



NATIONWIDE

A publication of the Department of Information Services



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CHEAPER OIL

SAINT LUCIA ON THE CHAVEZ CARIBBEAN INITIATIVE

Saint Lucia is among Caribbean countries which will pay less for fuel imports from Venezuela. Notwithstanding the absence of the country's representatives from the crucial meeting in Jamaica this past week, government is part of the plan. The PetroCaribe initiative is a plan by the Government of Venezuela to sell refined petroleum to Caricom member-states at 40% less than the world market price. The terms are elastic and favourable and the agreement will last for 17 years. In addition, the Venezuelans will transport the oil free to St. Lucia and the other Caricom member-states which agree to be part of the plan. Further, there is a separate social investment fund of US \$50 million, to develop social programmes to be identified by the beneficiary countries. It's therefore an attractive offer for every non-oil producing Caricom member-state

that agrees to its terms.

The PetroCaribe oil initiative by Venezuela is embraced by the St. Lucia government, which signed up to the agreement in Venezuela several weeks ago. There is a lot to be done to make it happen. A joint company has to be established between St. Lucia and Venezuela. A place has to be found to store the fuel. And apart from making it available cheaper to LUCELEC to lower the fuel surcharge component of our light bills, the government will also have to decide how it will distribute the cheaper fuel in a manner that will directly benefit all St. Lucians. And the social projects to be undertaken here as part of the PetroCaribe agreement will also have to be developed.

All of this is possible because the Venezuelan Government has assigned to the state-owned national oil company, Petroleo De Venezuela, (better known as PetroVen) the task of not only managing the resource, but also

sharing its wealthy earnings with the majority of the people of the country, most of whom are poor and landless, with many homeless and too many without means.

Those who understand the vicissitudes of the global economic situation welcome the initiative. In fact, this move by Government will ultimately result in lower energy and fuel bills.

Since his election, Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez has decided to use the country's vast oil wealth to improve the conditions of the millions of poor people across this vast, rich, Spanish-speaking Caribbean country. And now, Hugo Chavez has decided to share this wealth with Venezuela's Caribbean neighbours by making cheaper energy available, on very favourable terms, over a sustained period, which would guarantee any country the stability it needs in these times of volatile oil prices.



Price increases in bulk and refined oil have affected consumers and producers in the Caribbean



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MITIGATING DISASTERS – VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTS

In view of destruction of major commercial, industrial and residential areas, and loss of lives in the United States following the passage of Hurricane Katrina, Nation-wide presents a previously published report which may serve as a reminder to individuals and institutions that we are in the season of natural disasters.

The study released by the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA) earlier in the year showed that some Caribbean countries are not fully utilising disaster loss reduction tools available to them.

“Study of Hazard Maps, Vulnerability Assessments, and Digital Maps in the Caribbean: Final Report”, was commissioned by Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA) as an important first step for knowing the status of these tools and to compile a database of relevant information and materials.

Vulnerability assessments and hazard mapping are, important as the starting point of any activity for disaster loss reduction. The study, conducted in 20 English-, French-, and Spanish-



Beach front properties always vulnerable

speaking Caribbean states, revealed that a number of hazard maps were available across the region but few countries were maximizing the use of them. In fact, only in Martinique and

Puerto Rico is the use of vulnerability assessments in the planning process legally enforced.

Fourteen recommendations have been made as a result of findings of

the study which if implemented would help Caribbean states to reduce the loss from future disaster events.

There a number of recommendations which if implemented could help in reducing the loss a country suffers as a result of a disaster. Some of the recommendations are: (1) An urgent need to upgrade the infrastructure of National Disaster Offices so as to ensure that the use of hazard maps is fully integrated into their routine activities; (2) Designation of a national agency as the repository of hazard mapping, vulnerability assessment studies and digital mapping data; (3) Encouragement of the use of hazard mapping, vulnerability assessment studies in development-related activities; (4) Adequate funding for the building of capacity in disaster mitigation. This would ensure a reduction of loss of life, property and the biophysical environment. The current disaster-trigger approach and reliance on external funding cannot adequately be used to support the long-term nature of the effects of natural hazards in the region; (5) Involvement of the National Disaster Office in every hazard mapping and vulnerability assessment study to be undertaken.

