

CDERA to Review New Strategic Plan

Barbados, May 17 (CDERA) - A new strategic plan to guide the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA) through the next five years will be one of the major items on the agenda of the 14th Annual Board of Directors meeting this week.

Coordinator, Jeremy Collymore, said that the time had come to re-examine the Agency's blueprint for "risk-sensitive development" in the Caribbean within context of the global agenda.

The three-year Strategic Work Programme which the Board is being asked to consider is structured around five key results which are designed to enhance Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) within the 16 Participating States of CDERA.

"Taking into consideration the growing concern about terrorism and our preparation for the 2007 Cricket World Cup we need to look more aggressively at mass crowd contingency planning as well as terrorism consequence management and disaster preparedness"

One of the major initiatives expected to be rolled out is the application of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in disaster

management - an aspect which is vital important as the region moves rapidly towards e-Government and e-Commerce. The issue of terrorism as it relates to

disaster management will also be discussed by the Board.

"Taking into consideration the growing concern about terrorism and our preparation for the 2007 Cricket World Cup we need to look more aggressively at mass crowd contingency planning as well as terrorism consequence management and disaster preparedness," said the Coordinator.

CDERA will be participating in a counter-terrorism exercise to be held shortly in Barbados.

The 14th Annual Board of Directors meeting will be held in Kingstown, St Vincent on May 20 and 21, 2004.

The meeting will be officially opened by Prime Minister The Hon Dr Ralph Gonsalves.

News out of NEMO

National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO) shall attend a morning session designed to review regional institutions and agree on the structure of a national coordinating mechanism that will allow IICA to benefit from them. IICA will seek to incorporate the National Agricultural Advisory Committee (NAAC), in a manner that improves its effectiveness. The meeting was scheduled to take place on Monday, May 17th, 2004 at the Green Parrot Conference Room.

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is collaborating with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries to enhance the benefits to Saint Lucia of two (2) regional mechanisms, the Caribbean Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture and the Rural Milieu (The Alliance) and the Regional Agricultural Policy Network (RAPN).

The Alliance was launched in Jamaica in 1999, and comprises the Forum of Ministers of Agriculture in CARICOM and their constituents, Caribbean Agri-Business Association (CABA), Caribbean Agriculture Forum for Youth (CAFY), Caribbean

Network of Rural Women Producers (CNRWP) and the Caribbean Council for Higher Education in Agriculture (CACHE). The RAPN was launched in Guyana in October 2003, during the Caribbean Week of Agriculture.

A National chapter of The Alliance was launched in Saint Lucia in 2003. There



NEMO's Office in the Red Cross Building at Vigie, Castries

are also Local Chapters of CAFY, CNRWP and CABA. Saint Lucia participated in the training and launch of the RAPN organized in Guyana by the Centre for Technical Assistance (CTA), the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) and IICA.

Following are the goals of The Alliance:

1. To provide an opportunity for dialogue on the implications of emerging issues, particularly those related to economic development, trade, science, technology

and management of biodiversity, environment and natural disasters, and securing consensus and commitment on actions to develop national and regional agriculture in the medium and long term.

2. To identify areas for collection and recommend policies strategies and actions which are in harmony with regional policies.
3. To promote programmes that will accelerate agriculture's integration in the wider national, regional and international economies whilst simultaneously minimizing the negative impact on vulnerable industries and groups and adjustment costs.
4. To encourage the formation and implementation of national policies, strategies and actions which are in harmony with regional policies.
5. To explore possible options for the reorganization of agriculture, including the administrative structure(s) and private/public sector relationships required for the efficient and sustainable management of the agricultural development.
6. To strengthen the bargaining positions of individual Ministers at the national and international levels.

Unpleasant Trend may Lead to Overflow of Communal Bins.



Outsider using Communal Bins

The entity responsible for the management of waste on the island has been expressing deep concern regarding an unpleasant trend, which has been unfolding. As explained by the Acting Public Relations Manager of the Solid Waste Management Authority, Emlyn Jean, persons using bins that are outside of their own communities to dispose waste is at the root of the

problem. Ms. Jean indicated how clearly unfair this practice was to persons who live in these communities, as they are deprived of the use of the bins, which were meant to serve them.

