



NATIONWIDE

A publication of the Department of Information Services



26th Independence Anniversary
kicks off this weekend - page 2



Fund for new hospital mounts
- page 2



Tourism is key sector, keeps
improving - pages 3 & 8



\$100,000 for Guyana flood victims
- page 7



One Day Internationals coming,
CWC 2007 in spotlight - pages 3 & 8

PITONS MANAGEMENT AREA TO BRING INCREASED BENEFITS TO ST. LUCIA



Governor General presents
Charter for the Pitons to
UNESCO Director General

St. Lucia now has access to the many privileges that world heritage sites enjoy. Director General of UNESCO Mr. Koichiro Matsuura, who earlier this week led a UNESCO delegation to St. Lucia for the inscription ceremony of the Piton Management Area as a World Heritage Site, said that designating an area as a world heritage site was an occasion for boosting national pride and increasing a society's commitment to protecting and developing that area in a sustainable manner. He said the status of world heritage also brought international attention to the site and its surrounding area, attracting international funding and potential increases in tourism.

"It may be noted that the world heritage centre has established programs for small island developing state to provide enhanced assistance in the preparation of nominations to UNESCO's world heritage list. Our collective work to conserve the diversity of the world's heritage also requires new instruments to give greater protective coverage to all types of heritage. As a complimentary instrument to the 1972 world convention, which focuses on the protection of cultural and natural properties, we now have a new convention for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage, which was adopted in October 2003", Mr. Matsuura said.



Intangible cultural heritage encompasses among others, world traditions and expressions including language, performing arts, social practices, rituals and festive events and traditional craftsmanship.

"I believe that intangible cultural heritage is very important for St. Lucia and the wider Caribbean and therefore, I truly hope that your country and its neighbours will soon be parties to the 2003 convention which opens up other avenues for the safeguarding of cultural and natural diversity in all its forms. This is a duty we owe to future generations", he said.

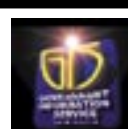
UNESCO has established a process for promoting an interest in and respect for intangible cultural heritage called the masterpieces of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity. Given the fact that 12 countries have already ratified the 2003 convention on intangible cultural heritage it is likely that it will come into force in 2006.

According to the UNESCO Director General, once the 2003 convention on intangible cultural heritage comes into operation, the convention will have its own mechanism for inscribing outstanding examples of intangible cultural heritage around the world.



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Every Friday at 6.15 p.m. on **NTN**, Cablevision Channel 2.

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



Aid funds for new hospital accumulates



New Hospital Design being presented

The European Union (EU) has provided over EC \$40 million in new and additional funding to St. Lucia, following its recent mid-term review of the country's various funding instruments. The financial support is among the provision of funds by the EU to OECS Countries and Barbados to the tune of EC \$130 million dollars.

Two documents were signed Tuesday this week between the Government, represented by Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Dr. Kenny D. Anthony and EU Ambassador to the OECS and Barbados, Amos Tincani for the provision of funds, following the review of the National Indicative Programme and funds earmarked under the 2004 Special Framework of Assistance (SFA).

St. Lucia, for its part continues to receive high praise and rewards for its ability to efficiently utilize funds provided by the EU.

St. Lucia received some EC\$20 million, which will go towards the construction of the new hospital complex for the island, bringing the total EU funding for the facility to over EC\$60 million. An additional amount of EC \$25 million will go towards Human Resource Development and training under the SFA.

Grenada, which was devastated by Hurricane Ivan in early September 2004, has been provided with EC\$27 million in emergency aid. The Eastern Caribbean States are among the highest aid beneficiaries of European Union assistance on a per capita basis.

Call made for wide public participation in Independence Celebrations

The Saint Lucian public is being encouraged to participate actively, in the activities to mark Saint Lucia's 26th Anniversary of Independence.

The Standing National Independence Anniversary Committee at its last meeting ahead of the Independence celebrations on Tuesday 22nd

February, said all was in place to mark this great occasion in the development of the nation.

A mix of celebratory activities will call attention to the strides made in the development of the nation, as well as activities which will give thanks to God for sparing the island the ravages of natural disasters.

The National Ecumenical Service to be held at the Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception on Friday 18th at 3:00pm is open to the public and Saint Lucians are being urged to turn out in large numbers to give thanks, and to pray for the continued success of a young democracy.

A group from the Royal Saint Lu-

cia Police Force has been in training over the last couple of days for the staging of the keenly anticipated, Independence Day Parade on Tuesday 22nd February at the Mindoo Philip Park from 9: 00 a.m.

Other activities include the National Sports Awards on Saturday 19th from 7:30 p.m. at the National Cultural Centre, the Concert of Praise and Inspiration on Sunday 20th at 5.00 p.m. at the National Cultural Centre and the Order of Saint Lucia Investiture Ceremony on Tuesday 22nd at Government House from 3:00 p.m.

Romulus cautions against mismanagement of Pitons Management Area

Giles Romulus, who spear-headed St. Lucia's mission, which brought world recognition to the Pitons Management Area has thrown a word of caution to those who will manage the site.

Speaking to the GIS, following the official Inscription Ceremony of the Pitons Management Area on Monday, February 14, he said the nation must ensure that this honour was never hampered through bad management of the area.

The dream for Mr. Romulus started in 1989, when a system of protected ar-



Giles Romulus (C) recognised by Prime Minister Dr. Kenny D. Anthony (L) and Hon. Mario Mitchel (R)

eas was being developed for the island. He was at that time engaged in research and saw the World Heritage recognition as an important designation for St. Lucia and the majestic Pitons.

Mr. Romulus said the long road to Monday's inscription ceremony of the Pitons Management Area brought with it immense challenges, but the success he said, would endure.

The Piton Management area is some 11 square miles of land on the South West of St. Lucia, and includes the Pitons, Sulphur Springs and the Soufriere Marine Area.

The Government of St. Lucia has taken issue with a claim in an editorial in the Voice newspaper that claims that a Constitutional Motion filed on behalf of a lawyer accused of rape was heard or ruled upon by a Judge of the High Court.

The Tuesday, February 8, 2005 issue of the Voice newspaper, in a Guest Editorial, stated in part that: "It was argued and upheld, that at least one section of the criminal Code is unconstitutional and the paying client was allowed his freedom based on that judgment."

This statement is as false as that in the Star newspaper of February 7, 2005 which falsely stated as fact that: "Shortly before two-o'clock in the afternoon, it was confirmed that that the accused was set free on \$10,000, a related constitutional motion by the lawyers of the accused having been decided by Justice Redhead in his favour."

The Government of St. Lucia again wishes to make it absolutely clear, that contrary to what is claimed by both the Voice and the Star, the High Court never heard the Constitutional Motion

Fact vs Fiction: Govt Again Disputes Voice and Star claims that Constitutional Motion was heard

and Justice Redhead never pronounced on the constitutionality of Section 593 of the new Criminal Code.

The Government of St. Lucia notes with concern that in both cases, neither newspaper bothered to ascertain or clarify the facts before going to press. Both stated as fact what is an obvious fiction.

The Government notes, with equal concern, that despite the passage of enough time to verify and ascertain the facts, and despite the availability of the Court's Order, neither the Voice nor the Star has acknowledged or corrected the error.

