



From Crisis to Hope  
- page 2



A Historic Moment  
- page 3



Caricom issues Communique  
- pages 4 & 5



PROUD - providing ownership to  
the landless - page 6



Law reform as the reconstitution of a  
civilized nation - page 7

## STATE-OF-THE-ART DESMOND SKEETE ANIMATION CENTRE EARMARKED TO ATTRACT THOUSANDS OF VISITORS



Portrait of Desmond Skeete

**S**t. Lucia has once again made another significant stride to develop its tourism product.

On Sunday July 10th, the St. Lucia Air and Sea Ports Authority opened the Desmond Skeete Animation Centre located on the second floor of the La Place Carenage Duty Free shopping complex.

The centre is designed to electronically dramatize a variety of events surrounding the history and culture of the island, in particular, the area surrounding Castries.



Employees of La Place Carenage getting a first hand experience

The idea for the animation centre or theatre, originated with the late Desmond Skeete, after he had visited John Hancock centre in Boston which housed a similar facility.

The Animation Centre was built at approximately US\$ 1.3 million, and uses state-of-the-art video and special effects technology.

Dubbed “The Iyanola Experience”, the project includes an archaeological exhibition – situated on the outer room of the top floor - depicting the history of St. Lucia.

The 20-minute presentation includes graphical detail of the Anglo-French wars, the fires that destroyed Castries and hurricanes that devastated the port.

Lauding SLASPA and other persons involved in the project, Tourism Minister Hon. Philip J. Pierre remarked that this kind of dynamism will propel and sustain St. Lucia’s drive to achieve total tourism excellence.

*Continued on page 8*

## REUNION PRIMARY TOPS THE LIST



Acting Registrar of Examinations Augusta Ifill

**T**he Examination Unit of the Ministry of Education has expressed satisfaction that compared to last year, a 1.5 percent increase in overall performance of students who sat the Common Entrance Examinations was recorded - most of it due to the im-

provement of students’ performance in the general paper from 54.88% last year to 58.45% this year and noticeable improvements in mathematics from 46.17% last year to 49.18% this year.

Despite this improvement, students’ overall performance in English has dropped and girls continue to outperform boys in all subjects.

Acting Registrar of Examinations Augusta Ifill notes that the problem for students pertinent to English, is their ability to express in writing. This is a problem which needs to be addressed, as it registers even in children from the second grade. “Improvement in English” she said “will bring about even better student performances in mathematics as it will enhance their abilities at problem solving.”

Thirty two (32) schools obtained percentages above the national mean. Of these, five are private primary schools and 27 are public.

The top performing student, Zanda Desir of the Reunion Primary School, scored 94.33% and the two students in second

place - Samantha Mauricette of the Carmen Renee Memorial and Rhyesa Joseph from the Plain View Combine School - scored 94.00%. There are three males among the top 10 places.

The mean performance of the private primary schools is as follows: Montessori Centre 79 %, Bonnetterre Preparatory 76%, Tapion Private 69% and Castries and Emmanuel SDA 58%.

Three public schools tied with overall percentages of 64. These are Camille Henry Memorial, Carmen Renee and Laborie Girls Primary.

Some 4300 students sat the examinations this year for places in the island’s 19 secondary schools. However, the ministry has expressed concern that 130 students were not assigned because their parents failed to provide their birth certificates which would help determine whether they meet the required age to sit the exams. Whilst the ministry allowed the students to sit the exams and corrected their papers, these students cannot be assigned.



“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





# FROM CRISIS TO HOPE

## Foresight and vision of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security

*Continued from last week's issue*

**Agreement to Implement Plan-of-Action Agreed to At Debriefing Exercises**

Two debriefing exercises were conducted for management and staff of the Centre in 2003. Agreement on the development and implementation of several Plans-of-Action were as follows: Development of a strategy for Discipline of Wards at the Centre, which would include Rewards and Punishment. (This document is completed). Development of a Procedures Manual.: This will include development of Programmes for Rehabilitation of Wards. Guidelines for Operational Activities for example Intake of Wards Departure of Wards and Procedures for Operational Activities (Work is in progress).

**Review of BTC Ordinance**

A review of the current BTC Ordinance is currently in Progress.

Technical Assistance from the United States Peace Corps. The US Peace Corps conducted training for Wardens and Instructors in the following areas: Training in Conflict Resolution and Training in Basic Social Work and Intervention Skills.

Training in the development of Small Business Skills for the following members of staff was conducted in January 2005: Building Trades Instructor, Auto-Mechanic Instructor, the Agricultural Instructor

**Fire and emergency ambulance services**

Three new fire stations have been constructed at a total cost of \$5.6 million as follows: Dennery Fire Station (EC\$2,077,696.00); Vieux Fort Fire Station (EC\$1,502,786.00); Gros Islet Fire Station (EC\$2,011,858.00); TOTAL EC\$5,592,441.00.

Government increased the staff complement of the Fire Services by 26 officers to provide partial manning of the Gros Islet Fire Station, at a total annual cost of \$577,933. Personnel recruited for Gros Islet and Dennery Fire Stations have received full initial training. Training for these recruits totaled \$144,000.

Government provided funding for the acquisition of 7 new Fire Appliances in July, 2003 to provide coverage for four new Fire Stations costing \$4,018,323 and a total cost of \$700,000 was expended for new Ambulances. These units are equipped with up to date technology in domestic fire fighting vehicles comparable to international standards.

Installation of thirteen hydrants at strategic locations island-wide continues on an incremental basis.

Fire Hydrants Have Been Installed At The Following Locations: Dennery, Vieux Fort, New Development (Soufriere), Micoud, Mon Repos, La Pointe (Praslin, Myette Garden (Micoud).

Between 2001 and 2004, improvements were made in respect of working conditions for staff at various stations by providing household furniture and appliances and refurbishment of Fire Stations.

Fire Safety training and surveillance of schools, industrial and commercial entities between 2001 and 2004, were undertaken. 328 sessions were conducted and 8,211 persons trained.

**Work-in-progress - Major programmes planned (2004)**

**Police Service** - New Police Stations Planned: Micoud Police Station (EC\$236,370.00); Richfond Police Station (EC\$248,249.00); Dennery Police Station (EC\$281,542.00); TOTAL EC\$766,161.00.

Upon the appointment of Honourable Calixte George on January 12, 2004 to the newly reconfigured Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security, the Honourable Minister has been completely preoccupied with the serious issue of Crime and Security affecting the Country as a whole.

More than that, he is deeply concerned about the negative social and financial effects this situation is placing on the individual units within our economy – households, the business sector including the tourism and related sectors such as the taxi-business, the beach and market vendors, and the agricultural sector with the issue of praedial larceny. In fact, the impact of crime on the economy as a whole is of great concern to him. As is well known, the effects of crime on these units directly affect output, employment and income levels and consequently, the performance of our economy as a whole.

Two weeks after settling down to his new office, the Honourable Minister immediately embarked (beginning on February 10th) on an ‘on-the-spot’ situational analysis involving meetings and on-site examinations firstly of the Police Department, to identify as fast as possible, inherent weaknesses, dysfunctional processes, and available strengths within every Unit in that Department. He recognised clearly, that strategic and tactical direction must be set for the Department to ensure an acceptable level of effective and efficient performance, and a new boost of confidence by the public.

The Honourable Minister took a strategic approach which enabled him to have a quick in-depth look at the situation as it exists. This provided him with a ‘critical path analysis’ for every component of the system examined, so that whatever action that is required to be effected, would be fundamental in scope, and clinical and incisive in the Ministry’s approach to the problem solving process.

At the same time, he scheduled a series of meetings with key stakeholders operating in the economy to know first hand and quickly, what their specific concerns entail, recommendations and suggestions they may have, so that together, the Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security, the Police Department and key partners and stakeholders could, once and for all, work together, to send a clear message to the deviants in our society that business will not be as usual. The meetings scheduled with all relevant stakeholders have all been held and the necessary action required is now on-going. He has also completed meetings with every Unit within the Police Department. These have provided the Ministry with a clinical analysis of all central issues, concerns, and recommendations from top and middle management, and rank and file officers within the Police Force. The numerous activities which are required to be undertaken are currently in progress and include the following:-

Middle Managers within the Police Force will be fully sensitized to, and made aware of, the new philosophy of Community Policing to ensure effective change. There appears to be a disconnect between training at the Police Training School and deficiencies at Police Stations island wide. This situation is being addressed. The Police is currently in the process of assisting the communities in determining their individual approaches to Community Policing.

