



26th Independence Anniversary: full house for Concert of Praise - page 6

TWENTY-FOUR ST. LUCIANS RECEIVE INDEPENDENCE DAY MEDALS



GG paints Children's Home - page 3





Dr. James Fletcher and Neville Skeete discuss progress - page 7

hancellor of the Order of St. Lucia, Governor-General Her Excellency Dame Pearlette Louisy, has announced appointments to the Order of St. Lucia in respect of Independence Day 2005. Twenty-four St. Lucians received awards in the seven classes namely, The St. Lucia Cross, The Medal of Honour, the Medal of Merit, the Les Pitons Medal, the National Service Cross, the National Service Medal and the Public Service Long Service Medal.

The Order of St. Lucia Investiture Ceremony is a major feature on the calendar of events in observance of St. Lucia's Independence Anniversary.

The island's highest award, the St. Lucia Cross was conferred on Charles Cadet and Julian Hunte for distinguished and outstanding service to St. Lucia. With those honours the title Honourable now proceeds their names.

The Medal of Honour Gold was bestowed on Brother Dominic Brunnock and Romanus Lansiquot for eminent service of national importance to St. Lucia.

The Medal of Merit Gold went to Anne King and Dr. Louis Louisy for long and meritorious service in the field of education and medicine, respectively, while the Medal of Merit Silver was bestowed on Alban Antoine for education and Sixtus Charles for the arts. torious
The Les Pitons Medal Gold was of swim

given to Julia Hennecart for long and meritorious service in the field of education; Frances Marileen "Lady Leen" Baptiste in the field of culture and the arts; and Mary Jane Augustin for education and community development.

The Les Pitons Medal Silver was bestowed on Clement Etienne and Julian Innocent for long and meritorious service in the Public Service, and Percival Combie in the field of agriculture.

The Les Pitons Medal Bronze went to Carrol Devaux for long and meri-

torious service in the development of swimming and life saving, and Joseph Simeon for selfless contribution to community life.

The Public Service Long Service Medal was awarded to Sheila Jeanne Eristhee and Georgiana Straughn for teaching; Assistant Superintendent George Modeste and Sergeant Anthony Lubin for police work; Deputy Chief Paul Charlery and Sergeant Raymond Philgence for air and sea ports; and Assistant Divisional Officer Lambert Charles and leading fireman Matthew Severin for fire and emergency services.



PM reassures Devon President who was shot in the mouth - page 2



PM concern about treatment to the elderly - pages 4 & 5



"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



at the Independence Parade

Boy victim of stray bullet assured of thrust to rid streets of illegal guns



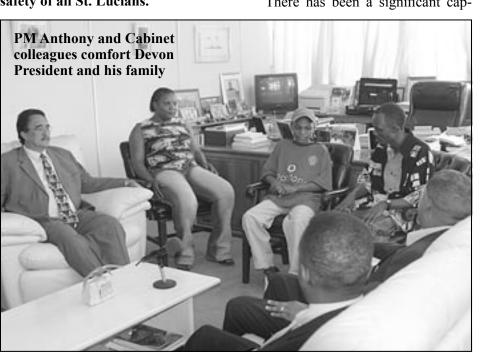
inister for Home Affairs and Internal Security Senator Hon. Calixte George has expressed confidence that the continued success of the police in ridding the country of illegal guns would augur well in ensuring the safety of all St. Lucians.

giving words of comfort to a young boy who became victim of a stray bullet fired from an illegal gun, said the was maintained.

"There has been a significant cap- people utilizing guns will be reduced

The Minister, who was at the time ture of guns since the Prime Minister significantly," Senator Calixte George announce the increase in the rewards. said. Whereas before we were capturing about six guns, this has now increased success in recovering the illegal guns to 47. So there is a significant removal would continue once public support of the guns so that the likelihood of an illegal firearm. The identity of in-

Government offers a reward of \$2,500 to anyone who provides information that leads to the recovery of these stray bullets moving around or formants is kept under strictest confi-





PM expresses concern over the treatment of elderly persons

Prime Minister Honourable Dr. Kenny Anthony has expressed concern about how the nation's elderly is being treated by society and in particular, their families. Dr. Anthony, using the platform of his weekly radio address, Conversation With the Nation, said what was particularly worrisome was the large number of elderly persons living alone, often unattended.

