



# NATIONWIDE

A publication of the Department of Information Services



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## INTERCEPTION LAW PASSED FULL HOUSE SUPPORT

**S**aint Lucia now has a new law to help the police combat the increasing sophistication of today's criminals. It's the Interception of Communications Act, which was passed in the House of Assembly at its last sitting earlier this week, with the support of the Parliamentary Opposition.

The new law will allow the police to go to a High Court Judge for permission to intercept the communications of a person or persons involved in grave criminal activity. This relates to offences such as murder; drug trafficking, money laundering and kidnapping. It also makes provisions for safeguards against abuse, including adjudication by an Appeals Tribunal and for the Chief Justice of the OECS to prescribe a Code of Conduct for those who will be legally empowered to enforce the new law. The Appeals Tribunal, which will again involve the regional Judiciary, will hear complaints by persons who feel their rights have been infringed.

Leader of Government Business in the House, Hon Mario Michel, who tabled the bill, said the law allowing for legal interception of communication of criminals was necessary and it would be a vital tool in the fight against those engaged in use of technology to facilitate serious criminal activity. He said



Hon. Dr. Kenny Anthony

the new legislation was not aimed at invasion of privacy of individuals, nor was it aimed at depriving or restricting the rights of anyone. Instead, he said, it was aimed at enhancing the capability of the local law enforcement agencies to intercept, prevent or reduce crime where possible.

"The interception of Communi-

cation may only take place when the information cannot reasonably be acquired by any other means and interception direction and entry warrant is authorized by a judge and only when a judge is satisfied that it is absolutely necessary," Minister Michel said.

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## NEW CRUISE SEASON



A section of Port Castries which was closed in July for major renovation works was reopened on Wednesday

November 2nd to welcome one of the cruise liners "Century". This was one of the first ships to call at the port at

the start of the current cruise season. Work will continue on the port until early 2006



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# INTERCEPTION LAW PASSED FULL HOUSE SUPPORT

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The Member of Parliament for Gros-Islet assured the House that the in-built safeguards in the new legislation were intended to protect the rights of innocent persons and reduce the possibility of abuse by those administering the law.

Prime Minister Dr Kenny D. Anthony also spoke on the bill, saying it was necessary to enable the police to keep up with the criminals. He urged fellow parliamentarians to support the bill, saying this was a time when they had to take a stand – to either stand against the criminals or to show support for them.

During his contribution, Dr Anthony also refuted public claims by Former Prime Minister and Leader of the opposition United Workers Party (UWP), Sir John Compton, that the legislation was being sneaked into parliament without prior public consultation. The Prime Minister said the legislation had

been long in coming and he outlined the many steps taken by the Government, the Parliament and the Office of the Attorney General to keep Members of Parliament, the Press and the general public informed every step of the way.

“Which country these day don’t have to move in this direction to deal with the problems of drug trafficking, to deal with the problems of drug transiting, to deal with the sophistication of the criminals that we have. St. Lucia today is not St. Lucia yesterday—it has changed completely. We cannot have our cake and eat it. We can’t stand day in, day out lambasting the police and government officials and find ourselves objectively speaking, where we have to decide on a major weapon to fight the criminals in our midst, and then decide that today we are going to give them comfort and support—we can’t do that. I say we have to make a moral stand as to where we stand on that,” Hon. Kenney D. Anthony said.



**Dr. Kenny Anthony - Member of Parliament for Vieux-Fort South speaking on the Bill**



**House of Assembly in session**

All members of the Opposition side spoke on the bill, each expressing concerns and some making suggestions for amendments. But while the debate was long and sometimes loud, the last sitting of the House also provided a commendable level of give-and-take that led to the Government side conceding on three points of concern raised by the Parliamentary Opposition.

During his contribution to the debate, Micoud North MP, Hon. Marius Wilson, argued that appeals by aggrieved persons should go from the Appeals Tribunal to the Court of Appeal. He also urged that the rules governing interceptions should be made by the Chief Justice and not by a minister. For her part, Castries Central MP, Hon. Sarah Flood-Beaubrun, who was also highly critical of the legislation, agreed that it was necessary. However, she wanted the Chief Justice to develop a Code of Conduct for those who will enforce the new law.

The Government conceded on all three points and the bill was amended accordingly, to address the concerns of the Opposition MPs. When the final vote was taken, the Opposition MPs voted for its enactment. They did so, notwithstanding a statement issued earlier by the former Prime Minister, indicating that he and the UWP did not support the legislation and they would

mount public protests against it. In the period since the new law was introduced, there has been much discussion on the streets and in the media.

Meanwhile, it was revealed during the debate in the House that similar legislation is also to be introduced to the other member-states of the OECS, making St. Lucia only the first country to have taken the law to its Parliament.