The Star, in today's issue (Friday,

February 11, 2005) published an earlier statement issued by the Government on Monday (the same day it published the inaccuracy). However, it attached below the Government's statement an Editor's Note denying the paper said exactly what is stated in its article, and which it was correctly quoted, word for word, in the published statement.

The irreducible and incontrovertible fact is that neither of the two newspapers can prove that the Constitutional Motion was heard or that a ruling was made by Justice Redhead, because it simply did not happen. The fact is that the hearing is set for February 24, 2005.

Accordingly, the Government of St. Lucia calls on both local publications to do the right and decent thing – to acknowledge the inaccuracy of the respective claims and apologize to their respective readers for having misled them.

Such an acknowledgement and apology is due, in the least, to Justice Albert Redhead, who has been attributed a ruling he did not make.

UNESCO Director General congratulates Saint Lucia

Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Mr. Koichiro Matsuura has congratulated the Government and people of St. Lucia, on the designation of the Pitons Management Area as a World Heritage Site.

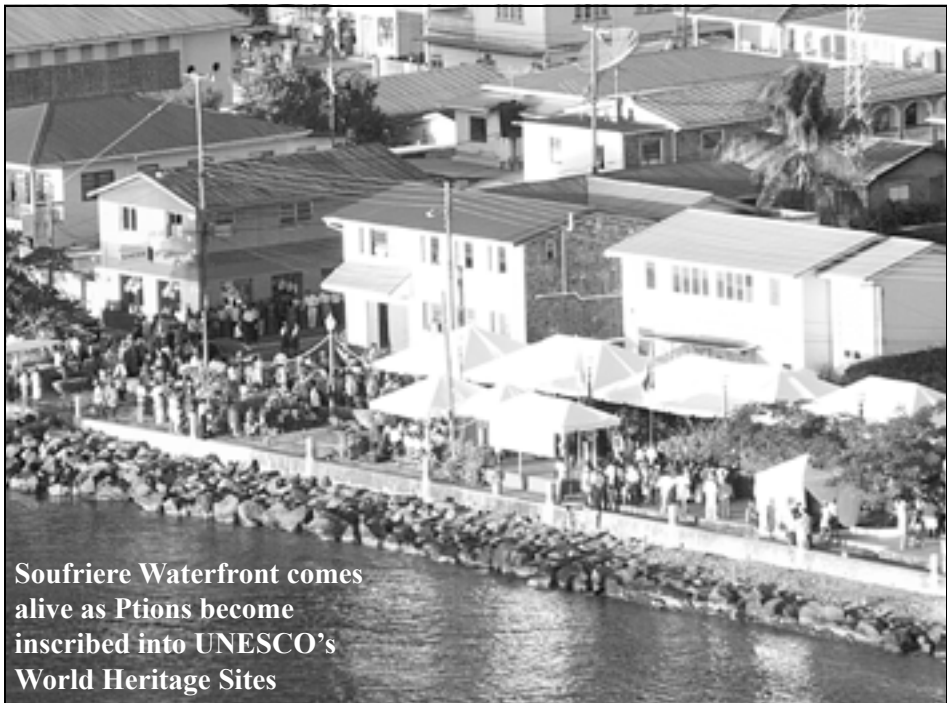
Mr. Matsuura expressed his congratulatory message at the official inscription ceremony of the Pitons Management Area in Soufriere on Monday, February 14, 2005.

The UNESCO Director General added that the inscription gave increased exposure not only to St. Lucia, but the wider Eastern Caribbean. He informed that to date, there had been 15 world heritage sites in the Caribbean compared with only three in the early 1990's.

The Director General said while the

inscription of the Pitons Management Area was a cause of much celebration, the real work had only just begun: "An important element of the global strategy of the World Heritage Committee is to draw to the attention of countries, the post inscription processes, particularly the proper management and monitoring of the site, as well as the provision of the information and education on the site's significance and values," adding, "this is an ongoing process and we require critical commitment, strategic planning and stamina. Looking around me today I felt that St. Lucia is really equipped to undertake this task".

Member of Parliament for Soufriere and Fond St. Jacques Hon. Walter Francios, noted that the people of Soufriere needed to prepare themselves to take advantage of the opportunities for investment and employment, which would arise as a result of St. Lucia's world heritage site.



Soufriere Waterfront comes alive as Pitons become inscribed into UNESCO's World Heritage Sites

"This applies to all sectors, including hotels, restaurants, craft production, the provision of services and so on. Government is prepared to facilitate this process by providing the necessary infrastructure especially good roads and the establishment of institutional arrangement required for encouraging this process. Therefore the cooperation and support of the people of Soufriere

will be essential for the establishment and effective management of the Piton Management area. (39sec)", Mr. Francois said.

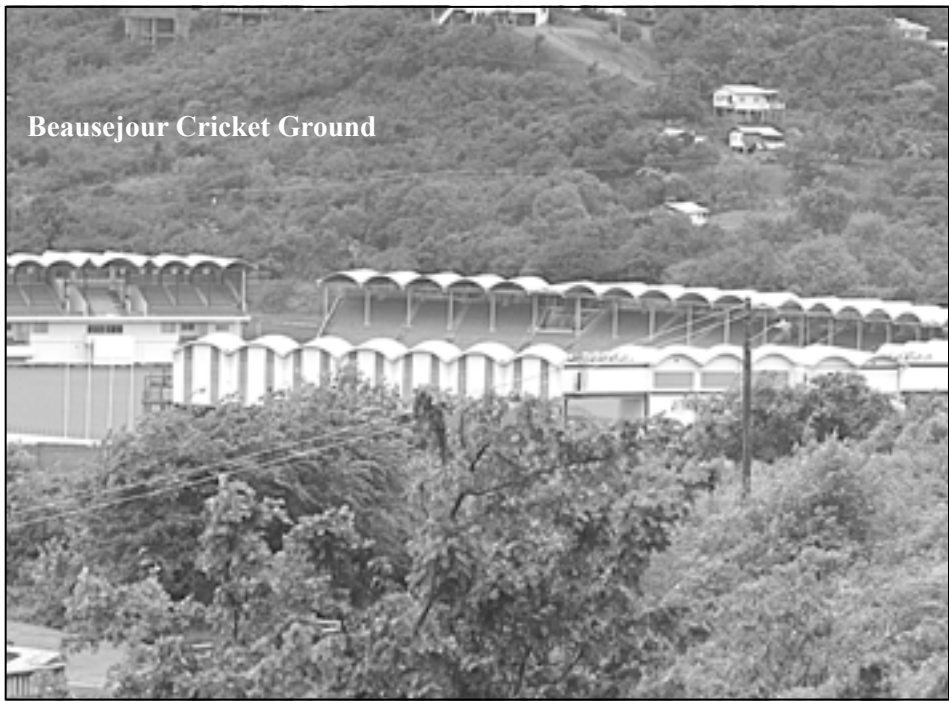
The Pitons represent another significant achievement in St. Lucia, as St. Lucians are preparing to celebrate 26 years of independence. Prime Minister Hon. Dr. Kenny Anthony says the honour bestowed on St. Lucia is reflective of the island's stunning beauty.

