



# NATIONWIDE

A publication of the Department of Information Services



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## MULTIMILLION DOLLAR WATER PROJECT UNDERWAY

### WORLD BANK OFFICIALS PRAISE SAINT LUCIA



Hon. Felix Finisterre  
Minister for Communications,  
Works, Transport and Public Utilities

**W**ater supply infrastructure on the island will be greatly improved, as a result of a project launched on Monday, June 6, 2005. The project which is the first phase

of a national water reform initiative, will see the upgrade of water systems designed to greatly enhance the collection, treatment and distribution of water to the north of the island and other needed areas around St. Lucia.

Minister for Communications, Works, Transport and Public Utilities, Hon. Felix Finisterre says this phase of the water reform initiative, will prepare the Water and Sewage Company for subsequent stages, including financial participation from the private sector.

"All of this is being driven by World Cup 2007 - an international imperative which the region has undertaken. This is not to say that the requirements and the needs of communities are not important," the public utilities and works minister said.

The over US seven million dollars project, is being funded by the World Bank for the duration of 15 months.

World Bank officials highlighted the remarkable speed - 3 months - at which

a project of this nature was prepared by the Saint Lucia officials.

"I have been with the bank for 15 years and I haven't seen anything near or close to that speed. It is really for us, a special experience," World Bank representative, Dr. Menahem Libhaber said.

The normal length of time can be anywhere between one and two years.

Hon. Felix Finisterre has conveyed to consultants of the Halcrow group, the importance of this project to the island. The minister expressed the hope that the lessons of past infrastructural projects can help ensure this initiative meets its objective.

A feasibility study for private sector participation in WASCO is ongoing. The study involves a tariff review, ownership structure, and strategies for investment. Under this component, investment bankers and legal experts will be hired to prepare legal documents and to conclude negotiations with potential investors.

## A FUTURE FOR THE LOCAL BANANA INDUSTRY

**S**takeholders involved in the banana industry met recently at a two-day conference for the strategic review of the Saint Lucia Banana Industry. This latest effort came on the heels of a high level regional meeting held in St. Vincent and the Grenadines where industry officials reaffirmed the region's position, in adopting a no-exit strategy from the banana industry.

The event, organized by the Banana Industry Trust (BIT) in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, sought to reposition the industry to meet emerging global challenges.

Executive Officer of the BIT, Bertram Clarke says, this latest review is necessary in light of several factors, like rising cost of inputs, implementation of the EUREP Gap compliance rules, a decline in farmer earnings, a constant battle with leaf spot disease, reduced UK market share and sky-high fuel price increases.

Clarke expressed the view that whilst solutions to all pertinent issues could not be addressed in two days, positive thinking resulted in common ground,



Bertram Clarke

as to how best the industries in the sub-region can move forward collectively.

With the banana industry contributing over 53 million dollars annually to the local economy, industry officials say now is not the time to give up in despair.

Agriculture Minister Honourable Ignatius Jean says, government continues to support the industry, to the tune of well over 45 million dollars.

The minister called on the public to rally behind banana farmers.

Jean said "Ultimately through the existing support systems, farmers and farmers' groups will increasingly be



A cross section of the public attended the conference

empowered to effectively operate and manage the built infrastructure in a businesslike environment applying appropriate cost recovery mechanisms."

Mr. Jean gave the assurance, that the ministry of agriculture will monitor closely the operational aspects of these investments to ensure value for money.

Through the efforts of the Banana Industry Trust (BIT) and other intervention agencies like the Banana Emergency Recovery Unit (BERU), many strides have been made in returning stability to the industry.



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# GATEWAYS OPEN TO INVESTMENT IN THE SOUTH

**F**inanced by the Caribbean Development Bank, 28 Km of road developed at a cost of some 60 million dollars, opened Wednesday afternoon in Choiseul. The project is the first phase of a package of roads under the Road Development Programme.

Notwithstanding discomfort endured by residents of Choiseul throughout the project's duration, Parliamentary Representative Honourable Ferguson John believes the gains made far exceed the sacrifice. He says the project will open gateways to investment in the south of the island. Only recently ground was broken for the start of a new development in Choiseul – the Sapphire Cove Resort.



**Prime Minister Hon. Dr. Kenny Anthony leads the celebrations**



**A new day for Choiseul residents**

Ferguson says "No more will bad roads be a reason for not visiting us. No more will bad roads be a reason for not building around us, and the 'deye do'" (far removed) mentality has now become a thing of the past."

Prime Minister Honourable Dr. Kenny Anthony says the multi-million dollars project is opportune and represents a major boost in government's attempts at jump-starting the local economy on a path of positive growth with the south of the island, in this instance, benefiting.

Dr. Anthony expressed the hope that the CDB along with Government, review the project in order to share the experiences gained. "We do need to seat and evaluate the performance of these contracts and the terms and conditions under which these contracts were awarded. The Government of St. Lucia has in the past expressed to the CDB its own deep concerns about the procedures employed. We have also expressed very, very deep concerns too, about the terms and conditions in the contracts we are requested to follow, because these contracts as you know are governed by the rules of the Caribbean Development Bank."

Construction work on the south-west coast road stretching from Soufriere to Black Bay in Vieux-Fort started Tuesday, July 9, 2002. Under the Roads Development Programme (RDP) approximately 116 kilometres of primary and secondary roads will be rehabilitated. The project also involves institutional strengthening in the administration and management of the road sector.

More investment has been forecasted for the island's south with the completion of the south-west coast road project.

## Opposition Motion of No Confidence roundly defeated: Prime Minister Warns Against 'Culture of Cynicism'

**P**arliament on Tuesday roundly rejected an effort by opposition MPs to unseat the Minister for Social Transformation and cause the resignation of the Government of St. Lucia over its handling of the inquiry into the National Conservation Association (NCA).

Opposition MP Hon. Arsene James presented for debate by the House, what he described as "a motion for the people of St. Lucia." He said there was "a case for culpable negligence" against the Government over its handling of the NCA investigation.

