

Double blow
for Martinus
Francois!

Privy Counsel denies
leave to appeal in
Rochamel and
Election Cases



Tribute to Janni Williams -
page 3



New Attorney-General -
page 6



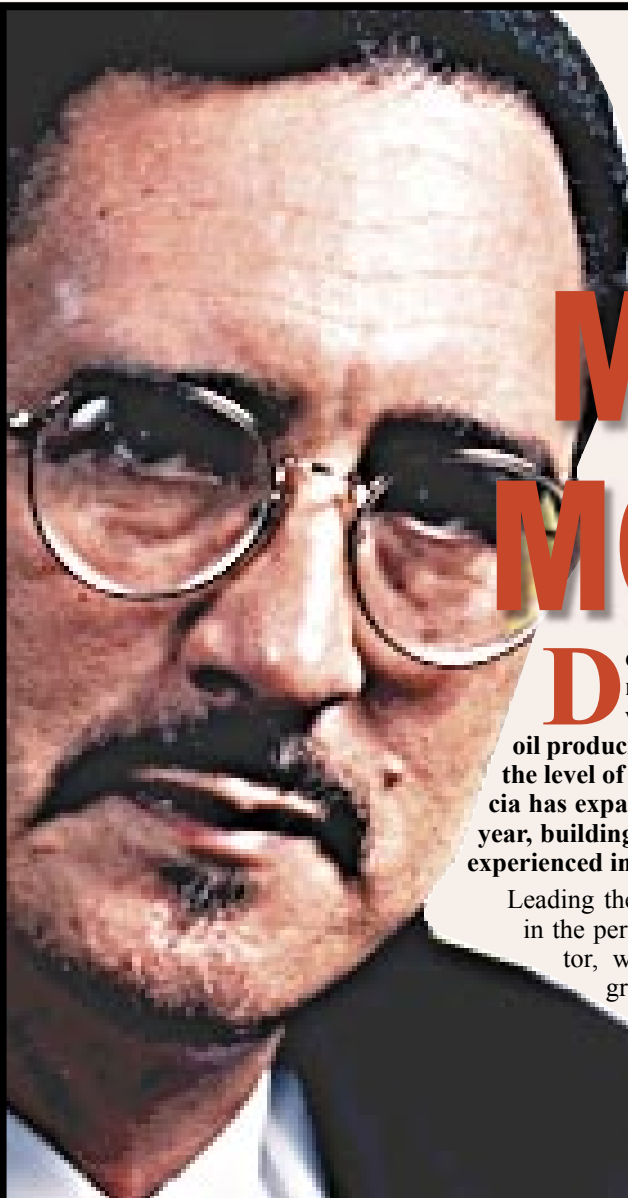
Credit Union Day -
page 6 & 7



Talking Universal Health Care -
Page 8

IN THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR:

ECONOMY MAINTAINS MOMENTUM



Despite the spiralling international market price of oil, which tends to weaken non-oil producing economies considerably, the level of economic activity in St. Lucia has expanded in the first half of this year, building on the growth momentum experienced in the first quarter.

Leading the pack was the improvement in the performance of the tourism sector, which was supported by the growth in the banana industry, construction and manufacturing sectors.

The fiscal position of the central government

Euro and the Pound Sterling against the US dollar have contributed to this positive performance. Arrivals from the UK and US posted increases of 13.9 percent and 6.1 percent, respectively.

Cruise passenger arrivals rebounded strongly by 30 percent to 284,486 in the review period in 2004, when 205 cruise ship calls were made, compared to 152 for the same period in 2003. The leap this year followed two consecutive periods of decline since 9/11. A number of factors were credited for the first half-year performance, including the global economic recovery underway in the major tourist markets, the relative safety of the Caribbean region, the increase in the capacity allocated to the region, from which St. Lucia benefited, along with the growing demand for cruise vacations particularly, to the already popular Eastern Caribbean.

Yacht and excursionists arrivals grew by 5.2 percent and 0.4 percent, respectively.

Banana output increases

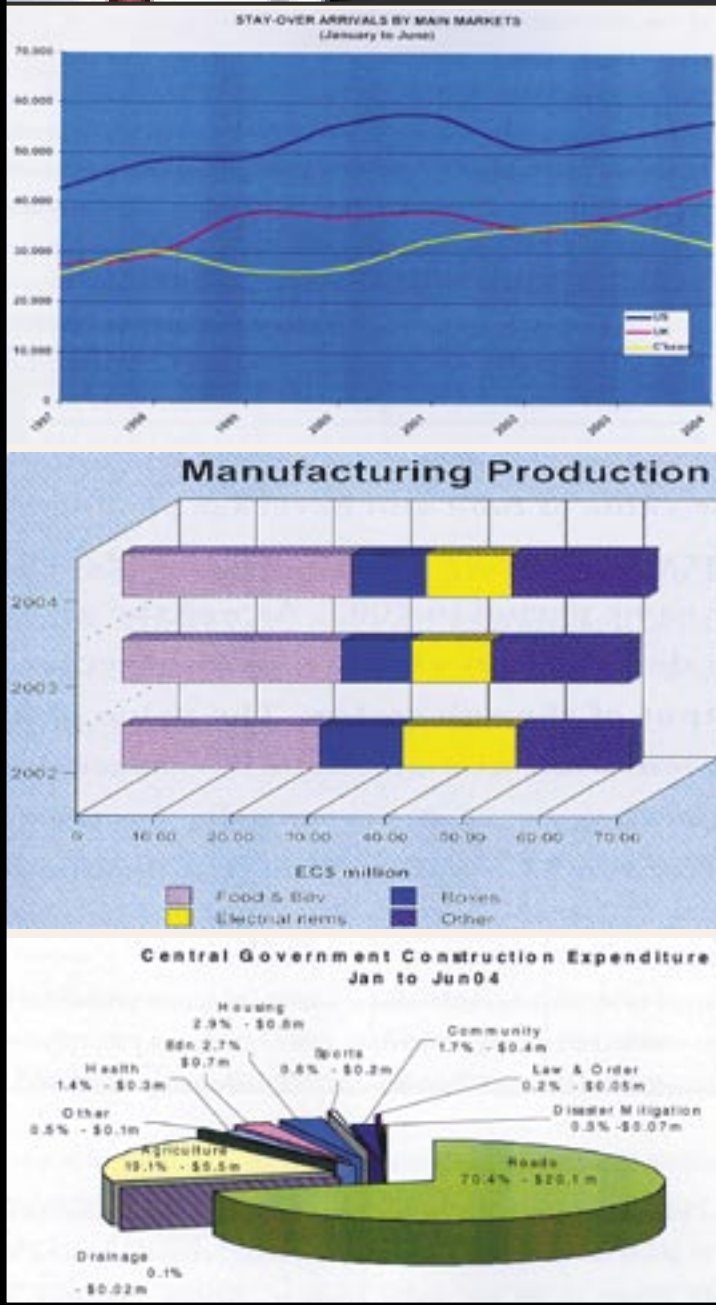
The overall performance of the agriculture sector continued to be determined by the fortunes of the banana industry. In keeping with the 23.2 percent growth in the production of Windward Islands bananas, St. Lucia's banana output rebounded by 22.3 percent to 22,643 tonnes, thereby continuing the recent year to year oscillatory pattern. The primary reasons for the upturn in production and exports of bananas were increased rainfall and yields from tissue culture plants, while mitigating the adverse effects of a breakdown in the spraying mechanism.