Condolences to the US Hurricane Katrina victims



Acting Prime Minister Hon. Philip Pierre

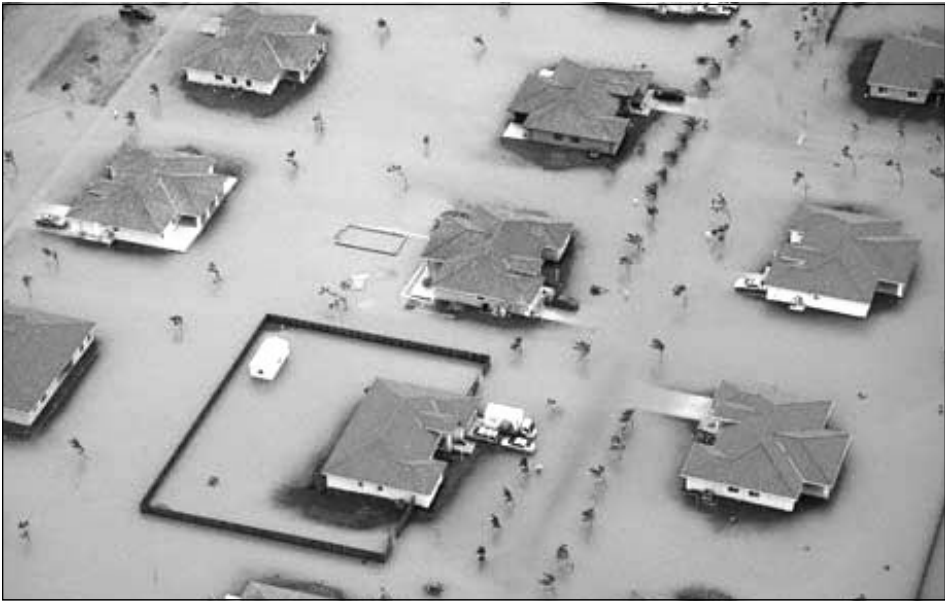
A message of condolence has been sent to the Government and people of the United States from the Government and people of Saint Lucia, following the death and destruction caused by hurricane Katrina. Special mention was made of the people of Louisiana and Mississippi.

Acting Prime Minister Honourable Phillip J. Pierre says the images of death and destruction, displacement and dislocation, ache and pain the hearts of all in Saint Lucia just as they do others elsewhere around the world.

“We in Saint Lucia understand the sheer anguish of victims and the magni-

tude of the challenge to emergency personnel, because we too know the cost of picking up the pieces in the trail of storms and hurricanes.” Minister Pierre said.

Minister Pierre assured Americans of Saint Lucia’s deepest solidarity as they begin the rescue and recovery efforts in aftermath of hurricane Katrina.



Destruction caused by Hurricane Katrina



In spite of the jump in the price of fuel on the world market, the Government of Saint Lucia has decided that the price of LPG gas should remain unchanged. This decision reflects the desire to limit the inflationary consequences of this price change on the economy. In particular, the Government hopes to cushion the impact on low-income households. The Government of St. Lucia continues to subsidize the price of LPG (cooking gas)

World oil market is not simple

On April 19th 2005, during the presentation of the 2005 – 2006 budget, Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony sounded a note of caution on the impact of increases in world oil prices.

“Mr. Speaker, since the last adjustment to fuel prices in Saint Lucia in June 2004, there has been no end to activity in the international petroleum markets. International oil prices increased from an average of US\$26.13 per barrel in 2002 to US\$31.29 in 2003, representing a 20 per cent increase. Petroleum prices rose by 32 per cent to US\$41.41 per barrel over the period 2003 to 2004. On April 04, 2005, petroleum prices peaked to reach US\$58 per barrel, representing a 40 per cent increase.

The backdrop to this steady rise in oil prices is strong global demand from the United States, and more particularly, the expanding economies of China and India. The supply side dynamics of the international petroleum market is by no means simple, Mr. Speaker. Firstly, the supply of oil has been restricted in some of the oil producing countries, through acts of vandalism or terrorism. These acts have often caused market participants to anticipate future oil shortages. Thus, short run demand has increased, placing upward pressure on prices. Secondly, petroleum is priced in United States dollars, a currency which has depreciated by approximately 10 per cent over the past year. Consequently, members of OPEC do not subscribe to the view that oil prices are high, and are therefore not likely to consider any action that will result in a fall in oil prices. Thirdly, Mr. Speaker, while the members of OPEC have agreed to increase the supply of petroleum by an additional 500,000 barrels per day, this amount may not be enough to impact on prices due to heavy demand.”