"Many tell me, with sadness in their eyes and their voices, that they have children who, unfortunately, for whatever reasons, have turned their backs on them. Some complain that they feel abandoned, left alone to fend for themselves. Some admit that their children jobs – but they offer little support. Not unusually, some even apologize for



have jobs – in some cases well-paying their children. They explain that their them much help," Dr. Anthony told the children have their own families to nation. look after, so they are unable to offer

The Prime Minister questioned the

notion of 'how son or daughter could abandon their own mother or father - or even a grandmother or grandfather for that matter.' Dr. Anthony said this kind of attitude towards the elderly must be radically examined. He said the elderly should not be seen as miserable or troublesome old people.

"To date, this Government has either built or repaired 280 homes for elderly persons throughout St. Lucia. We have abolished the payment of Property Tax for persons who are in receipt of NIS pensions. We have increased the subventions to the homes that look after our elderly. Since being in office, we have increased the amounts of Public Assistance – and we will do it again. To be sure, more can be done and more will be done, by this Government, as time progresses," Dr. Anthony as-

Dr. Anthony said younger folks must realise that they too, will get old someday and wouldn't want to be treated

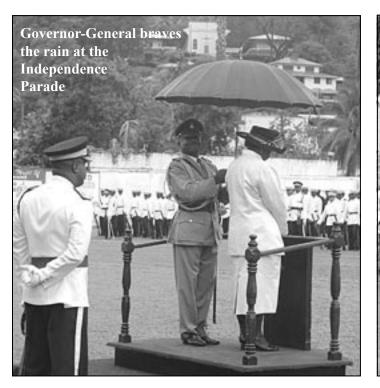
Government praises Police Band

he Royal St. Lucia Police Band has received the Award of **Excellence from the Govern**ment, on the occasion of the island's 26th Independence Anniversary. The announcement was made by Cabinet Secretary Dr. James Fletcher, at the **Annual Independence Day Parade at** the Mindoo Philip Park on February

Saturday, February 26, 2005

Dr. Fletcher also announced that Government had approved a grant of EC\$100,000 for the St. Lucia Police Band for the replacement of antiquated instruments and the production of a compact disc, which has been in the making for some time.

"This came as a surprise to us; all the musicians in the band are very elated, very upbeat about what was bestowed on the band. We have so much music in our repertoire that we would like documented on disc, such as indigenous music ... we would really like to see that project come to fruition", said Gregory Piper, Assistant Superinten-



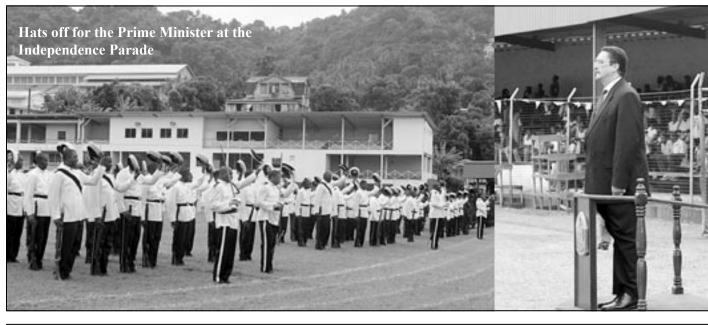
dent in charge of the Royal St. Lucia Police Band in an interview with the

Lucia Police Band is to embark on two major projects, as part of activities

Throughout this year, the Royal St. marking its 58th anniversary. The projects involve the continuation of a series of community concerts which the band began last year, and an island wide tour

> "Of course, when we go and perform at the schools it is not just a matter of a performance, but we try to make it an educational event as well, to stimulate the students and to develop a greater appreciation ... let them know what the police band is all about. Of course, there are different types of bands and ours is unique in St. Lucia, it is the only one of its kind, so we sensitize them and show them that's one of the avenues they can look at for a career", said Assistant Superintendent Piper.

