



# NATIONWIDE

A publication of the Department of Information Services



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## NEW NATIONAL HOSPITAL LEVEL OF HEALTH CARE WILL IMPROVE

**C**onstruction of a modern national hospital for St. Lucia is set to commence in the first quarter of 2006. The Cabinet of Ministers and government technocrats reviewed the final design for the proposed new facility on Tuesday June 14th 2005.

The hospital will be constructed with assistance from the European Union through the European Development Fund (EDF), to the tune of 67 million dollars.

health care establishment comprising 33 subdivisions, will also contain obstetric suites including 31 anti and post natal beds, five delivery beds and a special care baby unit. A 21 bed paediatric unit, three acute general wards equipped with 65 beds and eight dialysis chairs will grace the modern facility.

Minister for Health Family Affairs and Gender Relations Hon Damian Greaves says the release of the designs is an indi-

minister said.

With the completion of designs, the architects will now prepare working drawings. That phase which is expected to last three to four months will be followed by the preparation of tender documents and the tendering process for the construction of the hospital which will also take three to four months to complete. The new health care organization is expected to be ready before the end of 2009.



**State-of-the-art National Hospital when completed**

The national hospital design was prepared by Sir Fredrick Snow and Partners of the United Kingdom who worked alongside local architects NBLA and the Halcrow Group Limited.

The design of the state of the art national hospital comes after 2 years of consultation with a wide cross section of persons with interest in the health care institution.

When completed, the new hospital will contain 180 beds, and a state-of-the-art accident and emergency department. The

cation that Saint Lucia is moving closer to improving the delivery of health care.

"If we need to modernize our health services and our hospital care, we would be compromised by the building at Victoria hospital. We have developed an alliance with the French authorities and with the Laminar Hospital. In fact the Laminar Hospital is about 80% complete and we are following closely on the heels of that hospital, which will in fact be the same size with the hospital we are building in St. Lucia," the



**Hon. Damian Greaves**  
**Minister for Health**

The national hospital will share the same address as the new psychiatric facility. Both will be located on 15.2 acres on the Millennium Highway.

The new psychiatric hospital will be built with assistance from the People's Republic of China. It will be completed before the new general hospital.

On completion, the two new facilities will together represent a qualitative leap in the level of health care provided to the St. Lucian public.

## PROGRESS TOWARDS UNIVERSAL SECONDARY EDUCATION OVER 3000 PLACES AVAILABLE FOR COMMON ENTRANCE EXAMINEES

**E**xpectations ran high as four thousand, four hundred and forty seven grade 6 students, wrote the much anticipated Common Entrance Examinations on Wednesday, June 15th. Exam administrators in the Ministry of Education said systems and procedures were in place for the successful conduct of the exams - a critical turning point in the educational lives of students.

Students competed for places at 19 secondary schools. Preliminary figures indicate that there are 2,600 places available at the form one level of sec-

ondary schools. In addition, there are approximately 500 places available for students who fail and would have no

other chances available to them to re-sit the examination.

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**The challenge for primary school students is to gain a place at a secondary school**



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

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A fresh news package  
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# Constitutional Review Commission in the making Justice Suzie d'Auvergne to chair

**P**Prime Minister Dr Kenny D Anthony announced Monday, that he had finally received nominations from the Opposition for membership of the Commission and their concurrence that it will be chaired by distinguished retired judge, Madam Justice Suzie d'Auvergne.

The Prime Minister, who promised to make Constitutional Reform a priority of his government since first taking office in 1997, said now that the Opposition had finally made its nominations, the Government "will now move to effect the appointments and operationalise the Commission."

It was on November 21, 2003, that the Prime Minister and the then Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Arsene James, jointly announced bipartisan parliamentary support for the establishment of the proposed Commission to Review and Reform the Constitution.

They told a press conference at the House of Assembly that they had agreed the review and reform process

was necessary, as the Constitution was then nearly 25 years old.

The Prime Minister outlined the approaches and steps necessary to activate the commission, including nomination of members and agreement on a Chairman.

It was also agreed that the Commission would include nominees of the Government, Opposition parties, and civil society, but would exclude members of the House of Assembly and the Senate.

The Terms of Reference would include two years of work by the widely representative Commission, to be chaired by a nominee jointly agreed upon by the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition and appointed by the Governor General.

On February 17, 2004, the House of Assembly adopted a Resolution on the Establishment of the Proposed Commission to Review and Reform the Constitution of Saint Lucia. The Senate adopted the same resolution on April 14, 2004.

Known as Statutory Instrument No 50 of 2004, the resolution of Parliament was published in the official St. Lucia Government Gazette on July 16, 2004.

The objectives of the exercise, according to the resolution, would include "promotion of a meaningful expansion and widening of democratic participation by citizens in government." It would also "address possible weaknesses in the Constitutional framework which political practice has highlighted over the years."

In addition, the exercise would "refashion the Constitution so that it better accords with our changing social and political circumstances" and it would also "promote better governance and greater equity in the constitutional framework generally."

On September 20 2004, Prime Minister Anthony wrote to various national organizations and entities inviting them to name nominees for the proposed commission.



**Retired Judge - Madam Justice  
Suzie d'Auvergne**

Speaking on the issue on Radio St. Lucia's Monday evening programme "In the Public Interest" (IPI), the Prime Minister said now that the Government had the concurrence of the Opposition, the process of appointing the nominated members will soon get under way.

Noting that the Commission will have to report "no less than 24 months after its appointment," the Prime Minister said he expected its work to continue "beyond the next general election."