**Hon. Philip J. Pierre  
Member of Parliament for Castries East**

## THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR GROWING IMPROVED PERFORMANCE BY BREWERY

**P** Prime Minister Dr Kenny D. Anthony says the fact that the Vieux Fort-based Windward and Leeward Brewery (WINLE-BREW) has reported its best year ever since its establishment 30 years ago is linked to the good performance of the St. Lucian economy. Addressing the brewery’s 30th anniversary celebrations at Sandals La Toc last Saturday evening, the Prime Minister said “the establishment of the Brewery has redounded to the benefit of the entire Saint Lucian society.”

He also noted that “investments in the Windward and Leeward Brewery have contributed significantly to the overall economic development of Saint Lucia.” According to its financial report for last year, the brewery – which brews the popular Piton and Heineken Beers and other related products -- recorded an unprecedented increase in profits of 29%. The company also enjoyed a net profit of E.C \$15.7 million in 2004, which represented an increase

of 43% over profits for the corresponding period in the previous year. The gross sales revenue of the company increased by 4% or approximately EC \$2.7 million over that of 2003.

According to its report, the brewery also registered a net profit per share of \$14 compared to last’s year \$9.83 net profit per share. This represented an increase of 43%. The company was also able to pay profits as dividends at \$14 per share. Acknowledging that last year’s performance was the best ever in the 30-year history of the company, the Prime Minister said the brewery’s total investment of EC \$5 million represented “an important injection of capital into the domestic economy.”

“By any measure,” he said, “the performance of the company was exceptional.” “This,” the Prime Minister noted, “bears testimony to the fact that there is new buoyancy within the Saint Lucian economy.”

Prime Minister Anthony said the ability of the brewery to increase domestic market share “is a clear indication of increased economic activities

and expansion and growth within the domestic economy.”

The Prime Minister assured the audience of mainly company staff, directors and shareholders that “the Government’s unwavering determination to create the enabling environment to foster this business growth, is manifested in your successive increases in export activity and profitability and that of

many other businesses, as confirmed in the last business survey conducted by the St. Lucia Chamber of Commerce.”

“I can assure you that the Government will be unrelenting in its pursuit of continued economic growth and sustainability and improved living standards for all St. Lucians,” said Dr Anthony.



**Expansion of the manufacturing sector**

# WTO Must do More for Small States

By Hon. Petrus Compton  
Minister of External Affairs,  
International Trade  
and Civil Aviation, St. Lucia

The World Trade Organization (WTO) Doha Round is facing formidable challenges that stand in the way of its successful completion. The Caribbean is prepared to play a constructive role in moving the process forward, so that a balanced and development-oriented outcome can be achieved. But the Region has strong misgivings over how ‘development issues’ are finding expression in on-going negotiations. Development must be the linchpin of Doha Round talks, especially if the smallest and most vulnerable of WTO Members are to benefit.

All eyes are now on what has been characterized as a decisive year-end Ministerial, and the hope is that it will propel the Round that much closer to completion. But for this to happen, much depends on headway in building consensus amongst principal players on Agriculture negotiations, ahead of the WTO’s December Ministerial.

Without sufficient forward momentum on this gateway issue, other areas important to developing countries will continue to be on the back-burner of the negotiating agenda. There is a very real possibility that the Doha Round could be derailed, without sufficient progress in Agriculture talks. Mired by impasse, as recently as last week, Agriculture talks are in jeopardy of collapse, at a time when industrial goods talks too are struggling. A proposal by the EU Friday (October 28), meant to unblock the talks, provides for further cuts in farm tariffs. However, the proposal has met with a cool reception, especially from the US. There is the view that the EU’s offer has fallen short of expectations, raising the prospect that time may run out on closing divergences in farm trade talks.

In spite of high profile pronouncements that the Doha Round is a “Development Round”, global trade talks have so far fallen short on this score. The Caribbean has made a clarion call for development to be infused in the negotiations. The tragedy is that this fervent appeal to re-orient negotiations, so that development issues are

front-loaded on the negotiating agenda, has fallen on deaf ears.

The Region’s legitimate concerns with the state of affairs in a so-called Development Round have been glossed over. Try as they might, developing countries have been unable to forestall the marginalization of development issues in trade talks. The hallmark of development-friendly WTO negotiations is whether development issues are on the radar screen, and importantly whether substantial progress is being made in advancing them. On both scores, the Round would thus far receive a failing grade, giving WTO naysayers much ammunition to berate the multilateral trading system.

As if this weren’t enough to contend with, some of the smallest and most vulnerable countries in the Caribbean must now come to terms with recent developments in regards to a key commodity export, that threatens to undermine the livelihoods of tens of thousands of people. A ruling handed down by WTO Arbitrators October 27 on the proposed European Union banana tariff determined that the proposal would not maintain market access for third country or most favoured nation (MFN) suppliers. In effect, the ruling exposes Caribbean banana trade to new uncertainties, at a time when preferences are being scaled-back. A solution must be found, and fast. The Region calls on the EU to negotiate with MFN and ACP suppliers, to arrive at a mutually satisfactory solution that ultimately is fair to both. That solution must provide for market stability. The Caribbean expects that the EU will honour its commitments as regards ACP banana market access to the European market, in keeping with the Cotonou Partnership Agreement.