World Cup St. Lucia, National Cricket Association and St. Lucia Tourist Board to collaborate on hosting of One Day Internationals

World Cup Saint Lucia and the Saint Lucia National Cricket Association have agreed to collaborate on the hosting of the two back-to-back One Day Internationals between Pakistan and the West Indies, to be held in Saint Lucia in May of this year.

This partnership was born out of the need to use the international cricket matches to be staged in Saint Lucia over the next two years, as dress rehearsals for Saint Lucia's participation in the 2007 ICC Cricket World Cup.

This joint effort is expected to allow Saint Lucia's Local Organizing Committee (LOC) for the 2007 ICC Cricket World Cup to initiate the implementation of new measures for, among other things, security, media management, protocol, traffic management, VIP management, and event operations at



Beausejour Cricket Ground

the games. The Saint Lucia National Cricket Association, on the other hand, will benefit from the human resource of World Cup Saint Lucia and the transfer of the knowledge and experience of the experts contracted by the ICC Cricket World Cup WI 2007 Inc., to prepare and plan for the hosting of the 2007 Cricket World Cup.

As has become customary over the past three years, the Saint Lucia Tourist Board will also join this collaborative effort, through the provision of marketing and logistical support.

World Cup Saint Lucia Inc. is the company formed to coordinate and execute the plans for Saint Lucia's participation in the 2007 ICC Cricket World Cup. Its two shareholders are the Government of Saint Lucia and the Saint Lucia National Cricket Association.



Berthia Parle

Berthia Parle, President of the Caribbean Hotel Association (CHA), said that Caribbean media houses and the regional private sector needed to recognize more, the important role that tourism played in the development of Caribbean economies.

However, she added that she was heartened to hear Sir Dwight Venner,

CHA president calls for more private sector support for the media and tourism

Governor of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) recently underscore tourism's key contribution to the region's economic growth.

She hoped that more private sector entities, especially those which benefited greatly from the industry, would repay that boost from tourism, by investing some of their profits in events like the Caribbean Media Exchange, which is geared to educate journalists about the true value of the industry.

Parle contended that if more regional journalists recognized the importance of tourism to the economies of the Caribbean, they could then be in a position to convince many more people, through their reporting, that this was the key industry for the region's economic survival.

"The Caribbean is right for investment and we are now moving in a more

concerted way into the arena of sports tourism ... they would need to understand what this means and the other logistics of tourism," she noted.

"This is a complex industry and some people understand that while others don't. It is a fragile industry but also a very resilient one – the recent Hurricanes proved that, as we were down for all of two to three days, but we maintained our resilience and were soon up and running again," Parle explained.

Parle said that CHA, and the producers of CMEx – Counterpart International and Counterpart Caribbean – were playing their part in bringing more information to Caribbean journalists through CMEx and CHA's three annual conferences.

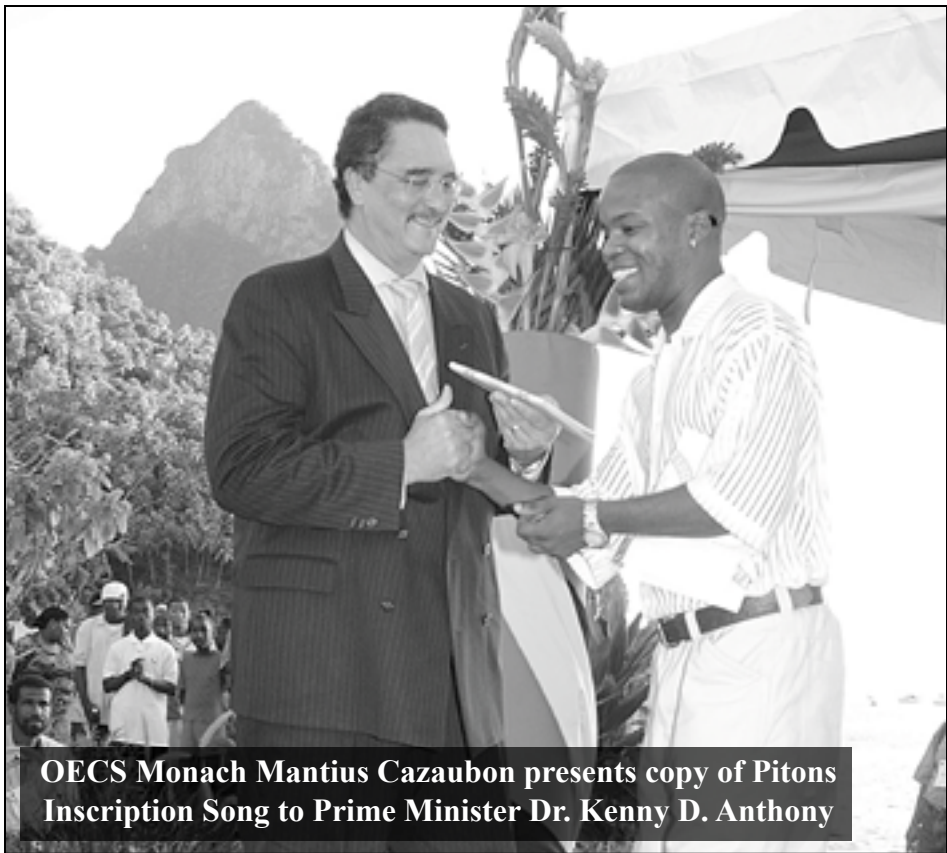
"We now have a group, whom we think are now sufficiently educated, based on information that has been im-

parted, to know that tourism is the lifeblood of the economies of the region, and they understand what it means to communicate that information to other institutions and peoples of the region," she said.

She called on utility, accountancy, banking and insurance companies, which are reaping the bulk of the benefits from the industry to be honest and admit that tourism was by far the major contributor to their bottom line. She urged their board members and executives to give something back.

The CHA President was speaking as preparations continue for the February 25th CMExPress, the second one day version of the successful Caribbean Media Exchange on Sustainable Tourism, which has been held across the region for the past three years.

Continued on page 8



OECS Monarch Mantius Cazaubon presents copy of Pitons Inscription Song to Prime Minister Dr. Kenny D. Anthony

Good Day St. Lucia, It's Valentines Day and I'm sure many of you woke up this morning greeting your loved ones on this day claimed by lovers. It is that one day of the year, every year, when vows are renewed, pledges are made and partners celebrate a bond that's usually much stronger than friendship. I have no doubt that by the end of today, couples all over St. Lucia – indeed, all over the world – will have celebrated yet another Valentines Day in various ways; to each his own, to each her own.

But what I want to talk about today is another significant celebration which, unlike the universality of Valentines Day, is of unique significance to us in St. Lucia. I speak of the ceremony, later today, to mark the inscription of the Pitons as a World Heritage Site.

As far back as August last year, Dawn French, NEMO's Director, sent me an e-mail. It read in part:

Dear PM,
Grateful if you could explain the significance of the Pitons finally being made a World Heritage Site. What does this mean for St. Lucia? What does it mean for St. Lucians? Why should it be important to us? Is there money to be made from this, not just in the tourism sector but for us as a nation? We have not heard much about the new status of The Pitons, but much about Cricket World Cup 2007. So, is there an opportunity to link The Pitons to Cricket World Cup?

