



NATIONWIDE

A publication of the Department of Information Services



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GOVERNMENT WILL CONSIDER REQUEST FOR FARE HIKE

The government of Saint Lucia has agreed to consider a request for an increase in bus fares for the local minibus operators. As a result the operators decided against strike action which was scheduled for September 1st.

These are the two main elements of agreement coming out of Tuesday's meeting (August 30th) between the Government of Saint Lucia and the National Council on Public Transport (NCOPT).

The meeting, which was chaired by Acting Prime Minister Hon. Philip J. Pierre, took place at the Ministry of Communications, Works, Transport and Public Utilities and lasted for more than four hours.

In a frank but cordial atmosphere, the two sides discussed the request by the minibus operators for a fare hike, and the response of the Ministry with responsibility for Transport and the Road Transport Board. The participants also discussed elements of the request and the procedures involved in its consideration.

Both sides agreed that the threat of strike action would be withdrawn,

while the Government would respond to the request by Friday, September 23rd, 2005, based on the provisions of Sections 48 and 49 of the Motor Vehicle and Road Traffic Act.

Acting Prime Minister Pierre said following the meeting that the Transport Board has activated a special committee to consider the various elements of the request for the fare increase and it has been instructed to complete the process by the deadline date agreed.

Minister with responsibility for Transport Hon. Felix Finisterre, who also attended yesterday's meeting, said the talks clarified such matters as the legal and administrative procedure for application for a fare increase, and the course to be followed by the Transport Board in arriving at a response.

Mr Finisterre said the meeting also reaffirmed for all participants, where legal authority lies in consideration of requests for fare hikes.

President of the NCOPT, Mr Guy Joseph, thanked the Acting Prime Minister for his timely intervention in the dispute between the NCOPT and the Ministry of Transport.

The Acting Prime Minister, in turn, thanked the NCOPT delegation for



Hon. Philip J. Pierre Acting Prime Minister and Minister for Commerce, Tourism, Investment and Consumer Affairs

their understanding, expressing hope that cordial relations and cooperation will continue between the Government and the Minibus operators.

Mr Pierre and Mr Joseph jointly addressed the press following the meeting.



Temporary accomodation for minibuses on Hospital Road



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

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



Substance Abuse Advisory Council Secretariat To Highlight Health Risks of Second Hand Smoke

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) will provide funding for the next public awareness campaign on the agenda of the Substance Abuse Advisory Council Secretariat.

Officer in Charge of the Secretariat Ms. Elizabeth Wilson says soon the general public will learn more about the health risks of second hand or passive tobacco smoke. She says business houses will be sensitized to adopt or enforce smoke free policies in the workplace.

When the campaign gets underway, various strategies will be employed to convey the message that second hand cigarette smoke is a dangerous substance.

"The target group is everybody because we would like to raise awareness among the smokers that , second hand smoke still causes a lot of harm. Also we want to reach the people who don't smoke but have right

to a smoke free environment. We believe need to speak up for that right and they need to be aware of the dangers posed by the environmental tobacco smoke."

The St .Lucia Cancer Society and the Saint Lucia Bureau of Health Education, have already given their commitment to be critical partners in that effort. The Secretariat will depend on the print and electronic media to support the initiative.

"Part of the campaign it is getting information out there, getting leaflets, brochures, etc. So we've started compiling the information and getting quotations from different companies to try to get that printed. We'll try to do some TV appearances and radio interviews."

The programme will run over a period of 6 to 8 weeks. In St. Lucia public smoking is not permitted in government institutions, schools and health care based environments.



Smoking related diseases increase the cost of public health

GUARDING THE PUBLIC INTEREST STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS & WORKS ON THE REQUEST BY THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT FOR AN INCREASE IN BUS FARES

The Cabinet of Ministers, at its regular meeting of Monday, August 29, 2005, was updated on the latest situation regarding the application by the National Council on Public Transport (NCOPT) for a fare increase for minibuses.

The Ministers reiterated that the Government of St. Lucia remains sympathetic to the request for an increase in bus fares and agreed to continue its engagement with the NCOPT on the matter. They also agreed to meet with the representatives of the NCOPT, with a view to ensuring that the request for an increase in minibus fares is considered in a manner that would cause no injuries to the public interest.

As part of the continuing engagement with the NCOPT on the issue, the Cabinet of Ministers further mandated the Acting Prime Minister, the Hon. Philip J. Pierre, to lead a Government delegation which met with the leadership of the NCOPT on Tuesday, August 30, 2005.

The Government team would include the Minister with responsibility for Public Transport, Hon. Felix Finisterre, as well as the Chairman of the Road Transport Board, Mr Errol Charles.

The Cabinet of Ministers was informed that the Ministry of Communications, Works, Transport and Public Utilities has activated measures to establish and operationalize the requirements for consideration of the request for the increase.

