



NATIONWIDE

A publication of the Department of Information Services



Public Assistance Increased
- page 2



Changing the face of Castries City
- page 2



Monetary Council of the ECCB
issues Communique - page 3

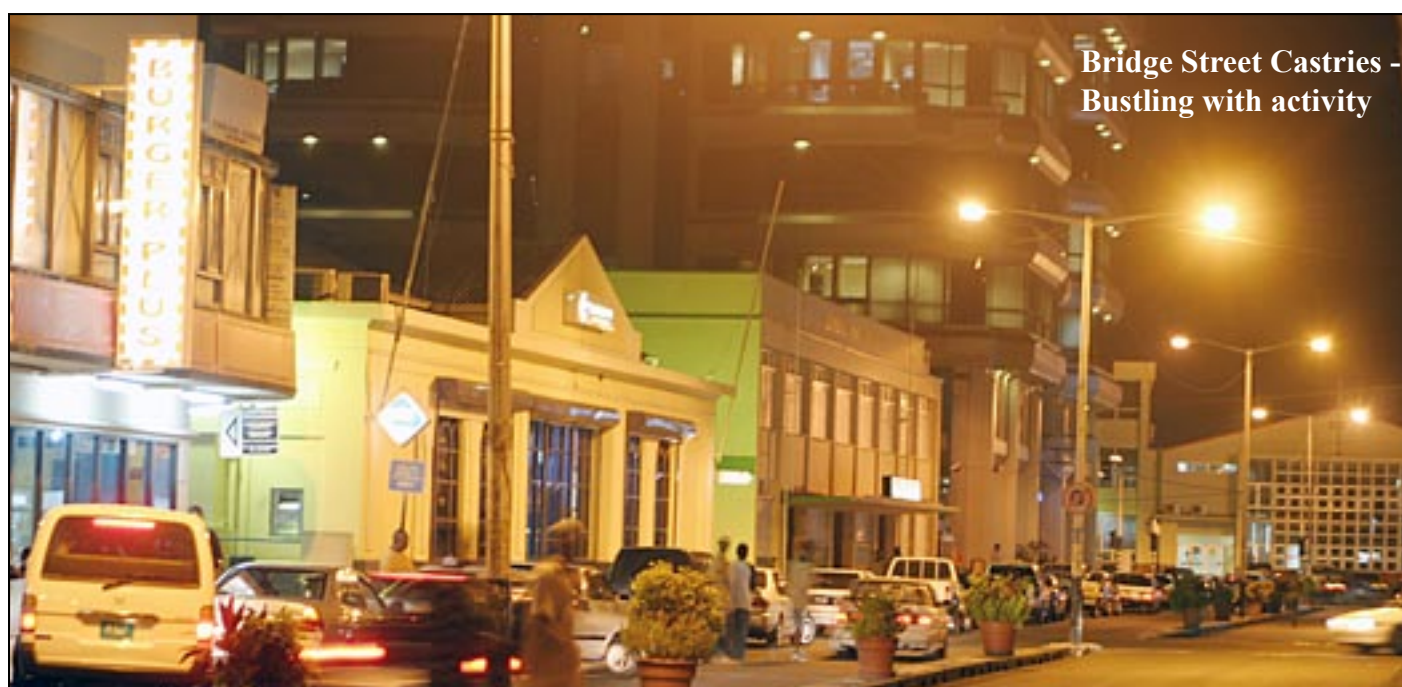


Soufriere Investigation Report
- pages 4 & 5



Banana farmers wait anxiously
- page 7

IMF SAYS ECONOMIC ACTIVITY IN SAINT LUCIA HAS GAINED MOMENTUM



Bridge Street Castries -
Bustling with activity

An IMF staff mission visited Saint Lucia from July 4 - 18, 2005 to conduct the 2005 Article IV Consultation discussions.

The mission received excellent cooperation from the government and benefited from a constructive exchange of views with the Prime Minister, the Honourable Dr. Kenny Anthony, the Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Finance, Mr. Trevor Brathwaite, other senior government officials, the public sector labor union, and a broad range of private sector representatives.

Economic activity in Saint Lucia has gained momentum, with real GDP growth rising to 4 percent in 2004 from 2.9 percent the previous year, largely driven by a buoyant tourism sector.

Growth is projected to exceed 5 percent in 2005 and to accelerate in the run-up to the Cricket World Cup (CWC) in 2007, due to a strong rise in public and foreign investment. Despite this positive outlook, the economy remains vulnerable to oil price shocks, declining EU banana preferences, and high exposure to natural disasters.

The mission noted that although public debt in Saint Lucia is lower than in other Eastern Caribbean Currency Union countries, it is high by interna-

tional standards. The 2005/06 budget envisages a sharp increase in capital spending ahead of the CWC and to rebuild the aging infrastructure. In the mission's view, such investments are necessary but should be phased to avoid implementation and supply bottlenecks that could lead to price and wage pressures. With this in mind, the mission recommended tight budget management and a clear prioritization of capital projects in the near term.

The mission supported the authorities' medium term intention to deepen fiscal consolidation and reduce public debt through spending discipline and reforms aimed at increasing the efficiency of the tax system.

The mission discussed with the authorities ways to raise Saint Lucia's medium-term growth prospects. Opening the economy further at an appropriate pace, in the context of negotiations for the Caribbean Single Market Economy and the WTO's Doha Round, would make it more competitive and lower the cost of inputs for the private sector. The mission and the authorities also discussed possible ways of creating the right incentives for the private sector to flourish, including reducing the cost of capital and raising labor productivity.

The mission recognized the significant challenges arising from the declining European Union preferences in bananas and supported the need to put in place social safety nets, as well as retrain workers to reduce the impact of dislocation. There was broad agreement on the aim to strengthen domestic linkages of the agricultural sector to tourism and to promote diversification.

The passage over the past 12 months of hurricanes Ivan and Emily near Saint Lucia, reaffirms the importance of contingency planning and bolstering risk mitigation and disaster management.

The mission welcomed the progress Saint Lucia has made in its disaster mitigation and preparedness program, and noted that the new building code should be systematically enforced in the country.

The mission and the authorities agreed that there was more scope for tapping the insurance markets, preferably via a regional approach, to further mitigate financial losses from natural disasters.

The IMF mission wishes the government and the people of Saint Lucia every success in their efforts to build a strong and prosperous economy and adapt successfully to the changing global environment.



"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



Public Assistance Increases

Pensioners and Homes for the Aged also receiving more

The increase in public assistance promised by the Prime Minister during his last Budget Address is now in effect. As a result, beneficiaries – such as persons suffering from old age, illness, disease, bodily infirmity or mental incapacity, and who are unable to maintain themselves – are now receiving more than before.