Preferences are vitally important to the ability of small and vulnerable countries like St. Lucia to export bananas, yet this issue has received a



Senator Petrus Compton

hostile reception in the WTO. These preferences harm no one. The Caribbean has no desire or ability to damage the trading interests of Latin American or indeed any other exporters.

Bananas are the bedrock upon which St. Lucia’s most vulnerable communities – especially those in the rural areas – are constituted. Banana exports sustain a way of life, like no other sector in St. Lucia can. If it is unable to profitably trade in bananas, the very social fabric of St. Lucia will be dislocated.

It is immediately clear that the Arbitrators’ ruling goes beyond bananas, affecting the capacity of the Caribbean’s small, vulnerable banana-producing states to effectively trade a vitally important commodity. If WTO rules are undermining our ability to trade, what then is the value of the WTO system to the most vulnerable? The WTO system is marginalizing small economies. Indeed, the WTO negotiating agenda is failing to address the obligations of a Development Round to developing countries, especially to its smallest and most vulnerable Members.



Caribbean negotiators at a recent meeting in Saint Lucia

## Bio-safety Project ends December, 2005

Attempts at better regulating and monitoring the possible importation of genetically modified organisms (GMO’s) are to be strengthened with more consultations on the national bio-safety project. They are scheduled for the week of November 9th and will be held in Micoud. The most recent consultations took place in the capital city Castries in October.

The bio-safety project began in April of 2004 and is sponsored by the Global Environment Facility of the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP). The project is to come to an end by December 31st, 2005. Over its year-and-a-half long lifespan the project has trained several Saint Lucians in bio-safety management issues, risks assessment and management. The project has also played a key role in helping to further sensitized stakeholders to the issue of bio-safety.

2 pt National Biodiversity Co-ordinator attached to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Anita James

says, “bio-safety is basically putting systems in place to protect the island’s biodiversity and human health from any possible negative impacts that may occur from the use, creation or transfer and handling of GMO’s especially those that are living.” Miss. James says efforts have gotten underway in the form of national consultations, which seek to prepare a draft framework to help Saint Lucia better manage the issue.

2 pt The comprehensive framework consists of a policy, strategy and action plan, along with public participation, administrative and regulatory systems. Saint Lucia in June of this year signed the Cartagena Protocol on Bio-safety, which helps countries collaborate in reducing the negative impacts of risks from GMO’s.

2 pt Project officials say at present, there is a high probability that Genetically Modified Organisms may be entering the country. That they say however cannot be fully ascertain due to the lack of control and monitoring mechanisms.



Plant propagation and food production

## CHILD ABUSE MANAGEMENT

The role of the community in identifying and reporting cases of child abuse is the focus of the third module in a series of child abuse management training spearheaded by the Division of Human Services and Family Affairs of the Ministry of Health. The training workshop began here on Tuesday, November 1st 2005.

It will seek the input of special interest groups namely mothers and fathers groups, youth and sports councils, parent-teacher associations, social services workers, medical practitioners, religious, police, the legal fraternity and the media’s role in handling and reporting child abuse cases.

Director of Human Services and Family Affairs Clementia Eugene says feedback from the modules, which total six in number, will feed into a draft protocol for the management of child abuse on the island. “The management of child abuse require the intervention of many,” says Miss. Eugene.

She says based on that, “we thought it necessary to involve all stakeholders who are involved in child abuse management to a series of consultation to build consensus on the protocol as it relates to the roles and functions of stakeholders as well as inviting the mandatory re-



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

porters to be part of the process. The most intricate part of the protocol is the provision made for mandatory reporters and so a number of persons have been identified.”

Recommendations on the draft protocol will be reviewed by the policy committee of the Ministry of Health, before it’s submittal to Cabinet for ratification. The hope is for the draft protocol to reach the office of the Attorney General and possibly become part of legislation governing child abuse management on the island.



## CONVERSATION WITH THE NATION

**G**reetings once again, citizens of Saint Lucia. I hope you had a great weekend, and a fabulous Jounen Kwéyòl. I once told you that on the days when I see members of the public, I am brought face to face with the many problems encountered by our citizens. Sometimes, the experience can be wrenching. There are occasions when it is impossible to reach out simply because existing laws and Government procedures do not permit the help, assistance or support the citizens require.

I have met all kinds of individuals. I have met those who want me to “arrange” scholarships for them. I have met those who seek my help to get jobs. I have met those who want me to pay court fines, to assist them in paying child maintenance and in waiving hospital fees. I have met those who want help to repair or build a house. I have met those who want me to waive taxes, and even reverse decisions of the courts and determine rights over property. You name it, and I can share my experience with you.

