



# NATIONWIDE

A publication of the Department of Information Services



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## OPTIONS REPORT STILL UNDER STUDY

### PHASE OUT OF 14-SEATER BUSES NOT ON MINISTRY'S TIME TABLE

**A**t a press conference on Monday June 20, 2005, officials of the Ministry of Communications, Works, Transport and Public Utilities laid to rest concerns over a proposal to buy-over, and subsequently phase out current-size buses plying public transport routes, in favour of larger more luxurious ones.

Public Utilities Minister Honourable Felix Finisterre said the idea to phase out 14-seater busses in favour of larger 40 to 50-seater coaches and the possible privatization of the overall public transportation system, was simply one of several recommendations coming out of the latest City of Castries Traffic Management Survey.

Funded by the Agence Francais d'Development (ADF), and overseen by consulting engineering firm Halcrow Group Ltd, the survey regarded remedial measures at pinpointing solutions to the parking problems of the city, the construction of two bus terminals to service northbound and southbound busses, the city's beautification, rationalizing the use of streets and the establishment of an independent parking authority.

Minister Finisterre said although the French consultants who conducted the survey suggested the option based on its success in neighbouring Martinique, government made it clear from



**From left to right - Halcrow representative, Public Utilities Minister and Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Public Utilities**

the outset, that this would not be an option in the case of Saint Lucia. That decision, he said, is based on political, economic, and social reasons.

"From my perspective, when I saw the 'Options Report' I read it, took a red pen and placed an X next to the proposal which pointed to suggestions to phase out or buy out mini-bus drivers. Along with that X, I also placed some comments indicating that this particular recommendation could not work," Finisterre said.

Consultations with all stakeholders on the recommendations from the study's Options Report continue and no concrete decisions on the way for-

ward have yet been taken.

The ministry's participatory approach will obtain and stakeholders, along with the general public, will determine which recommendations will be most practicable.

The Options Report is an initial presentation of what alternatives the Government of Saint Lucia can pursue.

Meantime, a two-day visit to Martinique carded for July 8th & 9th, has been arranged to bring stakeholders up to speed on how the French dependent territory has been able to handle and manage its traffic problems.

## ADDITIONAL BOOST FOR \$6M LOCAL HANDICRAFT SECTOR

**G**iven the critical role that tourism plays in the economy of St. Lucia and bearing in mind the linkages that can exist between tourism and handicraft, government has accorded the handicraft sector a priority position in the National Industrial Policy and the recently formulated National Export Strategy.

The handicraft sector in St. Lucia directly impacts the lives of over 300 persons through full-time and part-time employment. Although the sector is still undeveloped, it generates revenue of approximately 6 million dollars annually.

St. Lucia's Director of Commerce Titus Preville says, "We recognize the potential of the handicraft sector, and at the level of government we are doing as much as possible under the various constraints of finance and personnel to help the manufacturing sector find its niche and rightful place."

St. Lucian producers of art and craft

along with fashion designers will get an opportunity to showcase their products, at the Caribbean Gift and Craft Show in Barbados from September 22nd to 25th. Organized by the Caribbean Export Development Agency-Carib Export, the show seeks to exploit the vast potential of the handicraft, gift and fashion industries and the potential linkages with other sectors.

St. Lucia was the venue for the third leg in a series of preparatory launches on June 14th, leading up to the September show.

This year's show carries two sub theme, "CSME, and CWC 2007 - a stage for creativity and innovation in the region." Caribbean Export recognizes both these events will present new business opportunities for the region's small and medium enterprises.

Show manager Maureen Pollard said it is essential that new alliances are formed as Caribbean territories seek to position themselves as strong contenders in the global marketplace.

"Two significant achievements which will clearly indicate that Caribbean integration is finally evolving will be the implementation of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy and the hosting of Cricket World Cup 2007. Both these initiatives will see the region uniting and synergies resulting with us sending a clear signal to the rest of the world that the Caribbean is indeed ready to compete," Pollard said.

In 2004, the global craft and gift sector was estimated to have generated well over US 300 billion dollars in business.

Export orders generated at the Caribbean Gift and Craft Show in 2003 and 2004 were in excess of US6 million dollars.

First Caribbean International Bank is providing major sponsorship for the 2005 Caribbean Gift and Craft Show that is expected to see the involvement of 200 exhibitors, and 11, 000 visitors.



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# FROM CRISIS TO HOPE

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

*Continued from last week's issue*

### Probation & Parole Services

Upon the entry of Government to office, it was noted that the Probation and Parole Department was not provided with office space as was the case for all other Government departments.

Upon the resumption of Government to office and within the framework of a comprehensive Judicial Reform, the recruitment of a full complement of magistrates was effected. Office space has now been provided for the staff of the Department on Brazil Street, Castries. Funding for additional qualified Probation Officers have also been provided to the department which provides support services to the Bordelais Correctional Facility, the Magistrates Courts and the High Court.

It was also necessary to develop appropriate legislation to provide for the administration of an effective Parole system. A new Parole Act (No. 12 of 1997) was enacted. Government through funding from the European Union also provided (\$80,000) to the department, to facilitate the development of a proposal for the reform of the Probation and Parole System in St. Lucia.

### Fire and Emergency Ambulance Services

The northern part of the Island experienced rapid growth over the past two decades. The population of Gros Islet grew from 11,542 in 1982 to 14,082 in 1997 and 21,207 in 2003. Total hotel rooms increased from 2,204 in 1989 to 4,428 in 2002 with a large concentration in the north of the Island.

The expansion in population growth and economic activity in the town of Gros-Islet and vehicular traffic generally placed significant pressure on the existing Fire and Emergency Ambulance Services in Central Castries. Priority was therefore given for construction of a new Fire Station in the north, with direct Fire and Emergency Ambulance Services being provided to Gros-Islet and the surrounding communities.

### First term at a glance

The Ministry of Legal Affairs, Home Affairs and Labour was created in 1997. The following programmes which now constitute the new Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security were drawn from the various configurations which prevailed prior to that period.

Police Department - Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Home Affairs; Fire Service - Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Home Affairs; Prison Services - Ministry of Community Development; Boys' Training Centre - Ministry of Community Development; Probation Services - Ministry of Community Development.

The amalgamation of these programmes, brought about its own characteristics and engendered its own dynamics. A critical response to the new ministerial composite was a building process towards the creation of a unified vision aimed at fostering effective intra-and-inter departmental dialogue and providing effective coordination and efficient service delivery.

To this end, a consultation was held in August 1998 which sought to review and streamline the various programmes. A major outcome of the consultation was the following Mission Statement which to date, forms the essence of the objectives of the new Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security and guides its operations.

"As an arm of the Criminal Justice System, the Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security stands committed to the protection of Society by providing an effective, efficient and Professional Policing Service; securing and rehabilitating persons committed to our care, through the

utilization of a cadre of competent management, technical and administrative staff agency – wide.