With respect to Crime Prevention, action is being taken so that the Police could assist the Communities with the setting up of a plan of action, implementing that plan, and evaluating the plan. The Department has been directed to establish a time frame to accomplish this.

A new Frame Relay Connectivity (Communications System) is currently being implemented, to provide for easy and rapid communication between all Police Stations and Police Headquarters. The System is expected to realize appreciable savings in terms of a reduction in the current level of expenditure for telephone services. The

Police Department has been directed to establish procedures for feedback on issues with respect to responses from the police to the public.

**The Criminal Investigation Department:** A system is being established to ensure that Crimes are properly classified and that the Police Department establishes benchmarks to evaluate successes. In order words, (before and after conditions) must be evaluated. The Department is currently reviewing, as a matter of urgency, critical Operational Planning and efficient allocation of its manpower resources. In particular, the department is in the process of operationalising the reform of the management of serious crimes to effectively utilize the Scene of Crime Managers.

A review of the Central Police Station is being undertaken to deal with the cases which they can manage. Petty crimes and others which they can manage will continue, whilst the CID would focus on the management of serious crime, murder, armed robbery, kidnapping and so forth. This will allow for more effective crime management. A system for managing cases at Central Police Station will be applied in a structural manner to provide for effective investigation. To complete investigations (fully) a Referral System will have to be introduced from the outposts to the CID.

Plans are fully underway and funding has been appropriated to provide much needed Forensic Services through the establishment of a Forensic Services Unit at La Toc. These services will include Forensic Science, Forensic Pathology, Finger Printing (to be enhanced) and Forensic Photography (to be enhanced).

Police manpower to deter crime, is continuing to be reviewed and coordinated. This is currently in effect. This includes the management of exhibits and the handling of evidence for presentation to the Courts.

Action is being taken to establish the Criminal Intelligence Unit. Fourteen (14) Police Officers recently received training by Interpol in criminal intelligence to conduct these functions. Given the myriad of problems and resource constraints, we are ensuring that the skills of these officers are utilized effectively. Specialized software for link analysis is an important part of the process of Criminal Intelligence. Action is being taken to procure this.

Plans are entrain to relocate the Criminal Records Office (the CRO) which is responsible for the Collection of Evidence at Crime Scenes, Forensic Photography and Fingerprinting.

The conditions of this office need as a matter of urgency to be enhanced. We are also ensuring that the (fourteen) Crime Scene Officers recently trained are effectively utilized to ensure optimal output from that Unit.

Work on the comprehensive Judicial Reform is continuing apace and the Ministry and the Police Department have been involved with the office of the Chief Justice on the areas impacting on the work of the Police, the Prisons, the Centre for Juvenile Delinquents and the Department of Probation and Parole.

We have instituted the submission of status/progress reports on the progress of work being undertaken by the Work Improvement Teams and the Work Team Leaders/Liaison Officers within the Police Force, who are engaged in the Police Reform Initiative so that the Ministry can see at a glance how things are being implemented, identify setbacks and move promptly to resolve difficulties.

**Police Initiated Youth Programmes:** The Department has been urged to expand the Youth Programmes in communities around the island and to provide the Minister with periodic progress reports on the

Anti-Truancy Programmes.

The Dennery Police Station commenced a mentoring programme for juveniles ranging from 11-14 years. Several 14 year olds who were not attending school are now attending and the parents are happy. Success in this area was also experienced in Bruceville in Vieux Fort.

**Traffic**

With the new Traffic Act in effect, the Ministry has requested from the Attorney General’s Chambers, the new ‘Traffic Ticket’ which will be used in respect of traffic offenses. Work on this is near completion.

Effective implementation of the new Act is critical, if we are to curb the disasters and irresponsible driving we have been experiencing on our roads. To this end, the Honourable Minister for Home Affairs and Internal Security has directed that the following be put into effect enhanced foot and mobile patrols, proper traffic management and periodic traffic checks must continue as a matter of course and mechanisms put in place to ensure that Police Officers are certified to use the breathalyzers and that the law provides for their acceptance in Court.

After consultation with management of the Traffic Department, the Honourable Minister also directed that a study be undertaken of the Miami Model for Traffic Management to determine whether it can be adapted for use here. This would include “traffic reconstruction” with respect to cases involving accidents.

Action is being pursued with respect to the provision of a Central Data Base for new and other registered motor vehicles at the Traffic Department to be linked with the Transport Department of the Ministry of Communications and Works. The Honourable Minister has directed that the Traffic Department meet with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Social Transformation to ensure that traffic officers effectively implement the provisions impacting on the functions of the Traffic Department, as it relates to the new Animal Act.

The Traffic Department has been requested to submit a proposal to the Ministry, in respect of the introduction of a Bond where vehicles parked in No Parking Zones can be towed away. This will also strengthen the implementation of the new Traffic Act. This proposal is currently being reviewed. Action is also being taken to ensure that Traffic Violations are being enforced by all Police Stations and that the practice of referring these offenses to the Traffic Department in Castries and expected to be enforced by Traffic Officers only will cease.

The Ministry is taking action to ensure that the large number of our Police Officers currently deployed in the Courts be better utilized. The new Traffic Act provides that a Police Officer need not appear in Court on a traffic offense, unless the defendant wishes to cross examine the Police Officer. The Ministry considers deployment of these officers to conduct foot patrols in the city and in particular the business circuit as critical.

The functions of the Police Department must itself be geared towards working effectively and efficiently with the Society as a whole. One must therefore appreciate that some serious level of on-site examination, critical analysis of the concerns, issues and recommendations made by Police Officers themselves, as well as those of our key stakeholders are a vital component of the road map to our reconstruction and reform for a better way forward for all of us, as we tackle crime more effectively and embark on national crime reduction and security and safety enhancement.

# A HISTORIC MOMENT – An innovative concept in port development

It is a known fact that humankind can never imprison or tame time. Time moves at its own pleasing, unfettered and without restrictions. Yet, it is the passage of time that provides occasions for the making of history and for historic moments. Today, the passage of time has made it possible for us to record yet another historic moment - a historic moment which, in its wake, is giving rise to a novel and innovative concept in port development - a concept which is far removed from the traditional activities usually associated with port development. Our presence here is not to celebrate the opening of a newly constructed wharf, a new crane or the instituting of new security devices; the occasion is a lot more momentous because it gives meaning to a philosophy which seeks to create a novel port experience for visitors and locals alike.

We are here to celebrate the establishment of the Animation Centre. We are here to recognize the benefits of an integrated approach to development.

This ceremony makes clear the benefits of creating synergies and symbiotic relationships between key agencies involved in driving the developmental process; it is a reminder that organisations and institutions must work in unison and create bonds which will redound to the well being of the individual agencies and the country as a whole.

Where common ground exists, we must find and exploit it.

### A visionary and creative thinker

The Saint Lucia Air and Sea Ports Authority and the Tourist Board did find and exploit that common ground. The creation of the Animation Centre is largely the product of a cooperative and collaborative effort between these two agencies. While SLASPA is the custodian of the nation's ports of entry, ensuring the safe and secure movement of persons and goods, the Saint Lucia Tourist Board is principally responsible for marketing Saint Lucia's tourism product in the major tourist markets. Yet, there is no divergence between their goals and interests. They are inter-governmental agencies with complementary rather than adversarial roles.

But SLASPA did not act spontaneously. SLASPA was inspired by a visionary, a creative genius and a futurist in the persona of the late Desmond Adrian Skeete. He was allowed the opportunity to harness the complementary relations in existence between these two agencies. This masterpiece, this Animation Centre is the brainchild of his creative thinking and foresight and his ability to build bridges and partnerships across agencies.

