



NATIONWIDE

A publication of the Department of Information Services



PM of Saint Lucia meets Australian High Commissioner - page 2



WASCO sets record straight about Roseau Dam - page 2



Over \$2M for St. Mary's College expansion - page 3



May Day - Restore the glory - pages 4 & 5



The year of the Caricom Single Market - page 8

\$ MILLION PROFIT FOR BANK OF SAINT LUCIA

The Eastern Caribbean Financial Holdings, parent company of the Bank of Saint Lucia Limited continues to make its mark as a successful regional financial institution. At the recent meeting of shareholders in Saint Lucia it was reported that for the year ended December 31, 2004 the ECFH Group achieved a net income after tax of \$18.2 Million.

This represents an increase of 18.3% over the results of 2003 and a return of 1.73% (1.63% in 2003) on total assets, which grew by 11.2% to \$1,092 Million. After deductions for statutory and general reserves, a contribution to the Student Loans Guarantee Fund and the allocations for preference dividends, an amount of \$5.9 Million was available for distribution as final dividends to ordinary shareholders.

The Group held its annual shareholders meeting at the NIC Conference Centre on Tuesday 3rd, May 2005.

The Board of Directors of the Group announced a final dividend payout of 45 cents per ordinary share. This, with the 15 cents already paid in December 2004 as an interim dividend, gives a total ordinary dividend payout of 60 cents (53 cents in 2003) for the year or a return of 12% on the original share price of \$5.00 and 8% on the current market price of the shares.

On April 15th 2005 final dividends were paid to shareholders on record as at March 28th 2005.



Bank of Saint Lucia head office on Bridge Street Castries

BIG CROWDS AT SAINT LUCIA JAZZ 2005



The Caribbean flavour from the Jamaican Virtuosos Monty Alexander and Ernest Ranglin at Balenbouche



Boo Hinkson introduces new music at Fon Dor



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Every Friday at 6.15 p.m. on **NTN**, Cablevision Channel 2.

Government Notebook

A fresh news package daily
on all local radio stations



WASCO sets record straight about Roseau Dam

The General Manager of the Water & Sewage Authority (WASCO) has responded to allegations by a former Prime Minister about the Roseau Dam and the Northern Water Supply project. Former Prime Minister Sir John Compton claimed in a recent press release, that the Roseau Dam had not been de-silted since 1995 and that the Northern Water Supply Project was behind time, costing too much and would probably have to be abandoned. He also said the current situation was a result of the present government's neglect.

However, WASCO's Managing Director, Mr. John Joseph, says Sir John's claims about the Roseau Dam are incorrect. In a statement clarifying issues relating to the dam, which was named after Sir John by the previous UWP administration, Mr. Joseph denied the claim that it had been neglected by the current administration.

According to Mr. Joseph, at the time of the construction of the dam, "there were certain actions that needed to have been undertaken for the proper management and development of the water sector."

"These actions," he explained, "included investment in the transmission and distribution system and tariff adjustments to allow for financing operations and planned replacement and improvement of assets as demand increased." However, he added, while such recommendations were available, "these recommendations were not implemented."

The WASCO Managing Director also addressed Sir John's claims about siltation of intakes at the dam. He said: "Over the past seven or eight years, the system has been changed and the silting up at the modified intake walls do not affect flows into the system."

He said the new design "allows for rapid flushing of the silt through the flush gates, as well as protecting pumps from damage

caused by pumping silt together with water. Mr. Joseph pointed out that "the heavy manual labour input that was required to de-silt intakes is no longer necessary and has resulted in significant savings."

Addressing the matter of storage capacity at the Roseau Dam, Mr Joseph indicated that it was designed to store 750 million gallons of usable water. He set the record straight: "Inherent in the design is a certain amount of dead and un-usable water that is below the lower extraction port of the dam. A certain amount of flushing takes place continuously as the release of the riparian rights flow of water at the dam comes from the lower level." He explained further that "an average of one million gallons of water is released from this section of the intake daily, but this amount is reduced during a significant drought."

The WASCO chief explained that "the dam is not designed to be flushed, but is equipped a gate and valve to draw down on the storage rapidly in the event of an emergency such as dam failure or volcanic activity." He said, unlike what's claimed or intimated by Sir John, "the silt from Tropical Storm Debbie did not stay in the dam as the force of the water broke a section from top to bottom of the incomplete dam wall and flushed itself at the time."