The significance of World Heritage Site Status

Let me address Dawn's question about the significance of the designation of The Pitons as a World Heritage Site. This is very significant for many reasons. First of all, a World Heritage Site is a unique place in the world like no other – neither replicated, nor duplicated. As I said in my special Statement to mark the occasion, with the Pitons chosen as a World Heritage Site, it now ranks with the Grand Canyon of the United States, the Pyramids of Egypt and the Taj Mahal of India. There are 788 World Heritage Sites in the entire world and The Pitons, our Pitons, is now one of them. It is also important to note that out of the 788 World Heritage Sites only 22 -- throughout the world -- are volcanic. And after Dominica's Morne Trois Piton, the Pitons is only the second volcanic site in the Caribbean to be designated a World Heritage Site.

The area in which the Pitons are located – The Pitons Management Area – is geologically unique. It represents and contains evidence of volcanic movements and deposits in this part of the world that have yet to be tapped and which have to be protected for their immense value to science.

Yet another significance is in the fact that this is a biologically diverse area. The Pitons are home to many rare plant and animal species. I guess their sheer height, steepness and exposure, both above and below sea level, offers not only a unique environment but also, better protection for these plant species.



Drama group from the Dugard Combined School perform skit symbolising traditional beliefs surrounding the Pitons

Celebrating Heritage

PM converses w

The historical significance of the Pitons also looms large. While their existence may go back millions of years, their place in our history goes back hundreds of years ago, when they were worshipped by Amerindians as Gods.

for important scenes in everything from movies like "Superman" to our tourism promotion brochures and billboards around the world. They are celebrated in poetry, song, dance and art. The Pitons also currently serve as a



Koichiro Matsuura, UNESCO Director General flanked by Governor Gen and Mrs. Anthony, and his Cabinet colleagues

One was called Yokahu (pronounced Yo-ka-hoo) the Provider of Food, and the other was called Attabera, the Goddess of Fertility.

Psychological Comfort for our Nation

Dawn asked me to explain what the designation of the Pitons Management Area as a World Heritage means to us as St. Lucians and why it is important to the nation.

The Pitons have stood majestically for centuries. They provide psychological comfort to our nation. Equally, they inspire us to excellence. They symbolize the soul and spirit of St. Lucians, our hopes and dreams. They stand before us, immortalized as national symbols.

They were the first things we drew at home and at school. They adorn our exercise books. They inspired the shape of our national flag. They are on our calendars and magazines. Companies and groups have adopted the name and symbol of the Pitons. They have also been chosen as a backdrop

natural backdrop for a highly successful and popular touring British TV musical theatre for kids called "Tropical Island" that was shot on location right here, in the shadow of the Pitons.

A whole new world

It means that a whole new world has opened up for St. Lucia as a result of the designation of the Pitons as a World Heritage Site.

The Pitons are designated under World Heritage Convention as "a monument considered to be of such exceptional interest and such universal value that their protection is the responsibility of all mankind." The designation we celebrate later today, therefore, means that the nations of the world have put their official stamp and seal of approval on the Pitons Management Area as a place to be preserved by St. Lucia for the benefit of all mankind.

Through UNESCO, the United Nations body responsible for this designation, the rest of the world has placed on our shoulders the important task of preserving and protecting the Pitons

g our World e Status with St. Lucians

for present and future generations.

Opportunities for development

The new world-class designation for the Pitons also opens up a whole new set of opportunities for development,

designation. In turn, it will inspire the development of businesses in the Pitons Management Area to provide new services.

In considering the economic possibilities, we must remember that this is



Koichiro Matsuura, UNESCO Director General
at the ceremony

keeping with our obligations under the World Heritage Convention. No vye-ki-vye approach can be allowed within the Management Area, as that would endanger the maintenance of the status of a World Heritage Site.

An honour that could have been lost

The honour which we are celebrating today could have been easily lost. The story of this day is very much one which speaks to a period in the history of St. Lucia in the very late 1980s, in which the Pitons and their role in the development of St. Lucia took centre stage.

At stake, you will recall, was the “Gros Piton Resort and Aerial Tramway Project” – a proposal by a developer who wished to build on 11 acres on the summit and 77 acres on the slopes of Gros Piton. The project, a resort complex, would have necessitated the carving of a platform at the summit of Gros Piton that would be wide enough to construct a “theatre in the sky” from where visitors could get married with entertainment provided; luxury villas were to be constructed on the acreage spilling down the sides of the Piton, and tram cars were to be built which would ferry 1,500 visitors daily from the bottom to the top of the Piton. Indeed, the developer gave his assurance that every primary school child in St. Lucia would have been given a free tram car ride from the top of Gros Piton, within two years of the resort being built.

The Government of the day was fully supportive of this “theatre in the sky”. They claimed that the project would

“catapult St. Lucia into the 21st century” and bring “development” to the Soufriere area. There were, however, several St. Lucians who felt the Pitons epitomized a type of natural resource so unique, so special, so bound-up in the psyche of the people themselves, so symbolic of their national pride that they defied quantification in economic and monetary terms. Thus began a process of serious debate within this society regarding the meaning of development which at the end of the day resulted in the cancellation of that project. Thankfully so. Without the courage and vision of a handful of citizens who raised their voices in comment and protest, this designation which we will assemble to witness later today in Soufriere, with such pride, would not have been possible.