Against this background, to provide the STATE with effective and efficient programs within a new philosophical framework of prevention and rehabilitation for juvenile delinquents, offenders and prison inmates focusing on wholesome physical, educational, mental and spiritual development for re-entry into civil society, and fostering the development of partnerships with the community. Further, to ensure the integrity of the movement of bona fide persons into and out of the state and to work assiduously to prevent and minimize the loss of life and property by fire.



The following represents key highlights of achievements from the various programme areas within the Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security. These represent in the main, specific interventions by the Government during its first term in office. The aim here is to view the achievements in relation to the pronouncements of the Contract of Faith.

### GOVERNMENT'S PLANS AND ACHIEVEMENTS (1997 – 2001)

#### Plans to increase the number of police officers

Between 1997 and 2001, a total of 258 new police officers were recruited as follows: Course 19: October 12, 1997 to March 27, 1998- 60 Regular Police Officers, 10 Ports Police. Course 20: June 03, 1998 to December 12, 1998- 51 Regular Police Officers. Course 21: February 8, 1999 to July 16, 1999- 49 Regular Police Officers, 9 Port Police Officers. Course 22: December 13, 1999 to June 16, 2000- 49 Regular Police Officers. Course 23: December 04, 2001 to June 21, 2002- 30 Regular Police Officers.

#### Construction of two new police stations for the Castries basin. One in March- and and the other in La Clery

A new police station was officially opened in March and in January 2001. Five other police stations were also under varying levels of construction and preparation for construction. These are the Dennery Police Station, the Micoud Police Station, the Vieux Fort Police Station, the La Resource/Richfond Police Station and the Anse La Raye Police Station.

Additionally, the following Police Stations were refurbished: Choiseul Police Station, Marigot Police Station, Laborie Police Station, and Canaries Police Station.

#### Police reform

Government's work on the Police Services did not only involve infrastructural projects. A complete re-engineering/reform of the Police Services (the Royal St. Lucia Police Development Project) commenced in 2000. The Ministry effected activities to facilitate the full implementation of the re-structuring of police personnel, operating systems, processes and activities of the Police Programme, under the leadership of

the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Mr. Neil Parker who was seconded as technical assistance to the Government of St. Lucia by the Canadian Government.

#### Project Reform Implementation Team (PRIT)

A Project Reform Implementation Team (PRIT) was established. The role, responsibilities and terms of reference of the team were established. Core team members were trained in methodologies and tools to adopt throughout the Reform Programme. A communication and consultation strategy, encompassing internal and external stakeholders was developed.

The aim of the re-engineering/reform programme was to achieve a well man-

nel, training, policies and procedures were designed to be made operational. The financial and procurement functions and system were improved, and established to operate effectively.

The establishment of a Personnel Function included: The development of training plans for new recruits, police officers and civilians. This included conducting training needs analysis; developing appropriate training plans and programmes and developing coaching and mentoring schemes; Improving and developing the recruitment and selection procedures; Developing and implementing performance management systems; Reviewing the reward strategy. This included determining reward principles; Developing improved promotion procedures and selection criteria; Reviewing and revising personnel policies and procedures.

The area of Manpower Planning included: Developing a model for manpower planning and resource allocation (including civilianisation of posts); Conducting an audit of existing resources to identify deficits and surpluses; Developing an Action Plan to meet resourcing requirements.

The area of Finance and Procurement included: Developing improved financial management systems; Redesigning financial bidding and estimating arrangements; Introducing appropriate mechanisms to increase financial and cost awareness; Determining the extent to which financial control and accountability should be devolved; Revising procurement systems and procedures; Developing training programmes and training officers in revised systems; Developing written guidance notes and procedures.

In the area of Public Relations, (PR) policies and procedures were established for effective operation. This included: Developing a coherent Public Relations strategy; Establishing a PR Unit and staffing. (This Unit was established in March 2001); Training of officers in techniques of public opinion monitoring.

Work in the area of Research and Development included: Establishing the role and objectives of that function; Designing appropriate processes to collate strategic performance information and monitoring international trends in policing; Establishing staffing and determining training requirements.

Work in the Inspection and Review Function included: Refining the role, objectives, structure and staffing; Designing inspection systems and protocols; Designing processes for collecting performance data.

With respect to the Complaints and Discipline Function work in this area included: Determination of the role, objectives and structure of the function; Developing a Complaints Investigation System; Establishing mechanisms for recording complaints; Reviewing the Police Service discipline code; Designing a Training Programme for complaints handling and discipline.

The Operations Workstream was implemented. The aim is to enhance operational policing, crime prevention, investigation and detection of crime, especially serious and drug related crime; Developing and implementing policies and procedures for an effective crime reduction strategy; Improving capacity among police personnel.

Activities in this work area included: Developing operational and crime management strategy; Developing processes to analyze crime patterns and community needs; Updating incident and crime reporting systems; Reviewing case management policies and procedures; Establishing crime intelligence officers; Training officers in scenes of crime work, operational policing, investigation and detection skills, crime intelligence.

*To be continued in the next issue*

# More poverty reduction initiatives

The Ministry of Social Transformation, Culture & Local Government, and the Caribbean Development Bank are jointly undertaking the second “Country Poverty Assessment” exercise for St. Lucia.

ple and to identify policies, strategies and action programmes that would reduce the extent and severity of poverty within the country.

The programme is also designed to enhance social development and improve the overall quality of life in the region.

ment of the current status in respect of the Millennium Development Goals which among other agenda issues, aim to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.

Results from completed poverty assessment are used in the design of pov-

reform of social policies and institutions.

Kairi Consultants of Trinidad & Tobago will provide technical assistance for execution of the project.

A seventeen member multi-sectoral national assessment team will work in close collaboration with the consultants to coordinate the research and administrative activities of the assessment. The country poverty assessment is expected



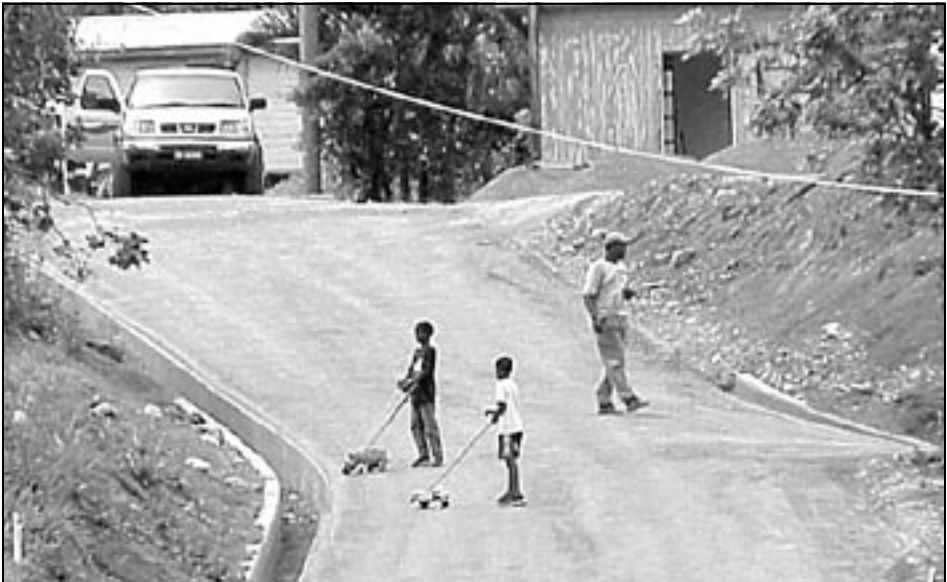
Properly constructed footpaths uplift the standard of living

The first Country Poverty Assessment was conducted in 1995, as part of the bank’s effort to target more of the benefits from its development interventions in the Borrowing Member Countries to the poor.