The Royal St. Lucia Police Band will culminate its series of community concerts and school tours in a grand classical concert later this year.



REACH International refurbishes Soufriere Children's Home

he lives of the children at the will be remarkably improved, as a result of a refurbishment exercise by Relief, Education and Child Sponsorship (REACH), a charitable international organization based in

REACH International, which has been assisting children in St. Lucia since 1998 raises its funds largely through child sponsorship.

The government of St. Lucia through the Office of the Governor General is hosting the group of 10 persons, with the collaboration of the Piton Lions Club and the Jalousie Hilton, among members of the corporate community.

The Home is being operated by Eugenia Faustin, who, a member of REACH, Phillip Tibien said took 18 children that were either abandoned or their parents died. He said that the group had been working on the project all week painting, cleaning, putting new windows, building a kitchen with sink and cupboards. "With her 18 children she needs a lot of storage space to make sure that the Home is very liveable and comfortable for everybody here".

At a Summit on Poverty in St. Lucia Soufriere Children's Home in May of last year, the Reach international St. Lucia Advisory Council was formed, chaired by Governor General, Her Excellency Dame Pearlette Loi-

to advise REACH on the projects needing attention. The Governor General, who paid a

courtesy call at the Soufriere Children's Home last Thursday, also got involved in real practical work, including painting. She said the caring of homeless children was a noble work and encouraged persons involved to continue that

"The children of this nation are ours to take care of, and to mould for the future; some of them are our own, some of them are not as advantaged as others, but persons who have the abilusy. One of the roles of the Council is

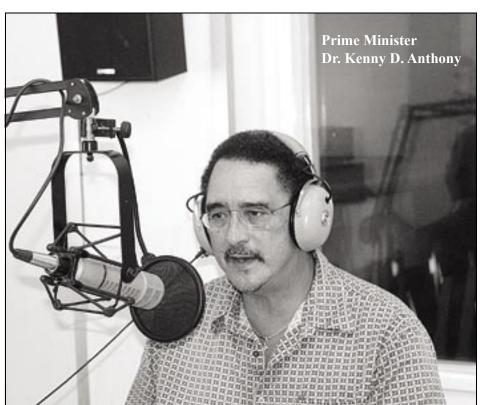
ity, the room, the inclination to take in those disadvantaged, marginalized and at risk, you can see from that, that you can start, you can initiate it and help will come", Dame Pearlette said.

Owner of the Soufriere Children's home, Miss Faustin has been involved in this humanitarian effort from the tender age of 12, when she was prematurely taken out of school to assist her mother who started the orphanage. Currently, there are 18 children in her

St. Lucia is the only Caribbean beneficiary country of REACH International sponsorship.



Saint Lucia NATION VIDE 5 4 Saint Lucia NATION VIDE Saturday, February 26, 2005 Saturday, February 26, 2005



Taking care of the Elderly

PM converses with the Nation

Regular encounters with the elderly n my routine meetings with members of the public -whether at the Prime Minister's Office or in my Constituency Office, on the roads, or in the communities -- I talk to all kinds of

I have spoken with persons who are suffering with debilitating diseases, persons who are living with AIDS, persons who have been abandoned, persons who have been abused – whether sexually or otherwise, persons who need help with personal problems, persons who need jobs, persons who need material assistance, and inevitably, persons who simply need advice.

ers are distressing.

Among the many that I see, are elderly persons. They come to me for all sorts of reasons. Some live alone and need help to keep a roof over their heads; some need help to pay their utility bills; some need help to meet the cost of their medical bills; some need advice to get their NIS pensions. Others simply want to know how to resolve problems created by public authorities. What is particularly worrisome is the large number of elderly persons who live alone, often unattended.

