



NATIONWIDE

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St. Lucia Attracts Major Investment

The Government of St. Lucia has welcomed Jamaican-based business process outsourcing outfit, E-Services Limited to the island. The company is injecting a considerable amount of investment in St. Lucia, in the form of technology and human capital.

The opportunity came for Prime Minister, Hon. Dr. Kenny Anthony and Commerce, Investment and Consumer Affairs Minister, Hon. Philip J. Pierre, at the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Tuesday, January 11, 2005 at Cara Suites, between Chief Executive Officer of E-Services Limited, Patrick Casserly, and local businessman Dunstan Du Boulay, owner of the former Bottlers St. Lucia Limited factory at Vide Boutielle. Mr. Du Boulay has agreed to refurbish the building from which the company will begin operation within six months.

Luring this investment into the island was no mean feat, considering that by the end of this year, some 150 jobs will be created, there will be business for ancillary service providers, there will be transfer of technology, and transfer of knowledge, as St. Lucia strives to become a knowledge-base economy, given the demise of manufacturing here and in the region.

In particular, E-Services will be doing business for the Fortune 500 companies, and St. Lucian workers will have the opportunity to be trained in their culture and service level. This is very significant, according to General Manager of National Development Corporation (NDC), Wayne Vitalis.

According to the E-Services' Chief Executive Officer, the nearly four-year-old information and communication technology company, which last year earned more than J\$1.2 billion, is here not to compete with existing companies, but to generate employment. The company, he said has an enviable record in Jamaica for its zero number of lay offs since it began operation.

"People talk about this sector as be-

ing IT, but really, it is about people; you can have all the phones in the world, all the computers in the world, the greatest technology, but if you do not have motivated people, who feel recognized in their jobs, you will fail. E-services from its outset has made a basic rule, we never owe a promise, either to our employees or to the countries we are in, or the government; we simply tell you what we are going to do", Mr. Casserly said.

Tuesday's MOU was made possible through the unrelenting effort of the NDC and its Board of Directors. Mr. Vitalis has described the joint venture as a true and viable one. He added that too often small economies are seeking to attract investments from metropolitan counties, while failing to see the real opportunities that exist within their own geographic region. "I say so because I have often contended that small economies like ours must find the niche in investment promotions within which to operate and to attract investment that will benefit its country," he added.

Meanwhile, Mr. Du Boulay, who has been operating a local soft drink factory for many years, said he was extremely proud to be associated with E-Services Limited. "The National Development Corporation has been working for many years to attract an enterprise of this magnitude, and I think it is true to say that this can be regarded as fine catch by the NDC which will open the door to many other investment opportunities."

Commenting on the coming of E-Services to St. Lucia, Prime Minister, Dr. Kenny Anthony said the NDC needed to be praised for this achievement. He said the NDC, which historically sought foreign investments in the garment manufacturing industry had to change its focus, as St. Lucia and other islands in the region have lost those investments to Asia.

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"Take 2" - A fifteen minute news review of the week. Every Friday at 6.15 p.m. on NTN, Cablevision Channel 2.

Government Notebook
A fresh news package daily on all local radio stations



Govt, LUCELEC continues to illuminate the Nation's Highways

The Government of St. Lucia and LUCELEC are continuing the electrification drive along the country's highways and byways.

Latest reports are that at the end of 2004, illumination had been completed along the entire East Coast Highway, from Castries to Vieux Fort.

Now, with the start of a new year, attention is being turned to the West Coast, with new street lights already being installed between the villages of Anse-la-Raye and Canaries.

Officials of the Ministry of Communications, Works, Transport and Public Utilities, along with LUCELEC officials, say that the country's electrification programme has continued apace, with quarterly installation of street lights in rural and urban areas where they never existed before.

Ministry officials point out that illumination of the nation's highways not only illuminates the streets by night, but also assists motorists and helps in the overall maintenance of the island's roads.

Since 1997, the Government has placed priority on taking electricity to areas throughout the country that had been neglected or overlooked by previ-

ous national electrification plans.

Since then, electricity has been taken for the first time to several areas such as Bouton in Soufriere and Park Estate

in Choiseul, as well as to communities in Dennery and Micoud on the East Coast and Laborie and Vieux Fort in the South.



Rains delay start of road works



Continuous rainfall continues to delay the start of the Government's major national road rehabilitation programme as scheduled by the Ministry of Communications, Works, Transport and Public Utilities.

The Ministry says the continuous rains -- which have not ceased since January 3 -- have prevented its several crews from starting road repairs, particularly along the East Coast, where the road network is in a bad condition.

According to officials of the Ministry's Roads Division, the extensive road rehabilitation programme, which will include construction and rehabilitation of roads in several parts of the island currently in a state of disrepair, had had to be put on hold because of the continuous rain.

Minister of Communications & Works, Hon. Felix Finisterre, said just before the first meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers this morning: "I am aware of the bad condition of the roads, especially the East Coast Road, which continues to be a source of concern to

drivers and pedestrians alike.

"However, the rains have continued and this continues to make it impossible for us to begin the major road works as per schedule."

The Minister said the unusual weather pattern would first have to subside in order for the road works to begin and he appealed to drivers, pedestrians and members of the general public to be a bit more patient.

"When the road works finally begin," the Minister assured, "it will be a major exercise that will result in vast improvements to our entire national road network, much to the satisfaction of those who have been patient for so long while we sought funding for this comprehensive programme of road rehabilitation."

Mr Finisterre said the planned programme, which will be undertaken in phases, "will be one of the most extensive road construction, rehabilitation and repair programmes ever undertaken in this country over the past 25 years."

Major Investment

Continued from front page

According to Dr. Anthony, "There is a growing army of young people particularly secondary school graduates that we have to look after. This is why this sector is so key and so important, and why this Government had decided that it would work very closely, not only with other companies operating here, but with E-Services to make a success of the sector. Yes, we need every job particularly at this time."

Although the government is eager for investment, Dr. Anthony said experiences of the past have taught that it must move with extreme caution. However, the Prime Minister said in the case of E-Services Limited, the company has given a credible account of itself.

E-Services Ltd. currently manages approximately 2 million customer contacts per day through telephone, e-mail, Internet, traditional mail, and other media.

Commerce and investment Minister

Hon. Philip J. Pierre, who has visited the company's plant in Jamaica, believes that the company is bringing sustainable and profitable business to the island: "The Government of St. Lucia really takes the business of investment seriously. We know that there's got to be foreign direct investment so that we can expand the economy. We really need to expand the economy to create growth, to create jobs and when that expansion comes from a CARICOM firm, that is good and it shows that the CSME is getting on stream, and the difference is that there is a real cultural link between firms from CARICOM and St. Lucia."

E-Services provides outsourced customer support services to clients in the automotive, consumer, financial services, insurance, technology, telecommunications, and utility industries. These clients include major international companies, such as Phillips, United Health Care, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Georgia, Colonial Penn, Bankers Life and Causality, NTT Verio and Information Resources Incorporated.

