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ROAD WORKS IN COMMUNITIES ISLANDWIDE



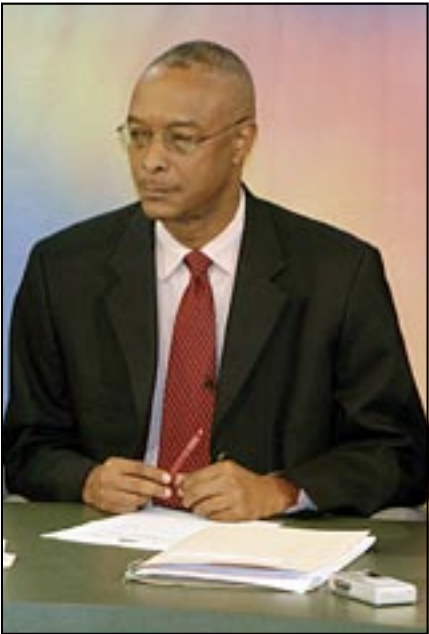
The Monier Road - an example of the new approach to road construction

By the time the Tertiary Roads Rehabilitation Project (TRRP) is completed later this year, government road rehabilitation and construction programme would have positively affected the lives of people in at least seventeen communities around the island. The TRRP which is major project of the Government of Saint Lucia is primarily aimed at the construction of tertiary roads in small communities to facilitate access to agricultural plots, farms, eco-tourism sites and other places of interest for the tourism sector.

Minister for Communications, Works, Transport and Public Utilities, Hon. Felix Finnisterre said that while the project has been affected by some short time delays, the contractors are working to ensure that the roads will be constructed according to the highest

professional standards but within the terms of procurement requirements, “All of the agencies have their procurement methods. Some say international open tendering. If it is coming from a local source, using local funds, we look at the Finance Act, which guides and tells us what we have to do, by way of the Central Tenders Board. Other agencies like the World Bank have their own procurement requirements and this must be put in place”

Addressing local journalists at a press conference at the Government Information Service Friday April 8th, the Minister said “We are not building roads any more just be resurfacing, we really want to ensure that we put drainage, so that the investment in the road works will last over a long period of time”



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

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Road Works in Communites Islandwide

Continued from page 1

Three packages of roads will be constructed during this project which started last year. The first package for the north of the island include roads in Paix Bouche, Bogius, Debarra, La Croix Chaubourg, Monchy, Desrameau, La Borne, Fond Assau, Chassin, Gesneau, Forestierre, Anse La Raye-Venus, Millet Tete Chemin, Millet, Bois D’Orange and the Rodney Bay Road.

The works will include regravelling and resurfacing, desilting and drainage, retaining structures and the reshaping of verges.

The second package of road works will be in the communities on the west coast and include Victoria, Martin, Mongouge, Le Riche, Delcer, La Point, Esperance, Raveneau, Etangs, Union Vale, Delcer, Fond St. Jacques, Migny and the Canaries Valley.

The third package will include roads in southern eastern part of the island: in Mahaut, Calypso, Six Lieues, Volet, Grace, Augier, Joyeau, Bellevue, New Dock Road, Moule-a-Chique, Mami-cou, Denmery, St. Joseph, Errad, Des Cartiers, Bois Canoe and Morne Parnache.

The TRRP is being implemented by the Special Projects Unit of the Ministry of Communications Works, Transport and Public Utilities with DIWI Consult International serving as proj-



Grace to Bellevue - Type 1 drain

Controlling stray animals

Officials of the Ministry of Communications, Works, Transport and Public Utilities are reporting partial success in their latest attempt to deal with the menace of stray animals on the island’s highways. Ministry representatives say the recently launched campaign has suffered a minor setback due to some defaulting cattle owners who seem bent on reversing the process and erasing gains achieved.

According to Deputy Permanent Secretary Dr. Augustin Charles, although the Ministry of Communications and Works has lead responsibility for the reinvigorated campaign, getting the animals off the roads involves close collaboration with other ministries and government agencies responsible for Agriculture, Home Affairs, the Police along with the Attorney General’s office.

Dr. Charles told the GIS, “Initially we started with an education sensitization programme where we brought in the cattle owners. We spoke with

ect consultants. Financial assistance of over EC\$30 million is provided by the Agence Francaise de Development (AFD).

A report from the consultants submitted to the minister notes that testing of materials used in the road projects is made systematically and the contactors are undertaking quality control tests on a regular basis.

The main contractors for the road works are JV Serge Zozime, CTA (Martinique), Emile Gaddarkhan & Fils S.A (Guadeloupe), and Consolidated Contractors Ltd. (U.K.). As part of the legacy benefits of the project Saint Lucian engineers and technicians have been visiting laboratories and road construction projects in Martinique for training in modern techniques in road construction. Between September and November 2004, five persons received training in Martinique.

In addition to the TRRP project, the minister stated that government has responded to the numerous calls for repairs of other roads which deteriorated during the unusual heavy rains last year.

“From our in-house crew, with an expedited programme in the Southern region, we have been able to rehabilitate the Paiye- Saltibus Road, the Bellevue Road, the Vieux-Fort Town, the Aubwiye road and the Augier industrial road”.

The Pothole Unit at the Ministry with an additional budgetary allocation of EC\$800,000.00 has carried out repair works on roads in La Clery, Bisee, Entrepot, Ciceron, Cedars, York Hill, La Toc, Monchy, Pavée, Babonneau and Bodge.

The minister has announced an island tour next month, for the media to take a first hand look at the roads around the island

them and explained the implications of having stray cattle on the roads. Subsequently we had public service announcements issuing an ultimatum to the cattle owners and we felt that everything was going on quite well.”

Another meeting has been organized for sometime this week where Ministry officials are hoping to drive the point home to cattle owners. Closer attention will also be paid to the existing legislation with the intent of possibly strengthening it.