To this end, the Road Transport Board, which is the body responsible for receiving and considering the request for the increase, had already began the process of operationalizing the sub-committee that will be responsible for consideration of the request.

The established procedures that have attended such requests in the past have always entailed a series of measures necessary for their proper consideration. These include, among other things, an Economic Impact Assessment (EIA) to be undertaken by the Ministry of Finance and a process of public consultation.

After careful and adequate consideration, the Road Transport Board shall



Minibus - Vital part of the transport system

make recommendations to the Minister of Communications, Works, Transport and Public Utilities for final approval.

Meanwhile, the Government reiterates that the request for a fare increase in the public transportation sector, as would be the case with water, electricity or telephone rates, is subject to no less attention than any other public utility or service. In all cases, an orderly approach, based on standard and normal procedures, is and has been the norm.

The Government considers advocating strike action by minibus drivers as being both premature and immature. It is an unhealthy and unnecessary course which, if undertaken, can result in harm to the public transportation and unfair punishment of commuters.

It is apposite to recall that the NCOPT had an agreement with the Government and People of St. Lucia, through the Office of the Prime Minister, signed by the President of the NCOPT in November of 1998, in which the NCOPT agreed not to increase fares for the next four and a half years. That agreement was in exchange for certain incentives and measures offered by government.

Among the incentives given to the NCOPT under that agreement were: 75-cents per-gallon rebate on gas purchased from the NCOPT's cooperative; a 10% rebate on parts purchased through the cooperative; and freedom

for minibus operators to sell Route Bands at any price they could negotiate with buyers, without government intervention. That agreement has now expired.

In consideration of the request for an increase in bus fares by the NCOPT, the Government remains committed to ensuring that the process is fair to all stakeholders – the minibus operators and the commuters included.

The Government also assures that an orderly approach will be undertaken



Hon. Felix Finisterre
Minister for Communications, Works,
Transport and Public Utilities

that will take all factors into consideration, within the context of the continuing need to upgrade and improve the public transportation system throughout St. Lucia.

The Government therefore appeals to the minibus owners and drivers not to engage in any premature actions such as increasing fares or engaging in withdrawal of their services to commuters.

The public is also asked to be patient and considerate in the circumstances.



Road improvements nearing completion

WHEN IS A SUBSIDY NOT A SUBSIDY?

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE, INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL SERVICES AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

The following statement is issued by the Ministry of Finance, International Financial Services and Economic Affairs in response to recent statements in the local press following the announcement of new adjustments to fuel prices:

The definition of the word “subsidy” came into question this week, after the President of the National Council on Public Transport (NCOPT), Mr. Guy Joseph, took to the media to respond to the Prime Minister’s August 22, 2005 address to the nation on adjustments in fuel prices.

The Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary of Current English defines a subsidy as: “Money granted especially by a government or society, to an industry or other cause needing help, or to an ally in war, or to keep prices at a desired level”.

Taking that definition to be correct, the Ministry of Finance, International Financial Services and Economic Affairs has found it necessary to respond to two main issues raised by an article printed in the August 24, 2005 edition of the Star, entitled: “Is the PM blowing smoke up our mufflers?” The article was written by Jason Sifflet and featured substantial quotes from the President of the NCOPT.

Price of Petroleum Imported from Trinidad

The first issue addresses the price paid for refined petroleum products imported from Trinidad and Tobago. It is important to note that the international oil prices quoted in the Prime Minister’s address on Monday August 22, 2005 of over US \$60 per barrel refer specifically to crude oil prices. Thus, it is only natural to conclude that, due to the cost of processing, refined petroleum products will cost more per unit. A comparison of international crude oil prices and the actual price of refined petroleum imported into St. Lucia in 2005, should assist in clarifying the issue of oil prices.

In January 2005, the actual price of unleaded gasoline imported into St. Lucia stood at approximately US \$52.40 per barrel, which was 24.4% higher than the international crude oil price of US \$42.12 per barrel. By the end of June 2005, unleaded gasoline imported from Trinidad stood at US \$71.19 per

barrel, which was 17.6% higher than the international crude oil price of US \$60.54 per barrel.

On August 24, 2005, the effective date for the last retail price change, the price of unleaded gasoline imported from Trinidad stood at US \$83.06 per barrel, compared to approximately US \$65.00 per barrel for international crude oil. The price for imported petroleum on August 24, 2005 was therefore more than double the price of US \$40.00 per barrel quoted for imported fuel in the aforementioned article.

The prices all products imported into St. Lucia are influenced by factors such as freight charges, import duties and the cost price of the product in question. Consequently, one of the main factors that have influenced St. Lucia and other Caribbean countries to purchase refined petroleum from Trinidad is the freight charges.

Due to the proximity of St. Lucia to Trinidad and Tobago, freight charges associated with petroleum imports are



Vehicular traffic in the city



Fuel prices have been increased

substantially lower than if those products were imported from other suppliers such as refineries in the United States.