# BELfund empowers the unemployed 360 loans and nearly 4 million dollars to beneficiaries

**T**he James Belgrave Micro Enterprise Development Fund Incorporated (BELfund) turned five years on Monday May 30, 2005 without any pomp or ceremony.

The organization was formally launched on July 20, 2000 at the NIC Conference Centre, where its first batch of seven (7) trained clients were presented with their certificates of participation in its first two (2) day Micro Enterprise Management Training Workshop, by Prime Minister, Hon. Dr. Kenny D. Anthony, whose idea it was to establish an organization of this nature.

Twenty-five (25) training programmes and exactly five years later, the BELfund has succeeded in graduating a total of two hundred and fifty persons from its training facilities in Micro Enterprise Management in the following subject areas: Cash Management, Record Keeping, Costing & Pricing, Marketing, Motivation for success, Goal Setting and Honouring Commitment.

To date a total of 360 loans have been approved at a total value of \$3.75 million. Loans disbursed, which include loans to existing clients total 330, at a total value of \$3.45 million in the following areas of business: Service & Trade, Manufacturing & Industry, Retail & Distribution, Tourism, Animal Husbandry, Agri Business & Agro Processing.

As a result of the 330 loans disbursed, a total of 475 direct jobs have been created, while approximately 250 indirect, short term jobs have been created as a result of the various renovations, repairs and construction works undertaken by loan beneficiaries.

In addition to the 3.45 million dollars disbursed as loan funds, the BELfund was allowed the opportunity between July 2003 to July 2004, to participate in the Rural Development Credit Facility of the European Development Fund (EDF). During that period, the BELfund was able to disburse a total of six hundred and fourteen thousand (\$614,000.00) dollars worth of grant funds, to beneficiaries under that facility.

## New projects

In the Budget presentations of 2004/5 and 2005/6, mention was made by the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, International Financial Services and Eco-



**Marcellus Joseph  
General Manager BELfund**

nomie Affairs – Hon. Dr. Kenny D. Anthony, of the Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF), a fund specifically targeting young St. Lucian entrepreneurs between the ages of 18 – 30 years wishing to establish their own micro businesses to provide employment for themselves and possibly for other family or community members.

To support the fund, the prime minister was able to secure, with the help of Mr. Armstrong Alexis – Regional Director of the Commonwealth Youth Programme, Caribbean Centre in Guyana, the sum of twenty thousand (20,000.00) Pounds Sterling from the Commonwealth Youth Programme to be used as seed funding for the

project. The signing of the financial agreement formally establishing the Youth Enterprise Development Fund was undertaken in August 2004 at the Prime Minister's Lounge, Greaham Louisy Administrative Building, Waterfront, Castries.

The general objective of the Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF) is to contribute to the socio economic empowerment of young men and women in St. Lucia. The specific objectives are: to reduce unemployment and underemployment among young people, to improve access to financial services for young people, to equip young people with knowledge to enhance their personal development and business management skills, to establish financially and institutionally sustainable services as part of the operations of the Implementing Agency and to improve awareness among financial institutions of the credit worthiness of young people.

## BELfund and the NSDC

While the fifth birthday of the BELfund was going by very quietly, the organization was marking the occasion with the winding down of the first training programme of the Youth Enterprise Development Fund, which included a three (3) week Small Business Management Training Programme, held at the National Skills Development Centre (NSDC), between May 13, 2005 – June 1, 2005. This was followed by a thirty (30) hour Personal Development Programme, which was held at the Glen Castle Hotel from Friday June 3, 2005 to Sunday June 5, 2005.

The Small Business Management Programme, which saw nine (9) Young Entrepreneurs participating, was conducted by Trainers from the BELfund, the National Skills Development Centre (NSDC) and the National Youth Council. Also assisting in that regard, was Mr. Peter Lorde of the Small Enterprise Development Unit, who facilitated the topic "Business Plan Preparation", while Mrs. Elaine French, Deputy Registrar of the Registry of Companies and Intellectual Properties of St. Lucia, facilitated the topic "Legal requirements for the Establishment of a business in St. Lucia". Facilitating the Personal Development Programme was Ms. Patrice La Fleur, attached to the Commonwealth Youth Programme in Guyana.

Presently, the National Skills Development Centre (NSDC) is the main source or pool for participants for the Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF). Why is this so? The reason is that over the years the NSDC has been training a number of young persons in a variety of skills who had indicated their interest in setting up their own micro businesses, but they had not been able to do so due to their inability to raise sufficient capital. It was also felt that while a number of persons were obtaining skills in the various areas at the NSDC, it would not be worthwhile if they were unable to put these skills to good use after they had completed their skills training.

It was with these concerns in mind that the BELfund and the National Skills Development Centre (NSDC) saw the need to collaborate with each other, in an effort to provide credit and other business services to the many skilled persons who have either graduated or will be graduating from that facility, to assist in establishing their micro businesses. However, persons who are not graduates of the NSDC need not feel left out, as those interested in participating in the YEDF programme can call or visit the offices of the BELfund at # 31 Leslie Land Road, Castries, the Headquarters of the National Skills Development Centre (NSDC) in Bisee, Castries or the Headquarters of the National Youth Council (NYC) on Peynier Street, Castries to obtain Application forms for the programme. Arrangements are also being made to have Application Forms at the various Regional Offices and District Youth & Sports Council Offices around the island.



**A BELfund client**

# Customs changes its way of doing business

## Making business easier for the public through Asycuda ++

**T**he reliance of national revenue on the collection of duties and taxes, and accurate trade statistics, is a strong incentive for the introduction of computers to Customs.

