



NATIONWIDE

A publication of the Department of Information Services



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AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES REGIME REPOSITIONING THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

A framework to harmonize the granting of incentives to support agri-business development in all areas including crops, livestock and fisheries has been developed.

The framework sets out to articulate the criteria for qualification, the range of goods and services that may be subject to support, and rationalize the administrative process by which persons or businesses apply for concessions.

Development of harmonized incentives regimes for agriculture in OECS Member States have featured high on the agenda, given the urgent need to reposition the agricultural sector particularly in light of the new trade regimes with traditional trading partners.

It must be noted that this new incentives regime is being developed in two broad phases. The first phase (as is now being presented) addresses (1) the streamlining of the application process for the consideration and granting of concessions, which will include prescribed standard qualification criteria, (2) the standardization of the ranges



Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Hon. Ignatius Jean

of concessions permissible across the various sub-sectors (crops, livestock and fisheries) and (3) installation of appropriate monitoring mechanisms to evaluate the impacts of the incentives granted to recipients.

In continued development of the regime under the second phase, compatibility issues with respect to incentives offered in other sectors specifically the hospitality and manufacturing sectors will be addressed, as great opportunity exists for expanded market access but is currently limited due to un-harmonized policies. Attention will also be paid on special incentive measures that foster youth in agriculture programmes and sustainable land management.

The following are the key elements of the regime.

Emphasis on cooperatives

All local enterprises will be eligible for concessions under the regime, however it provides for expanded accessibility for farmers and fishers through legally established cooperative groups or associations. This is in keeping with the basic premise that greater production efficiencies are realized with greater numbers where resources can be pooled.

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CRICKET WORLD CUP 2007 SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED



With less than 20 months left before the opening of the International Cricket Council (ICC) Cricket World Cup 2007, the event Logo and Mascot were unveiled in Trinidad on Tuesday, to countries destined to stage matches during the tournament.

The insignias were revealed as Cricket World Cup West Indies 2007 held a brand launch and match schedule announcement at the Queen's Hall in Port of Spain.

The event emblems were developed

by the ICC retained design agency Minale Bryce Design Strategy (MBDS), in consultation with a Caribbean consortium of agencies called Howzat.

The MBDS is said to have overseen the development of all ICC marks including the CWC 2003 and the ICC Champions Trophy.

The symbols are intended to immediately say "ICC Cricket World Cup West Indies 2007". They encompass aspects of cricket, the Caribbean and the essence of its people, conveying the multiple messages quickly, simply and memorably. After extensive research, it was agreed that the logo should reflect the aspects of Caribbean life, resonate with an international audience and encapsulate the spirit of cricket.

The logo expresses the joy and exuberance of cricketers and cricket fans worldwide, in a Caribbean setting. The vibrant red figure central to the logo captures the exuberant energy of dance and celebration. The colour red represents the passion that the fans both in the West Indies and around the world have for the game of cricket.



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

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



Mega works to bring relief to Dennery residents

The vision for a \$US 3.4 million new look Dennery Waterfront, was brought closer to fruition last week, with the contract signing

between the government of St. Lucia and Mirai Construction Limited out of Japan.

The signing is said to signal the

conclusion of preliminaries and the commencement of actual works on the site.

The supervisory contract has been awarded to Smith Warner International. The company will partner with Mirai Construction Limited to undertake the project.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Communications and Works Jerome Jules said the process for such an investment is very involved and can therefore seem drawn out.

Essentially the project has two phases. Phase one will see the construction of 415 metres of buried revetment starting from the south of the village which is at point of the river and moving northwards towards the Daito.

The second phase of the project in-

cludes the construction of three off-shore breakers to mitigate wave action. The duration of phase two is estimated to last 14 months.

“The Japanese company” Deputy Project Coordinator Cheryl Mathurin said, “has built an impressive track record and is not new to the local environment.”

The project will be overseen by the Ministry of Communications and Works’ technical team in collaboration with the Ministry of Physical Development, Environment and Housing.

The government of St. Lucia is confident the company will enjoy a harmonious and supportive relationship with stakeholders and the community in general.



Dennery Coast after Hurricane Ivan

PROUD – Providing Ownership to the Landless

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



Completed road at La Tourney



Completed footpath at Piaye

Continued from last week’s issue

Proposed Strategy to Discourage Further Squatting

To discourage further squatting in the communities being targeted under PROUD (Programme for the Regularisation of Unplanned Developments), Government has declared all targeted communities Special Enforcement Areas and the Development Control Authority (DCA) has been charged to monitor all Special Enforcement Areas (with respect of illegal construction).

