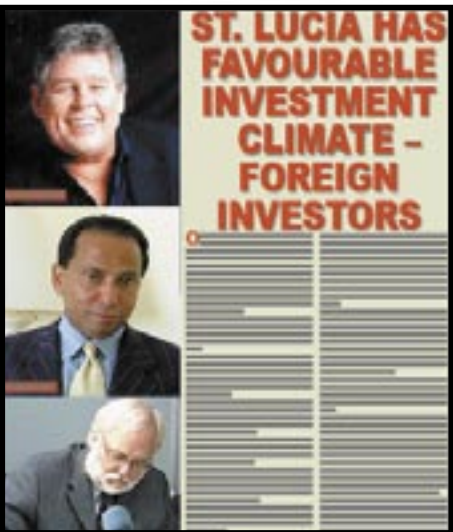


2004: A YEAR OF HONOURS, CONTINUED PROGRESS —YEAR IN REVIEW



2004: A Year of Honours



Introduction

In 2004, St. Lucia received several accolades. The island became the first in the Caribbean to receive the Five Star Diamond Award from the Academy of Hospitality Sciences. The Pitons became a World Heritage Site, St. Lucia won the Best Government Award, and was chosen as a major venue for Cricket World Cup 2007. In addition, news came that the economy had grown by 3.71% in 2003, and had maintained momentum in the first half of 2004. Also, International business mogules endorsed St. Lucia's favourable investment climate, Government established the base to realise 500 new jobs by March 2005, a massive road programme proceeded in high gear, and St. Lucian households expressed satisfaction with the basic human and social needs and requirements provided by the Government.

January

The year began on a sad note, as one of the Caribbean's legendary leaders passes away. Dominica's Prime Minister Pierre Charles died on January 6th of an apparent heart attack. His fellow colleague, Prime Minister Hon. Dr. Kenny Anthony, described the late Caribbean leader as legendary: "They will remember a representative, who never made promises he could not fulfil. Above all, they will remember him as a man whose commitment to service was legendary".

Prime Minister Honourable Dr. Kenny Anthony delivered his usual New Year's address in January. In his address, he announced four major areas which needed to be considered in the New Year – universal Health Care, unemployment insurance, the indirect tax system and the labour code.

The Prime Minister also announced several changes to his Cabinet with Parliamentary Representatives for Choiseul and Saltibus, Hon. Ferguson John for the first time, being assigned a portfolio.

The Basic Needs Trust Fund formally launched its fifth programme in January. The CDB/CIDA funded project would concentrate on increasing economic opportunities for the poor, and developing more community based infrastructure. The programme would also pay special attention to reducing vulnerability during natural disasters.

Later in the month, St. Lucia hosted the 38th meeting of the OECS Authority. The meeting, examined issues such as OECS citizenship, the OECS passport and measures to advance the move



towards an OECS Economic Union. Prime Minister, Honourable Doctor Kenny Anthony in his address, spoke of the need for the OECS grouping to re-examine itself to meet the challenges that lie ahead.

"The OECS countries under their current leadership must now assess the need for significant changes in the arrangements, building on the substantial platform that has been created by the original treaty arrangements", Dr. Anthony said.

Forty-seven recruits of the St. Lucia Fire Service graduated in January. Chief Fire Officer, Augustin Gaspard said the training was designed to equip the recruits to face the challenges of the future.

"Everyone will be looking forward



to see your performances, when confronted with the challenges of dealing with emergency situations, whether on the fire ground or at the scene of an accident, where the services of the ambulance may be required", Mr. Gaspard told the recruits.

St. Lucians celebrated Nobel Laureate week in honour of St. Lucian stalwarts Honourable Derek Walcott and Sir Arthur Lewis. The theme for that week was, "Culture and Economics-A Nation's Identity, A Nation's Future". The week began with an Opening Ceremony at the National Cultural Centre. This activity was followed by various lectures and presentations.

Nobel Laureate week came to a close with the M&C Fine Arts Awards. This event honoured those who had performed excellently, in the areas of the visual, performing and literary arts. Danielle Devaux was awarded for her excellence in the visual arts, whilst the performing Arts award went to the Ju-

bilee Trust Fund for the production of Sarafina. Stan Bishop and Renee Terry received awards for their excellence in the literary arts. As part of that major activity, the event was officially handed over to the Cultural Development Foundation.

The Government of St. Lucia ceased paying economic cost for persons studying law, as of September, 2004. That announcement was made by Cabinet Secretary, Dr. James Fletcher at press briefing.

January ended with a St. Lucian company, Accela Marketing emerging winner of the Caricom Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality Logo design competition. The company received a cheque of US\$1,000. Manager of Accela Marketing, Agnes Francis, said the regional acclaim was not only good for the company, but also for St. Lucia.

February

February started with the National Junior Pan championships. Five junior steel band sides participated in the competition. Emerald Steel came second, whilst Cable and Wireless Diamond Steel emerged the winner.

The Office of Private Sector Relations (OPSR) and the Chamber of Commerce signed a Memorandum of Understanding, paving the way for the second phase of the private sector development programme. This phase, according to Economic Policy Advisor, Adrian Augier, "seeks to build upon the successes of the first phase".

The expected outcome of the project,



which will be financed with OPSR support include institutional strengthening, establishment within the chamber, of an employment centre, job placement and hiring services to the local business community.

In the early part of the month, the National Economic Council (NEC) presented its 1st report to Prime Minister, Hon. Dr. Kenny Anthony. Chairman of the NEC, Richard Peterkin, summarised the process leading to the

development of the project into three main objectives: "Those are employment maximization, poverty reduction and crime abatement, and we are certainly pleased to see some of the recent changes that we hope will deal with the last of those three".

St. Lucia hosted a 2-day Commonwealth Regional Workshop on E-Government and Sectoral Development. At that workshop, Minister for Communications and Works, Hon. Felix Finisterre said that the Caribbean was well poised to reap the benefits of E-Government readiness: "The development of St. Lucia as a service-based or information and knowledge-based economy therefore, aims at exploiting digital technologies to stimulate the achievement of the country's development objectives.

This workshop came on the heels of the nomination of the Caribbean to second place as it relates to e-readiness. This is a concept aimed at encouraging governments to use less ink and paper and more electronic information technology.

