



# NATIONWIDE

A publication of the Department of Information Services



**New Power Station at Cul-de-Sac**  
- page 1



**Incentives for Agriculture and Cooperatives** - page 2



**More visitors in first quarter of 2005**  
- page 3



**Pursuing integrity in public life**  
- pages 4 & 5



**Green Cities - plan for the Planet**  
- pages 7 & 8

# NEW POWER STATION AT CUL-DE-SAC

**P** Prime Minister Honourable Dr. Kenny Anthony has congratulated the Saint Lucia Electricity Services (LUCELEC) for four decades of glowing contribution to St. Lucia's development.

Dr. Anthony along with his Cabinet colleagues and several senior executives from the public and private sector joined in commending LUCELEC for moving on to the next level of achievement. On Saturday, May 28th, the company officially opened the Cul-de-sac Power station and Substation Phase 2 - C - the flagship of an expansion project, resulting in the procurement of an additional engine to further increase power generation capacity.

Prime Minister Anthony says LUCELEC has been quietly gaining regional and international recognition, comparing favourably with counterparts across the Caribbean. Referring to a recent World Bank study on the OECS in respect of Power Losses Dr. Anthony reports that "Power losses in the OECS range between 11% for St. Vincent and the Grenadines to 19% for Dominica, while Saint Lucia is reported at 13 %. However the company's (LUCELEC's) latest report shows a commendable improvement to 10.2%." Compared to Barbados' 7% though there is clearly room for further improvement.

The Prime Minister commended the company for earning the highest rate of return on capital compared with six other utilities in the region, a rate which was higher than the guaranteed average annual minimum of 15%. Dr. Anthony said "This performance could be due to a number of factors including the company's own efficiencies and flaws in the formula itself. But the need for reduced tariffs for economic growth and to respond to consumers pleas makes it necessary to undertake an immediate review of the rate of return and tariff setting mechanisms to help reduce power costs whilst providing a competitively sustainable return to shareholders taking into account the risks and costs of capital which the company currently faces and is expected to face. The Government will actively pursue this in the coming days".

Lucelec was launched as a public company in 1994 and moved from three principal shareholders to in excess of 800 which according to Managing Director Trevor Louisy increased access to funds for the expansion of both the Cul-de-sac power plant and the company as a whole"

Dr. Anthony who is also the Minister for Finance, International Financial Services, Economic Affairs and Information drew attention to the public perception of Lucelec as an unregulated entity.

"You are well aware one of the prime requirements for a successfully functioning utility is the presence of diligent supervision of a competent regulatory authority or arrangement. Many are of a mistaken impression that such an arrangement does not exist in St. Lucia. That is far from reality.



**Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony and Mr. Trevor Louisy Managing Director of LUCELEC at the opening of the new station**

St. Lucia has its own unique arrangement and I might add, highly unusual arrangement embodied in the St. Lucia Electricity Supply Act of 10 of 1994. The Act provides a framework of technical, financial and operational do's and don'ts for the company. The Act also stipulates regular periodic and independent reviews of the utility, possibly every year.

While outlining several legal requirements the company must fulfil -including overall accounting to the Minister of Finance, Prime Minister Anthony called on LUECLEC to continue working to improve consumer relations.

"If the impression exists that LUCELEC is an unregulated monopoly, there must be reasons for that. What could be the source of the perception? Why it is that members of the public feel that LUCELEC is allowed to do just what it pleases?" asked Dr. Anthony.

Noting the company's role in self regulation, Dr. Anthony explained that the LUCELEC Review Commission has recommended the establishment of a Standing Regulatory Body financed by the Government and the Utility that would implement regulatory enforcement mechanisms, set performance targets and provide monitoring; reward or penalty in the case of success or failure to carry out requirements as the case may be.

"There does not appear to be an independent, objective and knowledgeable body that sets benchmarks and periodically improving performance targets that the company must aim to achieve and against which it can be rewarded for surpassing or penalized for a failure to meet. Moreover, there does not appear to be regulatory enforcement mechanisms. In the absence of these Lucelec tries to do that itself but even

so it goes back to the notion that not only must justice be done but that it must also appear to have been done."

Dr. Anthony however says due to cost, these recommendations may take some time to come to fruition and is suggesting an interim solution. Dr. Anthony says it is his view the solution lies in the implementation of the proposals emanating from the Lucelec's Review Commission.

Managing Director Lucelec, Mr. Trevor Louisy stated that a reliable supply of electricity at an affordable price is required for the continuing development of Saint Lucia. Speaking at the ceremony Mr. Louisy said "Lucelec has and will continue to do all in its power to ensure that power is available and affordable and if this means using an appropriate mix of fossil and renewable energy resources to meet this goal so be it."

He added that the company has already engaged the services of consultants to explore the various options for future power generation at the Cul-de-sac stations. The recommendations form the consultants are expected before the end of July 2005.

The total cost of the installation of the new engine at the Cul-de-sac station was over US\$15million. "The addition of this engine therefore brings the total available capacity of the Cul de sac power station to 65.8 mw. Consider this in relation to our peak demand on the system of 49.2mw recorded as recent as Monday May 23 at 11.25 a.m., thus leaving a reserve margin of 16.6mw which is approximately 4% below the statutory requirement of 19.5mw (output of the two largest units)". Mr. Louisy said



**"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





# Incentives for Agriculture and Cooperatives

*During the presentation of the 2005 – 2006 budget address Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Hon. Dr. Kenny Anthony announced a package of incentives for the agricultural and Cooperatives sector. The following is an excerpt from the budget address:*

**A regime for Agriculture**  
“While our Government has invested heavily over the past eight years in repositioning the banana industry to al-

low 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.



**Banana - main export crop**

low 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.