Thus, it is the advantage of lower freight charges, rather than lower prices for petroleum products, which influ-

Table I: Retail Price and Consumption tax for Petroleum Products					
	Unleaded Gasoline	Diesel	Kerosene	LPG (More than 25 lbs)	LPG Up to 25lbs
Retail Price Per Gallon/LBS	\$9.50	\$8.75	\$5.20	\$1.50	\$1.41
Retail Margin	\$0.70	\$0.55	\$0.27	\$0.08	\$0.08
Consumption tax	\$0.94	\$0.83	(\$2.39)	(\$0.34)	(\$0.43)

ences the choice of supplier.

What is the Current Consumption Tax Rate on Petroleum Products?

For the benefit of the writer and the NCOPT President and the general public, Table I below indicates the current price of various petroleum products and the new consumption tax rates.

These rates indicate that the Government of St. Lucia receives approximately 9.8% of the sale of every gallon of unleaded gasoline in consumption taxes and 9.5% of the sale of every gallon of diesel.

Contrary to the misleading analyses and interpretations in the said article, the Government of St. Lucia subsidizes the sale of every gallon of kerosene at a rate of about 45.9%. Similarly, every pound of liquid petroleum gas (LPG) sold in cylinders greater than 25 lbs is subsidized at a rate of 22% per pound; and Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) sold in cylinders up to 25 lbs is subsidized at a rate of approximately 30.2% per pound.

It is important to note, too, that while the Government of St. Lucia does receive some amount of Consumption Tax from the sale of unleaded gasoline and diesel, that benefit is partially offset by the current subsidy on the sale of kerosene and Liquid Petroleum Gas.

From the information provided in this statement, it is quite clear that either the Mr. Sifflet or the NCOPT President, or both, either didn’t understand the relationship between the cost of crude oil on the world market and the price we pay for refined oil from Trinidad & Tobago, or did not wish to admit that there is a relationship.

They also appeared to have been unable or unwilling to understand what the rates of Consumption taxes are on the various petroleum products and how they are determined.

It is therefore hoped that the confusion in their minds would have been addressed by the contents of this statement, which is intended to clarify whatever misunderstandings led to their illogical and irrational conclusions.



Bulk fuel storage

THE SILLY SEASON IS HERE

Drama in the house

If one needed any reminder that we are entering the silly season, the sitting of the House of Assembly on Tuesday, August 6, 2005 certainly provided it. That sitting was not without its usual theatre and drama. The Speaker of the House, Honourable Baden Allain, announced that he and the Member of Parliament for Castries Central, Mrs. Sarah Flood-Beaubrun, had jointly reviewed the tapes of the 2005/2006 Budget Debate to ascertain whether I made certain statements alleged by Mrs. Flood Beaubrun during the closing session of the Budget Debate. He concluded that Mrs. Sarah Flood-Beaubrun had indeed misrepresented the statements which I had made. The Speaker invited the Castries Central MP to apologize and withdraw her statements. As expected, she refused. Predictably, she chose to leave the House only to later cry foul, and allege that a deliberate attempt had been made



Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony

to silence her from speaking against the amendments to the Election Act to introduce scrutineers to monitor the enumeration of voters.

Who is the conspiracy theorist?

How can Mrs. Flood-Beaubrun's decision to leave the House be interpreted as a deliberate attempt by the Government to silence the Castries Central MP as she now claims? The decision by the Castries Central MP to leave the House was not a consequence of whether or not she indeed misrepresented what I said during the Budget Debate. Rather, it was a direct consequence of Mrs. Flood-Beaubrun's refusal to abide by the Speaker's ruling. The only person responsible for silencing Mrs. Flood-Beaubrun, is Mrs. Flood-Beaubrun herself.

A free and fair election

The Government is aware that a clean voters' registration list is central to fair and democratic elections. The Government of the Saint Lucia Labour Party is also aware that before the next General Election is called, it is vitally important that all the necessary steps are taken to ensure that the election is free, fair and reflects the genuine wish-

es of the voters.

This Government treats the business of elections and the selection of a Government to run the affairs of this country as matters of grave importance. The right to vote came at a price. It was the Saint Lucia Labour Party and other patriots who fought for it. Many sacrificed their lives to ensure that the right to vote was a right to be enjoyed by all Saint Lucians irrespective of class, colour, race or creed. The Government of the Saint Lucia Labour Party is committed to upholding and preserving that fundamental democratic right and will do nothing to compromise that right. It is for that reason that Government introduced the Elections Amendment Act which was debated in Parliament during the August 6 sitting of the House of Assembly. The Government wanted an enumeration exercise that is fair and beyond reproach.

A vital piece of legislation

But there are other fundamental reasons why this enumeration exercise must be done and must be done now. Since 1979 no comprehensive review of the voters list has ever been done notwithstanding that on numerous occasions the Saint Lucia Labour Party, while in opposition, called for the list to be scrapped. In the past and especially during the periods leading up to a general election, the voters' registration list has been periodically updated.

