



NATIONWIDE

A publication of the Department of Information Services



Paradis to open doors in 2007
- page 2



Construction of new Mental Hospital to begin in November - page 2



A National ID for all seasons
- page 3



PM's Conversation With the Nation - pages 4 & 5



Local families benefit from care-givers programme - page 6

PM Welcomes EU Reassurance of Preferential Access for ACP Bananas

But he warns that we must face the "hard, cold facts" of changes in global trade

P rime Minister Dr Kenny D. Anthony has welcomed the reassurance by a leading European Union (EU) official that the EU will maintain its preferential access to banana imports from African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries.

"The EU has stood by us all along and this is a welcome reassurance, especially for those who may have despaired at news of the latest WTO (World Trade Organisation) decision," the Prime Minister said.

Dr Anthony was reacting to news Wednesday that European Commission (EC) spokeswoman for trade issues, Claude Veron-Reville, had said that EU policies towards former colonies in the ACP bloc "have not changed" despite the WTO's decision last week rejecting the EU's proposed 230 Euro per ton tariff on extra banana imports from Latin America.

Mrs Veron-Reville told the BBC: "The ACP can count on the EU to maintain its engagement with them and to maintain a form of preference." She said this was "permitted under WTO rules."

The EC spokesperson said the WTO decision gave the EU some room to manoeuvre in setting a new tariff structure.

Prime Minister Anthony told the local press on Tuesday morning that the EU had stood by the Caribbean banana exporters and their counterparts in the African and Pacific regions "in our



Hon. Dr. Kenny D. Anthony
Prime Minister of Saint Lucia

continuing efforts to ensure the survival of our banana industries in the face of global changes and growing competition from Latin America."

"We cannot blame the EU," the PM said, "they have stood by us and helped us despite being hauled twice before the WTO by the Latin Americans. Now they are being hauled again."

The WTO last weekend ruled that the EU's proposed new 230 Euro tariff on Latin bananas was unfair to the South Americans. But it did not rule on the proposed tariff itself. Instead, the WTO arbitrators asked the EU to return to the drawing board and engage the Latin Americans in talks. The arbitrators gave the two sides ten days to discuss

and return to the WTO table.

The ACP producers and the EU had largely expected the WTO's decision. They say the position of the Latin Americans has remained inflexible and has of late become even more rigid.

Under existing rules, the Latin Americans pay 75 Euros for each ton exported within their quota of 2.7 million tons, out of the total three million tons quota of the EU market. Any amount above or beyond the 2.7 million tons, however, would fetch an additional 680 Euros per ton.

But for the ACP states there is no tariff for exports to the EU, a situation which the Latins say is discriminatory against them.

The EU is proposing to leave the ACP countries tariff-free, but to increase the tariff for Latin American bananas to 230 Euros per ton. The smaller producers in the ACP states, however, who fear they will be driven out of the market, were hoping the EU's tariff would have been higher at 275 Euros per ton. But the Latin Americans claim that at 230 Euros the proposed new tariff would have a "devastating effect" on the development of their economies.

The WTO said it did not agree with the yardstick used by the EU to arrive at the 230 Euro tariff proposal, but the arbitrators did not make any proposal itself.

Continued on page 7



"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



ETERNAL CHANGE TO DENNERY'S LANDSCAPE PARADIS TO OPEN DOORS IN 2007

SEE PAGE 8 FOR ARTIST'S IMPRESSION OF HOTEL



Kierron L.S. Dolby - Major Shareholder
- Paradis Praslin Bay St. Lucia



A section of Praslin Bay - One of the most scenic spots on earth



Turning the sod on August 4 - A turning point in the hotel industry



Parliamentary Representative for Dennery North, Hon. Damian Greaves (R) is looking forward to better economic times for his constituency