Many tell me, with sadness in their eyes and their voices, that they have children who, unfortunately, for whatever reasons, have turned their backs on them. Some complain that they feel abandoned, left alone to fend for themselves. Some admit that their children have jobs – in some cases well-paying jobs – but they offer little support. Not unusually, some even apologize for their children. They explain that their children have their own families to look after, so they are unable to offer them much help. Sometimes, the tears flow down their faces, uncontrollably.

I listen to the painful accounts of neglect and I ask myself this question: How is it possible for a son or daughter to abandon a mother or father – or even a grandmother or grandfather?

No tradition of retirement

Interestingly, many of those who approach me, seek employment -- even though they are past the retirement age of 61 years. They want to work, they say, to pay their bills. This encounter is usually very difficult. I explain that because they are past retirement age, Government cannot employ them. I try to explain that it is also difficult for the Private Sector to employ them because, understandably, the Private Sector would wish to employ young, ener-

getic and well-qualified persons

Much of this points to the fact that we have not really developed a culture of retirement. By that I mean that many of our elderly persons either did not prepare for retirement, or if they wanted to, had no means of doing so. persons, with all sorts of problems. Indeed, many of these individuals are Some conversations are warm, oth- not in receipt of NIS pensions because they have never worked in their lives.

Wanted: a change of attitide!

Frankly, we need to radically remust not allow ourselves to see them as miserable old people or troublesome exist throughout the island. One such persons. We must not assign them to rocking chairs or to lonely bedrooms. of them are no longer able to do things vember 2003. for themselves, that they have become useless and should just be left to await the inevitable.

Each and every one of us must realise that we too, will get old. And what we would not want for ourselves when we get to their age, we should not want for today's elderly persons. They too were young; they too worked hard; they too have served; and they too, like ty and respect. They train family memeach and every one of us, still have a bers to take special care of the elderly life to live.

Taking care of the elderly

Throughout the world, Governments are passing more laws to protect and assist the elderly because increasingly, modern families are abandoning the elderly among them to institutional homes.

Right here in St. Lucia, we know of several established homes for the elderly. There's the Marian Home and the institution in Soufriere that we simply refer to as "Malgretoute". There are the Adelaide and St. Lucy's Homes and, more recently, the Cornerstone Home.

And, of course, there are other church-based initiatives such as the home for abandoned elderly persons in Faux-a-Chaux operated by the Sisters of Charity of Mother Theresa of Calcutta. Believe it or not -- most of the persons being taken care of on a voluntary basis by the nuns at Faux-a-Chaux were left behind by their relatives at Victoria Hospital, Golden Hope or Turning Point. They were simply abandoned.

Forgetting parents

The administrators of these homes often tell me that many elderly persons are placed in those homes and their children and relatives promptly turn their backs. Many do not visit on a regular basis, or at all. Some do not bother to provide any financial support

to these homes to assist with maintenance of their parents. Many simply place their relatives in these homes to await their passing.

Salute help-age St. Lucia

Most prominent among the non-governmental organizations taking care of the elderly is HelpAge St. Lucia, which is also known as the National Council of and for Older Persons.

This organization is dedicated to taking care of the needs of the elderly. think our attitudes to our elderly. We It has established groups of elderly citizens called Club 60s, 24 of which group is the "Mongouge Club 60" in Choiseul, which established St. Lucia's We must not think that because some first adult day care centre back in No-

> HelpAge officers travel the length and breadth of the island seeking out the elderly – especially the abandoned or neglected ones - identifying their needs and seeking ways and means of assisting them. They not only give help, but they also counsel the elderly. They also counsel younger persons to ensure that they treat older persons with digni-- like how to bathe and clothe bed-ridden persons, which is a task that cannot be easily left to strangers.

> It is important that we understand that the elderly want to enjoy their remaining years just as we enjoy our current lives. They also need recreation. They too need fun and laughter. They may be in bed or in a wheelchair, but they still have feelings and a passion for living.

