



A publication of the Department of Information Services



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More Media Choices

Prime Minister Dr Kenny D. Anthony says the media landscape in St. Lucia under the Labour Party administration has changed dramatically since 1997. The public now has a wide choice of competing media houses from which to receive a wealth of information.

The Prime Minister made the observation while answering questions from members of the public as the first guest on a brand new talk show which aired on HTS Channel 4 on Tuesday (October 4).

“Town Hall Tuesday” is the name of the new show hosted by popular local political commentator, Christopher Hunte. The programme brings leading local personalities face-to-face with the public in a “no holds barred” studio environment.

The first show, which was recorded Tuesday morning and relayed that evening, featured questions from a wide cross section of the public representing youth, students, women, environmental activists, the disabled and the press.

Commenting on the state of the local media landscape after eight years of the current Labour administration, the Prime Minister said he did “not agree with those who claim that the Government’s public relations is bad” or that there is an insufficiency of information on government-related issues.

Said the PM: “To the contrary, I say there are now more avenues for receiving government information than ever before, just as there are now also more private media houses offering different choices to the public.”

The Prime Minister indicated that in addition to the traditional outlets for government information such as the Government Information Service (GIS) and Radio St. Lucia (RSL), there were new media outlets for government information that were initiated by the Government in the past eight years.

He identified the GIS Website, the National Television Network (NTN), the weekly newspaper supplement

called “Nationwide” and the Prime Minister’s own series of weekly radio broadcasts called “Conversation with the Nation”.

The PM also identified the Radio St. Lucia programme entitled “Constitution Park – Inside Government” hosted by his Press Secretary Earl Bousquet as “another popular avenue for receiving government information.”

Dr Anthony explained that fifteen years ago there were only two major private newspapers and one government-owned radio station. “Radio St. Lucia News was gospel,” he recalled.

“Today,” he pointed out, we have several newspapers, several radio stations and several TV stations and channels, in addition to several talk shows on both radio and TV.”

He continued: “People now have more choices. The various media houses compete with each other and the politicians now have to compete with the media for public attention. It is a totally different environment.”

“And in addition to all this, we have also ensured that each Member of Parliament has a constituency office where information can also be relayed.”

The Prime Minister observed that

“television has also changed the media landscape in a way too that less people now depend on the print media. Even politics has changed. Inevitably, there will be less reliance on public meetings and rallies.”

Dr Anthony said he has “always encouraged debate and consultation in the society,” but noted that “sometimes, when discussing issues in the press, we tend to forget what things used to be like before and we lose sight of reality.”

As the guest on the inaugural edition of “Town Hall Tuesday”, the Prime Minister responded to 13 questions from the audience at HTS studios, which also included students from the nearby Sir Arthur Lewis Community College (SALCC).

The issues discussed ranged from bananas, tourism, poverty, crime, public transport, water, fuel and energy issues, to politics, democracy, integrity, information, media, environmental matters and the Caricom Single Market and Economy (CSME).



Prime Minister meeting young people

“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



PARTNERSHIP TALKS LAUNCHED HERE

The third phase of negotiations for an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between CARIFORUM countries and the European Union was launched in Saint Lucia on Friday September 30th.

CARIFORUM Trade Ministers and European Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson met on the occasion of the Second CARIFORUM-EC Ministerial EPA Meeting. They adopted the Joint Report on negotiations that took place in Phase II, reviewed progress in EPA negotiations so far, and provided political instructions on the future orientation of those negotiations. In addition to discussing the EPA process, this frank and constructive encounter provided an opportunity for an exchange of views on the World Trade Organization (WTO) Doha Development Round, and commodities of key importance to the Region.

The EPA negotiations are poised to undergo a qualitative shift in focus and specificity. Phase III will define the structure and scope of an EPA, and determine the approach to trade liberalization, with the view to promoting sustainable development in CARIFORUM.

Both sides noted the importance of deepened regional integration to



Prime Minister Kenny Anthony & EU Commissioner Peter Mandelson

promote the international competitiveness of private sector operators, improve the business environment and boost trade and investment. They agreed that development would be at the centre of an EPA. The pursuit of development is a multi-dimensional undertaking that seeks to capture the benefits accruing from trade and integration, but also requires accompanying adjustment measures and institutional capacity building.

Technical and financial assistance is important to facilitate the Region's effective participation in the EPA negotiations, and to support CARIFORUM regional integration. CARIFORUM underscored that timely access to EU



Caribbean negotiators at talks in Saint Lucia.

resources is essential to maintaining the momentum of EPA negotiations, and strengthening the regional integration process. This was, therefore, the subject of considerable debate at the Ministerial meeting, which called for expeditious treatment of the relevant support measures.