He noted, however, that "some six to eight months after the completion of the dam in 1996, we experienced a similar flood (on October 26, 1996) and that would have significantly contributed to scouring all of the scars caused by Debbie." Mr. Joseph said the silt from that event "occupies an area within the un-usable water in the dam." With regard to Sir John's claims about the Northern Water Supply Project, Mr. Joseph acknowledged it had been "significantly delayed," but said this was "due mainly to problems with the main contractor." "However," he added, "the project is scheduled to be completed over the next few months."



Roseau Dam filled to capacity

Protect our Coral Reef

The Department of Fisheries is concerned over the prevalent use of coral as a form of decoration within commercial houses, restaurants and hotels and its continued use in the making of hand-crafts, jewellery, and other forms of souvenirs.

Under the Fisheries Regulations, Section 34, No. 9 of 1994, it is illegal to collect, damage, use sell, buy or have in one's possession coral of any kind. This includes live and dead coral, and refers to both the typical "hard" forms of coral and also the range of "soft" corals (including sea fans, sea whips, black coral, and brown coral). The prohibition includes the collection and use of coral from the wild (i.e., from submarine areas), but many persons do not realize that the law also protects all coral rubble, which may be found on the beach or in other parts of the coastal area.

Why is the law so strict, when it comes to protection of all forms of corals? Saint Lucia's total coral reef resource is extremely limited in extent, yet is vitally important as a basis for the local reef fisheries, for shoreline protection, scuba tourism, and as a biologically diverse critical marine habi-

tat. Even dead coral skeletons are an important component of local beach material and, when broken down over time, they form the basis of our white sandy beaches. Also, complete protection of coral is thought necessary so as to prevent the illegal collection of live coral for subsequent use of the coral skeleton in the craft and souvenir trade. Based on this wide range of critical roles played by coral, strict protection has been instituted at the national level. Persons found violating the Fisheries Regulations can be fined up to \$5000.00.

In light of the above, the Department is seeking the support of local entrepreneurs and business houses, crafts persons, owners and operators of souvenir shops and souvenir vendors in giving their full support to this local restriction on use of coral and coral based items. The Department will be engaging in island-wide inspection and anyone found to be in possession of coral or coral-based items or engaging in the sale such items will be liable to a fine under the Fisheries Regulations.

Persons and/or agencies can liaise with the Department of Fisheries (Tel. No.468 4135/43) to obtain further information or to arrange educational activities on this issue.

Prime Minister of Saint Lucia meets Australian High Commissioner



Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony and High Commissioner Mr. John Mitchell

Prim Minister Hon. Dr. Kenny Anthony received Letters of Introduction of Mr. John Stewart Mitchell, High Commissioner designate of Australia to Saint Lucia. The presentation was made on Thursday May 05th at the Office of the Prime Minister in Castries. In his brief welcome remarks, Dr. Anthony spoke of the common bonds and interests of Saint Lucia and Australia which are shared through a wide range of

historical associations and international organisations such as the Commonwealth.

Mr. Mitchell is a career officer with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Canada. He recently served as deputy Head of Mission in Dili, East Timor and was deputy high commissioner in Honiara, Solomon Islands from 1995 – 1998.

Mr. Mitchell was accompanied by his wife Suzanne Alison Khul.



Management of Fisheries Resources - a national responsibility

Over \$2million for St. Mary’s College Expansion

The Government of Saint Lucia through the Ministry of Education, Human Resource Development Youth and Sports, will make available over EC\$2 million in the financial year 2005 – 2006, towards the expansion and upgrading of St. Mary’s College. These funds will be used for the construction of six classrooms and a science block to be fully furnished by the Ministry of Education.

Speaking during the Parliamentary debate on the government estimates of revenue and expenditure for 2005/2006, Hon. Mario Michel, Minister of Education Human Resource Development Youth and Sport said this extensive investment in St. Mary’s College will ensure the increase in enrolment at this premier secondary school from 579 at present to between 700 and 875 at the end of the project.

Hon. Michel said “Now I understand that there is some resistance in certain quarters to the expansion of the enrolment of St. Mary’s College. But no rational individual can realistically canvass for the maintenance of the current enrolment of St. Mary’s College which



Hon. Mario Minister Michel
Minister for Education, Human Resource Development, Youths and Sports

among the lowest of the nineteen publicly-funded secondary schools in Saint Lucia. Indeed St. Mary’s College is among the five top performing secondary schools in Saint Lucia and is presently the smallest by far among the top five – Vieux Fort Comprehensive has 874 students, Castries Comprehensive has 823, Leon Hess Comprehensive



The annexe at the College

has 752, St. Joseph’s Convent has 727, while St. Mary’s College has 571 students”.