**Let me now explain the key elements of the regime:** To access concessions all applicants will need to present a proper business plan that unequivocally demonstrates the viability

of the proposed enterprise. Persons already engaged in agri-business who are applying for new concessions or renewals will need to provide evidence of relevant prior business transactions. For new enterprises, evidence of access to financial resources to invest will also be required. Another important pre-qualification for crop or livestock production will be title to the land. For agro-processing enterprises, it will be necessary to demonstrate evidence of

**Cooperatives**  
A major constraint of our agricultural production systems lies in the absence of economies of scale. Our banana industry has been able to survive in the United Kingdom market because of a pooling of resources of the banana farmers in the four Windward Islands. Unfortunately, we have not been able to replicate that success in other sub-sectors. Consequently, a key element of the incentive regime will be the focus on groupings, associations or co-operatives. Registered cooperatives or associations will receive a benefit that is greater than what will be given to individual farmers.

Therefore, although all local enterprises, once they meet the qualifying criteria, will be eligible for concessions under the regime, there will be expanded accessibility for farmers and fishers through legally established cooperative groups or associations.

**Concessions Available**  
As an example, a registered cooperative will qualify for a 100 percent waiver of import duty and consumption tax on generic materials and supplies, such as fertilizers and animal feed, which are imported through an approved distributor, while an individual farmer will qualify for a partial waiver of import duty and consumption tax on the same items. In that way, the viability of the



**Hon. Ignatius Jean  
Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries**

operative as well as the added concessions made available to it.

The regime will make concessions available through a partial or complete waiver of import duties, consumption or excise taxes on a very wide range of items and inputs used in agricultural production and processing.

Waivers will be applicable for goods vehicles, refrigerated trucks and farm equipment such as tractors. Also covered are fertilizers, agro-chemicals, medications, safety gear (in the case of fisheries), and land preparation tools and equipment. The regime also seeks to enhance the adoption of technologies that will assist producers in meeting compliance for product standards based on Good Agricultural Practices and enhancing environmentally sustainable practices.

In this regard, concessions will be made available for the procurement of improved plant and livestock varieties and associated tools and equipment that include irrigation infrastructure and energy saving devices. Similarly in the fisheries sub-sector, the regime will maintain concessions on vessels and equipment.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to sound a strong note of caution. Government will not provide incentives for enterprises that involve poor land use practices or compromise the integrity of water courses or other natural resources. Similarly, a development that may create a public nuisance or problem will not be encouraged.”

*(To be continued in the next issue)*



**A major agricultural estate -  
intercropping**

cooperative is increased, as is its ability to service the needs of its members, while the members benefit from both the bulk purchasing discount of the co-



**Infrastructure for agricultural development**



**Flora and fauna**

# Saint Lucia Jazz Record - Best Year

**T**ourism officials in Saint Lucia say that St. Lucia Jazz 2005 has been the best on record in the 14-year history of the event. At a recent press briefing on the statistical review of the just concluded event, top tourism officials announced significant increases in visitor arrivals from the main destination markets, increases in visitor spending and record audiences at various shows like Main Stage Jazz at Pigeon Island Landmark and the opening at the Mindoo Phillip Park.

Minister Commerce, Tourism, Investment and Consumer Affairs, Honourable Phillip J. Pierre says this year's event far exceeded expectations and realised the goal of the tourism industry to bring tangible benefits to the people of St. Lucia. "There were increases in all source markets with the USA being the main source market followed by the Caribbean region and then the UK," Minister Pierre informed.

He went on, "From exit surveys and other statistical data from the St. Lucia Tourist Board, it was realised that each visitor spent an average of \$160 dollars per-day, meaning that of the record number of 13, 670 visitors who came to the event this year, they spent nearly

\$62 million dollars in St. Lucia for the period of St. Lucia Jazz 2005."

Of that \$62 million Minister Pierre says over \$2 million were derived from the local handicraft sector, pointing to the trickle down effects of the event. Other direct benefits of the 2005 event he says were the performances by two local acts namely Nicole David and Chronic Heights – who shared the opening night stage with other regional and international artistes, among them Jamaican based Beenienman.

Tourism Director Hilary Modeste says the successes of Saint Lucia Jazz 2005 were attributed to a number of innovative, bold and well calculated approaches, all aimed at improving, expanding and getting St. Lucia Jazz to bring greater benefits to St. Lucians. Although lacking what was described as so-called big name headliners, Mr. Modeste is of the view the St. Lucia Tourist Board, the main organizer of the event, had the right mix. "The St. Lucia tourist board is connected to the market," says Mr. Modeste.

According to the Director of Tourism, "We do our surveys and we understand very much what our customers want. We understand the connection



Patrons at Saint Lucia Jazz

with the market and we understand that we need to please our patrons, therefore when we designed the line-up last year it was designed on the basis of market information. Therefore while there were criticisms out there, we felt confident that we knew what we were doing and that we would deliver another successful jazz event."

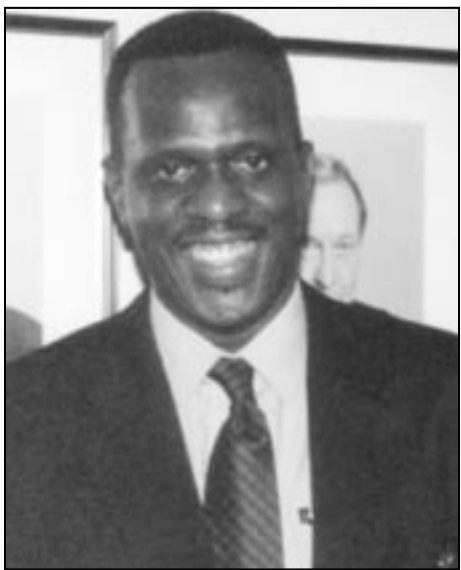
The tourism industry record a 19.8% increase in visitor arrivals as of April of this year over the same period in 2004. Tourism officials say with a new overseas-based marketing campaign to be released in the fall of this year and new airlift capacity being negotiated, further increases in tourist arrivals are anticipated well before year end.