In many of these encounters, I am often struck by the fact that many citizens simply believe that the Prime Minister can do anything, irrespective of the laws that exist.

Let me share three examples with you to demonstrate the popular perception that a Prime Minister can do anything.

### All powerful in customs?

A trader once approached me to waive duties imposed by Custom Officials at a port of entry. She explained that on a trip to Martinique, she purchased merchandise which she intended to sell on the local market.

However, she complained that she could not pay the duties charged on the commodities. She alleged that a Customs Officer told her that the Prime Minister imposed the duties so she should go to him to get them waived. It did not matter that the duties and charges in question were in existence long before I became Prime Minister. I explained to her that there were set rules, procedures and guidelines governing the operations of the Custom's Department and so I could not violate these rules. To that she remarked, “You



**Hon. Kenny D. Anthony speaking in Parliament**

are the Prime Minister, you can do anything.” I tried to reason with her, “Look, if I break the law just to please you then no one will have respect for the law or Custom Officers.” She refused to accept my reasoning. My explanation could not register.

It did not matter to her that interference in the decisions of Customs Officials would undermine the neutrality and remove the impartiality necessary for fairness in the operations of the Customs Department.

### Intervention in property disputes

Likewise, many of our citizens believe that the Prime Minister has the power to intervene in land disputes and resolve them irrespective of their origins. I have been asked to intervene in disputes concerning family land, in issues of inheritance of property. I have been invited to pronounce on land matters where ownership and other rights in land are in dispute. In all of these instances, citizens do not come for advice but simply to invite me to declare their rights, as if I had such power. This problem is really very deep. Some believe that even if there is a court judgment on such matters, I have the power and authority to overturn the court's judgment. Others believe that

even if the matter is yet to be settled and is before a court of law, I can preempt the courts and provide a ruling in their favour.

I have a great challenge to explain that the powers of the Prime Minister do not extend to overriding the decisions of the courts. I have pointed out that the court's function is to interpret the law and ensure that justice is done. As a result it is only the courts which can determine right and wrong in instances of disputes involving land. It is not the place of the Prime Minister to condemn the judgments of the courts or the magistrates. Moreover, if politicians had to resolve land disputes, there would, in effect, be no need for independent courts. Sometimes, it is like talking Greek!

### Power over taxation

Take another example. Large sections of the public believe that the Prime

Minister has power and control over matters of taxation. There are some individuals who do not pay their taxes to the Inland Revenue Department. However, when they are assessed, some approach me to request that I waive the taxes owed to the Inland Revenue De-

partment. There are also those who are convinced that the Prime Minister can intervene to have the interest on unpaid taxes waived, reduced or cancelled altogether.

What do you really think has created in the minds of the citizens that the Prime Minister is all-powerful? Why is it that so many believe that he is the law or operates above the law? Why too, so many believe that he can do any and everything? Can a Prime Minister really do as he pleases? Is he accountable to no one? Have we failed to explain our Constitution, our laws, our system of government?

Many of our citizens simply do not understand how our system of government works. Many of our citizens are equally unclear about the powers which the Prime Minister and the other branches of government possess under the Constitution.



**Hosting children at the Official Residence**

### The prime minister is neither the law nor is he above the law

The enactment of laws is the function of the Parliament of Saint Lucia and not the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister is subject to the law just like any other citizen. If he breaks or trans-

gresses the law, he too is liable to face the full sanction of the law. So too are his cabinet colleagues. The law is the law and no citizen, irrespective of profession, colour, creed or class is or ought to be above the law. No one is beyond the reach of the law.

If the Prime Minister operates in a manner that places him above the law, it would mean that he is accountable to no one. A lack of accountability on the part of the Prime Minister would in effect lead to a situation where accountable government is impossible. In such a case the Prime Minister would be free to flaunt the law as he pleases. Where accountable government does not exist, then the principles of good governance flounder.

### Separation of powers – a check on prime ministerial power

This is precisely why our political system operates the way it does. In



**Prime Minister address workers at a project site**

individual or office. For this reason the functions of government are shared between three main branches of government – the executive, the legislature and judiciary. This is what is referred to as a separation of powers. The powers and functions of the various branches of government are prescribed by law and outlined in the Constitution.

The executive comprises of the Prime Minister and Cabinet of Ministers and the Public Service. The Legislature comprises all the elected members of Parliament and senators appointed by the Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition and the Governor General. And the judiciary comprises the court system, the magistrates' courts and the Supreme Court. In turn, the Supreme Court is made up of the High Court and the Court of Appeal.