“Stray cattle on our roads represent a dangerous phenomenon,” says Dr. Charles. He went on, “not too long ago there was an incident in Africa where there was a collision involving stray cattle and six persons died. We need to ask ourselves is that what we really want and do we want to get to that stage ourselves.”

The meeting is being looked at last ditch effort to bring a lasting solution to the problem of stray cattle on the island roads, Ministry officials say cattle owners failing to comply thereafter will feel the full effect of the law.

APOLOGY - The Department of Information Services apologises to the owner(s) of the vehicles PB3449 and PA7495 for any inconvenience caused as a result of the publication of a photograph including the said vehicles which accompanied a news feature on page 2 of issue No. 82 of NATIONWIDE. The vehicles are not associated with information, premises or conclusions of the article.

Doubling Water Supply



Water Treatment Plant

Government is playing its part to ensure that citizens and visitors enjoy adequate supplies of potable water in 2007 and beyond. To this end, funding has been obtained from the World Bank to double the daily output at the TR Theobalds water treatment plant at Ciceron. When this work is completed, the daily output of water available to residential and commercial consumers will be over twelve million gallons per day.

According to Hon. Felix Finisterre, Minister for Communications, Works, Transport and Public Utilities, who has ministerial responsibility for the water sector, said new measures will also be implemented to reduce the significant amount of water loss during transmission from the John Compton Dam and the treatment plant to consumers in the north of the island.

With these new measures in place, water will be readily available to the more prof-

itable sectors, the hotel industry and the cruise ships, thus reaping in more revenue for the new management entity.

The Minister stated that with funding from the World Bank, major reforms at the Water and Sewerage Company (WASCO), the sole supplier of water, have already started and will include some changes in the management and administration of WASCO.

“This money will go a long way in ensuring the viability of whatever new utility we put in place. We tend to think of WASCO as it is right now. We are thinking of a new entity with a significant private sector input of money and so on”

The first stage of the reform of the water has already be completed with the new Act which would provide the regulatory framework to ensure investors benefit from full privatisation and the guarantee of the highest quality of water for all consumers.

A Signage Project for the Des Barras/Grand Anse Turtle Watch Activity



Cordinator of the SLHTP - Sylvester Clauzel

The St. Lucia Heritage Tourism Programme (SLHTP) has secured a small grant to establish a system of signage for the growing Des Barras/Grand Anse turtle watch activity. The remote farming community of Des Barras with its nearby beach Grande Anse has become synonymous with the growing tourist attraction of turtle watching. This activity, which promotes conservation and is in keeping with the principles of the Grande Anse Nature Reserve, has increased in popularity and has transformed the lives of many persons, notably youth within the Des Barras community.

Sea Turtle watching has been conducted on the Grande Anse Beach for the last two decades. Initially, the Saint Lucia Naturalist Society and the Department of Fisheries organized turtle watches on Saturdays during the nesting period - March to August. This initiative has expanded to several nights a week and the activity now involves members of the Des Barras Community, to whom economic benefits accrue through the conduct of tours and

the provision of food, beverages and craft items for sale.

However, one of the major constraints to the development of the tour has been the inaccessibility as a result of poor road conditions and the absence of directional signs. The Ministry of Communications, Works, Transport and Public Utilities has addressed the former problem through is Tertiary Road Rehabilitation Project, thereby providing improved road access from Babonneau proper to the community of Des Barras. The latter problem is now being address through the intervention of the SLHTP, who has secured funding from the Community Tourism Foundation, based in Barbados, to provide directional signage to the turtle watch activity.

The turtle watch is an attempt to provide economic benefits to the community whilst protecting endangered specie, which in this case is the leatherback turtle. The tour guides collect valuable scientific information for the Department of Fisheries, whilst visitors and locals view the entire process of leatherbacks and other turtles laying their eggs and returning to the sea. It is our best example of demonstrating non-consumptive use of a natural resource, whilst providing economic incentives to a community.

The SLHTP has been providing institutional support to the Des Barras Turtle Watch Group for the past four (4) years. This support has included marketing, skills development and training in business and financial management. The interventions of the SLHTP have brought about increased business and employment opportunities for group and community members and general improvements in the product.

The Caribbean Court of Justice OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Prime Minister of Saint Lucia Dr. Kenny D. Anthony will lead a delegation from St. Lucia for the official inauguration of the Caribbean Court of Justice which takes place in Trinidad on Saturday April 16th 2004. Dr. Anthony will be accompanied by his wife Mrs. Rose-Marie Antoine-Anthony. The other members of the delegation are the Leader of the Opposition Hon. Marcus Nicholas, Senator the Hon. Philip La Corbiniere, Attorney General and Minister for Legal Affairs, Mrs. Victoria Charles-Clarke, Director of Public Prosecution, Mr Gregory Girard, Court Administrator at the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court and Mrs. Ianthea Ledgewood-Octave, Chief Registrar at the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court.

The Saint Lucian delegation will be among hundreds of Caribbean heads of government, Attorneys General, nationals from within and outside the region which



Prime Minister Kenny Anthony in conversation with a CARICOM official

will attend this historic ceremony scheduled to take place at the Queens Hall in Port-of-Spain. Dr. Anthony, who is CARICOM’s lead Prime Minister on Governance and Justice, will deliver one of the keynote addresses.

Other addresses will be delivered by the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago Hon. Patrick Manning and His Lordship Michael De La Bastide, president of the Caribbean Court of Justice. Also scheduled to address the ceremony are Prime Ministers Owen Arthur of Barbados and Surinamese President Ronald Runaldo Venetian.

Visitors, including representatives of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council and eminent jurists from across the Commonwealth, will attend the gala ceremony that will be broadcast live across the region on radio and television. Pannist Len ‘Boogie’ Sharpe, Sitarist, Heeralal Ram-

partap and other local artistes will perform at the ceremony that starts at 9.30 am.