THE SHORT JOURNEY TO BETTER SIGHT

134 SAINT LUCIANS TOOK THE FIRST TRIP FOR EYE CARE

It was more than a dream come true. They had never, ever thought of seeing or visiting Cuba, far less to go there for medical treatment. But with one visit to a Cuban eye doctor, they found themselves having to pack up and leave for Cuba for surgical operations to their eyes. Among the 134 St. Lucians who left for Cuba from Hewanorra Airport on Wednesday August 31st 2005 were elderly persons and children, men and women who had suffered with eye problems that dogged them for years.

In some cases they had given up hope of ever being able to see again. In other cases, neither the expertise, nor the technology exists here to cure them. And in still other cases, they could no longer afford the high cost of eye care at the private optical institutions. The trip from Vieux Fort to Cuba aboard a sleek Cubana jet became possible through a solidarity eye care programme sponsored by Cuba and Venezuela.

Under the programme, two Cuban Ophthalmologists who recently arrived here have been performing daily eye examinations on persons afflicted with such optical diseases as cataract, glaucoma and other vision impairing ailments. Those who could be treated locally were taken care of and those who needed unavailable care were signed up to go to Havana for expert treatment at Cuba's advanced optical medical facilities.

Each person chosen to go to Cuba was allowed to take one person along to be with them while being treated. And all of that would cost them nothing. It is part of the continuing extension of free medical care that has been followed by Cuba over the four decades since the Cuban revolution led by Fidel Castro.

This ongoing offer of internationalist medical assistance has included sending doctors to developing countries and training doctors from the developing world. St. Lucia has been benefiting from this programme since 1979, with scores of St. Lucian nationals having been trained as doctors and dentists over the years at medical universities in Cuba.

Cuba has also received and treated several Saint. Lucians with advanced ailments that could not be treated here. Such persons have ranged from persons seeking treatment for skin infections such as vitiligo, to those suffering with advanced Prostate problems. Among notable St. Lucians who sought treatment in Havana for advanced prostate were the late George Odium and Romanus Lansiquot, politicians from different political persuasions, but who both had ultimate faith in Cuba's advanced medical system.

The 134 St. Lucians left from Vieux Fort just as a large number of persons from St.

Kitts and Nevis were returning from Cuba, where they had had similar eye care under the same programme. The St. Lucians were accompanied by Mr Jon Odium, Parliamentary secretary in the Ministry of Health, who has himself been a patient in Cuba for advanced medical care. Also accompanying the large group of local patients was a young St. Lucian who recently qualified as a doctor in Cuba.

Several Caribbean countries are participating in the Cuban-sponsored eye care programme, for which Venezuela is also helping pay some of the costs. Other islands include St. Kitts and Nevis and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, as well as Jamaica. The local programme is being coordinated by the Ministry of Health, Human Services, Family Affairs and Gender Relations. It began on August 22 at the Babonneau Multi-purpose Centre and continued this week with clinics at various parts of Castries.

The programme will continue the week



Equipment used in diagnosis

of September 5th, with clinics at the Mon Repos Health Centre and the village's Community centre. Other clinics will be held over the next few weeks in Gros Islet, La Resource and Richfond in Dennery, Micoud, Vieux Fort, Laborie, Choiseul, Soufriere, Anse la raye, Canaries, La Bayee and then back to Castries on October 6 and 7 for open clinics at Senior Citizens' Homes.

For those who left for Cuba on that Wednesday, it was something beyond their wildest dreams. One of the departing patients described it as "a God-send." "Thank God and Fidel Castro," she said, wiping her tearful eyes with a white handkerchief as she was handed her travel documents and told to take the line to the aircraft.



One of the medical teams

The miracle has begun to unfold

On the night of Wednesday 31 August, 2005 two Cubana jets landed at Jose Marti International airport in Havana carrying over 200 hundred passengers from Saint Lucia and Saint Kitts, all patients seeking medical and surgical attention under the Plan Milagro (Miracle Plan Project), a component of the wider Bolivarian Alternative

Greaves, Minister of Health, gave the Plan his full blessings and approved of its rapid implementation in the interest of needy patients on the island.

The Miracle Plan project provides free eye surgery in Cuban hospitals and polyclinics, and covers cataracts, glaucoma, pterygia, diabetic and hypertensive retinopathy and other medical and surgical conditions. The Miracle



Cuban doctor examines patients

(30) years had his eyesight completely restored after surgery in Cuba. The ecstatic patient, suddenly seeing for the first time in three decades, said in wonderment, "This is a miracle, a miracle, I can see."