While occupying the seat of Chairman of both the Tourist Board and Anchorage Investment Limited and simultaneously serving as a Council member of the Saint Lucia Air and Sea Ports Authority, he had a unique opportunity to crystallize a vision as to how new innovations in port development could best serve the interest of Saint Lucia's tourism product. He was not simply contended with pioneering new marketing initiatives designed to increase tourist arrivals to our shores but he wanted to create for them an unforgettable experience and quality reception on par with those experienced elsewhere.

His unwavering commitment and determination to harness the resources of these agencies to benefit Saint Lucia's overall developmental objectives led him to persuade SLASPA to commission a study to determine the future development of the Castries Seaport. The study revealed that optimal use should be made of the prime real estate that housed the general and containerised cargo operations at Port Castries. It was agreed that Port Castries should be transformed into an inner harbour with cargo operations being relocated elsewhere.

Fortuitously, the study commissioned by the Saint Lucia Air and Sea Ports Authority coincided with a Government of Saint Lucia commissioned study which was undertaken by a team of experts primarily to prepare a developmental plan for the City of Castries up to the year 2020. The experts'

## Address by Prime Minister Hon. Dr. Kenny D. Anthony at the opening of The Desmond Skeete Animation Centre



recommendation that Port Castries should be transformed into an inner port was consistent with SLASPA's own vision for the development of the Port.

From then onwards, SLASPA has remained true to the fulfilment and pursuit of that vision. Consequently, it purchased the properties on the east side of Ganter's Bay, the former Art Printery and the building that formerly housed the offices of WIB-DECO on Manoel Street.

### Need for institutional strengthening

To manage these new real estate assets, SLASPA created a subsidiary property management company, Anchorage Investments Limited or ANCIL for short. The first Chairman of the Board of ANCIL was Mr. Desmond Skeete and deservedly so.

With the approval and support of the



## General Manager of Anchorage Investments Ltd., Marcellus Phillip

Government of Saint Lucia, SLASPA and ANCIL demolished the Art Printery building to facilitate the expansion of La Place Carenage to provide additional space for duty free shopping and for the establishment of the Animation Centre.

### Birth of animation centre

The Animation Center, technically categorized as an "immersion theatre" is a novel concept for this region. It is a living space for the entrapment of Saint Lucian history and culture. This ultra modern theatre will electronically dramatize a series of memorable historical and cultural events, including the reenactment of the history and culture of the northwestern section of Saint Lucia and the Castries Seaport. I hope, in time, the experiences of our people in other parts of our island will be chronicled and shared.

### Technological transfers

The Theatre will utilise state-of-the-art audio, video and special effects technology to dramatise and vividly recreate and present various historical events.

The twenty-minute presentation spans the creation of the island from its volcanic beginnings to the modern Jazz Festival at Pigeon Island.

During the intervals there will be graphic presentations of the Anglo-French wars,

the ravaging fires that destroyed Castries and the hurricanes that left trails of devastation in their wake. Battle sequences, troop movements and the bombing of the Umtata and Lady Nelson will all come alive and be choreographed from a specially prepared script.

The technological transfers to be realized as a result of this project will be phenomenal. It will be consistent with the modernization process and provides opportunities for our people to acquire new skills. The technology you will experience here is on a comparable scale to what attains at the Disney Parks, Disney Land and Disney World in California and Florida respectively, and the John Hancock Centre in Boston, Massachusetts.

### Inspired by saint lucians

Saint Lucians played an integral part in the development of this Animation Centre. It is our creation. The input for the show was prepared, produced and directed by Saint Lucians. Mr. Adrian Augier and Mr. Robert Devaux prepared the script. They were ably supported in the area of historical research by another Saint Lucian historian residing in the USA, Professor Barry Gaspard. The voices of the characters featured in the presentations are all voices of Saint Lucians. The musical accompaniment was composed and produced by the incomparable Barbara Cadet and Ronald Boo Hinkson. Vocals on the theme song are by Saint Lucian artistes Martin Dorville and Jason Alcide.

### Financing of project

This project may not have been possible without the financial backing of the Bank of Nova Scotia. The Bank of Nova Scotia financed the project at an overall cost of EC\$3.5 million. The construction of the

more than theatre presentations.

The Iyanola Experience is configured to include an archaeological and historical exhibition on the outer room of the top floor where the Animation Centre is located. That exhibition depicting the history and evolution of our people has been put together in collaboration with the Archaeological & Historical Society. The Saint Lucia National Trust also contributed to this project by making available pictures of historical significance, lending to the enhancement of the experience; all of this confirms that the establishment of the Animation Centre drew upon the inspiration, experience and knowledge of a wide cross section of Saint Lucian society. In light of that, the Animation Centre is truly the culmination of a national effort which highlights the maturity and commitment of our people to national development.

### A deserving accolade

There is no more deserving of accolades for his role in bring to fruition the Animation Centre than the late Desmond Skeete. From conception he championed the virtues of this concept; he pioneered and developed the Iyanola Experience. The Government of Saint Lucia is very grateful to Desmond for his relentless pursuit of such a remarkable, valuable and long-lasting monument. It is a monument both to Saint Lucia and to his creative spirit, genius and imagination.

Time and fate both conspired to take him from us before this project was completed but I know he is watching from some secret location and must share in the sense of pride and joy that we all feel. The Government has no hesitation in endorsing the decision of the Saint Lucia Air and Sea Ports Authority to name the Centre, The Des-



### History revisited - an old fashioned hair cut

space was undertaken by Metro Construction of Saint Lucia. The firm STech & Associates constructed the Theatre in association with MDesigns both out of the USA. The model was built in the US and was assembled in St. Lucia. These companies are highly specialised and their senior personnel have had experience in constructing theme parks all over the USA. Some of them have actually worked with Disney Productions.

Although the Animation Centre is the centrepiece of La Place Carenage, Desmond harboured apprehensions that the facility did not lend itself properly to the themes of the theatre. He envisaged La Place Carenage as a seamless, memorable experience rather than a disjointed shopping experience. He saw the Animation Centre as embodying a wholesome Saint Lucian heritage for which the entire mall should be devoted. As a result, La Place Carenage is re-branded as a "themed" mall which will provide an experience found nowhere else. This entire experience has since been named the "Iyanola Experience", which, I hope, you will take the opportunity to enjoy after this ceremony.

### Archaeological and historical experience

The Animation Centre concept is much

mond Skeete Animation Centre as a fitting tribute to a departed visionary.

### For saint lucians and visitors

This Animation Centre was conceived for Saint Lucians as well as visitors; although a fee will apply, SLASPA and ANCIL will, I hope provide separate packages for school children, the underprivileged and our senior citizens. None of our citizens must be excluded from the Iyanola Experience. I exhort all school principals to make the Centre a "must see" for students because it will present for them a more rounded perspective on Saint Lucian history and culture. Through animation they will discover what they would have otherwise read in books.

I wish to congratulate the Council, Management and Staff of SLASPA for this excellent project. I am certain it will serve Saint Lucia very well now and in the future. The Government of Saint Lucia also recognises the contributions of all the other persons who worked on this project and brought it to fruition. It is therefore with an immense sense of overall satisfaction that I now declare the Desmond Skeete Animation Centre open.

In keeping with the new tag line for the facility let's all "share the heritage."

I thank you.



# Communique issued at the conclusion of the twenty-sixth meeting of the conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community, 3- 6 July 2005, Gros Islet, Saint Lucia

**The 26th Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community was held in Gros Islet, Saint Lucia, from 3 to 6 July 2005.**

Dr the Honourable Kenny D. Anthony, Prime Minister of Saint Lucia and Chairman of CARICOM, presided over the Meeting of the Conference.

Other Heads of Government of Member States in attendance were: The Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Hon. Baldwin Spencer; the Prime Minister of Barbados, the Rt. Hon. Owen S. Arthur; the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Dominica, Hon. Roosevelt Skerit; the Prime Minister of Grenada, Dr. the Hon. Keith Mitchell; the President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, His Excellency Bharrat Jagdeo; the Prime Minister of Jamaica, the Most Hon. P.J. Patterson; the Chief Minister of Montserrat, Dr. the Hon. John Osborne; the Prime Minister of St. Kitts and Nevis; Hon. Dr. Denzil Douglas; the Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Dr. the Hon. Ralph Gonsalves; the President of Suriname, His Excellency Drs. Runaldo R. Venetiaan and the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Hon. Patrick Manning.