The CCJ is the regional court which will determine disputes arising from the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas in the operation of the Caricom Single Market and Economy (CSME). It will begin operating in its original and appellate jurisdictions shortly with 10 countries already signed on to access the Court as the tribunal for determining disputes arising from the CSME with Barbados and Guyana being the first two countries to access the CCJ as their final Court of Appeal.

In the evening there will be a gala hosted by His Excellency George Maxwell Richards, President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago at the President’s House. Entertainers from the region will provide entertainment for this gala. The evening will end with a fireworks display in the Queens’ Park Savannah.

The CCJ and the CSME

On Saturday, April 16, 2005, the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) will be finally inaugurated in Port of Spain, Trinidad. The inauguration of the CCJ will take place against the backdrop of much debate and controversy in the region, especially as it pertains to the intent behind the establishment of the Court. Saint Lucia’s Prime Minister and CARICOM’s lead Prime Minister on issues of Governance and Justice, Dr. Kenny D. Anthony in an address to Nova Southeastern University (NSU) addressed some of the key reasons behind the establishment of the CCJ.

Dr. Anthony claimed that with the advent of political independence, the English speaking Caribbean states, with the notable exception of Guyana which repudiated its inherited Westminster style constitution and Grenada which for a short period of time during its turbulent revolutionary years abolished the Privy Council every state retained the Privy Council as its final appellate court in its judicial hierarchy. Dr. Anthony contented that the retention of the Privy Council as the region’s highest appellate body is incompatible with the notion of independence. Indeed, Dr. Anthony said, “for many outsiders, it is incomprehensible that independent states, claiming to value their independence, continue to allow their highest court to be domiciled within the erstwhile colonial capital, staffed by judges appointed by a British functionary, the Lord Chancellor.”

Dr. Anthony said that in recent times certain changes have occurred across the region which have provided the necessary impetus for establishment of the CCJ. Foremost among these is the emerging view that the region’s Constitutions should be repatriated and the act of creating Constitutions should be relocated within Caribbean jurisdiction. Prime Minister Anthony argued further that the Constitutions are Statutory Instruments and the fact that they are issued under the Prerogative Power of the Crown contradicts the region’s claim to independence. Prime Minister Anthony therefore, claims, “the reten-



Group shot of Caribbean Court of Justice Judges. Left to right standing: Professor Aubrey Bishop (Guyana), Dr. Lloyd Barrett (Jamaica), Mr.Othneil Sylvester (St.Vincent), Sir David Simmons (Barbados), Ambassador Christopher R. Thomas (Trinidad), Mr. Alan Alexander (Trinidad) Seated: Ms. Gloria Grey (Trinidad), Dr. Magda Hoever-Venoakes (Suriname), Justice Michael De la Bastide (Trinidad), Ms. Nelia Robinson (St.Vincent)



Justice Lionel Jones being sworn in

tion of particular British institutions is incompatible with independence, indeed, embarrassing politically and otherwise”. He also cited the growing confidence and self-sufficiency of the region and the “Caribbeanisation” of the legal profession as factors giving rise to the establishment of the court. One of the most significant factors identified by Dr. Anthony for the establishment of the CCJ is the creation



Justice La Bastide being sworn in

of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME). Dr. Anthony is of the view that the CCJ is a prerequisite institution if the CSME is to function seamlessly. Accordingly therefore, he sees the establishment of the CCJ as an inevitable development flowing from the creation of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy. From this perspective the CCJ is to be regarded as a necessary institution in the creation of

a single economic space. It is a key requirement that one authoritative source to pronounce on matters pertaining to the interpretation of the treating establishing the Caribbean Community.

According to Dr. Anthony the existence of competing authoritative sources can lead to competing judicial interpretations, confusion, uncertainty and delay. Dr. Anthony is of the view that there is unlikely to be significant litigation in the court’s original jurisdiction at least in the very early days of the court’s establishment. Prime Minister Anthony made it clear however, that this should not be interpreted to mean that the litigation in the Court’s original jurisdiction will be less important or have less far reaching consequences for the development of Caribbean law and jurisprudence, than in the Court’s appellate jurisdiction. In fact, Dr. Anthony fully expect the process of economic integration to take a life of its own as Caribbean persons provide the impetus for the creation of an extensive body of International Law relating to the interpretation of the CSME treaty. In the finally analysis Prime, Minister Anthony envisages that the existence of the Court will itself provide the springboard for the actualization of those rights which the CSME treaty is designed to create and confer.

Prime Minister Anthony is of the view that the International Law Jurisprudence of the CCJ will assume increased significance and meaningfulness in the lives of the average citizens of the region when its mechanisms are utilized to enforce treaty rights against delinquent states, lured by the opportunities for the fulfillment of their basic aspirations in the Single Market and Economy.

Prime Minister Anthony is however confident that as the Court becomes entrenched municipal appeals from the various member states will outnumber litigation in the Court’s original jurisdiction. This he attributes primarily to the fact that appealing to the CCJ will be far less expensive than appealing to the Privy Council. Consequently, he expects the number of final appeals in municipal matters to rise sharply after an initial period of leveling out.

Lessons from the life of the Pope : “BE NOT AFRAID”

Greetings, Saint Lucia, now that the television coverage and commentary has abated for a short while at least, I invite you to join me in some sober reflections on the lessons which the life of Pope John Paul II has for all of us.

It is not very often that the life and death of a leader of a religious denomination, has such a tremendous impact on persons outside of his or her congregation. In fact, it is the first time that the life of a Pope has had such far-reaching implications for both Catholics and non-Catholics. The Pope reached out to all faiths, and the television scenes showed us Catholics and non Catholics alike who endured the heat and long lines to say their final farewell.