## More visitors in first quarter of 2005

**T**ourism officials continue to express satisfaction over gains recorded in the industry in 2005. Saint Lucia has recorded a 19.8 percent increase in tourist arrivals for the first quarter of this year as compared to the same period in 2004. Tourism representatives say over 122 thousand visitors have already touched down on Saint Lucia's shores for the year, hinting to signs of continued increases for the rest of the year.

Minister for Tourism, Commerce, Investment and Consumer Affairs Honourable Phillip J. Pierre says the major destination markets of the United States and the United Kingdom continue to register gains with a 17.7% and 12.3% increase respectively

Minister Pierre notes, "In January there was a 20.7% increase, in February a 5.7%, in March a 21.4% and in April a 29.1% increase." According to



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

him, "It looks like we are going to sustain that increase and hopefully by the end of this year we should have double

digit increases barring any unforeseen circumstances."

Commenting on these statistics, Tourism Director Hilary Modeste says "We do not have in St. Lucia anymore what we call the seasonal factor. The seasonal factor has completely disappeared, meaning that the differentials between the high and low season is no more. I can say with certainty that

To maintain that momentum Mr. Modeste says the Tourist Board will further strengthen its efforts at marketing Saint. Lucia internationally. The board has entered into partnership with a reputable Toronto-based advertising agency, which is assisting in developing a new and more targeted marketing campaign. Along with plans for the construction of additional hotel rooms



Tourists at one of the major resorts in Saint Lucia

I know of no hotel in St. Lucia right now that lays-off people in the summer months," says Modeste.

Mr. Modeste says negotiations for additional airlift into the island appears promising.

## Strong Bonds between Saint Lucia and China Friendship Associations

**T**he Saint Lucia-China Friendship Association (SLCFA) has signed an agreement with the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) for Joint Cooperation and Exchanges aimed at fostering People-to-People contacts between Saint Lucia and China. The Agreement, which was signed in the Chinese capital Beijing in mid May, is a Memorandum of Understanding outlining ten areas of cooperation that will be undertaken by the two organizations in the mutual interest of deepening friendship and solidarity between the people of the two countries.

The areas covered in the Memorandum of Understanding include, among others, Culture, Sports, Education, National heritage, Fundraising and Technical Support. In the area of Culture, both sides have

agreed to "promote cultural exchanges between the two countries, including, in the first instance, exposure to their respective cultures." In Sports, the two sides have agreed "to promote sporting exchanges in such areas a football, martial arts and sports management" and "to work together to facilitate attendance by Saint Lucians at the Games of the 25th Olympiad in Beijing in 2008".

Regarding Education, the two sides agreed "to promote educational opportunities through provision of scholarships or grants for further education in China for needy Saint Lucian students in agreed areas." They also agree "to engage in activities aimed at increasing student exchanges between the two countries." With the recent designation of Saint Lucia's world famous Pitons as a World Heritage Site by the United Nations, the two sides also

agreed "to work together to increase the awareness of Saint Lucians of the importance of World Heritage Sites and to share in China's vast experience in the maintenance of such sites."

The agreement was signed by the President of the SLCFA, Earl Bousquet and the Vice President of the CPAFFC, Madame Li Xiaolin and was witnessed by the members of the executive of the SLCFA, while on a ten-day visit to the People's Republic of China at the invitation of the CPAFFC. The Saint Lucia-China Friendship Association was established on January 27, 2004 for the purpose of "promoting ties of friendship and better understanding between the people of St. Lucia and China, especially through sporting, cultural and other social activities."

The Association has its own Constitution and it is led by an elected Executive

Committee comprising six persons. Over the past year, the Association has also hosted several functions aimed at promoting friendship with the People's Republic of China. The Association has worked closely with the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in St. Lucia in these exercises, which are aimed at encouraging a better level of understanding and cooperation between the Chinese residents in St. Lucia and the People of St. Lucia.

These activities are in keeping with the close ties of friendship and cooperation between the Government and People of St. Lucia and China, which have grown steadily since diplomatic ties were established in 1997. The Association has sparked a great degree of national interest in knowledge about China and there has been considerable interest among St. Lucians in becoming members.



# PURSUING INTEGRITY IN PUBLIC LIFE

**Corruption talk**  
These days there is much talk, considerable talk about integrity and corruption, Politicians, as usual, are the prime targets. “St. Lucia is in a cesspit of corruption”, Mr. Stephenson King announces from the platform of the United Workers Party during its recent outing on the Boulevard.

Statements like these should neither go unnoticed nor unchallenged. Unlike the situation of the Government of which he was part, Mr. King has avenues to report, test and pursue his allegations. But more of that, later.

**Once upon a time**  
There was a time when politicians were untouchable and even seemed invincible, invoking the fear of anyone who dared question their behaviour as it pertained to the administration of government and the management of the financial resources of the state. There was a time too when there was no obligation for ministers and public officers to declare gifts which they obtained privately, or on overseas trips. Ask the politicians who were active prior to 1997 what they did with the many gifts which they received privately or on their overseas trips? Where are these gifts today?

**Integrity Legislation in St. Lucia**  
Now, all of this has changed. Ever since the enactment of integrity legislation, provisions have been put in place to ensure checks on the assets and liabilities of politicians, senior public servants and persons managing statutory corporations.

The Integrity in Public Life Act, No.6 of 2004, calls for the appointment of an independent Commission which will, among other things; (a) Receive, examine and retain all declarations filed with it under the Act; (b) Make such enquiries as it considers necessary in order to verify or determine the accuracy of the declaration filed under the Act; (c) Receive and investigate complaints regarding non-compliance with or breach of the Act.