The overall objective of the Country Poverty Assessment is to assess the current conditions affecting poor peo-

The study emphasizes a comprehensive analysis of the poverty situation, a review of the processes that generate and maintain conditions conducive to poverty, an examination of existing responses to the poverty situation and the means available for more vigorous and effective actions to reduce poverty.

It also includes a baseline assess-



Communities benefit from road works

erty reduction initiatives such as social investment funds, rural enterprise development projects and human settlements projects.

These results have also informed the design of other projects in the education, agriculture and health sectors. In addition, the CPAs have guided the

to last eight months.

The Ministry of Social Transformation, Culture and Local Government is requesting cooperation from members of the general public with the researchers as they conduct interviews and focus group discussions in various communities.

## Home owners must take precautionary measures

### Guttering and proper drainage important

The rainfall forecast for Saint Lucia and the Eastern Caribbean for the period May to July is for wetter than normal conditions, and this trend is expected to continue. There is a corresponding risk of more flooding and landslides this year.

Physical Planning and Housing Minister Honourable Ferguson John warns: “it is important that people constructing homes first get approval from

the Ministry of Physical Planning to ensure that homes are constructed not just magnificently, but according to the island’s building codes.

“A lot of people just build homes and let the water flow from the roofs but this contributes to flooding; it affects the areas generally and there is need to ensure that water is controlled and does not fall anywhere or go anywhere,” the minister said. “That is very important and we expect people to pay general



Homes without guttering contribute to flooding

attention to the manner in which they build. I think one of the things we have to be worried about this year, particularly when you expect a lot of rain is guttering,” he said.

This year scientists have predicted an above-normal season with about thirteen named storms, seven of which will form hurricanes, and three of which are expected to be major hurricanes.

Home owners need to take all pre-

cautionary measures during the hurricane season which officially began on June 1st.

Persons are urged to listen to local weather reports and to pay particular attention to all tropical cyclone bulletins and advisories.

The hurricane season for the North Atlantic Ocean, the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico ends on November 30th.

## Health planners combat cancers common to women

With cancer ranking number one among the ten leading causes of death on the island, health planners are hoping to fine-tune their approaches to combating cancers common to women.

An estimated 471,000 new cases of cervical cancer are diagnosed each year with 80 percent of those occurring in the developing world. In Saint Lucia, for the period 1998-2002, the annual crude incidence rate of cervical cancer was 38.9 per 100,000 translating to 31 new cases per year.

With more and more Saint Lucians seeking specialized medical treatment in neighbouring Martinique, the OECS Secretariat has been col-

laborating with French officials to put mechanisms in place to better facilitate the process.

Against that backdrop, the Ministry of Health, Human Services, Family Affairs and Gender Relations has teamed up with the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Secretariat and the French Technical Department to put in place national standards and guidelines on the way forward.

At a two-day regional workshop held last week, health officials focussed on gynaecological cancers – namely cancer of the cervix, ovary, endometrium, and breast.

Saint Lucia’s Chief Medical Officer Dr. Stephen King says new guidelines, once finalized, will become the benchmark by which medical practitioners

will be judged.

“You cannot continue to practice medicine in an ad-hoc manner. It must be done in an organized, proper, standard, evidence-based manner. This is our commitment at the Ministry of Health and this week’s activity is how we begin to deliver on that,” Dr. King said.

OECS Health Advisor, Dr. Jean-Charles Dubourg said the development of national guidelines and standards for the management of gynaecological cancers will lead to a substantial improvement in the quality of care provided to patients in the OECS.

Nevertheless there still remain some constraints to receiving adequate treatment of cancers in OECS countries. This reality, Dr. Dubourg noted is par-

ticularly due to the lack of access to radiotherapy treatment. “In this regard we anticipate that the Government of Saint St. Lucia will take necessary steps to make this treatment available within the new general hospital to be built in Castries in coming months.”

Although not part of the original design for the proposed new multimillion dollar hospital, to be constructed along the Millennium Highway, health officials say dialogue continues concerning the establishment of an OECS radiotherapy centre for cancer treatment.

A similar national workshop to develop guidelines for cancers affecting the male population is to be convened later this year.



# A landmark in local legal history - Saint Lucia's Laws Revised and Modernized



Acting Chief Justice Brian Alleyne SC

**S**aint Lucia now has a modern, electronically up-to-date revised edition of all of the island's laws, thanks to yet another early decision taken by the Government led by Prime Minister Dr. Kenny D. Anthony to improve the overall dispensation of justice and assist with good governance of the country.

Monday evening, June 20, 2005 became a landmark in the country's legal history when one of the foremost international experts in the publishing of laws and legislation management handed over to the Prime Minister the first set of the new Revised Edition of the Laws of Saint Lucia 2001.

It was the first time in almost 50 years that the island's laws have been revised.

## A moving ceremony

The well-choreographed 90-minute official ceremony, which was held at the Official Residence of the Prime Minister, was attended by Her Excellency the Governor General, the Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers, as well as staff of the Ministry of Legal Affairs and the Attorney General's Department, members of the Judiciary, the Bar Association, the Police Force and other special invitees. Also in attendance was Dr Rose Marie Antoine, the Prime Minister's wife, who is also a Senior Lecturer at the Law Faculty of the University of the West Indies in Barbados.

After brief remarks by current Attorney General Senator Victor La Corbiniere, Acting Chief Justice Brian Alleyne SC, Bar Association President Jennifer Remy and Chairman of Eyre & Spottiswoode Mr David Desborough, the feature address was delivered by former Attorney General and Minister for Justice Senator Petrus Compton.

Senator Compton (who is now the Minister of External Affairs) recalled that one of the major challenges he faced when he was offered the job by

Prime Minister Anthony, was to provide the country with a body of revised laws that would help achieve the goal of making the dispensation of justice more efficient.

The former Attorney General, who had earlier been singled out by Mr Desborough for his "vision, determination and guidance" when the project was initiated, had oversight responsibility for the process, which was conducted under the authority of his office, by lawyers experienced in the process.

## Symbolic exercise

In a symbolic exercise that followed brief remarks by the Prime Minister, an infant girl in national wear, with background music by the Royal St. Lucia Police Band, strode up the aisle with a volume of the revised laws, which she brought onto the stage to Mr Desborough. He then handed the bound copy to the Prime Minister. Dr Anthony then unveiled a complete edition of the 20-volume set published by Eyre and Spottiswoode, the firm contracted in 2001 to publish the revised laws.