Extending a helping hand

Inevitably, some among you who are listening to me will probably say: "You are telling us that we should treat our elderly with more sensitivity, care, compassion and understanding, but what is the Government doing to as-

Let us get one thing clear. We all have a responsibility to look after our parents and our relatives. We cannot surrender that responsibility to Governments, otherwise the family itself would cease to exist. Governments do, however, have wider responsibility to create an environment in which families thrive.

We are extending a helping hand. To date, this Government has either built or repaired 280 homes for elderly for persons who are in receipt of NIS pensions. We have increased the subventions to the homes that look after our elderly. Since being in office, we have increased the amounts of Public Assistance – and we will do it again. To be sure, more can be done and more will be done, by this Government, as time progresses.

Conclusion

I want to repeat my earlier call on St. Lucians to all play our part to help and take care of the elderly. Taking care of those who need care is not just a favour but a duty for each and every one of us. Those who are not taking care of the elderly need only to remember that, barring unforeseen circumstances, each and every one of us will grow to become an older person. We too, will need help. We too, will have to deal with the loneliness and helplessness persons throughout St. Lucia. We have that old age brings. We too will have abolished the payment of Property Tax to deal with the unwanted intrusions in our privacy. We too will suffer from memory lapses, even to the point that we cannot find our way in familiar sur-

roundings. We too will have to face ill health and unwanted disease. We too will need a gentle smile, a little touch, a warm embrace. It's just a matter of

Join the senior games

In that spirit, I would like to urge all St. Lucians to participate in the second National Senior Games organized by HelpAge –the National Council of and for Older Persons. These games will be held on Easter Monday, March 28, at the National Stadium in Vieux Fort and will be attended by many elderly persons. These games are for persons 44 and above, so many of us qualify. You are encouraged to take your parents and grand parents along. I will be there – and I encourage you to be there too. Let us set aside that day for our elderly.

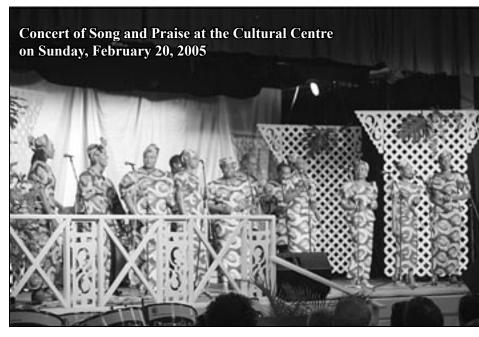
Until next week, do take care; and may the Good Lord bless and keep

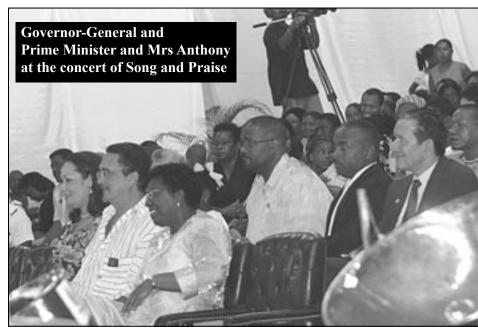




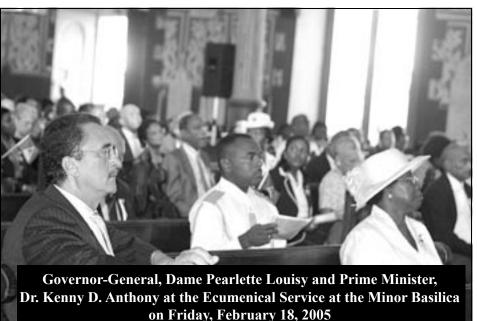


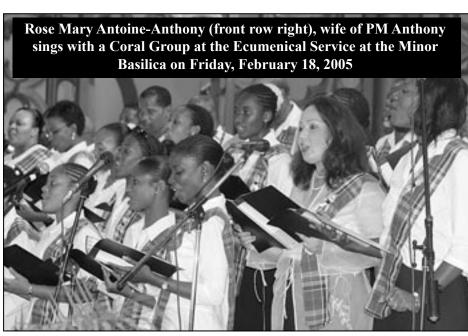
26TH INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY HIGHLIGHTS