"Not one cent" spent on new car for GG

The Office of the Prime Minister says it is not true that the Government of St. Lucia has expended "millions of dollars" to purchase a new BMW for the official use of the Governor General.

To the contrary, the Government says it has spent "not one cent" on the new BMW 7 Series recently assigned to Government House. Nor has it paid anything for a similar car assigned to the Prime Minister three years ago, for official state duties.

In a statement, the Office of the Prime Minister clarified that the new cars were assigned to the Governor General and the Prime Minister under an agreement between the Government of St. Lucia and the local agents for BMW, Prestige Auto Imports.

Under the agreement, which dates back to 1998, the local company,

through Barbados-based BS&T Motors Inc, supplies the cars to the Government on behalf of the BMW company.

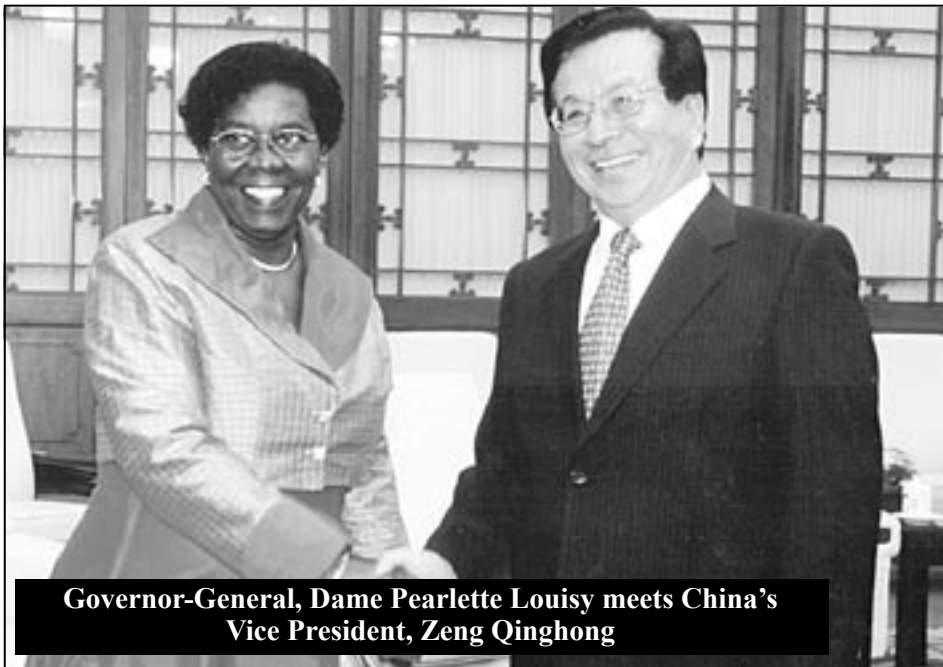
The two cars, each covered by a 36-month warranty, are assigned, one each to the Governor General and the Prime Minister, for three years, with normal wear and tear expected.

According to the agreement, at the end of the three years, each car is returned to Prestige Auto Imports and will be replaced by new ones for a similar period of 36 months.

After they are returned to the local dealers, the cars are retailed.

The Office of the Prime Minister says the only expenses accruable to the Government of St. Lucia in this arrangement with Prestige Auto Imports are for service, repairs and Motor Vehicle Insurance for the three year duration of the agreement.

Private sector encouraged to attend China trade forum



Governor-General, Dame Pearlette Louisy meets China's Vice President, Zeng Qinghong

Local entrepreneurs and potential investors are being encouraged to participate in the China/Caribbean Economic Trade

Co-operation Forum in Jamaica from February 2-5, 2005.

The Ministry of External Affairs, International Trade and Civil Aviation

co-ordinated a meeting last week, to share information on the upcoming forum, deemed to yield significant benefits to the Caribbean.

The influence of the People's Republic of China on the region has increased tremendously over the years. However, while there had been ongoing relations with the People's Republic of China at the governmental level, the relationship with the private sector has been wanting.

"Over the years we have received invitation from the people's republic of china to participate in various investment forum in China; because of the high cost of travelling to china, the distance and its associated cost, the private sector has generally not been able to afford participation in these events, and so it was decided that perhaps what China should do is to launch a trade and investment mission in the Caribbean", said Permanent Secretary in the

Ministry of External Affairs, International Trade and Civil Aviation, Cosmos Richardson

The People's Republic of China has estimated the value of trade between itself and the Caribbean to be at US\$ 1 billion, with tremendous potential for growth.

Accompanying the high level Chinese delegation at the Jamaica Trade and Investment Economic Forum is a contingent of some 200 business persons. Member countries of CAICOM that have relations with the People's Republic of China will participate in that forum, including Cuba. The forum will include a display of good and services produced in the People's Republic of China and the Caribbean.

Meanwhile, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be signed during the Jamaica forum to allow more Chinese tourists into St. Lucia.

Plans finalised for flood mitigation works

Work to improve drainage in the area in and around the George the Fifth Park is expected to start soon, with the finalization of traffic plans to accommodate the works. The project, which will be done simultaneously with mitigation works in Anse-La-Raye will affect normal traffic for a period of 12 months.

The project is expected to be accomplished through the execution of several phases, each aimed at solving the problems of flooding in designated areas.

The Ministry of Works and Transport has been meeting with all parties involved to ensure that the changes made to the flow of traffic are systematic and do not cause too much inconvenience.

Assistant Superintendent of Police George Modeste expects the coming period to be quite challenging for his department: "It will be an enormous task for the police. However, if the

motorists cooperate full and obey the diversion signs, which will be put in place this will alleviate some of the problems they are going to face."

Mini-buses operating along Darling Road and Jn. Baptiste Street will be displaced, as a result of the works. Alternative locations for bus stands in

the area have been identified to ensure the smooth execution of works under the project. President of the National Council on Public Transport, Guy Joseph has expressed satisfaction with the inclusion of the Council in talks on traffic diversion plans.

"We were very much involved in the selection of the areas for the operations of the buses. The presidents of the various associations were present and they had their input, and I think some of them are even happier with the locations they are being sent to," Mr. Joseph said.

The traffic changes are expected to include the closing off of one of the lanes of Jn. Baptiste Street, making the lane in use, a two-way route.

The entire darling road will at some point be out of bounds to traffic. The area will at that time be undergoing major work to improve drainage. Traffic plans are also being put in place for Anse-La-Raye, which will undergo extensive work to control flooding there.



Corner of Laborie Street and Jeremie Street during the November floods

Pitons' Inscription Ceremony takes place February 14



The Pitons used as backdrop for weddings

The entire St. Lucian community is being urged to support the upcoming Inscription ceremony that will officially recognize the Pitons Management Area as a World Heritage Site. The event,

which will be staged at the Soufriere Waterfront on February 14th, is being organized by the St. Lucia National Trust.