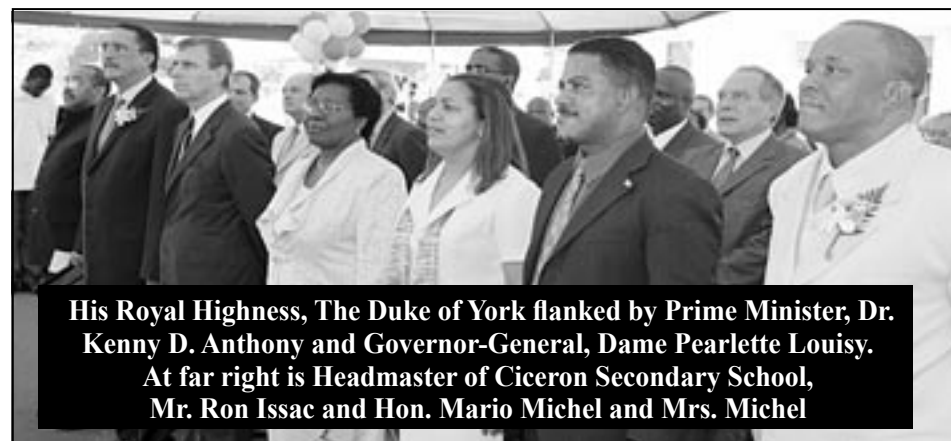
The Queen Mary 11 arrived on the shores of St. Lucia on the 6th of February. The US\$800 million vessel has a passenger capacity of 2,800. It is the largest ship that has ever been built.

The Ministry of Health signed an agreement with the United Nations Population Fund for the development of an HIV/AIDS prevention programme. This programme forms part of a project on HIV/AIDS prevention for Central America and the Caribbean. Later on that day, the Ministry of Health received several computers from the People's Republic of China.

The Trade and Services exhibition, which was held in Vieux-Fort, opened on Wednesday, February 11th at the Vieux Fort Free Zone. Fifty seven exhibitors showcased a range of goods and services aimed at expanding the export potential of locally produced goods.

St. Lucia celebrated its 25th anniversary in the month of February. A major part of that celebration was the visit of His Royal Highness, The Duke of York. Several activities were organised to celebrate this milestone. One of them was the National Sports Awards Ceremony of which Emma Gene Evans and Darren Sammy won Sports woman and Sports Man of the year respectively. Other activities included a youth rally, an Independence Parade, an Independence Eve gala, an Investiture ceremony and an Independence reception. Also, His Royal Highness officially opened the Ciceron Secondary School.

Finally in February, the National Community Foundation conducted a major telethon at the Pigeon Island Side Lawn. The event, which was marked by several musical presentations, amassed over EC\$80,000 from pledges.



His Royal Highness, The Duke of York flanked by Prime Minister, Dr. Kenny D. Anthony and Governor-General, Dame Pearlette Louisy. At far right is Headmaster of Ciceron Secondary School, Mr. Ron Issac and Hon. Mario Michel and Mrs. Michel

St. Lucia won bid to host CWC 2007

March

March opened with the convening of the National Environmental Development Forum. This 21/2-day workshop formed part of efforts by government to develop an integrated approach to environmental sustainability. This forum brought together people from various sectors to contribute to the development of a National Environment Policy. Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Planning, Martin Satney, said there had been very little action regarding environmental management.

Moving from policy to action, the St. Lucia Chamber of Commerce held an official closing ceremony in March for the National Trade and Services Exhibition in Vieux-Fort. The Chamber of Commerce presented awards to various persons who played a significant role in the exhibition. The chamber also took the opportunity to make public, the findings of a survey on the views of people, regarding the exhibition. The exhibition was held from the 11th to the 15th of February.

St. Lucia celebrated International Women's Day. The event was held under the theme, "Healthy Women, healthy families, a healthy Nation." As part of activities to celebrate International Women's Day, there was a Health Fair at the Castries City Hall. Minister for Health, Hon. Damien Greaves, expressed his ministry's commitment to the development of women.

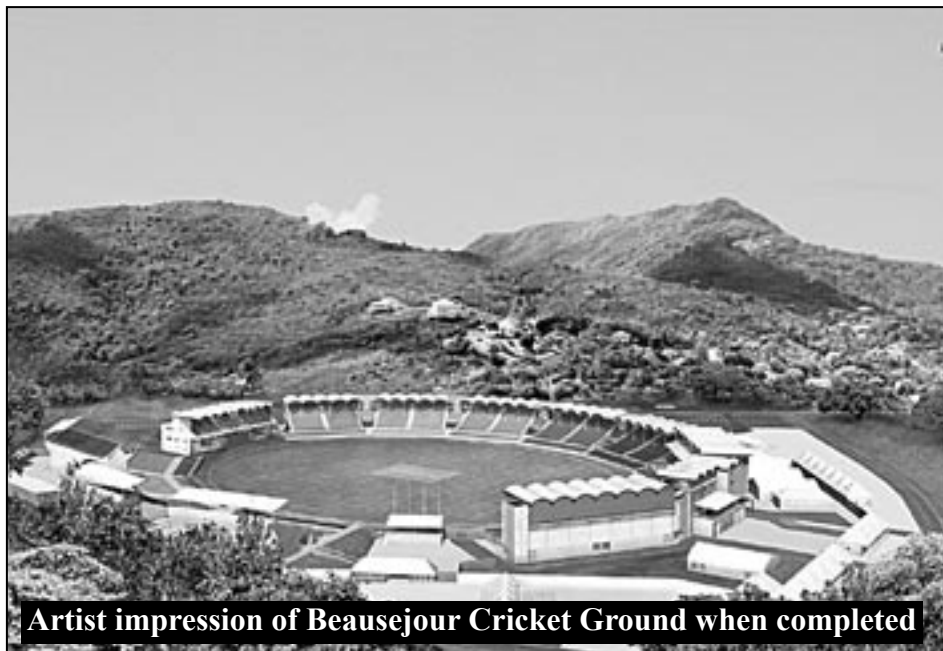
The St. Lucia OECS Education Development Project received a loan of US\$6 million from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. The project includes the construction of new secondary schools, expansion, upgrades and the rehabilitation of existing educational facilities.