The Act specifically states that “In the performance of its functions, the Commission is not subject to the control or direction of any person or authority”.

The Commission is appointed by the Governor General on the advice of the Prime Minister who shall consult with

## PM Converses with the Nation



Prime Minister Dr. Kenny D. Anthony

the Leader of the Opposition before providing this advice. At present, the Commission is chaired by Archdeacon Randolph Evelyn of the Anglican Church. Members of the Commission include a seasoned journalist, a former banker and Castries businessman, an accountant and a lawyer, all the skills required under the Integrity Commission Act.

The filing of submissions is not simply a ritual of completing forms to be sent to a clerk in the Civil Service for filing. The members, by reason of their expertise, are in the position to collectively assess these submissions to ensure their accuracy and compliance with the provisions of the Act.

So, under the Act, ministers and public officials are required to disclose their income, how much they owe and to whom, their investments if any, their properties and even the life insurances that they carry.

### Corruption defined

The Integrity in Public Life Act, No. 6 of 2004, also has several new provisions, one of them being the inclusion of behaviour defined as “corruption”. This legislation was enacted by this Government in 2004. Let us look at some examples of corrupt behaviour.

A person in public life commits an act of corruption if: (a) He or she solicits or accepts, whether directly or indirectly, any article or money or other benefit, being a gift, favour, promise or advantage for himself or herself or another person for doing any act or omitting to do any act in the performance of

his or her official functions or causing any other person to do so or omit to do anything; (b) He or she in the performance of his or her public functions does any act or omits to do any act for the purpose of obtaining any illicit benefit for himself or herself or any other



Public participation - importnat for the work of the Commission

person; (c) He or she fraudulently uses or conceals any property or other benefit derived from any such act or omission to act under paragraph (a) or (b); (d) He or she offers or grants, directly or indirectly, to a public servant any article, money or other benefit being a gift, favour, promise or advantage to the public servant or another person, for doing any act or omitting to do any act in the performance of the public servant’s public functions.

There are several other provisions in the Act which speak to the issue of corruption. These include improper use of Government property for the benefit of an individual, the use of official influence to support any scheme or contract in which the individual has an interest.

The penalties are severe. Any person found guilty of an act of corruption can face penalties of up to one hundred thousand dollars or fifteen years imprisonment. In extreme cases the indi-

vidual can be fined and confined. There are many who believe that the Act is aimed solely at politicians. That is not so. The provisions which define corruption are also aimed at citizens, companies and others who attempt to bribe decision makers in Government to obtain decisions in their favour.

### Work of Commission

The current Commission has approached its tasks with the highest level of professionalism and diligence, and has met regularly since its establishment in 1998. Unfortunately, like most of the successful agencies in the Public Service, their work goes unnoticed, largely due to the absence of a tradition of aggressive public relations. But this is about to change.

The Commission has finally embarked on a public awareness campaign to explain its work and the various provisions of the Integrity in Public Life Act. I was particularly pleased to watch and listen to an interview on NTN on the work of the Commission. At that interview, two members explained the role, work and the challenges faced by the Commission. In-

forcement relies on the active participation of members of the public. I want to urge all members of the public to play their part in ensuring that the Integrity Commission is effective. The Act allows members of the public to report acts of corruption. Section 32 of the Act states as follows:

(1) Any person who has reasonable grounds to believe that a person in public life — (a) is in breach of a provision of this Act; (b) Has committed an act of corruption, may make a complaint in writing to the Commission.

(2) The complaint shall state — (a) the particulars of the breach or act of corruption; (b) The particulars, as far as they are known, of the person against whom the complaint is made; (c) The nature of the evidence that the complainant proposes to produce in respect of the complaint.

These provisions are available to anyone and that includes Mr. Stephenson King. If Mr. King says that St. Lucia is “a cesspit of corruption”, then he should, in accordance with this section, provide the Commission with the particulars of the corrupt acts.



Prime Minister Dr. Kenny D. Anthony sworn in as Member of Parliament

and Liabilities is too high a price to pay for Public Service. It is equally a high price to pay when accusations are hurled, without evidence or any basis whatsoever. If they fear disclosure of their private financial affairs, then they should not enter into the public arena. Aspiring politicians cannot say they have not been warned.

Consistent with that view, I believe that all persons who are candidates should be made to declare to the Commission their assets and liabilities on the same day that they are nominated for General Elections. In this way, we would get a clearer indication of what the politicians come with, and what, if any, they have acquired during their tenure. I intend to pursue this, by ensuring appropriate changes to our Election Law in due course.

### Upholding right and wrong

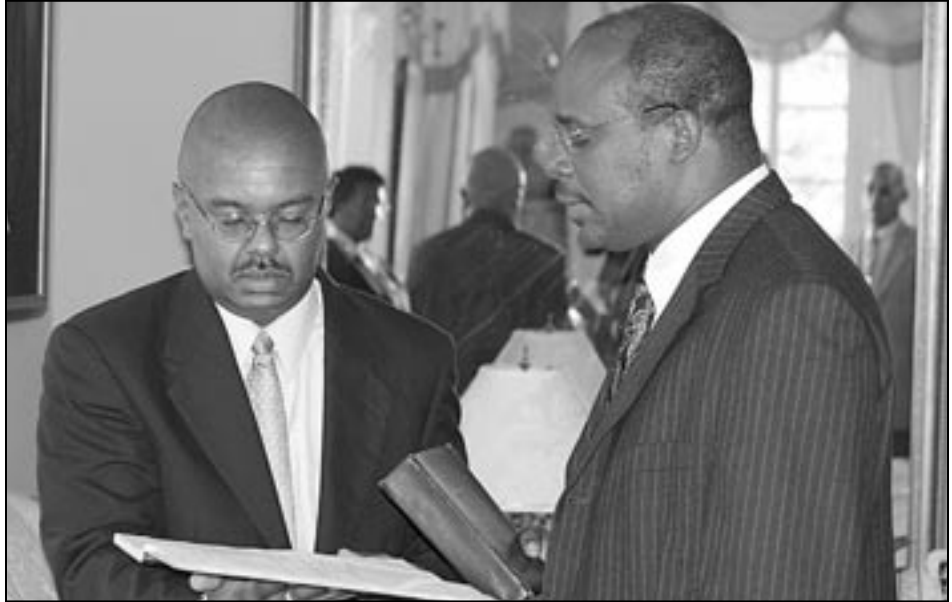
Ultimately, integrity is about upholding the principles of right and wrong in our behaviour and that of the people around us. It is about accountability. It is about honesty. It is too about good governance.