"We would like the public to know that the placement of bins is not a haphazard activity that we undertake along with our waste disposal contractors. These bins are intended for persons who live in

communities where the waste cannot be collected at their doorstep. What we do is conduct a count of households in order to determine the location and the number of bins to be allocated to the various areas. Now, if we have persons from outside carrying waste to the communities, it means that no provisions would have been made for the storage of the excess waste generated from the communities", commented Ms. Jean during a discussion with the Government Information Service.

To compound the problem, some motorists have been seen indiscriminately flinging bags of waste in the vicinity of communal bins. SLWMA authorities suggest that the problem stems primarily in the north of the island. The Authority is appealing to persons who are responsible for such conduct to desist from this type of behaviour and follow the waste disposal schedule for their own communities. The seriousness of the problem has prompted the Authority to advise concerned members of the public to write down the registration number of motorists caught in the act.

together expertise within government to deal with low cost improvements, particularly in areas that are in need of slope stability.

The MOSSAIC programme is targeted primarily at communities in the Castries basin where houses are built on very steep slopes making drainage a serious problem with the potential for landslide risk. Professor Anderson indicated, that as a result of that particular situation, the community of Skate-town, which is nestled between the upper Sunbilt area and Bois Patat in Castries was identified. "We have developed a very inexpensive way of forming drains that in-fact, almost any of the residents could afford to implement round the house", Professor Anderson said.

The MOSSAIC project involves constructed drains consisting of plastic overlain by a wire mesh to keep the plastic in place. "This type of drainage is approximately a tenth of the cost of concrete drains," said the Professor, adding, "residents can themselves construct these drains around their properties to keep away water, channelling it instead, into concrete line culverts."

According to Professor Anderson, the residents of Skate-town were able to construct forty feet of drainage in approximately two hours.



Professor Malcolm Anderson

An Inter-Ministerial group has been formed to take ownership, inter-change ideas and effect improvements to the management of slope stability in communities (MOSSAIC).

MOSSAIC is the brain child of Professor Malcolm Anderson of the University of Bristol in the United Kingdom. The main objective is to establish joint research, development and

training activities in the areas of slope stability and hydrology in Saint Lucia. The project was implemented on the basis of a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Government of Saint Lucia, through the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, and the University of Bristol.

Speaking on the GIS television programme "Interview", Professor Anderson says, the intention is to bring

St. Lucia Taking Steps to Improve Slope Stability

Northern Water Improvement Project Resumes Works

The multi-million dollar Northern Water Supply Improvement Project resumed as of Monday, May 17th, with renewed vigour and determination on the part of government and the Water and Sewerage Company (WASCO) to bring the project to a successful close by August of this year. This assurance comes from officials of the Ministry of Physical Development,

Environment and Housing, following the close of the Jazz Festival.

The project, which is aimed at improving water supply to the hotels and growing households in the northern region, involves the installation of a 20 inch water main from Castries to Cap Estate. The project has been hit with several delays and was placed on temporary hiatus to facilitate the peak tourism season spurred by the

Jazz Festival, as well as to accommodate repairs in key areas of the road network.

Project Co-ordinator in the Ministry of Physical Development, Environment and Housing, Michael Gittens, says the full completion of this phase will involve the identification of and repair of leaks along the pipeline, warning that the public may experience some brief disruptions in the flow of traffic, as a result of works continuing on the 20 inch main.

"public may experience some brief disruptions in the flow of traffic, as a result of works continuing on the 20 inch main"

St. Lucia Sets Momentum for VAT Verification Tour

The ICC-World Cup 2007 Venue Assessment Team (VAT) has begun its verification tour to bid countries. The tour will provide the team of world games experts the opportunity to assess and verify the proposals contained in their World Cup 2007 Bid Book. Although St. Lucia and Barbados have submitted joint bids, the two countries will be assessed individually.

The 11-member team, led by Cricket World Cup 2007 Chief Executive Officer, Chris Dehring made its first stop in St. Lucia on May 23, at Hewanorra International Airport in Vieux Fort. They were met by Prime Minister, Honourable Dr. Kenny D. Anthony and key persons, including Youth and Sports Minister, Honourable Mario Michel; and the Local Organizing Committee for World Cup 2007

chaired by Cabinet Secretary, Dr. James Fletcher.