In addition to the increase in export tonnage, the continued strength of the Pound Sterling against the US dollar resulted in higher banana revenue of \$28.6 million, which represents an increase of 20.7 percent over the corresponding six month period in 2003.

Turnaround in manufacturing

The value of output in the manufacturing sector grew by 3.6 percent to \$67.8 million, following a contraction of 0.4 percent in the corresponding period in 2003. The value of production of key categories namely, food and beverage, electrical products and corrugated boxes, which together accounted for 74 percent of manufactured goods, increased by 5.3 percent, and offset the declines in other sub-sectors, such as textiles and wood products.

Continued on page 2



also showed improvement, as measured by the current account savings, compared with a deficit in the comparative period in 2003. The situation of excess liquidity in the commercial banking system persisted, while interest rates remained fairly stable.

Tourism expands

Total visitor arrivals in January-June, 2004 increased by 18.4 percent to 455,015, compared to the similar period in 2003. All visitor categories improved.

Stay-over arrivals, the mainstay of the local tourism industry, continued to trend upward from the fallout since 9/11. In the January-June 2004 period, stay-over arrivals rose by 3.1 percent to 150,593 compared to the same period in 2003. Increased airlift and the continued strength of the



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Economy Maintains Momentum in first half of 2004

Continued from page 1

Food and Beverage, the most dominant sub-sector, increased by 4.4 percent and contributed \$29.7 million to the revenue generated from manufactured products. This was due to the sales performance of non-alcoholic beverages, which improved by 25.8 percent to \$6.5 million, with suppliers accessing new markets in 2004. The value of electrical products increased by 6.5 percent, while the growth in the value of boxes for commercial use in the domestic market, led revenue from paper products, which edged up by 4 percent to \$10.5 million.

Construction activity expanded

The level of construction activity in both the public and private sector expanded relative to the first six months of 2003. Central government spending on construction, much of which was undertaken in the first quarter, increased by 20 percent to \$22.4 million. Of this amount, 90.2 percent was spent on economic infrastructure, defined as physical facilities which facilitate growth. This largely included road and drainage works on the major ongoing projects such as the Roads Development Projects (RDP I and II), the Tertiary Roads

Rehabilitation Project and the Agriculture Feeder Road Project.

On the other hand, \$2.8 million was spent on social infrastructure particularly on housing and settlement projects. In addition, support to the tourism sector was facilitated, as the St. Lucia Air and Sea-ports Authority incurred \$1 million over last year’s spending on the completion of works on two visitor-oriented projects at Port Castries.

Improved fiscal performance

The fiscal performance of the central government improved, as measured by the level of government savings. The current balance moved from a deficit of \$6.6 million to a surplus (savings) of \$10.1 million, as current revenue surpassed current expenditure.

Monetary Developments

Developments in the financial and monetary sector were characterized by continued high level of liquidity, unchanged interest rates and an increase in net foreign assets.

The net foreign asset position of the commercial banks strengthened as their net asset holdings increased from \$52.6 million to \$94.3 million.

Exports of Bananas (tonnes)					
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
January	5809	4417	3945	2903	3835
February	6019	3973	3963	2843	4162
March	6143	3994	5015	3546	4516
April	5010	2584	4365	2755	3255
May	5486	2434	4355	2951	3063
June	6103	2432	5159	3516	3812
Total	34,570	19,834	26,802	18,514	22,643
Growth	1.1%	-42.6%	35.1%	-30.9%	22.3%

The international financial services sector recorded increased activity in the review period with 103 new registrations, bringing the total to 1,264.

Even with news of the continued good performance of the economy in January to June this year, Prime Minister, Dr. Kenny D. Anthony was not entirely satisfied.

“The most worrying concern is unemployment”, Dr. Anthony said, adding however, that he believed “there is good evidence of a steady decline in the unemployment rate”.

Citing several projects, which will go a long way towards reducing the unemployment rate further, Dr. Anthony included the 55 tertiary roads being rehabilitated

the French, which will employ several persons; and Coconut Bay Hotel, which will generate 300 – 310 jobs.