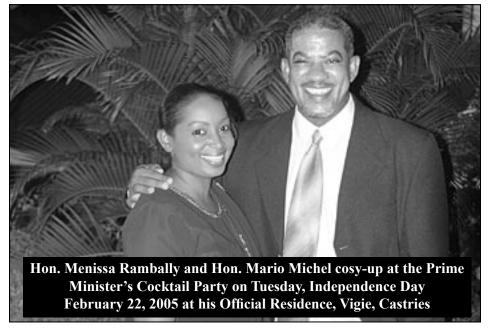


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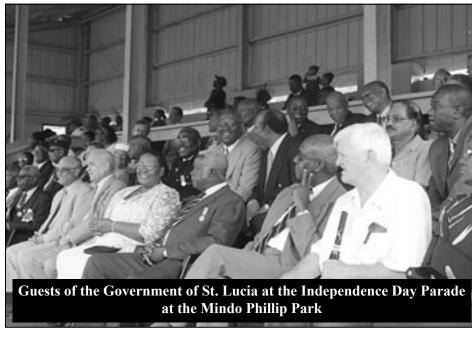












World Cup Saint Lucia Opens **Corporate Headquarters**

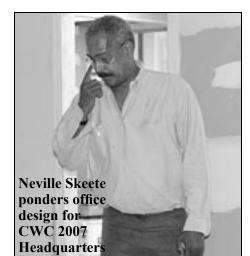
Torld Cup Saint Lucia Inc. Committee (LOC) for the 2007 ICC Lucia Inc., 12 Colony House, John (WCSL) moves into new Cricket World Cup. Lucia Inc., 12 Colony House, John Compton Highway, P.O. Box CP 6042 offices on Tuesday, 1st March 2005, with the opening of its corporate headquarters at No. 12 **Colony House on the John Compton** Highway, Castries. This location will serve as the new, permanent home of Saint Lucia's Local Organising

The contact information for World Cup Saint Lucia Inc., as of that date, is as follows: Telephone - 758-452-2007, Fax - 758-451-2007 and Email - wcsl@candw.lc

Mailing Address: World Cup Saint

, Castries, Saint Lucia

During the coming weeks, WCSL will announce the establishment of the sub-committees that will assist in the preparation and execution of plans for Saint Lucia's successful participation in the 2007 Cricket World Cup.





Banana farmers to operate fully under the Fair Trade Label



farmers are preparing to **V** fully operate under the Fair Trade Label by the middle of this year. The move, which is seen as the best option for regional bananas will see some 250,000 boxes shipped to the UK at that time and thereaf-

Fair Trade, a new trading ideology, is said to be redefining international trade. Consumers are being encouraged to pay premium prices for fruit produced in small developing states like St. Lu-

cia, under the Fair Trade Brand and are said to be buying into the idea. Although Windward Island bananas have been shipped under that label since 2000, what is new is the magnitude of the projected expansion for Fair Trade bananas from the region.

Communications Officer with the Windward Islands Banana Development and Exporting Company (WIB-DECO), Bernard Frampton said, "Fair Trade labelling is a system through which trade facilitates sustainable development for disadvantaged producers and workers". The core aims, he said, included a long-term, stable relationship; a stable and fair price that covered the real cost of production and included a premium for investing in cial improvements.