There was an exchange of views on the status of the WTO Doha Development Round. These negotiations are of the utmost importance, as they seek to place development at the centre of the multilateral trade agenda. Both sides sought an acceleration of the preparations for the Sixth WTO Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong, in December 2005.



Farmers & Civil Society Organizations demonstrate against the partnership tally

Customs Automating Trade with ASYCUDA

Customs administrations around the world have had to respond to radical changes in public demand and globalization. Consequently, the role of Customs as an agency of national and international trading policy has made reform and modernization of management methods and operational procedures mandatory. In short Customs have had to change its way of "doing business". Critical to this change process is the use of information technology. The reliance of national revenue on the collection of duties and taxes, and accurate trade statistics, is a strong incentive for the introduction of computers to Customs. Many problems experienced by countries are partly the result of inefficient or complex Customs procedures and documentary requirements. Consequently, it is important that these operations be streamlined through a reliable I.T infrastructure.

The St. Lucia Customs and Excise Department began using Information Systems as far back as 1993, when as part of a regional initiative it adopted the ASYCUDA software. ASYCUDA or Automated Systems for Customs Data was developed by UNCTAD in 1981 and has been installed or is being implemented in over 80 countries and regions around the world.

What is ASYCUDA

ASYCUDA is an integrated computer system for the management of Customs procedures and operations. The System has evolved over the years and at present St. Lucia is using version 2.7 and is getting ready to implement its latest version called ASYCUDA++ later this year. The objectives of the System is achieved through better and more consistent Customs Control, Duty and tax collection and the provision of accurate trade statistics, all goals of our Mission Statement. The



Port Castries.

system provides information on: Restrictions; prohibitions; National tax regimes; Concessions, exemptions; Customs procedures and controls.

The implementation of the system offers: Institutional strengthening of Customs through reform and modernisation; Better conditions for trade operations; Better management and control of Government finances; Reliable source of information on trade; and a platform and tools for a genuine implementation of e-Government.

ASYCUDA++ allows the management of perceived risk by use of its selectivity controls and the introduction of risk analysis and risk assessment measures. The automated tariff performs automatic and exact calculation of duties and taxes, including for those goods under exemptions and trade agreements. As a result, Customs will offer a more accurate accounting and collection of its derived revenue.

The system is conducive to the application of international trade recommendations and best practices. ASYCUDA++ helps reduce clearance times and processes, and provides

Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) and Direct Trader Input (DTI) capabilities for the submission of on-line trade declarations.

ASYCUDA assists Customs Administrations in collecting, analyzing and using information from: - External intelligence sources; Inspection reporting; risk measurement procedures and selective examinations; Database analysis; Management information systems; audit activities.

The system provides for consistency in checking of Customs declarations as well as full selectivity and profiling options. The cashier and Accounting functions are fully integrated thus ensuring further reliability of statistics. ASYCUDA++ collects and stores complete data for national statistics in standard report formats for quick response to data extraction requests. The data is flexible, secure and downloadable to PC databases for sorting and reporting. ASYCUDA++ can interface with external systems and provide EDI services to exchange information among all trade stakeholders such as shippers, airlines, brokers, couriers, importers, exporters, other trade agents, and Government Agencies.

Security

Features of ASYCUDA++ enable the DTI/EDI software to be configured for use in different operational environments, either at the traders or brokers' premises or as part of a separate office, within the Customs House. Access to the system is controlled through the necessary security features both in the application software and the LINUX operating system. Brokers and Traders will only be able to have access to those ASYCUDA functions permitted by Customs.

ASYCUDA++ MIGRATION PROJECT

The ASYCUDA++ Migration Project which effectively began in June 2004 is an automation platform project of a trade facilitation and customs mod-

ernisation initiative. It is expected to take 18 months to complete with pilot site implementation scheduled for later this year in Vieux-Fort. Full roll out of the System is scheduled to be complete by April 2006. It is expected that by the end of the Project, Customs will provide an imports/exports processing system which will maximize efficiency within the Customs clearance process, provide an efficient service to the trading community and ensure an effective control and collection of revenue. This system will also make available quality information for decision-making and more concise statistical data on trade.

The system must be conducive to the successful attainment of streamlined, simplified and harmonised Customs procedures and processes, expediting the movement of legitimate goods and legitimate travellers across our borders.