The exercise was undertaken as part of a ten-year project to completely modernize the laws of St. Lucia, a process which began in 2002. Three years later, the first phase of the project is complete and the island has a completely new edition of all its laws.

## Laws rendered ineffective

The last revision of the Laws of St. Lucia was done in 1957. Since then, they have been amended and added to so often and so much that the original texts have been rendered out of date. As has been complained about so often in the country's courts over the years, the successive changes have not only made access to the laws complicated, but also undermined the administration of justice.

Soon after taking office in 1997, the Government embarked on a search for means to revise and consolidate the country's laws so that the administration of justice could be less complicated. It had to find a willing partner

that would do the best job at a price that was right. It was here that Eyre and Spottiswoode came into the picture.

## Experts contracted

This company has deep roots in British publishing history. It was founded back in the 18th Century, when John Eyre procured the rights from the sovereign of the day to do the printing and publishing of the James 1 Edition

the US-funded Justice Improvement Project coordinated in the early to mid 1990's by the Faculty of Law of the University of the West Indies. Dr Kenny D. Anthony served as a Project Director of that programme for a period of time.

St. Lucia and St. Kitts were unable to make use of the revision facility at that time. Both later had to face

port the Government's legislation management process in the decade ahead. Further, it required keeping the laws up-to-date through an effective partnership of transfer of skills and knowledge and building local capacity.

The actual task of revision began in early 2002. It involved reviewing all the laws that existed in the country up to December 31, 2001.

individuals, supported by their proof-readers, the revision exercise would never have been completed."

The Eyre and Spottiswoode Chairman remarked that it was "a credit to the country and its people that the law revision was conducted entirely in St. Lucia," involving St. Lucians at every stage of the process" -- from proof reading to editing of the thousands of



Showing intense interest in the revised laws



Prime Minister Anthony unveils the revised laws



Several persons were present to witness a landmark in the country's legal history

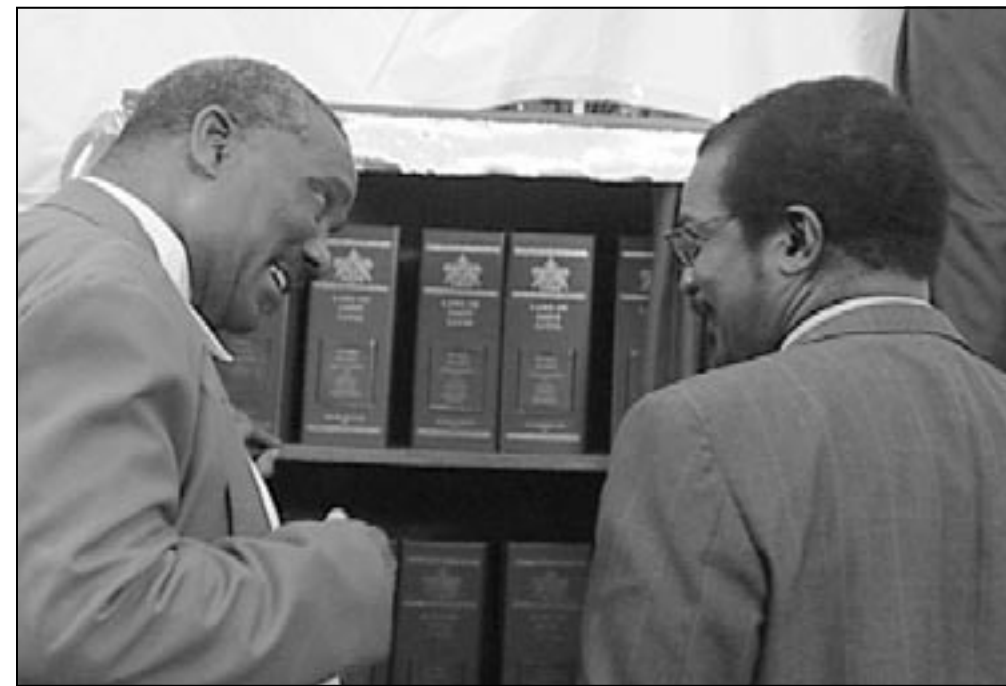
of the Bible, the Book of Common Prayer and All Acts of Parliament. The company developed to become the official printer to the Kings and Queens of England and was in effect the Government Printer before the founding of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Eyre and Spottiswoode has also printed and published many of the first laws of newly independent nations as they emerged from colonialism in the 1950s and 1960s.

The firm has been involved in many law revision projects in the Caribbean, having previously undertaken such exercises in Antigua & Barbuda, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines. It also participated in

the task. With the change of Government in 1997, Prime Minister Anthony took an early decision to revise all the country's archaic laws and the ten-year project soon got under way.

As specialists in the field, Eyre and Spottiswoode were contracted to consolidate, revise and publish the laws and to provide the editorial and publishing resources to ensure the laws are kept up-to-date during the period of the contract.

The contract involved ensuring the first phase -- that of revision of all the laws -- was completed in three years. It also involved integrating and managing the range of skills, technologies and resources needed to be able to sup-



Sen. the Hon. Calixte George (L) and Hon. Velon John savouring the momentous occasion

## "Complicated, arduous and stressful..."

Senator Compton and Mr Eesborough complimented the staff who started and completed the project. They acknowledged the role of the local team of persons responsible for reviewing, editing and proof-reading. The editorial team of St. Lucian Mrs Barbara Vargas, who was the Supervising Lawyer of the project, and veteran Commonwealth Law Revision expert Australian barrister Neil Adsett were each singled-out for their respective roles.

Noting that "law revision is not only complicated, but also arduous and stressful," Mr Desborough stressed that "without the work of these two key

pages and millions of characters of type involved, to ensure that the final texts complied with the laws passed by the Parliament.

## Now and for the future

The revision process is now complete. The new laws are contained in 20 loose-leaf volumes and are now commercially available exclusively through Eyre and Spottiswoode.

Mr Desborough said the set will soon be expanded to 22 volumes, to include the two volumes of the Revised Civil and Criminal Codes.

The chairman of the publishing firm indicated that "when brought into force, these new volumes of laws will



Former Attorney General, Senator the Hon. Petrus Compton

be deemed to be in all courts of justice and for all purposes, the sole authentic edition of the Laws of St. Lucia in respect of the Law contained in it and in force on the revision date."

He pointed out that "the country's first electronic legislation database has also been established" and it has been delivered to the Attorney General's Chambers.

The next phase of the project is already under way. Eyre and Spottiswoode will now prepare a three-year loose-leaf supplement containing the texts of new laws and amendments which came into effect during the years 2002, 2003 and 2004 and the company plans to deliver on this aspect in early 2006.

From that point on, the company will publish annual supplements to ensure that the printed edition and the electronic database are constantly upgraded.