Hon. Fred Mitchell, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Public Service represented the Prime Minister of The Bahamas, and Hon. John Briceno, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Natural Resources and the Environment represented the Prime Minister of Belize.

Heads of Associate Members in attendance were: Premier of Bermuda, Hon. W. Alexander Scott, JP; Chief Minister of the British Virgin Islands, Dr. the Hon. D. Orlando Smith; and Leader of Government Business, Cayman Islands, Hon. Kurt Tibbetts.

The Turks and Caicos Islands were represented by Honourable Jeffrey C. Hall, Minister of Housing, Immigration and Labour.

**Opening Ceremony**

At the opening ceremony held on Sunday, 3 July, the tone for the 26th Meeting was set with statements by: Secretary-General of CARICOM, H.E. Mr. Edwin Carington; President of Suriname and Outgoing Chairman of the Conference, H.E. Drs. Runaldo R. Venetiaan; recently elected Head of Government, Prime Minister of Dominica, Hon. Roosevelt Skerit; Incoming Chairman of the Conference, Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Hon. Patrick Manning; and the Chairman of the Conference, Prime Minister of Saint Lucia, Dr. the Hon. Kenny D. Anthony.

**Presentation of Awards**

The Hon. Madam Justice Desiree Bernard, O.R., C.C.H., J.C.C.J. was the recipient of the Eighth Triennial Award for Women. Justice Bernard received the award in recognition of her contribution in the field of women and development, with particular reference to the empowerment of women and social justice.

Presentations were made at the Opening Ceremony to the winners of the Inaugural CARICOM 10K Race which was held on Sunday, 3 July 2005 in Saint Lucia. Eight Member States participated in the race. Samia Akbar and Pomius Balantyne, from St. Vincent and the Grenadines, were the senior female and male winners respectively; while Shonell Griffin and Hiley Fulgence, both of Saint Lucia, were the junior female and male winners respectively. The 10K race will be an annual event which will be held in the host country of the Regular Session of the Conference. PHOTO OF RALPH GONSALVES RECEIVING AWARD ON BEHALF OF COM-PATRIATS

**Exchange of Views**

Heads of Government engaged in an exchange of views with a number of special guests: Dr. Rafael Alburquerque, Vice-President of the Dominican Republic, who delivered a message on behalf of the President of the Dominican Republic; His Excellency Enrique Iglesias, outgoing President of the Inter-American Development Bank, and Envoy of the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, Mr. Winston Cox, Deputy Secretary-General.

Meeting between Heads of Government and Leaders of Parliamentary Opposition

Heads of Government welcomed the opportunity to exchange views with the Leaders of Parliamentary Opposition on the eve of the Twenty-Sixth Meeting of the Conference on issues related to the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) and the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ). Heads of Government expressed satisfaction with the agreement to establish a Committee of Heads of Government and Leaders of Parliamentary Opposition to discuss ways of involving Parliamentary Opposition more closely in Community affairs.

This Committee will comprise: For the Parliamentary Opposition: Hon. Edison James, Dominica; Hon. Robert Corbin, Guyana; and Hon. Bruce Golding, Jamaica.

For the Heads of Government: Dr. the Hon. Kenny D. Anthony, Saint Lucia, Lead Head of Government for Justice and Governance; the Rt. Hon. Owen S. Arthur, Barbados, Lead Head of Government for the CSME; and H.E. Mr. Bharrat Jagdeo, Guyana, Lead Head of Government for Agriculture.

CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME)

Heads of Government reviewed the state of readiness of the Member States of the Community to begin full operation of the Single Market by December 2005 and in respect of their full integration into the CSME, including the preparation of their domestic economies and implementation of treaty obligations.

Heads of Government welcomed the fast-track steps taken by Barbados, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago to become Single Market compliant since March 2005, and took note of the strenuous efforts being made by all the remaining Member States to achieve Single Market treaty-compliance and overall readiness. They reflected on the constraints which Member States faced and the challenges of accelerated integration among states of differing capabilities and competitive strengths and reaffirmed their commitment to the long-held Community principle of special and differential treatment for the disadvantaged

among the Member States.

The Lead Prime Minister for CSME, the Rt. Hon. Owen S. Arthur, Prime Minister of Barbados will visit the OECS to confer with his colleague Heads of Government on the measures necessary to address their concerns, especially as they relate to the provisions for special and differential treatment under the Revised Treaty. The findings of the visit will be incorporated into a report setting out recommendations to be incorporated into an affirmative action programme intended to ensure that there is greater equity in the distribution of the benefits of the CSME. The Lead Prime Minister will also visit Belize, Guyana and Suriname.

Heads of Government emphasised the importance of the Development Fund for removing the inequalities in the single economic space, and therefore the need for urgent implementation in line with that of the Single Market. They requested the Council for Finance and Planning (COFAP) to meet in September to finalise the recommendations for operationalising the Fund.

Heads of Government also reiterated the value that the inclusion of stakeholders, including business, labour and universities would bring to the process of moving to the single economy, and welcomed the decision of the COFAP that it would meet with the private sector at the beginning of each year.

The Bahamas reported on the state of the public debate in that country regarding the signing of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas including the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME).

Member States agreed that in the circumstances of the particular position of The Bahamas, the status quo of its present relationship and involvement in CARICOM institutions should be maintained.

**Free Movement of Skilled Community Nationals**

With respect to the free movement of skilled nationals, Heads of Government agreed that CARICOM nationals who are entering under the Free Movement Regime with a Skills Certificate issued by a Member State other than the receiving State should be allowed to work immediately while their qualifications are verified by the receiving State. The Conference also agreed that the review of proposals for the expansion of the eligible categories of skilled nationals would be completed in time for consideration at the next meeting of the Conference.

**Issuance of the CARICOM Passport**

Heads of Government noted that St. Vincent and the Grenadines now joins Suriname, the first Member State to issue national passports using the common CARICOM format. Several other Member States are expected to introduce the new passport format in 2005 and 2006. December 2007 has been identified as the time for completing the introduction of the new passport format by all Member States.

**Agriculture**

Heads of Government urged the speedy implementation of the measures to address the constraints faced by the agricultural sector. This is all the more important at a time when the region's major traditional agriculture commodities are facing increasing external threats to their survival.

The Lead Head of Government for Agriculture, President Jagdeo of Guyana, has been mandated to urgently convene a meeting of Ministers of Agriculture and the Private Sector to focus on the implementation of the interventions required to address these constraints.

As the Community moves towards the Single Economy, improving the competitiveness of agriculture has become a priority.

Heads of Government agreed that the Prime Minister of Barbados, Lead Head of Government for the CSME, in his mission to Member States, would also explore the possibilities for securing the regional market for key regional agricultural products. The results of this review would contribute to the development of the regime for special and differential treatment for disadvantaged countries, regions and sectors. Heads of Government urged Member States to provide support for the implementation of the Plan of Action from the Jagdeo Initiative.

Heads of Government considered the proposals for reform of the EU Sugar Regime released by the European Commission on 22 June 2005 and their implications for CARICOM sugar producing countries and the integration movement as a whole. They issued a Statement which is attached to this Communiqué.

**Report of the Commission on Health and Development**

Heads of Government commended Sir George Alleyne, Chair of the Commission on Health and Development for a very informative Report that fully demonstrated the importance of health to the economic development of the Region. They recommended that the Report be widely distributed and discussed. They also urged the COHSOD to establish an agenda for the implementation of the recommendations and report on the progress made to their Seventeenth Inter-Sessional Meeting.

The Meeting also commended Prime Minister Douglas for leading a successful PANCAP mission to Brazil in April, and noted that the CARICOM Secretariat is to follow up with the Ministry of Health in Brazil on the Letter of Agreement which includes support from the Government of Brazil for the HIV/AIDS care and treatment programme of the OECS involving the provision of Anti-Retrovirals (ARVs) for 500 People Living with AIDS (PLWA) over a five-year period.