According to the Secretary of the St. Lucia World Heritage Committee, Mr. Darnley Laborne, a plan and budget has been approved by Cabinet for this historical occasion.

In terms of who will be present, Mr. Laborne said, "I think everybody needs to literally ask themselves what I can contribute towards the success of this thing. This is going to be a time when we will have the world before us; the international press will be here, the Director General of UNESCO, who is Japanese will be present as well. Of course, the Prime Minister and the

Governor-General will be there, and we have received confirmation from Hon. Derek Walcott that he will not only be attending but he will be doing some of his poems. We are expecting thousands of St. Lucians to make it down to Soufriere to be part of this historical occasion and to demonstrate to the world that we cherish and appreciate World Heritage designations".

The Pitons Management Area received World Heritage Status in June 2004, at the 28th Session of the World Heritage Committee held in China. The area comprises 11 square miles of land on the south-west of St. Lucia, and includes the Pitons, Sulphur Springs and the Soufriere Marine Area. This designation now ranks St. Lucia on par with a number of designated sites.

PM's New Year Address on Sunday Evening

PPrime Minister Dr Kenny D. Anthony will deliver his traditional New Year Address to the Nation this weekend.

The address, which is normally delivered in the second week of the New Year, will review developments in 2004 and offer perspectives on challenges, tasks and prospects for 2005.

The address, which is expected to be a wide-ranging review and preview of the state of the nation at the beginning of 2005, will be broadcast on local radio and TV stations on Sunday evening, January 16, at 8:00 o'clock.

Gov't seeks to regulate its fund and asset managers

Government has sought to regulate the operations of companies that manage its funds and assets through a bill passed in Parliament late last year.

The Government Corporations Bill seeks to ensure that organizations charged with overseeing government property and associated financial resources are accountable to Government for these assets.

Leader of Government Business,

Honourable Mario Michel said while some Government Corporations are regulated by the Act which created them, some including the Soufriere Regional Development Foundation, Radio St. Lucia, Computer Center Ltd, World Cup St. Lucia, among others are not: "These are all Government Corporations which manage government funds or government property, but they are not specifically regulated by any existing legislation. And it was thought important Mr. Speaker, to bring them

under some kind of legislative control, legislative regulation".

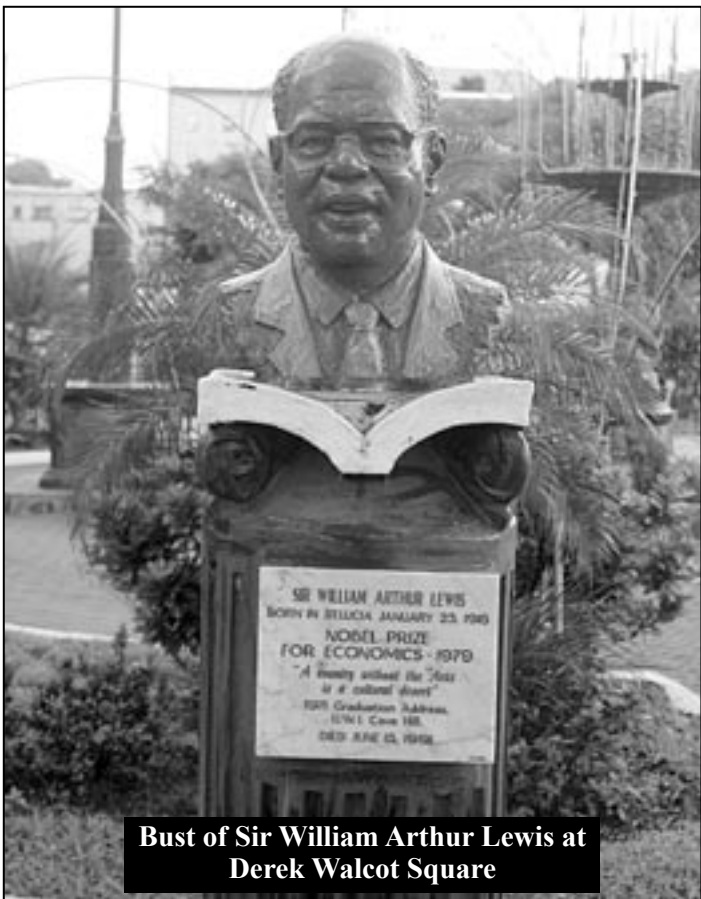
Prime Minister, Hon. Dr. Kenny Anthony said government agreed to the decentralization of control, allowing these corporations to operate independently, but he pointed out that they must be made accountable for the Crown assets they supervise.

Using the case of the Soufriere Regional Development Foundation, a local company charged with managing the Sulphur Springs, the Prime Min-

ister said, "While the government conceded that, it never introduced adequate mechanisms to ensure that the Foundation itself was answerable to the public interest, that is to say, to the Parliament of St. Lucia for the scrutiny of its activities, as well as for the funds it has earned over the years."

The Bill also gives the Minister of Finance the power to add or remove from the list, companies treated by the bill as Government Corporations.

Nobel Laureate Week 2005: Tribute to two sons of the soil



Bust of Sir William Arthur Lewis at Derek Walcott Square



Bust of Hon. Derek Alton Walcott at Derek Walcott Square

The spotlight is again being turned on two of Saint Lucia's most celebrated citizens, the late Sir Arthur Lewis and Honourable Derek Walcott. Born on January 23, the two captured the world's top prize for academic excellence, Nobel Laureate Awards for their outstanding work in their respective fields.

The late Sir Arthur Lewis received the Nobel Prize for Economics in 1979 and Honourable Derek Walcott was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1992.

Every year since the last decade, their contributions have been highlighted with a week of activities starting from January 23rd to the 28th. This year marks another observance

under the theme, Creativity: The Path to Excellence.

A programme of activities to include lectures, panel discussions and stage performances will begin on January 23rd with a drama production, Open Balconies by Floreta Nicholas scheduled for the National Cultural Centre at 7:00pm. Other activities include The Derek Walcott Lecture and the Sir Arthur Lewis Memorial Lecture.

NLA to be enabled to enter into management contracts

The National Lotteries Authority is being given the ability to enter into management contracts for the conduct of lottery operations. This is being done through the passage, in Parliament, of a National Lotteries Authority Amendment Bill, that changes the language of the original Act.

The Amendment also gives the Authority specific powers to conduct multi-island lottery games in St. Lucia.

Minister for Education, Human Resource Development, Youth and Sports, Honourable Mario Michel said, "The movement in terms of the conduct of lottery operations is becoming more complex. You have broader regional groupings conducting lotteries, and the existing wording of the Act does not give any clear and specific authority to the National Lotteries Authority to contract out the management function to another entity."

The National Lotteries Authority Act came into being in 1998.