These three branches of government share power as well as state authority in carrying out certain functions. So in essence they serve as a check on each other. The checks are necessary to ensure that none of these organs becomes too powerful and a law unto itself. For example in our system of government,

order to prevent the abuse of power, our political system was designed to prevent too much power from being concentrated in the hands of any one



**Meeting celebrities**

the judiciary is independent and operates free from intervention from the executive and the legislature. This is important if the judiciary is to interpret the law on the one hand and on the other hand, to ensure that there is justice.

The idea of a separation of power between the various branches of government serves another important function – the preservation of our democratic traditions. Without adherence to the principles of separation of powers it is possible to have government by one individual or a dictatorship. So the idea of separation of powers is key in upholding the ideals of governance, as well as accountable and transparent government.

### Ask a simple question

So there are real limitations on what a Prime Minister can and cannot do.

Bear this in mind when next you come to visit and ask my help. Ask yourself a simple question: Does the Prime Minister really have the power, authority and influence to resolve my problems?

Just remember that although the Prime Minister enjoys certain powers, he does not have the power to do as he pleases in all matters. He operates within the confines of the law and is subject to the sanctions of the law, just like other citizens.

So until next week, be of good cheer, God bless and don't forget never, never give in to the criminals!



**The Prime Minister in the Legislative Chambers**



**The Prime Minister welcomes CARICOM Secretary General**



**The Prime Minister with CARICOM leaders**



# Human Trafficking on Public Agenda

**The Division of Gender Relations in the Ministry of Health, Human Services and Family Affairs has underscored the need for Saint Lucians to be further educated on the scourge of human trafficking. Two recently convened workshops by the Division of Gender Relations, held in the north and south of the island centred on human trafficking. The workshops addressed the roles that the public and private sectors and members of the society can undertake in order to curb the growth of human trafficking.**

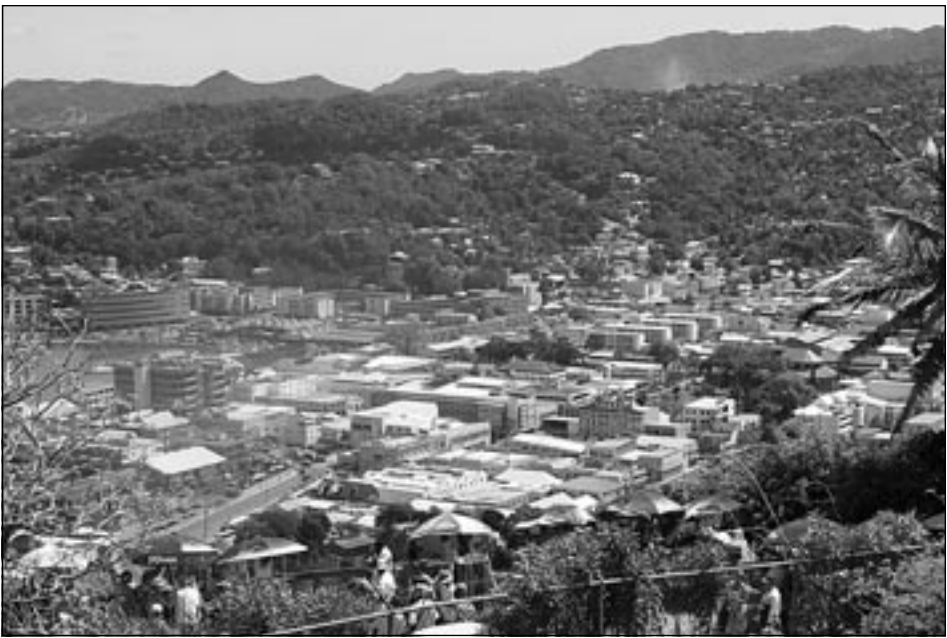
Gender Relations Officer Charms Gaspard says as regional borders become less defined, it becomes more pressing for persons to understand such issues. “This is being done by raising awareness and boosting information dissemination on the scope, characteristics and the risk of trafficking particularly among vulnerable groups, government agencies and civil societies in general. We are also working on building local capacity to identify and assist victims of trafficking.”

Ms. Gaspard says locally human trafficking is not being viewed as a significant problem. However she says there is cause for concern in several circles. “There are several push factors such as unemployment, the prospect of higher earnings in another country among others which makes us vulnerable as a country of origin. Where unsuspecting individuals can be trafficked out of the country or may travel to another country and fall victim to human trafficking.”

The workshops were held on October 13th and 20th and were reportedly very well attended.

Meanwhile the Division of Gender Relations is continuing its quest to sensitize the nation on the dangers of human trafficking. Following on the workshops to sensitise key persons to impart such knowledge to the general public, Gender Relations Officer Charms Gaspard says educators and the media should assist in disseminating factual information.