The Prime Minister said further, that there was buoyancy in the construction sector, citing the expansion of Coco Creole in Rodney Bay; the completion of Plantation Beach Resort Hotel later this year, with some 250 persons to be employed; Sandals Beaches in Gros Islet; and Praslin Bay Hotel.

Dr. Anthony also pointed out that the CITEL agreement should be signed within the next tqo weeks, bringing more jobs to the island and assist in reducing the unemployment rate.



Victor Philip La Corbiniere
Saint Lucia has a new Attorney General and Minister of Justice. He is Senator Victor Philip La Corbinière, the former Legal Counsel of the OECS Secretariat. Senator La Corbinière replaces Senator Petrus Compton, who is now the new Minister of External Affairs, International Trade and Civil Aviation.
“These changes,” Prime Minister Anthony explained, “became necessary after

New Attorney General appointed

former Senator Julian Hunte resigned from the Senate. The resignation of Mr Hunte effectively triggered a vacancy in the ministerial position which he formerly held. Mr La Corbinière has also replaced Mr Hunte in the Senate.”

Mr Hunte has been re-appointed to head Saint Lucia’s Embassy to the United Nations in New York. He resumes the post of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative of Saint Lucia to the United Nations. In a statement today, Ambassador Hunte explained that,

“Prior to the 2001 General Elections, the Prime Minister and I reached an understanding that my ministerial term of office would be of limited duration. Thereafter, I would resume the post of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Saint Lucia to the United Nations. The decision to again entrust the

Mission to me was to allow me to continue the critical work I had begun to raise the profile and influence of Saint Lucia at the United Nations, and which helped lay the groundwork for the successful election of our country to the Presidency of the Fifty-eighth Session of the United Nations General Assembly.”

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Anthony has welcomed Senator La Corbinière to the Cabinet of Ministers. According to the Prime Minister, “Senator La Corbinière brings a special blend of experience and skills to the Cabinet. He has been a practitioner of several years standing before proceeding to the OECS where he is credited with the establishment of a fully fledged Legal Unit. He has been at the centre of efforts to reform the legal and judicial system of the sub-region and has played a leading role in the reform of our inherited regime of Family Law.”

Senator Victor La Corbinière is the son of the late Dr Karl George Donald La Corbinière, former Minister of Trade and Industry in Saint Lucia in the late 1950s and former Deputy Prime Minister of the West Indies Federation and Mrs Camilla La Corbinière. Mr La Corbinière taught at St Mary’s College before pursuing studies at the University of the West Indies (Cave Hill Campus). He is a graduate of that University, holding a Bachelor of Arts Degree with Honours (BA Hons) and a Bachelor of Laws Degree with Honours (LLB Hons). In 1986 he graduated from the Sir Hugh Wooding Law School and in the same year was called to the bar in Saint Lucia. In 1989 he attended the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, the University of London, where he completed a high level Government Legal Advisor’s Course.

The appointments take effect from tomorrow, Tuesday, October 26th, 2004.

Julian Hunte says “Thank You”

Former Minister of External Affairs, International Trade and Civil Aviation, Ambassador Julian R Hunte, has thanked the Prime Minister for the confidence placed in him and the privilege of serving in his Cabinet. Following his resignation from the Senate, Mr Hunte was re-appointed to the post of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Saint Lucia to the United Nations, with effect from Tuesday, October 26th, 2004.

In a statement issued today, Mr Hunte stated that he was “honoured when, following the General Election in 2001, the Prime Minister invited me to serve again in his Cabinet as Minister of External Affairs, International Trade and Civil Aviation. The Prime Minister considered that with my many years of experience in public life, and particularly in front-line politics, I could make

a useful contribution to the formulation of the policies and programmes that would guide his Government over the five-year term. I very much appreciate the confidence he placed in me in that regard.

“Prior to the 2001 General Election, the Prime Minister and I reached an understanding that my Ministerial term of office would be of limited duration. Thereafter, I would resume the post of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Saint Lucia to the United Nations. The decision to again entrust the Mission to me was to allow me to continue the critical work I had begun to raise the profile and influence of Saint Lucia at the United Nations, and which helped lay the groundwork for the successful election of our country to the Presidency of the Fifty-eighth Session of the United Nations General Assembly.”

According to Ambassador Hunte, “It would not have been opportune to change



Julian R. Hunte - Former Minister of External Affairs, retains post of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Saint Lucia to the United Nations

my standing during the time I was sitting as President of the Fifty-eighth Session of the United Nations General Assembly.”

Speaking on behalf of himself and his family, Ambassador Hunte “sincerely thanked” the Prime Minister “for the



Petrus Compton - Former Attorney General, now new Minister of External Affairs, International Trade and Civil Aviation

privilege of serving in his Cabinet”. He added, “I have endeavoured to render the best service during this period, and to make my necessary contribution to the Government of our country and to the economic and social development of the people of Saint Lucia.”

Jany Williams dies in car accident

As St. Lucia's cultural, arts and entertainment community continues to mourn the loss of Jany Williams, 2004 Calypso Queen.

The Folk Research Centre (FRC) has expressed condolence to the family of the 26- year-old former school teacher. Jany Williams was down to perform at the FRC's Creole Tea Party on Sunday, October 24th, the very day that she was involved in a fatal car accident on the West Coast Road.

Officer in Charge of the FRC, John Robert Lee said that the young calypsonian and youth activist had left a legacy

of positive memories for all who knew her: "Jany Williams was a very wonderful young person, bright, vibrant, energetic really everybody has been saying it from yesterday, very constructive, building, bringing people together and her loss is being felt now. But for those of us who believe that God takes care of all things, we hope that all is well with her soul at this time."

Meanwhile Mr. Lee recommended that priority be given to installing road barriers at certain key points around the island, which are known for their dangerous drops: "Canaries is notori-



ous, we need road barriers, not only for St. Lucians, but all the visitors we want to attract. It's only God's mercies that more people don't go over those cliffs. If you go around Castries, you drive down the Morne, if you just make a quick sharp turn of your wheel, you could be over the edge."