Meanwhile, Parliamentary Representative for Soufriere, Honourable Walter Francois wants to see a bill passed in Parliament that allows for reports from Government Corporations to be debated in the House of Assembly.

Mr. Francois, who would like this to be an added clause in a recently-passed Government Corporations Bill, made the comments while supporting the passage of the bill late last year.

"There are times one would like to make a contribution on the activities of a particular crown corporation, and the tabling of the bill is not sufficient for us to express and make known our views on the function of the corporation," Mr. Francois said.

The Soufriere MP said that many corporations had received unfair public criticism, but noted that some had brought it on themselves. Mr. Francois spoke of a situation in his constituency whereby the managers of the Soufriere Regional Development Foundation, seemed to be confused about the organization's status: "There is the general perception that those persons on the board of directors believe they own, personally, the assets of the foundation. The guys believe they own it...it is theirs."

Standards Bureau calls for continued high standard and quality



Dr. Allison Plummer

All partners engaged in the business of trading goods and delivering services are being called upon to continue to ensure that the highest standard and quality are met at all times.

Director of the Bureau of Standards, Dr. Allison Plummer said the new trading environment demanded that quality and standards become the pillars of economic growth and survival.

Dr. Plummer believes that the imminent implementation of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME) should engender a new habit of making standards and quality, a normal part of business.

"Indeed, if Saint Lucia as a country is to strive for the level of excellence needed in this fierce environment, the principals that underpin quality and standardization must span the breadth and depth of every social and economic sector of our country," Dr. Plummer said.

The Director said that in the course of the New Year, the Bureau expected to realise significant progress towards making national standardization a reality.

"Whether you are an importer, retailer, manufacturer or you are in education, health care, agriculture, tourism, and importantly, in our own individual daily lives, let quality and standards be our philosophy for the new year," she said.

CARICOM Region mobilises for Information Society



Prime Ministers Patrick Manning, Keith Mitchel and Owen Arthur flanked by CARICOM officials at the recent 10th Special Meeting

CARICOM Member States are gearing for the technological challenges of globalisation through active participation and co-operation in the sphere of information technology.

As part of preparations for phase two of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), which takes place in Tunisia November 2005, sev-

eral Regional organisations and institutions are meeting at the CARICOM Secretariat, Georgetown, Wednesday, 12 January for a CARICOM Regional Stakeholders Meeting.

The one-day forum is expected to give much attention to the Region's Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Strategy, as well as develop an Action Plan aimed at advancing

relevant themes from the WSIS Plan of Action and to exchange views and experiences in an effort to fully prepare Member States for involvement in the Global Information Society.

Chairperson of the WSIS Stakeholders Meeting, Ambassador Lolita Applewhaite, Deputy Secretary General of the Caribbean Community said the meeting represents a major step in the development of the Caribbean as it seeks to reduce the digital divide and ultimately create a Caribbean Information Society.

Recognizing that ICT is a powerful tool for development, Ambassador Applewhaite explained that the goal of CARICOM is to embrace ICT in the human and socio-economic enhancement of the Region, applying it in the conduct of daily living, in human resource development and in efforts of poverty alleviation. Ambassador Applewhaite charged that the Region must work together, adding that plans must be made for creating solutions to the ICT setbacks facing Member States.

Meanwhile, Paul Hughes, ICT repre-

sentative of Grenada, the lead country in the CARICOM Quasi Cabinet with responsibility for Science and Technology development posited that a well executed ICT Plan will pave the way for societies to become more knowledge-based. Hughes called for ongoing support for the Caribbean Knowledge and Learning Network (CKLN) and the Regional ICT Strategy, noting that they form crucial components of information sharing in the Caribbean.

The WSIS Stakeholders Meeting brought together participants from a broad spectrum of Regional institutions working for the expansion of ICTs in the Caribbean. These include the Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU), which will lead the WSIS November Meeting, the Caribbean Knowledge and Learning Network (CKLN) the Caribbean Broadcasting Union (CBU), the University of the West Indies (UWI), the Association of Caribbean Media Workers (ACM) and Government representatives from some Member States. The Meeting is sponsored by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Caribbean seeks Cultural Partnerships for Development

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat is taking the lead in inviting partnerships to strengthen the Caribbean Region's capacity for cultural resilience or renewal and to enhance the real economic gains accruing to regional economies and their people from their cultural resources. An interactive session dealing with the subject was convened by the CARICOM Secretariat in association with various Caribbean partner organisations on Tuesday (January 11) day two of the United Nations International Meeting on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in Mauritius.

The panel discussion titled, Vulnerability and Cultural Resilience in the Caribbean was moderated by Mr. Cletus Springer, Sustainable Development Consultant from Saint Lucia and featured presentations by Vice Chancellor Emeritus of the University of the West Indies (UWI), Caribbean scholar and cultural icon, Professor Hon. Rex Nettleford; Deputy Dean of Graduate Studies and Research at the UWI, St. Augustine campus, Dr. John Agard; and Senior Lecturer at UWI, Mona, Dr. Michael Witter.

Opening the event, CARICOM Secretary-General His Excellency Mr. Edwin Carrington expressed the view that culture is not only the framework within which the socio-economic development of our societies can be successfully pursued, but also the effective tool for doing so in a sustainable way. He added that it was recognised in CARICOM that as the Community moves to establish a CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME), culture is central to economic and social development efforts in the Region. This, he said, can be seen from the place culture occupies in the Charter of Civil Society, which instrument is enshrined in the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas, establishing the Community including the CSME.

"Caribbean Small Island Developing States faced with serious vulnerabilities recognise the potential of our culture to

reduce their susceptibility to external shocks and to build their resilience to the dramatic changes and powerful intrusions of the current world economy and society," Mr. Carrington noted. He added: "Indispensable to the building of this resilience is the forging of partnerships among the Caribbean peoples themselves both those at home as well as in the Diaspora. And this, even as we strike alliances with the rest of the world."

The Secretary-General also used the occasion to pay tribute to the spirit and contributions of the late former Ambassador of Mauritius to Brussels, His Excellency Raymond Charles, who he described as a pioneer who struggled successfully to bring issues pertaining to culture and cultural cooperation within the discussions and agreements between the European Union (EU) and African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States.

Mr. Carrington also expressed the deep regret felt by the Caribbean at the fact that plans and arrangements to have several top cultural groups and musicians from the Region perform at the cultural events associated with the SIDS conference and participate in the 'Community Vilaj' showcase fell through at the last minute because anticipated donor funding did not materialise.

Meanwhile, a presentation on Caribbean partnerships made to the forum by Programme Manager for Culture at CARICOM Secretariat, Dr. Hilary Brown, disclosed that Caribbean SIDS required some US\$16 million over four years to fund various projects for strengthening cultural capacity and putting in place institutional mechanisms and an enabling mechanism to promote the development of culture and cultural forms in a sustainable and economic way.