Indeed, Customs administrations around the world have had to respond to radical changes in public demand and globalisation. In short Customs have had to change its way of “doing business”. Critical to this change process is the use of Information technology.

Consequently, the role of Customs as an agency of national and international trading policy has made reform and modernization of management methods and operational procedures mandatory.

Many problems experienced by countries are partly the result of inefficient or complex Customs procedures and documentary requirements. Consequently, it is important that these operations be streamlined through a reliable I.T infrastructure.

The St. Lucia Customs and Excise Department began using Information Systems as far back as 1993, when as part of a regional initiative it adopted the ASYCUDA software. ASYCUDA or Automated Systems for Customs Data was developed by UNCTAD in 1981 and has been installed or is being implemented in over 80 countries and regions around the world.

### What is ASYCUDA

ASYCUDA is an integrated computer system for the management of Customs procedures and operations. The System has evolved over the years and at present St. Lucia is using version 2.7 and is getting ready to implement its latest version called ASYCUDA++ later this year. The objectives of the system is achieved through better and more consistent customs control, duty and tax collection and the provision of accurate trade statistics, all goals of our mission statement. The system provides information on: Restrictions, prohibitions; National tax regimes; Concessions, exemptions and Customs procedures and controls

The implementation of the system offers: Institutional strengthening of Customs through reform and modernisation; Better conditions for trade operations; Better management and control of Government finances; Reliable source of information on trade; and A platform and tools for a genuine implementation of e-Government.

ASYCUDA++ allows the management to be wary of perceived risks by use of its selectivity controls and the introduction of risk analysis and risk assessment measures. The automated

tariff performs automatic and exact calculation of duties and taxes, including for those goods under exemptions and trade agreements. As a result, Customs will offer a more accurate accounting and collection of its derived revenue. The system is conducive to the application of international trade recommendations and best practices. ASYCUDA++ helps reduce clearance times and processes, and provides Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) and Direct Trader Input (DTI) capabilities for the

The system provides for consistency in checking of Customs declarations as well as full selectivity and profiling options. The cashier and accounting functions are fully integrated thus ensuring further reliability of statistics. ASYCUDA++ collects and stores complete data for national statistics in standard report formats for quick response to data extraction requests. The data is flexible, secure and downloadable to PC databases for sorting and reporting. ASYCUDA++ can interface with

for use in different operational environments, either at the traders or brokers' premises or as part of a separate office, within the Customs House. Access to the system is controlled through the necessary security features, both in the application software and the LINUX operating system. Brokers and traders will only be able to have access to those ASYCUDA functions permitted by Customs.

### ASYCUDA++ Migration project – Expediting the process

The ASYCUDA++ Migration Project which effectively began in June 2004, is an automation platform project of a trade facilitation and customs modernisation initiative. It is expected to take 18 months to complete with pilot site implementation scheduled for September 2005 in Vieux-Fort. Full roll-out of the system is scheduled to be complete by January 2006. It is expected that by the end of the Project, Customs will provide an imports/exports processing system which will maximize efficiency within the Customs clearance process, provide an efficient service to the trading community and ensure an effective control and collection of revenue. This system will also make available quality information for decision-making and more concise statistical data on trade.

The system must be conducive to the successful attainment of streamlined, simplified and harmonised Customs procedures and processes, expediting the movement of legitimate goods and legitimate travellers across our borders.

### Controlling the flow of goods

Computerised Customs management systems constitute the most effective way of controlling the flow of goods in order to achieve the maximum efficiency in the Customs clearance process. Currently, the development of a computerised system for Customs data processing is even more critical as we move towards the establishment of synergies within the public and private sectors. Here, I refer to the recently signed memorandum of understanding between Customs and the Private Sector as well as the conceptualization of revenue authority between Customs and Inland Revenue.

The success of these initiatives depends heavily on modern and reliable information systems in order to streamline operations. This state of the art ASYCUDA++ program provides customs with a wonderful opportunity to do just that. It is the first but huge step towards the attainment of “E – Government”. Customs must take the lead in that process, and it must start by automating trade.



Customs and Excise Department on Jeremie Street



Customs employees frequently engage in training

submission of on-line trade declarations.

ASYCUDA assists Customs Administrations in collecting, analysing and using information from: External intelligence sources; Inspection reporting; risk measurement procedures and selective examinations; Database analysis and Management information systems; audit activities

external systems and provide EDI services to exchange information among all trade stakeholders such as shippers, airlines, brokers, couriers, importers, exporters, other trade agents, and government agencies.

### Security

Features of ASYCUDA++ enable the DTI/EDI software to be configured

## Banana Industry Trust commits to survival of the local industry

**A**t the conclusion of the Review of the St. Lucia Banana Industry held at the NIC — Conference Centre on the 8 and 9 June 2005, under the theme “Repositioning the Banana Industry to Meet the Global Challenges” the organizers have issued the following:

Recognising the fundamental importance of the Banana Industry, this

conference commits the stakeholders to ensure the survival and prosperity of the industry for the medium to long term through: Renewed support and endorsement of the efforts of our negotiations in Brussels; Continued production of bananas; Supply consistent volumes of quality fruit to the markets as an objective to increase competitiveness; Foster collaboration among stakeholders in the industry; Continue to examine ways to reduce production

costs; Focus on production planning and production management; Continue the lobby efforts to protect present banana regime arrangements.

A technical group was appointed to review the recommendations coming out from the five (5) working groups, which discussed various aspects of the industry. The group composition comprises the three (3) Banana Companies, an independent fanner, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries,

the BERU, WIBDECO and the Banana Industry Trust. As its first task the technical group will recommend feasible mechanisms for collaboration among the main industry stakeholders.