These five schools, Minister Michel stated “being high performing and high demand schools that they are, should ideally be all five stream five form secondary schools accommodating 875 students. St. Mary’s College

which is currently a four stream secondary school will become five stream at the end of the expansion works, but whether it will accommodate as many as 875 students will be determined in due course after discussions with the management of St. Mary’s College”.

Hon. Michel who is the Parliamentary representative for Gros-Islet said that in addition to the actual expenditure of about EC\$2 million on civil works, the Ministry will also be responsible for uncosted elements of project management and architectural and engineering services.

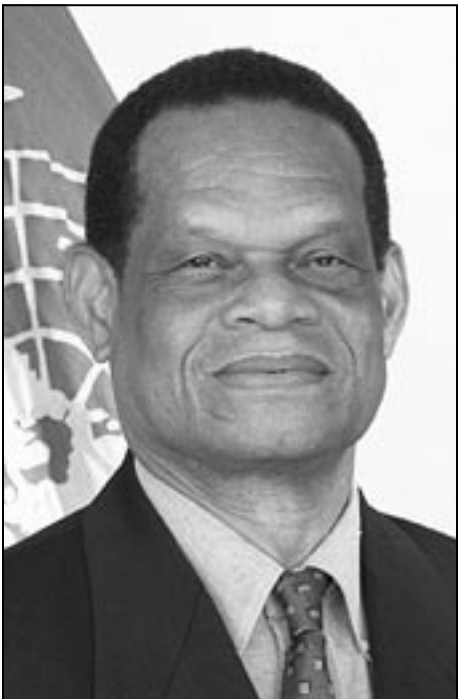
Since assuming office in 1997, Government has disbursed nearly \$800,000.00 as part of commitment to providing matching funds for refurbishing and expansion of St. Mary’s College. This included EC\$538,798.00 in 1998/1999, EC\$200,000.00 in 2002/2003 and a further EC\$50,000.00 in the financial year 2003/2004. This was in keeping with a commitment by Government to provide at least EC\$1 million to match the amount raised by the College from pubic fundraising activities.

Hon. Michel said that not only has government kept its promise in this regard, but has also maintained its annual contribution of EC\$60,000.00 towards the operating expenses of the school.



The main school building at St. Mary’s College

Helnites Centre - SOLD!



Ambassador H.E. Dr. Julian R. Hunte

The first major step in the sale of the Helenites Centre, a property at 438 East 49th Street, Brooklyn New York, has been completed. This involved the receipt by the Government of Saint Lucia of a deposit of \$150,000.00 from a Saint Lucian development company, which enabled the Government of Saint Lucia to make the “balloon” payment which was due on April 30th 2005 to settle the mortgage.

According to a press release from the Minister of External Affairs, International Trade and Civil Aviation, following this transaction and “in accordance with the terms of agreement between Michael Bartlett and former Ambassador Earl Huntley (on behalf of the Government of Saint Lucia), Mr. Bartlett is required to transfer title in the property back to the Government of Saint Lucia. The Government of Saint

Lucia will subsequently transfer title to the purchasers and thereby complete sale of the property”

The decision to sell the property, which was used by the St. Lucian community in New York for public activities, followed an investigation of “the attempted transfer of title to the property”. Soon after the submission of the “Report of the Investigation relating to the Helenites Building by Justice Albert Matthews, the Minister of External Affairs, International Trade and Civil Aviation Honourable Petrus Compton initiated a process of consultation between the Government of Saint Lucia, the Council of St. Lucian Associations, referred to as the Council and Mr. Michael Bartlet (the current holder of title to the property), designed to resolve all matters pertaining to the Helenites Centre.

The news release from the Ministry

of External Affairs further stated that “All sides agreed that, having regard to the dilapidated state of the building and its location within a predominantly residential area, the best option was for the property to be sold and the proceeds applied as follows:

(1) repayment of the mortgage on the property; (2) reimbursement of the moneys expended by the Government of Saint Lucia to keep the property in the hands of the Saint Lucian community; and (3) the placement of any resulting profits in an escrow account to be managed by the Council.

The Council also agreed that the resulting profits would be used “as ‘seed money’ to facilitate the acquisition of a suitable site to develop a modern community centre for the Saint Lucian Community in New York to engage in social, educational and cultural activities”.