**Issues Related to Crime and Security**

Heads of Government received a presentation on developments relating to security in the Region. It was recognised that the issue of security needed to be frontally addressed and effectively tackled in order to maintain sustainable development.

They endorsed the Management Framework for Crime and Security which makes provision for a Council of Ministers responsible for National Security and Law Enforcement to superintend policy direction; a Security Policy Advisory Committee (SEPAC); and an Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS).

Heads of Government expressed their conviction that the new Management Framework would contribute significantly to successfully addressing issues of Crime and Security in the Region.

**Issues Related to Cricket**

Heads of Government considered the persistent crisis in West Indies Cricket, and in particular, the deteriorating relations between the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) and the West Indies Players Association (WIPA). They agreed to: invite the WICB to become an Associate Institution of the Community; provide material support for a programme for the development of West Indies Cricket, given its critical place in Caribbean integration and development; invite the Board and the Players' Association to establish immediately a "Good Offices Mechanism" comprising three eminent Caribbean persons to assist in the resolution of disputes between the Board and the Association; re-affirm that the authority of the WICB in the selection and discipline of players must remain sacrosanct.

Heads of Government were apprised of

security issues arising out of the contractual obligations of Member States in respect of the hosting of CWC 2007 and the legislative and other security measures which must be put in place at the regional level to ensure the successful and safe conduct of the tournament.

They agreed that the Management Framework for Crime and Security should also include a Co-ordinating Unit to harmonize the security procedures to be put in place throughout the Region and to function as the liaison between CWC 2007 and regional Governments, and in particular the Ministers responsible for National Security and Law enforcement, in matters pertaining to regional security arising out of the hosting of Cricket World Cup (CWC) 2007.

**External Trade Negotiations**

Heads of Government reviewed developments in the various external trade negotiations in which the region is involved. They noted that the rapidly changing international environment was less accommodating of preferential arrangements, such as those that traditionally characterised the region's trade relations. They reiterated the Region's commitment to and active participation in ongoing external trade negotiations, but observed that the current challenges including the tardy progress on special and differential treatment for small, vulnerable economies and the general push for reciprocity were beginning to raise uncertainty about the costs and the benefits involved. They reiterated their commitment to undertake the necessary internal adjustments to make their economies more competitive but indicated that the speed of current external developments was threatening to derail this process.

Heads of Government noted the intensification of multilateral trade negotiations in the WTO, but that progress in resolving the outstanding issues continued to be slow, with many of the concerns of the small, vulnerable economies such as those of the Caribbean Community still to be addressed. They expressed the hope that the upcoming mini-Ministerial Meeting in China would result in accommodations that could facilitate a positive outcome at the WTO Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong, in December 2005.

Heads of Government noted that agreement for the resumption of FTAA negotiations to which they remain committed, continues to be elusive and that a number of hemispheric countries were pursuing bilateral free trade agreements. They agreed that the Community would continue to explore options for structured trade arrangements with other countries or groupings within the hemisphere.

Heads of Government reaffirmed the Region's commitment, in close collaboration with the Dominican Republic, in concluding an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with the European Union. They emphasised that it was imperative for such an agreement to incorporate a development dimension which would complement the new WTO compatible trade arrangements of the EPA.

**2005 Millennium Ecosystem Assessment**

Heads of Government received a presentation on the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment conducted during the period 2001-2005. They noted that the Assessment was called for in 2000. It was conducted to assess the consequences of ecosystem change for human well-being and the scientific basis for actions needed to enhance the conservation and sustainable use of those systems.

They noted the disturbing finding of the assessment that human actions are putting such a strain on the environment that the ability of the planet's ecosystems to sustain future generations could no longer be

taken for granted. They agreed that Member States should study the findings and recommendations of the report.

**2005 Hurricane Season**

Heads of Government expressed concern for those countries in the region which were already under threat from tropical storms so early in the Hurricane Season, noting that during the course of their meeting, Tropical Storm Dennis was threatening the Cayman Islands, Cuba, Haiti and Jamaica.

They urged all countries and territories in the region to ensure that the necessary hurricane precautionary measures and mitigation plans are in place and called on the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA) to work with participating Members to this end. They reiterated their commitment to provide mutual support to assist, within their means, any Member State, Associate Member and neighbouring country that may be affected in what has been predicted to be a very active hurricane season.

**Re-organisation of the Meetings of the Conference**

Heads of Government agreed that there was need to revisit the structure of, and format for the meetings of the Conference to allow for maximum time for discussion among themselves on critical and strategic issues facing the Community. To this end, they requested the Secretary-General to undertake appropriate consultations with a view to preparing proposals for restructuring meetings – both Inter-Sessional and Regular – for consideration at the 17th Inter-Sessional Meeting in 2006. They commended the Secretary-General for the measures put in place at this meeting aimed at initiating this process of restructuring the meetings of the Conference.

**UN Reform**

Heads of Government noted that Member States are favourably disposed towards an expansion of the United Nations Security Council. They however, firmly hold the view that Security Council reform should not diminish the importance of the other aspects of the reform process, such as the development agenda, revitalisation and strengthening of the General Assembly and reform of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

They indicated that a significant number of Member States are inclined to support the G4 Framework Resolution contingent on: strong support for their development agenda as small, vulnerable states; inclusion of the proposals of the African Union in relation to expansion of the Security Council; acceptance of the principle of rotation of membership on the Security Council.

In this context, they requested CARICOM Permanent Representatives to the United Nations to work towards arriving at a common CARICOM position on the issue of UN Reform, monitoring developments closely and liaising with their Foreign Ministers.

**Terrorism**

Heads of Government endorsed the position adopted by the Council for Foreign and Community Relations (COFCOR) at its 8th Meeting in The Bahamas on 1-2 June 2005, regarding the detention by US immigration officials of Mr. Luis Posada Carriles. This individual has been long associated with acts of violence against the Government of Cuba and is a primary suspect as one of the authors of the most horrific act of terrorism ever experienced by the countries of CARICOM, the 1976 bombing of a Cuban aircraft in international waters off Barbados.

They called for all the perpetrators of this act of terrorism to be brought to justice and so bring closure to this egregious

incident which caused so much pain to the people of the region.

**OAS General Assembly**

Heads of Government welcomed the election of Ambassador Albert R. Ramdin as Assistant Secretary General of the Organisation of American States at elections held during the XXXV Meeting of the OAS General Assembly in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, on 7 June 2005. They noted that the newly elected Secretary-General of the OAS, His Excellency Jose Miguel Insulza, had presided over his first meeting of the General Assembly in that capacity. Heads of Government stressed their conviction that under the guidance of the new team at the OAS, the work of that the organization will proceed in a manner which meets the expectations of the people of the hemisphere.

**Haiti**

Heads of Government noted with great concern the continuing deterioration of the situation in Haiti in all respects. Widespread abuse of due process and fundamental rights, spiralling crime, in particular kidnapping, lawlessness and acts of violence, along with a lack of improvement in the social and economic situation had made life even more unbearable, especially in the capital.

The slow progress in the preparations for elections, as well as the increasingly unstable political and security environment were seen as obstacles to timely and well-run elections. A free, fair and inclusive process was regarded as imperative, without which the return to constitutional rule would lack legitimacy.

Heads of Government noted the discussions between the CARICOM Electoral support and the Provisional Elections Council, the United Nations and the OAS, and CARICOM's readiness to provide technical assistance support for the process under the umbrella of MINUSTAH.

Heads reiterated the importance they attach to improvement in the human rights, political, security and economic domains without which there could be neither stability nor the possibility of socio-economic and institutional development which were so vitally required.

As concerns the Community's engagement in favour of the people of Haiti, Heads of Government decided that CARICOM would be ready to participate in the international observation of elections when the conditions on the grounds were conducive.