During his Budget Address last April 19, the Prime Minister indicated that the Public Assistance Programme would be increased from 37.5% to 41%.

He indicated that as of June 1, 2005, a single person who received \$60 would now receive \$85 per month; a family of two persons who received \$90 would now receive \$125; a family of three or four persons receiving \$120 would now receive \$165; a household of five persons receiving \$150 would now receive \$200; and a household of five or more persons receiving \$180 will now be entitled to \$250 per month.

The increases announced in April, and which are now in effect, followed a 50% increase in public assistance in

1999, less than two years after the Labour administration took office.

But beneficiaries of the Public Assistance Programme are not the only ones who are receiving more financial assistance from government. Pensioners have also been receiving more monthly financial benefits from May 1, 2005, when their payments were increased by between two and five percent. This followed previous increases in 2000.

Homes for the Aged, which take care of marginalized persons – who are victims of either alcohol or other form

of substance abuse, or who have simply been abandoned by their families – have also been receiving more assistance from Government.

The Prime Minister had announced in his budget address that there would be a 50% increase in the annual allocations to Homes for the Aged over the next two budget cycles.

According to the Prime Minister, the increases to Homes for the Aged would be spread over this year and the next at a rate of 25% each year.

This will result in increases in the subvention to the various homes, ranging in some cases from \$80,000 to \$120,000; from \$60,000 to \$90,000; from \$58,000 to \$87,600; from \$50,000 to \$75,000; and from \$24,000 to \$36,000 annually.

The increase in allocations to the Homes for the Aged are already in effect.

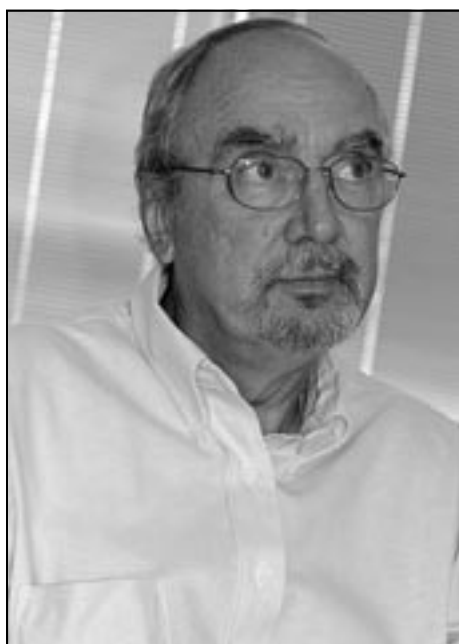


Subvention to the Marian Home increased

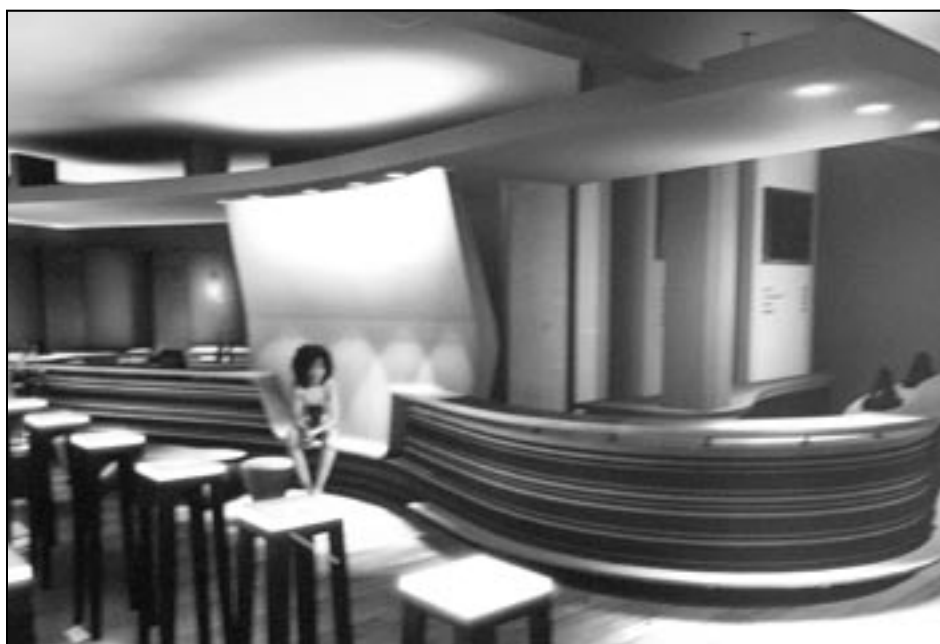


St. Lucy's Home is also benefiting

Blue Coral – Changing the face of Castries City



Claude Guillaume - Architect



Classy and comfortable restaurant inside the soon-to-be constructed Blue Coral



Sean Compton - Architect

Among the many projects envisaged by the government of Saint Lucia is the remodeling of the City of Castries to make it more people friendly.

Indeed, during the 2005/2006 Budget Presentation, Prime Minister Anthony spoke on the imminent refurbishment of the former J. Q. Charles Building and the implications of such refurbishment on the rejuvenation of

the city centre.

At that time, the prime minister had voiced his disappointment on “the delay in the commencement of the project.”

On Wednesday July 27 2005, shareholders of Blue Coral Limited invited potential clients and the press to a press launch at the NIC's Conference Centre.

Unveiling the remarkable and attractive concept for the building via a power point presentation, was architectural

designer Sean Compton.

Thus far all architectural work for the design of the building is now completed and has been presented to the Development Control Authority for its consideration; tenders for technical services, namely air conditioners, plumbing and electrical, have been issued.

The gutting of the internal structure is completed and the building will be substantially remodelled at an estimat-

ed cost of EC\$16 million and will include a café and some large tenants on the ground floor, rental units ranging from 600 – 2300 square feet on the first floor, a cinema/theatre, a bar/lounge and an open space for a fitness centre on the second floor and a restaurant, roof terrace and bamboo garden on the third floor.

It is anticipated that the project will be completed by December 2006.

CTU to press for common telecom standards

The Caribbean Telecoms Union will be pressing regional governments to develop common standards for telecom operators, encourage greater transparency and local participation in the telecoms sector, says CTU Secretary General,

Bernadette Lewis.

She said having uniform standards and policies for telecom development will put the regional governments in a stronger position to negotiate with telecom providers and it will facilitate better control over technology development in the region.

“Having common standards also allow easier integration of the various providers and can lead to lower rates and easier roaming for subscribers,” she added.