Potential Socio-economic Impacts

The following are the impacts of implementing PROUD: The rationalisation of illegal settlements thereby transforming the areas into well-structured communities, which are more sustainable physically, socially and economically; The promotion of land ownership will engender greater social and economic mobility through land tenure security; The entire community will improve through the provision of physical infrastructure (roads, drainage, water, electricity and social/community facilities); There will be improved access to basic needs such as water, electricity and proper drainage for a greater proportion of the population, and improvement and maintenance of the housing stock.

Work Accomplished during the Period April 2000 – June 2005

From the commencement of the



Completed road at Piaye

project the Section has accomplished the following works: (1) The completion of all the socio economic studies, which formed the established land prices. (2) The completion of the occupational surveys and approved rationalisation plans in the communities where boundary surveys have been not executed. (3) The completion of Boundary Surveys in all communities has enabled the Section to determine payments due on the respective parcels. A total of 3,052 lots have been surveyed. (4) Provision/improvement of infrastructure in the targeted areas is one of the components of the proj-

ect funded by the Caribbean Development Bank. To date the Section has completed approximately 17,535.58 ft of road, 2,304 ft of concrete footpaths and 22,285 ft of drains in Desbarras, Pays Perdu/Garrand, La Ressource Phase 7, Piaye Village and La Tourney. An additional 7,870 ft of road, 131 ft of concrete footpaths and 6,889 ft of drain will be completed in Derriere Morne and a Section of La Ressource. Construction is 65% complete (refer to exhibits on page 8-12).

Work presently being Executed by the Section

Procurement for the construction of

roads and drains is ongoing in Ravine Poisson, L’Abbayee/Sarrot, La Croix/Laborie and La Ressource/ Vieux Fort Phase 9.

The design and costings for roads and drains in a Section of La Ressource/Vieux Fort Phase 8 and Ravine Poisson are ongoing.

Security of Land Tenure for Households in the Sub-Urban/Rural Targeted Communities

At the end of the project a total of 3,100 residents will benefit from the project. Incremental payments are being made by residents. To date, a total of 83 residents have received their title deeds and 60 Title Deeds are presently being processed by the Attorney General’s Chambers.

To encourage payments, the residents are informed of grant resources and low income housing grant facilities which can be accessed in some Financial Institutions such as the Bank of St Lucia and St. Lucia Mortgage and Finance.

With the exception of Derriere Morne/Vieux Fort where the boundary survey process is in progress, individual consultations regarding land payments are ongoing in all areas where boundary surveys are completed. Periodic update of the PROUD’s progress and sensitisation of the wider public of the PROUD Programme are executed via the media (radio and television) and PROUD’s newsletter (refer to exhibit 3).

Gas Pump Verification

What does this mean for trade and the consumer?

Next to the personal safety and health of the people, one of the most important obligations of a the state is to protect citizens from other potentially adverse conditions beyond their control, one of which is the regulation of commercial weighing and measuring instruments, and the exercise of reasonable control over the users of these instruments.

In this era of globalisation the importance of accurate measurement is being further highlighted for fair trade purposes.

Against that background all gas stations on the island are verified for accuracy on a regular basis by the Bureau. Once a gas pump has been verified, a label or sticker is used to indicate whether the device is functioning as

expected and is accurate. The price of an item is determined in large measure by the quantity provided of the item. Quantity is determined by measurement, thus the importance of accuracy of measurement.

Saint Lucia has recognized that accurate measurement is a key component in supporting trade and competitiveness in industry, supporting the legal system and protecting the consumer.

These are some of the fundamental reasons underlying the passage of the island's Metrology Act #17, 2000, which gives the Saint Lucia Bureau of Standards the responsibility for verification and calibration of weighing and measuring equipment used in trade. Metrology, or the science of measurement is very important as it provides



Sticker marked “passed” used to indicate device is functioning as expected

the technical means to ensure correct measurement.

A critical aspect of the Bureau's Metrology Work programme is that of testing the accuracy of petrol dispensing units, in an effort to ensure that the volumes dispensed by these pumps are

accurate and comply with the tolerance levels stipulated in the Metrology Regulations. In other words, to ensure that you get what you pay for at the pump.

The procedures used to verify the pumps follow international guidelines and recommendations, and are standard. This means that all gas stations are inspected in exactly the same way, using the same type of equipment. The equipment used includes test measures (the standards used to determine the accuracy of the pump) wire seals and verification labels. It should be noted that these pieces of equipment and materials are similar to what is used internationally to undertake gas pump calibration and verification.

Once a gas pump has been verified by the Bureau, a verification label or sticker is used to indicate whether the device is functioning as expected and is accurate. The labels are colour-coded in green and red. A green sticker means that the gas pump conforms to the requirements of the Metrology Act and Regulations. Devices which are found not to conform are “rejected” and red stickers are affixed to these pumps.

To maintain the integrity of the verification process and to prevent any tampering with the adjustment mechanisms of the fuel dispensers, wire seals are placed on the pump after verification by the Bureau's metrology personnel.