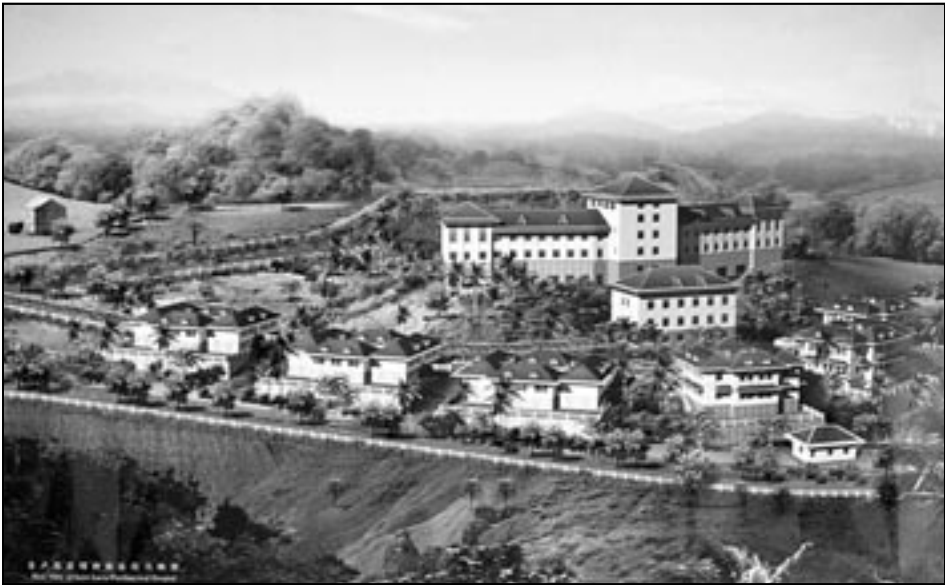


Hundreds turned out at Stony Hill (Monchy) for the official reception heralding the formal agreement between the developers and the Gov't of St. Lucia

Construction of New Mental Hospital to begin in November



Ambassador Gu Huaming (C) and Hon. Damian Greaves (R) discussing the final details



New Mental Health Facility - Ushering a new approach to mental health care

A major component of the island's health reform process is to get underway in coming weeks, as site preparation works are scheduled to commence on the construction of a new mental health facility.

The ultra-modern facility will incorporate an administrative building,

diagnostic and treatment building and will house some 104 beds as part of its clinical services.

Minister for Health, Human Services, Family Affairs and Gender Relations Honourable Damian Greaves says the new facility will provide a comprehensive service comprising acute care, rehabilitative as well as community care.

When completed after the allotted 18 months, the facility will bring to three the number of major projects built on the island by the Peoples Republic of China.

Construction of the project will see Chinese workers working alongside Saint Lucian counterparts.

Staffing and equipment for the new

facility is being handled by the Government of Saint Lucia. Health planners say already procedures and mechanisms are being put in place to ensure that these requirements are adequately met.

Construction is earmarked to begin towards the end of November 2005. Overall construction will cost approximately EC\$27 million.

A New National Identification Card For “All Seasons”

“Secure your identity”: that’s the message coming from Saint Lucia’s Electoral Department, as it prepares to issue a new national identification card to all eligible citizens in the country.

This new facility is being introduced in an effort to provide a standardized identity document, which will require citizens to present identification, not only for the purpose of voting at elections, but also for commercial activity, as a travel document and very importantly, for access to the various programmes and services provided by government and non – governmental organizations.

The national ID card will be issued to all citizens who are sixteen years and over. However, two separate registers will be maintained: a National Register which will contain all national registered citizens and an Electoral Register which will contain the list of all eligible registered voters.

Accordingly, the national ID card will replace the existing voter identification card, the status of which has been proven to be vulnerable to fraudulent activity particularly when used for commercial operations. While the Electoral Department has some mechanism in place to detect impersonation attempts during the voting process at elections, other users of the ID system are not so disposed. As the main ID issuing agency, the department is therefore concerned, not only about the integrity of the electoral process, but also of the consequences for those who rely on the ID system to authenticate their desired processes.

The chosen national ID issuance system will comprise of a fully integrated non-film system based on computerized image capture. The ID card will be produced using a Poly Vinyl Chloride (PVC) type material, encoded with high standard security features. The card will contain a digital photograph and fingerprint and general information about the person. It will also be capable of encrypting machine readable information with the use of a magnetic stripe and a bar code. This information will be stored in a database. This new modernized and more secure ID card will no doubt significantly reduce counterfeit attempts.

Under the new scheme, if a person loses his/her national ID card, his/her data will be compared to the data stored in the database according to the corresponding digital captured image and fingerprint, before a new card is issued.

The technology used in the new ID card, is such that it will permit access through reader machines to Universal Health Care services which is soon to be implemented under the aegis of the National Insurance Corporation (NIC).

The issuing process of the national ID cards is expected to take place during a house-to-house enumeration exercise, scheduled to commence during the month of August 2005.