Speaking to Caribbean technology ministers and regulators at a briefing seminar hosted by Nortel in Ottawa, Canada, Lewis

said the inter-regional organization has been working on strengthening its organizational capacity and exposing regulators to the latest trends and technology available in telecommunications so the region could be more informed when planning its technology needs. “We will also be better positioned to take advantage of opportunities to develop and use technology to enhance our economies,” she added.

Continued on page 7

Communiqué of the 53rd meeting of the Monetary Council of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank Saint Lucia - 22 July 2005

The Monetary Council of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank held its 53rd meeting at the Bay Gardens Hotel in Saint Lucia on 22 July 2005. The Meeting was chaired by Dr the Hon Kenny Anthony, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, International Financial Services, Economic Affairs and Information, Saint Lucia. Prime Minister Anthony took over from the outgoing Chairman Dr the Hon Denzil Douglas, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Technology and Sustainable Development, Tourism, Sports and Culture, St Kitts and Nevis, at a handing-over ceremony held prior to the Council meeting.

The Council received the Governor's report on the prevailing monetary and credit conditions in the ECCU, and deliberated on the following matters.

Exchange Rate Stability

Council reviewed the factors that affect the stability of the exchange rate, including the adequacy of the ECCU's external reserves, inflation, increases in oil prices and the levels of public debt.

Members noted that: the ECCB's external reserves, which represented 96.6 per cent of its demand and other liabilities, were adequate to ensure maintenance in the value of the currency. The foreign exchange reserves held by the Bank of \$1,708 million, being the equivalent of 4.6 months of imports, were in excess of the accepted standard of a minimum of three months. The international reserves of the ECCU (the ECCB and the commercial banks combined) of \$3,925 million were equivalent to 10.6 months of imports.

Inflation for most of the member countries was moderately higher in 2005 than in 2004, as a result of higher fuel prices and the recent depreciation of the US dollar in relation to other major currencies. However, inflation at the end of March 2005 was comparable, for the most part, with those in trading partner countries.

The movement of the US dollar against international currencies continued to make the servicing of sterling and euro debt onerous for the member governments. Council agreed to encourage member governments to review their currency composition and debt management strategies, in order to reduce the burden of debt service payments.

The Members decided that at the next meeting of Council a full-scale review and discussion on the debt portfolio of member states of ECCU would take place.

Oil Prices

The Members agreed that a comprehensive study of the implications of the oil prices on the regional economies would be done and a discussion would take place at the October meeting of the Monetary Council.

The members further agreed that the fiscal shocks resulting from the escalating price of oil would result in the need for some governments to allow the price of gas to increase.

Financial Sector Stability

Council reviewed the measures being taken by the ECCB to achieve financial sector stability.

The members agreed to facilitate the



Governor of the ECCB Dwight Venner (L) and Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony



(L - R) Hon. Anthony Boats Wain - Grenada, Hon. Errol Cort - Antigua & Barbuda and Hon. Victor Banks - Anguilla



(L - R) Hon Dr. John Osborne - Montserrat, Hon Dr. Denzil Douglas - St. Kitts and Nevis, Hon. Dr. Ralph Gonsalves - St. Vincent and STAR journalist Jeannine Toussaint



Journalists and technocrats at press conference - Bay Gardens Hotel

passage of the outstanding financial legislation and regulation.

Council affirmed the position that financial legislation in the currency union would be drafted and made on a uniform basis.

Money and Capital Market Developments

Council discussed the improvement in activity in the Eastern Caribbean Securities Market and noted that regional companies had started to list on the Eastern Caribbean Securities Exchange.

Council agreed to recommend to member governments the finalisation of the outstanding legislation required to facilitate the operation of the Eastern Caribbean Securities Market both within the ECCU and CARICOM.

Council also agreed that every opportunity should be used to promote the readiness of the ECSE to operate as the CARICOM Exchange.

Domestic Output

Council noted that economic activity in the ECCU continued to expand in 2005, despite the adverse impact of Hurricane Ivan on some of the member countries in September 2004 and the sharp rise in oil prices. Increases in economic activity were recorded in all member countries with the exception of Montserrat. Growth of 3.6 per cent was driven by expansions in the construction, hotel and restaurant, wholesale and retail trade and transport sectors. Council noted, however, that output in the agricultural and manufacturing sectors declined primarily as a result of damage done by Hurricane Ivan.

Council members welcomed the continuing expansion in economic activity in the ECCU in the first quarter of 2005, which was in line with the expansion in the global economy. Council however cautioned that while the short-term outlook continued to be favourable, growth in the ECCU was subject to the risks and uncertainties in the global economy, including the rising oil prices.

Money and Credit Policy

Council noted that monetary conditions in the ECCU were generally favourable during the first four months of 2005, with growth in the money supply and an increase in the net foreign assets of the banking system. The liquidity of the banking sector remained strong and interest rates remained stable.

Council decided to maintain the officially administered rates as follows:

The regulated minimum rate of interest on savings deposits, at 3.0 per cent; but agreed to review this rate at the October meeting of the Monetary Council.

The Central Bank's discount rate, at 6.5 per cent.

Date and Venue of the Next Meeting

Council agreed that the next meeting would be held in St Kitts and Nevis on the 20th and 21st October 2005.

Attendance - Council members attending the meeting were: Hon Victor Banks, Anguilla; Dr the Hon Errol Cort, Antigua and Barbuda; Hon Anthony Boatswain, Grenada; Dr the Hon John Osborne, Montserrat; Dr the Hon Denzil Douglas, St Kitts and Nevis; Dr the Hon Kenny Anthony, Saint Lucia; Dr the Hon Ralph Gonsalves, St Vincent and the Grenadines.

The investigation was conducted between June 22nd and July 10th. The team who undertook the investigation comprised Dr. S. King, CMO, Nurse S. Jolie, PNO Community Nurse C. Gustave, PNO Soufriere, Nurse M. Paul, Nurses Association, Dr. P. Lendor, Community Obs & Gynae, Dr. C. Louisy, Obstetrician, St. Judes, Dr. J. Bird, Community Paediatrician and Nurse Ava Auguste.

Preamble: The investigation was conducted after a maternal and fetal death in Soufriere at the Soufriere Hospital on 4th June 2005. There was considerable public concern even outrage about this incident. The national expression of public concern precipitated this investigation the findings of which were promised to the public.

Objectives of investigation

(1) Determination of the facts surrounding the deaths of Ucilla Isembert and her infant at Soufriere Hospital on June 4th '05; (2) Assessment of the services of the Soufriere hospital, with particular reference to Obstetric & Neonatal Care; (3) Report of findings and (4) Recommendations.