The department says the public should be trained to look out for the red flags, including carefully crafted advertisements



used as a means to attract would be victims. These are usually presented through the Internet and other media. Ms. Gaspard says this is why the issue of advertisements or commercials was addressed at the recent workshops. “We presented persons with very attractive advertisements and basically had them to tell us how they impacted on them and to gauge their reaction.”

While legislation against human trafficking is still in the pipeline, the Gender Rela-

tions Department views information as the best tool to go hand in hand with the law. “Immigration officers and law enforcement officers were among those expressing concern about the lack of legislation to deal directly with the issue of human trafficking. However although there is not legislation pertaining to trafficking specifically, there are other areas that persons can be prosecuted under our criminal code; for example for labour, servitude or slavery,” says Gaspard.

## A REMINDER FROM NEMO BE PREPARED FOR DISASTERS – HURRICANE SEASON ENDS NOVEMBER 30TH

**The Saint Lucia Disaster Diary for 2005 ends with a Tsunami. The 250th Anniversary, set on the scale of the Asian Tsunami of 11 months ago this 8.9 earthquake produced fires and tsunamis that killed thousands. With no warning the tsunami arrived on the coastline of the Caribbean islands and wrecked havoc.**

In the morning of November 1, 1755, a large earthquake struck Lisbon... It was Sunday and the religious holiday of All Saints. Most of Lisbon’s population of 250,000 were praying in six magnificent cathedrals. The main shock of the great earthquake struck Portugal at 9:40 in the morning of November 1, 1775. At that time, there were no instruments to record or measure earthquakes but experts have estimated that the magnitude of the Great Lisbon Earthquake must have been 8.6 or even greater.

It took less than an hour for this first

tsunami to reach Morocco and Algiers, and about 7 hours to reach the Caribbean and the U. S. East coast. Remarkable tsunami waves and effects were recorded and reported everywhere, on both sides of the Atlantic. Waves up to 60 feet in height hit a vast area stretching from Finland to North Africa and across the Atlantic to Martinique and Barbados causing much destruction and loss of life.

### Antilles, Antigua, Martinique, and Barbados

The tsunami crossed the Atlantic Ocean, reaching the Antilles in the afternoon. Reports from Antigua, Martinique, and Barbados note that the sea first rose more than a meter, followed by large waves.

It is estimated that the offshore deep water tsunami amplitudes along the USA coast and the Caribbean must have been about 2 meters high with periods of 1.25 to 1.5

hours. The maximum tsunami run up on the shore would have been about 10 feet (about 3 meters). In their Preliminary List of Caribbean Tsunamis/Caribbean Tsunamis: An Initial History James F. Lander and Lowell S. Whiteside indicate that

Waves of amplitude 7 m were observed at Saba, 3.6 m at Antigua and Dominica, 4.5 m at St. Martin, leaving a sloop anchored in 4.6 m of water was left laying broadside on the dry bottom, 1.5-1.8 m at Barbados, where the wave had a period of 5 minutes and the water was black as ink. At Martinique, at some places the water was reported to have withdrawn for 1.6 km and at other places it flowed into the upper level rooms of the houses. The lowlands on most of the other French Islands were inundated.

NEMO takes this opportunity to remind the public that Saint Lucia is vulnerable to many hazards and though storms are recurrent we need to be prepared for all manner of hazards.



A reminder of the destruction of hurricanes

## HEAVY RAINS - DRAINAGE WORKS CONTINUE



The two major drainage projects are continuing according to schedule in spite of the continuous heavy rains in the last

few weeks. Project officials have been reviewing works and making adjustments to accommodate the human and vehicular



traffic in Castries and Anse La Raye. In the pictures above, the construction of a main bridge in Anse La Raye is progressing,

while water pumps are working continuously near the Castries waterfront to clear drains for work to continue.

# REMEMBERING THOSE WHO FOUGHT FOR PEACE

**AN ADDRESS IN HONOUR OF THE CELEBRATIONS OF VETERANS WEEK PRESENTED BY H. E. DAME PEARLETTE LOUISY AND BROADCAST ON NTN**

**T**he St. Lucia Branch of the Royal Commonwealth Ex-Service League will be devoting the next few days to honouring the memory of those of their comrades who lost their lives during the two World Wars, and to bring to the national consciousness the needs of the veterans among us, those who thankfully survived, but who by reason of age and attendant ill-health must now depend, in large measure, on the generosity and goodwill of the more able-bodied among us. The passion with which the members of the League plan and execute this annual week of activities is testimony that for them this exercise is not just mere tradition, or nostalgia or a reluctance to let go of the past. It is for them a sacred duty, an unwavering determination not to forget the sacrifice of their comrades who gave their lives, their health and strength, who suffered pain of body or of mind for the good of the world.