The packed agenda for the 1-day working schedule for the team included a detailed tour of the relatively new Beausejour Cricket Ground, which has already received regional and international acclaim as one of the best cricket facility in the region. The group sessions there looked at media facilities, ambush

marketing, security, cricket grounds, disaster management, marketing support, accommodation, transport, immigration and customs, medical services, WICB rights/sponsor obligations, generic event functions, and match-day operations. There were also field visits to the National Stadium, Rodney Bay Marina, Pigeon Island, road networks, and generic events sites.

The local media was apprised of the rudiments of the World Cup 2007 bidding process and had their concerns addressed during a press conference led by Mr. Dehring and ICC- Venue Development Specialist, Donald Lockerbie. Mr. Dehring assured that the team was embarking on the most professional and scientific approach to managing, hosting and eventually selecting the host venues for 2007.

"We are looking at the best resources that each country can offer, all the assets, all the inventory, to put together a collaborative effort, which will ultimately be in 2007", he told the media, informing that the team had very positive discussions in St. Lucia. "The entire atmosphere, the entire spirit of the discussions was exactly what I expected it to be," Mr. Dehring said.

The St. Lucia visit is expected to provide the impetus for the continuation of the verification tour. Mr. Lockerbie said, "The fact of the matter is that St. Lucia has already impressed us; we've had a history of it recently; we had our venue summit here last September; we've had several board meetings here for Cricket world Cup; and now we have the Verification Team".

The Venue Assessment Team will end its Verification tour on June 12, 2004, in Bermuda. Out of 11 bidding countries, the eight host venue finalists will be announced on July 4, and the announcements for the actual matches that will be awarded will be made on July 13, 2004.



Prime Minister, Dr. Kenny D. Anthony (right) welcomes Mr. Chris Dehring, CEO of the Cricket Bid Committee for World Cup 2007. Minister of Education, Youth and Sport, Hon. Mario Michel is in the background (centre) and at left, Dr. James Fletcher, Cabinet Secretary and Chairman of the Local Organizing Committee for World Cup 2007, at Hewanorra International Airport

Greater Foreign Investment Looms Following Overseas trip by NDC officials

St. Lucia may be in store for some major hotel and tourism investment opportunities in the months and years to come. This opportunity arose out of the 8th Annual Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Investment Conference, which was held in Jamaica from the 10th to the 13th of May, 2004. A 3-member team, comprising General Manager of the National Development Corporation (NDC), Wayne Vitalis, NDC's representative in New York, Carl Pilgrim and Chairman of the NDC, Michael Chastanet.

Mr. Vitalis in a press conference on Tuesday, spoke about the links his organisation had made with Spanish investors and developers, who were at the just concluded conference. "We are now dispatching one of our officers to join Pro Invest on a road show, which will be held from the 27th of May. At that event he is expected to meet and hold further discussions with two Spanish hotel developers we made contact with at the

last conference. He is also expected to meet in Punta Majoka, some major players in the hotel industry from Spain", he said.

The NDC general manager also raised the point that Spanish developers were quite impressed by the incentives offered by the Government of St. Lucia, especially with regard to the Cricket World Cup scheduled for 2007. Mr. Chastanet said the team visited the RIU Hotel development in Negril, Jamaica, which was built by the Spanish. The Chairman said the team was very impressed with the project and in turn made additional efforts at attracting Spanish investment.

"Because of our efforts, we have encouraged the developers to visit St. Lucia, where we will make proposals to them as far as additional lands are concerned, and we are keeping our hands crossed that we can have RIU come into St. Lucia as soon as possible", Mr. Chastanet said.

At Tuesday's Press Conference, Mr. Chastanet made mention of a hotel to be



Potential Hotel Site

built at Bwa Chadon in Vieux-Fort. According to him, drawing of the hotel plans will commence soon, since all the necessary pre-requisites for construction of the hotel have been met. The hotel, which is expected to have a capacity of 360 rooms will be a Beaches Hotel owned

by the National Development Corporation. Whilst in Jamaica, the 3-member team visited a number of sites and locations, including the two companies E-services and Induca Global, both of which will be investing in St. Lucia.

Prime Minister's Weekly Radio Address on all Radio Stations commencing Monday, May 31st

Prime Minister, Dr. Kenny D. Anthony will commence a weekly radio address to the nation on Monday, May 31, 2004. The address entitled "Conversations with the Nation" will be of five minutes duration and is scheduled for

broadcast on all radio stations.

The address will highlight national programmes; articulate the government's vision for the country; and present Dr. Anthony's reflections on solutions for the challenges facing St. Lucia.