The periodical updating of the voters' registration merely included the names of individuals who had attained the voting age of 18 years. This means that the voters' list which has been used for the past six general elections was the one compiled as far back as 1979. Surely, all will agree that such a state of affairs cannot be good for the promotion and development of our democracy.

For over twenty-six years we have been using a voters' registration list which was never sanitized. The Elections Act, although making provisions for persons, who have not been resident in Saint Lucia after a period of three years to be removed from the list, provided no means to achieve this. Likewise, no mechanism existed to cleanse the list of persons who had died, or as my dear friend, Velon John, would say,

have unfortunately met their terrestrial demise.

That being the case then it must be obvious to all and sundry that the voters' list is inflated and does not truly reflect the number of persons eligible to vote in Saint Lucia. As I pointed out in Parliament during the debate, if that is the case, then it is impossible to accurately measure voter turnout.

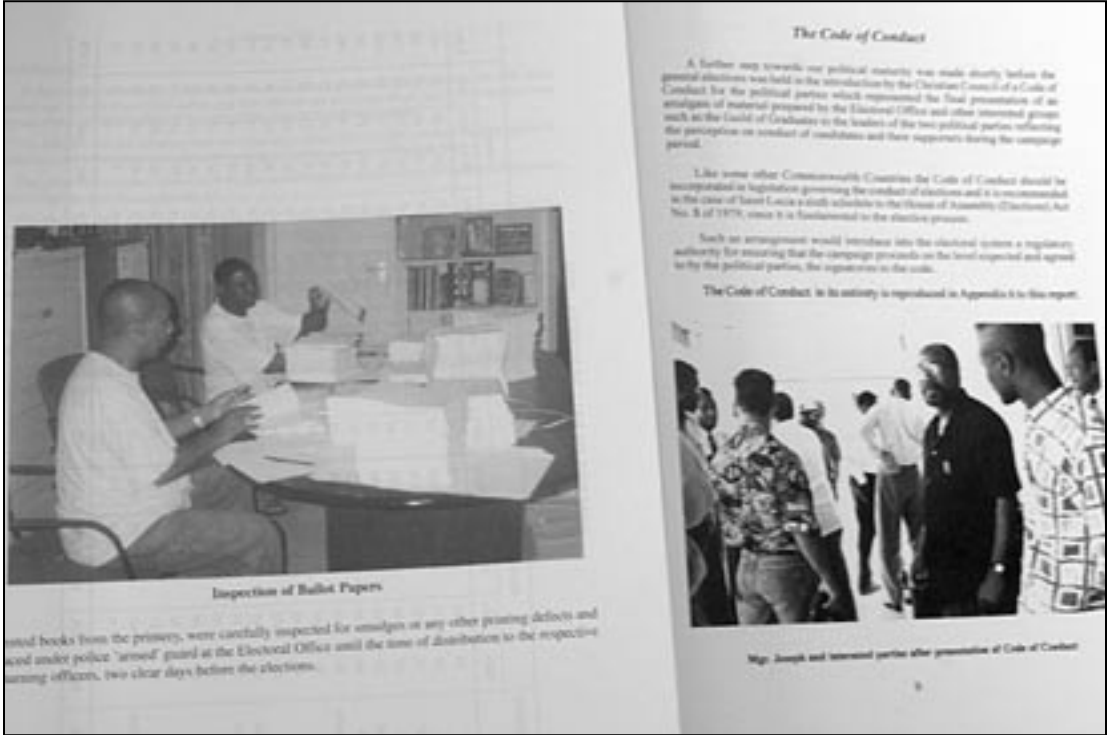
According to official data from the Electoral Department, the total number of registered voters in the 2001 General Elections stood at 119,844 out of a population of just over one 150,000 persons. Out of the 119,844 persons registered to vote, 62,655 actually voted. In 1997, according to the Electoral Department 111,330 persons were registered to vote out of a population approximately 145,000. Out of that figure 73,535 persons actually voted. However, a close examination of these figures would indicate that the ratio of registered voters to the population for both of these election periods are unusually high. It also stands to reason that if the ratio of registered voters to the population is so high then the voters' registration list is inaccurate and is not reflective of the actual number of registered voters.

Amazingly, after more than thirty-years in office, Sir John Compton wrote to CARICOM after the 2001 General Election complaining about inaccuracies in the voters list. He never saw it fit to undertake a comprehensive review of the electoral list before and after 1979 despite repeated calls by the Labour Party when it was in Opposition for him to do so. Apparently, some politicians only discover what is right when they are in opposition.