And so it should be with us as a nation. Remembering those who fought for the peace of the world during these two World Wars is a national duty. The sacrifice they made imposes on all of us, in these times no less than in times past, such an obligation and such a duty. I am reminded of Franklin Roosevelt's Armistice Day Address in 1941 at the height of World War II. Speaking of those who had died in World War I, he had this to say: **"They did not die to make the world safe for decency and self-respect for five years or ten or maybe twenty. They died to make it safe. And if, by some fault of ours who lived beyond the war, its safety has again been threatened, then the obligation and the duty are ours. It is our charge now, to see to it 'that these dead shall not have died in vain.'**"

We have lived beyond the wars: that of 1914-1918, a war which was described as "the war to end all wars" in which twenty million people lost their lives; that of 1939 - 1945 which demonstrated that Peace and Freedom are not things that we fight for once and then stop. They are principles which we need to keep on fighting for eternally to be able to hold on to them. And this is why it is our national duty to remember and to honour those who died to help secure that peace and freedom. It is also a duty we owe to ourselves. To remember the sacrifice, the wrongs, the hurts, the brutality, the immense loss of life, the irrationality and the insanity of warfare, so that we may avoid them or avert them. We



H.E. Dame Pearlette Louisy

remember some of the horrors of World War II. Some of them, in the words of one of the judges of the International Military Tribunal conducting the Nuremberg trials, were **so calculated, so malignant, and so devastating, that civilization cannot tolerate their being ignored, because it cannot survive their being repeated**"

It is for this reason, that we need to stop, at least once a year, to remember those events which took place some ninety years ago, in the case of World War I, and some sixty years ago, in the case of World War II, to appreciate the enormity of the danger that threatened and the compelling response to avert that threat. Every year therefore, we assemble at our War Memorials and our Cenotaphs across the country to discharge our duty: to remember before God all those who, in the two World Wars gave their lives for others; to remember all those who have died in wars in the cause of justice, freedom and peace; to remember all those who continue to suffer because of those two World Wars; and to pray for the peace of the world.

It saddens me however, to witness the decreasing interest on the part of the public in this solemn national duty. Those Services of Remembrance, in Castries, Vieux Fort, Soufriere and Gros Islet are not meant solely for veterans, public officials, uniformed

groups and diplomatic personnel, but for the entire St. Lucian community. One appreciates that it is not practical for all of us to assemble at the venues themselves, but I believe we could revive that interest if these Services were broadcast live and in its entirety over radio and television to reach people across the length and breadth of the island. This uniting in one common purpose would bring us closer together as a nation in the cause of peace, peace in our homes, in our land, in our world. The Last Post which is sounded at the beginning of each of these Remembrance Services is a final farewell to those who died and symbolizes that their duty is over and that they can now rest in peace. But as if to underscore the point that the fight for peace, justice, and freedom has to be an on-going commitment, the Reveille at the end of the Services calls the soldiers' spirit to rise and prepare for another day. But it is especially for us who remain, to do our duty and secure the survival of our civilization, to ensure the principle of justice to all peoples and nationalities, and their right to live on equal terms of liberty and safety with one another, whether they are strong or weak.

It is our national duty as well to help our ex-service men and women if they should be in need. It is this duty which the local branch of the Royal Commonwealth Ex-

Service League struggles to discharge all year round, with the assistance of Government, of corporate citizens and individual benefactors. The general public is approached once a year at this time through the Poppy Appeal, and I accordingly urge you to be especially generous this year which commemorates the eighty-seventh anniversary of the end of World War I and the 60th Anniversary of the end of World War II. Our veterans of World War I have all gone, but you can read about them and about our World War II Veterans in the publication entitled "Honouring Saint Lucian Veterans of the World Wars" which the St. Lucia Ex-Service Legion will shortly be releasing. Their lives, their stories and the choice they made to join up to fight for freedom will inspire you.

As we observe yet another Veterans' Week, and as we participate in the Remembrance Services in Vieux Fort on November 11th, in Soufriere and Gros Islet on the 12th and in Castries - both at the Derek Walcott Square and in the George V Park on November 13th, let there be no further questioning of the sacrifice that they made. Instead, as we see daily the on-going ravages of war in other parts of the world, let us commit to building on the foundation of peace that they laid by their blood, their sweat and their tears.



Veterans being presented to the Duke of York

## Stray Animals Act Strengthened

**A**n appeal has again gone out to cattle farmers and other livestock handlers and owners to cooperate with authorities, in getting stray animals off the island's highways. Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Honourable Ignatius Jean, at this week's House of Assembly sitting, introduced an amendment to the Animals Act.

The amendment, among other things, seeks to strengthen the powers of authorised persons who handle stray animals found either roaming the highways or on private property adjacent to or adjoining the island's highways. It will also allow authorised persons who impound stray animals to be able to auction them off for sale in 4 days inclusive of their capture as opposed to 10 days exclusive of their seizure. Under the amended Act, the intended notice for sale will now require 3 days publication in the Gazette as opposed to the prior arrangement of 7 days notice.