This house-to-house activity is a verification process which seeks to address registration irregularities resulting from population shifts within the country and migration to other countries among other things. This exercise will take the form a short interview with the occupant(s) of every household in the country for the purpose of ensuring that persons are correctly registered in regard to their place of residence within an electoral district. The interviews will be carried out by trained enumerators accompanied by scrutineers representing the political parties. The enumerators will have in their possession certified copies of the current revised lists of electors which will provide the necessary assistance in the verification process. Incorrect registrations found will be dealt with in accordance with the House of Assembly (Elections) Act, which provides for specific procedures and processes before corrections and or deletions are effected as the case may be.



Everyone will be interviewed before a new national ID is issued

During that process, all citizens sixteen years and above, including existing and new voter registrants will be issued with the new national ID card following their verification of address. However, only the names of registered voters will be entered in the electoral register.

The names of unregistered citizens will be entered in the national register until such time when they become registered, and thereafter their names will be transferred to the electoral register.

Our system of registration is continuous. It is therefore expedient that during the house to house enumeration visits, enumerators may facilitate the registration of eligible applicants if they so desire, upon their submission of appropriate documentation. These new applicants will thereafter be issued with verification certificates, which they must present along with the registration documents, at nearby temporary established registration centres, in order to complete the registration and to be photographed for the processing of the recommended national identification card, which will be subsequently issued to them.

The new national ID cards will only be issued at the temporary established registration centres within the various communities and at the Electoral Department’s



Electoral Department’s advertisement



Electoral Department’s permanent registration centre

permanent registration centre situated on the ground floor of the Godfrey James Building, No. 23 High Street, Castries.

The Electoral Department is therefore calling on all Saint Lucian citizens to secure their ID’s and give to the field staff their full

cooperation during the exercise, so as not to miss the opportunity of being issued with this important more modernized and secure ID facility.

Remember and participate in the house-to-house enumeration process.

HIV/AIDS receives high level of attention from Public Service Ministry

The Ministry of Labour Relations, Public Service and Cooperatives is co-ordinating three (3) HIV/AIDS Workplace Programmes. Below is a status report on each of the programmes:

OAS-Funded National Workplace Policy

The Ministry is working towards the development of a National Workplace Policy funded by the Organisation of American Status (OAS). The Aids Action Foundation was contracted to carry out a Needs Assessment of HIV/AIDS Policies, Programmes and Awareness in the Workplace in St. Lucia.

A consultation and subsequent Train-the-Trainers Workshop were conducted with focal points of private sector personnel together with Personnel Officers, one Training Officer, Administrative Assistant and a Labour Officer of this Ministry.

Occupational Health & Safety Officer, Mr. Lesmond Maglorie was assigned to manage this project, while Administrative Assistant Jacinta Belrose and Training Officer June Daniel serve as the Ministry’s focal points.

It is expected that the first draft of this policy would be completed by June 30, 2005.

Public Service Workplace Policy

The Ministry has been given the mandate under the World Bank Project to co-ordinate the Line Ministry Response of the National HIV/AIDS Response of the non-health sector. The ministry is expected to participate in the first year of the three-year project implementation. An amount of US\$0.97 million has been allocated to this component of the Project.

To this end, the Ministry of the Public Service is working closely with the Ministry of Health and the Aids Action Foundation to prepare a work plan for this project. In that regard, a sensitization workshop was held for senior managers. After finalization of the work plan, we will be continuing activities towards the development of the workplace policy which will encapsulate the education and awareness required.

The Deputy Permanent Secretary is the ministry’s coordinator of the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of this project.

ILO Workplace Programme

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) is pursuing a regional programme on HIV/AIDS and the World of Work. The programme requires three enterprises from a specific sector which are willing

to launch an HIV/AIDS programme and policy. The ILO requires that selection of the three enterprises be based on the following criteria: they must be interested, unionised and must meet the consent of the Employers’ Federation.

The manufacturing sector has been identified as one which would benefit immensely from such an intervention as it has not been covered under any other intervention by either Ministries of Health or Public Service.

A rapid mapping exercise is also expected under this project and a part-time national consultant will be recruited by ILO to conduct this exercise on HIV/AIDS and World of Work in this country. Since the Aids Action Foundation was engaged in a similar exercise under the OAS project, it is recommended that they be contracted to conduct this exercise.