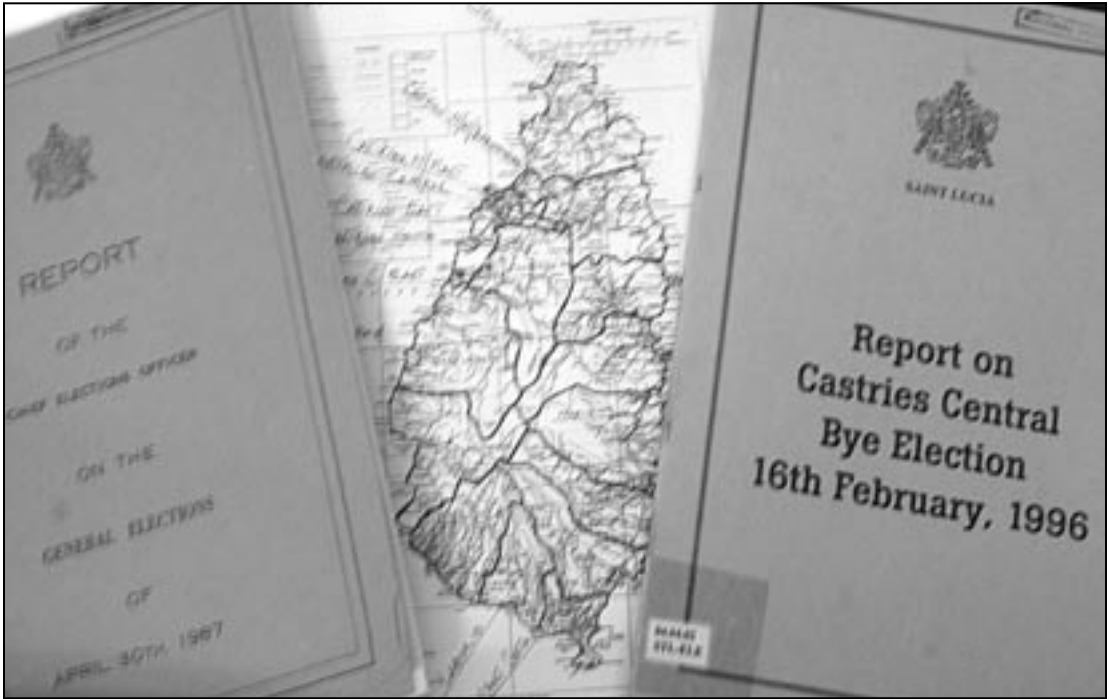
Scrutineers: a bone of contention

Why should scrutineers, a mechanism which is designed to safeguard the integrity of the enumeration process be elevated to a bone of contention? Well, it is alleged that the Government plans to rig the next general elections and the scrutineer system is the tool which will be employed to do so. Ask yourself this simple question: Would any Government, which intends to rig an election, invite individuals including Opposition representatives to observe a process by which it intends

PM Converses with the Nation



Media scrutiny on polling day



Election reports published consistently

to defraud the electorate of their democratic and constitutional right? How absurd we can we get!

Others claim that while the introduction of the scrutineer system is not bad in itself, it is the process by which the

lotted an equal number of scrutineers, which is 88. So it is not to say that the Opposition will be disadvantaged in any way because the Government side has been allocated a greater number of scrutineers. So, there is no disparity between the Government side and the Opposition as is being claimed. An issue only arose because ONE is of the view that it should be permitted scrutineers as well.

However, the Constitution speaks clearly and unambiguously on this subject. The Saint Lucian Constitution as has been explained time and time again, neither recognizes nor makes provision for political parties. As such, provision is made for the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Parliamentary Opposition, to undertake constitutional duties and functions. So it is therefore, left to the opposition parties to work with the Leader of the Opposition, Honourable Marcus Nicholas, to find a formula whereby their parties are involved in the process of selecting scrutineers.

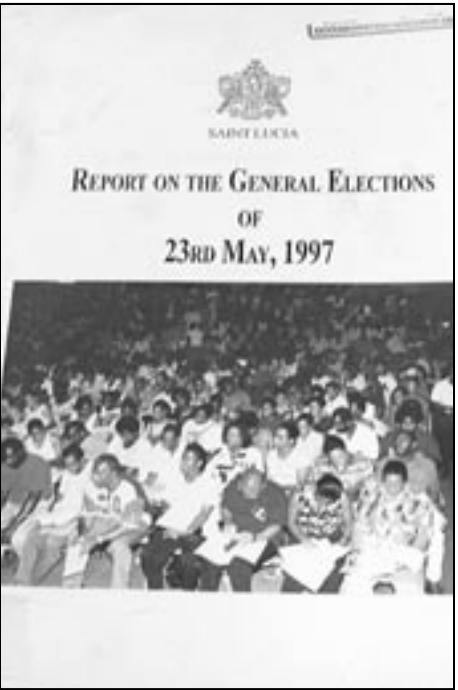
Role of scrutineers

Scrutineers will be appointed main-

because two of the polling stations are too large to have only one scrutineer. The main function of the scrutineers will be to accompany the enumerators to the polling divisions to which they have been assigned. They will also be expected to sign Certificates of Enumeration issued by enumerators during the house-to-house exercise. However, they are not to interfere in the process. Complaints and irregularities are to be recorded and reported to the Electoral Department.