Prime Minister Hon. Dr. Kenny D. Anthony launched a book of selected speeches at his official residence. The book is entitled, "At the Rainbow's Edge. It is a compilation of some memorable speeches by Dr. Anthony since becoming Prime Minister of Saint Lucia. The speeches serve to provide an insight into Government's overall vision.

Programme for the Regularisation of Unplanned Development, PROUD, completed Phase 7 of the road works project in La-Ressource, Vieux-Fort. There was a ribbon cutting ceremony signalling the completion of the infrastructural works in the area. Prime Minister, Honourable Dr. Kenny Anthony, who attended the ceremony, gave the residents of La-Ressource some words of advice.

The Cabinet of Ministers accepted the report by the Universal Health Care (UHC) Task Force entitled, "Universal Health Care National Health Insurance." This was revealed by Cabinet Secretary, Dr. James Fletcher, during his monthly press briefing in March. Cabinet also agreed to commence public education on the proposal. Dr. Fletcher said the Universal Health Care system would allow for medical coverage of all St. Lucians.

St. Lucia celebrated World Water Day in the month of March. The sub-theme of World Water day was, "Be informed and be Prepared." In observance of this day, the Water Resources Unit held a mini-exhibition at the Castries Central Library. According to



Artist impression of Beausejour Cricket Ground when completed

Communications Officer of the Water Resources Institute, Jerry George, one of the key objectives of the mini-exhibition was public education.

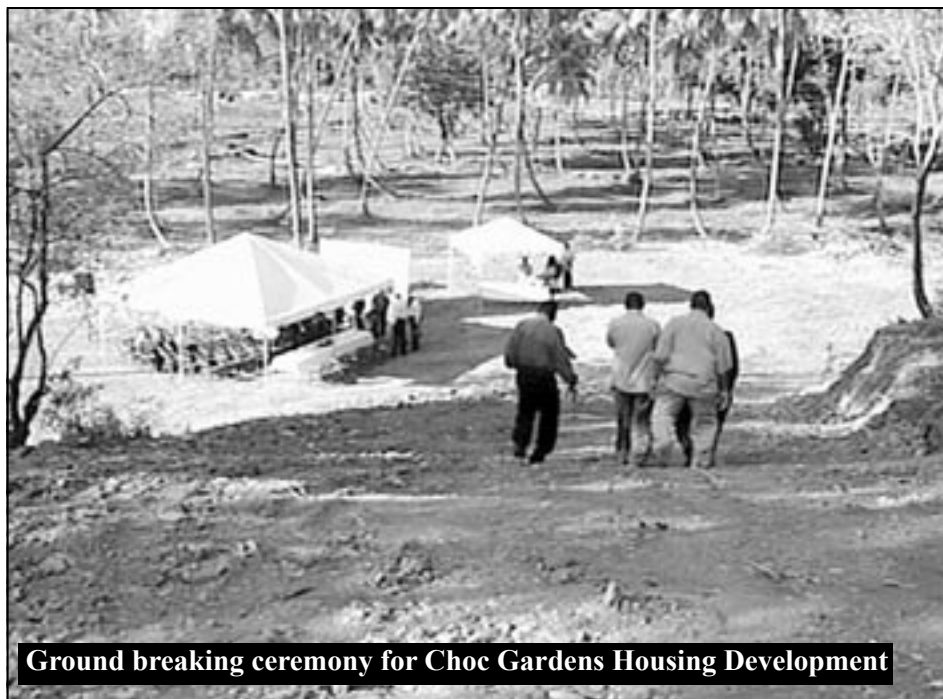
A multi-million dollar project got underway at Hewanorra Airport. The project entailed the construction of a perimeter roadway geared towards meeting the safety specifications set out by the International Civil Aviation Organisation. The project was financed by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development via a loan of US\$1.89 million.

The National Insurance Corporation partnered with 38 private sector busi-

nesses to launch the Gold Citizen's Programme. The programme consists of Gold Cards entitling senior citizens to special discounts from stores, pharmacies, supermarkets and others.

felt here at home, when rising world oil prices forced the Government to increase the price of fuel at the pumps. Also, Prime Minister, Honourable Dr. Kenny Anthony initiated a discourse with the nation in an effort to broaden the scope of discussions on issues of economic, political and social significance.

The month of April began with the launching of Youth month. Activities to mark youth month began with a National Ecumenical Service and a Parade of Uniformed Groups at the Cultural Centre. The theme for Youth Month 2004 was, "Youth Development, the



Ground breaking ceremony for Choc Gardens Housing Development

Governor General, Her Excellency Dame Pearlette Louisy, received the letters of Credence from Ambassador Designate of the Netherlands to Saint Lucia, His Excellency Maarten Van der Gaag in March. The Governor General expressed the need for greater collaboration between the two countries.

The month came to a close with the Folk Research Centre celebrating its 30th anniversary with the hosting of a 3-day studies conference. It was held under the theme, "Research: A Critical Path to Development." Governor General, Her Excellency Dame Pearlette Louisy, told her audience that St. Lucia had the capacity to create knowledge at home.

April

This year was one in which the economic impact of the war in Iraq was

key to our country's Development." There was also a Youth Entrepreneur's Forum targeting business persons.

High Commissioner designate of India to St. Lucia, His Excellency, Mr. Omprakash, presented his letters of credence to Governor General Her Excellency Dame Pearlette Louisy. The Governor General took the opportunity to express gratitude for the many training courses offered by the Government of India to St. Lucia. The High Commissioner also paid a courtesy call to Prime Minister, Hon. Dr. Kenny Anthony.

St. Joseph's Convent observed the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Clunney in St. Lucia. The event was marked by a church service at the cathedral and a parade through the streets of the city.

A ground breaking ceremony took place for Choc Gardens Housing Development this month. Prime Minister Hon Dr. Kenny Anthony, who attended the ceremony, urged young persons to invest in property. Choc Gardens is ex-

pected to yield some 250 service lots.

St. Lucia joined the rest of the world in observing World Health day. The theme of this day was, "Road Safety is no accident." This theme was developed in light of the increasing number of road fatalities and road traffic injuries in St. Lucia. Minister for Health, Hon. Damian Greaves addressed the nation to mark the event. The minister pointed out the negative impacts of the problem. The Minister for Communications and Works, Hon. Felix Finisterre also addressed the nation on the subject of vehicular accidents.