One of the recommendations of the report of Justice Matthews read “The project for a new building is closely connected to the refinancing of the mortgage loan.” The full report of the investigation is available online at www.stlucia.gov.lc

MAY DAY! — RESTORE THE GLORY

PM Converses with the Nation



Prime Minister Dr. Kenny D. Anthony

It feels good to be back with you today following an unavoidable three-week break. In my capacity as Lead Prime Minister with responsibility for Justice and Governance in CARICOM, I had the duty and pleasure of attending and participating in the historic launching ceremony of the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) in Trinidad & Tobago on April 16, 2005. Just before the CCJ ceremony, I traveled to Jamaica to be honoured by Chancellor Hall, the hall to which I was attached while a student at UWI, in Mona, Jamaica. And, of course, there was preparation, presentation and debate of the Annual Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure, which we simply describe as "The Budget." This is always a consuming business.

Yesterday, May 1st, was a special day. It was May Day, the day when the struggles of working people throughout the world are recognized and celebrated. It is a day of homage, celebration and remembrance. It is a day that is sacrosanct to workers. It is a day that political parties ought to respect and concede to workers. Alas!

The Chicago Martyrs

May Day has its roots in Chicago, in the United State. On May 1st 1888, several workers were shot and killed as they protested in favour of an eight-hour day. It is because of the blood shed by these Chicago Martyrs, that workers, in most countries, now enjoy reasonable hours of work.

For 127 years, May Day has been observed worldwide. In many countries, including Saint Lucia, it is celebrated with a holiday. (In other countries, like in the USA, the workers' day is celebrated on Labour Day, which is on another date altogether.)

May Day, past and present

Unfortunately, the way in which we

lies at their respective headquarters or other premises. No longer is May Day treated as a day when workers proudly sported their red shirts, dresses, caps and flags and sang the Internationale. Today, sadly, May Day is treated as just another day away from the rigours of the work place.

There are all kinds of explanations for the lack of interest. The character of the labour force has changed. Members only see value in unions when they want increases in wages. Few unions today are anchored ideologically or otherwise. Many unions have lost their membership because of the changing economic environment. Still others have weak and uninspiring leadership.

No Umbrella Body

Equally unfortunate is the fact that over the past 25 years our trade unions have failed to come together under one umbrella to maximize their resources and to cooperate and collaborate on common issues. While some unions have shown a preparedness to work together, others have denounced solidarity to reaffirm their identify and narrow individualism.

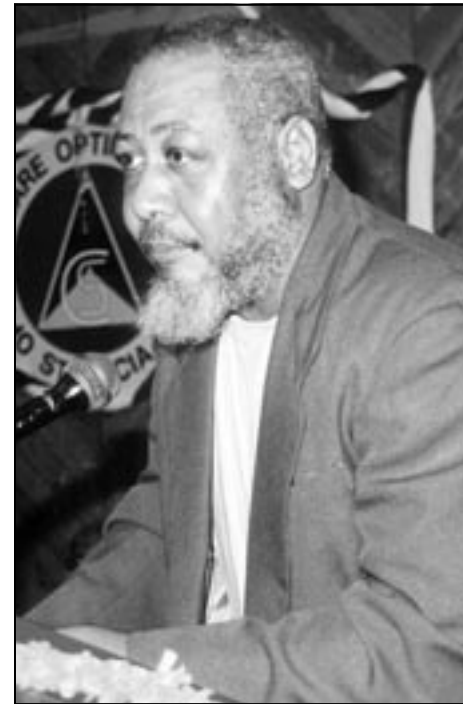


David Demaque
Unionist

have observed May Day in St. Lucia has changed dramatically over the years. Once upon a time our workers looked forward to the celebration of May Day. The unions all planned major rallies - some alone, some together, but all in the name of solidarity and celebration. The rallies featured speeches and solidarity messages and there was always a general sense and atmosphere of fun and celebration.

There were also times when observance of May Day coincided with major workers' struggles, including strikes and other forms of industrial action. In such cases, May Day became a rallying point for mobilization of support by workers and their trade unions.

Over the past decade, however, May Day has been poorly observed in St. Lucia. Unfortunately, the unions have not been able to mobilize their members to participate in May Day activities as they used to. Most have been content with organizing poorly-attended ral-



Lawrence Poyotte
Unionist

As a former trade union leader myself, I can clearly recall back in those heady days of the late 1970s and early 1980s, when the largest and most militant unions formed an Industrial Solidarity Pact to promote their common interests. But no sooner had the immediate objectives of the day been met, coordination decreased and unions went their separate ways.