The Micoud South MP said the investigation was flawed and he described its findings as "a whitewash."

Immediately after it was presented, Leader of Government Business Hon. Mario Michel dug into the opposition's motion. Identifying a series of fundamental flaws therein, Hon. Michel indicated it was not only being presented under the wrong section of the Constitution, but it also failed to distinguish between a Commission of Inquiry and an Investigation or a Management Audit.

Hon. Michel said the Motion was "an exercise in futility and totally nonsensical," but the government had facilitated it to provide an opportunity for the opposition to state its case.

Leader of the Opposition Marcus Nicholas and Micoud North MP Marius Wilson both spoke in support of the Motion, encouraging fellow MPs to discuss it, even with all its identified flaws.

Soufriere MP Walter Francois also spoke on the motion. He said the investigator had been "branded" even before he started his work. But, he noted, the investigation had been carried out, and its findings and recommendations

were both widely publicized and acted upon.

Central Castries MP Sarah Flood-Beaubrun, who spoke the longest on the motion, insisted that "both the Minister for Social Transformation and the Prime Minister" were breaking the law by failing to present audited financial statements of the NCA to parliament.

She claimed that an audit of the NCA had been carried out by the Director of Audit and demanded that it should be presented to parliament, failing which the Director of Audit should herself

tigation report, without acknowledging the findings and the actions taken.

He said the Minister for Social Transformation had acted responsibly, in that she had caused an investigation to be undertaken and had acted on its findings and recommendations.

Hon. Pierre said: "The NCA is about social engineering for economic gain", in that "it puts money in poor people's pockets and they spend it within the economy."

Laborie MP Hon. Velon John also spoke on the Motion and, in his usu-

its work of social transformation."

Referring to the Motion and the presentations by the four MPs on the Opposition side, Hon. Rambally said: "A no case submission could be moved against them for failing to establish credible cause."

Prime Minister Dr. Kenny D. Anthony ended the debate by pointing out that the motion "was doomed to fail from the start." He said it was simply "another effort by the opposition to get another opportunity to try to embarrass the government," and in that too, they had failed.

The PM pointed out that despite having strengthened the Audit Department with more personnel it was still "overwhelmed with work" due to the increasing number of statutory bodies that had to be audited.

Dr. Anthony warned the Micoud South MP "not to take advice from lawyers who are atrophied in the craft" and noted that while the Opposition had failed to present any proof of abuse, the Government side had done so and acted on the findings.

The Prime Minister warned that the efforts to develop "a culture of cynicism" in the society would backfire against those behind it. He also said he refused to accept "that politicians should be fair game for allegations of corruption."

Dr. Anthony said the Government had hoped it could "introduce a new political culture in St. Lucia" but noted that "we are breeding cynicism" and those who did so "will reap the whirlwind."

The Prime Minister warned the peddlers of the culture of cynicism: "We all have families and we all have children."

The Motion was roundly defeated when put to the vote



**House of Assembly gathering**

cause it to be circulated to parliamentarians through the Speaker.

However, MP for Castries East Hon. Philip J. Pierre, in his presentation, pointed out that the Castries Central MP, like the Micoud South MP, failed to distinguish between "a management audit and a financial audit."

He also revealed that Hon. Flood-Beaubrun, as a former government minister, attended the January 5, 2004 meeting at which the audit of the NCA was discussed, and was therefore aware of its contents.

Hon. Pierre also exposed how the Micoud South MP had quoted the allegations contained in the NCA's inves-

ally succinct manner, made the point that the government had nothing to fear from the opposition's motion.

He ended his presentation on this philosophical note: "When the earth worm boasts of his elegant wings, the eagle can afford to remain silent."

MP for Castries South East and Minister for Social Transformation Hon. Menissa Rambally, did not spend much time on the Motion or its contents. Instead, she concentrated on the fact that she had acted on the allegations and the report and findings had not been swept under the carpet.

She also indicated that "a plan of action is under way" and the NCA will soon return to normality "to continue

# Cuba and Saint Lucia strengthen bilateral relations

**T**he government of Cuba has expressed willingness to continue to strengthen bilateral relations with Saint Lucia. During a recent visit to Cuba by Saint Lucia's Minister for External Affairs, International Trade and Civil Aviation, Senator the Honourable Petrus Compton, the two governments signed a Cooperation Programme for the period 2005-2006.

The Cooperation Programme will cover technical assistance projects in health, particularly with regards to providing specialist training and personnel, providing pre-school and technical/vocational training within the island's education system, assisting in the areas of culture and agriculture particularly in the field of production and industrial processing of bananas, as well as technical assistance in irrigation systems and management of water resources. Other areas to receive Cuban assistance are fisheries, transport, sports and foreign trade.



**Senator Petrus Compton**  
Minister for External Affairs,  
International Trade and Civil Aviation

The two governments agreed to continue enhancing their bilateral relationship through the Joint Commission and also to improve on their multilateral links through the various cooperation agreements which Cuba introduced re-



**Victor Ramirez**  
Cuban Ambassador

cently to the Secretariat of the Caribbean community.

During the recent meeting, the Second Session of the Joint Commission for Economic and Technical Cooperation between the two governments was

convened. The Ministry of External Affairs, International Trade and Civil Aviation in collaboration with other relevant government agencies has commenced the necessary follow up action to ensure the implementation of the initiatives and proposals agreed to during the Second Joint Commission.

The Government of Cuba also took the opportunity to reiterate its willingness to strengthen cooperation with the region and presented initiatives and draft agreements which had been proposed earlier.

According to the Cuban government, sports, physical education and recreation, science, technology and the environment, plant health, seed certification and plant medicine, culture, tourism, public health and international maritime transportation will all receive special attention.

The Third Session of the Joint Commission will be held in Saint Lucia in 2006.

## Lagan Not Involved In Sapphire Cove Development

**T**he National Development Corporation (NDC) wishes to clarify certain untruths being peddled by the Leader of the United Workers Party (UWP), Sir John Compton with regard to the US\$380 million Sapphire Cove project.