The Prime Minister will also respond to questions and concerns from the public, which can be sent via the email address yourPM@candw.lc. One address which will be aired on the last Monday of every month will focus directly on issues affecting young people.

According to the Press Secretary to the Prime Minister, Mr. Earl Bousquet this initiative is part of Government's promise to promote and protect the virtues of public accountability, openness and communication in government.

The Networked Economy and Information Society: Implications for Small Island Developing States

Address by the Right Hon. Prime Minister Dr. Kenny D. Anthony at the Opening Ceremony of the Caribbean Internet Fiesta 2004

With the rapid growth in technological innovations and increased connectivity we are witnessing today, the information revolution holds tremendous promise for developing and emerging economies. To leapfrog into the future, however, developing countries must avail themselves of the primary channel or engine in the Networked Economy and Information Society: the Internet. More than ever before, economic growth and social development needs information and knowledge, and the more that information and knowledge is shared, the more growth is generated in industrialized as well as in emerging nations.

It is increasingly being acknowledged that the spread of Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) is a both a **social and technical phenomenon**. With technological spread there comes the question of social access to these resources and also the work involved in bridging gaps between technological provision and social access.

It is therefore essential to mention that in order to stretch the wings of IT for poverty reduction and social development, both the policy and practice should be geared towards creating a synergy of not simply hardware and software, but more importantly, 'Social-ware' of community based development and the Technical-wares of IT.

This collaboration should emphasize the demand side of development work and information requirements, by enhancing peoples' capacity to use information and knowledge (through creation of social capital), rather than purely on the supply side of the process. This intervention also links the corridors of IT entrepreneurs and social entrepreneurs, to develop capacity of the disadvantaged, in taking the route of the information highway for development and poverty eradication.

Herein lies the need for the collaboration of all relevant players in the advancement of the 'ICT for Development' agenda, IT vendors, software companies, telecommunications providers, and the private sector at large, and institutions such as the Poverty Reduction Fund, the Basic Needs Trust Fund, the Belfund, the National Skills Development Center, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Social Transform, and the Public sector as a whole.

Information Technology is increasingly being used within the Government of St. Lucia as an enabler towards better public administration. The government believes that the development and delivery of electronic public services, which is one key aspect of the e-government agenda, can also play an important role in making St. Lucia a congenial location for e-businesses and e-commerce to develop. If citizens and enterprises can interact electronically with government, this will play an important role in stimulating the growth and use of business-to-business Web services, and business-to-consumer Web sites. The ability to transact electronically and conveniently with government agencies can create useful additional incentives for citizens and small businesses to master new technologies, and it can help boost innovativeness and international competitiveness.

The evidence of other countries' successful e-strategies suggests that government participation can increase citizens' willingness to invest in learning new media skills and can encourage them to attempt e-transactions with businesses as well as with public sector agencies. Government policy support will also influence businesses to appreciate the advantages of having effective Web sites, training staff in new media skills and being able to transact business over the Web. Government endorsement and demonstration of the value of Information Technology and the Internet, as evidenced by the recent International recognition of its e-government standing and online portal - www.stlucia.gov.lc, increases the legitimacy of the Internet and e-mails as normal communication tools. [Comment on: email contact to the Prime Minister: yourPM@candw.lc and weekly radio address].

The macro-level correlation of development progress and telecommunications progress is now well established and a large body of evidence has been accumulated over recent decades, showing the importance of communications and information for development, both in the commercial and the public sectors.

The interaction of networking with the economy and with society as a whole can be viewed as a dynamic system, and of importance to Saint Lucia for two main reasons:

1. Networking is highly correlated with economic activity. This is statistically observable as well as being intuitively understandable, as the flow of information has always been integral to the activities of production, trade, and investment, and to the operation of markets. Economic development and networking development have historically progressed together in a constant and mutually dependent relationship.
2. Networking is linked to social and institutional development. Although this is sometimes less apparent than the relationship between networking and economic activity, its importance in the development of modern social and institutional structures is clear. Networking, based on Internet and other new ICTs, will accelerate development in a wide range of ways.
 1. Educate more people and support life long learning
 2. Make governments more efficient, transparent and accessible
 3. Increase the effectiveness of administrative and institutional reforms
 4. Monitor and protect the environment
 5. Reduce information and income inequalities
 6. Overcome natural disadvantages of size and resources constraints
 7. Diversify into information intensive industries
 8. Promote small and medium enterprises; and
 9. More effective participation in global trade and competitiveness

I will now take a few moments to highlight a few of the above areas.