Differences do not diminish greatness

Among those on the long lines to view his body and indeed, among those who attended his funeral, were persons who did not always agree with the political views of Pope John Paul II or his doctrinal positions on a range of theological issues. Pope John Paul II openly disagreed with President Bush on the Iraq War, but yet, President Bush openly admired him. Likewise, the Pope vigorously opposed the views of former President Bill Clinton on abortion, yet there was mutual admiration and respect between them. And herein lies a simple lesson: Differences do not diminish greatness.

But, who was this remarkable man who did not ask for greatness but had it cast on him?

A trying journey

Born into extremely humble surroundings in Poland, his rise to the top of the Catholic Church is well documented. On this journey, on this trying journey during the period of the Second World War, he was persistent in his search for knowledge. He studied extensively. When he realised his calling to the Church, he focused on the study of theology and philosophy. He maintained his faith all this time to continue

PM Converses with the Nation



Prime Minister Dr. Kenny D. Anthony

to study and teach the doctrines of the Catholic Church. But, there was one thing about him that stood out. Though deeply conservative in outlook, he was never blindly consumed by doctrine. In later years, this gave him the foundation and the courage to venture where others feared to tread.

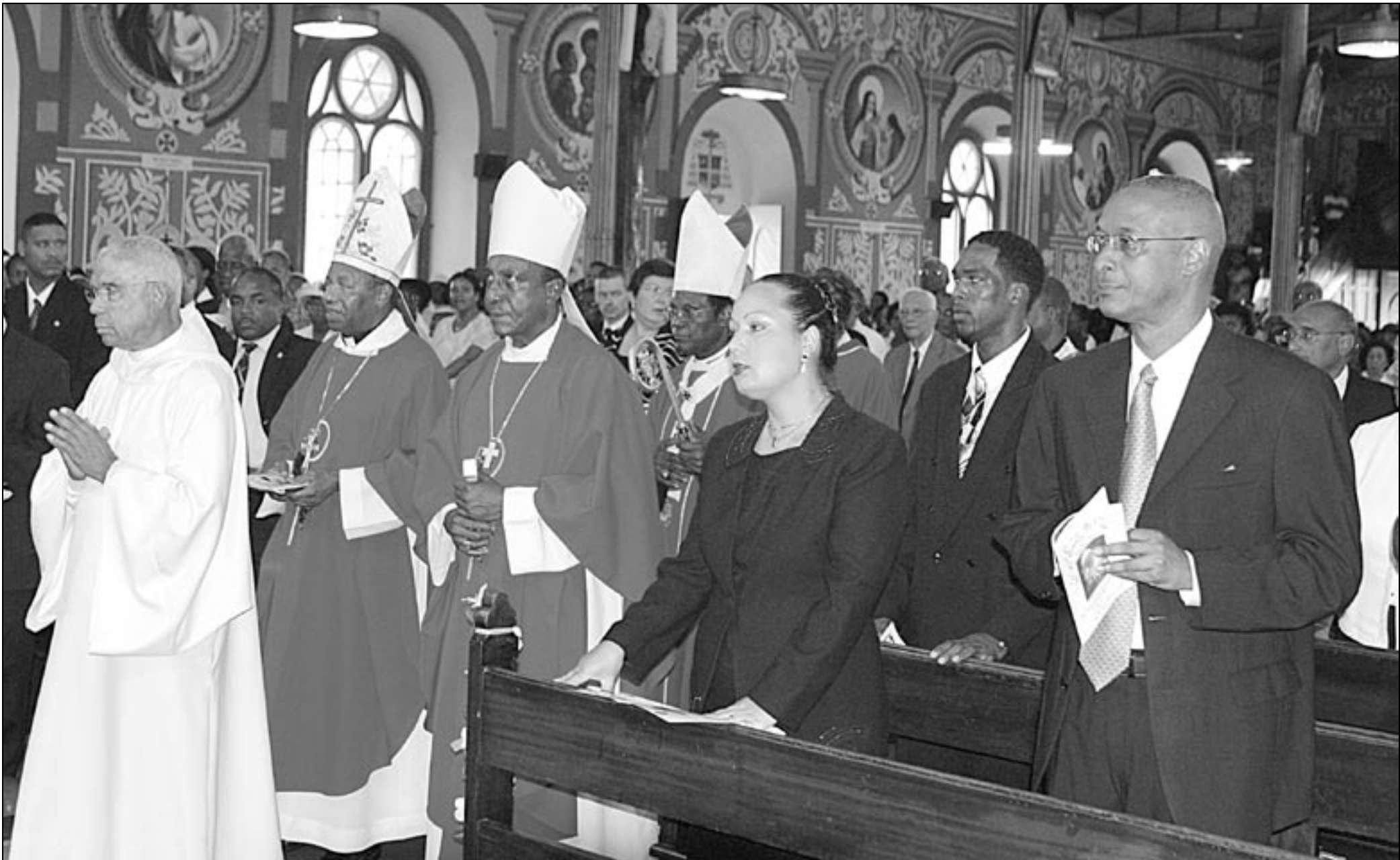
Throughout his life he was perpetually driven by his own dictum “do not be afraid”

The intellectual

Pope John Paul II was a great communicator. His formal training and practical engagement in theatre and the arts, equipped him with the creative skills to handle the many turbu-

lent issues during his tenure as head of the Catholic Church. This grounding gave him the communications skills to become the excellent global diplomat, which he was. He lived a full life. And we must also recall that while he studied at universities in Poland and in Rome, he continued his pastoral work with grassroots and poor communities in these countries.

Most of the world will not know, however, that his parents and his only brother all passed away by 1941, long before he became Pope. In time, the entire world became his family. The Papacy provided him the opportunity to share his life with his family, the



A section of the congregation at the mass for Pope John Paul II: Mrs Rose Marie Antoine-Anthony and Hon. Felix Finnisterre (acting Prime Minister)

citizens of the world. He quickly embraced the world to explore and shape our collective humanity.