Continued on page 7



Hon. John Odium of the Ministry of Health, Human Services, Family Affairs and Gender Relations and Mr. Peter Lansiquot of the St. Lucia Embassy in Cuba pose with health workers and patients

for the Americas (ALBA) program, the brainchild of Cuban and Venezuelan presidents Fidel Castro and Hugo Chavez.

The Miracle Plan was recently introduced to the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Health in Saint Lucia by Saint Lucia's Embassy in Havana. The Honourable Damian

Plan project, which began only a few months ago, has attended to more than 50,000 Venezuelans and Caribbean people thus far. Every single day, over 1,600 patients receive free eye surgery in Cuba's hospitals under the project.

The project became known as the Miracle Plan when a Venezuelan gentleman who had been blind for thirty



Preparing for surgery

I can assure you that there is nothing sinister about the enumeration process. It is a simple exercise. The main reason why it will be undertaken is because there is a desperate need to create a new voters' registration list.

Good day again, Saint Lucia. I do hope that everyone has had a very good weekend and you are prepared to meet the challenges of the week ahead.

I guess you are wondering whether I am in Saint Lucia. I am not. Actually, this programme was recorded before I departed on leave, as I did not want another prolonged break in our Conversations.

Today, I want to touch another aspect of the enumeration exercise which I discussed last week. I want to explain why new identification cards have to be issued to voters. Usually, whenever enumeration exercises are undertaken, there is a great deal of suspicion surrounding the activity. It is not uncommon to hear all kinds of rumours about such exercises. In most instances, these rumours give rise to a culture of distrust which serves only to discourage members of the public from cooperating fully with the individuals whose task it is to undertake the exercise.

In this case, the enumeration process will be undertaken by the Electoral Commission, whose Chairman, Mr. Kenneth Monplaisir was appointed by the Governor General. The other members are Mr. Stephen Julien appointed by the Leader of the Opposition and Mr. Claudius Francis, appointed by the Prime Minister to represent the Government.

Nothing sinister

I can assure you that there is nothing sinister about the enumeration process. It is a simple exercise. The main reason why it will be undertaken is because there is a desperate need to create a new voters' registration list.

As I told you last week, the last time there was a comprehensive review of

the voters' registration list was in 1979, some 26 years ago. A lot has happened since then. The population has grown significantly. Likewise, persons have also died and others have migrated. The enumeration process will therefore make available a voters' list which accurately reflects the number of registered voters in Saint Lucia. It will also cause persons to vote in the area or polling division closest to their place of residence. So, no longer will someone who now resides in Gros-Islet but who formerly resided in Dennery North be required to travel to Dennery North to vote on Election Day. Individuals will be made to vote in the constituencies where they reside. The enumeration exercise will also give a clearer indication as to the real size and voter population of the various constituencies.

An ID card with different uses

But there are a number of other important benefits which will come about as a result of the enumeration exercise.

To begin with, each registered voter will be issued with a new ID card. Not only will the new ID cards be more secure, but they will also have a variety of uses. The new ID card will also give rise to a standardized identity document, which shall be used not only for the purpose of voting at elections, but also for commercial activities. It can also be used as a travel document to OCES member countries. Most importantly, though, it can be used to access a number of services provided by Government and non-governmental organizations. A case in point will be the Universal Health Care Programme, which will be introduced by the Government in the not too distant future. The new ID cards will therefore give Saint Lucian citizens access to the services being offered under that programme. Given the wide range of activities that new ID cards will be used for, it shall be made available not only to those who have attained the legal voting age of eighteen years, but also to persons as young as sixteen. To avoid confusion, 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.

Securing your identity

But there is also another reason why the Electoral Commission must issue new Identification Cards. Today, we live in a new security age. The advent of new technology has made it possible for criminals and other individuals to steal the identities of unsuspecting persons. Although we may not be able to eliminate identity fraud altogether, we must do everything possible to minimize such risk and exposure to our nationals. The introduction of the new

Support The Enumeration Exercise

PM Converses with the Nation



Prime Minister Dr. Kenny D. Anthony

ID cards will go a long way in offering a greater measure of protection to our nationals who might have otherwise fallen victim to such crimes.

New security features

The new ID cards will be equipped

with certain security features specifically designed to protect and secure the identity of individuals. In other words, the chances of someone having their identity stolen will be greatly minimized. The existing ID cards are more



The new card will be used for commercial activities

susceptible to being forged, copied and duplicated.

Whereas the Electoral Department has some mechanisms in place to detect impersonation during voting at election time, other persons who use

ID cards as a means of identification have no such mechanisms available to them. The introduction of the new ID card is intended to guarantee the integrity of the electoral process, and also to safeguard the identity of all Saint Lucians.