Jany was Rare, Exceptional and Extraordinary - PM

Prim Minister Dr Kenny D. Anthony has paid tribute to the late St. Lucia Calypso Monarch Jany Williams, who died on Sunday, October 24, in a car accident in Anse La Verde, Canaries.

In his weekly radio address Conversation WithThe Nation this morning, the Prime Minister said the late Calypso Queen was "a rare and extraordinary young person" who had "a complete vision for her country and the Caribbean."

Dr Anthony said that just as he was about to record this week's Conversation, he received a telephone call informing him that Jany Williams had died.

The Prime Minister said he was "shocked!"

He said: "Jany was young, beautiful, creative and energetic. She was so exceptional. She was a gem! Truly, she was a rare and extraordinary young person."

Prime Minister Anthony continued, paying tribute to her resilience: "Never



have I met a young person with such a complete vision for her country and her beloved Caribbean. What a wonderful human being!"

The Prime Minister said he, like the rest of the nation, will mourn her loss.

He said: "I share the grief of her parents, family, friends and fans. I too,

will miss her!"

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister has also expressed the collective condolences of the Cabinet of Ministers on Jany's untimely death.

The Cabinet of Ministers met this morning and paid tribute to the late Calypso Monarch, who was just about to embark on a major local calypso show to raise funds for Grenada.

The show had the support of the Government of St. Lucia and the personal endorsement of the Prime Minister, who appeared with Jany and her songwriter Kurt Allen at a press conference announcing the proposed concert.

Janni was the main local spokesperson for the band Caribbean Vizion, which comprises members from various Caribbean territories. Five other members of the band were in the vehicle with Jany when the accident occurred.

The late local calypso monarch was also about to embark on a national tour of schools when the fatal accident took place

YAP workshops on furniture manufacturing coming

On the heels of the launch of the Youth Apprenticeship Programme (YAP), by Prime Minister,

Dr. Kenny D. Anthony, the Ministry of Commerce, Investment and Consumer Affairs, with assistance from

the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), will team with the National Skills Development Centre (NSDC), under YAP, to conduct two one (1) week workshops on basic aspects of furniture manufacturing from November 15-19, 2004 and repeated from November 22-26, 2004.

The Ministry of Commerce is utilizing the YAP in an attempt to address the increased need for trained persons

in the area of furniture manufacturing. To this end, the workshops will seek to enlighten prospective apprentices on furniture manufacturing, which will be followed by attachments to various furniture manufacturing firms to prepare apprentices for possible employment.

All interested persons are asked to contact the Ministry of Commerce at 468-4213/ 4238. Deadline for applications is Monday, November 1, 2004.

St. Lucia assists OECS countries with implementation of Trade Marks legislation

The Government of St. Lucia has once again responded to calls for assistance from other OECS Member States in the area of implementation of the provision of Intellectual Property Legislation.

In this regard, Mrs. Kimberly Cenac-Phulgence, Registrar, Registry of Companies and Intellectual Property, Attorney General's Chambers has recently conducted training and outreach activi-

ties in St. Vincent and the Grenadines on behalf of the Commerce and Intellectual Property Office. This is part of a new approach by the region to seek assistance from within rather than always relying on overseas organizations for assistance.

The five-day training programme was designed to build administrative capacity and enhance the competency of local trademark agents in the un-

derstanding and implementation of the new Trade Marks Act, which entered in force in 2003.

More specifically, participants received training in the use of the Nice and Vienna classification systems, substantive examination of trademark applications and implementation of suitable working procedures.

Mrs. Cenac-Phulgence has participated in many trademarks training

seminars and has worked in the area of trademarks from 1997. She has also conducted training at the request of the Government of St. Vincent in the area of copyright.

participants received training in the use of the Nice and Vienna classification systems, substantive examination of trademark applications and implementation of suitable working procedures

Poverty, Unemployment

PM in conversation



Prime Minister Dr. Kenny D. Anthony

Hello again Saint Lucia, last Tuesday evening, the Youth Apprenticeship Programme (YAP) was finally launched. It is the latest in a series of programmes established by this Government since 1997, all aimed at providing skills, opportunities and employment, particularly for young people. Some 500 young people will enjoy work experiences for a period of six months at a salary of eight hundred dollars per month. Next year, a thousand young persons will enjoy a similar experience.

YAP is a venture that will be undertaken jointly by the Public and Private sectors. I have spoken about the YAP several times before. Today, however, I want to use it as a launching pad to discuss three other issues that most people normally connect to our young people. I speak of poverty, unemployment and crime.

Misleading generalizations

As you know, of late there have been reports of the successes of the police in thwarting at least two armed robberies, one in the North and the other in the South. In the ensuing debate about crime, some have suggested -- with quite an air of certainty -- that unemployment causes crime. They claim, rather simplistically, that the higher the unemployment rate, the higher the crime rate.

If this is true, then the crime rate in Trinidad & Tobago should be the lowest in the Commonwealth Caribbean, since that country has the lowest unemployment rate. Yet, that is not so. Why? Take another example. The economy of the United Kingdom is one of the better performing economies in Europe at this time. Yet, drug trafficking and drug consumption are rising at alarming rates. Why?

Now, let's be real. Do not try to tell me there are exceptions to every rule or trend. What these examples tell us is

that we have to be more sophisticated in our analysis of the causes of crime. We are cheating our society by offering simple-minded explanations to issues that are complex.

Lest we forget...

Those who say crime is the result of unemployment would like you to believe that it is because of joblessness that people turn to crime. They would also have you believe that only unemployed young people engage in criminal activities. But those who are familiar with our history know that is far from the truth. We have previously been through periods of very serious unemployment in this country when benefits were limited and survival was a major struggle. Yet, during those periods the crime rate remained fairly constant. But today some would like you to believe that unemployment has reached unprecedented levels and as a result, crime has gone through the roof.