Method of investigation

I. Review of Statements: The team met on June 15th '05 and reviewed the terms of reference and all available statements. Written statements had been submitted by Nurse Louisy, RN, Nursing Assistant Parris, Dr. T Alexis, DMO, Mr. Marquis, Handyman, Acting Leading Fireman 346 Smith, Fireman 432 Charlemagne, Medical Report from Dr. Aguilar and postmortem report – Dr. Stephen King.

II. Interviews: The team met in Soufriere on the 22nd June '05 reviewed equipment and operations at the Hospital and conducted interviews with the following persons: family members and their lawyer, Nurse Louisy, Nursing Assistant Parris, Dr. T. Alexis, Mr. Marquis, Nurse Paula Augustin, Community Health Nurse, Soufriere Hospital Antenatal clinic and Mrs. B. Bobb, SEO, Soufriere hospital.

On 9th July 2005 presentation of the committees findings to Soufriere health team (PNO Gustave. Nurse Louisy, RNA Parris, Mr. Marquis, Dr. T. Alexis, Mrs. B. Bobb and to the family and lawyer (Christina Gilbert, Mr. B Adjoudha, Mr. A Possele, Mr. H. Nicholas).

On 23rd July 2005 the committee interviewed Mr. Ashley Edward, the eye witness.

III. Review of Soufriere Hospital equipment and operations.

After this review a press release was issued based on our serious concerns about patient safety at the Hospital. The early release statement is as follows: **Early release statement from CMO** - June 23, 2005

The committee established to review the Soufriere Hospital services conducted an analysis of Soufriere Hospital on 22nd June 2005.

The full report with our recommendations will be ready by July 10th 2005.

However in the interest of patient safety we decided to produce an early release statement detailing two recommendations that need to be implemented immediately.

It is clear that community health facilities such as Soufriere Hospital, do not have the resources to effectively and safely handle complications that can arise as a result of delivery. The committee reinforces what the community health workers advise patients during their antenatal period, that all deliveries should be done in health facilities with the ability to deal with the

Soufriere Investigation Report

complications that can arise. In Saint Lucia the only facilities with these abilities are Saint Jude Hospital, Victoria Hospital and Tapon Hospital. Patients are strongly advised that they should do their utmost to ensure that they deliver in one of these facilities and not the community health facilities such as Soufriere Hospital.

The committee recognizes the relative isolation of the Soufriere Hospital and therefore advises the Ministry of Health, Human Services, Family Affairs and Gender Relations that it is imperative that the Soufriere Hospital have 24 hr midwife coverage in case of emergency deliveries. The committee further recognizes that there is a shortage of available midwives for this coverage. The committee therefore urges the Ministry to implement the sessional mechanism of employment with immediate effect; this will help the Soufriere Hospital to achieve 24-hour midwife coverage.

IV. Review of internationally accepted guidelines for care

Recommended guidelines for care

I. Perinatal care (from British association of perinatal medicine November 1998 obstetric standards for the provision of perinatal care)

Guidelines for care of births away from consultant unit

1. If women choose to deliver in this setting, there will inevitably be a time delay between the occurrence of a complication and the completion of transfer into a consultant obstetric unit. This time factor may prevent a fully effective response to acute complications such as fetal hypoxia during labour or primary postpartum haemorrhage. It may also be more difficult to carry out procedures such as cervical laceration. It should be documented that women are clearly aware of these limitations before labour begins, for medico-legal reasons and to ensure that choice is fully informed.

2. There should be at least two professionals present at the birth, one of whom should be proficient at basic neonatal resuscitation. Neonatal resuscitation is likely to be only by pharyngeal suction and bag and mask ventilation. However, there should be arrangements to keep the baby warm, and naloxone must be available if opiates are used for maternal pain relief.

3. There should be established mechanisms for seeking specialist advice and assistance in an emergency.

4. Efficient mechanisms for the transfer of mother and baby to a consultant unit should be in place and be reviewed at regular intervals. These should be the primary responsibility of the ambulance service and transfer is best conducted under the aegis of appropriately trained paramedical staff.

5. The risk of intrapartum death in appropriately selected low risk women should be no higher than one per thousand. Constant review should be undertaken to ensure that all stillbirths are fully investigated for preventable factors. This is not sufficient to maintain resuscitation skills and therefore regular retraining with videos and mannequins should be undertaken. Periodic rotation to consultant unit for training.

6. Regular audit should include: Consumer satisfaction surveys; Monitoring of rates of transfer to consultant unit care (a) during pregnancy (b) during labor (c) during the immediate puerperium; Monitoring of maternal morbidity e.g.: (a) second, third or fourth

degree perineal trauma (b) retained placenta (c) postpartum haemorrhage (d) puerperal pyrexia; Rates of transfer of the baby following delivery to specialist neonatal care; Monitoring of neonatal morbidity e.g.: (a) low Apgar scores (b) need for resuscitation (c) need for admission to specialist neonatal unit

7. Resuscitation including intravenous infusion with plasma expanders (or blood, if available).

8. Repair of the perineum.

II. Neonatal resuscitation staff training needs (from royal college of paediatrics and child health royal college of obstetricians and gynaecologists).

Novices - Students and those transferring to work in delivery suites, but not expected to be primarily responsible for resuscitation must possess the following: Background reading is essential and should be readily available; Attendance at seminars covering the physiology and biochemistry of the adaptation to extra-uterine life; Attendance at training sessions using simulations and manikins; Training in effective airway positioning, bag-, valve-, mask-ventilation and external chest compression; Observation of resuscitation procedures carried out by trained instructors; Knowledge of unit guidelines and protocols.

Trainees - Qualified staff in junior positions who will work in departments where they always have more experienced staff immediately available will have to undertake: Revision with supervised practice of all aspects applicable to novices; Participation as assistants in resuscitation procedures - formalized and documented; Revision of specific needs in relation to their post and expected responsibilities.

Staff with responsibility for resuscitation - Midwives in hospitals and community units, those responsible for home deliveries including general practitioners, senior house officers and specialist registrars in obstetrics, paediatrics and anaesthetics, neonatal nurses and practitioners will have to undergo: Revision and appraisal of all skills previously acquired; Training with supervised practice; Regular audit of skills and training and dissemination of information.

Experienced Staff - Specialist registrars in paediatrics and neonatology, staff grade and consultant paediatricians, and others working in hospitals such as obstetricians, anaesthetists, midwives, neonatal nurses and practitioners who have positions of responsibility for resuscitation should undertake: Regular revision of skills; Training in tracheal intubation with practice and supervision; Training in umbilical venous catheterization; Training in appropriate drug therapy; Supervision of novices, trainees, and staff with responsibilities; Participation in teaching and training courses; Responsibility for organisation and audit of skills and training.