The National Insurance Corporation (NIC) celebrated its 25th anniversary in April with an awards ceremony. In an address, Prime Minister, Hon. Dr. Kenny Anthony saluted former Prime Minister, Sir John Compton for his vision of the NIC.

A Sports Meet for Older persons took place at the National Stadium in Vieux-Fort this month. The participants undertook activities, such as lime and spoon, the walking race and the dressing race, among others. Augustus Cadet, member of the organising committee said older persons needed to be given more regard in society. Senior performers came from Mon Repos, Laborie and Vieux-Fort.

The Royal St. Lucia Police Force was in the hills of Grace in Vieux-Fort, uprooting marijuana plants. This major activity formed part of a campaign against illegal drugs. The drug eradication exercise yielded a bounty for police, with over 2000 plants destroyed.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Hon. Dr. Kenny Anthony presented the estimates of revenue and expenditure in the month of April. The social services sector received the most attention, in particular, Health, Internal Security and Youth sectors.

The Government of St. Lucia approved its first comprehensive five year strategic HIV/AIDS response plan. Prime Minister Hon. Dr. Kenny Anthony said the \$20 million plan was aimed at igniting a truly multi-sectoral approach to combating the scourge of AIDS.

The Local Bidding Committee for World Cup Cricket 2007 held a press conference to update journalists and the public on the progress already made as it relates to choosing St. Lucia as a venue for the World Cup. According to Ernest Hilaire, who is assisting the committee, "despite the economic benefits that will accrue from World Cup Cricket, what will be most important is how the event will impact upon the country in general.

The Government of St. Lucia signed a Memorandum of Understanding with a Geothermal exploration company, United Network of the Eastern Caribbean (UNEC), to tap into the rich source of energy to be found in the Soufriere area. President and CEO of UNEC, Steven Baker, said the island was attractive for investment.

Finally in May, the Eastern Caribbean Financial Holding Company Limited officially opened its International Private Bank Subsidiary, Bank of Saint Lucia Limited. The services offered include deposit accounts, online banking and trading facilities, mutual funds and wealth management and investment services.

St. Lucia lost several icons

May

May began with a final farewell for a giant of the tourism industry, former Chairman of the St. Lucia Tourist Board, Desmond Skeete, who died suddenly. Mr. Skeete was at the time of his death presiding over the premiere St. Lucia Jazz Festival, and was also a leading member of the St. Lucia Bid Committee for Cricket World Cup 2007. He was 57 years old

For the first time in its 13-year history, the St. Lucia Jazz ended prematurely. The main stage show featuring Baby-face was rained out.

St. Lucia presented a joint bid with Barbados for the hosting of matches in World Cup Cricket 2007. At a joint press conference in Barbados, member of the Local Organizing Committee, Ernest Hiliare said it was an opportunity for the Caribbean to host the best event ever.

St. Lucia's two volume bid books were presented to the local press. Minister of Sports Honourable Mario Michel said St. Lucia's hosting of cricket's biggest event represented the aspirations all of the island's people.

The Beausejour Cricket Ground hosted two days of international cricket matches in May. Over 6,000 visitors entered St. Lucia, with over 3,000 coming into the island from the United Kingdom.

Still in May, St. Lucia was the first stop for the ICC World Cup 2007 Venue Assessment Team (VAT) on a verification tour of Caribbean countries. The VAT team was met by Prime Minister, Dr Kenny Anthony; Minister for Sports, Honourable Mario Michel, joint chairman of the St. Lucia World Cup Bid Committee; and Chairman of World Cup St. Lucia Incorporated, Dr James Fletcher.

Governor General Her Excellency Dame Pearlette Louisy welcomed the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco to St. Lucia, His Excellency Dr. Brahim Houssein Moussa, who presented his letters of Credence to Dame Pearlette. The Kingdom of Morocco established diplomatic relations with St. Lucia 16 years ago. Dr. Moussa is St. Lucia's first designated Ambassador.

Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony initiated a weekly radio address to the nation. "Conversations with the Nation" address issues of national interest.

The OECS Pharmaceutical Procurement Services (PPS) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with SEAM

Management Sciences for a software programme.

The programme, "Open Relationships for Integrative Organizations (ORION@SMH) is for pharmaceutical stock management. St. Lucia is the pilot country for the project.

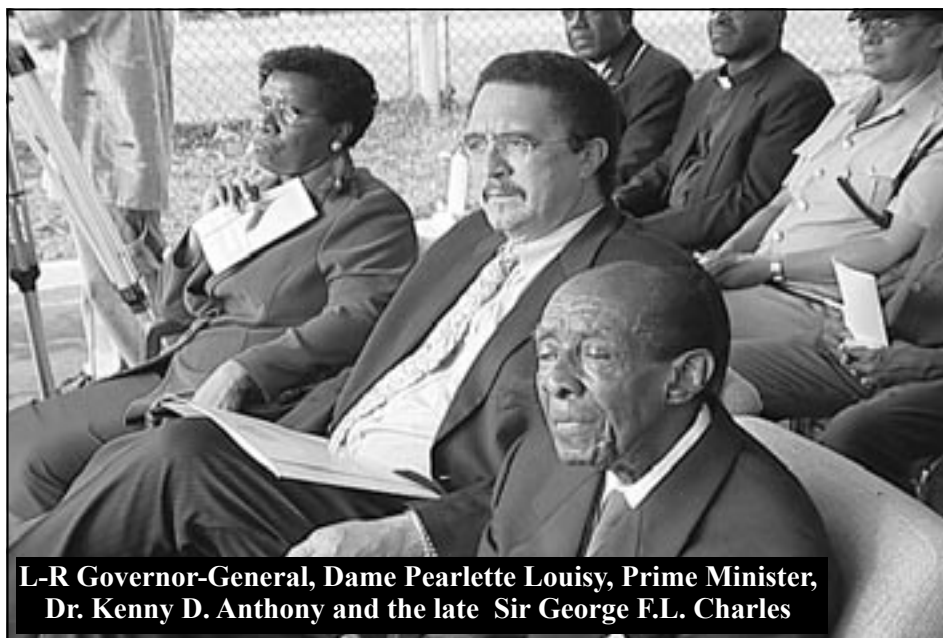
And finally in May, an event dubbed Internet Fiesta was staged here.