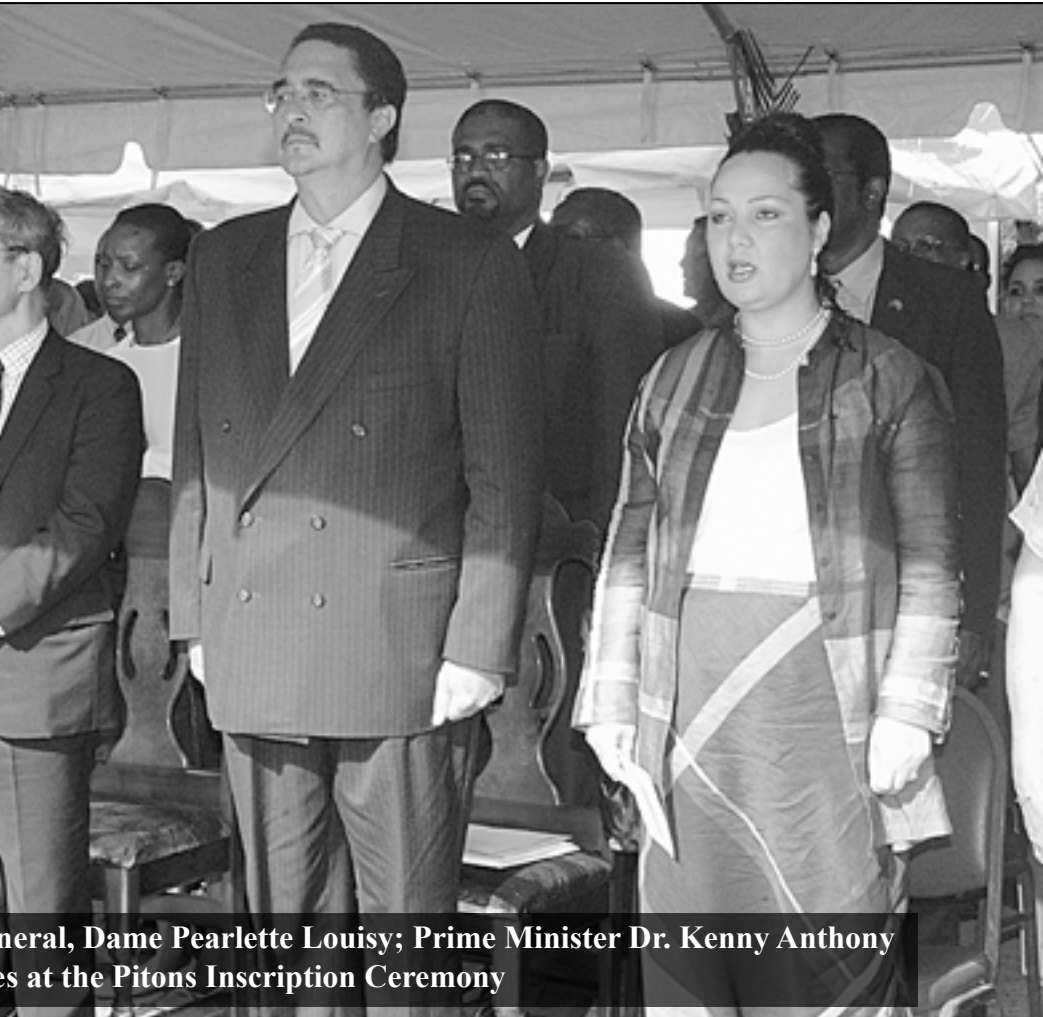
Conclusion: a special presence

Some special persons will be in attendance at the ceremony this afternoon. No less a person than the Director General of UNESCO has come to St. Lucia to officiate at this afternoon’s ceremony. And, no less a person than our own Nobel Laureate, Derek Walcott, will be on hand to read a poem.

I urge all St. Lucians who can, to make their way to Soufriere this afternoon to be part of this historic, once-in-a-lifetime event.

Fellow St. Lucians, let us celebrate our World Heritage. Truly, what a day to celebrate it – on Valentines Day.

Until next week, take care and God Bless!



General, Dame Pearlette Louisy; Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony
es at the Pitons Inscription Ceremony

particularly in tourism. Even before their World Heritage Status, the Pitons have been our most majestic and awe-inspiring national monument. For as long as we have had a tourism industry, for just as long we have known the Pitons to be our major attraction. Their presence here is one of the main reasons why tens of thousands of visitors choose St. Lucia as a vacation destination. The world-renowned hospitality services offered by local resorts and restaurants such as the Jalousie Hilton and Anse Chastanet, Dasheene, Ladera, the Hummingbird and the Still, is greatly enhanced and influenced by their proximity to the Pitons.

The value of the product

Dawn asked me in her e-mail whether there is income to be made by the nation as a result of the designation of the Pitons as a World Heritage Site. The answer is “yes”. Since the Pitons enjoy “World Heritage Status”, then it becomes a “must see” site for the visitor. An increase in the numbers of visitors is expected to result from the new

not just about the twin peaks alone, but about an area that covers eleven square miles (or approximately five percent of the total land mass of St. Lucia). This area includes the Sulphur Springs, the Gros Piton Trail and the Soufriere Marine Management Area. This is a rather large area and all the flora and fauna within that geographic area are within the area designated as a World Heritage Site.

The town of Soufriere, while not directly within the Management Area, is nonetheless in the closest shadow of the Pitons. Its people and businesses stand to benefit too. But to them, must be given the greater opportunity to share in whatever benefits which flow. After all, the people of Soufriere have long looked after the Pitons on our collective behalf.

So yes, there is money to be made. But I must warn that this is not just about making money – and it cannot and shall not be treated or regarded as a free-for-all. Commercial developments within the area will have to be guided by a strict set of guidelines that are in



Symbolic sustainability of Pitons Management Area
passed on from older to younger generation

‘No time for panic’ says Jamaican Justice Minister

CARICOM member states at this moment should push forward to establish the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) in its original jurisdiction. All the options to come to a solution on this matter should be explored exhaustively.

“Now is not the time for panic,” said Jamaican justice minister A.J. Nicholson in an interview with Surinamese journalists in Paramaribo, Suriname, where he was attending the 8th Meeting of the Legal Affairs Committee (LAC).

“In my view panic is a very bad word. What we have to do as attorneys and advisers to the Heads of Governments, is to keep level heads and make sure that we sit down and consider all the options, because we are all determined that the Caribbean Court of Justice must come in to being. We think that we can come up with good opinions and advise”, Nicholson noted.

He also stressed that the LAC-meeting will have to consider the implication of the CCJ ruling made by the Privy Council last week in regard with Jamaica’s implementation of the CCJ. Even more urgently he says, the committee has to consider how to move to cement all of the operations of the single market and economy. The single market and economy cannot operate without the mechanism that will be provided by the Caribbean Court of Justice.

According to the Jamaican minister at this point the Community should concentrate on the original jurisdiction, because that is most urgent. “The single market is slated to come in to being very soon. Next week Jamaica, Barbados and Trinidad & Tobago will sign the Declaration of Intent. So we have our work cut out and the time is already cut short,” said the Jamaican

Justice Minister.

The opening of the LAC meeting that was planned for Thursday at 9.00 am was postponed until 4.00 pm because a delay of the BWIA flight from Port of Spain to Suriname which was carrying most of the delegates to attend the conference.

He further noted that CARICOM has some very experienced national lawyers, some very good common lawyers and equity lawyers, “who will help us along in coming to the kind of decisions and advise we should give to the Heads of Governments”.

Talks between the Patterson administration and the Opposition Jamaica Labour Party are according to Nicholson “merely preliminary efforts at this point in time”. These are not talks to come to any conclusion and the government and the opposition in Jamaica

have decided that talks will go on, he said

He also stressed that the ruling of the Privy Council affects every CARICOM member because all of these states have to be part of the original jurisdiction. “So if one is affected all are affected”. The ruling has driven the CARICOM, Nicholson says, to rise to the challenge as to how the Community will solve the problem. “And we, as attorneys general, intend to solve the problems”.

CCJ Project Co-ordinator Sheldon McDonald told reporters that inauguration plans for the CCJ are still on track for the coming April. The preparations are well advanced McDonald said. A proposed action plan will be approved by the CARICOM Heads of States when they meet in Paramaribo next week for the 16th Inter-sessional Heads of States Meeting.

Single Market, Disaster Plan on CARICOM Agenda in Suriname

There is need for the urgent formulation of a Regional action plan to counter natural disasters in light of the recent events that have adversely affected the infrastructure and economies of several Member States. This is the conviction of Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Mr. Edwin Carrington who hopes that the recent flooding in Guyana, and Hurricane Ivan’s devastation of Grenada would propel CARICOM leaders into action when they assemble in Paramaribo, Suriname from 16-17 February for their Sixteenth Inter - Sessional Meeting.

Briefing the Surinamese media corps on Friday, 11 February 2005, on the key issues on the agenda of the Regional high-level meeting, Mr. Carrington stressed that the Caribbean is vulnerable to natural disasters, hence the high importance attached to the issue.