Computerized Customs management systems constitute the most effective way of controlling the flow of goods in order to achieve the maximum efficiency in the Customs clearance process. Currently, the development of a computerized system for Customs data processing is even more critical as we move towards the establishment of synergies within the Public and Private sectors. Here, I refer to the recently signed memorandum of understanding between Customs and the Private sector as well as the conceptualization of Revenue Authority between Customs and Inland Revenue. The success of these initiatives depends heavily on modern and reliable information systems in order to streamline operations. This state of the art ASYCUDA++ program provides customs with a wonderful opportunity to do just that. It is the first but huge step towards the attainment of "E-Government". Customs must take the lead in that process, and it must start by automating trade.

EMPLOYMENT FOR SAINT LUCIANS

Saint Lucia's Ambassador to the USA, Her Excellency Sonia M. Johnny, says she is elated at the progress being made so far with the interviews for workers in the hospitality industry who wish to work in the United States under the H2-B Employment Programme. Through the programme Saint Lucians will be provided with seasonal employment visas for them to work in the USA.

The programme is similar to the agricultural workers scheme in which Saint Lucians were employed to work on farms across the USA. This new programme targets workers in the hospitality industry. It was as a result of the efforts of Ambassador, H.E. Sonia Johnny that Ms Diane Holloway, a Human Resources professional, is now in St. Lucia interviewing prospective employees to work in Central Florida.

Ambassador Johnny says: "This programme has been in operation for sometime and the Jamaicans, especially, have taken advantage of it to the extent that hundred of thousands of workers from Jamaica have benefited." Ms. Holloway is conducting interviews through the Labour Department. It is expected that 200 workers, in the first instance, will be selected to work in a hotel chain in Central Florida.

"This programme will benefit those St. Lucians who are chosen. But the bigger picture is that it will infuse much foreign exchange into the St. Lucian economy as it does in the Jamaican economy," remarked Ambassador Johnny. She said that the first batch of workers will be the "test and trial" and as long as these workers give good representation it will mean employment for more St. Lucians as the numbers will be increased in future years.

Ambassador Johnny says she will be meeting with Ms. Holloway on her return to the USA and will explore the possibility of additional places, possibly double the numbers of St. Lucians who may work with other hotels in Florida. "This is an excellent opportunity for St. Lucian workers and I hope the first batch will do us proud so others can also have such an opportunity in the future."

Meanwhile, a group of hospitality students recently returned to St. Lucia from the USA where they were part of a "Work and Travel" programme. The students, from Sir Arthur Lewis Community College, worked in various positions at The Breakers, a well known resort in West Palm Beach, Florida. This was yet another initiative negotiated by Ambassador Johnny to provide



Labour Department also explores employment opportunities

opportunities for young persons seeking to improve their outlook for prospective careers in hospitality.

According to Ambassador Johnny, from all reports the students gained valuable work experience and contacts which will prove useful in furthering their careers. She also indicated that

if the programme continues, Saint Lucia would have a pool of seasoned and qualified hospitality workers for World Cup 2007. Ambassador Johnny says she will, through her office in Washington, DC, continue to seek other such opportunities for the youth of St. Lucia.

A New Lease For Victoria Hospital

Wednesday, September 28, 2005 – The standard of services delivered at the island's oldest health institution – the Victoria Hospital in Castries, has been given a significant boost. This is a result of a joint project between the National Insurance Corporation (NIC) and the Government of Saint Lucia.

The focus of the project was to strengthen areas needing urgent developmental and technological support, in order to upgrade the hospital's ability to efficiently care for patients.

Some two years after the project was initiated officials of the Ministry of Health, Human Services Family Affairs and Gender Relations, along with NIC representatives on Friday 23rd, September 2005 hosted the commissioning of the upgraded units and departments.

These include the Owen King Operating Theatres, a six bed Intensive and Cardiac Care Unit (ICU) (CCU) a



Minister of Health Hon. Damian Greaves receives key from NIC Chairman Mr. John Joseph

three bed recovery room, a new central sterilisation Service Department and the provision of Laboratory, Radiology and Imaging services at the hospital. Ventilatory Support equipment was also installed in the hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

Finance for the overall undertaking was made available by the National Insurance Corporation (NIC) in the amount of \$2.3 million while the Government of Saint Lucia made a counterpart contribution of \$146,814 specifically to facilitate minor civil works and the provision of furniture.

Speaking at the ceremony, Director of the NIC Ms. Emma Hippolyte noted that the money was specifically intended to empower Victoria Hospital to deliver the best health care.

Minister for Health, Human Services, Family Affairs and Gender Relations Honourable Damian Greaves speaking at the commissioning ceremony noted the institution will continue to make an indelible mark on health care

in the country. He said converting the Hospital into a polyclinic, in the future, seems to be a probable course of action. However the Minister said the matter is still under consideration.