**Rio Group**

Heads of Government confirmed that Guyana would continue to represent the Region in the Rio Group for another two years. They welcomed the fact that Guyana, representing CARICOM, would be assuming the Chairmanship of the Rio Group as of January 2006. They pledged their support to Guyana as it carries out this task. Heads of Government expressed the conviction that participation by the region in the Rio Group would continue to strengthen CARICOM's relations with the countries of Latin America. In this regard, they also supported the application of Belize for membership on an individual basis of the Rio Group.

**Belize-Guatemala Relations**

Heads of Government were briefed on the ongoing process in respect of the Belize-Guatemala Territorial Dispute.

Heads of Government reaffirmed the unequivocal support for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Belize and urged the two countries to intensify the process of negotiations under the auspices of the OAS in order to bring the territorial claim to an early end through a peaceful, just and definitive resolution of the Territorial Dis-

pute between the two countries. They expressed appreciation for the work of the Office of the Secretariat of the OAS in the adjacency zone, to maintain peace and improve relations between the peoples of the two countries, especially in the border area, and appealed to countries to support the special OAS Fund for that purpose.

**Guyana-Venezuela Relations**

Heads of Government noted with satisfaction that relations between Guyana and Venezuela continued to be cordial.

They underscored the importance of the ongoing dialogue at the level of Heads of State and Ministers of Foreign Affairs in promoting this cordiality, and noted that such dialogue had resulted in a renewal of commitment to a peaceful settlement of the controversy through the mechanism of the United Nations Good Offices Process (GOP) and to functional cooperation under the aegis of the Guyana-Venezuela High-Level Bilateral Commission.

Heads of Government reiterated their full support for the preservation of Guyana's sovereignty and its right to the unrestricted development of all its territory for the benefit of its people.

**The Caribbean Diaspora**

Heads of Government reiterated the need to develop a strategy to enhance relations between the Community and its diaspora in the metropolitan centres. To this end, they requested the Chair of the Council for Foreign and Community Relations (COFCOR), to meet with representatives of the Caribbean Diaspora at least once a year.

**Relations with the African Union**

Heads of Government welcomed the initiatives being taken to strengthen the relationship between the African Union and the Community. They expressed appreciation for the decision of the AU to include the Diaspora as its Sixth Region. They noted with satisfaction, the report of the Conference co-hosted by the Governments of South Africa and Jamaica with the theme "Towards Unity and United Action by Africans and the African Diaspora in the Caribbean for a better world."

Heads asserted that they would use the opportunities presented in international fora to engage their African Union counterparts. On behalf of the Community, the Secretary-General conveyed a message to the African Union on the occasion of the Fifth Ordinary Session of its Assembly.

**CARICOM-Cuba Summit**

Heads of Government recalled their undertaking to meet with the President of Cuba on a triennial basis to discuss issues of mutual interest. They agreed to the convening of the Summit in Barbados on 8 December 2005, and proposed the theme "Caribbean Strategies for Human Security".

**Appreciation**

Heads of Government expressed gratitude to the Government and People of Saint Lucia for the warm hospitality extended and the excellent arrangements made during the 26th Meeting of the Conference. They particularly appreciated the social and cultural activities and the arrangements for the first CARICOM 10K race, which contributed in no small measure to the congenial atmosphere in which the Conference unfolded.

Heads of Government congratulated the Secretary-General and staff of the Secretariat for their hard work which contributed to the successful outcome of the meeting.

**Date and Venue of the Next Inter-Sessional Meeting**

Heads of Government were pleased to accept the offer from the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago to host the Seventeenth Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference on 9-10 February 2006.



**The Hon. Madam Justice Desiree Bernard, O.R., C.C.H., J.C.C.J. - recipient of the Eighth Triennial Award for Women**

# PROUD – Providing Ownership to the Landless

## An Overview of the Programme for the Regularisation of Unplanned Development (PROUD) from April 2000 to June 2005

A survey by the Statistics Department revealed that the occurrence of spontaneous settlements is a predictable consequence of converging population trends and economic growth patterns. Thus, it is logical to assume that as St. Lucia's economy grows, spontaneous settlements will increase and further scar our landscape if nothing is done to arrest this activity.

Over the last decade, squatting has become very prevalent throughout the country especially on lands owned by Government. These spontaneous settlements are constraints to the implementation of proper physical planning, as they ultimately compromise future spatial developments in the areas affected. In many of these squatting

2000 to rationalise existing squatter settlements and to transfer land title to the established occupants.

**Proud**

The project forms part of the Shelter Development Programme which is executed by the Ministry of Physical Development, Environment and Housing and is funded partially by the Government of St. Lucia and the Caribbean Development Bank. The total fund secured for the project is 10.394 million. 6.485 million is loan funds from the Caribbean Development Bank and 3.904 million from local funds, Government of St. Lucia.

The Programme is supervised and monitored by an Advisory Committee appointed by Cabinet which comprises

Morne (Vieux Fort), La Tourney (Vieux Fort); La Croix (Laborie); Piaye Village; Pays Perdu (Garrand); Des Baras; Ravine Poisson, L'Abbayee, Centre de Feu and Sections of Sarrot, and Bexon.

The first phase of the Project commenced April 2000 and implementation of this phase will continue until December 2005.

The scope of activities under the programme involves the rationalisation of squatted areas, relocation of residents where applicable, and the transfer of land title to the occupiers. Thus to accomplish the scope of activities the following must be carried out: Obtaining baseline information on every settlement; Conducting

been upgraded through the process of rationalisation; Provision of title deeds to residents that have completed payment

**Sale of Land and Title Transfer:** With regards to the transfer of land to the established occupants, the Government proposes to sell the land at a subsidized rate. The selling price of land is stipulated by Cabinet of Ministers and is based on the following: Existing agreement with previous landowners National Development Corporation (NDC) and National Housing Corporation (NHC).

**Length of tenure:** Further, the indigent occupier will be given lifetime enjoyment of the land. This right should not be transferable, and the land should



Completed road at Desbarras, quarter of Dauphin



Completed road at Pays Perdu/Garrand Phase 1



Completed road at Pays Perdu/Garrand Phase 2



Completed road at La Ressource/Vieux Fort Phase 7

areas, the manner, location and type of housing are not sustainable. They impact negatively on the social, environmental and economic well being of the residents and the nation as a whole. Such settlements do not enjoy economic and social benefits commensurate with the prevailing growth trends in the community. Further, squatter settlements have occurred purely in response to urgent and overwhelming human needs.

To address this rapid trend, the Government of St. Lucia has confronted this situation through the implementation of policies and concrete programmes. Thus, a programme named The Regularisation of Unplanned Development (PROUD) was established on April 3,

of the following interests: Permanent Secretary – Chairman of the Advisory Committee Ministry of Development, Planning, Environment and Housing; Commissioner of Crown Lands; Representative from National Housing Cooperation; Representative, National Development Cooperation; Community Development Officer; Two (2) representatives of targeted communities; Representative of Parliamentary Representative for the community; Representative, Ministry of Communications, Works, Transport and Public Utilities; Coordinator, PROUD.

The Programme has been phased over a five-year period. The areas targeted in the first phase are as follows: La Ressource (Vieux Fort), Derriere

socio economic studies in all targeted settlement/ communities; Conducting community meetings throughout the project; Executing Occupational and Boundary surveys; Formulating rationalisation plans if applicable for the relevant communities; Construction of roads and drains; Installation of electrical power and water supply; Relocation of residents when applicable; Sale of land to residents and issue of land title.

The performance indicators are achievement of the following: The rationalisation of the targeted informal (squatter) communities; The provision/improvement of infrastructure within the targeted communities; Security of Land Tenure for households in thirteen-targeted communities that have

revert to the Crown upon the death of the occupier. These persons should be eligible unemployed, senior citizens, welfare recipients, and the infirm.

It should be mentioned that if relocation is imperative, residents will be assisted in the relocation.

**Title Deed:** On completion of land payment the residents will be given a Title Deed, which will comprise the following covenants: Minimum building standards; The right to first refusal by the Crown if the owner proposes to sell within 7 years of the date of sale by the Crown; Land use restrictions; The cost of the Deed of Sale for e.g. stamp duty, legal fees and registration fees will be done by the Government of St. Lucia.