Firstly, there is absolutely no truth to the assertion that Lagan, the firm which constructed the Vieux Fort to Soufriere Highway, shares directors with or has shares in Premier Corporation, the group behind the Sapphire Cove Project.

Contrary to the impression being contrived by the UWP, Lagan and Premier Corporation are two different companies from two separate

countries. Lagan Holdings is located in Belfast, Northern Ireland, a territory under the control of the British Government. Premier Corporation, on the other hand, is an Irish company operating out of Dublin in the Republic of Ireland. (Digicel, which also operates in St. Lucia, is also located in the Irish Republic.)

As has been previously stated, the developers of Sapphire Cove will construct 1,180 units providing over 3,000 beds in four categories – 175 single family lots, 77 town homes, 845 condominiums and a 160-room hotel. In addition to this, the developers will utilize 85,500 square feet of space to construct a welcome centre, spa, retail village (shops etc), a 4,000-delegate

conference center and a beach club. They will also build a major water park attraction on the resort, an Olympic size swimming pool and other central amenities. The condominiums, family homes and town homes will be offered for sale to persons who wish to invest in a second home. Once sold, these units will remain part of the resort and rented as rooms to visitors to St. Lucia.

This is the trend in the industry today and is the same development approach being undertaken by Plantation, Dubloon, the Landings and Praslin Bay in St. Lucia. It is also the same being pursued by major tourism destinations regionally and internationally.

The National Development Corpo-

ration wishes to assure the public that the participation by the prime minister in the official launching of the Sapphire Project in Ireland, provided a major boost to the efforts of the developers to ensure its success. The financiers of the project come from Ireland and the United States and over 400 potential buyers attended the launching in Ireland, with most expressing interest in getting involved in the project.

The investors, the NDC and the Government of St. Lucia, are united in their collective determination to ensure the success of this major tourism project, not only for the benefit of the people of Laborie and the south of the island, but for all the people of St. Lucia.

## Businesses must plan ahead of disasters

**V**ery often Saint Lucians and Caribbean people on the whole are convinced that disaster and hurricane is really the same thing, only spelt differently. But this is a dangerous attitude. Indeed, disaster management is about planning to stay in business after a disaster.

So what is one to do? The simple answer is to plan ahead. When it comes to the business world, disaster management is called: Continuity of Operations [COOP]. COOP is the steps that a business must take to ensure that it continues to function after a disaster. The calamity need not be of a national scale. Many times a disaster is confined to the walls of the corporate entity. Consider the evidence: (1) 2004: January FICS building at Castries burned (2) 2004: June 25th - Chastanet warehouse at Castries burned (3) 2003 - Secrets building at Castries burned (4) 2002 NEMO Annual Report - Of the 571 fires, 23 were commercial houses. [Fire Department Report to NEMO] (5) 2002: Of the 41 bomb threats 12 were directed at commercial houses. [Fire Department Report to NEMO]. Cable and Wireless had 3 threats in 2 days (6) 2002: September 22nd - Tropical Storm Debby - Of the 5 businesses affected, 3 never re-opened. [Draft Preliminary Design Report, Coastal Protection for Dennery Village] (7) 2000 - Valmont building at Soufriere burned (8) 2000 - National bus strike; (9)

1998: August 18th - Loss of electrical power to the entire north of the island; (10) 1998: June 5th - 24 hour collapse of telecommunications nationwide, including emergency numbers; (11) 1995 - National bus strike.

The two fires in 2004 affected at least 10 businesses. Yet businesses continue to view Disaster Management as the taping of windows and sandbagging of doors.

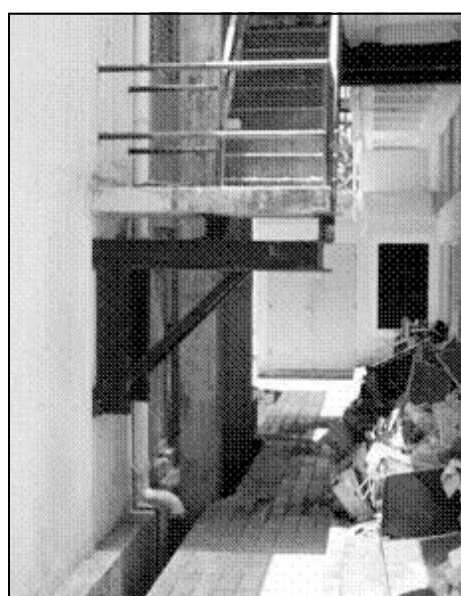
So it was that the week of June 21 - 25, 2004 NEMO, together with FAVA-CA introduced COOP to the local financial sector. Banks, credit unions, insurances, poverty reduction agencies and junior achievers companies all took part. Incidentally, on the last day of the workshop, the Chastanet ware-

house burned delivering an unfortunate but practical example highlighting the need for COOP.

In 2005 the Caribbean Single Market and Economy [CSME] will be launched. Already local businesses trade shares regionally. Then there is FTA and WTO; the list is endless. Such collective economic arrangements call for businesses to be prepared to return clients investments in the event of a disaster. The equation is a simple one.

No assurance no investment; no investment no business.

Disaster management has moved beyond taping of windows and sandbagging of doors. It is about staying in business.



A dead end fire escape



Remains of the warehouse after June 21



# Incentives for Agriculture and Cooperatives

*Continued from last week's issue*

**During the presentation of the 2005 – 2006 budget address Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Hon. Dr. Kenny Anthony announced a package of incentives for the agricultural and Cooperatives sector. The following is an excerpt from the budget address:**

## **Compatibility with WTO and CSME**

The level of support being offered through this new incentives regime is compliant with the support measures allowed under the World Trade Organization Agreement on Agriculture (WTO-AoA) and the CARICOM Single Market and Economy.