The availability of this long term financing, she pointed out, was critical to support the development of arts and culture in the Caribbean. The next steps in this regard include dialogue with organisations and potential partners to obtain support for the overall

partnership and the development and elaboration of individual projects dealing with specific aspects of cultural development. Dr. Brown noted that currently CARICOM, the Caribbean Forum of ACP States (CARIFORUM), the CARIFORUM Support Fund, Caribbean Export and arts and culture agencies are funding various culture initiatives in the Caribbean.

In the feature presentation Professor Nettleford welcomed the placing of culture within a sustainable development framework, adding that sustainable development speaks to resilience or renewable resources and nothing is more renewable than the human mind. He pointed to some developmental interpretations that have placed factors like education and culture in the non-productive area of national development but drew attention to the increasing acceptance of the notion of cultural industries.

However, while the idea of cultural industries, professor Nettleford said, has evolved largely in terms of their critical linkage to what is regarded as the highly developmental tourist industry, the concept of culture having its own inner logic and consistency is still missing from the consciousness of many persons. Understanding culture in the Caribbean in the context of sustainable development, ecological integrity and environmental health, he pointed out, turns on the fact that human beings themselves are creatures of nature who are as endangered as mangroves, coastline habitats, birds and animals.

Human vulnerability and that of Caribbean small island states he noted, rests, among other things, on import dependency, lack of education, lack of opportunity for self development and self empowerment, the exploitation of labour, susceptibility to communicable or lifestyle diseases, lack of social services and material resources, and racism which leads to identity crises and denial of legitimacy to religious expressions such as Santeria, Zionism, Pukkumina and Rastafari.

"The way culture has formed in the Caribbean has ancestral pedigree," Professor Nettleford declared, noting that Caribbean culture has emerged from the common history of a people over 500 years which included the experience of slavery and indentureship.

Dr. Witter gave an overview of the worsening economic risks which Caribbean SIDS have faced in the ten years since the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, which mandated among other things, the development of indices of vulnerability. He pointed to the fact that since Barbados, SIDS have lost preferential markets on which they depended greatly for survival. He also drew attention to a phenomenon formerly known as the 'Singapore paradox', which he renamed in the Caribbean context, the 'Trinidad paradox'. This is a situation, he said, in which increased earnings, from oil in the case of Trinidad, has made the country even more prone or vulnerable to external shocks. Additionally, Dr. Witter said, the vulnerability of Caribbean SIDS has worsened with what he described as the peculiar international exchange of human resources - the best migrating to the developed countries and the worst being deported back to Caribbean societies. He concluded that the Mauritius meeting must move towards deciding concrete strategies to enhance national efforts to build resilience.

The main thrust of the presentation by Dr. Agard was the fact that indices of social, economic, environmental vulnerability cannot be developed nor analysed separately as is currently the case. This, given the inextricable linkages among the areas, all of which he pointed out, was to advance human well being and reduce poverty especially as it concerns health and disease, environmental security, social service delivery and cultural security.

He explored statistical evidence that pointed to the critical linkages between environmental factors - from the increasing frequency of hurricanes to the depletion of coral reefs - and their impact on the goal of achieving human well being and economic development.

The Caribbean is participating in other activities pertaining to culture and social development as the Meeting continues throughout the week.

Doctoral Degree conferred on Julian Hunte

The citation for Julian Robert Hunte was read by Dr. D.E. Fletcher, Registrar and Secretary of the University of Sheffield to the Degree Congregation on January 6, 2005

Vice-Chancellor,

*In the mist of the sea there is a horned island
with deep green harbours ...
...a place of light with luminous valleys
under the thunderous clouds ... Her
mountains tinkle with springs among
moss-bearded forests. And the white egret
makes rings stalking its pools ...
... a volcano, stinking with sulphur,
has made it a healing place.*

And so in his epic poem, *Omeros*, the Caribbean poet and Nobel laureate Derek Walcott describes the island of St Lucia, birthplace of the honorary graduand who stands before you. From this "safe haven for ships", Julian Robert Hunte set sail on a career voyage that has culminated in senior government appointments at home and a prominent role on the international stage.

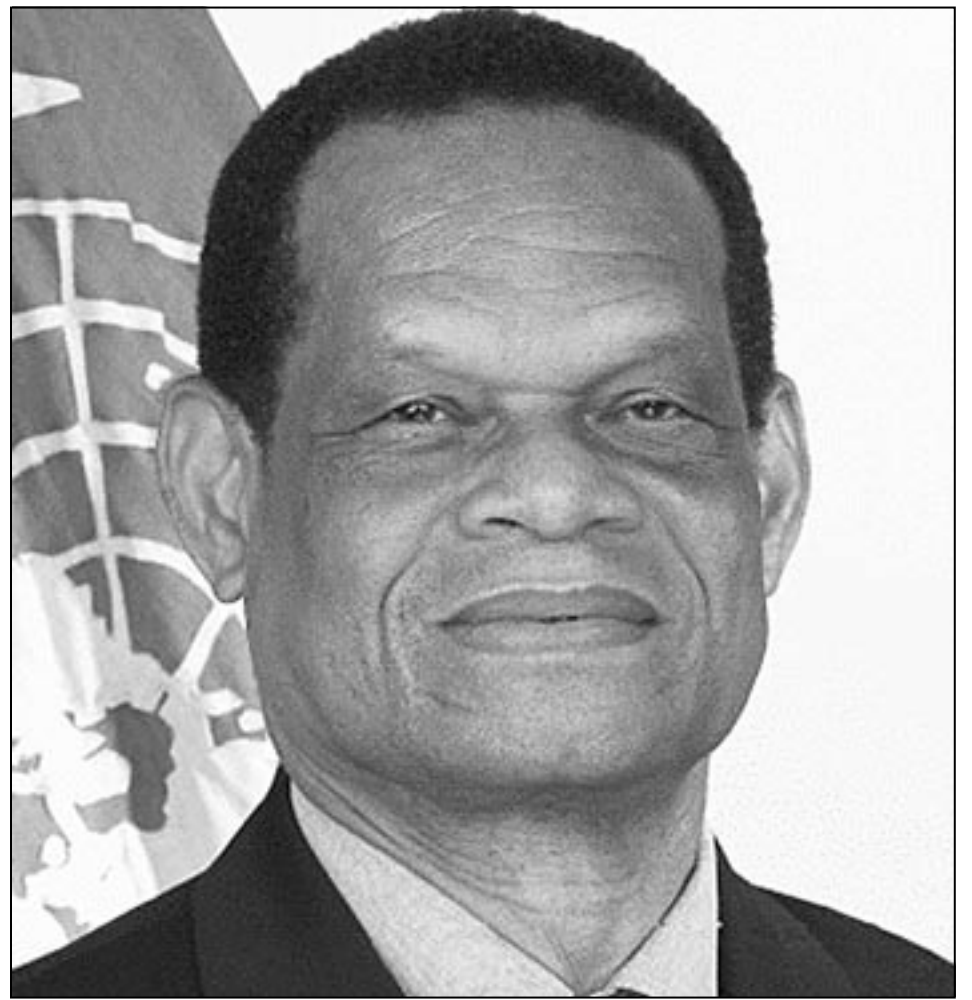
Julian Hunte cut his political teeth in the 1960s, first as a city councillor and then as Mayor of his home town of Castries. Within six years of joining the Labour Party he had become its leader and in 1987 he entered Parliament, serving as Leader of the Opposition for nine years. In 2001, he was appointed to the Senate of St Lucia and was invited by the Prime Minister to join the Cabinet in the same year. This was entirely right and proper for a man who had devoted his working life to promoting the interests of the island and the surrounding Caribbean community. Indeed, his services to the Government and people of St Lucia had already been acknowledged with the award of an OBE in 1979.