On the shores of Saint Lucia

It was this journey, which brought him to the shores of Saint Lucia in 1986. Like the apostle Simon Peter, he came to share in his own faith. His impact on the people of Saint Lucia is long lasting. He reached out to the poor people on the roadsides. The Archdiocese of Castries has recorded the numerous cases where Pope John Paul’s simple acts of kindness, his short conversations and his blessings touched the lives of many.

At the Eucharistic Mass at Rodney Bay on a piece of barren reclaimed land in the north of the island, John Paul blessed thousands of Saint Lucians from all walks of life, of all classes, of all creeds and of all colours. It was there he reached out to all Saint Lucians in Kweyòl and said, “Zanfàn Bondye, pwan kouwaj, mete konfyans ou an Bondye”. Children of God, take courage, put your trust in God.

Since 1986, this barren piece of land has been reclaimed with a new blessing and is now known as the Pope’s Site. This is only one of the legacies of the visit of John Paul to Saint Lucia. But the instances of the Pope reaching out to touch many of the hundreds of children who lined the streets, the blessings of some of the poor and sick and the sharing of the Eucharist will forever linger in the hearts and minds of our people, especially our Catholic community.

The peace maker

When he addressed Saint Lucians on the theme of World Peace, he said “I know that as a nation, you are committed to this lofty goal. Your own history, once marked by repeated struggles between different Governments, has without a doubt made even more firm your commitment and determination in this regard. You are well aware of the need to seek peaceful solutions to conflicts and to promote dialogue and trust between peoples”.

These words should be lessons for all of us as we continue to face local and global challenges to our communities, to our nation and to our own faith and beliefs.

A St. Lucian contribution

When I reflect on this visit, I feel a quiet satisfaction that His Excellency, Ambassador Julian Hunte was able to secure Observer Status at the United Nations for the Vatican during his tenure as President of the General Assembly. In a curious way, it appears that St. Lucia was saying “thank you” for the visit by His Holiness.

Strong leadership

But back to John Paul II. He always reached out. He was bold and progressive. He was never imprisoned by his faith and the doctrine of the church.

Perhaps one of the major lessons from the life of this pontiff was the character of his leadership. As a head of state, he travelled the world trying to unite peoples and bring peace. His compassion translated into the skill of

listening and reaching out. He reached out to all non-Christian faiths and organisations in their own troubled spots around the world; he spoke to leaders of all political ideologies, from the far right to the far left. He left the walls of St. Peter’s Square to come to Cuba to dialogue with Fidel Castro.

His humanity led him to change what others have been attempting to change for decades through war and confrontation. He understood the horrors of war. He understood too, suf-

fering, discrimination and the plight of the poor and marginalised.

A reflective period

The death of His Holiness has induced many to be reflective about their lives, their spirituality, their humanity and their beliefs. Inevitably, we are drawn to reflect on the life of Pope John Paul II to cast our own judgment.

As for me, I admired his humility, his intense intellect and his agenda of social compassion. There are mo-



Pope John Paul II

ments when I wish that some among us, particularly those in the priesthood today, would reflect on the gentle, calm humility of Pope John Paul II and wash the feet of the poor in symbolic expression of faith, mission and belief.

Our earthly insignificance

As we continue to reflect on the lessons of his life, caring and courageous leadership, humility, unswerving faith and belief in his chosen mission, I also invite all Saint Lucians to reflect on our own earthly insignificance. As we all watched the pictures of the masses of persons filing pass his body, the greatest impact on our emotions was on the sheer mass of people moving together, not as individuals but as a mass. No class, no creed, no colour as they moved in and out of the square. They were not afraid. They were peaceful.

My heart goes out to all who share in the loss of this great world leader, this spiritual father and this symbol of world peace.

Have a peaceful day.
Take care, be of good cheer and God Bless!



Archbishop Kelvin Felix gives his final blessings



The Pope Site remains unoccupied amidst rapid housing development

Second Fiesta for Saint Lucia

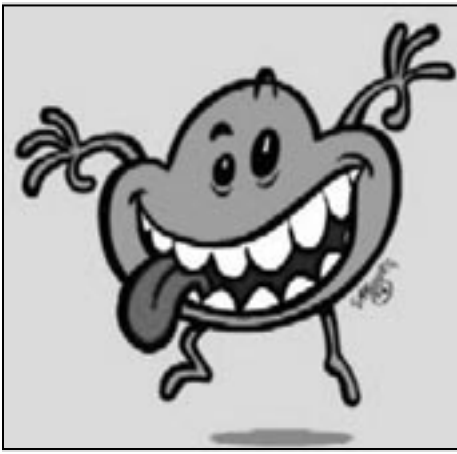
This year marks the second year that St. Lucia is joining an international community of over forty (40) countries in celebrating Internet Fiesta. St. Lucia's theme for Internet Fiesta 2005 is "Internet For All - Information Society, Life Long Learning and You."

Internet Fiesta started in Europe six years ago and was intended to promote the Internet and to educate the general populace on the potential benefits as well as the dangers of using the Internet.

Specifically, the primary objectives of Internet Fiesta are: (1) To increase awareness of the possibilities of the Internet among the young and the old, and among private and public sector workers in a fun environment; and (2) To establish an electronic network with people across language and cultural barriers

Pursuant to this year's theme and to the objectives of the Fiesta, a number of activities are being organized in schools and communities throughout the island. These activities include: An Internet Friendly Lab Decorating Competition; A Web Builders' Challenge; Radio Quizzes and A Crossword Puzzles Challenge.

Additionally, Internet Access Points



Internet Fiesta logo

will be established at community centres, libraries and schools throughout the island. At these access points, persons from the community will be able to use the Internet FREE of charge. Resource persons will be stationed at these access points to provide new users with a brief orientation to using the Internet.