III. Equipment for neonatal resuscitation/care - (adapted from BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF PERINATAL MEDICINE): Ambu-bag with mask (Neonatal); Laryngoscope (with additional replacement batteries & bulbs); Endo-tracheal tubes (2.5, 3.0mm); Pulse oximeter (with neonatal probe, if possible); A portable Oxygen supply (with disposable tubing; A suction machine with disposable catheters (Sizes 5,8,10 F); Disposable Delee suction traps; Disposable nebuliser canisters;



Dr. Stephen King - CMO



Dr. C. Louisy - Obstetrician



Nurse M. Paul - Nurses Association



Nurse C. Gustave - PNO Soufriere



Members of the press and Dr. J. Bird - Community Paediatrician (C) at the Studio of the GIS where the report was unveiled

Rectal thermometer (with disposable sleeves); Stethoscope; Incubator or unit with radiant heating; Facilities for monitoring: Respiration; Heart rate; Transcutaneous Oxygen saturation; IV access/venepuncture supplies – tourniquet, alcohol swabs, dry cot-

ton, IV branulas (Sizes 22 and 24G), needles (21, 23 and 25G), syringes, adhesive tape, scissors, splint boards; IV fluids – Ringers lactate, N/Saline, D5W 0.2NaCl; D10W; Other supplies – Blood collection and sterile urine containers, IV giving sets; gloves (dis-

posable & sterile); Iodine.

The trolley should be checked daily and be in full working condition at all times.

For Neonatal CPR, essential drugs include: Naloxone (Narcan), Adrenaline, Atropine, Hydrocortisone, Dextrose (50%; 10%). Other useful drugs include: Calcium gluconate, Sodium Bicarbonate.

Conclusions

Staffing: Both numbers and training of staff not adequate to meet minimal standards listed above.

Equipment & Furnishings: Short of equipment and poor maintenance programme.

Transportation support: Insufficient ambulance availability and reliability, EMTs trained at EMT basic level.

Communications: No cell phone access, no radio communication

Administration: Central administration slow to respond Soufriere Service needs; Central administration not flexible or creative enough.

Infrastructure, layout: Good basic building but needs minor repair; Poor layout; Changes being done from central Ministry without adequate consideration to local needs.

Overall service potential: Potential to be a good 24hr emergency service with observation beds, convalescent beds and polyclinic community services. However this requires staff restructuring, increase in staff numbers, skill mix and training; Given present situation, patient safety is at risk.

Actual service offered on night in question: Inadequate with regards: i. Communication with family, ii. Clinical assessment of patient; iii. Technical support available for frontline staff; iv. Equipment and supplies available for treatment; v. Level of ambulance paramedical/clinical staff accompanying patient to SJH; vi. Policies and procedures.

Recommendations

1. Required staffing: Nursing - Seven (7) midwives, including PNO; Six (6) Registered nurses; Three (3) attendants.

First 8 hour shift - 2 midwives, 1 RN, 1 attendant; Second 8hour shift - 1 midwife, 1 RN, 1 attendant; Third 8 hour shift - 1 midwife, 1 RN

Sessional staffing mechanisms need to be in place to help ensure adequate cover.

Increase recruitment and training of nurses and nurse-midwives.

Doctors - Three DMOs; Ancillary staff - Secretary, Domestic Assistants, Drivers, Handy men/security.

Staff health services including staff health and counseling should be developed and implemented as a programme and staff benefit.

2. Training (based on guidelines outlined in section e): All nurses and DMO's must be trained in neonatal resuscitation as outlined above; All DMOs must be trained in basic obstetric care; All nurses and DMOs should be at least Basic Cardiac Life Support trained and certified; All nurses and DMOs should undergo periodic attachments to a major ER and consultant obstetric unit.

3. Equipment: Detailed list for labour ward - 2 functional obstetric beds, Infant Resuscitaire, 1 Infant incubator, transport incubator, 2 Oxygen cylinders, 1 portable Suction machine, 1 portable lamp, 1 photo-therapy lamp,

1 sterilizer, 1 portable trolley with IV tray, 2 sluice buckets, stethoscope, fetal stethoscope and doppler, fetal monitor, pulse oximeter with neonatal probe, BP apparatus, thermometer, oxygen supply with facial masks and ambu bags with proper adaptors for connection to O2 source.

Fully equipped resuscitation trolleys with adult and neonatal laryngoscopes, endotracheal tubes and oral airways; emergency drugs including magnesium sulphate, calcium gluconate, oxytocics, narcan, adrenalin, atropine, sodium bicarbonate, Hemabate. IV supplies and O negative blood.

IV access/venepuncture supplies – tourniquet, alcohol swabs, dry cotton, IV branulas (Sizes 14, 16, 18, 22 and 24G), needles (18, 21, 23 and 25G), syringes, adhesive tape, scissors, splint boards.

IV fluids – Ringers lactate, N/Saline, D5W 0.2NaCl; D10W.

General Emergency Trolley/Tray: Adult-sized Ambu bags and masks, laryngoscopes with large curved blades, replacement laryngoscope blades, barrier masks for CPR, endo-tracheal tubes – all sizes, oral airways, oxygen masks (assorted sizes), 1 portable suction machine – working, unplugged, 1 large oxygen cylinder – full, 1 EKG machine,

IV access/venepuncture supplies – tourniquet, alcohol swabs, dry cotton, IV branulas (Sizes 14, 16, 18, 22 and 24G), needles (18, 21, 23 and 25G), syringes, adhesive tape, scissors, splint boards.

IV fluids – Ringers lactate, N/Saline, D5W 0.2NaCl; D10W.

Other supplies – Blood collection and sterile urine containers, IV giving sets; gloves (disposable & sterile); Iodine.

Neonatal Emergency Trolley: Ambubag with mask (Neonatal), laryngoscope (with additional replacement batteries & bulbs), endo-tracheal tubes (2.5, 3.0mm), disposable Delee suction traps, disposable nebuliser canisters, rectal thermometer (with disposable sleeves), incubator or unit with radiant heating, facilities for monitoring: Respiration; Heart rate; Transcutaneous Oxygen saturation.

IV access/venepuncture supplies – tourniquet, alcohol swabs, dry cotton, IV branulas (Sizes 22 and 24G), needles (21, 23 and 25G), syringes, adhesive tape, scissors, and splint boards.

IV fluids – Ringers lactate, N/Saline, D5W 0.2NaCl; D10W.

Other supplies – Blood collection and sterile urine containers, IV giving sets; gloves (disposable & sterile); Iodine.