With 2005 designated The Year of the Single Market, the preparedness of Member States for the full implementation of the CARICOM Single Market by December 2005, will be assessed. “We have reached a stage where the emphasis is now on the creation of a single economy,” Mr. Carrington said. Equally important and related to these discussions, he noted that the Heads of Government will give attention to plans for the inauguration of the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) considered the backbone of the CSME.

Noting that the recent ruling of the United Kingdom Privy Council, which nullified Jamaica’s enabling legislation for accession to the CCJ as its final appellate court had made the issue more urgent, the CARICOM Secretary-General affirmed that plans for the inauguration of the court remain on course.

On the issue of a common passport for the Region, Mr. Carrington expressed satisfaction that Member States have agreed on certain specifications for the travel document. While commending Suriname’s lead in being the first to issue a CARICOM passport bearing the name and logo of the Community, he encouraged others to follow suit.

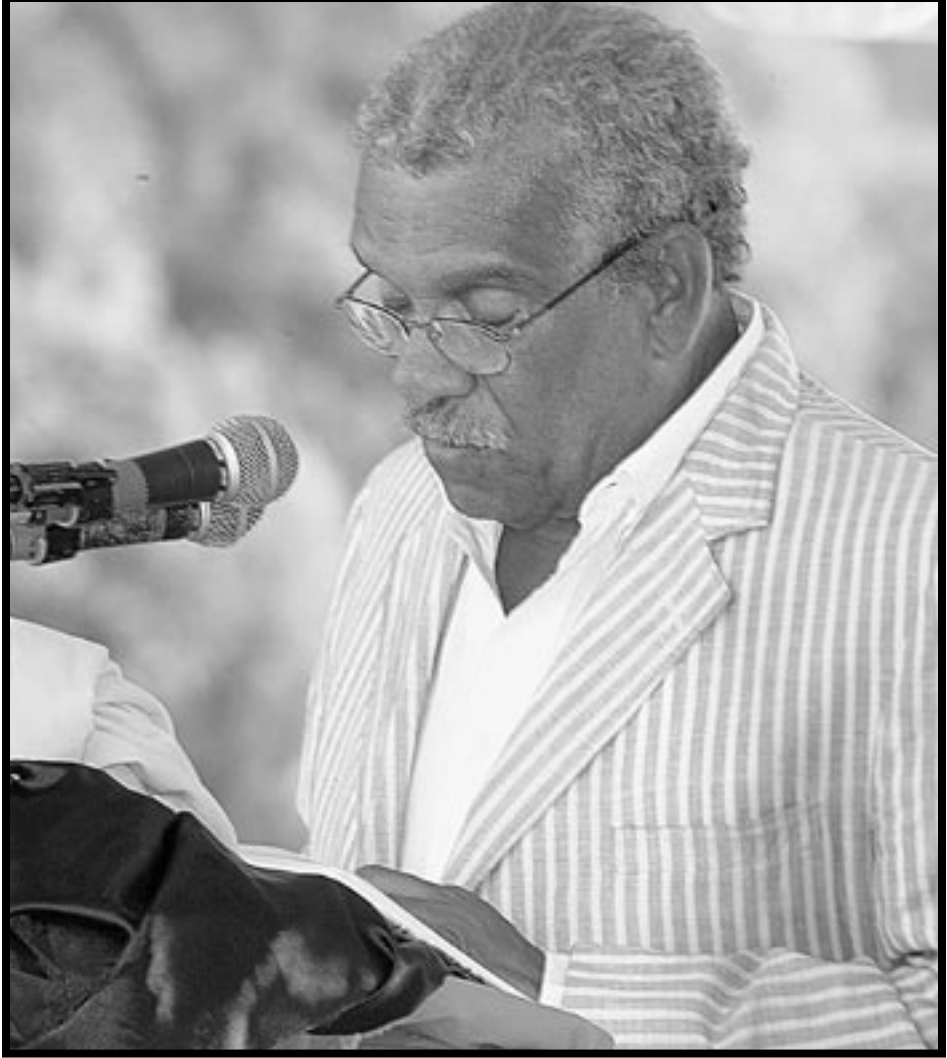
In terms of CARICOM’s external negotiations, the Sixteenth Inter-Sessional Meeting will discuss the perpetual challenges facing the Region in its ongoing negotiations with the European Union (EU), the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). CARICOM leaders are poised to examine possible solutions to the hurdles faced by Community Members with respect to the banana and sugar sectors. As banana producers continue to reel from the effects of the European Union (EU) modification of the regime that existed in favour of Regional suppliers, Mr. Carrington said leaders have the dual challenge of negotiating with the EU and settling differences among tradi-

tional and non-traditional ACP banana suppliers, even as they brace for the full impact of adjustments to the sugar protocol.

At the Meeting the CARICOM Heads of Government will exchange view with the new EU Commissioner

for Development Louis Michel and Brazil’s President Luis Ignacio Lula Da Silva. Regional Heads will also deliberate over issues such as crime and security, HIV/AIDS and preparations for the staging of the 2007 Cricket World Cup.

Hon. Derek Walcott reads one of his poems about the Pitons at the Inscription Ceremony



Senator
Petrus Compton

External Affairs Minister Heads St. Lucia Delegation to Caricom Summit

Prim Minister Dr Kenny D. Anthony was unable to attend this week’s Caricom Summit in Suriname due to pressing engagements at home. But, he said the Government and people of St. Lucia were being adequately represented.

The Prime Minister has been unable to join his regional colleagues at the February 14-18 Summit, since it coincided with several local engagements relating to the inscription of the Pitons as a World Heritage Site and observance of the 26th anniversary of St.

Lucia’s Independence.

The Prime Minister indicated that the St. Lucia delegation to the Summit was being led by External Affairs Minister Senator Petrus Compton and also included St. Lucia’s Ambassador to Caricom, Mr Anthony Severin.



Banana field

This week's article addresses the current threat to our banana trade posed by the impending changes to the EU's import system. I have already explained that the system is highly complex and made no easier by the intricate decision-making procedures and structure of the EU itself. As a result, analysis is anything but straightforward. But that is the reality we face and must deal with.

Maybe we should begin with the 'conductor of the orchestra'. Last month, EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson reminded Caribbean Ministers that the EU decided since April 2001 to replace the import quota system with a single tariff, but interests within and without the EU want either a high or low rate. How can the Commission devise a solution that will not alienate either or indeed both groups? This seems mathematically impossible; it is like attempting to "square the circle!" If there is to be a solution, then it is not obvious, but rather one that might come from 'thinking outside of the box'... SOS, King Solomon?

Using the so-called 'price-gap' method that compares the current internal price of bananas in the EU with the external price, the Commission arrived at a figure of €230 per tonne as the tariff equivalent to the existing quota system.

The ACP does not pay duty, so the tariff in fact provides protection. The Group opposed €230 as inadequate and fears that it will permit a substantial increase in imports that will cause a collapse in prices, thus making it impossible for their more vulnerable suppliers to compete. Studies have been undertaken by various independent bodies such as the FAO and others, indicating that the Windward Islands need a tariff closer to €300.

Banana Saga VI

The current threat

Even if their circumstances and conditions of production are not identical, the ACP agree that the tariff should be no less than €275 and oppose any limit on their exports under a single tariff. The more vulnerable and higher cost producers like the Windward Islands and Jamaica, where the banana industry plays a vital role in their economic and social development, are keen to ensure market stability and fear that further decreases in price could make their trade uneconomic. This concern though is not as paramount for those that are more competitive.