The Banana Industry Trust will coordinate the workings of the group and will co-opt other expertise as necessary. The group will report to the main body of stakeholders in one (1) month.



# Disaster preparedness - it's our business!

Another hurricane season is here, and this year, we have been warned to expect more storms with greater degrees of intensity. Indeed, meteorologists are predicting a particularly, active and busy hurricane season. The truth is, I am worried, even uneasy as I know the odds are against us. You must never forget that St. Lucia has had a dramatic history of severe weather systems hitting in 1780, 1818, 1819, 1831, 1837, 1841, 1894,1898, 1923, 1951, 1955, 1960, 1963, 1967, 1978, 1980, 1990, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1999, and 2002.

**A personal act**

It is our responsibility to take every necessary precaution to ensure that this hurricane season passes without undue loss of life, human suffering and damage to property. It is our responsibility because disaster management, though guided by the team at the NEMO Secretariat, is really a personal act of protection.

The Government can only advise persons but the actions that lead to protection must be one that we undertake to do for ourselves, our family and our businesses. We cannot stop a hurricane but we can be better prepared for its onslaught.

**A false sense of security**

I am particularly concerned that Saint Lucia's run of good luck with past hurricane seasons might have lulled us into a false sense of security.

Incidentally, this year marks the 25th Anniversary of Hurricane Allen

## PM Converses with the Nation



Hon. Dr. Kenny D. Anthony

and the 50th Anniversary of Hurricane Janet. How time flies!

The damage caused to Saint Lucia by Tropical Storm Debbie, Hurricane Lenny, and to some extent Hurricane Ivan should be a sharp reminder to all of us that we should not take the hurricane season for granted.

The Government of Saint Lucia through the Saint Lucia Met Services now maintains a Weather Information Service at telephone 454-3452. There is no excuse now for any of us not to know the status of the weather for a particular day or when a hurricane is approaching.

Home owners and indeed all families, must take the necessary steps to ensure that their homes and families are adequately protected from hurricanes and their after-effects.

**Insure your properties**

In my New Year's Address this year, I urged you to make the sacrifice and insure your property and its contents.

Recently, the President of the Saint Lucia Insurance Council, Mr Claudius Francis, spoke on the apparent reluctance of St. Lucians to avail themselves of insurance coverage. I want to repeat my plea to you to act now in getting the insured household percentage up from 35%.

Credit Unions in Saint Lucia use the group insurance methodology that allows members to access coverage at a reasonable rate. The Civil Service Co-operative Credit Union, for example, offers house and household contents coverage to its members. But the traditional house insurance is not the only risk we need to consider. Recently there have been a number of landslides, throughout the island. Subsidence insurance, as well as fire, flood and earthquake are some of the packages which are available. Again, I want to challenge you to strive for a 60% figure

**Need for vigilance**

We must all accept the need for greater vigilance and caution during the upcoming season. Our fishermen and coast dwellers must pay serious attention to the advisories which are issued by the disaster and emergency agencies.

of insurance coverage for this year, no matter how painful the financial cost.

Insurance not only applies to our homes but to our businesses too. Business persons need to ask the following questions. Does the business have (a) business interruption insurance coverage? (b) rent insurance coverage? and (c) a continuity of operations plan?

As you know, this is a technological age. Businesses should therefore determine whether they have backup files and data saved away from their businesses.

**Vexed issue of trees**

Another issue which we must address is the trimming of trees. For many, this is a vexed issue. How often have neighbors quarreled with each other over trees that separate boundaries or grow in each other's back yard? I urge you to put your differences aside and trim your trees to avoid injury and damage.

The laws of Saint Lucia provide an avenue for addressing the nuisance of trees. However, we are all aware of the burden that the judicial system labors under and it may be months before your case comes before the courts. Neighbors must work together to remove the hazard of dangerous trees and branches. So, the solution does not lie in the court. If you are reluctant to cut or trim your trees, then, think again!

**Disposal of waste**

This brings me to a related issue, the disposal of our waste. Having cut a tree, a river is not the place to dispose of the waste. Poor garbage disposal in

our water ways comes back to haunt us with the intensity of floods. The topography of Saint Lucia, the combination of hills and valleys will always lead to flooding. We can lessen the effects of flooding by disposing of our garbage in the manner prescribed by the Solid Waste Waste Management Authority.

The combination of poor garbage disposal with flood conditions brought on by hurricanes can lead to the outbreak of diseases. A good example is leptospirosis. This disease is carried by rats and can be lethal.

We must take control of how we deal with our garbage. The cycle of life is described as such because all that we do is linked. So it is in disaster management: Hurricanes bring rain that can cause floods. Poor garbage disposal can worsen those floods. Floods can sweep persons and buildings away and do untold damage.

**The value of disaster planning**

You may have noted this Government's heavy emphasis on disaster mitigation and disaster planning. Ever so often, you hear of a resolution in Parliament to raise money for flood control and disaster mitigation. All of this is done as part of a broader planning process.

Proper planning includes things like being aware of the emergency shelters in your neighbourhood. Many persons query the adequacy of these shelters for the hurricane season; this is why they are emergency shelters and not hurricane shelters. Disaster prepared-

ness, as I indicated earlier, is a personal precaution. For that reason, the Government of Saint Lucia, through the NEMO Secretariat, advises that persons take steps to make their homes their emergency shelters. If this is not possible then we should make advance arrangements to be with family or friends. As recently as Hurricane Ivan, I announced in my address to the nation the exact shelters that would be opened. The 2005 list is available from NEMO and on the Government of Saint Lucia website.