Upon completion of these activities, the ILO intends to conduct a national seminar and subsequently, a sub-regional workshop would be held for the national teams from the participating OECS countries.

The Deputy Permanent Secretary serves as the Ministry’s focal point on this project.

Yesterday Bananas, Today Sugar: What Next?

According to my records, the last occasion when a Conversation was aired was June 27, 2005. Many have complained about the absence of the programme.

Perhaps you will understand the interruptions after I have explained that the last few weeks have been incredibly hectic. I had to travel to Kuwait to finalize financing for the Castries to Gros-Islet Highway, then it was back to chair the Conference of Caribbean Heads of Government, then it was off to Martinique for five (5) days leave, then, on my return, it was off again to Canada to address CARICOM citizens on the impending Single Market and Economy. I have missed “The Conversations,” just as you have missed them. So, let us get back on track.

Hiding behind slogans

Do you remember just a few months ago, the popular word on the streets and in particular the banana belt was that the SLP Government has killed the banana industry. Do you remember how some took pleasure in spreading the word that Government implemented policies deliberately aimed at destroying the banana industry? “Kenny kill bananas” they say, loudly and frequently.

Surely, you must remember the many voices who said that this government likes to hide behind slogans such as globalization and blame all but itself for failing to address the problems of the banana industry. Yet, while this was being said the government was pouring vast resources into the industry to ensure it survives. I know too, that you remember the charge that this government is favouring tourism over agriculture despite how often I have repeated that tourism and agriculture are both vital for the continued development of our nation and the well being of our people. How often have you heard me say that what is important is the creation of linkages between these two vital industries? Simply logic and common sense would dictate that we should never put all our eggs in one basket.

Just think for a moment and ask yourself how would this Government or any other government benefit from destroying an industry which has contributed so much to the overall development of our country. Why would any government want increased unemployment and a loss of export revenue? None of these are desirable nor do they serve the interest of our long-term development.

A popular saying

But there is a popular saying that the truth shall set you free and today the truth is beginning to reveal itself. Sadly, it had to take the unfortunate situation facing the sugar industry in the region to drive home the point that it is not government’s policy which has caused contraction in the banana industry. We have insisted time and time again that the decline in our banana industry is due largely to global forces over which we have very little or no control whatsoever. On numerous occasions, through many different fora, we have explained to the people of Saint Lucia



The WTO regime has ended the preferential trading arrangements for our bananas



Sugar producing countries of the region face a gloomy future

and in particular the banana farmers, that the WTO regime has ended the preferential trading arrangements for our bananas and is responsible for the continued decline of the industry. We have even invited representatives of the opposition UWP to travel to Europe at government’s expense to experience first hand the challenges faced by the industry. They know why they have not accepted.

The new sugar regime

Yesterday, it was bananas; today it is sugar. The European Union Commission is proposing changes in the arrangements under which the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries sell

their sugar to the European countries. The proposal outlined by the European Commission, if implemented, will, as of 2006, cut guaranteed prices for white sugar by 39% in a four-year period ending 2009/2010. Overall, such a cut in sugar prices would result in a reduction of revenue of over US\$ 400 million annually for ACP countries. For the sugar producing countries of the region such a cut would mean a loss of over US\$ 100 million annually.

Sugar the backbone of caribbean economies

We are all aware that from the days of slavery to the present, the sugar industry formed the backbone of the econo-

mies of many Caribbean countries. Just as bananas in the days of “green gold”, was the major foreign exchange earner of the Saint Lucian economy, so too was sugar to many of the regional economies.

In 2004, sugar exports from Guyana alone totaled \$121 million, Jamaica \$70 million and Belize \$34 million. In Guyana, the Sugar Industry accounted for 17% of GDP, as well as being the chief export and the largest employer. Sugar is also the top agricultural export for Jamaica, Barbados, Belize and until recently, Saint Kitts and Nevis. As occurred in Saint Lucia and the remaining Windward Islands, it is likely that the new EU regime for sugar will cause

economic dislocation and a rise in unemployment in the affected countries. Whereas the sugar producing countries of the region are not opposed to reforms in the industry, it is clear that the proposed cut in sugar prices is “too deep, too soon and too short.”