## **Monitoring and evaluation**

An important feature of the agriculture incentives regime will be the obligations of the recipients of concessions. At the end of each year, recipients will be required to submit declarations that provide evidence that the concessions granted were used for the specified purpose. Additionally, each recipient must supply monthly production and relevant statistical data to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries so that the Ministry may better monitor and plan the development of the sector. Failure to comply with this reporting policy may result in the withdrawal of the concession.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in turn, must monitor all beneficiaries to ensure that the concessions are being utilized for the purposes intended and are having the desired impact.

## **Administration**

On a final note, the incentives regime will seek to simplify the bureaucratic process that currently exists when one applies for concessions. Currently, all applications go to the Cabinet of Ministers for consideration. Under the new regime, requests up to a threshold of EC\$100,000 will be subject to the consideration of an internal committee within the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, headed by the Permanent Secretary. The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture will be required to submit a monthly listing of approvals to the Minister for Finance.

Beyond this threshold, applicants will be considered at Cabinet level, given the potential impact on revenue generation.

The Government is hopeful that this incentives regime will provide a strong stimulus for further development in the agricultural sector, and together with the Saint Lucia Agricultural Diversification Agency, facilitate the emergence of a vibrant agricultural sector. This regime provides further evidence, although none should be necessary, of this Government's strong commitment and support for agriculture and for our farmers and fishers.

## **Construction of Anse La Raye Fish Landing Facility**

Mr. Speaker, for sometime now, the people of Anse La Raye have expressed the wish to either repair or construct a new jetty in their village. Their request has been given further impetus by the Fish Friday Fiesta, now a "must visit" event in the calendar of visitors.

Originally, Government had planned to construct a new jetty, but had to revise its approach to accommodate the planned construction of a Fishing



**Hon. Ignatius Jean**  
**Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries**

Landing Facility by the Japanese Government.

I am pleased to advise that during this financial year, construction of a Fish Landing Facility in Anse-La-Raye will commence. This improvement project will assume a multi-sectoral nature with tourism issues at the waterfront also being addressed.

The project is expected to provide for the transformation of the old jetty structure into a suitably designed modern jetty. Shoreline protection works will also be undertaken through an appropriately engineered rubble revetment system that will provide for the stabilization of the beach area and the waterfront.

The existing facilities will be demolished and rebuilt to provide this fishing village with critical support in stimulating its economy and enhancing its capacity for fish production.

Tourism has become a very important component in the economic landscape of Anse-La-Raye. In recognition of this and the popular Friday Fish Fry, the project will transform the area with the construction of a number of vending booths, smartly designed to enhance the appearance of the Waterfront and to allow for the handling of food, in keeping with internationally accepted standards.

## **National export development strategy**

Mr. Speaker, during the course of the year, the Ministry of Commerce will be initiating a National Export Development Strategy. The overall objective of the strategy is to coordinate and direct the efforts of Government and the private sector in export development, combining competitive advantages with production and marketing interventions to enhance export growth.

Saint Lucia's commitment to CSME and its participation in other trading areas make it imperative that we pursue the goal of competitiveness. Therefore, the formulation of a national strategic plan for export development becomes pivotal for effective participation in these trade regimes.

The National Export Development Strategy will involve the following interventions: (1) Product development and diversification; (2) Product and service development; (3) Product diversification and the development of new and improved products; (4) Market development and expansion.

To accomplish these interventions a number of supporting institutional and legal changes will be implemented.

The total cost of developing the strategy is \$1.5 million, and for this financial year \$200,000 has been allocated.



**Banana production still important to the economy**

## **Investments in the social sector**

Mr. Speaker, this Government is very concerned about issues of social protection and social vulnerability. This concern is reflected in the myriad social programmes implemented under this administration. Some of these programmes have focused on providing relief to the unemployed through the labour intensive programs of the Poverty Reduction Fund and the Short Term Employment Programme (STEP). Other programmes have focused on the development of a pool of entrepreneurial talent through institutional support provided by the Small Enterprise Development Unit (SEDU), the James Belgrave Enterprise Fund, the National Skills Development Centre and the Youth Apprenticeship Program.

## **Farmers and fishers pension programme**

While this Government is concerned

about the section of the population that forms part of the workforce, it also wants to ensure that those who have made significant contributions to the development of this country are catered for during their retirement. Rudimentary analysis, Mr. Speaker, reveals that the farmer and fisher folk stand out as sections of the workforce where automatic financial provisions for retirement have not been made. I hasten to add that while members of the workforce should challenge themselves to set financial resources aside during their productive years to handle post-retirement expenses, we should not turn our backs on those who have laboured to promote the development of this country, during the sunset period of their lives.

Mr. Speaker, as recently as 1993, agriculture was second only to the Wholesale and Retail sector in terms of contribution to GDP. During that year, the contribution of the Agriculture Sector to GDP stood at 11.3 per cent. It should be noted that the Agriculture Sector stands out as the only sector which has made a contribution to GDP in excess of 17 per cent in any one year. In the light of the significant contribution of this sector to development, and the challenges faced by farmers in the banana industry, this Government felt compelled to evaluate the possibility of developing a pension fund for farmers and fishers of this country.

The National Insurance Corporation, under the Sociological Data Capture Analysis Program, funded by the European Development Fund, engaged the services of consultants from the International Labour Organization (ILO) to determine the feasibility of extending pensions to farmers, fishers and ex-farmers. The National Insurance Corporation and the Government of Saint Lucia are currently evaluating the details of the report.

Mr. Speaker, while we examine the modalities for providing pensions to farmers, fishers and exfarmers, this Government has set aside \$1 million of the funds allocated for the Sociological Data Capture Programme to facilitate the establishment of a pension fund for those farmers and fishers who have made invaluable contributions to the development of this country. I have no doubt that the establishment of such a fund will positively impact on the living standards of retired fishers and farmers. This is, therefore, a first step in ameliorating living conditions of an important group of people who have made an immeasurable contribution to the development of this country.