Verification of the gas pump means that both the interests of the consumer and gas dealers are protected.

Dealers are safeguarded because in some cases the pump may have been delivering above the tolerance level, and consequently the consumer received more gas than actually purchased. For the gas dealers, there is confidence when it is known that the measuring equipments used have known accuracy.

Consumers on the other hand are assured that every time a green calibration sticker is affixed to a fuel pump that they are getting value for money. The Bureau's therefore serves as an effective interface between consumer protection and fair industry practices and therefore ensures “equity in trade”. As one local gas dealer puts it “this is a valuable service which helps to create fairness and even-handed regulation of the marketplace”.

The success of the Bureau's Gas Pump Verification Programme is well recognized in the Caribbean region. The Bureau's Metrology team has assisted in the training of Metrology and private sector personnel from around the region on this process.



Gas pumps must conform to the requirements of the Metrology Act and Regulations

FOTO
FACTS

FROM KIDDIES TO OLDIES THE
CARNIVAL VIBES LIVE ON

See page 8 for more carnival photos



CARICOM PROFESSIONALS BENEFIT FROM HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Background

The Environmental Health (EH) Three-Step Programme is designed by a joint PAHO/CARICOM Task Force for Training in Environmental Health. The programme is intended to enhance the delivery and management of environmental health in CARICOM States, through the implementation of harmonized curricula for training environmental health personnel.

The three-step training programme curricula are regionally harmonized.

Step 1 seeks to provide basic initial training in Environmental Health (EH) Certificate level. Step 2 continues on to the Associate Degree and Step 3 culminates with a BSc. Degree in a specialized area of Environmental Health. The programme curricula were defined by a consortium of regional academic institutions which are already involved in Environmental Health training. The consortium comprised: University of the West Indies (UWI) Barbados Community College (BCC), University of Technology (UTECH), University of Guyana (UG) and College of Science, Technology and applied Arts of Trinidad and Tobago (COSTAATT).

The curricula were circulated to regional stakeholders and the three-step programme was approved for implementation by CARICOM at meetings of the Council for Human and Social Development (COHSOD) and Heads of Government.

Subsequent to the development of the harmonized curricula, an assessment of country capacity to deliver the programme was carried out as a preliminary step in preparation for implementation. St Lucia was the second country to be assessed specifically for its capacity to offer Step 1. The exercise sought to assess human and teaching resources, physical facilities, the existence of recognized training

institutions capable of delivering the programme, financial mechanisms and support. The assessment team concluded that St Lucia is well placed to deliver the programme through the SALCC with human resource support from the Ministry of Health and CEHI.

Rationale

The range of responsibilities of Environmental Health (EH) practitioners have expanded considerably over the last two decades. This has been in response to new challenges, which include new issues related to environmental health, increasing population growth in the region, rapid spread of international diseases due to modern travel trends, the expansion of national food industries, the high transmission of vector-borne diseases, the rapid expansion of tourism, the trans-shipment of waste, the emergence of new communicable diseases, the need for standardization of training to facilitate regional mobility of professionals and widening of the knowledge gap between developed and developing countries.

These new challenges have thus created a demand for the refocusing of training programmes to deal with issues such as food safety, air quality, vector control, health education/promotion, solid waste management and environmental health impact assessment.

The decline of national economies through the region has impacted negatively on the capacity of the countries to continue to finance training abroad. This has resulted in fewer persons being trained and a growing number of untrained persons being recruited to carry out functions of the Environmental Health Officer.

In light of the aforementioned new challenges in the environmental health arena, it is imperative that countries reverse the trend of the growing number of untrained staff and enhance the qual-



CEHI - ensuring proper standards in health for CARICOM residents

ity of the current human resource. The harmonized curricula therefore serve to facilitate easy access of persons to a unified structured programme. Consequently, such a programme would address the challenges while allowing for the equivalency of qualifications that would permit the free movement of CARICOM nationals intra-regionally.

Programme Description (Step 1)

The focus of this step is two-fold: to provide the graduate with the requisite skills of the Environmental Health As-

sistant and to meet the matriculation requirements for entry into Step 2 of the programme.

The courses in this phase include a science core, as well as an introduction to food hygiene, communicable diseases, health care system delivery, vector control, health education, English and communication and computers. On completion of this phase the successful student will be awarded the Environmental Health Assistant Certificate (EHA).