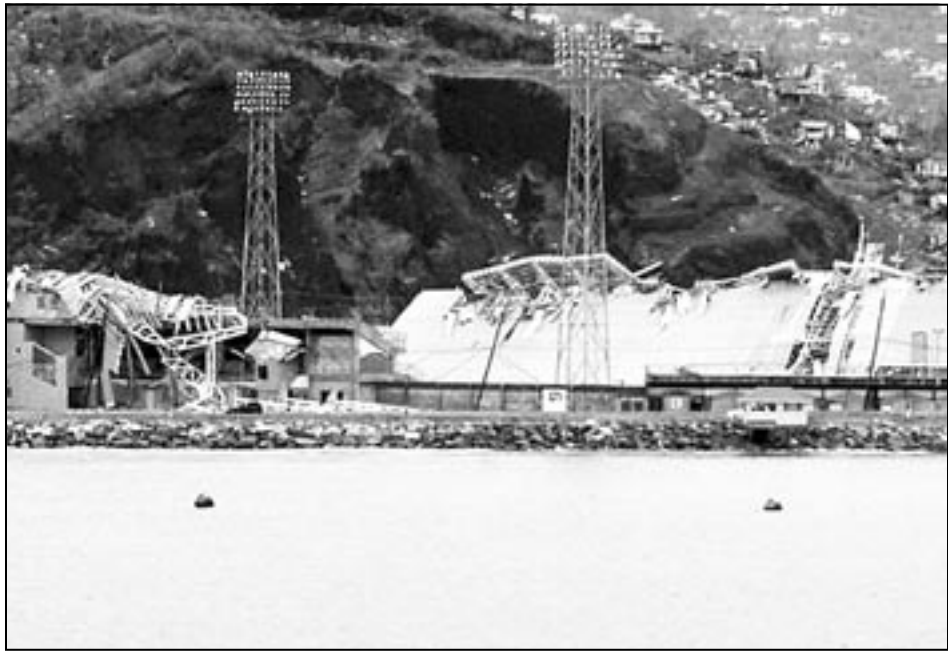
**Hurricanes and economic fortunes**

We must never forget that a hurricane can have immense consequences for the future of our economy. Consider the impact of a hurricane on the

lives of our banana farmers who have experienced so many difficulties over the years. A hurricane can bring closure to our tourism plant, displace workers and taxi drivers. And there is always the huge cost of rebuilding private homes, public buildings and our roads and communications network.

In such circumstances, in addition to doing all that is physically possible to protect ourselves, we can only pray to God to spare our beautiful country from the impact of a serious natural disaster. Let us hope that we all do what is necessary this year to protect life and property and let us pray to God for deliverance during this hurricane season.

Take care of yourself and PRAY hard.



Grenada's National Stadium after Hurricane Ivan



Corner of Laborie and Jeremie Streets after heavy rainfall



Pictorial memories of Tropical Storm Debbie



Insuring homes against natural disasters is important



Indiscriminate dumping of solid waste is a major problem



# SMMA reaps rewards

## Increase in fish stocks and fishers' catches

**E**xtending from Anse Jambon in the north to Anse l'Ivrogne in the south, from the shore to a depth of seventy-five meters, the Soufriere Marine Management Area (SMMA) was officially established in July 1995.

A not-for-profit company, its mission is to contribute to national and local development, particularly in the fisheries and tourism sectors through management of the Soufriere coastal zone, based on the principles of sustainable use, cooperation among resource users, institutional collaboration, active and enlightened participation, and equitable sharing of benefits and responsibilities among stakeholders.

Prior to the formation of the SMMA, there was much conflict and problems

the use of marine space to engage in mooring and seining activities. Divers were often accused by fishers of deliberately damaging fish pots/traps found during dive expeditions. Water Taxi Operators and others were accused by fishers of interrupting fishing and damaging fishing gear by passing too close to fishing activity, or directly in the path of deployed fishing gear.

There was a lack of awareness of, and appreciation for, the marine environment. Researchers were also accused by fishers of taking fish and coral reef samples, and thus, contributing to environmental degradation.

Since the SMMA was formed, through the combined efforts of resource users, management authorities, scientists, non-governmental groups,



A diver enjoys a scenic moment in the SMMA

Improvement in the status of coral reefs, especially branching coral, which had previously been subjected to physical damage, particularly from anchorage. Increase in fish stocks in marine reserves and fishing priority areas and also an increase in fishers' catches. Provision of facilities such as yacht moorings, have helped reduce physical damage to marine habitats.

Every year, scientists from the University of York in Britain have worked together with the Department of Fisheries and the SMMA to determine the status of fish stocks and the condition of coral reefs. This team has found dramatic increases in fish stocks since the SMMA was created. They now have evidence that these increases are leading to significant improvements in the reef fish catches throughout the management area.

Fish stocks have tripled in marine reserves but what is more important to fishermen is that fish stocks have also doubled in fishing areas. Marine Reserves are like money in the bank for fishermen. They protect breeding stocks and supply nearby fisheries with young fish. There are now more fish

in the waters of the SMMA than there have been for more than six years.

Significant increases in reef fish catches in the pot fishery of the Soufriere area have also been found. In comparing fish catches in 1995 and 1996, when the SMMA was first established, with fish catches from 2000 and the first month of 2001, it was found that average catches from fish pots increased from nine to fourteen pounds. For every two pounds of fish caught in 1995, fishers are now catching three to four pounds. The amount of fish caught per pot also increased. The number of fish species in the catches also appears to have increased and this may be another indication of how the reef fish populations of Soufriere are benefiting from the marine reserves.