At some Internet Access Points, there will be a dance production by the Silver Shadow Performing Arts Academy and steel pan music in order to create a festive atmosphere that will draw individuals from the communities towards the access points. Details of the venues and the planned activities are listed in this publication.

Laborie Girls Win Friendly Lab Competition

In Internet Fiesta 2004, the Laborie Girls School, the Winner of the Internet Friendly Lab Competition, illustrated how the Internet influences several aspects of our daily lives. This was done in the school's computer lab where a festive atmosphere was created with music and lots of party decorations. Information on the following topics was presented in the lab.

Health and the Internet.

The Internet provides a wealth of information on health related topics. For example, a site like www.webMD.com allows the user to enter ailment symptoms, and generates a list of possible illnesses and treatment options. Other web sites like www.health.com allow you to research illnesses and find alternative treatment options. Also, free articles are available on topical issues such as weight loss and healthy life styles.

Ecommerce

The power of the consumer has never been stronger since the introduction of the Internet. Consumers can enjoy freedom of choice and access to unlimited online stores. Websites, like NexTag.com, allow the consumer to compare prices from hundreds of suppliers, and therefore, pressure suppliers to provide their goods and services at competitive prices. Online stores such

as amazon.com and auction sites, such as eBay, are also key players in ecommerce.

Tourism and the Internet

The introduction of the Internet has revolutionized the travel industry. Planning a trip has never been easier. An entire vacation can be arranged using a single web site like expedia.com. From their personal computers, potential travelers are able to book airline tickets, print their itineraries, check and compare flight prices, rent a vehicle, book a hotel room, get area weather information, and buy tickets to local sporting events.

The Internet also allows St. Lucian businesses in the tourist industry to market their services internationally. For example, a small bed and breakfast or a guest house can create a website that can be accessed by anyone in the world.



The wining group from Laborie

INTERNET FIESTA 2005

Changing the lives of YOUNG PEOPLE

The Gros Islet Primary School participated in the first ever Internet Friendly Lab Competition and emerged as the second place winner. The school organized a CyberCrew comprising twenty students from Grades Four to Seven (4-7).

The school's lab was decorated with charts which portrayed the theme - "Internet for All." One section of the lab was used to present a display of the usefulness of the Internet in various sectors. The following summarizes the information included in this display.

Education

The Internet provides educators, students, and parents with developments in education. With Internet access, one can do research on different subject areas and develop themselves by pursuing online courses.

Tourism

The Internet provides persons around the globes with information needed in order to make decisions on vacation and business travel. Persons can readily access information on types and cost of accommodation, weather forecast, and recreational activities available in the area they intend to visit.

Commerce

The Internet has changed the way in which the world conducts business. There are businesses that operate primarily online such as Amazon and eBay. The Internet enables small and large businesses to compete on a level playing field.

Sports

Persons can keep up-to-date with their favourite sporting activities and events. Sites such as msn.espn.go.com and foxsports.com can be accessed for

sporting tips, scores in competitions, schedule of events and tickets.

Health

There are numerous web sites that provide information on diseases and illnesses. Information such as symptoms, treatment, and places where specialized care is available. Also there are online support groups that individuals with a particular illness can join.

Agriculture

Farmers, businesses and the public

at large can benefit from access to agricultural sites on the Internet. Persons can obtain up-to-date information on pesticides, conditions and techniques suitable for planting various crops, and the most effective methods of rearing animals.

Culture

The Internet can assist individuals in appreciating cultural diversities around the globe, and can therefore lead to greater tolerance and sensitivity towards persons of different culture.

Participating schools in the internet friendly lab competition

1. Babonneau Secondary
2. Banse La Grace Primary
3. Castries Comprehensive Secondary
4. Choiseul Secondary
5. Ciceron Secondary
6. Corinth Secondary
7. Dame Pearllette Louisy Primary
8. Entrepot Secondary
9. Gros-Islet Primary
10. Laborie Girls Primary
11. Leon Hess Comprehensive Secondary
12. Micoud Secondary
13. Playe Combined
14. Reunion Primary
15. Sir Ira Simmons Secondary
16. St. Joseph's Convent
17. St. Mary College
18. Vide Boutielle Secondary
19. Vieux - Fort Comprehensive Secondary (Campus B)



Gros-Islet Primary School students interacting with the internet



Winner of the display competition

Benifits of Cricket World Cup 2007

The benefits to Saint Lucia from the World Cup are undoubted. I think that anybody that questions for one second what we have ahead of us does really and truly not smell the coffee. There is no question that wherever the world cup has been held, wherever the Olympics and other major events have been held there is tremendous benefit to the countries that do it well and these days they have learnt how to do it well.

This was the assessment of Mr. Richard Peterkin, of the firm of Price Waterhouse as he addressed the members of the private sector as a forum to explore the benefits to Saint Lucia business sector, of Cricket World Cup 2007. Peterkin noted that the legacy of the Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia were tremendous "the number of tourists that are coming to Australia, the number of jobs that have been created ..., there is no question and it makes you realise that is why so many countries continue to bid for the games"

Chairman of the National Olympic Committee, Mr. Peterkin also stated that the benefits for Saint Lucia will come in three stages - before the games, during the games and after the

games. He added that "the legacy assets and opportunities will result from the things that have to be done - the roads, the water projects all of those things that will live on to benefit us in the years afterwards; the broader strategic objectives that Cricket World Cup will bring in respect of our image as a country that is capable of hosting major events and a country that is open to the world and ready to receive tourists and provide best services."