"There is a committee now headed by Dr. King in the Ministry of Health looking at several options for the premises of Victoria Hospital including the option of a Level 4 facility, namely the Castries Poly-clinic, offering a wide range of services to the Castries public."

Speaking to an audience of mainly doctors and nurses of the Victoria Hospital the health minister said the hospital staff will be protected under the new arrangements and new governance which will be introduced to the facility. Minister Greaves says it is expected that ongoing consultations lead to further progress next year.

"Consultations seem to be moving very well thus far. I am hoping these consultations come to completion in

December and I'm hoping that by the first quarter of the next financial year 2006/2007 that we shall see a new governance structure and a new orientation at the Victoria Hospital as we make the move to the new national hospital."



Computerized equipment

Meanwhile Honourable Greaves disclosed that there will be the upgrading of several departments and units including the Out patient Clinic, the Accident and Emergency Department and the upgrading of the Central Medical Stores.

The Dental Unit of the Castries Health Centre will also be relocated to more conducive accommodation at the hospital and the Eye Health Care will also come on stream soon.

On the occasion of Saint Lucia's Independence Jubilee in 2003 which also coincided with the National Insurance Corporation's 25th anniversary, the Cooperation vouched a gift of \$ 2.1 million dollars to the nation.



Hon. Menisa Rambally & Hon. Damian Greaves examine equipment

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE NATION

SOBERING REFLECTIONS

Greetings Saint Lucia, It is good to be back in Fair Helen. As usual, I missed the opportunities to address the issues that are of great concern to you and which affect our daily lives as a people and a nation.

As many of you are aware, my absence was due to the fact that I had to accompany my wife overseas to undergo an operation to her spine. Thankfully, the procedure was successful and she is recovering satisfactorily. Allow me, once again, to say a very special "thank you" on behalf of my wife and myself to the many Saint Lucians from the various communities and from all walks of life who wished her well. I also want to thank the many who sent cards or kept us in their prayers day in and day out. There is no better or more sincere gift than prayer. So thank you, one and all.

INCREASE OIL PRICES – A SHARED BURDEN

I returned home on Sunday to be greeted with the news that bus drivers had planned a nation wide strike for Monday in protest of their dissatisfaction with the proposed increases in bus fares announced by the Minister of Communications, Works, Transport and Public Utilities. The strike was held as planned and proved effective, much to the dismay of the public.

Government was never opposed to granting an increase in fares to minibuses. After all, the last time they enjoyed an increase was 1996 and since then the price of fuel has increased significantly. In granting bus drivers an increase in fares, Government had a duty to protect the public interest. It had to ensure as far as possible that the increases were fair, equitable and reasonable. The Government understood that an increase in bus fares for children would be burdensome. It was also necessary to ensure that persons who lived in remote communities were not further disadvantaged by geography and access to services.

As always, there are important lessons to be learnt. For one thing, the process leading to any future award



Prime Minister Dr. Kenny D. Anthony and Mrs. Anthony at an Independence event

must be overhauled. Requests for increases should really go to a body independent of the Transport Board. Requests for increases in fares should be published and the public should be invited to comment on the proposals before a determination is made. This approach will allow bodies such as the Consumer Association to react on behalf of consumers. Likewise, the Minibus Association should be invited to defend their proposals publicly. In this way the process leading to an award would be open and transparent.

DOMESTIC IMPLICATIONS OF GLOBAL EVENTS

Despite the fact that I was overseas, my mind never left Saint Lucia. I had the opportunity in between trips to the hospital to watch more television than usual, I often reflected on how difficult it was to separate global issues from domestic issues and how events which occur thousands of miles across the sea

could have such telling impact on our own development process, economic livelihood, culture, social and legal systems. Of course this is nothing new, it has been happening for centuries. However, with the advent of globalization, the speed and pace at which these events affect us domestically seem al-

no control or is in no way of our own making, the escalating oil prices and the passage of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita have provided further evidence.

KATRINA – A SIGN OF GLOBAL WARMING

Like many of you, I followed very closely the television images of the death and destruction unleashed by



Flood mitigation works continue in Anse La Raye.

most instant. There appear to be little or no time to adjust and respond to these rapid changes. As a people we need to constantly think on our feet in order to keep space with these changing realities.

We have seen these global forces at play and have had to grapple with the domestic consequences. There is no better example than the disastrous effect the WTO ruling has had on our banana industry or the events of September 11, 2001 on the local tourism industry. If we needed any reminder of how our fortunes are in some ways linked to events over which we have

Katrina in the U.S states of Louisiana, Mississippi and New Orleans. If we needed any reminder that climate change is occurring, the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina should confirm in our minds that the World's climate is undergoing some fundamental changes.