All Saint Lucians should remain vigilant, not only to point out acts which constitute breaches of integrity in the Public Service and among parliamentarians but in all areas of public life and in national organizations involved in business, sport and various aspects of community development.

Until next week, take care and God Bless!



The leaders of tomorrow must ensure integrity in public life



Cabinet Secretary Dr. James Fletcher and Hon. Ferguson John at the swearing in of the Member of Parliament

## ACTS OF CORRUPTION

A person in public life commits an act of corruption if —

- (1) (a) he or she solicits or accepts, whether directly or indirectly, any article or money or other benefit, being a gift, favour, promise or advantage for himself or herself or another person for doing any act or omitting to do any act in the performance of his or her official functions or causing any other person to do so or omit to do anything;
  - (b) he or she in the performance of his or her public functions does any act or omits to do any act for the purpose of obtaining any illicit benefit for himself or herself or any other person;
  - (c) he or she fraudulently uses or conceals any property or other benefit derived from any such act or omission to act under paragraph (a) or (b);
  - (d) he or she offers or grants, directly or indirectly, to a public servant any article, money or other benefit being a gift, favour, promise or advantage to the public servant or another person, for doing any act or omitting to do any act in the performance of the public servant’s public functions;
  - (e) he or she allows his or her private interest to conflict with his or her public duties or improperly influence his or her conduct in the performance of his or her public duties;
  - (f) he or she being a natural person or a corporation, either aggregate or sole, club, society or other body of one or more persons, offers or grants, directly or indirectly to a person performing a public function in a foreign State, any article or money or other benefit, being a gift, favour, promise or advantage in connection with any economic or commercial transaction for an act to be performed or omitted to be performed by that person in the performance of his or her public functions;
  - (g) he or she improperly uses for his or her own benefit or that of a third party any property (including money) belonging to the Government or any statutory body or any government company or any body providing public utilities to which he or she has access as a result of or in the course of, the performance or his or her functions;
  - (h) he or she, acting as an intermediary or through a third person seeks to obtain a decision from any Ministry or Department of the Government or any body providing public utilities in order that he or she may improperly obtain for himself or herself or for another person any benefit or gain;
  - (i) he or she for his or her own benefit or for that of a third person, improperly diverts any property belonging to Government or any other person, which is in his or her custody for the due administration of his or her duties;
  - (j) he or she acquires, or becomes a partner, associate or shareholder in, or a director of a firm or company which has a contract with the Government or with the public body of which such person is a member or employee unless the person makes a disclosure of such partnership, association, shareholding or other interest to the Commission;
  - (k) he or she improperly uses official influence in support of any scheme or in furtherance of any contract or proposed contract or other matter in regard to which he or she has an interest;
  - (l) he or she or any other person, on his or her behalf, acquires property or pecuniary resource disproportionate to his or her legitimate sources of income;
  - (m) he or she instigates, aids, abets or is an accessory after the fact or participates in whatsoever manner in the commission or attempted commission of or conspires to commit any act of corruption referred to in paragraphs (a) to (k).
- (2) Being aware of the commission of any act of corruption referred to in paragraphs (a) to (e) fails or neglects without reasonable excuse, to make a complaint to the Commission under section 32.



# “Health Professionals Against Tobacco”

*The following is the full text of an address delivered by Hon. Damian E. Greaves Minister for Health, Human Services, Family Affairs & Gender Relations on the occasion of World No Tobacco Day - May 31st 2005.*

“There are an estimated 1.3 billion smokers in the world. The death toll is now 4.8 million people per year. If present trends continue, by the year 2020, 10 million persons per year will die from tobacco related illness, and 70% of these deaths will be in developing countries like ours.

Tobacco consumption remains the leading preventable cause of death in the world. Tobacco use causes cardiovascular disease that leads to heart attacks, impotence and the reduced ability to walk and exercise. Tobacco use causes lung disease including chronic bronchitis, emphysema and cancer of the lungs. Tobacco use causes cancer of the esophagus, larynx, mouth and urinary bladder. Recent research links tobacco use to acute myeloid leukemia, stomach cancer, pancreatic cancer, cancer of the cervix and cancer of the kidney. Tobacco use has even been linked



**Hon. Damian Greaves**  
Minister for Health, Human Services,  
Family Affairs and Gender Relations

er of nicotine is such that an individual, especially a young person, needs only smoke a few cigarettes to become addicted. The nicotine addiction is as powerful as a cocaine addiction.

and false information about the relative safety of any tobacco product e.g. low tar etc, education, communication, training and public awareness to ensure that our population is fully aware of the undesirable and deadly effects of tobacco products, comprehensive bans and restriction on tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship and tobacco dependence cessation measures which calls on us to develop and implement tobacco dependence programmes as part of our health interventions.

The second group of interventions aims at reducing the supply of tobacco, reduction and elimination of smuggling of tobacco products, elimination of illicit manufacturing and counterfeiting, establish a surveillance system for illicit trade and regularly share information regionally and internationally, prohibit sales of tobacco products to and by minors and provide economic opportunities for persons benefiting from the tobacco trade to establish alternative businesses or activities.