Last November, the Commission began negotiations in the WTO with the 'principal suppliers', Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Panama. They, along with the major marketing companies, are opposed to the Commission's proposal; their declared objective is for a low tariff at a maximum level of €75. They perceive as being only a mixed blessing, the lifting of the quotas permitting their unlimited export of bananas. Expanded exports and the resultant oversupply will have the perverse effect of forcing down prices Europe. They also argue that the cost of the increased tariff would be borne principally by the producers who will suffer a 'double whammy' from the higher tariff and the reduced prices.

Not surprisingly the WTO talks got nowhere, the Latins insisted on €75 and the Commission on €230 so the former are set to seek WTO arbitration in the next three weeks. If the Arbitrator upholds their objection, but the EU does not comply, there can be a second round of arbitration and if the EU nonetheless imposes a rejected tariff, the WTO waiver for ACP bananas will end as of 1 January 2006 and our bananas could be required to pay the duty.

Most experts and officials would suggest that in such a situation the Commission should avert confrontation and seek a compromise somewhere between the conflicting demands. But they would be wrong since the rate would most probably be rejected by the Latins who do not see why they should pay more duty than they currently do. Also the rate might still cause market prices to fall drastically, severely dam-

aging the relatively higher cost ACP and Latin American suppliers.

Whilst a "solution" that leaves all parties dissatisfied might cynically be portrayed as a compromise, would it really be sensible in this case? 'Squaring the circle' just ain't easy!

This is a real headache facing the Commission, what can it possibly do? To set the tariff at the level requested by the ACP would launch Banana wars II, but to accommodate the Latins would in effect "liberalise" the EU market with the result that prices will decline to un-remunerative world market levels. For us that would be the end, which supermarket contracts might possibly delay but ultimately cannot avert.

The only realistic chance of avoiding a new dispute and providing an outcome that would be satisfactory to most parties (including the Windwards) is the 'Costa Rica plan'. It would postpone the introduction of the single tariff and maintain the current regime until a satisfactory and fair system can be worked out and agreed upon. This approach has been advocated by the Latin American Coordination of Banana Workers' Unions (COLSIBA) and many others in Latin America. Their reason is simple; the single tariff will result in lower wages and less security

for workers who will bear the cost of declining market prices and of the fight among the multinationals for market share in what the NGO platform EU-ROBAN dubbed "the race to the bottom". But if the 'Costa Rica plan' is to get anywhere, the main suppliers must advocate it.

For over a decade and against all odds, we have successfully campaigned for import quotas to preserve market stability and remunerative returns. Now that the system has been working well, many of its earlier critics realise that it is not so bad after all! Hence the sensible thing for the EU to do would be seize this opportunity to retain the system if the Latins request it to do so.

In recent months, the Windward Islands have been among the most active in seeking to influence the course of events. Since Prime Minister Gonsalves was designated lead-CARICOM Head on bananas, he has been trying to make a constructive contribution to the search for a solution. He has corresponded with EU Commission President Manuel Barroso and his predecessor, Romano Prodi. In addition he has been seeking to forge a common Caribbean/Latin American front, and is working with Governments, not only in the Caribbean but also Latin America. To further possible collaboration a meeting of Ministers of Caribbean and Latin American banana supplying States will be held on 22nd February. At least if we are 'sold down the river' by Europe it will not be due to lack of effort at our end.

Governor General presents gift to Koichiro Matsuura, UNESCO Director General

St. Lucia Govt Contributes \$100,000 to Guyana Flood Relief

The Government of St. Lucia will contribute EC\$100,000 to the Flood Relief Effort in Guyana. That's the word from the Office of the Prime Minister.

Prime Minister Dr Kenny D. Anthony met with representatives of the Guyana Government and the local Guyanese community at the Office of the Prime Minister on February 2, 2005.

During that meeting, the Government of St. Lucia invited the Guyanese representatives to discuss and identify the most effective ways in which the Government and People of St. Lucia could extend support to the Guyanese affected by the worst floods in the capital Georgetown and the country's coastal region in a century.

The meeting agreed that there would be collaboration between the Government of St. Lucia, the Red Cross, the National Emergency Management Office (NEMO), with the Consulate of

Guyana in St. Lucia and the St. Lucia Guyana Association.

St. Lucians and Guyanese in St. Lucia were invited after the meeting to send packages or cash, whichever was convenient. The services of the General Post Office were also mobilized to receive packages for the relief effort, which would be delivered to NEMO and the Red Cross free of charge.

The meeting also agreed that efforts would be accelerated to ensure the filling of a 40-foot container made available by CAGEMA shipping lines and coordinated by Baron's Shipping.

At the meeting, the Guyanese representatives expressed the hope that the St. Lucia public and the private sector in particular, would assist in the efforts to help the flood victims.

The Prime Minister noted during the meeting, that although there was "a measure of aid fatigue" being expressed by some in the wake of having to help vic-

tims of Hurricane Ivan in Grenada and the tsunami victims in Asia, he nonetheless felt St. Lucians would contribute as they could to help the Guyanese flood victims.

He recalled that only days before on Friday, January 21, he had travelled to Grenada to attend a World Bank donors meeting, during which he handed over a cheque worth EC \$148,000 to the Grenada Prime Minister Dr Keith Mitchell. The money had been collected from the six bank accounts established locally for the Grenada Appeal.

Announcing the \$100,000 contribution today, Prime Minister Anthony said: "These are tough times for the Guyanese victims of the flood, which have resulted from the constantly changing climatic conditions worldwide."

He continued: "These adverse weather conditions are causing unexpected havoc at the least expected times. And while we in St. Lucia have been spared

the damage and destruction of Grenada or the flooding effects of Guyana, we may never know when it will be our turn."

The Prime Minister, who is also the Chairman of NEMO, concluded: "It is in the nature of emergencies and disasters to strike unexpectedly, and when that happens, victims' lives change overnight as we saw in both Grenada and the countries of Asia affected by the tsunami.

"That is why we are pleased to support victims of disasters when and where we can. We did it for Grenada and Asia and we are pleased to do it too for our Caricom neighbours in Guyana."

The St. Lucia Government's \$100,000 contribution to the Guyana flood victims was welcomed by the Honorary Consul of Guyana to St. Lucia, Mr Lokesh Sing and by the President of the St. Lucia-Guyana Association, Mr Edward Harris.

Major increase in tourist arrivals for 2005

After ending 2004 with a 7.8% increase in tourist arrivals, and recording for the first time, over 100,000 arrivals from the USA, stay-over arrivals for the new year is off to a promising start, recording a 20.5% increase for the month of January 2005, with 26,000 arrivals as compared to 21,000 in January last year.

St. Lucia's main tourism source markets have all recorded significant

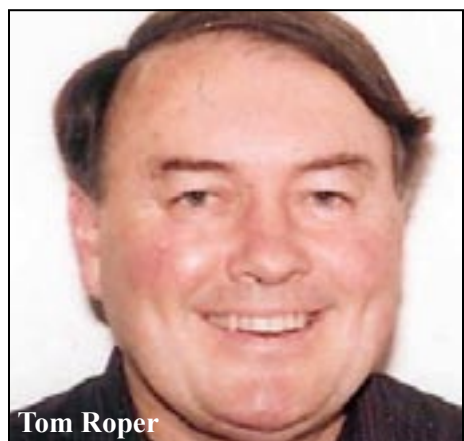
gains in the first month of the year. The UK leads the way with 33.4% increase, the USA 14.3% and Canada 15.4% increase.