The plight of saint kitts and nevis

The new arrangements proposed by the European Union have produced its first casualty - Saint Kitts and Nevis. The Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis has announced that it is closing down its Sugar Industry, leaving behind a debt of EC \$350 million dollars, and hundreds of individuals on the bread-line. Indeed, the debt of \$350 million is

one of the reasons why Saint Kitts and Nevis has one of the highest GDP/Public Debt ratios in the world. Just think for a moment. Could you imagine what would have happened in Saint Lucia if this government had allowed the debt of the old Saint Lucia Banana Growers Association to go above the EC \$45 million dollars which it inherited in 1997?

Even before the events in Saint Kitts and Nevis, another Caribbean country, Trinidad and Tobago had seen the writing on the wall. Three or four years ago, the government closed down sugar production at the state owned company, Caroni Ltd., leaving several thousand persons unemployed.

Barbados too is considering the future of its sugar industry, which also, is heavily in debt.

Truly, these are challenging times!

Vulnerability to external shocks

As was the case with Windward Island bananas, the region’s economy is once again being held ransom by international agreements which care very little for the constraints of small size, the lack of economic diversity and the region’s vulnerability to external economic shocks. Hence, the decision to impose changes in the region’s sugar trading arrangement is taking place in order to “make Europe’s sugar industry fit to handle future competition,”

regardless of the fact that preferential prices are “an economic lifeline” for ACP countries.

Despite the dire consequences the changes in the EU sugar trading arrangements are likely to have on the vulnerable economies of the region, the EU has proposed an aid package valued at only 40 million euros or roughly EC\$ 120 million to the affected countries. Many of the sugar producing countries of the region have deemed this sum totally inadequate to compensate for the drastic cuts in GDP that will be experienced by these countries. Indeed, it has been estimated that it may take a minimum aid package of approximately 500 million euros to keep the economies of ACP countries afloat.

The fact is, as happened previously in the case of bananas, the EU financial support programmes have been of little or no effect in buffering the severe economic and social dislocation caused by changes in the commodity regimes. In the case of sugar, it is likely that the same will be true. To begin with, the proposed aid programme is too small. Imagine the sum of \$US 48.3 million to be divided among 18 ACP countries. It is obvious that when this amount is shared between the respective countries it will be wholly inadequate to compensate for the loss of earnings resulting from the price cuts.

Further, the EU procedures for the disbursement of aid are notoriously slow and cumbersome. In light of this, it is likely that it can take years for the required funds to reach the affected countries and their producers.

Victims of globalization

The sugar issue is a perfect example of how globalization is seriously damaging Caribbean economies. The truth is whether we believe it or not the processes of liberalization and globalization are likely to threaten the preferential market access for almost all our traditional commodity exports. For the many who claimed that it is the government that destroyed the banana industry, I want to ask them whether it is the governments of Trinidad and Tobago, St. Kitts and Nevis, Jamaica, Guyana and Belize that are also responsible for destroying their respective sugar industries.

Governments are not to blame

The governments of the region are not foolhardy. None will cut its nose to spite its face. None relishes the prospects of increased unemployment and joblessness among its nationals. None would invite increased poverty on its people. None would like to see an increase in crime and social instability.

Even a blind man can see that the countries of the region are victims of circumstances. They are caught in a web spanned by new economic realities that are neither of their making nor liking.

The truth is the chickens have come home to roost. When will we learn? Will we, ever? Ponder on these issues as we usher in another week.

Be of Good Cheer, God Bless and Take Care.

Hundreds of local families benefit from caregivers programme

The RCP is an informal early childhood education programme that seeks to reach children from birth to three years of age who do not have access to any formal early childhood education facilities.

The first batch of St. Lucian Rovers was recruited and trained between July and October 2004. Although home visits began in November of 2004, the programme was officially launched in February 2005.

Mrs. Joyce Jarrett founded the RCP in 1993 in Jamaica, with an official launch in 1996.

In addition to St. Lucia, the Caribbean Support Initiative (CSI) with funding from the Bernard van Leer Foundation (BvLF) has replicated the

are trained to provide early childhood stimulation to children who fall in the target group (birth to three years).

Rovers are in the field from Monday to Thursday, visiting each family twice weekly in their respective communities.

Presently, the Rovers conduct home visits in the communities of Monchy, including Riviere Mitant, and Dennery including Aux Leon, Belmount, Green Mountain, La Caye, La Pointe and Dennery Village.

Coordinator for the RCP Ruth Ferviere says "the programme builds community capacity as Rovers visit the families in the communities where they live".

During home visits Rovers involve

Rovers have started with their child.