As a small and vulnerable island developing state, we now have to consider more seriously the potential threat that changing weather patterns can have on our lives and our economic development. In recent times many parts and regions of the world have been affected

by severe weather phenomena. The Atlantic hurricane season has increased in intensity, the number of named storms have also increased and so too have the ferocity of the storms. We have to date witnessed the catastrophic destruction and loss of lives caused by the East Asian tsunami, the devastation caused by Hurricane Ivan in Grenada and now the death and destruction caused by Hurricane Katrina in the Southern United States.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS: A NATIONAL PRIORITY

In the aftermath of the passage of Hurricane Katrina, I thought of the many persons who had become trapped by floodwaters, especially those who were too poor, too sick and did not have the means to evacuate. I thought too of those who, after the passage of the storm, became engaged in the frantic search for loved ones and family members. I was especially touched by the plight of the many children who suddenly became homeless and were refugees in their own country. The scenes of dead bodies were truly horrifying.

Like you, I was most perplexed by the length of time which the authorities took to respond to the disaster and to provide relief to those who were in dire need. Katrina demonstrated that natural phenomenon could humble powerful states in much the same way that it could humble small and vulnerable countries. As President Clinton said, the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina will surely bring the United States a little closer to the rest of the world.

But we cannot afford to be smug. The truth is that the events in the United States have sobering lessons not only for President Bush but for all politicians, whether in or out of office.

KATRINA AND RITA – IMPLICATIONS FOR GLOBAL OIL PRICES

Following closely on the heels of Hurricane Katrina was Hurricane Rita. Unlike Hurricane Katrina, Rita gave rise to one of the greatest mass evac-

uation projects in the history of the United States. For miles upon miles the roads out of Texas and Galveston island were crowded with individuals who were desperately attempting to get out of the path of Rita. Many had learned from the experiences of Katrina and were determined not to allow what had befallen the residents of New Orleans, Mississippi and Louisiana to befall them. In the mad rush to escape the path of Hurricane Rita, oil prices reached record highs of US \$5 per gallon in Texas and Galveston.

LESSONS OF KATRINA AND RITA

The lessons of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita should never be lost upon us. Both hurricanes demonstrated that our best defence against natural disaster is our level of preparedness.

We must adopt a new attitude to disaster preparedness. We must learn to listen closely to weather reports and advisories. It is also important that we get to know the members of various disaster committees for the respective villages and districts. We must treat all notices to evacuate from areas prone to flooding and sea surges seriously. It is also important that we pay greater attention to where we choose to locate our homes and the type of houses that we build. More must be done to ensure that the building code is introduced and enforced. We should no longer treat insurance coverage for our homes and property as a luxury but rather as a necessity. We must also attempt to strengthen our disaster response mechanisms.

In recent times the National Emergency Management Office (NEMO) has done much to sensitize the Saint Lucian public as to the dangers of natural disasters and for the need to be prepared. However, this must be an ongoing process as there is much to be done to change attitudes and behaviour to disasters. We must remain vigilant in the face of more active hurricane seasons, the advent of more powerful storms and other natural disasters.

NEW INVESTMENTS

The Government is doing its part. We have invested heavily in projects to al-

leviate the problems of flooding in the coastal villages of Dennery and Anse La Raye and the in the city of Castries. The Government has also established satellite warehouses throughout the island to house essential supplies in the advent of a major disaster. Gabion baskets have also been used to reinforce river banks island wide and other areas prone to land slippages. I really hope that the value of these investments would now be better appreciated.

CONSEQUENCES BEYOND ITS SHORES

The impact of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita will not be felt only in the United States. Rest assured that we too will feel it. We have already experienced the erratic movements in oil



Hon. Dr. Kenny D. Anthony



A timely reminder that the hurricane season is not over.



A renewed call for property insurance

prices. It is expected that insurance premiums will increase. Consequently, the cost of providing insurance coverage to safeguard property will also increase. This is a new cost we will have to bear.

I expect too that there will be shortages of building materials. As you know, we import building materials from Miami. The available supply of building materials may well be diverted to the affected states. Scarcities may occur, and with it increases in prices.

This will affect us especially now that demand for building materials in Saint Lucia is at an all time high.

Life goes on, so too the unexpected challenges.

CONCLUSION

By the way, the hurricane season is not yet over. So do not get complacent. We still have another month to go. So, be on your guard and keep on praying. Until next week, take care and God bless.



Prime Minister meets an EU delegation on his return to official duties



Investments in Tourism: newly-opened Coco Palm Hotel.

EAT MORE BANANAS



A programme to enable school children to eat more bananas was launched recently by BERU.