Towards Unity and Cooperation

I would like to see a more organized approach to May Day celebrations. While the Government would wish to be more involved, it appreciates that any assistance offered to the unions could be misunderstood and interpreted as "patronizing". So, it is wise to concede May Day to our workers and their trade unions.

As far back as 1999, the Government offered the trade unions a parcel of land to establish a headquarters for a Trade Union Congress or Council or

any similar umbrella grouping of local trade unions. The only stipulated condition was that the proposed initiative must have the support of all the unions. Sadly, unanimous support is elusive.

I am, however, encouraged by the news of the existence of what has been described in the press as the formation of a Trade Union Federation. One can only hope that this is a serious initiative that will result in achievement of the long-elusive dream of effective and meaningful unity and cooperation between our local trade unions.

An umbrella body, such as the proposed Federation, would also help Government to dialogue with the Labour Movement on social and economic issues facing our country.

Promoting Workers' Rights

The Government has also done its part to create a more conducive legislative environment for trade unions. Legislation has been introduced to strengthen workers rights and to protect them against exploitation, be it their right to join unions or sexual harassment. Laws have been passed to strengthen trade unions - to ensure they are recognized and can function free of intimidation.

The Labour Code

Then too there is the proposed Labour Code - the most comprehensive review of Labour Laws ever undertaken in the history of our country. This voluminous document has been on the table for the past three years and it has gone through review after review. I had hoped that the Code would have been enacted last year, but the Attorney General's Chambers was unable to



Sir George F.L. Charles - Pioneer

complete the process because of staff shortages.

Many workers are disappointed that the Code is yet to be enacted. They tell me so, frequently. I do hope that very soon we can produce a code that both employers and unions can accept. We cannot continue with archaic laws and outdated labour practices.

The Social Partners

These times require adjustments by all of us. The employers have to adjust and readjust to the realities of a changed environment in which workers are more aware of their rights and responsibilities. The unions too, must adjust to the new local, regional and global realities.



NWU President
Tyrone Maynard

New Challenges, Old Issues

Unquestionably, this country has experienced a period of industrial peace that it has never seen for many, many years. There can be no doubt that our trade unions as well as our employers have understood the challenging economic environment in which our economy survives. The climate of industrial peace that has been enjoyed over the years also reflects the sensitivity of our unions to the global changes and the inescapable effects on our economy. Frankly, I applaud and respect the approach of our unions.

But there are challenges. One is the issue of productivity. Are employers getting value for money? Are workers properly motivated to give of their



Former CSA President Terrance Leonard and former SLTU President Dr. Kenny D. Anthony

best? Are we "losing out" to workers in other parts of the world? How do we measure and reward productivity?

level of accountability and transparency that these leaders demand of politicians and Governments.



Three former Trade Union Leaders

The impending CARICOM Single Market & Economy (CSME) is another huge challenge. It will bring with it new opportunities as well as new anxieties for our workers and trade unions, for employers as well as for the State. It is the duty of the trade unions as well as the employers to prepare our workers for the inevitable adjustments that the CSME will bring.

Strengthening Union Democracy and Accountability

One area in which trade unions need to be more engaged is in the area of strengthening democracy and accountability within their ranks.

Workers must insist that their union leaders be accountable for their stewardship. The unions belong to the workers and not to the union leaders. As such, it is the duty of the workers to demand from their leaders, the same

Democratic practices must be strengthened within the unions. Workers must demand that they be given equal chance to vote in union elections. Those who pay the dues must insist that the financial statements of unions are properly audited and published for the benefit of all members.

Conclusion: Restore Old Glory

When all is said and done, it is still my wish that our trade unions would begin to restore the old glory of May Day. We cannot afford to let May Day die. We owe it to those who struggled and died for May Day to ensure that we do not let their sacrifices be in vain.

So long live the Spirit of May Day!

Until next week, do enjoy the rest of this week and of course, your jazz! God Bless!



A workers picket line

Millions Invested in Tourism

Thirteen major projects, aimed at expanding hotel accommodation and improving the tourism product, are currently ongoing in Saint Lucia. During the presentation of the budget for 2005 – 2006, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, International Financial Services, Economic Affairs and Information said “Using the provisions of the Tourism Incentive Act and the more recent Cricket World Cup (accommodation) Incentives Act, there have been significant inflows of foreign direct investment into this country. The sheer scale of these investments is phenomenal and has never before been witnessed in Saint Lucia”

Dr. Anthony listed these major projects as follows:

(1) A new upscale product, The Landing at Rodney Bay, with an estimated investment of US\$120 million, is due to commence by the middle of 2005. This property will comprise 50 villas and 144 condominiums and will include an impressive array of marine facilities. According to the develop-

employed.