Since the inception of the RCP, approximately three hundred and thirty four (334) families have opened their homes and hearts to the Rovers and their supervisors.

Ms. Flavien from the RCP, Dennery said that she and her two daughters (three years and one and a half years) have all benefited from the programme since its inception. "It's a good programme and the Rovers are always welcome in my home," asserted Ms. Flavien. She explained that her children were shy before but now they are more open and more active; they learn much faster and their communication skills have improved.

Ms. Flavien is among parents/guard-

In an educational and interactive presentation, retired teacher, Mrs. Ruth Marshall informed parents that children learn best through play; playing with children will develop their skills.

"It's their nature to explore and parents should try to understand this and not be so quick to beat them because they like to play," remarked Mrs. Marshall.

Training is the under-girding principle that shapes the RCP. Therefore, parents' workshops and other training workshops for the Rovers and their supervisors are essential to the success of the programme.

Rovers are paraprofessionals with limited or no knowledge on parenting or child development. For this reason, training workshops play an integral role in the programme and are held frequently to assess the programme, train Rovers and provide feedback.

In order to provide additional support to the RCP, especially training and to improve their (Rovers and supervisors) understanding of early childhood stimulation, Mrs. Rosalind Warner-Otto, Early Childhood Intern from St. Kitts-Nevis has been assisting in the training seminars from June 4 to July 30, 2005. This is part of the Caribbean Internship Programme (CIP) which is a partnership established between the Centre for Population, Community and Social Change (an outreach thrust of the Department of Sociology, Psychology and Social Work), UWI, Mona and the CSI. The CIP is supported by the BvLF, the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica and the UWI.

The internship provides the opportunity to experience a different culture and there are many similarities to the culture and landscape of St. Kitts", remarked Mrs. Warner-Otto, the Education intern (Education, UWI, Mona) at the Early Childhood Education Services Unit, La Clery, Castries.

There are also two other interns participating in the CIP in St. Lucia. They are Miss Shelly Carter, Sociology intern from Barbados and Miss Kareta Crooks, Media intern from Jamaica. Miss Carter, Sociology intern (2004 UWI Cavehill graduate) will be conducting research for the RCP between June 4 and September 10. Her task is twofold, as she is expected to conduct a parent satisfaction survey and a family profile survey. The latter is in an effort to attain the perceptions and practices of the parents toward parenting issues.

Meanwhile, Media intern (CARIMAC, UWI, Mona), Miss Crooks will be providing support to the RCP and the Regional Radio Project (RRP) in St. Lucia between June 19 and August 27, 2005.

As the RCP expands, an additional fifteen Rovers will be recruited and trained in an effort to touch children's lives and invest in their future. The new communities to be targeted include Augier, Bruce Ville, Anse-la-Rayé and Bois D'Inde.

The Roving Caregivers Programme (RCP) is a three-year pilot programme funded by the Bernard Van Leer Foundation (BvLF) and the Caribbean Support Initiative (CSI), with support from the Government of St. Lucia, The Poverty Reduction Fund, the Basic Needs Trust Fund and UNICEF.

The persons benefiting most from the programme are children.



Persons involved in the RCP at one of several training seminars

programme in three other Windward Islands, namely St. Vincent, Dominica and Grenada (MCP-Mobile Caregivers Programme).

The RCP recruits recent secondary school graduates to serve as community caregivers or Rovers. These Rovers

children in play activities that support their development of motor, perceptual, emotional and cognitive skills, and they offer tips to parents about how best to promote children's health, hygiene and safety. One of the beliefs is that parents will continue what the

ians who were in attendance at a Parent Education Workshop held at the Dennery Regional Office on July 7, 2005. This was the second workshop for the parents in the community since the launch of the RCP. The theme of the workshop was "Play and the Young Child".

FOTO FACTS

CURRENT INCONVENIENCE - FUTURE CONVENIENCE
Major Flood Mitigation Works designed to alleviate decades of flooding in the city of Castries



PM Welcomes EU Reassurance of Preferential Access for ACP Bananas

But he warns that we must face the “hard, cold facts” of changes in global trade

Continued from page 1

Prime Minister Anthony says the Latin Americans are “unrelenting” in their pursuit of dominance on the European market. He said the “vulnerability” of small producers like St. Lucia (and the other Caribbean producing states), when coupled with the aggressive Latin American pursuit of dominance, represented “a continuing threat” to the survival of the smaller producing states within the ACP.