SALCC - one of the premiere educational institutions in the region

Programme Framework (Step 1)

SEMESTER 1			SEMESTER 11		
COURSE TITLE	Hrs.	Cr.	COURSE TITLE	Hrs.	Cr.
Biology 1	60	4	Biology 11	60	4
Communicable Disease	15	1	Drafting Techniques	15	1
Environmental Chemistry 1	75	5	English & Communication	45	3
Health Education	15	1	Environmental Chemistry 11	60	4
Introduction to Environmental Health	15	1	Food Safety	15	1
Legislative Framework	15	1	Mathematics 11	60	4
Mathematics 1	75	5	Physics 11	60	40
Physics 1	60	40	Premises (Practicum)	30	2
Technical Report Writing	15	1	Vector Control 11	15	1
Introduction to Computers	15	1	Waste Management 11	15	1
Vector Control 1	15	1	Water Quality	15	1
Waste Management 1	15	1			
	390	26		390	26

Entry Qualifications

Passes in 2 CXC General/equivalent subjects including English Language and

Mathematics or one science subject. Persons qualifying as mature students and employed by the Ministry of Health, will

be considered for entry into the Environmental Health Assistant programme. In this case, mature student admission will

be based on the guidelines outlined in the Sir Arthur Lewis Community College (SALCC) prospectus.

Promotions and additional recruits among ingredients for A recipe for increased police efficiency

The Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security and the Police High Command are hoping that policing against crime will get a boost with the recent confirmation and promotion of a dozen of the Police Force's top officers.

The Public Service Commission (PSC), recently approved a dozen new appointments in the leadership ranks of the Police Force, affecting officers from the rank of Assistant Commissioner to Assistant Superintendent.

The announcement of the promotions and appointments – which took effect from May 2005 - was welcomed by the Minister for Home Affairs and Internal Security, as well as by the Commissioner of Police. Home Affairs Minister, Senator Calixte George, said he expected the “moral boost” from the promotions “to positively affect the overall leadership of the fight against crime.”

Police Commissioner Ausbert Regis has also commented on the new promotions and appointments. He said, “these promotions are naturally welcomed; they were earned by the individuals concerned and with them also come added responsibilities.”

The Commissioner added: “in their new positions, each individual will be

required to function at a naturally higher level, while at the same time being part of the coordinating unit that comprises the hierarchy of the force.”

Topping the list of senior officers promoted are Moses Charles and Cyril Noel, two former Acting Assistant Commissioners who are now confirmed in their posts.

The confirmations continue with George Deterville and Philip Vernon Francois, who are now superintendents. Mr Francois will act as an Assistant Commissioner, replacing Mr Joseph Francis, who has proceeded on pre-retirement leave.

Acting Assistant Superintendents Errol Alexander, Frances Henry, Brian Jawahir and Gregory Montoute have been confirmed.

In the Police Band, Gregory Piper has now been promoted to the post of Superintendent, while David Pierre has been promoted to the post of Assistant Superintendent.

There were promotions for Sergeant 131 Leon to Inspector, Corporal 32 Henry to Sergeant and Constable 34 Pierre to the post of corporal within the band.

Senator George said the promotion of top officers was taking place “at a

time when we have just added 60 new recruits to the force” to assist in meeting the challenges of policing in St. Lucia today.

The minister noted that “the challenges today include, among other things, vigilance, information gathering, scientific analysis and knowledge of the local terrain.” He said efforts were also under way “to take the force to the required levels of operational efficiency to meet the new and old challenges in the continuing crime fight.”

In this regard, he referred to “recent measures taken to improve the force’s overall intelligence gathering capabilities.” Pointing to recent measures taken by government to improve the operational efficiency and working environment for the nation’s police officers, Senator George said the promotions also coincided with “ongoing measures to improve the overall output of the force, across the island, in the neighbourhoods and communities, with the help of the citizenry.”

He said recent measures taken by government to help strengthen the fight against crime included provision of new vehicles, new police stations, more training for officers, and harmonization of prosecutorial services, ad-



Assistant Commissioner Moses Charles, one of twelve top cops who climbed the promotion ladder

ditional manpower and a greater measure of coordination.”

The minister said measures taken over the years “have significantly improved the base for better policing” by the force. He said “new legislative and tactical measures have also been showing positive results,” pointing to the new Criminal Code and the recent Revised Laws of Saint Lucia.

He identified what he said was “our continuing progress in the recovery of illegal firearms” as one example of the success of legislative and tactical measures to combat crime.

Vehicular Hiccups Expected As Major Flood Mitigation Project Continues

Phase two of the 5 million EC dollar Castries Flood Mitigation project is set to begin this weekend, with major road works on Jn. Baptiste Street and its intersection with John Compton's Highway next to the Castries Car Park

Project Monitoring Engineer at the Ministry of Communications and Works Chamberlain Emmanuel said the project includes connecting a new drain from the detention pond at George 5th Park to the outfall at the sea; consequently, the southern section of Jn. Baptiste Street next to the St. Lucia Marketing Board will

be closed to vehicular traffic.

Consideration has been given to the obvious interruption in traffic as a result of the works.

The works on Jn. Baptiste Street will be done in conjunction with works on Chausee Road.