(3) **Discovery at Marigot Bay nearing completion** - Valued at US\$18 million, this property comprises eight 3-bedroom apartments and forty-four 2-bedroom apartments. This property is currently under construction and should be operational by December 2005. Currently, 150 persons are employed. On opening, the developers expect to employ over 200 persons on a full-time basis.

(4) **Praslin Bay on its Way** - This property will be located on the south-east coast and will serve as a nucleus for development in the surrounding communities. The Praslin Bay Resort investment is estimated at US\$90 million. Phase I of that project will consist of five executive suites, 110 two bedroom condominiums, 60 signature high end branded building plots, conference facilities, a health spa and fitness center, and a showpiece of this phase – an 18 hole signature golf course spread out over 135 acres. Construction is expected to commence later this year. I am informed by the developers that some twenty (20) persons will be em-

will be added to this property in time for the Cricket World Cup in 2007.

(6) **Jalousie Hilton changes Ownership** - The Jalousie Hilton property has been purchased and will be managed by Sun-Swept Resorts, the owners of Le Sport and Rendezvous Hotels. The new owners plan to build an additional 50 units to complement the existing hotel plant.

(7) **Expansion at Coconut Bay** - Formerly known as Club Med, this hotel has been refurbished, renovated and expanded and now boasts 256 rooms. These developments were undertaken at a cost of US\$19 million. The hotel opened during the Easter weekend and additional developmental works are continuing. It is expected that this hotel will be expanded by an additional 200 rooms later this year.

(8) **Face-lift for Rex Resorts** - The Rex Resorts will embark on a major face-lift during 2005. These resorts have served as the beacon for tourism development in the North and the new face-lift is part of the effort to enhance the product.



Proposed upgrades of small properties

- This resort boasts 72 rooms and 12 suites to be constructed in two phases, at a cost of EC\$44 million. Further expansion is expected with a third phase of 51 rooms. At this time, there are 161 persons employed in construction activities. On completion, an additional 80 persons will be employed. The resort should be opened by the end of this month before Saint Lucia Jazz.

(12) **Beau Estates Soufriere** - This new time share resort complex boasts 30 homes which are currently under construction. Four (4) of these homes have been completed.

(13) **Anse Chastanet Expansion** - This resort is currently undergoing an expansion of 24 new villas, at an estimated cost of US\$18 million.

In addition there are two proposed developments which will significantly enhance accommodation.

“The first is the Choc Bay Marina and Condominium Development, a new joint venture between the J.Q. Charles Group of Saint Lucia and the C.O. Williams Group of Barbados, to construct a world-class marina and 200 luxury condominiums at Choc Bay.

This project, which is at an advanced planning stage, could generate employment for over 600 people during the construction phase and create permanent employment for approximately 200 persons within the condominium resort. This development will be styled after the acclaimed Port St. Charles Project in Barbados, and is a welcome addition to our up-market Tourism infrastructure.

The project represents a potential investment in the economy of EC\$320 million, of which some EC\$125 million will occur within the first eighteen months.

The second major investment on the horizon is the Sapphire Cove Resort and Spa. This development, which will be located on the former Sapphire Estate, is expected to boost visitor capacity on the island by 3,000 beds. This five star resort will provide a luxurious holiday experience, and among its many amenities will be a 4000 delegate conference center.

The project will be developed in three phases. The first phase will comprise 447 units, with the second and third phases accounting for 450 units and 280 units respectively.

Approval in principle has been granted to this development, which is expected to be officially launched in May. The Government can only hope that it becomes a reality”.



Enhancement of Marinas and Yachting Facilities

ers, 500 persons will be employed during construction and 500 will be employed on completion.

(2) **Beaches: A New Sandals Product** - This hotel has been labelled as a premier family all-inclusive. The value of the development is estimated at US\$80 million and will consist of 300 upscale rooms. According to Sandals, some 250 persons will be employed during construction. Once the hotel is completed and opens for business, the Sandals chain says 600 persons will be

ployed as of next week to prepare the site. In the first phase, the developers have advised that 500 persons will be employed. On completion, 200 full-time jobs will be available.