**The local fishing industry - a ready source of employment**

# Plans afoot to change health care delivery system in Saint Lucia

**The prospect of change in any organization is not without its peculiar challenges. In this regard, change or reformation of the health sector is indeed a formidable task against the backdrop of limited resource allocation.**

The Ministry of Health, Human Services, Family Affairs and Gender Relations is pressing ahead with plans designed to change the health care delivery system in Saint Lucia under the banner of health reform.

The task of implementing reform - seven years old to date - has had the ministry to overcome numerous obstacles. This year's budget debate presentation by the health minister described the reform process as "Action for Change".

Over the passage of time the health reform process has had to consider many demands and aspirations from both the public domain and health service providers.

Regulators and policy makers on another hand are obligated to fulfill a promise to deliver universal access to health care for all residents. The international community is also looking on with intent, to provide technical and financial backing.

The overall goal of the reform process is best articulated by the expression "people who are productive and contributing to national wealth and development must of necessity be provided with the best possible health care". It provides the concept of the ideal whereby a nation's health status is an indicator of economic and social development.

The Ministry of Health, Human Services, Family Affairs and Gender Relations promotes the process of reform as a direct response to the need for the establishment of acceptable levels of fairness and equity, efficiency and effectiveness, in the delivery of health

care at public institutions. The broad objectives are to improve the health care delivery system, reduce the burden of disease, enhance productivity and improve quality of life and death.

Health reform as a concept is by no means the only answer or an isolated programme initiative that is expected to institute a radical change. It assumes an incremental approach to change that will deliver increased access to higher quality care, value for money and equity. Major areas of focus are the health services, institutional strengthening, physical infrastructure development, sustainable financing, quality improve-

ment, and networking with sectoral partners.

Divided in three phases, phase I of the process examines the organization of the service. Phase 2 seeks to provide the strategic approach to sustainable financing. Phase 3 is the development of a five year comprehensive health sector strategic plan. Every effort is in place to ensure synergy of the plans which are being developed simultaneously.

Over the next five years, that is 2005 to 2010, the Ministry of Health, Human Services, Family Affairs and Gender Relations will implement programs that cover a broad spectrum of health

services to correct problems as evidenced by the country's morbidity and mortality situation.

To date, in-country consultancies are putting together reports on the situation and response analysis, health sector strategic plans based on priority issues, action plans for physical infrastructural development and the rationalization plan for health facilities.

These plans however, are not stand alones, as they will receive support from a soon to be established health information system and policy documents, thus ensuring universal health care coverage by 2020.

## Business Opportunities for World Cup 2007

**The Saint Lucia Chamber of Commerce will join the Barbados Chamber of Commerce for a series of two workshops geared towards exploiting opportunities for investment, as preparations get underway for the hosting of World Cup 2007 in the Caribbean.**

The first workshop will be held in Barbados on June 22nd whilst the second will take place in Saint Lucia, at a date yet to be determined.

The workshops will address investment opportunities available in Barbados to Saint Lucians, and business prospects in Saint Lucia for Barbadians.

Executive Director of the Saint Lucia Chamber of Commerce, Mr Brian Louisy said Barbados is a natural partner to explore possibilities for joint ventures and other investments. He cited the recent experience of Barbados having presented a joint bid with Saint Lucia to host



Beausejour Cricket Gouund when completed for CWC 2007

matches in cricket's biggest event.

Mr. Louisy said staging of Cricket World Cup 2007 in the Caribbean, presents tremendous opportunities for long-term economic growth in the region.

The Barbados workshop will be addressed by Sir Charles Williams, Chairman of C O Williams Group of Companies. Two presenters from Barbados, Mr Andrew McConney of Ernst and Young Barbados and Mr Stephen

Alleyne, CEO World Cup Barbados Inc. and one presenter from Saint Lucia, Mr. Richard Peterkin of Price Water House in Saint Lucia, will outline likely business projects.

Members of the business community are invited to join the Saint Lucia delegation to Barbados.

Since the announcement of Saint Lucia's winning bid, the government of Saint Lucia has presented a schedule of incentives for investors.

# Saint Lucia's postal officials seek to stop mail violations

**H**aving recorded instances of mail violations and missing dispatches to and from St. Lucia, local postal officials have joined air and sea ports representatives, cargo agents and other shipping companies from the region, for a week-long review of international airport mail security systems.

The training session is being conducted by the United States Postal Service along with the US Postal Inspection Service (USPIS). United States officials say mail security has become increasingly important following the events of September 11th 2001. USPIS' Jeanne Graupmann said the review would look at "anywhere

the mail is touched, whether by plane, equipment or human beings. We look at this for a number of reasons, the primary one being for security purposes. We also look at some of the operational efficiencies and inefficiencies. The reviews are mandatory in order for postal administrations to remain competitive and maintain public confidence."

Post Master General Miss Ianthe Charlemagne says the periodic reviews seek to address deficiencies and develop best practices among stakeholders. "The presence of our regional partners will enable us to draw upon their experiences, especially those who have conducted similar reviews in their countries. We will also benefit from assistance that will allow us to develop a pool of postal security specialists who will be able to harmonize mail operations at airports and offices of exchange," Charlemagne said.

Four million pieces of mail were handled locally in 2004. Officials say all is being done on island to ensure effective and efficient systems are in place. Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Communications, Works, Transport and Public Utilities Mr. Jerome Jules



Ianthe Charlemagne  
Post Master General

said, "it's Saint Lucia's intention to use the findings of this review to improve the manner in which mail is handled at our airports, bearing in mind the impact that any security breach could have on the economy." The review, he noted, "will also allow the local postal service to improve its networking with partners who handle mail. Communicating and building stronger ties with stakeholders will improve mail security and help improve the safety of passengers and those who handle mail."

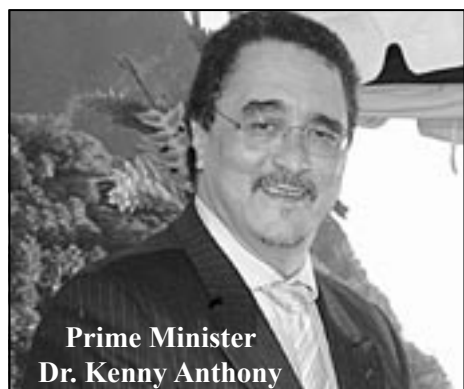
Following the review, regional postal operators are expected to benefit from additional training in computer applications to further enhance their skills.