I am certain that many of you can recall those days -- in the late 80s and early 90s -- when the then Prime Minister often wondered aloud, in addresses to the nation, what had become of St. Lucia and why people no longer felt free to walk the streets safely. In those days, the Prime Minister suggested publicly that there was an alliance between top police officers and the criminals and drug lords. Drugs disappeared from Police Stations and Customs warehouses and turned up on the streets. The drug gangs fought open wars on the streets, shooting at each other in public and in broad daylight. Those old enough to remember cannot forget the days of frequent incidents of gunplay in Castries at "High Noon".

Do you remember Police Superintendent Etienne Alphonse, who was shot in cold blood by a person or persons still unknown? We must not forget the purported instances of crime carried out by persons wearing police or

military uniforms. Need I remind you of that time when it was alleged that certain Prison officials accepted "gifts" such as beds and refrigerators from jailed drug barons, in exchange for allowing them the freedom to run their businesses from inside the jail? Do you remember how often drug barons who ought to be in prison were allowed to visit their homes and spend time with their wives and girlfriends in exchange for compensation?

All that was supposed to be happen-

ing in "better economic times." Jobs were supposed to have been available, yet still criminal activities persisted. Back then, unemployment was no more responsible for crime than it is today. And it is certain that if Saint Lucia records a 100% employment rate, criminal activities would still persist.

Ready-made excuses

Of course, no reasonable person would totally deny that providing job opportunities for the unemployed reduces the chances of them engaging in criminal activities. But to say that unemployed persons have no choice but to turn to a life of crime is absurd. It is equally absurd to say that people commit crime because they are poor. Some of the poorest persons I know are among the most decent law abiding citizens in St. Lucia. They resent criminal activities and have never found themselves on the wrong side of the law.

Making these generalizations can be misleading and often do not paint the whole picture. They certainly provide ready-made excuses for those who choose to live a life of crime. When we offer excuses for criminals or their criminal activities, we not only legitimize their actions but we also offer comfort, provide safe havens and harbour the perpetrators of those illegal acts.

Stop making excuses for criminals

We must stop making excuses to justify the behaviour of criminals. We must abhor criminality whenever and wherever it occurs. We must not only speak out when our sons are killed,



Jany crowned at her First Communion

ymment and Crime! n with the Nation

when our daughters are raped or only when our property is violated. Crime is unacceptable, whether it is committed by the employed or by the unemployed.

Most Saint Lucians are familiar with the Creole saying 'si pa ni soutiwez, pa ni voleur' (meaning, "if there's no encouragement, there won't be theft").

Motivated by greed, not always by need...

The truth is, a large percentage of the crimes that occur in Saint Lucia are motivated by greed. Hence, the reason why it is critical that we make a clear distinction between crime borne out of genuine need and crime borne out of greed.

A matter of choice...

Like everything in life, crime is a matter of choice. Those who choose to live a life of crime do so by choice; and that choice is exercised by people of all descriptions, of all classes and strata in our society.

Poor people steal and so do rich people; workers steal and so do unscrupulous managers; bank clerks commit fraud and so do certified accountants; gunmen shoot people, but they are hired by others in the society to do so; ordinary men commit rape and incest -- and so do businessmen and others of means and position. In other words, crime is neither about poverty, nor about whether one has a job or not.

The increasing reports of white-collar crimes prove that point beyond the shadow of any doubt. The perpetrators



Jany crowned at her first Calypso Competition

of these crimes are not unemployed, they are not poor, they are not economically deprived nor do they lack genuine opportunities. In fact, not only are they well paid, but they are also well-placed within the corporate society. And although they have access to resources and opportunities, they still choose to engage in crime.

So, why is it that in the attempt to inextricably link crime to unemployment, some of us conveniently forget

these facts? Is it because we feel detached from the incidents of white-collar crime? Or, is it that we do not view these as criminal acts because of who may be involved?

Not all unemployeds choose crime

The vast majority of the unemployed among us do not choose to commit criminal offences. But the criminals in our midst must accept personal responsibility for their decisions. Many of those who choose to engage in crime do not want to take up employment, even when it is available. Many of the unemployed, encouraged by others within the society, consider the employment opportunities that become available to be insufficient to meet their needs to earn fast money as easily and quickly as possible.

Life in the fast lane...

How many times have we seen unemployed persons begging for a dollar, yet, when offered an opportunity to work for the money they beg for, they flatly refuse or reject the offer? How many times have we encountered individuals within our community who openly boast that they can make more money "cooling it and trading on the block", rather than being employed in a regular job?

Poor work ethics continue to be a major problem in our country. Those who want to amass great material wealth want to do so immediately, but with minimal effort; those whose flimsy work ethics cannot support their consumption patterns want everything now -- not tomorrow or the day after, but right now.

We live in a society in which obtaining a proper education is being seen by some as too long a process. This is the philosophy: Why get an education when you cannot get a job? Others ask why they should spend all those years

in school, when they can instead drop-out, engage in the drug trade and obtain wealth far beyond what they would normally acquire from a regular job? Properly analyzed, this is a non-argument because jobs come and go, economies change, opportunities rise and fall. Why condemn your life, forever?

Many become fooled by what is referred to in today's pop culture as the "bling-bling." Consequently, many no longer find virtue in Sir Arthur Lewis' famous statement that "the cure for poverty is not money but education."

Work pays; crime doesn't!

Unfortunately, some criminals think that crime pays -- until they are caught, or until they are made to pay the price, whether behind bars, or with their life.

It is the personal responsibility of the offenders to make the choice. Those who choose crime must always be reminded that crime simply does not pay; and that ill-gotten gains don't last. Someday, sometime, somewhere, the law will catch up with them.