Brand, farmers are expected to meet members.

the criteria set up under the Fair Trade practice. According to Chairman of the Windward Islands Farmers Association, Mr. Renwick Rose, this includes among other things, the protection of the environment. "It ensures that we get rid of the waste in a safe manner. That in fact, we protect out rivers, streams and sea. And there are also social criteria, which are very important. As a fair Trade farmer you must belong to a group; you cannot just be an individual Fair Trade Farmer. It means that it makes it easier for them," Mr. Rose

Mr. Rose said that the criteria also facilitated ongoing education and the development of human resources among the farming community. The concept under the label is being managed by business developments; as well as sothe Fair Trade Labelling Organizations International, which was founded in In order to be part of the Fair Trade 1997. It has an association of some 17

DCA to demolish unauthorised structures island-wide

— undertaking the demolition of some unauthorized structures throughout the island.

The owners and occupiers of the No. 29 of 2001.

However, the owners and occupiers failed to comply with the provisions of or persons or contractors authorized

he Development Control Au- ued unperturbed with the unauthorized take those steps required by the En- the incidence of unauthorized develop-

Consequently, having regard to the fact that the structures were constructed illegally and in a manner and location structures and the land upon which the for which planning approval would not structures exist were served with En- have been granted, the DCA has had to forcement Notices as required by the invoke the provisions of Section 40 (1) Physical Planning & Development Act of the Physical Planning & Develop-

These provisions permit the DCA the Enforcement Notices and contin- by the DCA to enter upon the land and

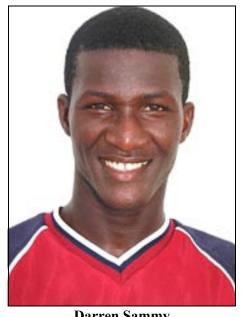
thority (DCA) is currently construction and occupation of those forcement Notice to be taken within ment. the period specified in the Enforcement Notice or such extended period as the DCA may allow. It also allows for the expenses incurred for those purposes to be recovered from the person who is then the owner of the land.

> The Development Control Authority through the Physical Planning Section of the Ministry of Physical Development, Environment & Housing is instituting proactive measures including land use zoning to prevent or curtail

The Development Control Authority as a partner in the sustainable development of the country cannot ignore the rampant escalation of unauthorized development and is therefore advising the instigators of such practices to desist from so doing.

The socio-economic motivations that underpin such practices are understood by the DCA, however unauthorized development cannot be allowed to proceed unabated given the enormous overall costs to St.Lucia's economy.

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Darren Sammy and Nadine George cop top Sports Award



inister for Youth and Sports, Hon. Mario Michel has called on sports administrators to aim for high standards of programme planning, administration and organization.

Minister Michel made those comments at the Annual Sports Awards Ceremony last Saturday evening, at which St. Lucia's woman cricketer on the West Indies Women's Cricket Team, Nadine George was announced the island's 2004 Sportswoman of the Year, while Darren Sammy, the first St. Lucian to make it on the West Indies Cricket Team was 2004 Sportsman of the Year.

The Junior Sportsman for 2004 was

awarded to Davin Edward, a student of the Entrepot Secondary School, while Tressa Ann Charles won the Sportswoman title.

Speaking at the awards ceremony, Minister Michel said, "While sports administrators have contributed significantly to the island's sporting success, the lack of success in some disciplines can be attributed to insufficient attention being paid to sound administrative practices".

He said that good administrative practices were important in attracting private sector sponsorship for sports, given that businesses wanted to see positive public impact generated by value for money or effective marketing. Sports administrators, the Minister added, must undergo the necessary training and orientation to position them to take advantage of sponsorship opportunities.

"To the administrators of the various spotting organizations whether operating at the national and district level, you too, must keep faith in our sportsmen and sportswomen, and must renew your commitment to their cause. It is only a strong commitment to the sport that can motivate you to give of your best in what can be a priceless task as serving as a sports administrator in St. Lucia", the Minister said.

The Youth and Sports Minister also called on corporate sponsors of sports



Nadine George

to renew their commitment to supporting sports in St. Lucia: "To those business entities, which have not been supporting our sportsmen and sportswomen, who have diverted their resources away from sports, I want to appeal to you to get back on board with your support for sports in St. Lucia".