Internet Fiesta was aimed at heightening public awareness of the use of the internet as a productive tool for the economic and social development of emerging nations.

June

In June, St. Lucia hosted OECS Day activities. Prime Minister and Chairman of the OECS, Honourable Dr. Kenny Anthony gave the first indication of a likely increase in the cost of fuel at the pumps, when he addressed the activities of the 39th meeting of the Authority.

After months of cushioning the shocks of rising fuel prices on the world market, Dr. Anthony announced



L-R Governor-General, Dame Pearlette Louisy, Prime Minister, Dr. Kenny D. Anthony and the late Sir George F.L. Charles

all their possessions, when a fire raced through the community. The government responded immediately, with a commitment to assist the 25 persons made homeless as a result of the fire.

There were tidings of optimism as

In June, Tax Commissioners of the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU) conducted the final leg of consultations on reform of the ECCU tax system. The Tax Commissioners were given a mandate by the Heads of Gov-



The late Desmond Skeete

a 75 cents increase in the cost of gasoline and diesel at the pumps.

The country was plunged into mourning, when a father of the struggle for self-determination and nationhood died. St. Lucia's former Chief Minister, Sir George F. L. Charles, a stalwart of the trade union movement and a champion for the right to vote died at the age of 86 years.

Earlier in the month residents of Conway and Barnard hill were stripped of

St. Lucia's delegation at an International Banana Conference returned with news of international consensus, that the banana industry would remain a vital part of world trade, and of St. Lucia's economy.

The National Authorising Officer (NAO), Mr Wilfred Pierre said the world had come to the realisation that the banana industry was of importance to the economic, political and social wellbeing of producing countries.

The National Independence Anniversary Committee made a presentation of a plaque to Mr. Jeff 'Pelay' Elva for his authorship of the National pledge. While the St. Lucia Save the Children Fund (LUSAVE) was presented with a cheque to assist in the organisations operations.

St. Lucia celebrated one of its successful women in the Tourism Industry. Mrs. Berthia Parle was acknowledged by the Government for becoming the first female to be voted to the post of President of the Caribbean Hotel Association. A gala in her honour was attended by the Minister for Tourism, Honourable Phillip J. Pierre, to recognize not only her contribution, but the significance of the post to St. Lucia.

ernment of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), to develop a framework for tax reform in an effort to find new ways of energising the economies of the sub-region. The Commissioners were mandated to find ways to widen the tax bracket, reduce the number of taxes and present a regime, which was simple to collect and was not a burden on the taxpayer.

The visit of the tax commissioners in St. Lucia coincided with the appointment of a tax reform committee to review the recommendations of the ECCU team and report on it's relevance to St. Lucia. The committee comprised representative of the private and public sectors.

Prime Minister, Dr Kenny Anthony welcomed two special groups to his official residence in June. The students of the Dunnottar School visited with Dr Anthony.

And finally in June, students of the newest primary school, the Dame Pearlette Lousy Primary School had an opportunity to converse with the Prime Minister at his official residence in Vigie, Castries. The discussion was wide-ranging from the Prime Minister's own background as a former teacher to the operations of Government.



Prime Minister conversing with the nation

St. Lucia hosts high level visitors

July

In July, Saint Lucia's first chief minister was laid to rest. Sir George F. L. Charles was a father of the struggle for self-determination and nationhood. Sir George was a stalwart of the trade union movement and a champion for the right to vote. He died at the age of 86 years.

The red carpet was rolled out for the historic visit of Jamaican Prime Minister, P.J. Patterson to the island. A highlight of the visit was a presentation Prime Minister Patterson made to a joint session of the St. Lucia Parliament.

Law enforcement officials of the region descended on Saint Lucia for a Drug Commanders conference in July. The conference addressed the need for closer collaboration between regional agencies in the fight against crime. The conference was addressed by Minister for Internal Security, Honourable Calixte George.

Still in July, the island welcomed news that the Pitons had captured the imagination of the world and would be designated a World Heritage Site. This came after a period of intense preparation and lobbying by the Pitons Management Area located in Soufriere. The Pitons accession to the list came from UNESCO World Heritage Committee, which makes these accreditations. The piton is now recognized as a unique site with exquisite natural beauty.

Minister of Sports, Hon. Mario Michel and a cross section of St. Lucia's preparatory committee for the world cup was jubilant, following the announcement of Beausejour as a venue for the hosting of matches for Cricket World Cup 2007. Saint Lucia presented a joint bid with Barbados for world cup matches. St. Lucia was awarded the blue package which means that the island will be the host venue for the English Team.

The tourism ministry reminded persons with interest in the industry, of an incentive package in the 2004 budget for persons to invest in the expansion of rooms in anticipation of a boon for the tourism industry, during the period of the world cup.

St. Lucia's External Minister and President of the Fifty-eighth Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Honourable Julian R. Hunte was recognized by His Holiness the Pope, John Paul 2nd. Minister Hunte was elected to receive the Knight of the Grand Cross Pian Order for his stewardship at the United Nations.

St. Lucia's biggest cultural event, Carnival peaked in July. The Calypso finals saw newcomer Jany Williams of the Ambassadors Calypso Tent being crowned Calypso Monarch.

Candy Nicholas beat out five other contestants to win the Carnival Queen title. A new addition to the carnival celebration, the Calypso Queen competition was won by Lady Spice, while Saint Lucia outperformed other island in the OECS/Barbados Soca Monarch, with Manchus Cazabon winning the title and a slate of St. Lucian calypsonians in runner-up positions.

On the 19th and 20th of July, it was the pomp and pageantry of the parade of the bands. This year 10 bands tried to best each other for the Band of the Year title, which was captured by Mass Action,

while the Road March title went to Alpha of the Take Over Tent.

August

On August 1st, St. Lucia marked Emancipation Day. Residents of Laborie lead the way in celebrations to mark the event with a drumming festival under the theme "Celebrating all Freedoms." In an address to the nation, Minister of Social Transformation, Culture and Local Government Honourable Menissa Rambally called on Saint Lucians to guarantee the freedoms gained over 170 years ago, by returning to values grounded in integrity and respect for one another.