As a result of the pending road works, the Monchy bus stand will be relocated to the reclamation ground next to Universal Cycle Centre as of Saturday July 24th.

Commuters have been asked to note that loading and off loading areas will no longer be on Darling Road but at the George the 5th Park.

The Ministry has assured that Pedes-

trian access will not be impeded and additional signage will be posted along the streets.

The Ministry of Communications

and Works has launched a 60 second video to illustrate to road users the alternate routes and the provisions to facilitate the roads works.

“We have deliberately scheduled these works after carnival; we are planning to work on the intersection and re-open the intersection before the reopening of school in September,” Jn. Baptiste said.



Traffic flow will change along this street

Cricket World Cup 2007 Schedule Announced

Continued from page 1

The spirit of cricket and life in the Caribbean are shown through the close association of the core cricket symbols of bat, ball and stumps, all presented in vibrant colours and shapes of symbols from the Caribbean.

The positioning of the bat and ball are figurative elements of the palm tree forming the trunk and fruit. The vibrant green of the crown of the palm tree, and the azure blue which stands for the surrounding sky and seas are the backdrop in which the tournament will take place.

During the unveiling of the ICC Cricket World Cup Mascot “Mr. MELLO”, the West Indies Cricket Board said many options were explored for the logo but the extensive search and development sessions generated a common theme across the region – a zest for life, a life philosophy and the

warmth of the people.

Mr MELLO is a youthful friendly, contemporary character with bright eyes, a big smile and an abundance of personality. He is in his teens – cheeky and curious and socially aware. The WICB says because MELLO is conscious of the growing HIV problem around the world he wears a red ribbon to show his support for the ICC/UNAIDS initiative.

Speaking at the ceremony President of the ICC Ehsan Mani said the 2007 ICC Cricket World Cup will be a truly international celebration of cricket. He said that apart from the 10 full member countries and Kenya, teams from Bermuda, Canada, Holland, Ireland and Scotland will also be coming to the Caribbean.

“From today, the fine tuning of the 16 teams will begin, and cricket fans from London to Lahore, and from Mel-

bourne to Mumbai will begin to plan their journey,” the ICC president said.

“We will be bringing together the top 16 sides in international cricket for the first time in our sport’s history,” Mani added. “This is the most ambitious Cricket World Cup in cricket’s history. The challenges are enormous, but I am confident that under the guidance of Chris Dehring and his team, the West Indies Cricket Board will deliver the most spectacular Cricket World Cup ever.”

St. Lucia’s delegation was headed by Chief Executive Officer of Cricket World Cup St. Lucia Incorporated Ernest Hilaire and included Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Tourism Maria Fowell, Deale Lee, Legal Officer, Cricket World Cup St. Lucia Incorporated and Information Assistant at the Government Information Service (GIS) Ryan O’ Brian.

St. Lucia will be hosting group C of the competition involving New Zealand, England, Kenya and Canada and one of the semi-final matches.

The opening ceremony is scheduled for March 11 2007 in Jamaica. There will be a reserve day after the scheduled matches.

Following are matches scheduled for the Beausejour Cricket ground in St. Lucia.

March 14 - Kenya v Canada.
March 16 - England v New Zealand
March 18 - England v Canada
March 20 - New Zealand v Kenya
March 22 - New Zealand v Canada
March 24 - England v Kenya.
Semi-final 2 - April 25.

Agricultural Development Incentives Regime Repositioning the Agricultural Sector

Continued from page 1

Qualification

To access concessions, basic qualification requirements are being put into place. All applicants will need to present a business plan that demonstrates viability of the enterprise. Persons already engaged in agri-business who are applying for new concessions or renewals, will need to provide evidence of prior business transactions. However, for new enterprises this requirement will be waived; rather, evidence of access to financial resources to invest will be required. Another important pre-qualification will be access to land in the case of crop or livestock production. For agro-processing, evidence of access to appropriate facilities will be required.

Concessions available

The regime will continue to make concessions available through partial or complete waiver of import duties, consumption and excise taxes on generic items used in production of primary or processed agricultural commodities. For example, waivers will be still applicable for goods vehicles, refrigerated trucks and farm equipment such as tractors. The same will apply to fertilizers, agro-chemicals,

medications, safety gear (in the case of fisheries) and land preparation tools and equipment. The regime seeks to enhance adoption of technologies that will assist producers in meeting compliance for product standards based on Good Agricultural Practices (for example meeting EUREP-GAP standards for bananas) and enhancing environmentally sustainable practices. In this regard concessions will be made available for procurement of improved plant and livestock varieties and associated tools and equipment that include irrigation infrastructure, energy saving devices and the like. Similarly in the fisheries sub-sector, the regime will maintain concessions on vessels and equipment.