You may be asking how will the introduction of the new ID cards achieve this? Well, for starters, the system that will be used to produce the new ID cards will comprise a fully integrated non-film system based on the computerized image captured. Furthermore, the new ID cards will be encoded with high standard security features including a digital photograph, fingerprints and other general information about the person. Clearly, the implementation of this new modernized ID card will contribute significantly to reducing attempts to produce false ID cards.

When the new ID cards are finally introduced, the process of verification will be made a lot easier. For example, if an individual loses his or her national ID card, it will be easy to compare his or her data with that which is stored in the database according to the corresponding digitally captured image and fingerprint, before a new ID card is issued. What this means is that it will now be a lot more difficult for any individual to steal another's identity.

The enumeration process

The new national ID cards will be issued during the enumeration process. However, it will cost Saint Lucian nationals absolutely nothing to replace their old ID cards with the new ID cards.

The enumeration process will be carried out through a house-to-house campaign. The exercise will take the form of short interviews with the occupant(s) of every single household. The interviews will be done by trained enumerators, who will in turn be accompanied by scrutineers appointed by the Electoral Commission, on the advice of both the Government and the Opposition. During the house-to-house exercise, the enumerators will have in their possession certified copies of the revised lists of electors which will be used in the verification process.

The new ID cards will be equipped with certain security features specifically designed to protect and secure the identity of individuals. In other words, the chances of someone having their identity stolen will be greatly minimized. The existing ID cards are more susceptible to being forged, copied and duplicated.

Incorrect registrations 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.

The registration process will be an ongoing exercise. During the house-to-house visits, individuals who wish to register will be facilitated, once the rel-

evant documents are submitted. Thereafter, new applicants will be issued verification certificates which they will be expected to present along with their registration documents, at nearby registration centers, in order to complete the registration and to be photographed for the processing of the national identification card.

Support the enumeration

This exercise when completed, will undoubtedly give rise to an electoral list which is truly reflective of the number of eligible voters in Saint Lucia. And it will also give rise to a modern and more secure ID card.

I call upon all Saint Lucian citizens to support the enumeration process. Give your full cooperation to the individuals who will be conducting the exercise. There is no need for suspicion and distrust where this process is concerned. The information which you provide will be held in the strictest confidence. So, do not pass up this opportunity to gain a new, more secure Identification Card. We all have a responsibility to enhance the democratic process in our country and society.

Until next week, be of good cheer, take good care of yourselves and God bless!



A card with a modern look



Public education on the enumeration exercise

There is no need for suspicion and distrust where this process is concerned. The information which you provide will be held in the strictest confidence. So, do not pass up this opportunity to gain a new, more secure Identification Card. We all have a responsibility to enhance the democratic process in our country and society.



The Electoral Office in Castries



The project will be challenging in the densely populated areas such as Castries City

OVERVIEW OF THE PETROCARIBE INITIATIVE

Saint Lucia and other CARICOM countries have signed the Petro Caribe agreement. The following article which highlights the Jamaica agreement provides the details and general benefits of the plan for all the countries.

Jamaica has been receiving crude oil and refined products under the San Jose Accord established in 1980 and renewed yearly. Under this arrangement, Jamaica is expected to obtain 7,000 barrels of oil equivalents per day supplied in equal proportion from Mexico and Venezuela.

Since 2000 Jamaica has been receiving crude and refined products also at a quota of 7,400 barrels per day under the Caracas Agreement. Under this arrangement Jamaica purchases the oil at world market price and pays 75% of the purchase price within thirty (30) days. The remaining 25% is paid over 15 years with one year's moratorium at an interest rate of 2% per annum. The Caracas Agreement is renewed annually.

At a meeting of Caribbean Energy Ministers held in Caracas, Venezuela on July 10, 2004, Venezuela expressed concerns about the prevailing high price of oil and its adverse impacts on non-oil producing countries. Concerns were expressed regarding the high margins applied to petroleum products, which drive up the retail prices. At the meeting Venezuela expressed a strong desire to see more of the benefits of the energy agreements accruing to the social sectors, including health care and higher education, in the beneficiary countries.

Accordingly, Venezuela proposed a "Petrocaribe Initiative" to support Caribbean countries and other countries within the Americas. The Petrocaribe model is based on the concept of state involvement in the energy sector whereby surpluses achieved would be used to help meet expenses (through subsidies) in health care, education, housing for the poor and so on.