Mental Health Day

“Mental and Physical Health across the Lifespan”

Wednesday, October 05, 2005 - The Annual World Mental Health Day observance will be held in Saint Lucia on Monday October 10th, 2005. The theme “Mental and Physical Health across the lifespan” was chosen by the World Federation for mental health to create public awareness on the critical relationship between physical and mental health and well being at every stage of life.

The Federation stated “neglecting the health and wellness of any segment of the population whether children, working adults, or elders, leads to major human and social welfare problems for entire nations.”

According to Jennifer Joseph of

the Mental Health Association of Saint Lucia, the first activity takes the form of a sensitization workshop for kindergarten school teachers. “The one day workshop scheduled for the Auberge Seraphine Hotel hopes to enable Kindergarten teachers in the primary school system to gain increased understanding and skills around a wide range of emotional and mental health issues experienced by young children.”

In addition the Mental Health Association will be collaborating with the Ministry of Health in presenting a two hour session for senior managers within the private and public sectors. The programme will introduce participants to mental health issues and why they matter in the workplace. “And finally an evening lecture on the topic “Ageing and Health : How Living affects Mental and Physical Health.” Ms. Joseph added.



Golden Hope Hospital.

VACANCY NOTICE

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for appointment to the post of Nursing Assistant I, Senior Citizens' Home, Ministry of Health, Human Services, Family Affairs and Gender Relations.

QUALIFICATIONS

1. 2 'A' Level subjects with two (2) years experience; OR (2). 5 GCE/CXC General Proficiency subjects with four years experience; OR; (3) Nursing Assistant Certificate from the Sir Arthur Lewis Community College with no previous experience.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The successful applicant will be required to work and report to the Manager, Senior Citizens' Home on matters related to work in progress.

The applicant will be required to perform the following duties:

1. care for the physical well-being of residents of the Home in respect of bathing, combing, clothing, caring of skin and nails, assisting with their needs, reporting promptly to supervisors any change in their conditions;
2. keep the wards in satisfactory conditions in terms of making of the beds, cleaning of furniture, changing of flowers in vases daily, sweeping and moping floors;
3. perform simple ward procedures in respect of prescribed medication at the allotted time, dressing of wounds, serving of meals and assisting visitors in the distribution of gifts to the residents.

SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITIES

The successful applicant should possess the following:

1. good communication skills in both English and Kwéyòl.
2. Ability to relate effectively with the elderly people.

Salary is in the range of \$22,875.89 - \$25,401.63 per annum (Grade 6)

Applications on the prescribed forms, along with certified copies of documents pertaining to qualifications should be addressed to:

THE SECRETARY
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
SIR STANISLAUS JAMES BUILDING
BLOCK "A" WATERFRONT
CASTRIES

To reach no later than October 20, 2005.

USE PESTICIDES SAFELY

Pesticides Awareness – Better Protection

If pesticides are handled and applied properly, there should be no problem. These chemicals undergo exhaustive manufacture tests, but like vehicles, firearms, and medicines, they are sometimes used with little care, thus causing accidents. As a result several persons have died of pesticide poisoning. All pesticides should be handled as poisons.

HINTS ON THE SAFE USE OF PESTICIDES

SELECTION: Identify the pest problem. Check with your extension officer. He will tell you what chemical to use and how to use it. Use pesticides only if necessary. The pesticide should be one that has been recommended for use. The pesticide type as well as the formulation to use are all important factors in pesticide safety. Estimate the amount of the pesticide needed and purchase only enough for a particular job or for a season so that you do not have a storage or disposal problem. Smaller containers are easier to handle and present less chances of accidental spillage and contamination. Have all containers labeled with the usual name of the pesticide.

HANDLING: Pesticides are poisonous materials and care should be exercised in handling them. This activity is considered the most hazardous part of the application job. This operation can result in possible exposure (spills or splashes). The following instructions should be observed: Read the label; Obtain the necessary



dilution for the required pesticide; Select proper application equipment and protective clothing; Mix chemicals outside in a well ventilated area; Wash gloves before removing them. Do not smoke or eat whilst handling pesticides; Do not use the mouth to siphon a pesticide from a container.

APPLICATION

Read the label; Use protective clothing and the equipment prescribed; Do not apply higher dosages or rates than specified on the label or recommended by the Agricultural Extension Officer. Ensure that the application equipment is clean, in good condition and operating properly; Do not blow out clogged holes, nozzles or lines with your mouth.

Application should be performed at the proper time using recommended dosages, to prevent illegal residues from remaining in or on goods. Many pes-

ticides labels state the number of days interval between the last pesticide application and the time that the crop can be harvested; Guard against drift of pesticides on nearby crops, pastures or livestock.