As Minister for External Affairs, International Trade and Civil Aviation, Julian Hunte was only too aware of the

market forces that operate beyond the control of the Caribbean people, and the modernising measures they must take for self-protection. He has cultivated links with other countries such as China and Argentina, and he has taken a particular interest in the role of women and young people in promoting the social, economic and cultural development of the Caribbean countries. At the regional level, he was given responsibility for coordinating foreign policy matters among the member states of the Caribbean Community, and played a key part in CARICOM's diplomatic initiative to resolve the political and economic challenges facing the Republic of Haiti.

At home, he has worked unstintingly for St Lucia as Chair of the National Development Corporation, along with many other business and commercial interests. As an advocate of labour rights, he has also been active in the trade union movement, as President of the National Workers Union. He takes considerable pride in the Caribbean people and their qualities of ingenuity and industry.

Julian Hunte's keen interest in issues of regional cooperation, and the role of small states within the United Nations, led to his appointment in 1998 as St Lucia's Ambassador and Permanent



Representative to the United Nations. His tireless work at international summits and conferences convened by the United Nations was recognised in 2003 by his election as President of the 58th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. In his speech of acceptance, he remarked that: "No nation is an island unto itself. No nation can protect its people completely from cross-border problems, particularly in the face of unprecedented challenges facing the Assembly, from HIV/Aids and SARS to transnational crime and terrorism". He resolved to tackle not only these issues, but also those of the environment, poverty, human rights and fundamental freedoms. At the time of the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, Julian Hunte appealed to all countries to demonstrate their commitment to peace by observing the traditional truce during the quadrennial competition.

An avid sportsman himself, Julian Hunte served for many years as Vice-President of the West Indies Cricket Board. It must be a source of considerable pleasure to him that St Lucia's marvellous new National Cricket Ground was chosen as a venue for the 2007 World Cup. Cricket supporters in the British Isles share his enthusiasm for this most welcome addition to the list of Test Match grounds, and

are celebrating their good fortune that the England team have been drawn to play their group matches at this idyllic venue. Julian Hunte has been no less enthusiastic in his support of the historical and cultural legacy of his island, co-founding and chairing for two decades, the St Lucia National Trust. Last year, its famous twin peaks, The Pitons were declared a World Heritage Site by the United Nations.

Julian Hunte's outstanding statesmanship as President of the United Nations General Assembly was recognised last year, by the award of the Knight of the Grand Cross Pion Order by His Holiness Pope John Paul II. As a St. Lucian, he felt greatly honoured that the presidency of this singularly important world body should pass to a representative of the smallest country ever to hold this office. But as a man whose utopian dream is for global stability, he is only following the motto of his country - 'The Land, the People, the Light'.

We honour today, a man who sees the whole world as his island; its people as one, united in democratic harmony; and the light of a good life to be shared by all.

Vice-Chancellor, I present Julian Robert Hunte as eminently worthy to receive the degree of Doctor of Letters honoris causa.

Official funeral for the late Member of Parliament, Ronan A. David

**Flags to be
flown at half
mast on
Public
Buildings**

The Government of Dominica has decided that Mr. Ronan A. David will be given an official funeral on Wednesday, January 19, 2005.

The Dominican Flag shall be flown at half mast on all public buildings in the State on that day. The late Ronan A. David was a Member of the House of Assembly from 1980 to 1990 representing the Roseau South Constituency in Parliament. He served as Attorney General and Minister for Legal Affairs from 1980 to 1985 and Minister for Health from 1985 to 1990 in the Freedom Party Administration.

Official Mourners at the Official Funeral Service shall include His Ex-

cellency the President and Mrs. Liverpool, the Prime Minister and Members of Cabinet, the Honourable Speaker of the House of Assembly, former Presidents and Prime Ministers and other Government Officials.

Public viewing of the body shall be from 2:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Lady of Fair Haven Cathedral, Roseau on Wednesday, January 19, 2005. The Official Funeral Service will commence at 3:00 p.m.

The late Ronan A. David will be buried at the Roseau Roman Catholic Cemetery.

All Official Mourners are requested to be in their seats no later than 2:45 p.m.

2005 Independence Anniversary Theme

Cabinet considered a Memorandum dated December 7, 2004 submitted by the Office of the Prime Minister and agreed that the theme for St. Lucia's 2005 Independence Anniversary shall be "Working Together With Pride To Build Our Nation". This represented an amendment to Theme No. 6.

Private sector optimistic about the benefits of CSME

Representatives of three key partners in Saint Lucia's implementation of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME), have all spoken optimistically on the benefits they anticipate will be reaped from the new economic system.

Director of Commerce Mr. Titus Preville, Executive Director of the

Saint Lucia Chamber of Commerce Mr. Brian Louisy and the General Secretary of the Saint Lucia Teachers Union Mr. Wayne Cumberbatch, recently aired their perspectives on the CSME via the National Television Network's Live Discussion programme "Feedback", which was broadcast on the night of Tuesday, January 11th.

Mr. Preville said the economic ra-

tionale for the CSME facilitates the growth and expansion of business entities currently engaged in intra-regional trade: "The CSME in terms of the economic rationale, really and truly lies in the understanding that the global environment, the whole environment was becoming more liberalised, more competitive and you had to have in place a mechanism within the Caricom countries that could respond with a equal or adequate response, being one of competitiveness, to take advantage of the reality."

For his part, Mr. Louisy said that the members of the Chamber were now poised to view the market in its broadest context: "So you could now see the firms in Saint Lucia seeing the

Caricom Single Market and Economy as their market rather than Saint Lucia. You find that they would remove restrictions preventing businesses from trading between each island; and that would allow companies to grow. Companies will now be able to take on the international market more competitively."

General Secretary of the Saint Lucia Teachers Union Wayne Cumberbatch said he believed that workers should view the CSME as a plus, aiding to the expansion of the workforce via the creation of more job opportunity. He said there would also be more scope for union bargaining and the negotiating process.