The Petrocaribe arrangement would involve refining of crude oil from Venezuela, shipping to Caribbean states, possibly in Petrocaribe owned/contracted vessels, wholesaling to existing retailers and even undertaking retailing where necessary.

Petrocaribe is seen as a replacement and an enhancement of the Caracas Agreement.

At the end of that meeting, a joint communiqué was issued whereby the signatories articulated the following positions, among others: (1) The region faces serious challenges in obtaining continuous energy supplies; (2) Recognition of the need for energy integration to emphasize the economic and social development of their peoples rather than being governed by market imperatives and the profit motive; (3) Determination to guarantee to the peoples of the Caribbean region, access to and conservation of, non-renewable energy resources in a democratic and sustainable fashion; (4) Recognition of the importance of a shared approach to resolving deficiencies in the global energy chain in so far as these deficiencies adversely impact on the sovereign rights of the states to safeguard the interests of their peoples; (5) Reaffirmation of the sovereign rights of the states over their energy resources; (6) Establishment of a Technical Commission to examine modalities of the implementation of Petrocaribe in the context of furthering the principles embodied in existing energy pacts viz. the San Jose and Caracas Accords.

The following is a chronology of the important developments since the first communiqué.

August 24 & 25, 2004: Technical Meeting on Petrocaribe, Kingston, Jamaica. This meeting was called to consider the legal, ownership, financial, and management options regarding the framework for Petrocaribe. In addition, the meeting reviewed the status of petroleum refining and distribution throughout the Caribbean region.

August 26 & 27, 2004: Second Meeting of Energy Ministers of the Caribbean on the Petrocaribe Initiative, Montego Bay, Jamaica. The following are the key positions articulated in a joint communiqué arising from the meeting: (1)

June 29, 2005: A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the upgrade of the Petrojam Refinery was signed between GOJ, acting through the Ministry of Commerce Science & Technology (with Energy) (MCST), and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela acting through its Ministry of Energy and Petroleum (MEP).

August 23, 2005: Official working visit of His Excellence President Hugo Chavez of the Republic of Venezuela, to Montego Bay, Jamaica. A Joint Communiqué was issued arising from the visit and the highlights/positions are as follows: (1) Review by the Prime Minister of Jamaica and the President of Venezuela of the status of bilateral

installation of a delayed coker at a cost of US\$250 – 300 M; (4) Construction is scheduled to commence in 2006, facilitating start-up of the upgraded refinery by 2008; (5) PDVSA Caribe and the Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica gave an undertaking to create a new joint venture company to oversee the refinery upgrade, expansion of local retail trade and the trade in oil with regional countries; (6) Finalization by the leaders of Venezuela and Jamaica, a Bilateral Agreement under the Petrocaribe Initiative. Specific aspects include: the coming into effect of the Bilateral Agreement on June 29, 2005, the supply of twenty one thousand (21, 000) barrels a day of crude oil and products



Cheaper fuel for the local market

Petrocaribe to be a catalyst for the introduction of alternative approaches to market access, product distribution and retail, and correction of pricing inequities in some markets; (2) This would be effected in a framework that recognizes multilateral commitments and facilitates greater market competition; (3) The Ministers supported strengthening of the human and institutional capacities for the petroleum industry emphasizing the need for additional research and technology transfer within the region; (4) Commitment to provide access to funding for upgrading refining capacities, establishing storage facilities and offering alternative transportation options; (5) The Ministers welcomed offers from the major oil producing countries in the region to devise financial strategies for funding social programmes in areas including education, housing and public health; (6) Agreement to undertake an in-depth evaluation of the practical benefits to be derived from Petrocaribe.

February 16, 2005: A Letter of Intent (LOI) was signed between Jamaica and Venezuela. This LOI covers the participation of Venezuela in Jamaica's energy sector projects, and technical studies/evaluations to inform and guide the nature and extent of the cooperation between the two countries. The three (3) specific areas identified for possible joint participation are: (1) Upgrading of Jamaica's oil refinery (the Petrojam Refinery); (2) The petroleum retail marketing sector; (3) Exploration for oil and gas.