If a person feels ill or notices any irregular bodily symptoms when applying pesticides, work should cease and medical attention should be sought.

RE-ENTRY INTO TREATED FIELDS

Persons should stay away from fields being sprayed with pesticides.

Follow instruction on LABELS.

Wear protective clothing if entry is to be made immediately. Protective clothing consists of hat or other suitable head covering, long-sleeved shirt and long-sleeved trousers or a cover-all-type garment, and shoes and socks. Do not confuse days to harvest intervals with re-entry intervals.

Days to harvest is the time that must pass between pesticide application and crop harvest to protect the consumer by allowing the pesticide residue to fall to or below a specific tolerance level. This depends on the crop, dosage and surface treated. Check the harvest interval before an application is made.

Re-entry interval is the time that must pass between pesticide application on a field and the entry of a person into the field by allowing the pesticide residue to fall below a specific level.

PESTICIDE EXPOSURE

Pesticide may enter the human body to cause poisoning in three (3) ways: through the mouth by swallowing;

through the skin; and through the nose, by breathing.

Through the Mouth; Dusts and sprays entering the mouth during the application; Drinking pesticides from unlabelled or contaminated container

Using the mouth to start siphoning liquid concentrates; Eating contaminated food; Transfer of chemical to mouth from contaminated hands

Exposure can be minimized in the following ways

Check the label for special instructions or warnings regarding oral exposure; Do not eat or drink whilst spraying Wash thoroughly with soap and water before eating or drinking; Do not touch lips with contaminated objects or surfaces

Do not wipe the mouth with hands, forearms or clothing; Do not expose food or food containers to pesticides Wear a shield or mask when there is a possibility of splashing

Through the Skin

Accidental spills on clothing or skin Dust and sprays settling on skin during application

Spraying in the wind Splash or spray in eyes and on skin during pouring and mixing

Contact with treated surfaces as in too early re-entry of treated fields, hand harvesting, and other means

Children playing in or with discarded containers or in pesticide mixing or spill areas

Maintenance – repair work on contaminated equipment

Exposure can be minimized by using protective clothing. These include goggles, respirator, long sleeved shirt and trousers (overalls), rubber boots, hat and gloves. Put sleeves over long rubber boots. There should be no hems.

Through the Nose

Dust, mists or fumes; Smoking during application; Wear a respirator and do not smoke during application

There are many sources of information which provide guidance for proper pesticide usage. Reliable information can be received from the Extension Agent, Ministry of Agriculture Officials, manufacturers and many other reliable persons on the island.



NEW NEGOTIATIONS ON SCHEDULE

Wednesday, October 05, 2005
 – Chairman of the Government Negotiating Team (GNT) Mr. Victor Poyotte has expressed concern that six of the nine Unions and Associations representing government employees are yet to submit new proposals for consideration. Mr. Poyotte made these observations following a preliminary meeting with the workers representatives on September 26th 2005. He noted further that of the three groups submitting proposals none quantified their wage and salary requests.

The September 26th meeting was to set to review proposals submitted for the new round of negotiations covering the triennium April 2004 to March 2005, April 2005 to March 2006 and April 2006 to March 2007. At that meeting the unions and associations agreed to submit their outstanding proposals by October 7th, 2005, for a gen-

eral wage and salary increase for both the established and non established workers.

The GNT stated that the deadline date is necessary to facilitate costing



GNT Chairman Mr. Victor Poyotte.

of the various aspects of the proposals and to avoid any delays in the start of discussions.

When discussions on the new round of negotiations begin the parties will discuss general wage and salary increase for the next triennium. The Government Negotiating Team will hold separate discussion with each Union/Association on non financial matters relating to terms and conditions of service.

Formal negotiations between the Unions and Associations and the Government Negotiating Team commenced on September 28th 2005. At that first meeting the GNT met with the Saint Lucia Teachers' Union.

Other meetings set for October are as follows:

Wednesday 5th October, Civil Service Association. Wednesday 12th October

National Workers Union; Wednesday 18th October Nurses Association; Wednesday 18th October Fire Service Association; Thursday 19th October Police Welfare Association; Thursday 19th October Prisons Service Association

In September the Cabinet of Ministers appointed a new Government Negotiating Team for negotiations on Working Conditions for the 2004/2005 and 2006/2007 triennium.

Chaired by a Management Consultant and former Secretary to Cabinet in Saint Lucia Victor Poyotte other members of the team are Mr. Henry Phillips Human Resources Management Consultant, Mr. Ivor Daniel of the Ministry of Finance and Mr. Mark Louis Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Labour Relations, Public Service and Cooperatives.