Use of other models

Furthermore, it is not enough for the MP for Castries Central to make reference to the various systems which have been adopted and used in other parts of the region. The systems of scrutineers employed in these countries may have been informed by the peculiarities of those political systems. For example, in Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago race is a very important political consideration and would have influenced the manner in which scrutineers were appointed. Similarly, the nature of the political system would also be impor-



1997 report

Abuse of trust and loyalty

It would do Mrs. Flood-Beaubrun well to remember that she won the Castries Central seat on a Labour Party ticket. She did not win Castries Central on a ONE ticket. She did so using the resources and structure provided by the Saint Lucia Labour Party. In fact, the honourable thing for Mrs. Flood-Beaubrun to have done once she parted company with the Labour Party was to resign her seat in Parliament and put herself through a by-election. It is only then she would have known whether she had successfully transferred the Labour Party votes which she won in 2001 onto herself or ONE. But to do this without the consent of the voters of Castries Central was unfair and an abuse of their trust and loyalty. In any event this may well be "water under the bridge" since the issue will soon be settled.

Conclusion: protecting the democratic process

So, fellow Saint Lucians, the scrutineers are there only to uphold the integrity of the process. The process is not intended to create an unfair advantage for any political party; it is intended rather to uphold and protect the democratic process and your constitutional right to a free and fair election.

Think about it and support the enumeration exercise.

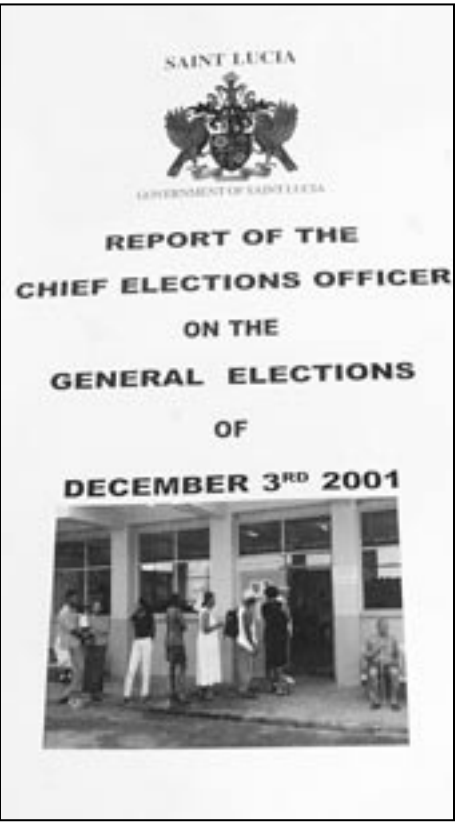
Until next week, be of good cheer and may God bless you.



Voters queue to cast their ballots



Security is important on polling day



2001 report

FLOOD MITIGATION WORKS - ANSE-LA-RAYE



Traffic diversion to accomodate construction



Major drainage works near the new police station



Workers on project site



The project will solve flooding which affects residents of Anse-La-Raye

Eye Health Disabilities Programme - More Support to the Visually Impaired

An Eye Health Disabilities programme is currently being fine-tuned for launch on the island. Ministry of Health officials say the initiative will be unveiled once a Cuban Eye Care programme, currently underway, is completed.

The Ministry of Health collaborated with a number of non-governmental organisations including the National Council of and for Persons with Disabilities and the St. Lucia Blind Welfare Association to formulate the programme.

Geared towards the 20/20 vision of avoidable blindness, the Eye Health Disabilities Programme will help train nurses in ophthalmic surgery. Government has already identified an ophthalmologist who will be on island on a two year contract, to supervise the project.

Minister for Health, Human Services, Family Affairs and Gender Rela-

tions Honourable Damian Greaves says the current Cuban Eye Care Initiative will deal with a back log of cases that will give the new programme a clean slate to work from.

“We have had a situation and response analysis of it and just as well looked at childhood blindness. We are now going to look at the current response of the programme - where we are going to look at the communities and the schools and the training of nurses in low vision assessment, the opening of clinics every week to the general public - all of those things,” Minister Greaves said.

The St. Lucia Blind Welfare Association along with the Caribbean Council for the Blind are of the view that the needs of persons with vision impairment should not rest on the shoulders of specialized agencies but on the entire society.



Cuban doctor treating patient

“The move is towards inclusion, inclusive services, and this is where you find that the strategic planning initiative being taken by the Ministry of Health has recognized that move and has established twelve essential health care priority areas and eye health is linked with the component called Eye Health and disabilities,” the Association’s Ex-

ecutive Director Anthony Avril said. Meanwhile the Cuban Eye Care Programme will continue this week with a clinic today at the VBCC Club at La Clery, followed by two sessions to be held at the National Cultural Centre on Wednesday and Thursday. Another session will be held at the Human Resource Development Centre at Entrepot on Friday.