This year the WHO has proposed a simple direct and action oriented theme “health professionals against tobacco”.

and if we are to be credible advocates we must cease our own tobacco use. All health workers, health associations and health organizations must advocate together with the Ministry of Health, Human Services, Family Affairs and Gender Relations to ensure the enforcement of legislation that will give effect to the framework convention on tobacco control. I recommend that towards achieving this goal a national alliance of health organizations be created. For doctors and nurses who see individual patients I endorse the



**Smoking related illnesses increasing cost of health care**

implementation of the clinical practice guideline on treating tobacco use and dependence issued by the US Department of Health and Human Services, which can be summarized as the five approach: (1) ask about tobacco use; (2) advise all users to quit; (3) assess willingness to make a quit attempt; (4) assist the patient to quit; (5) arrange a follow-up contract.

As health organizations and health professionals we must also from now on refuse any sponsorship from tobacco companies. I call on you to be vigilant and resolute in this regard. I also call on you to encourage others to follow suit as you lead by example.

In closing I wish that all of us will see this 31st May 2005 as a turning point. May history record that it was on this day that Saint Lucia set the stage which resulted in the elimination of tobacco use in Saint Lucia, thereby saving thousands of Saint Lucian lives. As health workers, we have a special responsibility; let us live up to it.

I thank you and may you choose the breath of life, rather than the breath of death.”



**Smoking is not permitted in Government offices**

to cataracts. Passive smoking, that is second hand smoke, has been related to respiratory diseases and ear infections in children; it has been associated with sudden infant death syndrome. Tobacco use in pregnancy causes low birth weight babies and is associated with increased infant mortality. There is no doubt that the list of tobacco related illnesses is indeed long and includes many of the most prevalent diseases affecting us.

The argument that the economic advantage of tobacco growing and cigarette manufacturing outweighs the negative economic impact of the health effects of tobacco use has been shown to be false. The loss to the global economy from the ill effects of tobacco use far outweighs the contribution from the sale of tobacco products.

The history of tobacco use promotion has been one of sophisticated exploitation of vulnerable people, using sophisticated advertising techniques. It is a history and indeed a continued use of powerful lobbies with large sums of money to ensure the continued promotion of tobacco use. The addictive power

of nicotine is such that an individual, especially a young person, needs only smoke a few cigarettes to become addicted. The nicotine addiction is as powerful as a cocaine addiction. It is against this background that the World Health Organization (WHO) developed and promoted the framework convention on tobacco control. In Saint Lucia, thanks to lobbying from the Saint Lucia Cancer Society and the Ministry of Health, Human Services, Family Affairs and Gender Relations, the government of Saint Lucia has ratified this framework convention. The convention articulates an approach to tobacco control that can be divided into two main groups of interventions:

The first group of interventions aims at reducing the demand for tobacco and includes: price and tax measures designed to increase the price of tobacco products, protection of the public from second hand smoke by enforcing no smoke zones including the banning of smoking in public places, regulation and disclosure of the contents of tobacco products; this demands public disclosure of all toxic constituents of tobacco products and their emissions, packaging and labeling, to ensure that there is clear, concise and bold labeling of harmful effects and warnings; it also calls for removal of misleading

and false information about the relative safety of any tobacco product e.g. low tar etc, education, communication, training and public awareness to ensure that our population is fully aware of the undesirable and deadly effects of tobacco products, comprehensive bans and restriction on tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship and tobacco dependence cessation measures which calls on us to develop and implement tobacco dependence programmes as part of our health interventions.



**Planning to curtail smoking at public events**

# Green Cities - Plan for the Planet

*The following is an address delivered by Hon. Fergusson John, Minister for Physical Development, Environment and Housing on the occasion of World Environment Day*

“My fellow Saint Lucians, it is my privilege to address you once again, on the occasion of World Environment Day. This year, the theme chosen by the United Nations is Green Cities: Plan for the Planet.

The last several decades have seen the growth of urban areas around the world. In 1990, fifty eight per cent of the global population lived in urban areas. It is projected that this figure will increase to eighty three per cent by 2010 and that by 2020, 93.4% of the global population will live in urban areas.

Many of the world’s major cities are located along the coast. Not surprisingly, therefore, the global trend has been towards an increase in the percentage of the planet’s inhabitants living in coastal areas.

Our City of Castries is one example of a coastal urban settlement that has expanded far beyond its original nucleus in the Castries basin. Its growth has been fuelled both by natural population growth as well as the migration of persons from rural areas, the so-called rural urban drift.

Indeed, Castries and Gros-Islet, once geographically distinct and separate,



**Hon. Fergusson John**  
**Minister for Physical Development,**  
**Environment and Housing**

many of us take for granted but without which a modern city cannot survive.

There is also the aesthetic dimension which helps to define the character of an urban center, as well as make it a better place to live. In this regard, architectural design and parks and other green spaces play a vital role.

The environmental aspect of our urban centers is also very critical. It is important to consider not only how a city is designed, but also what flows in and out of it. For example, we know

en tout la terre –a nous vlay tout moon chen ville nous vere ek fere plan pour place la nous ca vivre ardan.

Toupatou an late-a nou ka we moun ka vini weste an se vil la pli an pli. Adan an shay plas vil la ni pou vini pli go pou sa chenbe tout se moun sa la. Si ou gade byen ou kay we Kastwi ek Gwozilet pli ka sanm an go vil pase deplac la nou te konet.

Building sustainable settlements requires vision, order, flexibility and consideration for the environment. It also demands consideration for future generations. A visually attractive city with dysfunctional infrastructure will soon lose its appeal as a fine place to live. Likewise, a well-laid-out center with poor sanitation will be equally

unappealing.