MICRO-ENTERPRISE FOR DISABLED

The Government of Saint Lucia (GOSL), through the Ministry of Social Transformation with support from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), is seeking to implement a framework for developing opportunities in micro-enterprise among the disabled population of St Lucia. An exploratory study was recently carried out to discover what is needed by the disabled to establish what is the current situation in terms of services and infrastructure to meet those needs. The study also sought to identify the needs of existing disabled entrepreneurs and of the organizations that are supplying services to the disabled.

Four in every 100 St Lucians between the ages of 15 and 64 live with some kind of disability. Chief among them are persons with lower limb disabilities, sight impairments and those that are mentally challenged. The largest numbers of persons with disabilities are the 60-64 age groups, followed by those 15-19 years old.

A project of this kind would help disabled people in the 15-34 age group, estimated to number approximately 1,542. Disabled persons in this age group are those most likely to open new businesses. The main objective of the project is to strengthen the levels of skills of disabled entrepreneurs already in business and to facilitate those looking to set up businesses in St Lucian so they could produce goods to generate income. This objective would be pursued through basic literacy training, technical assistance – including mentoring – and micro-credit. The project will also address advocacy, including marketing and promotion, as a means of improving the image of the disabled and promoting their enterprises.

Three essential elements must be addressed if training is to take place. Currently no facilities exist with the necessary equipment and physical space to accommodate persons with disabilities. To ensure the success of the project, a dedicated unit will be needed to serve the particular needs of disabled entrepreneurs. Attitudes must also be taken

into account as it is widely recognised that persons with disabilities suffer discrimination, even from support institutions. Lastly, it will take careful study to decide on the best kinds of training but it is known that disabled entrepreneurs have been successful in the past through engagement in activities such as upholstery, woodwork, and dress-making.

Visually-impaired persons also often need specialised computer training but trainers would need to be trained in this field.

The two support agencies that could lead the coordination of the programme are the Ministry of Social Transformation and the St Lucia National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD). The National Council is the main umbrella organization for (and of) persons with disabilities. It was established in 1981 and currently represents a number of groups' representatives of specific disabilities.

The project would also link with micro-finance and training and development institutions in St Lucia. Among those likely to be asked for support are

The James Belgrave Micro-Enterprise Development Fund (BELfund), the National Development Corporation, the National Research and Development Foundation and the National Skills Development Foundation.

Community support and involvement is necessary to the project since sustainable development can only be successfully achieved with the participation of the sectors, in promoting the cause of the disabled.



PRF staff at community meeting.

Floodlights for Beausejour early in New Year

Floodlights at the Beausejour Cricket Ground could be commissioned as early as January next year, well ahead of the historic May 10 2006 day/night One day International between West Indies and Zimbabwe to be held there.

Officials of MUSCO lighting paid a third visit to Saint Lucia this week during which time final details and the technical side of the installation of the lights were discussed.

Paul Milton is European Director of MUSCO Lighting which has been

contracted to install the lights. He says designs were finalised to international standards of floodlighting cricket with television broadcast in mind.

"We will be proceeding with the manufacture of equipment this week and we will start digging ground officially around November 15 at the site. We will probably be finished by the first or second week of January," Milton added.

He said lights will be placed 70 metres from the centre of the crease. It entails six 40 metre poles which will have

40 fixtures.

Chief Executive Officer at Cricket World Cup Saint Lucia Incorporated Ernest Hilaire says the lights will not be the only addition to the Beausejour Cricket Ground over the next few months.

"We were very clear in our minds that we were going to ensure that Beausejour remains one of the best venues in the Caribbean. We are going to upgrade the facilities for 2007. We will be making two additions to Beausejour lights, and an indoor practice facility," he disclosed.



NTN THIS WEEK ON NTN

Sat. Oct. 8th - Fri. October 14th, 2005

As part of observances to mark World Food Day, Agriculture Minister Hon. Ignatius Jean discusses the challenges facing local food production - Oct. 12th 8:00 p.m.

- With renewed calls for greater environmental conservation, NTN revisits the Inaugural Biodiversity Awards - Mon. October 10th, 10:00 p.m.

- See how African students are mastering the art of Acrobatics in the far East – African Acrobatic Students in China - Tues. October 11th, 9:30 p.m

- As part of the build-up to World Standards Day being lead locally by the Bureau of Standards, NTN examines the operations of the Bureau and the impacts on its work on the country – Wed. October 12th, 6:15 p.m.

- With a population of over 13 million, see how the bustling metropolis of Shanghai, merges ancient ways with modern realities – Thur. October 13th, 8:30 p.m.

- Concerns for Environmental Ethics & the Launch of the Virtues Project Fri. October 14th, 9:00p.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.

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