## Transfer of skills

But quite apart from the successful completion of the revision and publishing exercise, there is also a skills transfer component in this project of modernizing of the island's laws.

More St. Lucian lawyers are now trained in law revision and Eyre and Spottiswoode is about to implement training for more local legislative drafters -- all aimed at maximizing the use of the database.

As noted by Mr Desborough: "The electronic legislation database created during the revision process will bring important benefits to the country's legislation management process."

For example, for the first time, it will enable the text of legislation to be archived, searched and amended speedily. It will also help legislative drafters and provide a platform for exciting developments in electronic and multimedia publishing.

Mr Desborough said Eyre and Spottiswoode plan to make the new body

of laws commercially available in electronic form, either on CD-Rom or via the Internet, or both.

And he believes that in the near future "a pilot web site should be launched as a forerunner to a web publishing facility for all OECS legislation.

## A Continuation of ongoing efforts...

The new body of laws mark the continuation of ongoing efforts by Government to modernize the country's laws in order to improve justice and governance.

As noted by the current AG, Mr La Corbiniere, there has already been the upgrading of courthouses around the country and other improvements to the legal system, as part of a \$1.4 million expenditure earmarked in the 2004-2005 financial year.

This week's historic development comes on the heels of the announcement last week of the establishment of a Commission to Review and Amend the Constitution of Saint Lucia.

It was also preceded by the Revision of the Criminal Code, construction of new police stations around the country, establishment of a new and modern prison complex, establishment of a Police Complaints Commission and a National Crime Commission, as well as steps to modernize and better equip the Police Force, including plans for the establishment of a new Forensic Lab.

The government has also established a new Prosecutorial Service and steps are under way to ensure permanency of High Court sittings to reduce the delays caused under the current Assizes system.

Prime Minister Anthony says these developments, when put together, "indicate a clear and consistent pattern in the Government's disposition to not only modernize the laws that govern the land, but also to ensure that justice is dispensed in an atmosphere more conducive to better governance."

# “RETROSPECTIVE AND

Address by the  
Honourable Prime Minister of St. Lucia  
Dr. Kenny D. Anthony  
at the 41<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the OECS Authority  
Roseau, Dominica June 15, 2005

Mr. Chairman, Colleagues, Director General, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen:

May I, at the outset, take this opportunity to thank my colleagues for their support during my chairmanship over the past year, and for the privilege of contributing to the further consolidation of the integration process among OECS Member States, and by extension the wider Caribbean region.

Consistent with convention, I shall present an account of the key activities of my stewardship of the OECS, during my tenure as chairman. Thereafter, I want to touch on the issue as to whether the OECS could survive the CSME.

Ladies and gentlemen, during the past year developments within the OECS and its achievements provide me with every reason to be optimistic. This optimism is fuelled by the support of the citizens of the sub-region for this undertaking and by the clear commitment of OECS leaders to take every necessary action to transform our integration arrangement into an Economic Union.

## New oecs treaty

The decision by OECS Heads of Government to pursue a new OECS Treaty in keeping with the integration impulse at both the sub-regional and regional level, is a historic turning point. This decision provides an opportunity to modernize the OECS architecture and prepare it for new regional and global realities.

To facilitate the preparation and drafting of the new OECS Treaty, the Authority established a Task Force, chaired by Sir Dwight Venner, the Governor of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB). The Task Force was charged with producing a blueprint for an Economic Union among Member States. I therefore welcome the news that a new Draft Bill on the Treaty is being prepared for review by the Authority at a special meeting in July 2005.

## Oecs regional prison and police service

In the course of the year, major studies were undertaken to explore the potential for deepening co-operation among the prison and police services of the sub-region.

The study on the prison services addressed, inter alia, the non-custodial treatment of mentally challenged and drug offenders, as well as alternative sentencing options for young offenders. The findings have revealed that there is a need to create an integrated institutional arrangement for the management of a regional prison's service (inclusive of innovative pre-trial and post-sentencing dispositions) in order to yield systematic improvements in penal reform in the sub-region.

Similarly, we have made significant progress on the prospects of deepening co-operation among our Police Services. The consultants have recommended that given existing constitutional arrangements, Governments should aim for functional cooperation rather than a totally integrated system. Targeted areas include issues relating to transnational crime, disaster management, training programmes, community policing and the establishment of a cost effective procurement system for equipment. A Draft Bill embodying these recommendations has been prepared for consideration by the Authority.

## Judicial and legal reform

In the judicial sphere, progress has been made in court reform, family law reform, and general law reform and harmonization in OECS Member States. The Secretariat has produced a number of Draft Bills including a model Citizenship Act, a Privacy Act and a Freedom of Information Act.



Hon. Prime Minister  
Hon. Dr. Kenny D. Anthony

Progress has also been made in implementing the intellectual property initiatives of OECS Member States, and in negotiating Extradition and Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties between the OECS and the Government of France.

## External negotiations

We are all aware, that the current global architecture compels the OECS to interact with several external negotiating theatres. Significant strides have been made in establishing effective domestic and regional institutional arrangements for joint/coordinated representation at the Ministerial and technical level in all of the following negotiations: FTAA, EU-CARIFORUM, EPA, WTO, CSME and at the bilateral level. Certainly, it makes good sense to adopt this rationalized and coordinated approach to external negotiations, as it involves the pooling of limited human resources to bring about the formulation of common positions in pursuit of shared interests and targets.

## Establishment of the Geneva facility

Special mention must be made of the recent establishment of the OECS Geneva Facility and the tremendous support given by the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis to bring this initiative to fruition.

I believe that the benefits of the Geneva Facility will rest ultimately with our Member States as it will allow the OECS to have more effective representation in WTO negotiation; particularly in addressing critical matters relating to preferential market access in agriculture, non-tariff measures, tariff structures and administration, and the Singapore issues.

## Civil aviation

Cooperation and collaboration in civil aviation have advanced tremendously as is evident in the recent establishment of the Eastern Caribbean Civil Aviation Authority (ECCAA). The ECCA framework has provided a strong foundation to address issues of regulation and security in respect of the management of our civil aviation endeavours.

In recognition of the unique circumstances of Anguilla, Montserrat and BVI, we have also approached the UK Government to ensure that our fellow OECS Member States are accommodated under the new ECCAA regime. Even though what I am about to say is indelicate, I cannot resist the temptation. I look forward to the day when these sister territories will spare us the indignity of seeking Her Majesty's Government permission in pursuing our common interests.

Yet another important achievement has been the efforts by Member States to enact the required legislation that will facilitate the reinstatement of the OECS to US Federal Aviation Administration Category 1 Status - a position it has not been favoured with since 1996. In furtherance of the civil aviation agenda of the OECS, mention must also be made of the initiatives to establish a regional Transportation Security Agency

under the World Bank Aviation and Maritime Security Enhancement project.

## Innovative cooperation

Through innovative cooperation, the OECS has succeeded in spreading the "face" of the organisation in new geographic and programmatic areas.