Compatibility with WTO, CSME

It must be noted that the level of support being offered through this new incentives regime is compliant with support measures allowed under the World Trade Organization Agreement on Agriculture (WTO-AoA), which is the benchmark that will guide trade between nations and certainly within the Caribbean Single Market and Economy. The prevailing policy for support to the agriculture sector is oriented towards enhancement of production efficiency in

attempting to drive the cost of production down so that producers can take advantage of market opportunity.

Monitoring and evaluation

A key and very important feature of the new regime will be obligations to be met by recipients of concessions. At the end of each year recipients will be required to file in declarations that provide evidence that the concession granted was used for the specified purpose. This is being installed as a necessary measure given the excessive level of abuse that has prevailed in the past. The declaration, which will be in a simple format, will be submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture. The Ministry in turn will use the data to monitor the relative impact of Government support measures on changes in growth within the various sub-sectors.

The declaration will be a key policy support measure to gauge efficacy of Government policy and provide the basis to revise policy to suit changing circumstances. In this regard, failure to comply with reporting requirements could potentially result in withdrawal of the concession.

Administration

On a final note, the regime will seek



More support available for farmers under new incentives regime

to remove the bureaucratic process that is currently applied when one applies for concessions. Currently all applications go to the Cabinet of Ministers for consideration, a process that is regarded unwieldy, and in many cases not absolutely required, particularly for small-value, routine requests.

Under the new regime, requests below a threshold value of EC\$100,000 will be subject to consideration of an internal committee within the Ministry of Agriculture. Beyond this threshold it will be considered at Cabinet level, given the potential repercussions to revenue generation at the national level.

The following table summarises the key provisions of the regime

Item category	Concessions applied	
	Associations, Cooperatives	Independents
Primary Goods		
Vehicles - pick-up trucks, refrigerated trucks, panel vans	(1) 100% waiver of import duties; (2) 100% waiver of excise tax (Note: this is applied to vehicles purchased by coops/associations ONLY; this is not applicable for cooperative members)	(1) Reduction of excise tax to 5% (Note: this applies to applicants irrespective of membership in cooperative)
Materials and supplies, Generic materials and supplies will be imported with duty concessions via an approved distributor; Aquaculture materials and supplies - feed, brine shrimp; aeration equipment, pumps, water quality test kits	100% waiver of import duties	60% waiver of import duties
Fishing vessels and engines (outboard and inboard)	(1) 100% waiver of import duties (2) 100% waiver of consumption tax for registered /licensed fishing vessel owners (vessels under 9.14 meters) Larger vessels: above waivers to be considered on a case by case basis via Cabinet of Ministers	(1) 100% waiver of import duties (2) 100% waiver of consumption tax for registered /licensed fishing vessel owners (vessels under 9.14 meters) Larger vessels: above waivers to be considered on a case by case basis via Cabinet of Ministers
Equipment & tools incl. fishing gear and materials, safety/ communication/navigational aids	100% waiver of import duties	60% waiver of import duties
Primary Services		
Road maintenance - private access roads	Up to 50% of value of works government contribution in materials and technical services. This will be considered on a case-by-case basis.	
Pest/disease control services	Supplies and labour up to 100% of total cost. Considered on the	
Land preparation	100% exemption of import duty on equipment for land-preparation, clearing or seeding	60% exemption of import duty on equipment for land-preparation, clearing or seeding
Crops: Planting material - propagation & distribution of improved stock Livestock: Establishment of breeding pens, pasture development - incl. fencing, water delivery, etc.	100% waiver of import duties on all related supplies	60% waiver of import duties on all related supplies
Technological innovations - quality assurance, environmental sustainability (HACCP, ISO9000, Good Agric. Practices [GAPs], Good Manufacturing Practices [GMPs])		
Post harvest technologies - Crops: - including pack-houses, drying facilities; Processing systems establishment - Livestock:- abattoirs, certified slaughterhouses, poultry processing plants; honey processing facilities; Processing facilities for fish products	(1) 100% waiver of import duties and consumption tax on equipment; (2) Up to 50% of value of contribution in technical expertise on a case by case basis	(1) 60% waiver of import duties and consumption tax on equipment; (2) Up to 50% of value of contribution in technical expertise on a case by case basis
Irrigation systems - storage (tanks) and delivery infrastructure (pumps, pipes)		
Installation of soil and water (land) conservation measures - drainage, vegetative controls, waste water controls		
Introduction of clean/renewable energy: solar, biogas, wind		
Fishing vessel retro-fits - ice-box installation, vessel and equipment upgrades	(1) 100% waiver of import duties (2) 100% waiver of consumption tax for registered/licensed fishing vessel owners and registered fishers and fishermen's cooperatives	(1) 60% waiver of import duties (2) 60% waiver of consumption tax for registered/licensed fishing vessel owners and registered fishers and fishermen's cooperatives
aggregation devices & materials used in assembly	(1) 100% waiver of import duties (2) 100% waiver of consumption tax for registered fishers and fishermen's cooperatives once FAD construction and location is approved by the CFO	(1) 60% waiver of import duties (2) 60% waiver of consumption tax for registered fishers and fishermen's cooperatives once FAD construction and location is approved by the CFO