(5) **St James' Club Becomes Almond** - The existing St. James' Club, formerly Wyndham Morgan Bay, will now come under new ownership under the Almond chain of hotels. This is a branch of an international chain with two successful hotels in Barbados. It is expected that an additional 100 rooms



(9) **Bay Gardens Expansion** - Mr. Speaker, the well known Bay Gardens hotel chain is set to expand on its very successful operations, with an attractive, up-market resort, at a cost of over EC\$35 million.

(10) **Lagoon Park at Rodney Bay** - This development is a Condominium complex, with café, yacht mooring and pool. Construction of twenty (20) condominiums at a cost of EC\$20 million started in January 2005.

(11) **Coco Resorts at Rodney Bay**



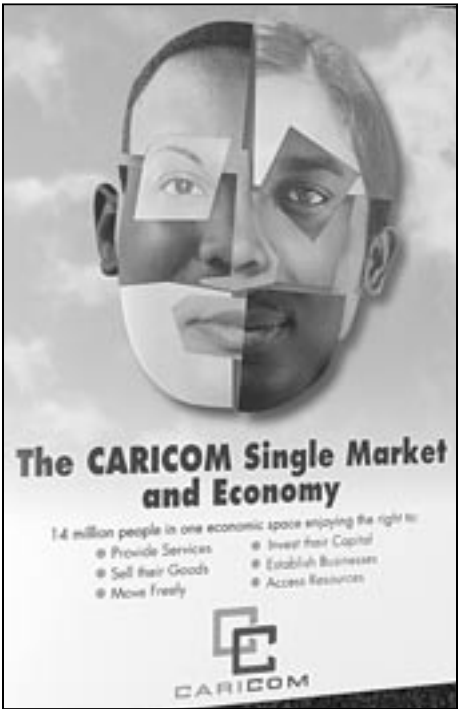
The new property at Rodney Bay - Coco Resorts



The year of the Caricom Single Market

The CSME is expected to be a great boon to the Caribbean. The benefits are numerous.

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Single Market & Economy (CSME) seeks to convert its 15 Member States into a single, enlarged economic entity as near to a single market and single economy as possible without political integration. It is intended to provide an open market without cross-border restrictions and therefore seeks to facilitate the free movement of final products, goods, labor and services. In addition, the CSME is a regional framework arrangement which requires legal, institutional and administrative provisions, systems and actions at the national level.



“With the establishment of the CSME, the focus shifts to providing for competitive production for both the intra-regional and external markets based on the principle of promoting and supporting operations and production in an enlarged single economic space,” says Leela Narinesingh, Specialist, Private Sector Facilitation CARICOM Single Market & Economy Unit.

“There already exists a free trade area within CARICOM and there are no import duties on goods of CARICOM origin. Further tariffs and quantitative restrictions in all Member States have been removed. The treatment of intra-regional common market imports will be different from those coming from the rest of the world. In addition, regional standards for the production of goods throughout the region are being developed. To facilitate this, in 2003 the Caribbean Regional Organization for Standards and Quality (CROSQ)



Agricultural products will face competition



Free movement of labour

was formed. CARICOM Nationals will be able to transfer money to another country through bank notes, checks, and electronic transfers etc. No new regulatory restrictions can be added and existing restrictions must be removed.

“There will also be equal rights to buy stocks and shares and freely move capital from one Member State to another. The free movement of capital will allow firms to have access to a wider source of capital at competitive rates, thus allowing for more competitive production. It will also allow investors to diversify investment portfolios and to invest in best performing stocks and shares across the region,” says Narinesingh, adding that under the CSME, the embryonic regional capital to facilitate the free movement of capital is expected to grow to cover all Member States.

Under the agreement, Member States are required to remove any impediment, which restricts the right to provide services across the single market. Member States must ensure that nationals from other Member States have access to land, buildings and other property on a non-discriminatory basis if so required in the provision of services. Service Providers now have a market of 14 million persons instead of only their national markets.

The free movement of people is a critical factor in the integration process and in the Caricom Single Market & Economy. The Treaty on the CSME abolishes discrimination on the grounds of nationality in all Member States. Under the CSME, professionals have the right to move freely within the CARICOM Single Market & Economy if they are university graduates, athletes, musicians, artists, entrepreneurs, service providers or are managerial, supervisory or technical staff. “In Member States the right to move will also apply to spouses and immediate dependents. A mechanism will be established for recognizing degrees, diplomas and certificates from certain institutions,” explains Narinesingh. Significant effort is also being given to facilitate smooth travel between Member States.