"To the sportsmen and sportswomen of St. Lucia, both established and emerging, I want to first congratulate you on your efforts and achievements in 2004, and to urge you to give off you best in 2005 and beyond. Remember alot of time, energy, material and resources have been invested in preparing you for your participation in your sport and a lot is expected from you in return", he said.

Vigie playing field to be rehabilitated

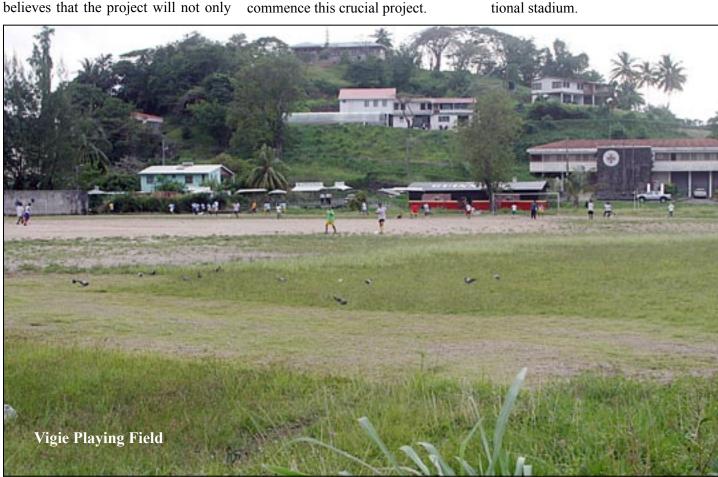
The rehabilitation of the Vigie playing field and the application for International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF) Certification for the tracks at the national stadium are among the priority areas on the sporting list for this year. The disclosure was made by Youth and Sports Minister, Hon. Mario Michel.

Mr. Michel said the Vigie rehabilitation works would be undertaken by the Venezuelan Government, through a team of engineers from the Venezuelan Army. The Youth and Sports Minister rehabilitate a major sporting facility but will enhance the northern entrance to the city.

"The last words from the Venezuelan Ambassador which came in the form of a letter to me, dated Thursday February 17th is to the effect that the project will commence when the engineers from the Venezuelan army are free from the responsibility of assisting with the floods being experienced in Venezuela at this time", the Minister informed, noting that thousands of other St. Lucians were anxiously awaiting the arrival of the Venezuelan Army Engineers to commence this crucial project.

In terms of the IAAF certification of the national stadium tracks, Mr. Michel said it appeared that the materials used to construct the tracks were not now IAAF approved products. He added that the People's Republic of China had applied for and was awaiting IAAF approval of the Chinese-made material, and that as soon as approval was obtained, the application for IAAF certification would be made.

However, he stressed that if the IAAF declined certification of the Chinese-made material, which he thought was very unlikely, there would be moves to change the tracks at the na-



THIS WEEK ON NTN

Sat. Feb. 26th - Fri. March 4th, 2005

National Independence Parade 2005 Saturday 26th February, 9:30 a.m.

SARAFINA - Sat. Feb. 19th, 8:00 p.m. Reflecting on 2004: Government's Year in Review 2004 - Sat. Feb. 26th, 11:00

National Violin Festival - Sat. Feb.

26th, 1:30 p.m. Junior La Wen Kweyol - Sun. Feb. 27th,

10:30 a.m. Labowi Promotions presents "The

CSME and its Implications for Communities" - Sun. Feb. 27th, 3:30 p.m.

The GIS speaks with the UK Adviser to Prisons - Mon. Feb. 28th, 6:15 p.m.

Feedback Live - "The Status of Women & Issues that Affect them" - Tues. March 1, 8:00 p.m. (Call 468-2162 to make your

Caribbean Collections: Aspiring Designer of the Year 2004 – Wed. March. 2nd, 8:00 p.m.

The Commonwealth in Action: "Paths to Prosperity" - Thurs. March 3rd, 7:30

SPORTS in ACTION - The GIS speaks with prolific long distance runner Victor Ledgers – Friday March 4, 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