Mr. Peterkin who is also the chairperson of the National Economic Council lauded the major incentive package provided by the government of Saint Lucia to entrepreneurs wishing to invest in the accommodation sector in preparation for Cricket World Cup 2007. These incentives include relief from stamp duties, property tax, exemptions from alien landowner licenses or fees, income tax holidays and tax credit to the banks which provide loans to qualifying investors.

He added "From what I have seen so far and from what I hear from those in government that are processing these applications it would appear that the majority of that accommodation - if it does come about as hoped is going to be more in the areas of homes, villas

and condominiums instead of hotels. It is not easy to put up a hotel in the short space of time between now and then and other than one or two that had been announced it might be very difficult for other major properties to up and running by then. But interestingly, in many instances the proposals that have been coming in both from international and regional people and to some extent from locals they are taking advantage of an opportunity to do something that they perhaps would not have done right away but they would now try and get done for 2007. But most of them are doing so with the belief that it is not 2007 and cricket for fifty two days that is really making the whole thing worth while, they are doing so because they believe that Saint Lucia as a destination and as a country to do business and tourism in the future, is looking so good and that is what they are basing it on and they are very glad that they had this little window of opportunity to get something from the government."

He told members of the local business and financial sector that while this package will benefit larger investors, he is expecting the announcement, by government, of a package of incentives for the bed and breakfast accommoda-



National Olympic Committee Chairman, Mr. Richard Peterkin

tion sector. The forum was organised by the Bank of Saint Lucia in collaboration with World Cup Saint Lucia Inc., and was held at the Bay Gardens hotel last month.

Saint Lucia will host the teams from England, New Zealand and Kenya as well as provide accommodation and entertainment for their numerous fans which will follow their teams to the West Indies. The ICC cricket world cup will be held in eight venues in the Caribbean early in 2007.

Ali Bacher impressed with local passion for CWC 2007



Former South African cricket captain Dr. Ali Bacher

Mastermind and head of the successful International Cricket Council Cricket World Cup 2003, South African Dr. Ali Bacher said he is overwhelmed by the passion and determination shown by St. Lucians towards the forthcoming World Cup in 2007.

"What has come across strongly is the unbelievable passion. Everybody I've met is so determined and focused towards making this an extraordinary event for your country, for the Caribbean and World cricket," Dr. Bacher said during a news conference Wednesday at the office of Cricket World Cup Saint Lucia Inc.

The former South African test captain and administrator added that despite obstacles that will accrue he was confident Saint Lucia will overcome them and put together an extraordinary event.

"Saint Lucia is doing very well at this point in time with a well organised office and staff. There were only two of us two years before the 2003 World Cup. Two years before the World Cup you have a proper infrastructure, a proper team - you're running," He stressed.

Dr. Bacher told the local media personnel that benefits from staging World Cup matches in Saint Lucia will be long term.

"Many legacy projects will be undertaken. The roads will be improved, enlarged and modified. That's got to be very good for long term tourism for this

country," he suggested.

He said he was confident that the company with the rights to broadcast the cricket will come to Saint Lucia and film beautiful aspects of the island that will be shown during the days matches are played here.

"For about 21 minutes, three minutes per day over seven days the world television audience will see the beauty and splendour of Saint Lucia," Dr. Bacher noted.

Comparing the challenges of the Caribbean hosting the World Cup to that of South Africa in 2003 Dr Bacher said it will be more difficult staging matches in eight countries compared to three when matches were played in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Kenya.

"It was difficult organising in three countries. You have eight countries so that will make it more difficult, but it's not insurmountable. If your heart is there and your passion is there you'll overcome these difficulties," he claimed confidently.

Dr Bacher identified aspects like Security and Ambush Marketing as crucial

elements that needed attention for the staging of a successful World Cup.

"The Caribbean is seen as a safe place but you cannot take chances. You have a world event here and you need to take every precaution to make sure it's safe and secure. You have to be on your toes. Don't take anything for granted!"

Added Dr. Bacher: "The whole question of Ambush Marketing which was new for South Africa is going to be new for your people. Your governments must introduce legislation to give the lawyers, the LOCs and the police muscle to act if it should happen."

The South African cricket official left the island Wednesday evening after a three day visit organised by Saint Lucia's Local Organising Committee Cricket World Cup Saint Lucia Inc. as part of its programme of preparation to host matches in the ICC Cricket World Cup 2007.

While here Dr. Bacher met with members of the business sector, the hotel and tourism sector, member of the Cabinet of Ministers and the Board of Directors and staff of Cricket World Cup Saint Lucia Inc.

NCA REPORT will be released to the public



Hon. Menissa Rambally, Minister for Social Transformation, Culture and Local Government

The Report of the Investigation into the National Conservation Authority (NCA) was submitted to Cabinet Monday April 11th 2005. The Inquiry into the NCA was set up last November following allegations of financial impropriety levelled against the General Manager of the NCA, Mr Henry Charles. The most damning allegations were made in the press by talk show host Mr Claudius Francis.

Mr Eustace Monrose, a senior Accountant in the Ministry of Agriculture, was appointed to carry out the

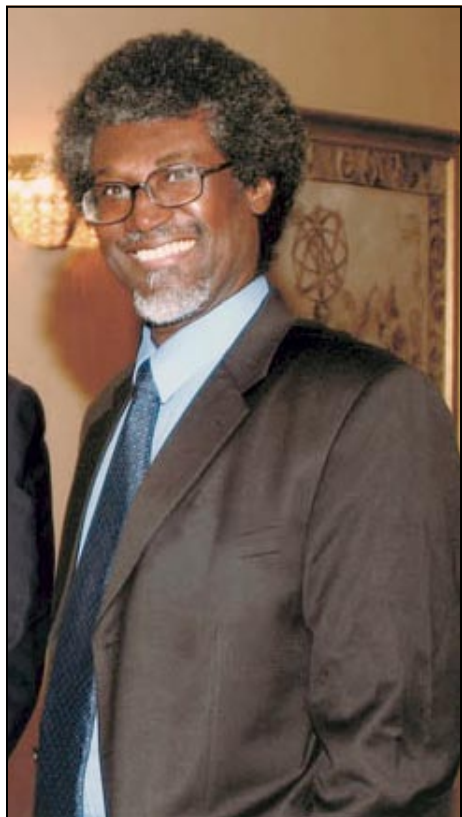
investigation, which included a comprehensive Management Audit of the NCA from 2001 to the present time. The Lead Investigator got accounting support from Ms Zillah Pamphille and Administrative Support from Mrs Doreen Gustave, two senior officials at the Ministry of Social Transformation.