OECS now has Geneva presence

Member Countries of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) now have a Mission in Geneva through which they can actively engage in negotiations at the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

The OECS Geneva Technical Mission was officially launched last month following addresses by OECS Director General Dr. Len Ishmael, OECS Ambassador to Brussels Mr. George Bullen, Secretary-General of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States Sir John Kaputin, and Head of the European Commission's Project Management Unit to support ACP States on WTO is-

sues Mr. Pierre Berthelot. Dr. Ishmael cut the ribbon to officially launch the Mission. She called for full recognition to be given to the stark realities that countries of the world are at different levels of development: that the playing field is not level, that double standards exist with respect to the implementation of protocols guiding world trade, that special accommodation must be given to those countries which are most vulnerable if world trade is to deliver the benefits which it is touted to deliver, to all, and that trade as a tool of development be understood within that context.

Dr. Ishmael noted that in this context the OECS presence in Geneva is vital



OECS Director General Dr. Len Ishmael cuts the ribbon to officially open the OECS Geneva Office

to the sub-region's long term welfare. She said the Geneva Office will permit the OECS to be more active participants in the DOHA negotiations

which will shape the future in which we live and work, and provide for the functional articulation of these islands into the global economy.



Caption

(The following article is produced by the Integrity Commission to help readers understand the purpose of the Commission and to address certain misconceptions about its work.)

The St. Lucia Constitution Order 1978 contains 124 sections setting out the protections afforded citizens; their rights and responsibilities and regulating the powers and conduct of people in the public institutions, commonly called the State.

Persons in public life – Ministers of Government, Leader of the Opposition, other Parliamentarians, Heads of Department, etc. – have powers and enjoy privileges that, among other things to attract individuals and companies wanting favours for themselves and tempt public officials to use their offices for personal gain.

This state of affairs can disadvantage the state and large sectors of the populace. One of the more important roles of the St. Lucia Constitution is to guide the organisation of the state in such a way that public servants carry out their functions fairly and honestly. The Constitution tries to ensure fairness and honesty by mandating the establishment of specific institutions, to observe certain behaviours and practices geared to minimize dishonesty and abuse. Some of these institutions, such as the Public Service Commission, the Teaching Service Commission and the Parliamentary Commissioner, for example, have earned more prominence than others because of the length of time they have been in operation and the larger cross-section of citizens who make use of their services.

However, one such institution, the Integrity Commission, is just as use-

The Integrity Commission and the Constitution

ful in ensuring that the business of the State and by extension the citizens of the state, is conducted fairly and honesty by public servants, whether they are in leadership, administration or management positions.

Section 118 of the St. Lucia Constitution establishes the Integrity Commission, not as a political agency, but as an agency appointed by the state, as represented by Head of State, the Governor General. The section says, "There shall be an Integrity Commission for Saint Lucia...which shall consist of a chairman and not less than two nor more than four other members, who shall be appointed by the Governor-General, acting in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister," in consultation with the Leader of the Opposition.

Members of the Commission are appointed by the Governor General on the advice of the Prime Minister, who consults the Leader of the Opposition. Strict criteria are also laid out in the Constitution for the appointment and removal of members of the Commission and the process by which the Commission conducts its business, so as to avoid interference by any agency or officials of the state.

The non-interference is stated expressly in Section 118 (12) as follows: "The Commission shall, in the exercise of its functions under this Constitution, not be subject to the direction or control of any other person or authority." The Commission fulfils a duty to the people of St. Lucia through the Parliament, which is responsible for enacting all the laws of the land. The Integrity Commission, therefore, has to operate within the law. The Statute which regulates the work of the Commission is called the Integrity in Public Life Act No.6 of 2004. This legislation was assented to by the Governor General on April 27, 2004, succeeding a previous version of the Act which was repealed by parliament.

The purpose of the Commission is stated in Section 119 of the Constitution, which says, "The Integrity Commission shall obtain declarations in writing from time to time of their assets, liabilities and income from Senators and members of the House -- including Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries and from the holders of such other offices as parliament may prescribe."

Declarations containing information on the assets, liabilities and income of a person in public life, or any other person for that matter, can provide important insights into that person's financial affairs, and possible misconduct in public office.

Obviously, the Commission examines the declarations it receives so as to determine whether persons in public life are conducting their financial affairs with integrity, or 'honesty', if you will; and whether such conduct in turn affects their conduct in public office.