All emergency trolleys should be checked daily and be in full working condition at all times.

For Neonatal CPR, essential drugs include: Naloxone (Narcan), Adrenaline, Atropine, Hydrocortisone, Dextrose (50%; 10%). Other useful drugs include: Calcium gluconate, Sodium Bicarbonate.

4. Transportation: There must be at least two ambulances in Soufriere; at least one trained paramedic per ambulance always available. The ambulance services should be part of a national emergency medical service. As back up and for certain emergencies have funds for Helicopter - US\$600. (Saint Lucia Helicopters) The Ministry needs

to gain permission to land at closest adjacent field.

One utility and staff transfer vehicle at the Hospital

5. Communication, documentation & triage: The DMO should be able to identify cases which cannot be handled at district level and arrange transfer to SJH or VH after communication with the consultant obstetrician on-call. The midwife should be able to consult where necessary with the DMO and consultant obstetrician-on-duty, if she is not comfortable with a patient.

Protocols of care and appropriate procedures should be documented and implemented

(Training courses, workshops to be conducted to address these requirements).

Soufriere hospital staff should be given the on call rotas for each hospital (VH, SJH) on a monthly basis, together with contact numbers of consultants in the various disciplines. Another fixed telephone line and an operational fax line need to be installed. A mobile phone should be available 24 hrs for staff. A base radio station should be placed at Soufriere Hospital. A computer terminal with internet access and scanner should be available at the nurses station

Hospital records should document all activities in real time or as contemporaneously as possible. Communication skills training for staff should be implemented. Comprehensive patient records (manual and electronic) and records systems should be implemented

6. Administration: Given the location and access to main hospitals central administration needs to place Soufriere services higher on the priority list. Communication and consultation between Central Ministry Administration and Soufriere administration needs to be addressed urgently. In particular central administration must become more responsive and more flexible in addressing service demands in Soufriere.

A mechanism to incentivise staff to work in Soufriere is necessary, as is a need to actively recruit persons from region 6 to be trained. Central and Soufriere administration should adopt principles of a quality management systems e.g. ISO9000 series. Engagement of the Saint Lucia Bureau of Standards by central administration is an appropriate first step.

7. Infrastructure: Conduct minor repairs. Involve Soufriere staff in a redesign of the layout of the hospital. The new mental health crisis unit and mental health services need to be discussed with Soufriere Hospital staff and appropriate modifications made.

8. Community relationship: The community should form a joint committee with the hospital staff to address community needs with the hospital staff. The community should advocate with the Soufriere health team for necessary resources from Government and private sector. The community should work with Hospital staff to find innovative solutions to problems.

9. Extension of this process to other institutions: The committee recommends that Dennery Hospital should also follow these guidelines and recommendations:

The committee further recommends that the consultant obstetric units at Victoria Hospital, Saint Jude Hospital and Tapon Hospital should review their respective services with the objective of meeting the identified obstetric guidelines that the committee has identified adapted from the British Association of Perinatal Medicine.

The method of adapting relevant guidelines, assessing local services and modifying to allow for implementation of the guidelines as outlined in this report should be used for all critical health services.

St. Lucia's Ambassador to the United States calls for broad view of security

St. Lucia's Ambassador to the United States, Her Excellency, Sonia Johnny, in an address to the US Congress, has called for an expanded view of the term security in order to address new challenges in US-Caribbean relations. "No longer is the term narrowly defined within the traditional context of military protection. Instead, it has become increasingly apparent that threats to our security are diverse in nature and multi-dimensional in scope," Ambassador Johnny told a Members-only roundtable of the Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere on Wednesday, July 20th.

She was one of two Caribbean diplomats invited to address the Congress, the other was the Ambassador of Haiti.

She added: "Security for us also

encompasses new and non-traditional threats that are political, economical, social, medical and environmental in nature. Consequently, new approaches to meet these challenges have to be developed in tandem with the United States."

Ambassador Johnny suggested to the Congressmen that the United States and the Caribbean work together to develop what she called "a zone of confidence" which would be a partnership to "reflect our long standing tradition of trust and friendship." The partnership will be the launching pad to tackle threats posed by terrorism, narcotics trafficking, money laundering, HIV/AIDS, poverty, violation of human rights, natural disasters and environment degradation.

She said the Third Border Initiative

(TBI), developed by the Bush Administration in 2001, provides a practical framework for sustained engagement between the US and the Caribbean. Ambassador Johnny remarked: "The TBI, for us, is the vehicle of cooperation which, not only addresses our definition of "security" but also sends a message that the Caribbean is dispensing of the begging bowl concept and sees itself as a group of countries working in partnership with the United States."

The TBI consists of a targeted package of programmes designed to enhance diplomatic, economic, health, education and law enforcement cooperation and collaboration.

In making recommendations to the Congress, Ambassador Johnny called for, among other things, revitalizing dialogue at the ministerial level among



Saint Lucia's Ambassador to the United States - Sonia Johnny

Caribbean Ministers and the US Secretary of State, as well as structured opportunities for periodic exchanges between Caribbean Ministers and members of the Bush Administration.



David Vitalis - Member of the Integrity Commission

The Integrity Commission seeks to fulfill the mandate given to it by Sections 118 and 119 of the St. Lucia Constitution through legal measures enacted by Parliament. The legislation which tells the Commission how to go about its business is the Integrity in Public Life Act (No.6 of 2004). It was agreed to by the Governor General on April 27, 2004.

The Act states who is eligible for membership and guides members on what they should

How the Integrity Act is Administered

Harsh penalties for proven acts of corruption

do in their mission to establish "probity, integrity and accountability in public life".

According to the Act, the Integrity Commission can comprise as little as three members, including a Chairman, or not more than five members, including a Chairman. A Commission must include a Chartered or Certified accountant, and an Attorney-at-Law. The inclusion of a lawyer and accountant allow for valuable expertise in the challenging exercise of examining the financial declarations of persons in public life, and in considering the legal process by which these persons are made to comply with the provisions of the Act.

Sitting parliamentarians (whether senators or elected members) are not eligible for membership of the Commission. Other public servants cannot be appointed on the Commission until three years after they have left the public service.

Members meet regularly – as often as weekly when they are examining and deliberating on declarations – in absolute secrecy. The important issues of secrecy and confidentiality of certain aspects of the work of the Commission will be addressed in a separate article, but it must be emphasized

here that confidentiality is a strict provision of the law, and not a discretionary power left to members of the Commission, or exercised in response to requests by political parties, the news media or the general public.