The CSME is expected to be a great boon to the Caribbean. The benefits are numerous and include; creating an economic environment conducive to competitive production with the free movement of production factors, providing access to a Free Trade area with an aggregate market of 14 million con-

sumers and encouraging international standards of production, which will be enforced by the Caribbean Regional Organisation for Standards and Qual-



Competition in manufactured goods

ity. There will also be increased access to capital, skills and other inputs from across the region as well as enabling the pooling of resources for approaching international negotiations.

However, some local labor officials are concerned about the effects of the CSME on some of the Caribbean’s less stable economies. Narinesingh responds to those concerns by stating that “the private sector is an engine of

growth in all Caribbean Economies and the CSME will strengthen the productive capacity of the private sector. As a matter of fact, one of the primary functions of the CSME Unit in Barbados is to organize the region’s private sector for its involvement in the CSME. Businesses in the Caribbean have long since recognized that the CSME is not a threat, rather it is an opportunity, and that the real threat lies with the FTAA and the WTO.”

Accordingly, she says, “concern should be with the real impact of the FTAA and the WTO without the CSME. The CSME needed to come first.”

Unfortunately, being the first resulted in a great deal of focus being placed on the CSME, and human nature, being what it is, was negative in the face of change. “The less stable economies are NOT threatened but are provided with possibilities not otherwise available,” says Narinesingh, adding that this does not mean that there won’t be dislocations in the weaker sectors in any of the Member States. This is however provided for in Chapter seven



The CCJ - an important institution in the CSME

SAINT LUCIA JAZZ—THE BIG PICTURE

The big picture is that Lucia Jazz is one of best events in the world, the big picture is that there is no where in the world that they can replicate Saint Lucia Jazz. We have created an event that is unique not only to Saint Lucia but unique to the world and we are proud of it.” This was the message from Mr. Hilary Modeste, Saint Lucia’s Director of Tourism, during his remarks to officially open Jazz on the Square on Monday May 1st 2005.

Mr. Modeste explained that when the Saint Lucia Jazz started it was mainly a pure jazz event, but has grown and now been redefined as “Saint Lucia Jazz.” “The event is now being promoted to the wider Caribbean as the best Caribbean party and over the years the Caribbean market has become the

base of Saint Lucia Jazz. It is certainly the biggest market - over four thousand Caribbean people come to Saint Lucia for Saint Lucia Jazz followed by the American market which is just under four thousand and then the UK and European market; and so the Caribbean market is still very, very strong for us and we do not take the Caribbean market for granted it is a major part of our advertising.”

As Saint Lucia prepares for the full implementation of the provisions of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME), Saint Lucia Jazz is being viewed as a major part of the island’s market thrust into the future.

The Saint Lucia Jazz Festival was established in 1992 and continues to grow in magnitude and stature, making it the most important marketing activity of the Saint Lucia Tourist board.



Primary school students enjoying jazz on the Square



Barbara Cadet and her group perform at Tea Time Jazz



Governor General H.E. Dame Pearlette Louisy in conversation with jazz patrons



Prime Minister Dr. Kenny D. Anthony and Mrs. Anthony



Economic opportunities of Jazz 2005



Caribbean artistes Bennie Man, Rupee and Kronic Heights Crew at the Official Opening



THIS WEEK ON NTN

Sat. May 7th - Fri. May 13th, 2005
 Broadcasting of Budget Debate 2005 Continues

- Budget Debate Presentation by Parliamentary Rep. for Micoud South, Hon. Arsene James – Sat. May 7th, 8:00 p.m.
- Budget Debate Presentation by Parliamentary Rep. for Soufriere – Hon. Walter Francois Sun. May 8th 8:00 p.m.
- Budget Debate Presentation by Parliamentary Rep. for Castries South, Hon. Jon Odum – Mon. May 9th, 8:00 p.m.
- Budget Debate Presentation by Parliamentary Rep. for Dennery North, Marcus Nicholas - Tues. May 10th, 8:00 p.m.
- Feedback (Rebroadcast): The Police Complaints Commission Explains Its Mandate - Tues. May 10th, 9:00 p.m.
- Budget Debate Presentation by Parliamentary Rep. for Dennery South, Hon. Damian Greaves - Wed. May 11th, 8:00 p.m.
- Budget Debate Presentation by Parliamentary Rep. for Gros-Islet, Hon. Mario Michel – Thurs. May 12th, 8:00 p.m.
- Budget Debate Presentation by Parliamentary Rep. for Castries Central, Hon. Sarah Flood Beaubrun – Fri. May 13th, 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 and then click on the NTN icon.

www.stlucia.gov.lc