A sad note!

As has happened on some other occasions, I end on a sad note. Just as I was about to record this Conversation, I received a telephone call that Janni Williams, our Calypso Monarch, died in a fatal accident. All kinds of thoughts raced through my mind. Janni was young, beautiful, creative and energetic. She was so exceptional. She was a gem! Truly, she was a rare and extraordinary young person. Never had I met a young person with such a complete vision for her country and her beloved Caribbean. What a wonderful human being! I will mourn her loss. I share the grief of her parents, family, friends and fans. I too, will miss her!

Until next week, despite Janni's loss, be of good cheer. And God Bless!



Address by Hon. Velon John, Minister of Labour Relations, Public Service and Co-operative on Credit Union Day October 21, 2004



Hon. Velon John

To all members of the St. Lucia Co-operative fraternity and more specifically, Credit Union members:

It affords me a great pleasure to address you on this auspicious occasion as we celebrate Credit Union Day. This pleasure is augmented by the fact that besides being the Minister responsible for Cooperative, I am also a member of a Credit Union.

And so today provides me with the opportunity to share with you my reflections on a sector that continues to make invaluable contributions to the socio-economic development of our people.

The theme chosen for this occasion is Credit Union – Dream – Belong – Achieve. Thus Credit Union must manifest its realism in the philosophy principles and practice of co-operatives as was envisioned in its conceptional days of its genesis.

We must maintain its dreams because the co-operative concept was born out of a vision of hope for the working class. They belong to it and it belongs and is controlled by its members. And through its democratic and administrative processes it endeavours to achieve a quality of life that impacts positively on the poor, the marginalised and the working class.

What needs to be realized is that Credit Unions represent a more user friendly sector of the financial landscape: for it provides not only access to favourable credit facilities, but also allows for direct participation by members through democratic means in the conduct of its business.

The Credit Union and by extension co-operatives generally constitute the bedrock financial institution of the ordinary people in St. Lucia and throughout the Caribbean. Its ubiquitousness translates its activities into a movement that has been enshrined in legislative enactments in the region.

At this time it is imperative that Credit Unions in particular must keep its mandate in promoting itself as a financial institution readily accessible to all segments of the society through its self-help ethos. It needs to enhance its functional integrity by mobilizing popular savings, and penetrating the widest cross-section of the society in providing financial and other services to the poor, to rural communities and to the working class.

Further it must continue to build an entrepreneurial culture by cultivating self-reliance among its members, and increasing domestic income, foreign exchange earning and employment, through higher levels of production and productivity.

In St. Lucia the Credit Union sector is alive and well with total assets over \$190 million, savings over \$135 millions and a membership base of over 43,000. The five leading Credit Union Societies in St. Lucia are (i) The St. Lucia Civil Service Co-operative Credit Union with total assets of approximately \$82 million. (ii) the Laborie Co-operative Credit Union with total assets of approximately \$21 million, (iii) the St. Lucia Teachers Co-operative Credit Union with total assets of approximately \$17 million, (iv) the Royal St. Lucia Police Co-operative Credit union with total assets of approximately \$17 million and lastly the Choiseul Co-operative Credit Union with total assets of approximately \$15 million.

The sustained growth in the operation of Credit Unions in St. Lucia can be attributed to the growing awareness of the public of the intrinsic value and benefits of the co-op membership in our growing economy. Credit Unions continue to dominate the co-op sector both in total assets and membership.

Further it is to be noted that the existence of these financial co-operatives in the various communities has greatly enabled the creation of financial and social capital. And this has ultimately facilitated improvements in the overall standard of living of the lower and middle-income groups particularly in the rural area.

This indigenous institution with its indigenous management, due diligence and oversight has been a grand success. It has kept faith with its membership and has extolled the virtues of self-help, mutual self-reliance and thrift. It has been the engine of growth in many communities and has justified its indigenous genesis by sublimating its processes of administration and management to a level that has engaged the interest and concerns of regional and international financial agencies and powers.

In very recent times the Board of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank endorsed the establishment of an integrated regulating framework for financial institutions in the ECCB member countries. Credit Unions fall within the financial sector.

The question that comes to the fore in light of this development is this: Is the Integrated Regulatory Framework an opportunity or threat to Credit Unions?

Concerning the latter: The further question that arises is how did all of this come about?

The concept of an Integrated Regulatory Framework refers to the consolidation under one agency (or a few closely linked agencies) of the various authorities for regulating and supervision facets of the financial services sector, viewed as a whole. Indeed, the member governments of the OECS are being strongly influenced to reorganize the fragmented state of their current oversight arrangements into a single national agency within their Ministries of Finance. This new entity would become the regulatory authority for deposit-taking institutions, insurance companies, trust companies, cambios or exchange houses, finance companies and credit unions.

Several major currents in the international and regional theatres of negotiation, are directly impacting on this development; some of them are: The pressures by WTO, FTAA, GATS towards liberalization of trade in services sector in developing countries, the assessments and ratings applied by the IMF on financial jurisdictions, anxious to improve their access to lower cost debt facilities from the World Bank, IDB etc., the recommendations issued by the OECD and the UN-FATF in respect of anti-money laundering controls, legislation and regulations.

The Board of Directors of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) in March 2002, endorsed the establishment of an integrated regulatory framework for financial institutions in the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) member countries. In addition, the monetary council at its 45th meeting, agreed to recommend to members that the integrated regulatory framework be given the highest priority. In this regard, a feasibility study on an integrated financial supervisory unit for Saint Lucia was undertaken by Dr Bernard La Corbinere, in November and December, 2002. This study was commissioned by the Caribbean Regional Technical Assistance Centre (CARTAC) the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) and the government of Saint Lucia through the Ministry of Finance, International Financial Services and Economic Affairs.