The Commission receives, examines and retains all declarations filed with it under the Act. Needless to say, the Commission is empowered to make enquires about declarations when necessary, as well as investigate complaints about people who act contrary to the Act.

The Integrity in Public Life Act includes provisions for the prevention of corruption by and of persons in public life. It demands that persons in public life report gifts "worth more than 500 EC dollars" within 30 days of receipt of these gifts to the Commission, as well as the "the name and address" of the donors and the description and approximate value" of such gifts.

The Commission will then determine whether the gift to a person in public life is a personal or state gift. The law says that if the Commission finds, after an inquiry, that a gift was given to a person in public life personally and was "trivial", or was "not trivial" but

was not intended to be a motive or reward for granting a personal favour, either by doing or abstaining from doing anything in the course of his or her official functions, the Commission "shall" allow the person to retain the gift. But if the Commission finds that a gift was intended to induce corruption on the part of a person in public life, the recipient will be asked to deliver the gift to the Minister of Finance within 30 days.

Penalties for "Acts of Corruption" under the Act range from a \$100,000 fine and five years imprisonment, or both, on summary conviction for the first offence, to \$1 million or 15 years imprisonment, or both, for a second indictable offence.

Members of the Commission are appointed by the Governor General on the advice of the Prime Minister, who "shall" consult the Leader of the Opposition. Resignation of members must be made effective through the Governor General as well. The Integrity in Public Life Act re-enforces the constitutional protection of the Integrity Commission emphasizing the Commission's responsibility to the Governor General – the head of state – and not the Cabinet of Ministers, or the public service.

Statement by the Minister for Social Transformation, Culture and Local Government, Hon. Menissa Rambally on the death of former Castries Mayor, Mr. Joseph Desir

years later on March 1, 1967, he became the inaugural Mayor of Castries when the former Town of Castries was elevated to the status of a City.

The late Mr. Desir served Castries in various positions on the Council for sixteen (16) years until 1970, when he was replaced by Mayor Julian R. Hunte. Others still alive who served with him also include Mrs. Heraldine Rock and Mr. Hollis Bristol.

Mr. Desir was succeeded by several Mayors of Castries until 1980, when Local Government Elections were done away with by the then Government of Saint Lucia.

He served the City Council with distinction and pride. He was an upright

citizen who worked hard to ensure the City lived up to its status as a Municipal Corporation.

A popular Castries Jeweller throughout his working life, Mr. Desir eventually gave up the trade in his latter years. But he never gave up his interest in the City of Castries, often offering advice to Ministers and the Government of Saint Lucia on how best to address recurring problems inherited from his time.

The Ministry of Social Transformation, the Castries City Council and all Local Government Councils will miss Mr. Desir, whose contribution as the first Mayor of Castries shall not be forgotten.



J.H. Desir - The late former Mayor of Castries

On behalf of the entire staff of my Ministry, I wish to extend sincere condolences to Mr. Desir's family.

Accordingly, I have instructed that the flags at the Castries City Council be flown at half-mast until his burial and that his funeral be attended by the Chairman, Councilors and staff of the City Council.

May his soul rest in peace.



Hon. Menissa Rambally - Minister for Social Transformation

The Ministry of Social Transformation, Culture and Local Government has learned, with deep regret, of the death of Mr. Joseph Desir, the first Mayor of Castries.

Mr. Desir, who recently celebrated his 90th birthday, first became a Councilor when he won a seat in the Castries Town Council elections in 1964. Three

BANANA FARMERS WAIT ANXIOUSLY

As banana suppliers anxiously await the ruling of the WTO Arbitration Panel on the European Union (EU) proposal to dismantle the tariff-rate-quota (TRQ) restrictions on bananas and replace them with a single 230 euro tariff, there has been a flurry of diplomatic activity in the Caribbean and among Latin American banana exporters.

For decades, Europe provided secure access on a preferential basis to bananas from the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) group, which are among the most marginalised of trading nations. Currently they are allocated an exclusive quota and provided with duty-free access to the rest of the import quotas. The system has enabled them to trade in a commodity that would otherwise have been impossible, but also benefited Latin American suppliers, who currently account for 75% of EU imports, by providing them with fairer and more remunerative prices than would otherwise have been possible or can be obtained in other major markets.

The current proposals by the EU result from a decision in 2001, following agreements with the USA and with Ecuador, to change the quota system and substitute it with an equivalent single-tariff. The Latin Americans who are effectively limited to the TRQ volumes, on which they pay duty of €75 per tonne, objected to EU plans and sought WTO arbitration. To be fair, they can actually lose from the changes, not because they will sell any less, but ironi-

cally because overall they are likely to sell more. Various experts and market analysts have computed that the removal of the quota restrictions, even with a tariff of 230 euros per tonne, will eventually cause imports to rise. The greatest danger to producers in Latin America and indeed in the ACP

ceive, referred to by economists as "quota-rent", will be lost.

For those suppliers that are the most vulnerable and currently on the margins, such as the Windward Islands, the market upheavals will be truly catastrophic and unless the introduction of the new system is properly managed by

mit these countries to participate, on a remunerative basis, in international trade. The ACP preferences for bananas have already been seriously eroded by earlier changes to the import regime that have improved the relative position of the Latin American suppliers.

It is imperative that the EU recognizes the importance to these countries, the most vulnerable amongst the ACP, of safeguarding the continued viability of their export trade. The small islands pose no threat to any other supplier and it would be a complete travesty if the long-standing market-access privileges on which their economic stability is founded, were to be set aside. It would be difficult to understand that during the Doha Development Agenda, one of whose aims is for developing countries "to share in the growth of world trade commensurate with the needs of their economic development" that the ability of weaker trading partners to continue with their only export product would be jeopardized through the WTO system that they themselves and others in the international community created with "a view to raising standards of living".

The Arbitrators will release their conclusion in early August 2005, but it will be vital that the EU and the Interested Parties ensure that whatever subsequent reform of the regime is undertaken, that the principles of equity are preserved so as to ensure that even the small and vulnerable suppliers will be able to continue in their only export business.



Market upheavals likely to be catastrophic to banana producers in the Windward Islands

and Europe's own peripheral regions is that the increased imports will result in price collapse that will not be compensated for by the expansion of sales. Not only will suppliers be harmed directly by price decline, but the considerable, though hidden, benefit of the premium that they and the importers now re-

ceive, referred to by economists as "quota-rent", will be lost.

Unfortunately, much of the public debate has been marred by gratuitous vilification of ACP trade preferences, even if they have been essential to per-

Weather report available at the click of a mouse

The Saint Lucia Met Service, the Government Information Service and the NEMO Secretariat joined forces this week to launch a new service.