OECS creates a single Eastern Caribbean yachting space

The Atlantic Rally for Cruisers (ARC) which ended in Saint Lucia has been expanding to other marinas in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States through the OECS Rally for Yachters, a new OECS Secretariat initiative. The OECS Rally is part of a special thrust to develop the yachting industry and to create a single Eastern Caribbean yachting space.

Senior Communications Officer at the OECS Secretariat, Mr. Kendol Morgan said that it was the first of an annual activity that would piggyback on the ARC, which attracts some 170 yachts to the largest, ocean-crossing event in the world.

Commenting on the OECS initiative, he said, "That got started just after the end of the Rally (ARC), commencing towards the end of December going first towards the south through Saint Vincent, the Grenadines, then Grenada and then moving back up towards the north passing through Dominica, Guadeloupe, Martinique and ending in Antigua and Barbuda; they have completed the St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada leg of the rally and they are expected to end up in Antigua on the 12th of February."

Mr. Morgan described the atmosphere in OECS marinas as exciting and said at the close of the OECS Rally on the 12th of February, a prize giving ceremony would be held for the yachtsmen. Special trophies will be presented for yachts visiting the most islands along the OECS Rally route.

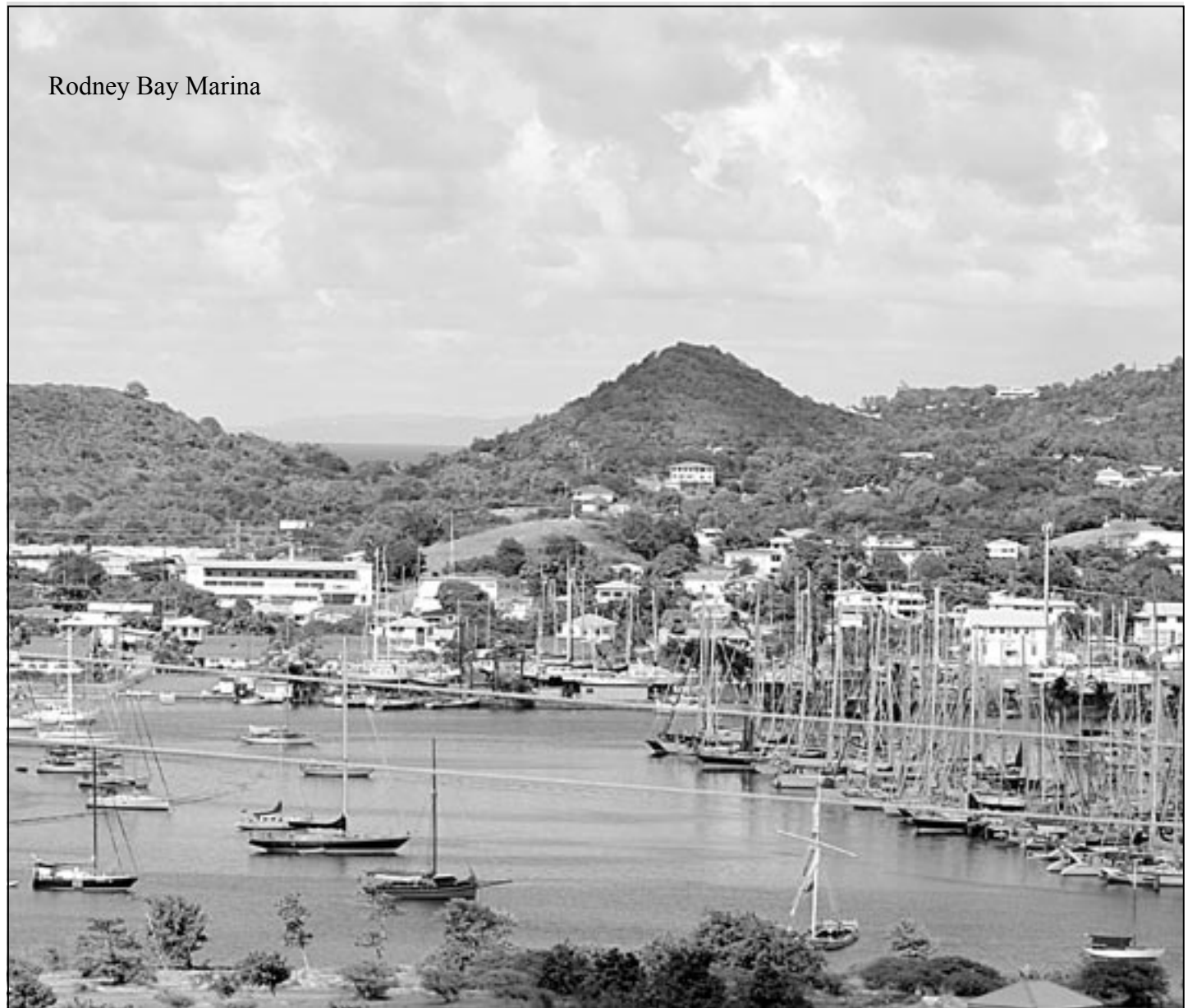
"We have had some feedback from

some of the islands that have been visited and the yachting sector in these islands provided some onshore activities

for these yachtsmen, so they were able to get a wider Eastern Caribbean Experience," he said.

The OECS Rally commenced on December 28, 2004 immediately after the end of the Atlantic Rally for Cruisers.

Rodney Bay Marina



The World Bank has new Vice President for Latin America and the Caribbean

The World Bank today announced that Pamela Cox is its new Vice President for Latin America and the Caribbean, in charge of overseeing the Bank's lending and poverty-fighting operations in the region.

"I welcome the opportunity to work in Latin America and the Caribbean at this point in the region's development," said the new Vice President. "I am struck by how much progress the countries of the region have made over recent years -- on political transitions, reforming governance and strengthening economic management. At the same time, poverty and inequality remain pervasive across the region, and I see enormous continuing scope for the World Bank to work with its clients

on attacking these deep-seated challenges."

Over the last few months, Ms. Cox has made numerous trips to countries in Latin America --including Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay-- to visit Bank projects and meet officials and project beneficiaries. Her first official trip to the region as Vice President will be to Brazil (Jan.17-19) and Grenada (Jan. 20-21), where she will meet with government officials and civil society representatives, and visit Bank projects and their beneficiaries in the field.

Pamela Cox replaces David de Ferranti, who stepped down as the Bank's Regional Vice President on December 31, after five and a half years in the position. Mr. De Ferranti is now serving

as a Special Adviser in the Managing Director's Office until the end of June, when he will retire from the Bank following a career of over 24 years.

"Under David de Ferranti's leadership, the Bank built solid relationships with our clients, encouraged innovation and excellence, and fought poverty and exclusion, leaving us a strong base to build on," said Ms. Cox.