The SMMA and the Soufriere community have worked hard to protect their underwater resources and are now really beginning to see the benefits.

The SMMA will continue to fulfill its objective of conserving coastal resources for current and future generations. The future looks bright for fishers and fish-lovers alike.



The SMMA - Bustling with activity

among fishermen, yachtsmen, divers and other local users.

Yachtsmen and fishers competed for

donor organizations and the Soufriere community, there have been numerous achievements.

# Emergency services at no cost

**I**n a proactive stance the St. Lucia Fire and Emergency Services, has come forward to diffuse a possible misconception that the institution requires payment for delivering emergency services or for responding to calls.

Divisional Officer and spokesperson for the Fire Service Mr. Hilton Occulien says fire and emergency personnel have been building a very cordial relationship with the public, which is based upon honouring calls, quick response time and reliability.

"The Fire Service does not charge for any kind of emergency response - especially the ambulance service - if somebody just suddenly falls sick, falls from a tree or collapses and you

call the ambulance. That is a free service," Occulien said.

Fees apply only when casual or non-emergency calls are made for the use of ambulance services. In such cases, there is a charge of fifty dollars for the first five miles and five dollars for every other mile.

Mr. Occulien reassured the general public: "Once you have medical emergencies and you're far from a hospital your first call should be the fire service, because every fire man is trained as the first responder. That's a level where he or she can give first aid care en-route to the hospital."

All Fire Service recruits are trained and tested in emergency response tech-



Modern facilities for increased efficiency

niques. Advanced and refresher courses are conducted periodically to ensure

the efficiency of the department's personnel.

# Progress towards Universal Secondary Education

## Over 3000 places available for Common Entrance Examinees

*Continued from page 1*

These places are available at Grande Rivierre Senior Primary School, Vieux Fort Technical Institute and the Rock Hall Senior Primary School.

Acting Deputy Registrar of Examinations Ms. Betty Combie said secondary school places have increased

steadily in keeping with the Ministry's move towards Universal Secondary Education.

Construction of two new secondary schools each with a capacity for 700 students is scheduled to commence by the 3rd quarter of 2005.

Expanding, upgrading and rehabilitating existing secondary schools to in-

crease capacity for enrolment and improve the environment for teaching and learning are key factors. The Grande Rivierre Senior Primary School will be transformed into a full-fledged secondary school.

In 1998 the Ministry of Education, Human Resource Development, Youth & Sports began releasing the

average raw scores of candidates who sat the Common Entrance Examinations. Prior to this period, standardized scores were used to present the results. In 2004 the Common Entrance Examinations attained the highest national mean (50.69%) since the introduction of the raw scores in 1998.

# From Crisis to Hope

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



**Hon. Senator Calixte George**  
Minister for Home Affairs and  
Internal Security

**A**gainst the backdrop of Government's "Contract of Faith" with the people of St. Lucia, and on its resumption of office, the Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security, is playing its part in the delivery of Government's comprehensive Judicial Reform. The development and implementation of a number of new initiatives which were necessary to strengthen the criminal justice system and minimize the loss of life and property by fire were undertaken.

In-depth studies, surveys and analyses of the existing situation were conducted within the Police, Correctional and delinquent Juvenile Services System, which were used to develop a road map for the way forward for the implementation of the relevant reforms.

The existing stock of physical assets, manpower, institutional and operational systems necessary for the effective functioning of these Agencies, required immediate strengthening and in numerous instances a complete overhaul.

### Police

Police Officers around the Island were found to be operating under un-

acceptable and very disturbing conditions. Urgent remedial action had to be undertaken to alleviate these problems in the workplace. Consequently, a number of police stations had to be constructed and in some cases, refurbished. Alongside this initiative, it was also necessary to enhance police institutional systems, which included increases in manpower, vehicles, equipment, training and the revision, development and enactment of specific laws and regulations. These were required as a matter of urgency, to facilitate an effective Police Service. Quick action was necessary and was effected to halt the existing morbid conditions observed upon Government's entry into office in 1997.

### Correctional Services

The situation which existed at Her Majesty's Prisons on Bridge Street, Castries was another major crisis which required urgent attention and quick remedial action. Shortly after Government's entry into office, in May 1997, in a desperate attempt by inmates to gain Government's attention to the plight of existing inhumane conditions, prison riots by inmates erupted.

The century-plus old prison built in 1827 to house 62 inmates which was at that time accommodating 482 inmates was significantly damaged. Government's property contained therein was also destroyed. The situation at the Prisons was sordid and morbid and affected both prison officers and inmates. As a matter of urgency, Government had to address this inflammable situation and embarked on the construction of a new Correctional Facility at Bordelais, Dennery.

In keeping with international accepted standards, and the demands and requirements of the 21st century, Government also introduced a new philosophical approach for the management of inmates committed to the Facility; through the development and imple-



**Millions of dollars have been spent on building and upgrading infrastructure**

mentation of a system of correctional services, instead of the existing penal system.

The Correctional System is more thorough and the approach is long-term with emphasis on rehabilitation. This system is based on the recognition that most offenders have the potential to be rehabilitated and live as law-abiding citizens. The mission of the Bordelais Correctional Facility is – to contribute to the maintenance and protection of a peaceful and safe society, by providing a controlled and secure environment, safe and humane custody and supervision of offenders, and assisting in the rehabilitation of offenders and their reintegration into the community as law-abiding citizens. This approach is based on the principle that society is best protected when offenders are able to re-establish themselves in the community under conditions that minimize their risk of re-offending.