Minister Jean says these measures are necessary in making for greater efficiency in the attempt to get stray animals off the highways. He says much collabora-

tion along those lines is coming from the Police via the Ministry of Home Affairs, together with the Ministry of Communication, Works, Transport and Public Utilities.

The Ministry has been working closely with the St. Lucia Animal Protection Society (SLAPS) in urging livestock owners to cooperate in getting stray animals off the highways. "We are trying our best to reduce on the need for the use of force by lethal shooting," says Minister Jean.

He went on, "Again I say, we are trying as best as possible to immobilize those animals without having to use deadly force which is a last resort. However we need to have the full co-operation of members of the public and those persons who own livestock." The Agriculture Minister says whereas cattle farming and livestock rearing is viewed as serious business by his ministry, the grazing of livestock along Saint Lucia's highways has resulted in huge losses to life and property.

To date a holding pound has been established at Union and the services of a private contractor have been retained.



## GOVERNMENT SECURES FUNDING FOR 2007

On Friday October 28th, the Government of Saint Lucia signed an agreement with the First Caribbean International Bank (FCIB) to secure funding for Saint Lucia's preparation to host matches in the ICC Cricket World Cup 2007. At the signing cer-

emony were Dr. Kenny D. Anthony, Minister of Finance, Mrs. Mauricia Francis of the FCIB and Director of Finance Mr. Isaac Anthony, Mr Trevor Brathwaite, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance and senior staff of the bank.



# INTERNATIONAL CREOLE DAY

**I**nternational Creole day was celebrated in Saint Lucia on Friday 28th October 2005. Several public sector agencies observed this event in different ways, from modest yet significant exhibitions to major entertainment activities where many indigenous musicians were exposed to the public. The most common feature of all the celebrations was the preparation and sharing of Creole dishes. The expression and promotion of the Creole traditions through the cuisine has been the hallmark of the celebrations by all groups including schools, private sector establishments and public sector agencies. One of the large activities in the public sector was the service of free Creole meals by the staff of the Ministry of Social Transformation, Local Government and Culture. The entertainment programme was organised by the staff of the Cultural Development Foundation. We present some of the images of the observance of International Creole day in some public sector agencies.



Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony and Press Secretary Earl Bousquet at work on Creole Day



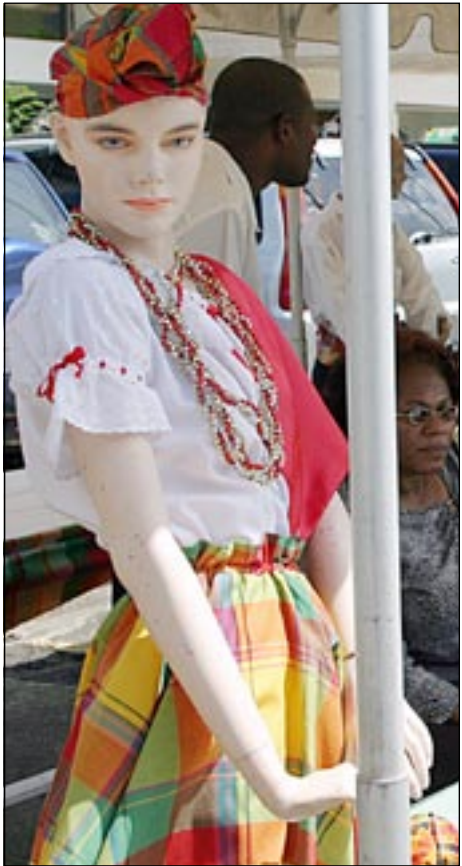
Feeding the public



Staff of the Court of Appeal



Creole food



Craft display



Creole belles



Visitors



Ti Gason plus creole musicians



## THIS WEEK ON NTN

Sat. Nov. 5th - Fri. Nov. 11th, 2005

- The LUCELEC Story – 40 Years Later - Sat. Nov. 5th – 11:30 p.m.
- The Royal St. Lucia Police Band in Concert - Sun. Nov. 6th, 11:00 p.m.
- Chemical Safety in a Vulnerable World - Mon. Nov. 7th, 6:15 p.m.
- Sustainable Development and Trade Investment Opportunities for Micro-entrepreneurs in the Caribbean– Tues. Nov. 8th, 7:30 p.m.
- Caribbean Vision – Educulture - Wed. Nov. 9th, 8:00 p.m.
- OAS Lecture: From Economic Crisis to Economic Growth – Thurs. Nov. 10th, 9:00 p.m.
- Sports Talk: The Growth and Development of Netball in the Caribbean – Fri. Nov. 11th. 6:30 p.m.

Remember to tune in for:

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

For the complete programme guide, log on to our website at [www.stlucia.gov.lc](http://www.stlucia.gov.lc) and then click on the NTN icon.

[www.stlucia.gov.lc](http://www.stlucia.gov.lc)