Firstly, the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding in May 2004 between the OECS and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico has opened up for the OECS new opportunities for collaboration and to strengthen its commercial, economic, cultural and social ties with Puerto Rico. We, in the OECS are well placed to advance Puerto Rico's interest in becoming more fully engaged with the Eastern Caribbean region. To this end, we welcome the gesture of goodwill by the Puerto Rican Government in providing the OECS with free office space to establish and operate an office in Puerto Rico, as well as the offer of scholarships to OECS nationals to study in Puerto Rico.

Secondly, the signing of the Contribution Arrangement between the OECS and CIDA provides grant funds in the amount of CDN\$3.75 million. The funds provided through this agreement will be used for the strategic repositioning of the Secretariat as the administrative arm of the OECS. This will be achieved by enhancing its operational effectiveness and efficiency, so as to make it more responsive to the needs of its Member States. While we envisage that the reactions to the change process will naturally be most vocal from vested interests, I urge you to continue being advocates of intellectual rigour, scrupulousness, fearlessness and dispassionate examination of the work of the Secretariat in light of our own national and regional interests.

Thirdly, there is the cooperation agreement to effect the commencement of the OECS Protected Areas and Alternative Livelihoods (OPAAL) project which is funded by the World Bank, the Government of France and the OAS. This project is valued at US\$7.57 million.

Another worthwhile innovative cooperation initiative has been the signing of the MOU between the OECS and officials of Grand Pavois for the representation of the OECS as guest of honour at the 2005 Boat Show in La Rochelle, France. This is a first time achievement in the history of the Greater Caribbean region. The OECS has been afforded the opportunity to promote its yachting sector in particular, and to showcase its rich cultural heritage in the European market. Additional areas of co-operation include the provision of financial assistance to host workshops to develop partnership arrangements between Martinique, Dominica and Saint Lucia for the control and treatment of cancer, as well as the provision of financial assistance, and the provision of technical support for conducting a feasibility study for the establishment of an OECS Radiotherapy Centre. Saint Lucia is about to build a new national hospital so welcomes this initiative.

## Other key sectoral developments

Collectively, as well as individually, OECS Member States have benefited from various sectoral developments in targeted areas such as: (i) Agriculture – adoption of an OECS Agriculture Policy Framework and Plan of Action, consultations with banana stakeholders for information sharing and capacitybuilding for negotiation; (ii) Tourism – establishment of a wider Forum of Eastern Caribbean Tourism Ministers to include non-OECS countries of the French and Dutch Antilles, development of the yachting sector, and agreement to develop an OECS Tourism Standards Bill; (iii) Energy – establishment of an OECS Task Force to examine and provide advice on developing a policy on effective energy conservation management and alternative sources of energy; (iv) Health – implementation of an HIV/AIDS programme to provide care, treatment and support for

persons living with the HIV/AIDS virus and so mitigate the spread of the disease and educate the population on prevention strategies; (v) Environment - establishment of an effective OECS Maritime Resource Management regime to provide the opportunity for engagement in consultation on issues relating to maritime boundary delimitation, CARICOM common fisheries policies and so on.

## The CSME Dilemma

Let me now turn to an issue that preoccupies all of us, the establishment of the CSME.

It has been proposed that the CSME will be operational by January 2006. From an OECS perspective, there are some key issues which we need to take into consideration. Indeed, there are some sobering statistics to consider.

Before I do so, however, I wish to make the position of the Government of Saint Lucia absolutely clear. There must be no turning back on the efforts to establish the CSME. Its establishment is necessary, absolutely necessary, to our survival, individually and collectively, but there are some issues which require resolution if the current imbalances among Member States are to be resolved.

First, it is an unmistakable fact that the primary beneficiary of the CARICOM trading regime is Trinidad and Tobago. The intra-regional export share of Trinidad and Tobago far outpaces its import share. What this means is that while the CARICOM market continues to be very important for exports from Trinidad and Tobago, a considerably smaller share of Trinidad and Tobago's imports are sourced from the region. In addition, there is a high level of trade concentration at the product and firm levels and intra-regional exports have either stagnated or declined, over the past fifteen years. Therefore, the main purpose of the customs union - to change the pattern of trade of its member countries - is being defeated.

More importantly, the OECS' intra-regional export share has dropped from 2.4% in 1985 to 1.4% of the total in 2003. OECS export performance has been inferior, relative to CARICOM LDCs as a whole, whose share has declined from 2.5% to 1.8% over the same period.

Yet, as a sub-regional grouping within CARICOM, the OECS exhibits the highest degree of dependency on intra-regional trade flows. Its intra-regional export share was 30% in 2003, whereas for LDCs as a whole the corresponding figure was 18% and for the MDCs a meager 12%.

Second, the CSME is being established at a time when the OECS is experiencing fiscal deficits and balance-of-payments pressures. The OECS current account deficit has increased significantly in the second half of the 1990's due in part to the deterioration of export performance as well as increase in imports. In contrast, Trinidad and Tobago was able to increase its current account surplus due to an increase in both exports and imports of goods and services.

Of course, our governments have been trying to overcome the external constraints by focusing our efforts and policies on attracting foreign exchange inflows. While these have been partially successful, foreign direct investment into the OECS has been targeted at the tourism industry. Yet, the OECS market share of tourist arrivals has been in decline since 1996 when we accounted for 7% of the Caribbean's tourists. In 2003, the OECS share declined to 5%. This is an intriguing statistic since we all experiencing increases in overall arrivals. It really means that other destinations are growing at a faster rate. It suggests too that we are not sufficiently competitive, as the lion's share of tourist arrivals has been taken by the Hispanic Caribbean, notably the Dominican Republic.

Third, is the question of competitiveness of the OECS countries. It is well known



# PERSPECTIVE”

that a country’s competitiveness depends to a large extent on its cost level and structure. Countries that have lower costs have a greater potential to improve their competitiveness than those with higher costs. Within the Caribbean, the smaller economies of the OECS have considerably higher costs in strategic services or resources than the larger ones. While electricity cost in the OECS averages US 15 cents per kWh, the corresponding figure for Trinidad and Tobago is only US 3 cents per kWh.

All of this suggests, that to survive in the CSME, the OECS faces considerable challenges, challenges to increase its market share, thus providing more employment and economic growth; challenges to increase its competitiveness and to find niche markets in which it can enjoy some minimum advantages.

Let us, for a moment, consider the composition of our exports and the implications. In addition to agricultural materials, countries of the sub-region export chemicals, food, and manufactures to the MDCs as well. An encouraging observation is that some of our exports to the MDCs appear to be more diversified and have higher value added than those destined to the OECS member states. We need to build on this platform since it has the potential to improve our competitiveness within the wider Caribbean region.

There already exists a high degree of export specialization among OECS countries. By that I mean that certain export products tend to be associated with certain countries. The main export products and associated countries are milling products (St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada), rice (St. Vincent and the Grenadines), cereals (St. Vincent and the Grenadines), soap and dentifrice (Dominica), paper and paperboard, food and beverages, paints, and good water (St Lucia).