The General Post Office in Castries



# Vatican congratulates Prime Minister of Saint Lucia



Prime Minister  
Dr. Kenny Anthony

**A** senior Vatican official has congratulated St. Lucia's Prime Minister on the government's stance against human cloning.

The Apostolic Nuncio, Cardinal Thomas E. Gullickson, has written to Prime Minister Dr Kenny D. Anthony, informing him of the Vatican's satisfaction with St. Lucia's stance at the United Nations on the issue of human cloning.

According to Cardinal Gullickson,

as one of his last official acts prior to the death of His Holiness Pope John Paul II, Cardinal Angelo Sodano informed him of the results of the vote on the United Nations Declaration on human cloning. The vote was taken on March 8, 2005 at the plenary session of the United Nations General Assembly and St. Lucia voted in favour of the resolution, which condemns all forms of human cloning.

In his letter to the prime minister,

the Apostolic Nuncio said he had the honour of congratulating Prime Minister Anthony, as head of the country's diplomatic machinery, for his government's decision "to cast its vote in favour of the declaration and thereby in defence of the dignity of human life."

The Nuncio took the occasion to renew to the prime minister the assurances of his own personal esteem and of "the gratitude and high consideration of the Holy See."

## Strengthening ties and forging partnerships



Austrian Ambassador H.E. Ms. Marianne Dacosta presents Letters of Credence to Governor General H.E. Dame Pearlette Louisy

**A**fter years of multilateral relations with the Federal Republic of Austria via the European Union (EU), Saint Lucia and Austria commenced diplomatic relations along bilateral lines.

That relationship was established earlier this week, at a brief ceremony at Government House at Morne Fortune, when Governor General Her Excellency Dame Pearlette Louisy was presented with the Letters of Credence from Austria's new Ambassador to St. Lucia and the Caribbean, Her Excellency Marianne Dacosta.

Ambassador Dacosta spoke of strengthening ties and forging partnerships with Saint Lucia in several areas.

She spoke of her country's vast experience in areas of sustainable environmental management, alternative energy related matters, for example hydro-power, and strides in the services sector, namely tourism, as possible avenues for increased cooperation with Saint Lucia.

"On the multilateral scene, Austria supports and recognises international courts, especially the International

Court of Justice," said Ambassador Dacosta. "Austria has noted with interest the creation of the Caribbean Court of Justice. The possibility of judicial processes in a multilateral tribunal opens justice to the most modern concepts and will ensure in the long run, high quality systems worldwide."

Saint Lucia expects to cash in on an offer of support in the country's preparations for the IV EU-LAC Summit in May of 2006, in Austria.

"Our presence at these international meetings is becoming increasingly mandatory if we are to keep our particular and special interests at the top of the international agenda. I thank your

government for your kind offer of free Office Space to facilitate our participation in meetings at the UN Headquarters in Vienna," said Governor General Dame Pearlette Louisy.

Ambassador Dacosta also paid a courtesy call on Acting Prime Minister, Honourable Mario Michel. The two officials discussed plans for the appointment of an Austrian Honorary Consul in Saint Lucia.

Ambassador Dacosta is based at the Austrian Embassy in Caracas, Venezuela. The embassy represents twelve Caribbean states including Haiti and the Dominican Republic.



H.E. Ms. Marianne Dacosta meets with Acting Prime Minister Hon. Mario Michel

## Former Majestic Industries workers retrained

**A** three-day workshop was conducted in collaboration with OAS /USAID, Small Tourism Enterprises Programme (STEP) and the Ministry of Labour Relations, Public Service, Public Sector Reform and Co-operatives. This training was held in order to provide "Hospitality Training" for displaced workers from Majestic Industries.

A total of thirty-five (35) participants attended a three-day workshop held at the conference room of the Bay Gardens Inn during the period May 19 to May 21, 2005.

The workshop was facilitated by Mr. Ian Maksik, Master Hospitality Trainer from Miami, Florida. All participants were presented with a special handbook entitled the "A-Z of Professional Table Service" to guide them to improve their hospitality skills.

The workshop provided participants with basic skills in restaurant and banquet service, housekeeping and room attendant.

Participants showed zeal and enthusiasm throughout the training programme and were presented with cer-



Hon. Velon John  
Minister for Labour Relations,  
Public Service, and Co-operatives

tificates at a ceremony, on Friday June 3, 2005.

At present there are no St. Lucian workers employed in the United States Hospitality Sector.



Workshop participants

The participants are now able to vie for positions within the hospitality industry in St. Lucia and can also participate in the H2-B worker programme in the United States.

A new programme is expected to commence in September this year, where St. Lucian workers and in particular, participants of the recently concluded hospitality training programme, can seek employment in the United States.

This spells good news for unemployed St. Lucians in general and for the workers who lost their jobs as a

result of the closure of Majestic Industries Limited.

The Ministry of Labour Relations is continuing to source further funding for training of the unemployed, to provide them with the skills necessary for employment.

This intervention will also assist the hospitality industry in preparation for the vast number of visitors expected for Cricket World Cup 2007.

The OAS/USAID and St. Lucia's Permanent Representative at the OAS Sonia Johnny, assisted in making the training initiative a success by securing funding for the project.

# The CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) – A Closer Look



**T**he CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) is an arrangement, which will allow CARICOM goods, services, people and capital to move throughout the Caribbean Community without any restrictions or government tax. This will mean that the Caribbean will become one large single market space where people can buy and sell goods, and travel freely.

Additionally, the thinking behind the establishment of the CSME is that the Caribbean states would have more economic and political strength and therefore would be better able to deal with challenges from larger countries. Since they will have more strength as a group, they will be better equipped to bargain for fairer agreements internationally. It will mean that people from Saint Lucia for example will be able to work or set up business in another Caribbean country under conditions equivalent to that faced by nationals of that country.