Due to the sensitive nature of this undertaking and the need for firm guidance and control from its inception, the Ministry proposed a phased approach for the establishment of the Single Regulatory Unit (SRU). In the interim, the Unit would be established within the Ministry of Finance for a period not exceeding five (5) years. During this time, all the necessary procedures and processes will be established for a smooth transfer to a statutory body. Based on these specifications, it is estimated that the Single Regulatory Unit (SRU) should be formalized as a unit of the Ministry of Finance by April 2005.

On the 10th May 2004 the following conclusion emanated from Cabinet: and it reads "Cabinet reviewed the Feasibility Study on the establishment of the Single Regulatory Unit (SRU) and agreed that the Unit will be established within the Ministry of Finance, Economic Affairs and International Financial Services. Cabinet rejected the recommendation that this Unit evolves into a Statutory Body.

Cabinet also agreed in principle to the organizational structure, but did not agree to the establishment of an Advisory Committee.

Cabinet further agreed that the nomenclature of Supervisor General be replaced by Director of Financial Supervision, to request a study of the proposed organizational structure to determine, the cost of the proposed structure,

“We must maintain its dreams because the co-operative concept was born out of a vision of hope for the working class”

The main aim of the study was to determine or not, whether the establishment of an integrated unit for supervising the financial sector is feasible in Saint Lucia. The consultancy was sponsored by CARTAC.

The study concluded that establishment of an integrated unit was feasible for Saint Lucia. Options of the unit was presented either as a unit within the ministry of Finance or a statutory body. Its focus would be the supervision/regulation of the financial sector in Saint Lucia.

At its 50th meeting of the Monetary Council endorsed an Integrated Regulatory Framework. The meeting recommended:

The early implementation of the integrated Regulatory Framework to provide for the establishment of a Single Regulatory Unit (SRU) with adequate legal authority funding and resources.

The Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) to provide assistance in establishing the framework.

the number of new positions that will be actually created and the cost of these new positions and the exact number of existing staff that will be absorbed into the new entity.”(unquote)

And so the former question arises will the Single Regulatory Unit be an opportunity for Credit Unions or a threat. Only time will tell.

One immediate and practical result will be the Department of Co-operatives will be reduced to non-financial cooperatives.

Today we are not here to recognise a loss but to celebrate Credit Union Day. And in this regard we would like to congratulate the St. Lucia Co-operative League for the role it has played in assisting the movement over the past year. It hosted the 2nd OECS Credit Union Summit and the first ever Caribbean Credit Union Youth Conference and now hosts the Credit Union Summit.

Continued on page 7

Credit Union Day October 21, 2004 - *continued from page 6*

We also would like to congratulate all those in the various Credit Union throughout the Island who by their sacrifice, commitment and hard work have made Credit Unionism a singular success here in St.Lucia. Also at this time we would like to salute some vanguards or stalwarts who have made invaluable contributions to the sector. They are Haden Williams of Denne-

ry, Marcelina Hubson of the La Resource Credit Union. Mr Tomothey Regis of the Dennery Credit Union, Mr Francis Nelson of the Police Credit Union, Mr Watson Louis of the Laborie Credit Union and Mr Cyril Matthews of the Civil Service Credit Union.

Let me at this time thank the leadership of this sector for the positive and collaborative relationship established

between itself and the Department of Co-operatives. I am delighted to be associated with this Sector and in this regard give the assurance that this Ministry stands ready to support the movement in maintaining the vision encapsuled in the philosophy and Principle of Co-operatives.

So let us all enjoy a fruitful Credit Union Day as we transform Dream to

Vision: Vision to a sense of Belonging and Belonging to a state of social-economic empowerment.

Credit Unions – Dream, Belong, Achieve.

Long live the Co-operative Sector in all of its aspects and metamorphoses.

Thank You.

Ministry of Education moves from ‘command driven’ to ‘service driven’

The Caribbean Centre for Development Administration (CARICAD) is playing a key supporting role as St Lucia’s Ministry of Education, Human Resource Development, Youth and Sports attempts a transition from a ‘command-driven’ to a ‘service-driven’ arm of government.

On August 1 this year, CARICAD began implementing a change management project under which Miss Cindy Emmanuel, a St Lucian with an extensive background in education, will be stationed inside the ministry for one year to guide and oversee the reform process. The former secondary school principal was hired by CARICAD as a consultant specifically for this project.

“By the end of the year, we are hoping to achieve five objectives,” says Miss Emmanuel. “They all support one overall goal which is to ensure that the Ministry delivers better service to both its internal and external customers.”

Objectives include setting performance targets for each department, unit and employee that reflect a new customer orientation; defining the roles and responsibilities of each department, unit and employee; conducting a training needs analysis with special emphasis on skills and competencies; and providing training in and promoting strategies for a customer service orientation.

CARICAD’s intervention is at the specific request of Ministry and was made possible through a three-year CARICAD institutional strengthening project, being funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) of the United Kingdom. The Education Ministry’s project fits into a wider change process which the Office of Public Sector Reform (OPSR) is implementing for the entire St Lucian public service and which has the same goal of improving customer service.

Since assuming duties three months ago, Miss. Emmanuel has pursued a hectic schedule. She has been busy conducting market research, meeting stakeholders of the ministry, selling the project to staff, encouraging their full participation in the process, and offering reassurances where anxieties exist. She has also been engaged in the development of a separate knowledge management initiative intended to complement the change management project.

Organizational change has been on the Education Ministry’s agenda for several years now. Through diagnostic studies, the changes necessary for transforming the Ministry into a service centre were identified. However, until CARICAD provided the services of Miss Emmanuel, resource constraints made it challenging for someone to be assigned full time to manage the transition.

At a workshop on Monday, October 18, the process made a major step forward. Staff of various departments and units brainstormed on their roles in effecting organizational change as they discussed the development of customer service manifestos (CSMs) for each department and unit. A CSM is essentially an agreement telling customers what they can expect in terms of service. It specifies avenues for redress in cases where service falls below the agreed level.