The Latin Americans already control over 60% of the EU banana market, with the ACP states together having 20% and the remaining 20% shared between EU producers – mainly bananas produced on island colonies of France and Spain in the Caribbean and elsewhere.

However, St. Lucia and the other Windward Island producers (Dominica and St. Vincent and the Grenadines), along with Jamaica and Belize, together only have 3% access to the EU market. They fear that if the Latin Americans have their way, it would spell the end of the road for the smaller producers within the ACP.

But Prime Minister Anthony says this is not yet the end of the road. He earlier described the WTO ruling as “devastating, but not mortal.” And, he says, there’s still time to save the day.

Dr Anthony described “the ten day window” offered by the WTO as one that’s “crucial” and during which the ACP and the EU had to “monitor the situation closely, and, at the same time, engage the Latin Americans with a view to arrive at a consensus position.”

He said there was “a general sense

of exhaustion on all sides” in perpetuating the so-called “banana war” that has continued across the Atlantic for almost two decades.

This, he said, “could nudge the interested parties in the direction of a settlement that would leave everyone happy.”

He explained: “If we could persuade the Latin Americans to allow the status

quo to remain that would be okay.”

But many in the banana field think it’s hardly likely that the Latin Americans would agree. In their view, the mainly American companies controlling the banana trade in the Latin American states want nothing less than total dominance of the EU market, even if it means squeezing out the small producers in the Caribbean and the rest of the ACP.

The St. Lucia Prime Minister noted that under the new terms of international trade, bananas were not the only commodities in the Caribbean and other small developing countries that were under attack at the WTO. He said sugar was “another important Caribbean product that is taking a battering from the new terms of global trade.”

“This is the era of change and adjustment and we cannot create hope where there’s none,” he said. “But there is still hope that something can be done in the next few days to protect what we have left.”

“We have to reach out to the Latin American countries and try to maintain

Prime Minister Anthony’s concerns have been shared by other regional leaders, including his Vincentian counterpart, Dr Ralph Gonsalves, who is Caricom’s spokesman on bananas. Similar sentiments have also been expressed by Jamaica’s P.J. Patterson and Grenada’s Dr Keith Mitchell.

The St. Lucia Prime Minister noted

that under the new terms of international trade, bananas were not the only commodities in the Caribbean and other small developing countries that were under attack at the WTO. He said sugar was “another important Caribbean product that is taking a battering from the new terms of global trade.”

Dr Anthony noted that with plans to reduce the price paid by the EU for sugar by 39% in two years, “there are already serious consequences for at least three Caribbean states.” He noted that St. Kitts and Nevis “had to abandon sugar production after over 200 years and over \$230 million in debt.” He also recalled that Trinidad & Tobago had “closed down the Caroni sugar estates at a cost of 9,000 jobs” and that “sugar factories and estates are also closing down in Guyana.”

“These are hard times with cold facts,” the Prime Minister said, “and we have to face the realities of the new terms of global trade.” But, he added, “we must also take all possible steps to reduce the negative impact of the new trading arrangements on the smaller economies of the developing world.”

He said that “in the interest of ensuring the survival of the small states threatened by the changing terms of the banana trade,” the EU and the Latin American negotiators “could either agree on a mutual settlement or fail to agree on anything.”

“But,” he continued, “if they could simply agree to just leave everything as is, to maintain the status quo, that would be good – very good for us, but not very bad for the Latin American companies.”

The Integrity Commission Responsibilities of Declarants



The Integrity Commission - established by an Act of Parliament

In our first article in this series, we tried to explain what we thought was the intention of the constitution with regards to the Integrity Commission. We said that the Commission was one of the means in a democratic system to ensure accountability of persons in public life. Parliament, through the Integrity in Public Life Act, which details the functions of the Commission, agreed that accountability should be financial accountability.

The main function of the Commission, therefore, is to receive specific informa-

tion on the financial affairs of people in public life, as designated by parliament. The Act specifies that “a person in public life shall...file a declaration of income, assets and liabilities with the Commission...”

A specially designed declaration form is sent to eligible persons by the Commission. A declaration must be made by writing on the declaration form specific financial information required under the Act. The completed form must be returned to the Commission by 31st January immediately following the financial

year ending December 31st in respect of which the declaration is required.

The filing of yearly declaration is compulsory even when the declarant ceased to be a person in public life either during the financial year in respect of which the declaration is required or in the following financial year. The only exception is by reason of death.