The CSME looks at: free movement of goods, free movement of services, free movement of persons and free movement of capital.

Those four elements plus entrepreneurship form the basis for the growth of new businesses and the creation of greater economic activity.

The creation of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy is an effort to cause the participating Caribbean nations which have until now functioned as 14 separate and distinct markets and economies, each governed by their own rules and divided from each other by formidable barriers, to be organized and to be made to operate in the future as one market and one economy. This will lead to a region free of restrictive barriers and governed by common rules, policies and institutions.

## Free movement of services

With respect to the Free Movement of Services under the CSME, Member States will be required to remove any impediment, which could restrict one's right to provide Services. Individual Member States will have to ensure that nationals from other Member States have access to land, buildings, and other property on a non-discriminatory basis for the purpose which is directly related to the provision of Services.

## Free movement of goods

With Free Movement of Goods there will be no import duties on goods of CARICOM origin. Tariffs and quantitative restrictions in all Member States will be removed. The treatment of intra-regional imports will be different from those coming from the rest of the world. In addition, there will be agreed regional standards for the production of goods throughout the region. This could be a major incentive for producers/manufacturers to aim at high standards for products. Manufacturers will be able to get their goods to over fourteen million people in the Caribbean.

## Free movement of persons

The Free Movement of People is an essential factor in an ever closer union among the people of CARICOM Member States. The Treaty of the CSME abolishes discrimination on grounds of nationality in all Member States. Un-

social security gains will be beneficial to those who qualify. Workers in these categories can now move freely to another Member State and enjoy the same benefits and rights with respect to conditions of work and employment as those given to national workers. Freedom of movement includes the freedom to leave and re-enter any Member State of their choosing and also to have access to property either for residential or business purposes.

## Free movement of capital

And lastly, we examine the implications of the Free Movement of Capital. Citizens will be able to transfer money to another country through bank notes, cheques, electronic transfers, etc. without having to obtain prior authorization. No new restriction can be added and the restrictions that already exist will be removed.

There will also be the equal right to buy shares in any company in any Member State and the right to remove your capital from one Member State to another.

Envisaged under the CSME are the easy convertibility of our Region's currencies and the coordination of exchange and interest rate policies.

The free movement of capital will allow firms to have access to a wider market for raising needed capital at competitive rates, thus allowing for



## Removing restrictions on goods will encourage intra-regional investment

crease the attractiveness of the Region as an area for investment both by regional and non-regional investors.

Removal of restrictions will encourage intra-regional investment in both real and financial assets by reducing risk and uncertainty over the ownership of real property, thus aiding in the development of the regional stock exchange.

## Some concerns

The creation of the CSME has been on the agenda of CARICOM for a long time. Some people believe that because it has taken so long to be implemented it is no longer necessary. Others hold the view that while it is still necessary, Caribbean governments do not have the political will to implement it. CARICOM governments had in the past not been able to agree on critical areas involved in the CSME like the free movement of people.

August 01, 2003 was the date decided upon by which the provisions of Protocol II (now chapter 3 in the Revised Treaty) would have been implemented.

The provisions of Protocol II deal with the free movement of goods, services, capital, and people across Member States of the Caribbean Community. The ability of these factors of production to move freely across the Member States of CARICOM, allows for the efficient and competitive production of goods and services for both regional and international markets. This also means that our Region's people can maximize their talents and resources, thereby leading to greater efficiency and increased profits.

By removing barriers to trade in goods and services and opening up new opportunities for over six million CARICOM nationals, the CSME will stimulate growth and add to the potential for international competitiveness for the CARICOM Member States.



## Certain categories of workers will be allowed gainful employment with the region

der the CSME, the free movement of persons across the Region entails the removal of work permits for University Graduates, Media Workers, Sports Persons, Musicians, Artists, Managers, Supervisors and other service providers.

With the CSME, these persons will be able to travel to Member States with only a travel permit and, in some cases, an Inter-Caribbean Travel document complete with photograph. Mechanisms will be established for recognizing degrees, diplomas and certificates from institutions. Additionally, the provisions to harmonize and transfer

the productive sectors to become more competitive both regionally and internationally.

The free movement of capital will allow investors to diversify portfolios regionally and to share in the best performing firms (only if those firms have gone public) across the region.

The movement of capital across the region will result in increased investment opportunities and will promote investment.

Envisaged under the CSME too is the development of a regional capital market which would facilitate the free movement of capital. This will in-

## NOTICE

In Order to assist the Customs & Excise Department in its effort to mitigate against the proliferation of stolen vehicles imported into St. Lucia as well as the illegal importation of motor vehicles.

The following requirements are now in place for the registration of ALL motor vehicles

1. INDIVIDUALS OTHER THAN REGISTERED IMPORTERS/DEALERS REGISTERING ANY MOTOR VEHICLE (IN-

CLUDING MOTOR CYCLES) MUST PRESENT TO THE LICENSING AUTHORITY ENDORSED CUSTOMS DOCUMENTS. THESE DOCUMENTS WILL PROVIDE PROOF THAT THE MOTOR VEHICLE HAS BEEN DULY PROCESSED AT THE PORT OF ENTRY.

2. INDIVIDUALS, WHO HAVE PURCHASED VEHICLES FROM AUTHORIZED DEALERS WHO WISH TO CONDUCT THEIR OWN REGISTRATION TRANSACTION, MUST PRESENT PROOF OF PURCHASE FROM THE RESPECTIVE MOTOR VEHICLE DEALER. THIS

MEASURE DOES NOT APPLY TO MOTOR VEHICLES REGISTERED BY AN AUTHORIZED MOTOR VEHICLE DEALER. THE LICENSING AUTHORITY IS SOLICITING THE COOPERATION OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC IN ORDER TO ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF THESE MEASURES.