The Saint Lucia Tourist Board welcomed a new chairman, Mr. Costello Michel. Mr. Michel replaces the late Desmond Skeete, who died suddenly. The new chairman articulated his vision for the St. Lucia Tourist Board.

The Government of St. Lucia signed an agreement with the Commonwealth Secretariat to establish the Youth Enterprise Development Fund. In accepting the \$100,000 fund, Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony said the agency needed to invest in a larger plan, which would allow non-governmental agencies to get involved in youth development enterprises.

Minister of Communications, Works, Transport and Public Utilities Honourable Felix Fenisterre invited the public to review and comment on the Telecommunications (Retail Tariff) Regulations ahead of publication. Among the objectives of the regulations are: fostering the availability of a reliable, affordable and high quality telecommunications service throughout the country and safeguarding the interest of consumers, particularly low income consumers, as well as the interest of telecommunications providers.

The Government of St. Lucia is on its way to building a fully functional forensic department to strengthen policing. Courts St. Lucia Limited made a presentation of a large fridge to the Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security to equip a proposed forensic laboratory.

The Police and community continue their collaboration in an effort to combat crime.

A church service brought together



P.J. Patterson arrives in St. Lucia

the police and the community in a prayer crusade to stem a rising tide of lawlessness.

A police complaints commission (PCC) was established. The PPC would ensure that complaints by the public against the police are addressed

The site, ECNETNEWS.COM links newspapers of the sub-region into an on-line forum covering issues in the region. Prime Minister Dr Kenny Anthony welcomed the initiative noting that it would fill a void in information about smaller islands. A sponsor of the



Celebraion after St. Lucia was selected as a venue for CWC 2007

quickly in accordance with the Police Complaints Act passed in 2002.

The Government responded to calls to address a controversy over the Helenites Centre in New York. The issue arose over concerns about a transfer of title and facilitation of mortgage relating to the building. A Government inquiry into the matter was pending.

St. Lucia was the venue for the launching of a website for OECS-based newspapers.

website, Editor of the Grenadian Voice newspaper, Mr. Leslie Pierre said the website was another tool to further unify the islands.

And finally in August, Cuba's long relationship with St. Lucia was celebrated with the St. Lucia/Cuba exhibition, marking 15 years of diplomatic relations. The celebration called attention to Cuba's contribution to tertiary education, through the long standing scholarship programme.



Minister Rambally chats with master African drummer, Ndiaye

China takes St. Lucia seriously



Governor-General shakes hand with Vice President Zeng Qinghong

September

In September, Governor-General, Her Excellency Dame Pearlette Louisy led a delegation to the People's Republic of China. The trip was aimed at deepening relations with China.

The Governor-General discussed issues of education and culture. She also presented two agreements to the

packing winds of 150 miles per hour was forecast to hit the island on September 8th. Dr Anthony addressed the nation ahead of the impending strike.

Grenada suffered a direct hit from Hurricane Ivan. Prime Minister Dr Kenny Anthony and St. Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister Dr Ralph Gonsalves visited the island for a first hand look at the damage.



Grenada after Hurricane Ivan

Chinese for signature – mutual investment protection and an agreement for double taxation.

Prime Minister and Chairman of the National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO), held a pre-strike meeting to discuss the activation of emergency measures in preparation for Hurricane Ivan. The system, which was

In the aftermath of the Hurricane Ivan the government of St. Lucia pledged \$100,000 to assist in the recovery effort in Grenada. An appeal was launched for donations at various banks as well as foodstuffs, through the National Emergency Management Office and the Red Cross

Representatives of radio and televi-

sion stations met to discuss the draft Broadcast Bill.

The draft bill was aimed at modernising the legal arrangements for the operations of broadcast system in the Eastern Caribbean. The draft bill also made provision for the establishment of a Broadcasting Authority. Director of Information Services, Embert Charles chaired the consultation.

A seminar on climate and health was staged in St. Lucia. The seminar was aimed at health care personnel, to provide them with information about how climate conditions are influencing health. The seminar was a response to a survey conducted by the Caribbean Environmental Health Institute, which revealed that only 11 percent of a survey group of Caribbean medical personnel was aware of a link between climate factors and health.

The St. Lucia Fire Service celebrated 30 years of service to the island. The fire officers held a number of activities to commemorate the milestone, including a church service, community projects and a village and town outreach programme, where the police band played at various locations.

Still in September, the St. Lucia Air and Seaports Authority officially opened a \$1.1 million lounge at the Hewanorra International Airport. The Iyanola lounge caters to the needs of executives and persons travelling first class.

St Lucia signed an agreement with France to address a long standing problem of parking in the city centre. The joint venture, the Castries Urban Transportation Study was financed by the Agencise Francaise De-Development.

The AIDS Advisory Counsel held its first meeting under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony. Addressing the Counsel constituting a cross section of persons from the public and private sectors, Dr. Anthony said the agency had an urgent job to help shape a national policy and a response to the human tragedy, the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

The \$6 million Vieux-Fort Divisional Police Headquarters was officially handed over to lawmen in the South. Government officials said it represented efforts to reform the internal systems and infrastructure of the institutions responsible for administering justice and enforcing the law of the land.

St. Lucia's first representative on the West Indies Cricket Team Darren Sammy returned home to a heroes welcome, following a successful West Indies challenge for the ICC Cup in England. The 20-year old said he was grateful to all who contributed to his cricketing career.

And finally in September, St. Lucia bade farewell to former Prime Minister Winston Cenac Q.C. A prominent local attorney for several decades, Mr. Cenac served as Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs in the Labour Party administration following the 1979 General Elections. Mr. Cenac, who died at age 79, also served as Prime Minister in the same administration, following the resignation of then Prime Minister, Allan Louisy.

October

In October, Prime Minister Anthony expressed pleasure that Beaches, a new line of hotel resorts of the Sandals group would be introduced to the

island, ahead of the upcoming Cricket World Cup in 2007. This came as government had created a generous package of incentives under the SUNSET Bill for the creation of new rooms in the hotel industry.