The introduction of Correctional Services required an overhaul of existing operational and institutional systems, increased human resource capacity, recruitment of professionals in specialist areas, and the repeal of the Prisons Ordinance which necessitated the development and enactment of a Correctional Services Act.

### Juvenile Justice – Services for Delinquent Juveniles

#### The Boys' Training Centre and the Upton Gardens Girls Centre

The physical conditions of the 44 year old Boys' Training Centre, which commenced operations in February

1960 and provides services for delinquent boys' were in a deplorable condition and needed to be replaced, or at the very least refurbished.

The Centre's (1950's) programmes geared towards the penal system required a philosophical shift to correctional services, with emphasis on rehabilitation. Existing programmes for the wards (delinquent boys) at the Centre had to be replaced to facilitate the new thrust, and professionals with training in psychology, counseling, agriculture and vocational trades (woodwork, auto mechanics, welding) had to be recruited. The growing demand for the Centre's services necessitated an increase in the staff complement.

A Centre for female juvenile delinquents does not exist; despite the fact that a growing number of girls engaged in crime and other deviant behaviour was on the rise in the 1980's and 1990's. On resumption of office, Government increased the subvention of the Upton Gardens Girls' Centre to \$200,000 to provide some relief in this area. Government has provided an amount of \$150,000 in this year's budget to upgrade the Upton Gardens Girls Centre to a twenty-four hour facility. This facility will provide services to (female) juvenile delinquents. Sixty-thousand dollars has also been provided by Government through funding from the European Union for the review and development of a Juvenile Delinquents Programme.

*Continued in the next issue*

## TENDER NOTICES

### Government of St. Lucia Invitation for tenders for the supply of furniture, equipment, stationery and office supplies

The Ministry of Finance, International Financial Services and Economic Affairs hereby invite TENDERS FOR THE SUPPLY OF FURNITURE, EQUIPMENT, STATIONERY AND OFFICE SUPPLIES for the Fiscal year 2005/2006.

Details and quantities are available upon request from the Procurement Unit of Budget Division located in the Old Government Buildings on Laborie Street in Castries.

Catalogues or Brochures containing samples should be supplied as much as possible and prices must be valid for at least six (6) months from date of Tender.

Prospective bidders are asked to note that Government is not obligated to accept the entire proposal from

any one bidder or does not bind itself to accept the lowest on any Tender.

Payment of goods supplied by successful bidders will be made following receipt of goods in keeping with Government Policy.

Tenders should be submitted no later than July 15, 2005 in a sealed envelope clearly written TENDERS FOR THE SUPPLY OF FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT OR STATIONERY AND OFFICE SUPPLIES and should be addressed to: The Chairman, Central Tenders Board, Ministry of Finance, International Financial Services and Economic Affairs, Old Government Buildings, Laborie Street, CASTRIES.

### Government of St. Lucia Invitation for tenders for the supply of computers and printers

The Ministry of Finance, International Financial Services and Economic Affairs is inviting TENDERS FOR THE SUPPLY OF COMPUTERS AND PRINTERS.

Details and quantities are available upon requests from the Procurement Unit of the Budget Division located in the Old Government Buildings on Laborie Street, Castries.

Prospective bidders are asked to note that Government is not obligated to accept the entire proposal from any one bidder or does not bind itself to accept the lowest on any Tender. Prices quoted must be valid for at least six (6) months from date of Tender.

Payment of goods supplied by successful bidders will be made following delivery of equipment in keeping with Government policy.

Tenders should be submitted no later than July 15, 2005 in a sealed envelope clearly marked TENDERS FOR THE SUPPLY OF COMPUTERS AND PRINTERS, and should be addressed to: The Chairman, Central Tenders Board, Ministry of Finance, International Financial Services and Economic Affairs, Laborie Street, CASTRIES.

### Gouvernement de St. Lucia Tenders for the supply of 2006 diaries

The Ministry of Finance, International Financial Services and Economic Affairs hereby invite TENDERS FOR THE SUPPLY OF DIARIES for the year 2006 as follows: (1) 1900 Hard Cover, One — day Appointment Dia-

ries; (2) 375 Executive/Professional Daily Diaries.

The Logo of the St. Lucia Government which is the COAT OF ARMS must be printed in Gold print along with the words "GOVERNMENT OF ST. LUCIA" on the front cover of the Diary. A sample of which, can be found on the Government Website, which is [www.st.lucia.gov.lc](http://www.st.lucia.gov.lc).

A Sample of Diaries or a Brochure must accompany your tender and prices quoted must be valid for at least six (6) months from date of Tender.

Prospective bidders are asked to note that Government is not obligated to accept the entire proposal from any one bidder nor does it bind itself to accept the lowest or any Tender.

Tenders should be submitted no later than July 15, 2005 in sealed envelopes clearly written TENDERS FOR THE SUPPLY OF DIARIES (2006) and should be addressed to: The Chairman, Departmental Tenders Board, Ministry of Finance, International Financial Services and Economic Affairs, 2 Floor, Financial Centre Building, Bridge Street, CASTRIES.



# RAT POPULATION ON THE DECLINE

## NORTH OF ISLAND SOON TO BENEFIT FROM BAITING PROGRAMME

**A**n initial survey carried out in two pilot areas, Vieux Fort (Region 5) and Castries (Region 8), to evaluate the rodent population, yielded data that pointed to the need for a change in the garbage disposal habits of the residents of those areas.