"SLU.Weather.Report" is a new email service that allows Saint Lucians

to receive the weather report directly.

Presently persons may access the report via the Radio, TV and the Weather Information Service hosted by the Met Office at 454-3452.

The weather report is generated three times a day: 6a.m., 1p.m., and 6p.m.

However, as a tropical storm or hurricane approaches these regular reports are increased.

Many persons have continued to express concern about being unaware of an approaching system. This is one more tool to ensure that the nation is

aware and can take appropriate action.

For persons to be aware of an approaching Storm, however persons must use the tools.

Persons may sign up at the Government Web Site at <http://www.stlucia.gov.lc/>

CTU to press for common telecom standards

Continued from page 2

Lewis said the organization was working on developing common policies for regulators as well as policies to expand local ownership in the sector. The agency is also developing policy documents to encourage more transparency in the operations of the regional telecoms, including regulation for sale, competition and management of the sector.

"As local economies continue to transform, the growing importance of telecoms will require governments and regulators to keep informed about technology, changes and opportunities offered by telecommunications."

She said the CTU will play a greater role in educating regulators and governments as well as conducting research and creating policy docu-

ments that can be widely applied in the future.

The conference, which ended last week in Ottawa, Canada, is also sponsored by the Canadian High Commissions in Bridgetown, Kingston and Port of Spain, with telecommunications equipment maker, Nortel, Tremor Technologies and the Trinidad-based mobile phone service provider, Laqtel Limited.

"The annual conference provides an opportunity for senior level government officials to consider the impact of new and emerging telecommunications technologies. The latest technological innovations in the telecommunications industry will also be presented and discussed by participants.

"The understanding of the evolving technologies is essential for policy de-

velopment, legislation formulation and regulation of the sector," says Lewis.

"This Seminar was designed with the expressed purpose of equipping the participants to make informed decisions for the development of the telecommunication sector in their respective countries."

"Government officials and regulators will have the opportunity to gain insight into the implications of these technologies in a competitive environment."

Lewis added that the CTU has been working on building awareness and capacity among its various stakeholders, in particular the policy makers for the regional telecommunications market and the conference was part of this strategy.

Six Caribbean Government Minis-

ters with responsibility for telecommunications attended the seminar. They include Dr. Hon. Jerrol Thompson, President of the CTU and Minister Telecommunication, Science, Technology and Industry of St Vincent & The Grenadines, Dr. Hon. Edmond Mansoor of Antigua & Barbuda, Hon. Arden McLean of Cayman Islands, Hon Gregory Bowen of Grenada, Hon. Nigel Carty of St. Kitts & Nevis, and Hon. Felix Finisterre of St. Lucia.

The full delegation includes 33 Caribbean telecommunications government ministers, regulators, service providers and senior Canadian telecommunications officials. With 16 of the 17 CTU member-states represented, the seminar which was a tremendous success, she added.

Nortel Networks is supporting this CTU initiative by hosting the distinguished delegation at their Carling Technology Campus in Ottawa.

Government of Saint Lucia Invitations for Tenders for Insurance Coverage

The Ministry of Finance, International Services and Economic Affairs invite

tenders for insurance coverage for A Fleet of Vehicles belonging to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Details and a list of vehicles being insured are available upon request from the secretary of the Tenders Board of the Budget Division located in the Old

Government Buildings, Laborie Street, Castries.

Tenders should be submitted no later than 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday 9th August 2005, in a sealed envelope clearly labelled: TENDER FOR THE INSURANCE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY 7

FISHERIES' FLEET OF VEHICLES and addressed to: The Chairperson, Central Tenders Board, Ministry of Finance & Economic Affairs, Old Government Buildings, Laborie Street, Castries

The Board does not bind itself to accept the highest or any tender.

Small Mitigation Works Create Big Impact on Communities



Rubble Drain - Garrand



Rubble Drain - Bros D'Orange

The Government of Saint Lucia secured a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) of USD 3.7 million equivalent and a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) of USD 3.8 million equivalent towards the cost of the Second Disaster Management Project. The total project cost is US\$8.9 million.

A component of the Project is Physical Prevention and Mitigation Works, which include small mitigation works. Small mitigation works encompasses drainage, construction of river walls and slope stabilization works to be done in the rural areas of Saint Lucia.

US\$1,040,000.00 (EC\$2,795,728.00) of the project cost has been allocated to-

wards Small Mitigation Works at various sites. To date, twenty-five contracts have been awarded. The value of the works contracted to date is approximately EC\$1.5 million. These contracts have been awarded to small and medium sized contractors via a competitive process.

All the Contractors have been selected from the pre-qualified database of the Ministry of Communications Works Transport and Public Utilities. At least five contractors were invited to bid for the works.

The Technical Unit of the Ministry of Communications Works Transport and Public Utilities is supervising the Works, as the MCWT&PU is the agency responsible for the implementation of the works.



Culvert Crossing - Caye Manger



Rubble Retaining Wall - Entrepot

Works Contracts have been awarded at twenty-five (25) locations as indicated: Bois D'Orange – Gros-Islet, Boguis - Babonneau, Caye Manger – Gros-Islet. Garrand - Babonneau, Ti Morne, Union - Castries, Aux Lyon - Dennery, Praslin, Raillon, Sulphur Springs, Anse La Verdue, Entrepot, Old Victoria Road, Patterson's Gap, Bisee Ravine, Ciceron, Morne Du Don, Morne Panche, Pavee-Drain, Pavee-Wall, Ravine Claire, Sauzay, Cafierre, Barre St. Joseph, Chopin Ridge, Anse La Raye and La Clery.

FOTO FACTS

RESIDENTS OF TROU-ROUGE WILL BENEFIT FROM A NEWLY PAVED ROAD - COURTESY THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS



THIS WEEK ON NTN

- Sat. July 30th - Fri. August 5th , 2005
- OECS Soca Monarch - Sat. July 30th 8:30 p.m.
 - More than 150 years later – the Legacy of Slavery (Discussion) – Sun. July 31st, 9:00 p.m.
 - The GIS speaks with members of the Police Complaints Commission - Mon. August 1st, 8:00 p.m.
 - KiddiCrew.com (Latest Edition) – Tues. August 2nd, 6:15 p.m.
 - Women West Indies – An Exciting Series of portraits featuring women in the Caribbean – Every Wednesday at 6:15 p.m. - Wed. August 3rd 6:15 p.m.
 - Water in the Valley - Thurs. August 4th, 7:30 p.m.
 - The Desmond Skeete Animation Centre – August 5th, 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 and then click on the NTN icon.

www.stlucia.gov.lc