Minister for Commerce, Tourism, Investment and Consumer Affairs, Honourable Phillip J. Pierre was elected First Vice President of the Caribbean Tourism Organisation (CTO). Mr. Pierre said his election would ensure that the organisation plays a critical role in the region's hosting of World Cup Cricket 2007.

The legal fraternity paid tribute to Her Ladyship Suzie d' Auvergne, who retired after 14 years of service as a High Court Judge of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court based in St. Lucia. Justice d' Auvergne began her legal career in 1975 and was the first woman to be called to serve as a High Court Judge in the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States OECS.

October saw changes to the constitution of the Cabinet of Ministers. This came with the resignation of Hon. Julian R Hunte as Minister for External Affairs. Mr Hunte came to the end of the Presidency of the Fifty-eighth Session of the United Nations General Assembly and was re-appointed to head St. Lucia's Embassy to the United Nations in New York. Senator Petrus Compton was appointed Minister for External Affairs, International Trade and Civil Aviation and Senator Victor Philip La Corbiniere was appointed Attorney General and Minister for Justice.

The European Union changed its system of quotas and duties and proposed a regime which, it was believed would help Caribbean banana producers. The EU proposal of US\$290 per ton was said to be still short of the figure, which would help African, Caribbean and Pacific producers. Caribbean industry officials said duty of US\$349 to US\$381 would have better served the struggling sector.

A volunteer initiative in Vieux-Fort, lead to a ground breaking ceremony for a new maternity wing for the St. Jude Hospital. Dr Larry Iverson, a volunteer at St. Jude used his overseas network of friends from various Rotary Clubs to raise money and counterpart funds in St. Lucia for the new hospital wing. Prime Minister and Parliamentary Representative for Vieux Fort South, Dr Kenny Anthony commended the effort.

In October, St. Lucia was informed that it could proceed with its venue planning and event overlay, for the hosting of matches for ICC Cricket World Cup 2007.

The St. Lucia Bureau of Standards officially opened its new headquarters at the Bisee Industrial Estate. Minister for Commerce, Tourism, Investment and Consumer Affairs, Honourable Phillip J Pierre spoke of the importance of a standards monitoring agency to the economic development of the country.

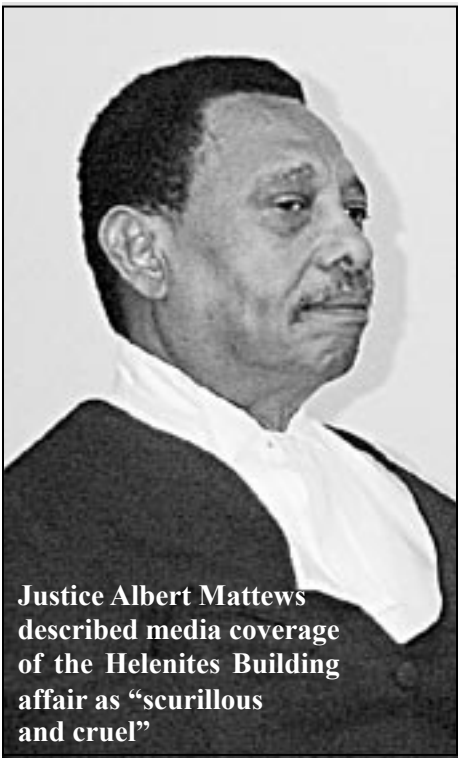
St. Lucia received assistance from the Canadian Council for Health Services Accreditation, as the island attempted to put a Universal Health Care programme in place. Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Stephen King said the UHC responded to public demands for a modern, adequately financed and quality health service for all St. Lucians.

The Government of St. Lucia entered into an agreement with the St. Lucia Blind Welfare Association to provide better eye-care services to the visually impaired.



Winston Cenac Q.C.

Helenites affair laid to rest



Justice Albert Matthews described media coverage of the Helenites Building affair as “scurillous and cruel”

November

St. Lucia bade farewell to two cultural icons – Calypso Monarch Jany Williams and cultural activists Florita Marquis. Jany Williams, a young integrationist used the arts to advocate for Caribbean Unity as well as raise awareness of a number of social ills plaguing young people. Jany died as a result of a road accident in the Canaries area.

The 26 year old was remembered as a tremendous personality, who endeared all to her.

Florita Marquis, Chantwelle and Mama La Rose, who embodied the richness of the flower festival was interred in her hometown of Canaries. She died at the age of 79 years.

St. Lucia’s Prime Minister, Hon. Dr Kenny Anthony and his colleague heads of Government came to an agreement in Trinidad and Tobago for

the implementation of the CARICOM Single Market (CSM) by December, 2005. Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica would be the first countries to be CSME compliant, while the rest of CARICOM, with the exception of Haiti would work towards a 2006 deadline.

American Airlines returned after a 5-year absence. The airlines would be flying to St. Lucia non-stop from it’s hub in Miami.

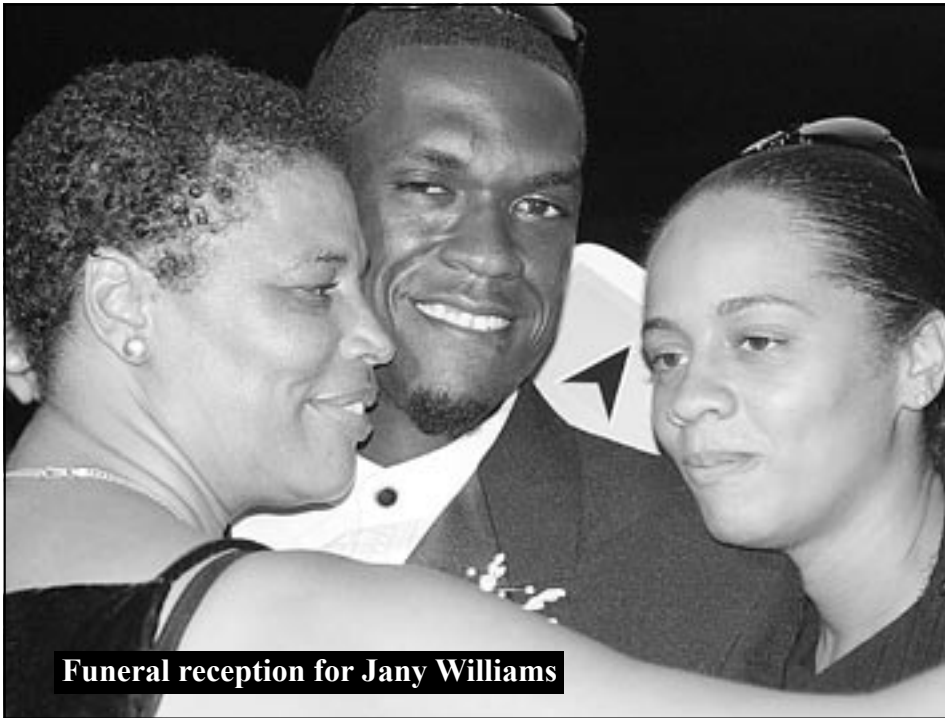
United States Journalist Jeremy Bits announced that St. Lucia had been awarded the Five Star Diamond Award from the American Academy of Hospitality Sciences. With this award, St. Lucia had been elevated to an elite grouping of the finest, tourism destinations in the world.