Farmers and Fishers Pension Programme

Budget address 2005

While this Government is concerned about the section of the population that forms part of the workforce, it also wants to ensure that those who have made significant contributions to the development of this country are catered for during their retirement. Rudimentary analysis, Mr. Speaker, reveals that the farmer and fisher folk stand out as sections of the workforce where automatic financial provisions for retirement have not been made. I hasten to add that while members of the workforce should challenge themselves to set financial resources aside during their productive years to handle post-retirement expenses, we should not turn our backs on those who have laboured to promote the development of this country, during the sunset period of their lives.

Mr. Speaker, as recently as 1993, agriculture was second only to the Wholesale and Retail sector in terms of contribution to GDP. During that year, the contribution of the Agriculture Sector to GDP stood at 11.3 per cent. It should be noted that the Agriculture Sector stands out as the only sector which has made a contribution to GDP in excess of 17 per cent in any one year. In the light of the significant contribution of this sector to development, and

the challenges faced by farmers in the banana industry, this Government felt compelled to evaluate the possibility of developing a pension fund for farmers and fishers of this country.

The National Insurance Corporation, under the Sociological Data Capture Analysis Program, funded by the European Development Fund, engaged the services of consultants from the International Labour Organization (ILO) to determine the feasibility of extending pensions to farmers, fishers and ex-farmers. The National Insurance Corporation and the Government of Saint Lucia are currently evaluating the details of the report.

Mr. Speaker, while we examine the modalities for providing pensions to farmers, fishers and ex-farmers, this Government has set aside \$1 million of the funds allocated for the Sociological Data Capture Programme to facilitate the establishment of a pension fund for those farmers and fishers who have made invaluable contributions to the development of this country. I have no doubt that the establishment of such a fund will positively impact on the living standards of retired fishers and farmers. This is, therefore, a first step in ameliorating living conditions of an important group of people who have made an immeasurable contribution to the development of this country.”



Workers are displaced due to new trading arrangements for bananas



New technologies in fishing changed the industry

SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE - INVITATION FOR BIDS SAINT LUCIA WATER SUPPLY INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT LOAN # 7297–SLU AND CREDIT 4065 -SLU PROCUREMENT OF WORKS 001

1. This Invitation for Bid follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project that appeared in Development Business, issue no. 659 of July 31, 2005.
2. The Government of Saint Lucia has received a loan in the amount of US\$3.85 million from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and a credit in the amount of US\$3.85 million equivalent

from the International Development Association toward the cost of the “Water Supply Infrastructure Improvement Project”, and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan and credit to eligible payments under the “TURN-KEY CONTRACT FOR THE DESIGN AND EXECUTION OF CIVIL WORKS AND SERVICES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SAINT LUCIA

WATER SUPPLY INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, COMPRISING: JOHN COMPTON DAM PUMPING STATION UPGRADE, ROSEAU SYSTEM RAW WATER GRAVITY TRANSMISSION PIPELINE IMPROVEMENT, THEOBALDS WATER TREATMENT PLANT (WTP) UPGRADE & EXPANSION AND MORNE BOCAGE DISTRIBUTION SYS-

TEM UPGRADE”
3. The Government of Saint Lucia herein represented by the Ministry of Finance, International Financial Services and Economic Affairs now invites sealed bids from qualified bidders for the following 4 (four) work components. The general works for each component shall include such items as detailed in the table below.

COMPONENT	WORKS ITEM
1. JOHN COMPTON DAM PUMPING STATION UPGRADE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Upgrade of existing five (5) pumps capacity of 6 MGD(0.317 m3/s) to10 MGD (0.526 m3/s), by replacement of pumps, motors and electrical equipment• Upgrade of pipework and other civil works• Replacement of the existing standby power generator set to accommodate the increased power supply requirements• Installation of a SCADA system to facilitate remote operations
2. ROSEAU SYSTEM RAW WATER GRAVITY TRANSMISSION PIPELINE IMPROVEMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New 1,300m of 24” (600mm) ductile iron gravity pipeline between Vanard and Sarot to eliminate the bottleneck produced by an old 18”(450mm) pipeline section• Joint restraints for the 24” (600mm) steel pipeline between Millet and Vanard located at river crossings to further improve the integrity of the pipeline particularly during heavy river flows• New Booster Pumping Station at Vanard to expand the transmission capacity to 10.8 MGD (0.568 m3/s)• Replacement of 1,800m of the existing steel pipeline upstream Vanard.
3. THEOBALDS WTP UPGRADE AND	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Expansion of the WTP to 10.8 MGD (0.568 m3/s) capacity• Modification of existing receiving chamber to accommodate the increased flow• Improvement of settlement tanks by the addition of plates or tube settlers• Recycling of filter backwash water• Installation of a SCADA system to facilitate remote operations
4. MORNE BOCAGE DSITRIBUTION SYSTEM UPGRADE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New Ciceron pumping station at Theobalds WTP to meet water demands of 2.31 MGD (0.121 m3/s) in 2015• New 1,100m dedicated 14” (350mm) pumping main from Theobalds WTP to Morne Underground existing tank• New pumping station of 2.31 MGD (0.121 m3/s) at Morne Underground• New 800m dedicated 14” (350mm) pumping main from Morne Underground to Morne Fortune• New 200,000 Imperial gallons (910 m3) steel tank at Morne Fortune• New 4800 m 14” gravity main connecting storage tanks at Morne Fortune, Bocage and Morne Du Don. A special pipeline link and valve assembly will allow the supply to feed the Bocage Reservoir and the Hill 20 WTP. Also includes 2 No Surge Tanks• Installation of a SCADA system to facilitate remote operations

4. Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedures specified in the World Bank’s Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, and is open to all Countries as defined in the Bidding Documents.
5. *Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information at the address below from 0900 hours (9:00am) to 1500 hours (3:00 pm) daily from Monday to Friday and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below (**) from 0900 hours (9:00am) to 1500 hours (3:00 pm) daily from Monday to Friday.

6. Qualifications requirements include: key technical, qualifications and experience, financial, legal and other requirements.
7. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written Application to the address below (**) and upon payment of a non refundable fee of Eastern Caribbean five hundred dollars (US\$500.00). The method of payment will be by certified cheque or cash payable to the Water Supply Infrastructure Improvement Project. The Bidding Documents will be sent by courier.

8. Bids must be delivered to the address below (***) at or before November 9, 2005 at 12:00 p.m. (1200 hours). Electronic bidding shall not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened physically in the presence of the bidders’ representatives who choose to attend in person at the address below (***) at 2:00 p.m. (1400 hours) on November 9, 2005.
9. All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security, of United States fifty thousand dollars (US\$50,000.00).
10. The address(es) referred to above are: *The Project Engineer, Water and

Sewerage Company, L’Anse Road, P.O.Box 1481, Castries, Saint Lucia, Tel: (1-758) 453-1856, Email :operations_wasco@candw.lc; **Project Coordinator, Ministry of Finance, International Financial Services and Economic Affairs, 3rd Floor, Greaham Louisy Administrative Building, Waterfront, Castries, Saint Lucia, Tel: (1-758) 468-4486/5039 Fax: (1-758) 453-0417, Email: slupcu@planning.gov.lc; ***The Secretary, Central Tenders Board, Treasury Chambers, Old Government Buildings, Laborie Street, Castries, Saint Lucia

REPOSITIONING THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR



Cul-de-Sac a major banana producing area now used for manufacturing and agricultural diversification

While our Government has invested heavily over the past eight years in repositioning the banana industry to allow it to cope with the challenges and vagaries of the new global marketplace, we recognize that there is still some work to be done in the non-banana sub-sectors. This has become even more necessary in the light of new and evolving regimes with our traditional trading partners.

Therefore, in a bid to lend further support, Government is pleased to announce a new incentives regime to support agri-business development. In this regime, we clearly articulate the criteria for qualification, the range of goods and services that will be supported, and the administrative process by which persons or businesses may apply for concessions. Attention is also paid to special incentive measures that encourage youth participation in agriculture programmes and promote sustainable land management."

Budget address 2005

TRAFFIC FLOWING AGAIN



Work continues on the construction of drains to mitigate flooding in the city. The project coordinators prom-

ised that the sections of the road which were closed would re-open before the commencement of the new school

term. The road was opened for traffic from the John Compton highway on Tuesday 30th.



THIS WEEK ON NTN

Sat. Sept. 3rd - Fri. September 9th, 2005

The GIS takes a look at how the manufacturing sector is responding to the new era of globalization - Mon. Sept 5th 6:15 p.m.

• **ICC Cricket World Cup Latest Media Briefing** - Mon. September 5th, 6:30 p.m.

• **Inaugural Bio Awards** - Tues. September 6th, 9:30 p.m.

• **CARICOM Secretary General speaks on the state of the integration movement** - Wed. September 7th, 9:00 p.m.

• **UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues** Thurs. September 8th, 8:30 p.m.

• **Sandals Cricket Academy** - 2005 Fri. September 9th, 7:30p.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

Saint Lucia NATIONWIDE is published every week by the Department of Information Services.

Contact us at: The Department of Information Services, Greaham Louisy Administrative Building, The Waterfront, Castries, St. Lucia, West Indies
Tel: (758) 468 2116; Fax (758) 453 1614; E-mail: gis@candw.lc; <http://stlucia.gov.lc>