Director of Tourism, Peter Hilary Modeste said, "We expect 2005 to perform ever better than 2004. The new hotel rooms expected to become operational this year, together with additional airlift from the US and the UK, will help to make 2005 a bumper year for tourism arrivals."



Coco Palm in Rodney Bay nearing completion

World Cricket Cup could make or break Caribbean, says Aussie ex-Minister



Tom Roper

The 2007 World Cricket Cup could make the Caribbean's reputation or it could break it, if it is not managed sensibly, warns former Australian Cabinet Minister, The Honorable Tom Roper.

Speaking from New York where he is preparing to address next week's Trinidad session of the Caribbean Media Exchange on Sustainable Tourism (CMExPress), former Minister Roper

said major sporting events such as World Cups – football, cricket and rugby – are huge opportunities for countries or groups of countries to showcase themselves on the international scene to a world wide audience.

But he warns, "they must be well run," noting that Montreal (1976) and Atlanta (1996) Olympics both entered into huge debts and finished with tarnished reputations. The Olympics in Barcelona, Spain (1992) and Sydney, Australia (2000), and World Cup Football in Seoul, South Korea (2002) on the other hand are three recent examples of successful hosting of major events, boosting cities' international reputations.

Roper notes that the 2007 World Cricket Cup is a crucial opportunity for Caribbean countries to promote themselves, their energy, creativity and international competitiveness. "This event must be seen as a spur to economic investment, a chance to 'clean up' prob-

lems which locals complain about and speed up infrastructure improvement such as roads, hotels and the environment ... the community must see itself getting a benefit," he cautioned.

Roper, who during his ten years as a senior Government Minister held portfolios in Treasury, Planning and Environment, Health, Transport, Aboriginal Affairs, and Employment and Higher Education, said the event must also be integrated into the region's economic strategy. "Seoul used the 2002 Football Cup to highlight its information technology capacity – holding conferences, arranging business and investment visits. What is the Caribbean showcasing?" he asked.

He lamented the fact that huge numbers of Australians visited the West Indies during the 2003 Cricket Tour, including senior business and government people, "yet, there was no programme for them apart from the cricket."

Roper notes the 2000 Sydney Olympics gave Australia multi-billion dollar boosts to infrastructure development, tourism and convention business, international media exposure, and new business. More than 16,000 international business people took part in New South Wales Government's investment program.

Since his retirement from the Victorian Parliament (Australia), Tom Roper has been an active Board Member of the Washington D.C.-based Climate Institute, an advisor to government, business and NGOs on sustainability issues. He is the Project Director of the Global Islands Energy Initiative which provides assistance to Small Island States seeking to introduce renewable energy and energy efficiency measures.

CHA president calls for more private sector support for the media and tourism

Continued from page 3

This time, journalists from Trinidad, the Caribbean and North America will meet in Port of Spain to discuss Sports Tourism and the region's hosting of the 2007 World Cup Cricket competition.

CMExPress sponsors and supporters include American Express, Association of Caribbean Media Workers, Bahamas

Ministry of Tourism, Black Entertainment Television, Caribbean Alliance for Sustainable Tourism, Caribbean Broadcasting Union, Caribbean Hotel Association, Caribbean Star Airlines, Caribbean Sun, Coca-Cola, Coco Kreole, Continental Airlines, Courtyard by Marriott Hotel Port of Spain, Half Moon Montego Bay, Jamaica Pegasus,

Jamaica Tourist Board, The East Project, Ruder Finn, Tourism and Industrial Development Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (TIDCO), United Nations Development Programme, and the United States Agency for International Development.

For further information visit www.caribbeanmediaexchange.com.

Vacancy: Principal Information Officer

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to fill the post of Principal Information Officer at the Department of Information Services in the Office of the Prime Minister.

Duties and Responsibilities include: (1) Managing the Government Information Service and implementing policy decisions regarding dissemination of information through all local and regional media on government and national programmes; (2) Overseeing the Government's Web site and ensuring that the highest quality of Information is regularly available on the site; (3) Responsible for the publication of the weekly news magazine Nationwide; (4) Supervising the staff of the Government Information Services. Such supervision shall relate to the scheduling of assignments, programming, broad-

casting of news and current events, production and editing of Government Documentary material, preparation of public service announcements and any other related activities; (5) Overseeing, planning and producing programmes to be aired on the Cable channel assigned to Government. These include pre-recorded and live programmes; (6) Chair the Information Committee of the National Emergency Management Organization.

Qualifications and Experience (1) Master's Degree in Communication, Media Studies Journalism, Public Relations, Management or Public Administration plus three years experience in related field of print and electronic television production, or; (2) Bachelor's Degree in Communication, Media Studies Journalism, Management or

Public Administration plus three years working experience in audio-visual, print or electronic media production, or; (3) Other professional qualifications plus a minimum of ten years of experience may be considered in lieu of other qualifications.

Remuneration and Conditions : The position is at grade 18 in the Public service and may be offered to the successful applicant on contract.

Method of Application: Applications must be submitted using the prescribed public service application form available from the Ministry of the Public Service and addressed to: The Secretary, Public Service Commission, Government Buildings, Castries.

Application must be submitted not later that March 31, 2005.



THIS WEEK ON NTN

Sat. Feb. 19th - Fri. Feb. 25th, 2005

- Special Programming for the Commemoration of 26 years of Independence from Monday 21st February – 6:00 p.m. to Wednesday February 23rd – 6:00 p.m.
- Integrate or Perish Volume 2: A profound look at issues dealing with regional unity - Sat. Feb. 19th, 8:00 p.m.
- Reflecting on 2004: Government's Year in Review 2004 – Sat. Feb. 19th, 9:00 p.m.
- How to Fill in Your Income Tax Returns - Sun. Feb. 20th, 8:30 p.m.
- From the Archives of the GIS: "King & Queen of the Bands 2002" - Sun. Feb. 20th, 9:00 p.m.
- Flavours of St. Lucia (Latest Edition) "Fresh Water Fish" - Wed. Feb. 23rd, 6:30 p.m.
- Haiti: Land of Development & Promise- Wed. Feb. 23rd, 7:30 p.m.
- The Commonwealth in Action: "Paths to Prosperity": – Thurs. Feb. 24th, 7:30 p.m.
- Forces of Nature – Fri. Feb. 25th, 9:00 p.m.

Remember to tune in for:

- GIS News Breaks and Kweyol News daily from 6:30 p.m.
- Issues & Answers/Mondays at 8:00pm:
- Interview/Tuesdays at 6:15pm :
- Konsit Kweyol/Tuesdays at 8:00pm (Kweyol Discussion):
- Your Right to Know/Thursdays at 6:15 p.m. (Min. of Ed. Prog).
- Take 2/Fridays at 6:15pm (Week in Review)
- Weflechi/Fridays at 6:40pm - (Week in Review—Kweyol)

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

www.stlucia.gov.lc

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