En vil la ou pase kite moun viv yon asou lot. Nou ni pou konsidrwe pwopete ek sante. Se pou sa Minis Planning ni pou bay pemisyon pou bati kay. Dici-zyon-an lantewe nou tout ek si ou pa fe kon yo dit, ou menm ka asiste en decale tout vil la.

Many disciplines come into play in designing and planning modern cities. The town planners, engineers, architects, foresters and others all have their role. In St. Lucia, the principal responsibility for urban planning lies with the Physical Planning Department of the Ministry of Physical Development, Environment & Housing.

*Continued on page 8*



**The marine environment must be managed**

are now well on the way to becoming one contiguous urban center. Already, approximately 54 percent of our population resides in the North-Western Corridor and at this time, its growth shows little sign of slowing down. In fact, if we factor in the a tourism and other developments expected for Cricket World Cup in 2007, we can realistically expect an increase in the rate of growth and development in the Castries-Gros-Islet Corridor in the short term.

It must be borne in mind, however, that a City is more than just the people who live in it and the buildings they occupy. There are several dimensions and layers to urban existence, some of which we may sometimes fail to recognize.

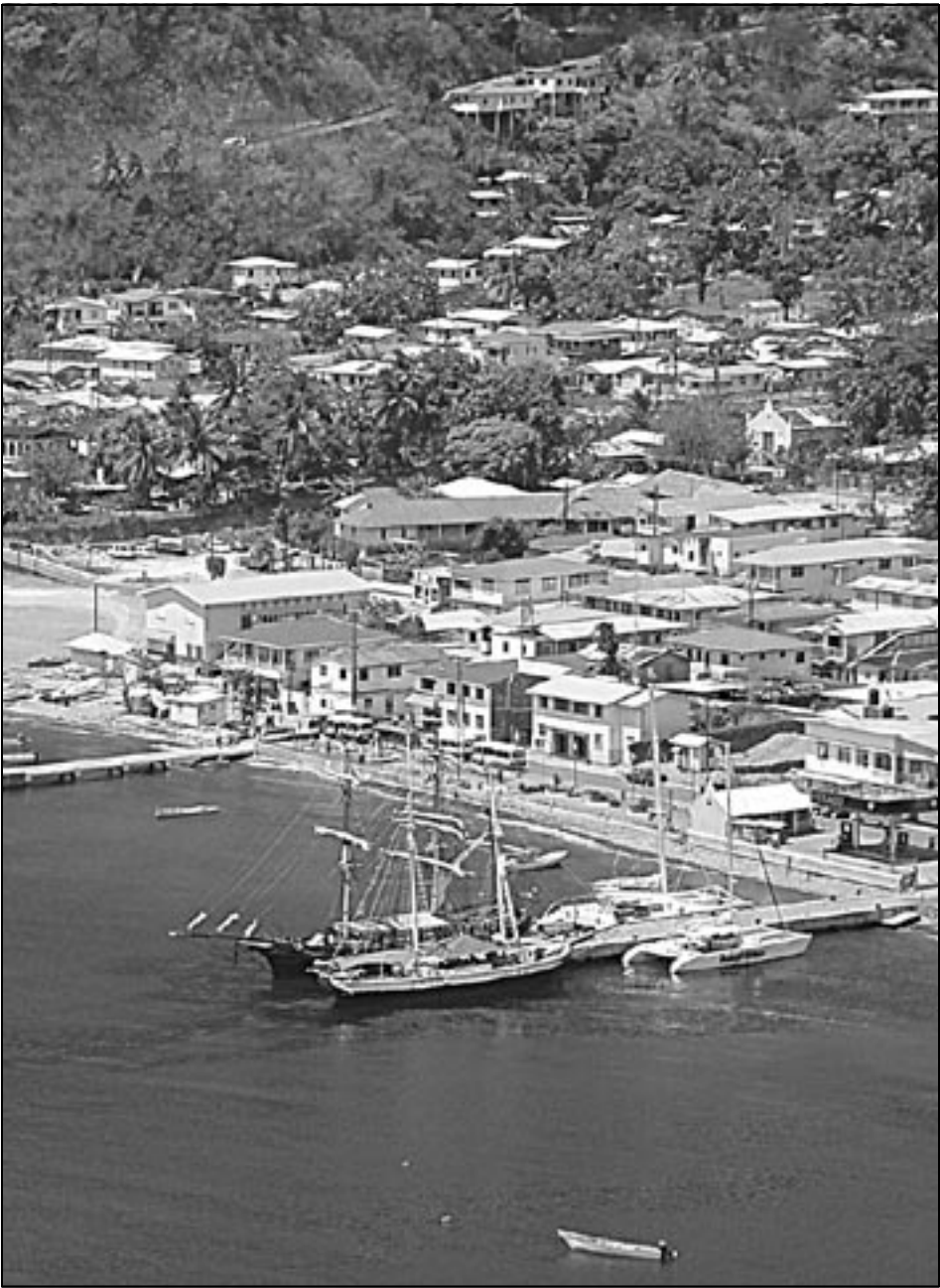
Firstly, there is the infrastructure that keeps the urban centre accessible and functional, such as roads, telecommunications and water supply. Then, there are the services, such as health and sanitation, which

that water flows from the reservoirs into our pipes for our consumption. Is the water being used efficiently or are we wasting it, to the detriment of other consumers?

Are we promoting appropriate water conservation technologies such as low volume flush toilets? How long can our water resources, already under pressure due to deforestation, support such rapid urban growth? Where is our wastewater going? Does it go to a treatment facility or straight into the sea? What is its impact on the environment in which it ends up?

What is the state of the rivers passing through our urban centers? Are they clean and crystal-clear as they once were, or are they loaded with sediment, refuse, waste oil and other noxious chemicals? These are all questions which merit serious reflection.