Prior to becoming Vice President, Pamela Cox was the Bank's Director of Strategy and Operations for Africa (2000-04) and served as Country Director for South Africa and other African countries (1996-2000). She has also held management positions in East Asia, and worked on agricultural and environmental issues in South Asia and Latin America since joining the

Bank in 1980. She holds two masters degrees in Development Economics/International Economics and in Law and Diplomacy, as well as a Ph.D. in Development Economics and Policy from the Fletcher School at Tufts University in Boston, Massachusetts.

The World Bank serves 30 client countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. Bank lending to the region reached \$5.3 billion in fiscal year 2004 (July 2003-June 2004) for human development (health and education), financial and private sector development, public sector governance and social protection projects, among others. The Bank's portfolio of projects under implementation in the region totals \$19.3 billion.

Greater awareness of historic sites needed – Alice Bagshaw

Proprietor of the Upper La Toc Military Battery, Alice Bagshaw has called upon the general public, in particular educators to assist in building greater aware-

ness and appreciation for the island's historic sites.

The Upper La Toc Military Battery located at La Toc is a Military Fort built by the British, which has been

restored and preserved for its historic significance, housing several artefacts, including an 18-ton gun with a reach as far away as Rat Islet in Choc Bay.

Mrs. Bagshaw pointed out that few

locals tend to visit historic sites, because of their perception that such sites are largely for viewing by tourists. She said however, that greater interest can be engendered in the island's historic sites through activities, such as school field trips.

"Especially when the children come to visit, I think that it's something that inspires other people to understand that the history of St. Lucia is important, and everybody need to be participating in that", Mrs. Bagshaw said.

Pointing to the need for publicity she said further, "One of the reasons I am happy that GIS is here is because I think it will be really wonderful for more schools and individuals to come ... I think there are so many places in St. Lucia where there are historic artefacts that should be saved for our children's children."

The museum set St. Lucia apart from the rest of the region, by housing the only-known museum with approximately 900 bottles, some dated as far back as the 18th Century.



SPORTLIGHT ON DUNSTON ST. OMER

CDF takes Fine Arts Exhibition to a new level

The Cultural Development Foundation (CDF) has said it would continue with efforts to ensure that the M&C Fine Arts Exhibition, now vested in the CDF was taken to a new level.

This promise was made at the Monday, January 10 opening of the Visual Arts Exhibition at the Cultural Centre. The exhibition is one of three components of the St. Lucia Arts Festival scheduled to run from February 22 to March 19, 2005. Some of exhibits included paintings, sculptures, tapestry, and craft.

Director of the CDF, Gabriel Francis said this year's festival, which incidentally coincided with Nobel Laureate activities and the 75th Birthday of Hon. Derek Walcott promised to be a great event



Dunstan St Omer

A featured-artist concept has been incorporated into the festival this year. The featured artiste is revered St. Lu-

cian, Dunstan St. Omer. Organizers are hoping to feature a senior artist each year.

Minister for Culture Hon. Menissa Rambally encouraged local artists to use the festival as a medium to express their talent.

It has been recognized that private/public sector partnership was important for the advancement of local art. But, President of the St. Lucia Chamber of Commerce, Mrs. Techla Deterville has assured continued private sector support.

Meanwhile, although the exhibition has been able to maintain its high quality, it was not able to attract as many participants this year. Organizers said that perhaps this was as a result of a shift in the time the exhibition was being held. In the past the activity was held in November.

C&W Continues To Honour St Lucian Arts

Cable & Wireless unveiled its 2004 / 05 Services Directory on Wednesday, featuring another of St Lucia's internationally acclaimed artists.

The latest version of the Directory carries the picture of the Honourable Dunstan St Omer, St Lucia's foremost visual artist and the designer of the national flag. Mr St Omer is pictured on the cover with 'Passion,' a painting dedicated to his daughter, Digna. The painting is part of his 'Madonna' series.

There are hundreds of Dunstan St Omer Madonnas, murals and landscapes in churches, homes, businesses and institutions throughout St Lucia and the wider Caribbean. Now, as the 76-year-old father of nine proclaims, "for the next 12 months, my picture will be in households all over St Lucia – it's a great honour." Mr St Omer

unveiled the new Directory in the presence of Cable & Wireless Chief Executive Fred Walcott.

"For all of us at C&W, the unveiling of the 2004-05 Services Directory is a truly special occasion," says Mr Walcott. "It gives us the opportunity to honor yet another outstanding and gifted St Lucian who, in so many ways, has made us all proud to be St Lucians. One of the things that makes Dunstan so special is that he is a living example of what it means to be a true home-grown genius."

St Omer has also inspired generations of young St Lucian artists. He worked in the Ministry of Education as an art instructor for over 30 years, and is still passionate about introducing young people to the arts. Having recently judged the Cable & Wireless Schools Greeting Card Schools' Com-

petition, he is now championing the revival of the Independence Arts Exhibition.

A 2004 recipient of the St Lucia Cross, the nation's highest award, St Omer has now been conferred what is perhaps the most public honour any St Lucian can hope to attain locally. When he accepted the St Lucia Cross, Honourable Dunstan St Omer delivered a brief speech. One phrase in particular is applicable to Cable & Wireless' choice for its Directory cover: "It means my people appreciate what I have been trying to do."

Honourable Dunstan St. Omer is the fourth consecutive distinguished St. Lucian to be featured on the Cable & Wireless Directory. Musician Ronald "Boo" Hinkson was on the cover of the 2003-04 edition. He was preceded in 2002-03 by Nobel laureates Hon. Derek Walcott and Sir Arthur Lewis.



THIS WEEK ON NTN

Sat. Jan. 15th - Fri. Jan. 21st, 2005

The GIS Discusses the Use of Female Condoms – Sat. Jan. 15th 6:30 p.m.

· The Royal St. Lucia Police Band in Concert -Sat. Jan. 15th, 9:00 p.m. – PART 1

· Take Over Tent 20th Anniversary Bash - Sun. Jan. 16th, – 7:10 p.m.

· The Royal St. Lucia Police Band in Concert - Sun. Jan. 16th, 9:00 p.m. – PART 2

· CARICOM Summit 2004 - Highlights Mon. Jan. 17th, 9:00 p.m.

· Safe Use of Chemicals in the Agriculture Industry – Tues. Jan. 18th, 6:15 p.m.

· Honouring Minibus Drivers - Wed. Jan. 19th, 9:30 p.m.

· Family of the Caribbean – Thurs. Jan. 20th, 8:30 p.m.

· Hurricane Watch - Fri. Jan. 21st, 8:30 p.m.

· Inter-Commercial House Calypso Competition 2003 – Fri. Jan. 21st 9:00 p.m.

Remember to tune in for:

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

· Issues & Answers/Mondays at 8:00pm:

· Interview/Tuesdays at 6:15pm :

· Konsit Kweyol/Tuesdays at 8:00pm (Kweyol Discussion):

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

Take 2/Fridays at 6:15pm

(Week in Review)

· Weflechi/Fridays at 6:40pm -

(Week in Review—Kweyol)

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

www.stlucia.gov.lc

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