Through a “schedule” (a list within the Act), Parliament determines who a person in public life is. Currently the “First Schedule” of the Act contains sixteen (16) positions, offices and categories of public servants required to file declarations. At the time of writing, the total number of designated people in public life totaled about 120. These included members of both houses of parliament, ministers of Cabinet, parliamentary secretaries, chief technical officers and heads of department, managing directors and managers of banks in which the state has a controlling interest, and top functionaries of public corporations and institutions.

A person in public life is required to make a “true, accurate and complete” declaration of his/her “income, assets and liabilities”, and those of his/her spouse to the Commission. “Income” is all what the person and spouse acquired in or out of St. Lucia, “and all perquisites or benefits direct or indirect and all income within the meaning of ‘income’ under the Income Tax No.1 of 1989.”

These include income “from all sources” of declarant and spouse.

“The assets of a person,” according to the Integrity in Public Life Act, “are all property including money, beneficially held by that person or spouse, in Saint Lucia or elsewhere. Under assets the declarant must supply information on the balances he/she, and spouse, holds held in bank accounts and other financial institutions; the amount of cash in excess of \$5,000 held other than in a financial institution; land, house and farm buildings; shareholding and partnerships and joint ventures; values held in safety deposit boxes; life insurances policies; and property being held by other persons on behalf of the declarant and spouse.

Under “liabilities” the declarant is required to provide the Commission with information on “all his or her obligations to pay money or to transfer money to others in Saint Lucia or elsewhere.” The declarant is specifically required to provide information about the institutions to which that debt is owed, the amount of money paid during the year, the outstanding balances to be paid on these accounts; and particulars of property acquired or disposed of during the year.

Upon completion of the form, the declarant must sign to signify that the particulars given in the declaration are to the best of his/her knowledge, “true, accurate and complete

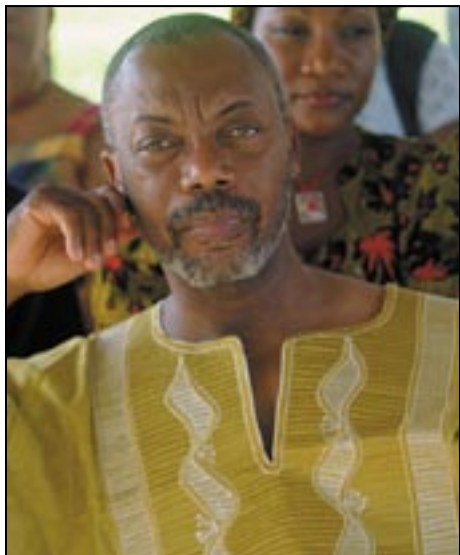
CELEBRATING EMANCIPATION 2005 - SOUNDS OF FREEDOM



Hon. Menissa Rambally

“I join in applauding the great heroes of our society. From one generation to the next, they were there securing the platform for the next step. The struggles and challenges that were endured and ultimately overcome by those who went before us, have secured the survival of the next generation - the generation that we are part of today...”

Hon. Menissa Rambally - Social Transformation Minister



Monsgr. Anthony -Delivered a sterling address



Alicia Baptiste - National Organisation for Women



Nyahbingi Chanters at the forefront of Emancipation Day celebrations




Modelling Shazi designs



Paradis
PRASLIN BAY, ST. LUCIA

A SECOND-TO-NONE 18 HOLE GOLF COURSE AMONG OTHER STUNNING FEATURES OF THIS ULTRA LUXURIOUS FACILITY





THIS WEEK ON NTN

Sat. Aug. 6th - Fri. August 12th, 2005

The GIS Speaks with Professor of African Studies – Dr. David Hinds
- Sat. Aug. 6th 9:30 a.m.
· St. Lucia National Junior Calypso 2005 – Sun. Aug. 7th, 11:00 a.m.
· The CSME – An Imperative
- Mon. August 8th, 6:30 p.m.
· Principals’ Conference 2005
- Tues. August 9th, 8:00 p.m.
· The 2005 Derek Walcott Lecture
- Wed. August 10th, 8:00 p.m.
· The 2005 Sir Arthur Lewis Lecture - Thurs. August 11th, 8:30 p.m.
· Emancipation - August 12th, 7:30 p.m.

Remember to tune in for:

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

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

www.stlucia.gov.lc