St. Lucia was the venue for a week-long meeting of the International Cricket Council ICC, the Global Cricket Cor-

poration GCC and ICC cricket World Cup West Indies 2007 Incorporated. St. Lucia was the first Caribbean island to host a meeting of the world body for international cricket, the ICC.

Finally in November, the investigation of the circumstances surrounding the change of ownership of state property and facilitation of a mortgage for that purpose was concluded. It found that the government knew nothing of the transactions.

Investigator, retired judge, Justice Albert Matthew wrote “ top officers of the administration who wield tremendous power and influence must realise that they are agents of the government and must in all matters of policy and substance follow the instructions of their principal.” He also described media coverage of the Helenites Building affair as “scurillous and cruel”.



Funeral reception for Jany Williams



Funeral reception for Florita Marquis

St. Lucia’s tourism gets new lift: American Airlines is back



Economy maintains growth path

December

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.

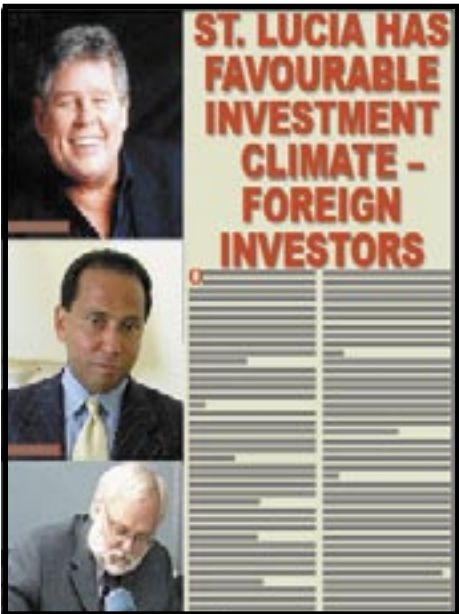
Leading the pack was the improvement in the performance of the tourism sector, which was supported by the growth in the banana industry, construction and manufacturing sectors.

A survey designed to help monitor the welfare and social trends for St. Lucia's urban and rural poor has found that while some feel their economic situation has worsened in the past year, an overwhelming majority are satisfied with the basic human and social needs and requirements provided by the Government.

The Core Welfare Indicators Questionnaire (CWIQ) Survey was conducted here by the Government's Statistics Department between October and December of this year. It covered a national sample survey of 1,306 households across the country, over a seven-week period.

The CWIQ survey compared findings today with what existed in 2001, when the last National Census was carried out by the Statistics Department.

World AIDS Day was observed in December. It brought concerns of a continuing increase in HIV/AIDS infection cases. This year's observance was held under the theme "Women, Girls, HIV and AIDS". At the heart of the theme was a growing recognition of



a lack of control by girls and women in negotiating sex in their relationships.

The second phase of a disaster mitigation plan for St. Lucia was launched in December. The initiative was funded through loans from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Development Association. The project was being administered by the Ministry of Physical Development.

Also in December, the Ministry of Physical Development together with Climate Care Trust Limited of the United Kingdom initiated a project to conserve energy. The Efficient Lighting for St. Lucia Project was launched as part of activities to mark Energy Week.

The Programme for the Regularization of Unplanned Development (PROUD) conducted an audit of the



first phase of its work in December. One of the beneficiary communities, Piaye had over 76 residential lots surveyed. Some 849 feet of footpaths, 400 feet of new roads and 2000 feet of drains were being constructed under the supervision of (PROUD)

St. Lucia hosted the arrival of yet another Atlantic Rally for Cruisers (ARC) race. This year marked the 15th year since St. Lucia first hosted the end of the race.

The AIDS Action Foundation (AAF) received 100,000 capsules of vitamin supplement for persons suffering with HIV/AIDS. The donation was made by Destiny Health and Wellness of Canada. The donation was made to mark the launching of the company's operations here.


The community of Micoud played



host to this year's National Festival of Light Celebration. The festival was held under the theme "Illuminating the Achievements of our Nation."

Another airline was welcomed into St. Lucia. BMI International made its inaugural flight on December 13th from the United Kingdom.



**THIS WEEK ON NTN**

Sat. Jan 1st - Fri. Jan. 7th, 2005

Government's Year in Review 2004 Sat. Jan. 1st - 8:00 p.m.
· Festival of Light 2004 - Sat. Jan. 1st 9:00 p.m.
· Festival of Carols 2004 – Sun. Jan. 2nd, 2004 – 9:00 p.m.
· STORM WATCH – “Hurricane Preparedness for Hospitals – Mon. Jan. 3rd, 9:00 p.m.
· Fate of the Forest - Tues. Jan. 4th, 8:30 p.m.
· St. Lucia School of Ballet Awards Ceremony 2004 – Wed. Jan. 5th, 8:30 p.m.
· KiddiCrew.Com (New Edition) – Thurs. Jan. 6th, 8:00 p.m.
· Highlights of Soufriere Mental Health Community Project 2004 – Thurs. Jan. 6th, 9:00 p.m.
· Sports in Action with Hon. Mario Michel – Fri. Jan. 7th, 8:00 p.m.
· Youth Gospel Concert 2004 Part 2 Fri. Jan. 7th, 8: 30 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