• Improved economic efficiency and competitiveness. All important micro-economic processes benefit from improved information flows. A developing economy which can eliminate its networking bottlenecks should be able to acquire its imports more cheaply, organise its primary and secondary production more efficiently, operate its markets more efficiently (goods, assets, labour, capital), and utilize its intellectual and human capital more effectively. It will also be better able to attract greater levels of foreign direct investment.

• More efficient and effective education, healthcare and public administration. Many commentators have asserted that the potential for networking to make an impact on the public sector matches or exceeds the potential in the commercial sector, and so there is a strong match between the needs of the public sector and the beneficial characteristics of the networked economy and society. As ways are found to exploit networking in education, healthcare and public administration, then these would be highly beneficial in overall development terms:

Management of scarce specialist healthcare resources can be enhanced by using networking techniques. This goes well beyond remote diagnosis and consultation - the logistics of healthcare, the development of Health Information Management Systems and the interaction of health professionals benefit significantly from affordable networking. Areas presently being addressed under the Universal Health Care (UHC) initiative, and the broader Health Sector Reform agenda.

Affordable networking enables the power of distance learning to be added to the educational portfolio. Distance learning is particularly well matched to small island developing states, as it makes specialist teaching with high-quality teaching aides available to any student with access to a network terminal. Networking can therefore be a major amplifier of limited educational resources.

The Government of St. Lucia has demonstrated its commitment to this approach by the endorsement and participation in a new and exciting initiative called the Caribbean Knowledge and Learning Network. This project responds to the changes taking place in the economic paradigm of the Caribbean and seeks to enhance the Region's competitiveness by connecting the Caribbean to the global pool of knowledge, developing human resources and facilitating greater regional integration.

Specifically, the CKLN will harness state-of-the-art satellite and internet technologies to provide a virtual learning network between Caribbean Institutions of Tertiary Education. It will provide students, Colleges and Universities in the Region with cost-effective access to high quality e-learning content and other knowledge resources drawn from the Region and around the world. The Network will support interactive learning and the development of knowledge networks, while reducing the limitations associated with distance and remoteness. Learning offerings made available on the Network will be prioritized to the needs of the

Caribbean labor market and the cultural and socio-economic context.

• Finally, Opportunities to increase social capital. From a developed world perspective it is easy to take for granted the social benefits of widespread, affordable networking in industrialized societies, and so miss the potential for positive impact as developing countries achieve these levels of networking. The significant weight of the social capital impact of networking in development is now being acknowledged. The potential positive impact of new networking is particularly pronounced in the following areas:

- **information availability:** easy access to a wide range of information is essential for living in a complex, stable & progressive society
- **education:** through access to information and access to teaching. As I mentioned earlier with the example of Distance learning as a valuable tool in the efforts to overcome resource constraints
- **gender issues:** where women have access to networking in the home or the workplace, it can contribute to equalising access to information, entertainment, education, as well as increased empowerment in the spheres of community and family
- **active citizenship:** ease of participation in political, administrative and other institutional life
- **the fostering of international links:** cross-border communication can develop personal and community ties that extend beyond narrow local concerns. Affordable voice, email and other media are extremely beneficial in this area.

The internet alone cannot pull people out of social exclusion, but can play a vital role in helping socially excluded people access training, online information and services in a wide range of areas or simply just keep in touch.

Research findings from the UK and other countries have shown that socially excluded people who use the internet make far greater use of it than the average internet user for all activities, except those involving financial transactions. Socially excluded people **who access the Internet** use it most to investigate training and educational information - 63 per cent compared to 40 per cent of the wider population - followed by healthcare information at 51 per cent. And those socially excluded people surveyed who use the internet are far more likely than the population as a whole to use e-mail - 89 per cent compared to 72 per cent. Several studies have found that on-line public services are also of interest. This research shows that being on-line can bring real value to socially excluded, helping them to communicate or learn a new skill.

In light of the tremendous opportunities provided by the Networked Economy and Information Society, it is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 2004 Caribbean Internet Fiesta and the week of activities in the celebration of the Internet, under theme - **'Internet for All'**.