So, is there any hope for the OECS in the CSME? I believe there is, but we must be very creative in order to ensure that the CSME does not wither away the myriad of achievements of the sub-region over the last decades. One inevitable challenge will be to ensure that with the free movement of labour our populations are not displaced by cheaper and possibly higher skilled labour from some of our CARICOM neighbors. This therefore brings into sharper focus, the need to continue supporting our education reform agenda to effect greater synergy with the demands of the labour market. One study has concluded that in order for the OECS to become viable in the CSME, there needs to be a process of dynamic learning, which can be induced through the presence of skilled labor.

Indeed, if we are to be viable in the new CSME environment, there is a significant

role for export promotion policies for OECS products. In many cases the export promotion institutions that provide assistance to firms have found that the linkages and follow-up processes are very weak. We therefore need to create an export culture of which export training courses and programmes are an essential component.

In summary, we can conclude that it will be challenging for the OECS to survive in the CSME environment unless certain key requirements are met. These requirements are linked to the permanent constraints of small economies linked to indivisibilities and scale diseconomies. We need therefore, to ensure that a regional development and integration fund be set up to address OECS specific constraints. Such a fund should be a permanent feature of the CSME since the constraints faced by the OECS are not temporary.

But there is a wider possibility, recently advanced by Dr. Vaughn Lewis. He argues that the OECS countries “should take the lead in impressing on our Caribbean Community as a whole the importance of knitting the creation of a Caribbean single market and economy into the Regional Economic Partnership Agreement scheme that is to result from the now ongoing discussions with the European Union”. In effect Dr. Lewis invites the OECS to “test in a serious way, the European assertion that part of the

strategy/objective of creating the Regional Economic Partnership Agreement with the EU, as the successor to the Lome/Cotonou system, is to enhance the possibilities and scope for Caribbean regional economic integration”. He says, “We cannot therefore treat the EPA negotiations simply as a follow-up to the previous arrangements – as more of the same. We have to agree, and then assert on the basis of a set of principles, schemes and programmes, that we wish our effort of construction of a Caribbean single market, and more importantly, a Caribbean single economy to be integrally a part of the new EPA aid arrangements – thus opening a way to the acceptance of the need for, categorization, and allocation of structural/cohesion-type funds within the EPA agreement”.

These are interesting proposals. They merit reflection and consideration.

### Conclusion

I wish to urge that we continue to act in unity and with dispatch on the imperatives that face the OECS sub-region. As we move forward, we must remain committed to ensuring that the OECS transforms itself into an integrated, relevant and vital entity for the people of the region. We know what is required. So tonight as the spotlight shifts on the Chairmanship, I feel particularly happy to hand over the reins to my comrade Dr. the Hon. Ralph Gonsalves, to whom I extend my best wishes for a successful term as Chairman. I am, indeed, confident that he will employ the many facets of his intellect, experience and vision to advance his project, the Caribbean Civilization.



Dr. James Fletcher

## Cabinet Secretary Recognized

**C**abinet Secretary, Dr. James Fletcher, has been recognized by the Caribbean Centre for Development Administration (CARICAD) for outstanding chairmanship of the regional organization.

In a ceremony held in St. Kitts on 9th June, 2005 at the Official Residence of

the Governor General, on the occasion of the 25th Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors of CARICAD, Dr. Fletcher received his award from the Governor General of St. Kitts and Nevis, His Excellency, Sir Cuthbert Sebastian.

In the award citation, Dr. Fletcher was commended for his ‘outstanding chairmanship’ of CARICAD during

the critical period (2004 – 2005), following the departure of long-serving Executive Director, Dr. P.I. Gomes and for steering the organization until the recruitment of a new executive director.

CARICAD is a regional organization, with headquarters in Barbados. It is responsible for the improvement of public sector administration and leading institutional change and development in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

# Thanks to \$2,500 Reward... Police Recover 43 Illegal Weapons

**T**he Police have successfully recovered 43 illegal firearms to date this year, thanks mainly to the success of a policy of offering a \$2,500 reward to persons who assist in their recovery.

According to the latest official statistics, the police recovered the 43 firearms between January 1 and June 21, 2005.

In most cases the illegal firearms were recovered, the accused persons were arrested, charged and convicted.

A total of 18 firearms were handed in by informants and another 18 were recovered by the police acting on information received and after search warrants were presented and searches were made.

Another seven illegal firearms were found after other tip-offs from informants.

The weapons recovered included 12 gauge shotguns, 9mm and Magnum .357



.357 magnum



9mm

pistols, .38 revolvers, .25 and .22 pistols and semi-automatic rifles, as well as a .22 rifle.

The police have been reporting steady success since the reward mechanism was put in place last year.

Under this arrangement, persons with information contact the police and the money is paid only after the weapons have been successfully recovered.

The entire process has been conducted with absolute confidentiality since the re-

ward policy was announced last year by Prime Minister Dr Kenny D. Anthony.

Earlier this year, Minister of Home Affairs and Internal Security Senator Calixte George acknowledged that the reward policy was netting in illegal firearms and ammunition at a faster pace than before it was effected.

Police Commissioner Ausbert Regis has also confirmed that the policy is working to the satisfaction of the Police Force.

## GOVERNMENT OF ST. LUCIA Second Disaster Management Project Loan # 7238 – SLU # Credit 3936 – SLU

### Expression of Interest

The Government of Saint Lucia has received a loan in the amount of US\$ 3.7 million from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and a credit in the amount of US\$3.8 million equivalent from the International Development Association towards the cost of the Second Disaster Management Project and intends to apply part of proceeds of this

loan and credit towards the financing of the engagement of consulting services to undertake a study on Territorial Planning.

The main objectives of the proposed assignment is to carry out a study and prepare a comprehensive and integrated physical development plan of the northwestern corridor (Castries to Gros- Islet) of Saint Lucia. This plan should be supported by implementation strategies and relevant policy guidelines.

The consultants will also be required to provide technical assistance to strengthen the capacity and provide support services related to territorial planning to the Physical Planning Sec-

tion of the Ministry of Physical Development Environment and Housing.

The Government of Saint Lucia represented by the Ministry of Physical Development Environment and Housing now invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing the services.

Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc). Consultants may associate to enhance their qualifications.

A consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out

in the World Bank Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers.

Interested Consultants may obtain further information at the address below from 0830 hours (8:30 a.m.) to 1630hours (4:30 p.m.) Mondays to Fridays.

Expression of Interest must be delivered to the address below no later than July 11, 2005.

Project Coordination Unit, Ministry of Finance, International Services and Economic Affairs, Greaham Louisy Administrative Building 3rd floor, Waterfront, Castries, Saint Lucia, Tel: 758-468-4486, Fax: 758-453-0417, E-mail: SLUPCU@Planning.gov.lc



# NSDC - OPTIMISM FOR THE HOPELESS

## MORE THAN 15 HUNDRED PERSONS HAVE RECEIVED TRAINING

**R**egistered on August 18th 1999 to facilitate the provision of training opportunities as a means of addressing the unemployment situation in St. Lucia, the National Skills Development Centre (NSDC) is a Government owned company.