*Continued in next week's issue*



# Law Reform as the re-constitution of a civilized nation

**T**here are often many different levels at which an event like this takes place. There is the obvious surface and normal protocol of the event as a happening; below this however there is an entire chain of activities that have led to this event and, concurrently, there are many narratives that are being dramatized through the event itself. In asserting this, I am simply saying differently what a host of Caribbean philosophers from CLR James to Wilson Harris and our own Derek Walcott have maintained. There is a historicity to an event that even as it is goes backward into time, simultaneously projects forward into the different type of future that the event enables and there are always multiple scripts in which the personal, the subjective and the abstract converge.

In case you might be wondering whether I smoked something tonight before coming here, let me translate this into some relevance to today's event. Allow me to begin with the personal narrative. When I was offered the post of Attorney General in 1997, I had some initial difficulty in accepting this position for various reasons. Besides I had an exciting number of lucrative legal consulting options before me. When I finally accepted it was because the offer crystallized into a challenge to me to confront all of the years of debate and discussion on the political social, economic and cultural development of St. Lucia by engaging in practical action for the country's transformation. Thus when I accepted the position it was with a very clear understanding that my role was to catalyze the system of law and the constitution as instruments for national development. This necessitated taking a wider, panoramic view of the legacy of jurisprudence in our country and determining what were the strategic elements that needed to be reformed or transformed in order to enable this catalysis.

I determined early on that my success as Attorney General, at least in my eyes, would be measured by my success in securing the establishment of a robust platform of laws upon which we could create a society in which justice and development were satisfactorily conjoined – and it is here that the narrative moves from the personal to the societal and into the realm of the institutional agenda. I sought therefore to achieve three goals: an energetic policy of law reform and modernization, a comprehensive and thorough revision of the laws of St. Lucia as an element of the reform and modernization project, and the review and re-writing of the constitution of St. Lucia.

In respect of the third goal, I must say how pleased I am by the recent announcement that finally the Constitution Review Commission has been agreed and the exciting task of constitutional review will commence soon. With respect to the first and second goals, I wish to use the occasion afforded me tonight to reflect a little there upon. Perhaps I should begin with a story.

Many years ago, a distinguished old English jurist was the featured speaker at one of the Inns of Court in England. During his address he treated his audience to an entire treatise on law and the legal profession in a very comprehensive and admirable way. At the end of the evening, after the wine had flowed rather liberally, a young Barrister went up to him somewhat sheepishly and said "Excuse m'lord. But I thought it a little glaring that in your entire address you made no mention of the relationship between the law and the promotion of justice."

At which the old judge looked over his glasses and replied "My dear I have been a lawyer for ten years, a judge for thirty, and been married for longer than I have been either. And if there is one thing I have learnt it is that the relationship of law to justice is very similar to the relationship between sex and marriage... normally where you have one, you hardly ever have the other."

## Speech by Minister for External Affairs, International Trade & Civil Aviation Senator Hon. Petrus Compton on the occasion of the formal handing over of the Revised Laws of Saint Lucia, 2005



### Two Important Philosophies

With due respect to the old judge, or perhaps because of views like his, one of the things that this administration decided very early on entering government, was that it was critical for the law in St. Lucia to become an engine of justice; in particular, for the law to be a mechanism for promoting real social justice. As such, the philosophy which has always underpinned the law making process for this government, has been an abiding belief in the capacity of the law to have a real and meaningful impact in redressing imbalances, righting wrongs, providing legal levers to change circumstance and filling lacunae where they existed. In effect it was critical for us to ensure that the laws created, wherever possible, provided mechanisms for people to either protect themselves from injury or harm, or to actually take charge of their destinies by taking advantage of whatever opportunities were available. That is why, for example that we could enact a "Special Development Areas Act", giving people the opportunity to purchase land and import construction materials under special arrangements, because we have always recognized that investment requires incentives. That legislation creates rights which average citizens can take advantage of to make investment possible. It is also why we have enacted entire suits of legislation to redress important social issues, such as, the Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in Employment and Occupation Act, which made sexual harassment and victimization at the workplace illegal for the first time in St. Lucia.

So we have always viewed the law and by extension, the process of law making, and of law REFORM, as a tool or mechanism of national and personal self-empowerment.

It is important to understand that the process of making law itself is somewhat akin to writing the conscience of any country. It is the process by which a country, nation or society comes to shape its internal and external reality. It is through the very reform of laws, legal institutions, practices and conventions, that a civilization is able to literally give expression to its aspirations for itself. Even the acts of enactment and promulgation of laws, when you think about it, is symbolically as well as practically important, as they are essentially declarations to the world on each occasion that a society is willing to be governed according to rules which establish the parameters of civilized behavior in that society. And so it was, armed with this belief that law must, wherever possible, serve the interests of social justice, that this administration began a quiet but consistent, comprehensive and assiduous process of law reform in 1997, that has so far achieved what I believe are some important milestones.

### Law as a Servant of Development

The other truly critical consideration which has always informed our approach

is a passionate commitment to the ideal that the law itself is both the mother and the child of the development of nations and societies. That in effect, law is a critical adjunct to developmental processes; that it is informed by the demands of development that it is pushed and pulled by developmental stresses and fissures, and that development or indeed the lack of it, is helped or hindered by the presence or absence of appropriate law respectively. And so, the concept of law reform, which is really a simple term to describe an often involved series of processes aimed at identifying, re-conceiving, clarifying and re-enacting existing law or of creating new law where none existed before, is "in my view" the most important legal endeavor that any Attorney General can possible embark upon.

As I suggested earlier, sometimes, the demands of development dictates the pace and direction of law reform. Unquestionably, St. Lucia's increasing economic maturation over the years, together with the advancing pace of globalization and the proliferation of transnational corporations, has meant that we have become as vulnerable to economic crimes such as money laundering as any of the so-called developed jurisdictions. At the same time, initiatives in economic diversification created the need for legislation to support entirely new industries, for example, the Financial Services Industry. Put simply, economic maturation has led to the emergence of various kinds of legal problems which have required the enactment of entirely new kinds of legislation. But while government has been legislatively aggressive in this area of financial services, it has also been forced to pursue the creation of legal safeguard mechanisms in the form of money laundering authorities and financial services supervisory mechanisms. Ironically, the pace of reform in this regard has also been influenced by the international pressures such as blacklisting and other OECD measures which themselves threaten these economic initiatives.

Clearly Law Reform is unquestionably a servant of the development agenda in such circumstances, because it is essentially driven by its imperatives.

### Law as An Engine of Development

On the other hand, sometimes law is the very engine driving the developmental process. Perhaps the most important example of this is in the area of telecommunications liberalization. Though liberalization is still a very recent achievement, some have already forgotten that prior to the negotiation of agreements with Cable & Wireless, Saint Lucia, and the OECS were severely developmentally hampered by the monopoly situation that existed in telecoms. Obviously what was important in achieving liberalization was having a political will to pursue it, no matter the costs, but we should not forget that the MECHANISM by which Governments secured it, was through Law Reform. In effect, it was achieved through an incremental process of looking at laws,

and then reshaping, rewriting, and in some cases simply creating a new language for telecommunications, at least in our local context, which had never existed before that liberalization was attained.

I advanced these few reflections in order that it may become, easier to appreciate that at the heart of the exercise of justice and equally, at the heart of the development process lies the law. To the extent that the laws of a country are kept updated and are easily available to practitioners and citizens alike, to that extent justice can be better served, national development will find a firm foundation and the nation will be greatly empowered.

The law as a regulatory instrument of development establishes the parameters which constitute a level playing field on which business can be conducted in a fair, non-discriminatory and transparent manner, and citizens can enjoy peace, order and good government.

Tonight as the Revised Laws of St. Lucia make its formal entry into the life of this nation, we are also making a significant leap in the modernization of our society in the context of a rapidly changing global landscape. Law revision is more than just an accumulation of the current laws of a country into one collection. What we have done here is not the mere convenient collation of the laws into one corpus – in the process of determining the extant law that required inclusion in the revised edition, one also obtained a panoramic view of the corpus of laws of the country seldom seen when one is engaged in the minutiae of legal practice. Through such a process one comes to appreciate that the body of law in its entire corpus is truly part of the architecture of our civilization and an embodiment of the values, aspirations and standards of this society.