## INVITATION FOR TENDERS

The Royal St. Lucia Police Force invites tenders for the provision of insurance coverage for its motor cycle and vehicle fleets

Details of the motor cycles and vehicles for which insurance coverage is to be provided from the Office of the Commissioner of Police, Police Headquarters, Bridge Street, Castries.

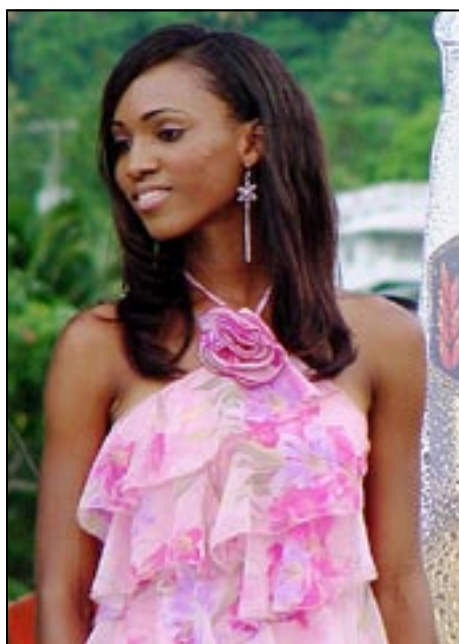
Tenders should be submitted no later than noon on June 17th, 2005 in a sealed envelope clearly labelled

Tender for the Provision of Insurance Coverage to the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force and addressed to: The Chairperson, Central Tenders Board, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, Old Government Buildings, Laborie Street, Castries.



# SAINT LUCIA CARNIVAL LAUNCH 2005

THEY CAME - THEY HAD FUN - A SUCCESSFUL EVENT BY ALL ACCOUNTS



Carnival Queen contestant



Colour and glitter - a taste of costumes for Carnival 2005



Trini performer doing his thing



OECS Soca Monarch 2004 - Mantius



Despite the rain they turned out in numbers



St. Lucia's Soca Queen Nicole David

## Flood relief for thousands

**T**he Project for Reducing Hazard Risks and Vulnerability to Flooding is now well underway and is already alleviating flood problems in the village of Anse La Raye.

That's the word from the Member of Parliament for Anse-la-Raye and Canaries, the Hon. Cyprian Lansiquot, who told the House of Assembly at its last sitting that he was already receiving positive reports and congratulations from villagers who were normally victims of flooding during the rainy season.

That same session of Parliament, on June 7, 2005, also granted approval for financing of the three phases of the flood mitigation project, which are being undertaken on Bridge Street and at George V Park in Castries, as well as in Anse La Raye. A similar project is also being undertaken on the coastal section of the village of Dennery, in order to mitigate the usual flooding of the coastal side of the village.

The project will be funded through a loan of US \$5.4 million from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB).

Prime Minister Dr Kenny D. Anthony, who presented the case for approval to Parliament, explained that the project was long overdue for several reasons.

"It was one of the first projects that the government of St. Lucia approached the CDB for financing and it took an inordinate amount of time for final approval to be conceded to this request. Indeed, it took well over five years," he said.

He continued: "Amazingly, much of the difficulty had to do with the CDB itself. Their argument was that they had difficulty in locating staff to do the necessary evaluations."

While expressing his concern for the plight of residents in Castries, Anse La Raye and Dennery, the Prime Minister warned that in light of the predictions for this year's Hurricane Season, the issue of flood mitigation now assumes national proportion.

"I'm already afraid that as we look to the future, this will be a huge challenge and a huge issue for the people of St. Lucia. The whole question of drainage improvement, arresting landslides, and -- if weather forecasters are to be believed -- then we will be going through a very trying period in the months ahead," Dr Anthony told his fellow parliamentarians.

Meanwhile, Minister for Communications and Works Hon. Felix Finisterre, addressing the same sitting of

parliament, called for the Castries City Council (CCC) to continue to work in partnership with his Ministry on the upcoming de-silting programme aimed at clearing the city's clogged drains.

The Minister said that although the Bridge Street flooding woes are fast becoming a thing of the past, part of the network of drains complementing the Bridge Street works, fall under the responsibility of the CCC. The drains, he said, needed to be addressed urgently.

The minister explained: "Before the streets were lowered, the water took a lot more time to get to those drains and so it dissipated quite slowly. It did not have time to pound and so the carrying capacity of the drains before the works were done took the water away at a lower rate and therefore you had the incident of pounding. Now, however, because the drains on Bridge Street are much more efficient, the water runs a lot faster in drains that are really not the responsibility of the Ministry of Communications and Works and which we've not addressed."

He said the CCC had to undertake its share of the common responsibility of alleviating the drainage problem by engaging in the necessary de-silting of the clogged drains around the City.



### THIS WEEK ON NTN

Sat. June 11th - Fri. June 17th, 2005

Rebroadcast of the recent Sitting of the House of Assembly - Sat. June 11th - 9:00 a.m.

· Carnival Queen Pageant 2004 - Sun. June 12th, 7:30 p.m.

· The GIS discusses disaster preparedness - Mon. June 13th, 8:00 p.m.

· Three (3) ministers of government speak on the cross fertilization of work plans to ensure environmental sustainability - Tues. June 14th, 8:30 p.m.

· Handling Solid Waste - Tips for the householder - Wed. June 15th, 6:15 p.m.

· Kutumba (Part 1) African influences on St. Lucia's culture - Thurs. June 16th, 7:30 p.m.

· The CSME: Its implications for communities and people - Fri. June 17th, 7:30 p.m.

Remember to tune in for:

· GIS News Breaks and Kweyol News daily from 6:30 p.m.

· Issues & Answers/Mondays at 8:00pm:

· Interview/Tuesdays at 6:15pm :

· Konsit Kweyol/Tuesdays at 8:00pm

(Kweyol Discussion):

· Your Right to Know/Thursdays at 6:15 p.m. (Min. of Ed. Prog).

Take 2/Fridays at 6:15pm

(Week in Review)

· Weflechi/Fridays at 6:40pm - (Week in Review—Kweyol)

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

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