A field assessment was carried out in Vieux Fort, and meetings have been held with the assistance of the committee established there. An area has been identified for the pilot area.

The major challenge which the RCCU faces is sanitation. Persons are not taking responsibility for their waste. Persons fail to see the direct link between sanitation and the rat infestation, the attitude remains that garbage is somebody else's problem.

Rats come around us because we provide them with food, whether it be the from the person who eats his chicken and does not dispose of the bones in a garbage bin, or the person who sits on the bus throws a banana pill out of the window or the person who defecates in the corner of the CDC. All of these actions are responsible for the poor sanitation, we see around us and by extension the rat problem.

It is very important to keep in mind that Rats and Mice are responsible for the spread of diseases such as Salmonellosis, Hanta virus Leptospirosis, which can ultimately kill.

In an effort to alleviate the scourge, a National Awareness and Education Programme was embarked upon. The programme included preparation and distribution of posters and brochures, a promotional jingle which was produced and placed on the electronic media, fourteen town hall meetings, and needs assessment in two secondary schools - Sir Ira Simmons and the Castries Comprehensive Secondary Schools.

Initiatives to take food away from the rats before baiting, by working closely with the St Lucia Solid Waste Management Authority and Castries City Council, utilizing proper methods of garbage disposal and timing of garbage collection, has resulted in declining rat populations in key institutions like the Victoria Hospital, the Castries Market and the CDC area.

Proper rat proof trays are in the process of being constructed for the vendors of the Castries Market.

A Rodent Management Training Workshop in Baiting was held for vector Control Officers assigned to the RCCU and grounds personnel from the two secondary schools, representatives from the Castries Market, the CDC apartments, and Victoria Hospital.

The RCCU addressed assemblies for students on rodent management before baiting began at the schools.

Teachers of the Ave Maria School, the Anglican School, the Sir Ira Simmons and Castries Comprehensive Secondary Schools were trained in rodent control management; training kits were distributed to teachers.

Baiting is currently being carried out in the following specific target sections of the pilot areas: two secondary schools and the Anglican school, where baiting



An ideal breeding ground for rodents



Poor garbage disposal practices will attract rats

is being done by the grounds men and supervised by the Vector Control Officers assigned to the RCCU. The CDC, the Darling Road Housing Estate, the Castries Market, Victoria Hospital and The Derek Walcott Square are also being baited.

Grounds men at the Presbytery are currently being trained to carry out baiting at the Presbytery and the grounds

of the Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception.

As part of the extension from the pilot project areas, the RCCU has conducted assessments at the Fire and Police compounds, SLAPSA, the Golden Hope Hospital, the George Charles Airport and NIPRO.

The Rodent Control Coordination Unit intends to extend the Rodent

Control Programme in communities throughout the island. A plan has already been put in place for the North of the island in the coming months.

A training workshop for vector control officers, and personnel from other government institutions and the private sector is scheduled for the 22nd and 23rd of June 2005. Baiting activities will commence following the workshop.

After a period of nine months (September 2004 – May 2005) the Rodent Control Coordination Unit (RCCU) has seen positive changes in the public response to its programme of activities.

## Vatican Thanks Prime Minister

**Pope Benedict the 15th has thanked Prime Minister Dr Kenny D. Anthony, on behalf of the Vatican, for the condolences offered by the Government and People of St. Lucia at the time of the death of Pope John Paul II.**

Writing on behalf of the College of Cardinals, the then Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger acknowledged "the kind message with which you conveyed your sympathy and that of the people of St. Lucia at the time of grief for the Holy See and the Universal Church on the death of Pope John Paul II."

Cardinal Ratzinger, who has since succeeded Pope John Paul as Pope Benedict XV, wrote: "In the name of the College of Cardinals, I thank you most sincerely for the expression of

your deeply felt condolences and for the gracious words with which you affirm your admiration for the generous service given to the church and to the entire human family by this outstanding pontiff."

Last week, the Vatican, through the Apostolic Nuncio, also thanked the Prime Minister of St. Lucia for the Government's stance against human cloning adopted at a recent session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Last year, Pope John Paul II conferred a Papal Knighthood on St. Lucia's Ambassador to the United Nations, His Excellency Julian R. Hunte, for his role as President of the UN General Assembly session during which the Vatican was recognized as a full member-state of the UN.



### THIS WEEK ON NTN

Sat. June 18th - Fri. June 24th, 2005

The GIS discusses disaster preparedness - Sat. June 18th - 8:00 p.m.

· South Calypso Tent 2005 - Sat. June 18th, 9:00 p.m.

· Three government ministers discuss the cross fertilization of programmes of their individual ministries geared towards the sustainable - Sun. June 19th, 8:00 p.m.

· The GIS discusses the Textbook Rental Scheme - Mon. June 20th, 8:30 p.m.

· Nation Beat Live: - Prime Minister Hon. Dr. Kenny D Anthony takes your calls

- Tues. June 21st, 8:00 p.m.

· Developman Lang Kweyol- la (Part 1)

- Wed. June 22nd, 8:00 p.m.

· Rebroadcast of Live discussion on HIV/AIDS - Thurs. June 23rd, 8:30 p.m.

· Carnival Vibes 2K5: Exploring the costumes of participating bands - Fri. June 24th, 9:30 p.m.

Remember to tune in for:

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

· Issues & Answers/Mondays at 8:00pm:

· Interview/Tuesdays at 6:15pm :

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

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

Take 2/Fridays at 6:15pm

(Week in Review)

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

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

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