Indeed, no society can rise higher than the implied values of its jurisprudence nor should it sink lower than the boundaries of civilized behavior that the law circumscribes as acceptable.

### Conclusion

Let me end as I began by philosophizing on the nature of events. Events have their historicity and they do because of human agency. It is through the instrumentality of human agents seeking to shape their destiny that events of meaning shape history – whether in dramatic flourishes or in silent subterranean ways.

It is therefore appropriate and necessary for me to celebrate and recognize those whose labour, intellect, diligence and commitment have made the Revised Laws possible: The Honourable Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, who provided both intellectual and financial commitments to this project; Fikili Dlamini (no longer with us) then Director of Legislative drafting, who had technical oversight on Chambers behalf; Gillian Vidal Jules, and Allison Issac, two young and barely trained drafters, but diligent, eager and hardworking, who kept meeting the deadlines even in the absence of a Director; Hyacinth Ramsay, Dps., who had who had the unenviable task of ensuring that all administrative and financial details were in order for the project to succeed; the revision team of Neil Adsett and Barbara Pierre, our first drafting joint venture; David Desborough the indefatigable chairman of Eyre and Spottiswoode, an eternal optimist.

Finally, all the staff of AG Chambers during my tenure and especially during the life of this project. You made the workplace like a home for me, and made it so much easier to ignore the sometimes mindless cacophony that frequently occurred in the public arena. I know that many of you still pray for me as diligently as you did before and I thank you for it.

Chairman, I have said enough. Indeed, when I caught sight of the published volumes of the revised laws tonight, I thought to myself "What is there to say?" This achievement speaks volumes: "res ipsa loquitur." I thank you.



## 12 New Promotions in Police Force

**T**he Public Service Commission (PSC) has announced a dozen new appointments in the leadership ranks of the Police Force.

Topping the list of senior officers promoted are former Superintendents Moses Charles and Cyril Noel, who

are now Assistant Commissioners.

Also on the promotion list are former Assistant Superintendents George Deterville and Philip Vernon Francois, who are now Superintendents. However, Mr Francois has also been promoted to act as an Assistant Commissioner in place of Mr Joseph Francis, who is pro-

ceeding on pre-retirement leave.

Former Acting Assistant Superintendents Pancras Albert and Paul Headen Lionel are now Acting Superintendents, with Mr Lionel replacing Mr Albert Fregis, who is proceeding on study leave.

Also climbing the promotion ladder are former Inspectors Errol Alexander, Frances Henry, Brian Jawahir and Gregory Montoute,

who are now Assistant Superintendents.

Meanwhile, in the Police Band, Assistant Superintendent Gregory Piper has been promoted to the post of Superintendent, while Inspector David Pierre has been promoted to the post of Assistant Superintendent.

According to the PSC, the appointments took effect from May 2005.



**Prime Minister of Saint Lucia  
Dr. Kenny D. Anthony**

**P**rim Minister Honourable Dr. Kenny Anthony has written to the government and people of Great Britain expressing great shock and sorrow over the bombings which occurred in London last week.

In the words of Dr. Anthony: "We deplore and we condemn in the most emphatic ways these acts of terror and barbarism perpetuated against the

## Expressions of outrage and support from St. Lucia to the UK

government and people of the United Kingdom with whom we share a long history and deep friendship. We are deeply saddened at the loss of innocent lives and the physical and emotional injury inflicted upon those who survived. Our hearts and our prayers go out to the victims and to their friends, families and loved ones.

Prime Minister Blair, Saint Lucia views the occurrences as tracks not only on the United Kingdom but also upon the entire civilised world. The grief which you, your government and the people of the United Kingdom experience will most certainly be shared by many, but particularly so, by the government and people of Saint Lucia. I ask Prime Minister, that you please accept these expressions of our outrage, sorrow and support and that you convey those same sentiments to your government and people. I ask finally that you remain assured of our continued solidarity and support in this difficult time."

Meantime, the Ministry of External Affairs, International Trade and Civil Aviation, has on behalf of the government and people of Saint Lucia extended heartfelt condolences to the government and people of Great Britain as they mourn the loss of lives of citizens and the devastation suffered as a result of the terrorist attacks on the city of London.

The Government of Saint Lucia wishes to affirm to the government and people of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland that Saint Lucia stands resolutely in solidarity with the British Government and the rest of the international community in denouncing such acts of terrorism and crimes against humanity. The government and people of Saint Lucia believe that such acts are a demonstration of cowardice and lack of respect for the sanctity of life.

The government and people of Saint Lucia are comforted by the knowledge



**Prime Minister of the UK  
Tony Blair**

that the government and people of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland are recovering from the tragedy and trauma and we are satisfied that your government will rise to the challenge of returning this great democracy to a state of normalcy. Saint Lucia shares your resolve and that of the international community to bring the perpetrators of such heinous crimes to justice.

## State-of-the-art Desmond Skeete Animation Centre earmarked to attract 150 thousand visitors

*Continued from page 1*

"I believe the quality of this tourism attraction will attract a large number of stay-over visitors. I am encouraging the St. Lucia Tourist Board, the SLHTA, the Air and Sea Ports Authority and tour operators to promote the new attraction as historical knowledge of our country – value added to the richness and diversity of our tourism product," the Tourism Minister said. "I must also appeal to the cruise lines for their

support; we want the partnership to grow for the mutual benefit of all. We are convinced that St. Lucia must develop as a land base and cruise destination; all we ask is for our people to get a fair return from our investments.

For overseas markets, SLASPA will be marketing directly to the cruise passengers through port lectures, in-cabin advertising and tour packaging. The centre will also be heavily promoted at the various trade shows such as Sea Trade

and the Florida Caribbean Cruise Association.

Besides giving a big boost to the tourism product, the Iyanola Experience is intended to educate St. Lucians on the island's history.

The theatre was constructed by the firm STec Associates in collaboration with MDesign based in the US.

The production script was prepared by Adrian Augier and Robert Devaux.

The centre will be managed by Anchorage Investments Ltd - a subsidiary of SLASPA.

The theatre is now open to the public and can accommodate 60 persons at any one time.

When all elements of marketing are in place, projected figures are in the region of 150, 000 visitors to the Animation Centre for the first year. The bulk of these will be cruise passengers.

## FOTO FACTS

**(L) Acting Prime Minister Philip J. Pierre galvanizing private and public sector officials as Hurricane Emily threatened Saint Lucia**

**(R) St. Lucians flocked to the stores Wednesday snapping up canned foods and other commodities in preparation for Hurricane Emily**



### THIS WEEK ON NTN

**Sat. July 16th - Fri. July 22nd, 2005**

Carnival Queen Pageant - Sat. July 2nd 8:00 p.m.

• **Party Monarch 2005** - Sun. July 17th, 8:00 p.m.

• **OECS Soca Monarch** - Mon. July 18th, 8:00 p.m.

• **Live Coverage of Carnival 2005** - Tues. July 19th, 1:00 p.m.

• **Women West Indies - An Exciting Series of portraits featuring women in the Caribbean** - Every Wednesday at 6:15 p.m. - Wed. July 20th, 6:15 p.m.

• **The GIS Speaks with Justice Desiree Bernard** - Thurs. July 21st, 8:00 p.m.

• **Panorama 2005** - Fri. July 22nd, 8:00 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](http://www.stlucia.gov.lc) and then click on the NTN icon.

**[www.stlucia.gov.lc](http://www.stlucia.gov.lc)**

*Saint Lucia NATIONWIDE is published every week by the Department of Information Services.*

Contact us at: The Department of Information Services, Greaham Louisy Administrative Building, The Waterfront, Castries, St. Lucia, West Indies  
Tel: (758) 468 2116; Fax (758) 453 1614; E-mail: [gis@candw.lc](mailto:gis@candw.lc); <http://stlucia.gov.lc>