Feedback was overwhelmingly positive. “I think it will make a big difference for the ministry as a whole,” remarked one participant. “I think it will make the ministry a place where people will definitely want to go.”

“If (the process) is implemented as discussed, I think there will be a very big impact on the positive side,” says Richard Madavo, CARICAD’s Senior Adviser on Public Sector Reform. He participated in the workshop and was bowled over by the enthusiasm of par-



Consultant Cindy Emmanuel and Senior Advisor Richard Madavo discuss project details

ticipants. Additional workshops are planned.

“... I hope as a result of the sessions that people will have a heightened awareness of what contribution they can make as an individual towards achieving the entire goals of the ministry,” says Miss Emmanuel. “The workshops are aimed directly at saying if each of us can make a little contribu-

tion, then in the end the overall effect will be to what we really want to happen.”

Headquartered in Barbados, CARICAD is a regional inter-governmental institution with a mandate to help member countries improve efficiency through public sector reform initiatives.

Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court ships supplies to Grenada



Chief Justice the Hon. Andrian Saunders

Acting Chief Justice the Honourable Adrian Saunders, Court of Appeal Judges and staff of the in St. Lucia have sent a shipment of supplies to their colleagues in hurricane-stricken Grenada.

Some EC\$7,000 worth of foodstuffs, toiletries and hardware was shipped to Grenada, on board a motor vessel captained by Mr Francis Compton. The items were purchased from donations made by Court of Appeal judges of the Court and Court Staff.

The Right Honourable Chief Justice Sir Dermis Byron, who is currently serving with the International Tribunal for Rwanda, also contributed to the effort.

The supplies will go towards helping Court and Registry staff in Grenada, and their families, who were affected by the destruction of Hurricane Ivan on 7th September, 2004.

Meanwhile, an account has been opened at the Bank of St. Lucia, and at sister National Banks in other Member States of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court, so that donations can continue to be made in aid of Grenada.

The Court has specifically been targeting members of the judiciary, magistracy and lawyers to assist the Grenada cause.

The Acting Chief Justice has expressed the Court’s heartfelt thanks to all those who contributed to the fund-raising effort.

The Government of Saint Lucia in association with The Open Group and DigiSolv, Inc presents

“OPEN FOR BUSINESS”

An Open Source Business Seminar

November 4th [9am - 4:30pm] & November 5th [9am - 1pm]

NIC Conference Center, Francis Compton Building,
5th Floor, Castries Waterfront, St. Lucia

OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE: THE ISSUES, OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES OF IT IMPLEMENTATION IN AN INCREASINGLY

Purpose

This seminar will provide a forum for discussion on sustainable models for IT development in the private and public sectors. The costs and benefits of implementation of Free and/or Open Source Software (F/OSS) as a foundation of such a framework will be evaluated.

Target group

Senior decision makers within the private and public sector who deal with IT matters and/or the cost of computer systems implementation within their organizations; IT

educators and professional trainers; IT practitioners (Technical officers and IT Managers); other interested professionals.

Objectives

To provide an awareness of the issues of software licensing; the availability of alternatives in F/OSS and the benefits of F/OSS adoption.

Implementing an OSS strategy: the issues, risks, benefits; where F/OSS is a natural fit within the organization; which type of organization can most benefit from F/OSS and when F/OSS is NOT the answer.

Assessing the real costs of IT: Total Costs of Ownership - hardware, software, operational and maintenance costs; the upgrade cycle; hidden costs of IT adoption

Topics:

- An IT Model of Sustainable Development: Opportunities & Benefits of F/OSS.
- Patents, Copyrights and Trademarks - your rights, responsibilities, obligations and risks for software licensing.
- Introduction & Over view of F/OSS and the OSS Movement.



**Dr. Cletus Bertin, Deputy Director
Public Sector Reform with
special responsibility for Electronic
Government; Co-ordinator -
Information Technology and Electronic
Government**

- The OSS Alternative - “Ready for Business”.
- Implementing an OSS strategy- The Stages of OSS Adoption.
- Hands-On Demonstrations: Enterprise-ready, Business-class OSS platforms & Applications.

Contact: ICT and E-Government Project (758) 468-5133 / (758) 468-2122 (fax); email: oss-seminar@oeecs.net DigiSolv, Inc (758) 450-3444 / 450-3109 (fax); www.digisolv.com/OSS; www.opengroup.lc

UNIVESAL HEALTH CARE COMING

Health Care Consultants from Canada
discuss St. Lucia’s up-coming UHC
system with NIC’s Emma Hippolyte
and Dr. Stephen King



THIS WEEK ON NTN

Sat. Oct. 31st – Fri. Nov. 5th, 2004

- Kweyol Cooking (As We Observe Jounen Kweyol Month) Sun. Oct. 24th, 8:30 p.m.
- The GIS discusses Food Preparation and Food safety with officials of the Bureau of Standards – Sat. Oct. 30th, 7:30 p.m.
- Special hour-long discussion on the role of Kweyol in the Education System – Sun. Oct. 31st – 7:30 p.m.
- The GIS speaks with Sergeant Gordon Leon as the Royal St. Lucia Police Band celebrates 57 years of existence Jounen Kweyol: – Monday Nov. 1st, 6:15 p.m.
- The Medical and Dental Association presents “Methods of Contraception” – Tues. Nov. 2nd, 9 p.m.
- St. Lucia School of Music Awards 2004 – Wed. Nov. 3rd. 9 p.m.
- Junior La Wen Kweyol 2004 – Thursday Nov. 4th, 8:30 p.m.
- The Evolution of Mankind – Friday Nov. 5th, 9 p.m.

Remember to tune in for:

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

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

www.stlucia.gov.lc

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