Messiers et Mesdames, l’annee sa la, con nous celebre Jour L’environnement



**Expansin of urban settlements onto hillsides**



**Housing development in green areas**



# Trade Reference Centre Opens

**P**ermanent Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, International Trade and Civil Aviation Mr. Cosmos Richardson has dispelled the view that issues of trade are to be confined to governmental Mr. Richardson made the comments at a handing over ceremony of a Trade Reference Centre linking St. Lucia to the trade data bases of thirteen Caribbean countries. The presentation took place on Monday, May 30th at the Central Library in Castries.

This Trade Reference Centre which comprises domestic, regional and international trade information is meant to bolster the country's ability to make strategic contributions to the global trade dialogue. Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, International Trade and Civil Aviation Mr. Cosmos Richardson says as Saint Lucia remains integrally involved in several trade negotiations such as the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas (FTAA) the World Trade Organisation -WTO and the Caribbean Single Mar-

ket and Economy (CSME) among others, information related specifically to global and Caribbean trade have mushroomed into an absolute necessity.

"The aim of this project is to facilitate access to information on the topics addressed in trade negotiations and to increase public awareness on trade issues in Caribbean countries by making available copies of the OAS Foreign Trade Information System Data Base on trade agreements, national legislation and related information on topics of the negotiations process."

Director of the OAS Office in St. Lucia Mr. Alphonsus Antoine says "the attitude of this information is to support the bread and butter planning that must take place in St. Lucia and the Caribbean if we are to survive and prosper in the 21st century. That is why three computers that will contain this critical information will be various locations where every facet of the society will be able to access the information."

Copies of the database will also be made available to stake holders through the country including several public libraries.



Mr. Cosmos Richardson receives equipment from Mr. Alphonsus Antoine

# Hurricane Season Begins

**T**he hurricane season for the North Atlantic Ocean, the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico begins today, 01 June and ends on 30 November. This year scientists from Colorado State University and the National Atmospheric and Oceanographic Administration have both predicted an above-normal season with about thirteen named storms, seven of which will form hurricanes, three of which are expected to be major hurricanes.

Although the months of February, March and April recorded below average rainfall island wide, the month of May recorded above average. The precipitation forecast for Saint Lucia and the eastern Caribbean for the period May to July is for wetter than normal conditions, and this trend is expected to continue. The risk of flooding and landslides is therefore

high this year and residents in areas prone to those hazards are asked to take all precautionary measures.

The Met. Office urges you to listen to local weather reports and to pay particular attention to all tropical cyclone bulletins and advisories.

The names to be used for tropical storms and hurricanes in our region this year are:

Arlen	Gert	Maria	Tammy
Bret	Harvey	Nate	Vince
Cindy	Irene	Ophelia	Wilma
Dennis	Jose	Philippe	
Emily	Katrina	Rita	
Franklin	Lee	Stan	

For further information contact the Hewanorra Meteorological Office - phone: 4546550 fax: 4549705 hotline: 4543452 website: [www.slumet.gov.lc](http://www.slumet.gov.lc)



A scene of a natural disaster

# Green Cities - Plan for the Planet

Continued from page 7

The Department's task is to ensure that individual developments, and urban development as a whole, occur in an orderly and holistic manner. As responsible citizens, you must play your part and cooperate with the Physical Planning department as they attempt to achieve this objective.

While Castries is our only city, the principles of urban planning must apply to our towns and villages. In many ways, Castries is a product of its colonial past and many of the mistakes made years ago are difficult to reverse in the short term. However, we need to do all possible to ensure that we plan and develop our communities in a more sustainable manner.

In this regard our planners, engineers and architects must take a lead in demonstrating their awareness of environmental factors as they continue to build our cities. The development control and building regulations are critical. They help to reduce the occurrence of improper developments which, sometimes, can adversely affect an entire community.

However, we need to undertake more long-term planning for the development and redevelopment of our settlements and pay more attention to

the demands these will place on land, water, energy and other resources. We also need to pay greater attention to solid and liquid waste and air pollution issues.

While Government must play a role in urban planning, development and management, there is a role for civil society and for the individual. In many communities, in Saint Lucia and overseas, community groups and the private sector are active participants in the planning process as well as in beautification, tree planting and other endeavours.

As individuals, we can, and must,

also play our part by, for example, ensuring that we follow the planning regulations, disposing of our waste in the proper manner and using water and other resources wisely.

This World Environment Day, let us all reflect on the theme, Green Cities: Plan for the Planet. Even better, let us work with the rest of the world to do all we can to make our hamlets, villages, towns and cities more environmentally friendly and, ultimately, better places to live.

I take this opportunity to wish you a happy World Environment Day.



Green spaces in all cities are essential



## THIS WEEK ON NTN

Sat. June 4th - Fri. June 10th, 2005

- The GIS discusses the importance of certification for employees of NGO's - Sat. June 4th - 8:00 p.m.
- The National Enrichment & Learning Programme: A way out of poverty - Sun. June 5th, 7:30 p.m.
- The CSME - Acting Not Waiting - An Imperative Business - Mon. June 6th, 8:30 p.m.
- Soca Village International - Part 1 (2004) - Tues. June 7th, 9:00 p.m.
- Disaster management: A key to Economic Development - Wed. June 8th, 8:00 p.m.
- Soca Village International - Part 11 (2004) - Wed. June 8th, 9:00 p.m.
- Banana Bits (LIVE): An insightful look at the current status of banana production in the Windward Islands - Thurs. June 9th, 8:30 p.m.
- National Youth Awards 2005 - Fri. June 10th, 8:00 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](http://www.stlucia.gov.lc) and then click on the NTN icon.

[www.stlucia.gov.lc](http://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](mailto:gis@candw.lc); <http://stlucia.gov.lc>