The Saint Lucia Constitution does not provide a definition for 'Integrity

Commission', but in everyday use, the word 'Integrity' implies honesty. The Oxford Dictionary offers the following contexts in which the word could be used: 'entirety', 'soundness', 'honesty', and 'untouched'. The Integrity in Public Life Act (No.6 of 2004), which details how the Commission performs its duties, provides for "measures for establishing probity, integrity, and accountability in public life and for related matters." (Continued in the next issue).

Other articles in this series will highlight how the Commission fulfills its constitutional mandate.

Enhancing Ethical Behaviour Via the Brian Bernard Fund



Former Commissioner of Police the late Brian Bernard

The Brian Bernard Memorial Fund, a donor advised fund administered by the National Community Foundation, was established in memory of the late commissioner of police. The fund focuses on enforcing and/or enhancing ethical behavior, human and spiritual values.

The mission of the fund is to strengthen ethics within communities by inspiring individuals and institutions to act ethically towards one another.

The fund will fulfill its mission through education, advocacy and research.

One way of fulfilling this mission is through supporting character education.

The National Community Foun-

dation has therefore embarked on a programme aimed at training persons who are directly involved in educating youth.

The Virtues programme is intended to provide empowering strategies that inspire the practice of virtues in everyday life, including the classroom. In light of this, the Foundation facilitated a five-day intensive training programme from July 11 to July 15, 2005.

Fifteen staff members of the George Charles Secondary School successfully completed this programme.

A graduation ceremony to honor their commitment and enthusiastic participation was held on Wednesday July 20, 2005 at 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the NIC Boardroom.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL CARNIVAL



Calypso Monarch 2005 - Waleigh

Carnival 2005 is said to have marked a defining moment for the safety and security of revellers.

This year authorities backed by tough penalties under the Revised Laws of St. Lucia, announced that no one who is not officially a member of a band would be allowed to join in the revellery - one of many measures pushed by the CDF to ensure the safety and security of the bands. This boost in security was supported by a heavy police presence over the two days.

Executive Director of the Cultural Development Foundation (CDF), Teddy Francis expressed satisfaction that another successful carnival has come through this year.

Francis indicated that amid concerns and unofficial discussions that the event is being held during the official hurricane season, the CDF, whilst willing to entertain such discourse, does not, for its part, harbour intentions to return the event to the Lenten season.

Chief Judge Rowan Seon lamented the limited participation of bands in the King and Queen of the Bands show. Seon observed that while there was a reduc-

tion in the number of bands compared to 2004, the number of revellers was encouraging.

One point made all the difference and separated the first, second and third place finishers in this year's Band of the Year category.

The results were released at a press conference at the Cultural Development Foundation on Wednesday, July 20th, one day after the climax of Carnival 2005. For the third year running, the carnival band Mas Action captured the title of Band of the Year portraying the theme "Journey Across the Sahara," with 395 points, one point ahead of rivals Rituals who portrayed "Apilo".

In third place with 393 points was XS Energy with its theme "Cuba - The Pulse, The Passion, The Glory,". Rounding out the top five were Just 4 Fun with 330 points depicting "Realms of Fantasy and Cosy Guzzlers with 239 points for "War & Peace."

The Ole Mas title was won by Morgan George (See page 3), with his rendition of "A carrying Me Lighter."



OECS Soca Monarch 2005 - Bomani



Party Monarch 2005 - Alpha



Panorama Champions 2005 - Cable and Wireless Diamond Steel



Road March Monarch 2005 - Nicole



Carnival Queen 2005 - Joy Ann Biscette



King of the Bands 2005 - Martin Dorville - Rituals



A section of the Band of the Year 2005 - Mas Action - portraying "Journey Through the Sahara"



Queen of the Bands 2005 - Delia Francois - Rituals



THIS WEEK ON NTN

Sat. July 23rd - Fri. July 29th, 2005

OECS Soca Monarch - Sat. July 23rd
8:00 p.m.

· **Inter-Commercial House Calypso Competition** - Sun. July 24th, 8:30 p.m.

· **The Desmond Skeete Animation Centre** - Mon. July 25th, 6:30 p.m.

· **Water in the Valley** - Tues. July 25th, 6:15 p.m.

· **Women West Indies - An Exciting Series of portraits featuring women in the Caribbean** - Every Wednesday at 6:15 p.m. - Wed. July 26th, 6:15 p.m.

· **OECS Soca Monarch 2005** - Thurs. July 27th, 8:00 p.m.

· **Panorama 2005** - Fri. July 28th, 8:00 p.m.

Remember to tune in for:

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

· **Issues & Answers/Mondays at 8:00pm:**

· **Interview/Tuesdays at 6:15pm :**

· **Konsit Kweyol/Tuesdays at 8:00pm**

(Kweyol Discussion):

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

Take 2/Fridays at 6:15pm

(Week in Review)

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

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

www.stlucia.gov.lc

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