March - May 2005: Petroleos de Venezuela SA (PDVSA) visited Petrojam to review cost estimates for upgrade and examine upgrade options. PDVSA engineering team visited to conduct inspection of refinery equipment and infrastructure.

cooperation between their two countries, especially in the context of the San Jose and Caracas pacts; (2) Recognition of the possibilities for broadening the scope of present arrangements/activities between Jamaica and Venezuela, and consequently, agreement to convene in the first quarter of 2006, the Jamaica/Venezuela Bi-national Commission, through which new proposals can be developed and refined in a structured manner; (3) Expression of appreciation by Prime Minister Patterson to

to Jamaica, financial arrangements that will allow forty percent (40%) of the purchase price of petroleum products to be provided as concessionary loans for twenty five (25) years. Interest will be charged at a rate of one percent (1%) per annum when prices equal or exceed US\$50 a barrel. The loan amounts will be calculated on the basis of price prevailing at the date of purchase; (7) Agreement to establish/enhance cooperation in other areas including strengthening of commercial and trade



Jamaican Prime Minister P.J. Patterson addresses journalists at the recent CARICOM Summit

the President and people of Venezuela for their agreeing to collaborate, on an equal basis, in the upgrading of the Petrojam Refinery. The upgrade will take place in two phases: phase I will be implemented at a cost of US\$200 M and will include, the expansion of the crude unit from 35KBPD to 50KBPD, a new vacuum unit and; a new vis-breaker unit, phase II will include the

ties in tourism and air transport, and in the sphere of education and culture, an offer by Jamaica, of English language training to Venezuela.

Sept 4 – 6, 2005: Meeting of Energy Ministers and Heads of Governments in the Caribbean at Montego Bay to finalize the various bilateral agreements within the framework of Petrocaribe.

New Projects on Biodiversity

In order to continue manage and sustain natural resources and preserve the eco-system for future generations, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries will soon implement two more important

programmes. Minister for Agriculture Honourable Ignatius Jean says ‘In order to derive benefits from bio-diversity conservation we need to know what we have. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry

and Fisheries is now completing a plant inventory of the island as part of the first phase of a Management of Biological Resources Project.” Minister Jean added that the second Bio-diversity Enabling Activity project will also come on stream. One component will include an assessment of the countries’ capacity to manage its biodiversity with emphasis to be placed on the Bio- Safety.” According to the reason for these programmes is that St. Lucia is consciously building a foundation of survival for younger generations. The programmes will be undertaken on a phased basis. The Ministry has reportedly maintained sharp surveillance of several conservation projects around the island, many of which have been successful. Among them Minister Jean named the Soufriere Marine Management Authority Project. “It is a world class project, it’s a model project around the globe and



Hon. Ignatius Jean
Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

it really shows how we can utilise resources sustainably and how we can share the resource and partnerships that we have - be it with tourism, fisheries, the people of Soufriere and the coastal people.” The Soufriere Marine Management Authority is observing its tenth anniversary this year.



The Iguana needs protection

The miracle has begun to unfold

Continued from page 3
In the next few weeks and months, needy Saint Lucian patients should organize and mobilize themselves to accept this wonderful opportunity being provided under the Plan Milagro Project (Miracle Plan Project). In discussions this week in Havana, the morning after the arrival of the two plane loads of Saint Lu-

cian and Kittitian patients, Honourable Jon Odium headed a team of Saint Lucian officials, in discussions with the Cuban medical personnel in the two separate institutions where they are being attended to by capable and professional health care personnel. The other members of the team included Mr. Peter Lansiquot, a Saint Lucian Diplomat who is the Resident Head of Mission at Saint Lucia’s new Embassy

in Havana, Dr. Eve Felicien, the local Coordinator of the Miracle Plan for Saint Lucian patients and Dr. Benet Henry, a Saint Lucian Ophthalmologist who is presently completing his specialist training at the Calixto Garcia Hospital in Havana. Dr Benet has personally operated on many of the Venezuelan patients under the Miracle Plan Project. The team is putting in place, in collaboration with their

Cuban counterparts, the various elements for the smooth and successful implementation of the Miracle Plan Project where Saint Lucian patients are concerned. The Saint Lucian patients are in high spirits and are very thankful so far for the experience. The initial cultural shock that was inevitable, due to the language barrier, has now dissipated, particularly as a result of the pep talk that was given to them by Honourable Jon Odium, Mr. Peter Lansiquot, and Doctors Benet Henry and Eve Felicien.



A new bridge at Grande Riviere in the north of the island - Part of the improved network of secondary road

Prime Minister on leave



Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony

Prime Minister Dr Kenny D. Anthony is due back in office later this month following 17 days vacation leave which took effect Wednesday, August 24, 2005. The Prime Minister accompanied his wife, who travelled overseas for medical treatment. The duties and responsibilities of the Prime Minister were shared by Minister of Education, Human Resource Development, Youth and Sports, Hon. Mario Michel, the Hon. Philip J. Pierre, the Minister of Tourism, Commerce, Investment and Consumer Affairs.