The principal objectives of the centre are to work closely with private and public sector agencies towards creating a skilled and marketable labour force, to offer a range of services and programmes geared towards assisting clients become self-reliant and realize their career potential, to provide access to local, regional and international labour market information and to provide training assistance to rural unemployed persons interested in acquiring a skill and gaining self-employment.

The organization functions with a Board of Directors providing insight into various sectors of the economy and guiding policy decisions.

A general manager accompanied by appropriately trained full time staff drive the daily operations of the centre.

The NSDC focuses on instilling the necessary attitudes, skills and knowledge into individuals for career success in this new world of work. Toward successful attainment of these objectives the centre offers several services.

**Technical and vocational training:** The NSDC has undertaken a number of technical training projects funded by different donor agencies over its period of existence. The European Union under its Special Framework of Assistance (SFA) has been one of its major funding agencies over the past years. The NSDC has also undertaken projects funded by the Basic Needs Trust Fund (BNTF). These training areas aim to contribute to the expansion of a pool of skilled labour, necessitated by the growing sectors of the economy.

**Career counseling:** The career counseling sessions introduce clients to the services and programmes of the centre and encourage their participation. It helps to identify strengths that will allow them to excel in today's world of work and also weaknesses that need to be highlighted and worked upon.

**Learning Resource Section:** The walk-in resource section is the perfect environment for conducting job searches via resource materials including books and the Internet. This area provides computer access, fax machines, a copier, and much more.

**Job attachment programme:** In keeping with our vision to create a marketable labour force, the job attachment programme is designed to expose participants to and ease their transition into the world of work. Its objectives are to provide clients with the attitudes, skills and knowledge necessary to be competent in their field of interest by exposure to on-the-job performance skills.

**Job search activities:** Through the job search activities, the NSDC helps in locating permanent, temporary and attachment positions for the previously unemployed. For the employers, the NSDC recruits carefully screened, matched and trained employees, who are suited to the positions, thereby ensuring motivation, interest, high productivity and maintenance of a comparative competitive edge.

**Soft skills training:** This includes training in communications skills, team building, job-seeking skills, and self management competencies to list a few. The soft skills training seeks to enhance and improve attitudinal skills and provide sound work ethics.

### Training Areas

Since the commencement of training activities on 19th February 2001, the NSDC has trained over one thousand five hundred (1500) unemployed persons around St. Lucia. The areas of training can be identified as follows: Computer Graphics; Electronic Data Entry; Dressmaking; Drapery; Computer Maintenance and Repair; Introduction to Culinary Skills; Pastry and Bread Making; Small Appliance Repair; Plumbing; Cosmetology; Massage Therapy; Introduction to French; Introduction to German; Computer Applications for Small Business; Small Business Management; Childcare; Website Design; Floral Arrangement; Cake Decorating; MS Access Database Management; Fundamentals of Computer Networking; Electronic Appliance Repair; Swimming; Catering;



A young man benefiting from the Youth Apprenticeship Programme



Hairdressing is one of many offerings of the NSDC

Conflict Resolution; Bartending; Electrical Installation; Heavy Equipment Operations; Welding; Automotive Body Repairs; Automotive Engine Repairs; Outboard Engine Repair; Fish Processing; Carpentry and Joinery; Housekeeping; Papermaking; Tie Dying; Bamboo Craft; Introduction to the Internet; Introduction to MS Word; Health and Hygiene; Communication Skills; Value and Use of Time; Civic Duties; Self Awareness / Self Esteem; Team Building; Networking; Resume Writing; Interview Skills; Adapting to Company Culture; Customer Service.

The most recent graduation ceremony held in August 2004, celebrated the culmination of training for over five hundred persons in the following age ranges: from 16 - 25, 274; from 26 - 35, 124; from 36 - 45, 73; 46 and over 28; Total 501.

The NSDC's most recent programme is one designed to provide young people between the ages of eighteen (18) to twenty-five (25) years with the prospect of improving their quality of life through on-the-job-training. This programme,

referred to as the Youth Apprenticeship Programme (YAP), was introduced by the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Dr. Kenny Anthony, in his 2004 -2005 budget address as a means of further alleviating the unemployment situation in St. Lucia by providing young individuals with the opportunity to experience the actual work environment through on the job training and thereby acquiring a skill. To date, with the assistance of over fifty participating firms, approximately one hundred and thirty young individuals have been enrolled into this six month training programme. It is envisaged that the YAP will benefit over two thousand young persons during the implementation period of three years and even beyond.

In its efforts to train unemployed persons, the National Skills Development

Centre Manufacturers Association assist in job attachment partnerships.

The Ministry of Education, Human Resource Development, Youth and Sports provides training and exposure for NSDC officers and collaboration in sensitizing students to the "Changing World of Work",

Belfund refers NSDC clients who are interested in accessing the Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF) loans or other financial assistance programmes of the Belfund.

The NAO office allows for access to EU funding for upgrade of training facilities and procurement of training equipment and materials for training.

The socio-economic impact of the NSDC on the lives and communities of clients is undeniable.

For trainees graduating from the programmes, new skill sets enable them to compete for emerging wage employment opportunities with the best employers, or explore their potential in self employment initiatives.

For many employers, the benefits accruing from the programme include opportunities for them to define the content of training areas, thereby making the training experience more relevant to the needs of the world of work. Opportunities exist also to screen persons for long term employment, to demonstrate their commitment to the development of the island's human resources and access to tax incentives for the retention of trainees for whom they have provided training.

The National Skills Development Centre is optimistic that through the continuing commitment of the government of St. Lucia, thousands of additional persons from throughout the island will receive training that will allow them to make a meaningful contribution to the country and the Caribbean.



### THIS WEEK ON NTN

**Sat. June 25th - Fri. 1st July, 2005**

The GIS discusses the Text Book Rental Scheme - Sat. June 25th - 8:00 p.m.

· **Hon. Damian Greaves & Dr. Stephen King respond to questions on the health system in St. Lucia** - Sun. June 26th, 7:30 p.m.

· **The GIS discusses the potential of the Pitons as a World Heritage Site** - Mon. June 27th, 6:15 p.m.

· **KiddiCrew.com (Latest edition)** - Tues. June 28th, 6:15 p.m.

· **Developman Kweyol-la (Part 2)** - Wed. June 29th, 8:00 p.m.

· **Educational Change: Meeting the Challenges** - Thurs. June 30th, 8:00 p.m.

· **Addresses by Prime Ministers of St. Vincent & Dominica at the 41st Meeting of the OECS** - Fri. July 1st 7:30 p.m.

Remember to tune in for:

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

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

· **Interview/Tuesdays at 6:15pm :**

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

(Kweyol Discussion):

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

Take 2/Fridays at 6:15pm

(Week in Review)

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

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

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

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