The sixty-six page report, which was submitted to the Minister of Social Transformation on March 10, 2005, contains copies of documents, cheques and other written records and materials. The investigators heard from 19 members of the public, as well as from Mr Claudius Francis at a public hearing. They also looked into allegations of mismanagement and improper conduct levelled against the General Manager of the NCA. The investigating team looked at all the allegations that led to the investigation, which spanned

a four-year period from April 2000 to April 2004. The team chronologically examined all available accounts for that period on a financial year basis. Each specific allegation was examined and the report details the findings and recommendations in each case.

The Investigating team's report concludes with a list of general recommendations aimed at improving the overall administrative efficiency of the NCA. These recommendations include an overall revamping of the entire management and administrative structure of the NCA and a clearer definition of the relationship between the Board of Directors and the Management of the Authority. The report is being examined by Cabinet and the Minister of Social Transformation has reiterated that it will subsequently be made public.

ECCB Governor Denies Sir John's claim on Saint Lucia's Economy



**Governor of the ECCB
Sir Dwight Venner**

The Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) has denied a claim by a former Prime Minister of Saint Lucia that it said 25% of the island's economy is based on drugs and money laundering.

The claim that St. Lucia survived on an "underground economy" was made

early last month by former Prime Minister Sir John Compton. In a statement to the press which was widely published locally, the former Prime Minister and Minister of Finance questioned the economic growth statistics presented by the current Government of St. Lucia and offered his own figures.

Sir John said in his statement: "Economic growth is not the U.S. million dollar homes at Cap which distorts their statistics nor is it the high profits made by the foreigners speculating in land in St. Lucia and it is not the underground economy from drugs and money laundering which the Central Bank says accounts for over 25% of St. Lucia's economy."

Concerned that the claim was made by a former Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and aware of the implications for the country if the Central Bank in fact said so, Prime Minister Dr Kenny D. Anthony wrote to the Governor of the Central Bank seeking clarification.

The Governor of the ECCB replied on April 8, 2005 informing Prime Minister Anthony that no such statement was ever made by the Central Bank, now or ever. Sir Dwight said in his letter that he had "asked the Research Department to do a search over the past several years to see if there was any reference" to Sir John's statement and "they have assured me that there is no

such reference."

Prime Minister Anthony said he is "pleased to learn that the ECCB never said what Sir John said it did." According to Dr Anthony: "I did say in my letter to Sir Dwight that I doubted the Central Bank would have made such a statement; and I did say that no one, not even Sir John Compton, had the right to besmirch St. Lucia's character and reputation like this."

The Prime Minister said: "I am pleased that the ECCB has clarified the matter, more so because of its reputation as an institution with an international reputation, which is responsible for maintaining the stability of our currency and the safety and soundness of the Eastern Caribbean's banking system."

He said the ECCB, by its clarification of the situation, had reaffirmed that it was "an institution whose functions are still being carried out in the objective and professional manner which has been its hallmark since its establishment in 1983."

The Prime Minister said he hoped "that Sir John will be man enough to now publicly admit that he knowingly wrote and circulated, had published and broadcast throughout St. Lucia, a statement he knew to be false, for the sole purpose of misleading the people of this country."

The Throne Speech



**Governor-General
H.E. Dame Pearlette C. Louisy**

The new session of Parliament will be officially opened on Tuesday April 19th at the Parliament Chambers at 10.00 a.m. Following an inspection of a guard of honour, Her Excellency Dame Pearlette C. Louisy will deliver the traditional throne speech which will outline the policies of Government for the new fiscal year. This will be followed later in the day by the presentation of the budget by Prime Minister and minister responsible for Finance Hon. Dr. Kenny D. Anthony. The throne speech and the budget address will be carried live on the National Television Network (NTN) and Radio St. Lucia (RSL). The ensuing budget debate, which will be held on Thursday 21st and Friday 22nd April, will also be carried live on NTN and RSL.

TERTIARY ROAD WORKS PROGRESSING



**La Croix Chaubough
concrete to base
type 1 drain**



**Le Riche-La Pointe-Delcer
construction of kerb and
slipper drain**



THIS WEEK ON NTN

Sat. April 16th - Fri. April 22nd, 2005

- "Feedback" - The GIS explores Universal Health Care - Saturday 16th April, 7:00 p.m.
- RBTT's Secondary School Debating Competition (Finals) - Sat. April 16th, 8:00 p.m.
- The Minister of Communications, Works and Public Utilities responds to the press on ongoing road works - Sun. April 17th, 8:00 p.m.
- CSME Spotlight - Learn the facts about the Caribbean Single Market & Economy - Mon. April 18th, 6:15 p.m.
- KiddiCrew.Com (New Edition) - Tues. April 19th, 6:30 p.m.
- "Youth Agenda" - This programme outlines several opportunities available for youth development - Wed. April 20th, 8:00 p.m.
- The GIS discusses the current and future role of technical vocational education in schools- Thurs. April 21st, 8:00 p.m.
- Sports in Action: The role of cricket in sports tourism and highlights of recent cricket matches held at the Beasejour Cricket Ground - Fri. April 22nd, 6:30 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 and then click on the NTN icon.

www.stlucia.gov.lc

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