BE PREPARED - ONE YEAR AFTER IVAN

GRENADIANS REMEMBER IVAN'S WRATH

One year ago today, on September 7th 2004, St. Lucia was one of many Caribbean countries in the path of a powerful category three, hurricane Ivan.

But after the system changed course, St. Lucia was spared the worst, recording only minimal damage.

National focus shifted quickly to Grenada which had been demolished by the hurricane.

Director of St. Lucia's National Emergency Management Organization Miss. Dawn French was one of the persons instrumental in mobilising St. Lucia's significant role in Grenada's recovery. She says healing process is slow as can be expected.

"The recovery as you are aware in Grenada was taken back a step when Hurricane Emily hit but they are continuing. The St. Lucia Red Cross is collaborating with them as far as World Cup Cricket 2007 is concerned because they are one of the venues for Cricket World Cup. Their strategy for recovery is underway, they've actually set up an office for National Reconstruction, and they have been given a five year mandate to return the island to how it was before Ivan hit."

Prolonged winds of about 115 miles per hour from hurricane Ivan crumbled some 89 percent of Grenada's infrastructure and destroyed the agriculture and tourism sectors.

Miss French says it will be years before nutmeg regains prominence as a booming industry. "The International Federation of the Red Cross and the St. Lucia Red Cross has begun a programme with farmers that include distributing seeds so they

could start the process of replanting but the main crop which is the nutmeg will take a little while longer. It takes nine years for a nutmeg tree to fully mature and start bearing."

But optimism, she says, is growing stronger among over 89 thousand Grenadians led by the Office of National Reconstruction. Today, Grenada is relying heavily on tourism to continue to fuel the economy.

Grenadians remember some 28 persons who lost their lives during the passage of the hurricane. Ms. Samantha Duncan, Administrator in the Grenada Red Cross Office spoke to a reporter at the Government Service in Saint Lucia on the eve of the nation's solemn observation of Ivan's passage

Ms Duncan says Grenadians are not the laid back people they once were, and viewing television images of the aftermath of



Destruction by hurricane in 2005

Hurricane Katrina on the United States Coast is particularly disturbing at this time.

"The mood of persons- I would say somewhat subdued because yes we have survived a year after the hurricane; however we had Emily just in July and with the destruction wrought by Katrina in Louisiana and other states we are still somewhat frightened, because the hurricane season is not over and there is talk that there's more to come and with much greater force than there was before, so we are still somewhat uneasy."

The Red Cross official said official government aid has dwindled but the country remains reliant upon donations since much help is still needed to continue recovery efforts.

"Truth be told Ivan has been gone for a year and the media only remembers something because of its news worthiness, so of course Grenada's plight has not been getting as much airplay as we would have been getting on September 8th 2004."

She also took the opportunity to thank Saint Lucians for their invaluable support given to Grenada.

"Well I thank you for your support because I know that St. Lucia Red Cross has been one of our supportive Red Cross societies as well. Thank you for your interest because it shows Caribbean integration which is something we're all trying to achieve now and hopefully there will not be a reoccurrence of such a disaster."

Hurricane Ivan, informally re-named "Ivan the Terrible"; has been permanently struck off the Atlantic Tropical Storms Names List by the World Meteorological Organization.

PRIDE OF SAINT LUCIA



The Saint Lucian Parrot Amazona Versicola has been a success story in conservation

BACK TO SCHOOL



Camille Henry Memorial - one of the many schools which opened on time



THIS WEEK ON NTN

Sat. Sept. 10th - Fri. September 16th, 2005

As the region moves closer toward implementing the Single Market the GIS examines the issue and it's implications for Artists - Mon. Sept 12th 9:00 p.m.

• **2005 Caribbean Broadcast Awards** - Sun. September 11th, 6:30 p.m.

• **Relive the year's grand Fete La Woz Celebration in Micoud** - Tues. September 13th, 8:00 p.m.

• **NTN Traces the development of the world's great Spice Routes** - Wed. September 14th, 9:00 p.m.

• **NTN brings you highlights of the launching of Elra Ermay latest CD 'Emotive'** - Thurs. September 15th, 8:30 p.m.

• **The Inaugural Woule La Ba Cricket Competition** - Fri. September 16th, 8:30p.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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Saint Lucia NATIONWIDE is published every week by the Department of Information Services.

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