



NATIONWIDE

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NEW HOTEL FOR MALGRETOUTE



AGREEMENT SIGNED

See page 3



Government Combats land degradation - page 2



Can the region protect its intellectual property rights in agriculture? - page 4 & 5



Agreement on Regional Development Fund Formula - page 6



Tributes to the late Roger Eudoxie - page 7



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Government Combats Land Degradation



Hon Ignatius Jean
Minister of Agriculture and Forestry

On June 17th, the international community celebrated World Day to combat desertification. The Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Ignatius Jean, who made a statement to mark St. Lucia's observance of the day, took the opportunity to outline the Government's policies to combat land degradation in St. Lucia – an extremely serious problem for this small island developing state. This is the text of the Minister's statement.

As the International Community celebrates the World Day to Combat Desertification and drought on June 17th, under the theme "The beauty of deserts – the challenges of desertification", it is also my pleasure to inform you that this observance coincides with the International Year of Deserts and Desertification and with the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, which plays an important role in efforts to alleviate poverty and achieve sustainable development and the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations.

In Saint Lucia, we cannot speak of the beauty of deserts, since these land forms are not part of our natural landscape but the island can surely spend time reflecting on the Challenges of Desertification which I will Endeavour to undertake over the next few minutes. Desertification is the loss of the land's biological productivity in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas. For our purposes, land degradation in general is also another cause of desertification.

Why should we be concerned with the challenges of desertification in Saint Lucia? The evidences are all around us. If we simply consider the degradation of land as leading to desertification, we can remember the land slippages that have occurred recently in housing settlements around the north of the island including Boguis, Tapion, Black Mallet and Morne du Don where many homes were affected and threatened. We recall the Ravine Poisson tragedy of 1938 where over 100 persons lost their lives in massive landslides. Similarly, there is excessive soil loss and uncontrolled water runoff during and after rainstorms. Estimated soil loss is 25-63 tons per hectare per year from some of the larger watersheds in Saint Lucia. Deforestation followed by inappropriate land use practices undermine the land resulting in degradation and loss of productivity.

Saint Lucia is a mountainous island of which over 80% is steep terrain. Almost half of the soil eroded is due to cultivation on slopes steeper than 25



The Pitons, symbol of St. Lucia's mountainous terrain and its land



Coconut trees-the trees protect the land



Land slippage at Tapion

degrees without appropriate conservation measures. Flooding and landslides amplified by poor land use management on the steep slopes and land tenure problems are some of the main causes of land degradation in the country. The impacts of these practices coupled with poorly sited housing developments, and inadequate pollution control in the upper watershed result in reduced availability of water supplies, greater vulnerability of populations and economic assets to natural disasters aided by silted water courses and reduced soil productivity.

If we are to combat desertification and more so land degradation in Saint Lucia, there is need to improve resiliency to natural disasters and mitigate against environmental degradation through the adoption of sustainable land management (SLM) and environmental management policies and practices. I am pleased to report, that the government is working assiduously

on stemming the land degradation tide through the following ways:

A Land Use Policy is soon to be reviewed and adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers after extensive consultation with stakeholders. This policy will seek to ensure among other provisions, that land zoning is established and adhered to.

The Water Policy that has already been adopted by Cabinet will ensure that there is a Water Resources Management Agency in place that will help manage watersheds on the island in a sustainable manner.

The Forestry Department has been working collaboratively with community groups to manage forests and important economic species on dry-lands.

The National Emergency Management Organization has been developing hazard mapping instruments and systems to mitigate the impact of natural disasters on lands in the country.

The Project for Regularization of Unplanned Development (PROUD) has been working to ensure that housing settlements proceed in an environmentally friendly and sustainable manner.

The Physical Development Act mandates that Environmental Impact Assessments must be carried out before developments take place on the island.

The Fisheries Department has been working very closely with the Soufriere Marine Management Association (SMMA) to bring to upper watershed dwellers and citizens of the country, an increased appreciation of the impacts of poor land conservation practices on the marine life and fishing industry.

The Talvern Watercatchment group has set the pace for rehabilitating lands in watercatchment locations in the country while at the same time providing economic benefit for their members.

The Forestry Department through its Forest Management activity has worked with community based groups, in particularly, the uses of Latanye (broom makers) in establishing plantation of latanye on dry marginal lands. This has served to purposed, firstly, a protective function and secondly, as a source of livelihoods to farmers, particularly women.

Under the EUREP-GAP Farmer Certification Program, farmers are mandated to practice better land conservation measures on their holdings.

The Forestry Department through its function as the National Focal Point for the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification has developed a National Awareness Plan and is finalizing a National Action Plan for combating land degradation in the country as well as, is in the process of completing a project for managing land degradation and rehabilitating degraded lands in the country.

Land on Saint Lucia is a finite resource. We are only 238 square miles or 616 square kilometers. Soil takes many centuries to be produced. We cannot afford to fritter away this important natural resource in any manner, shape or form. Our mountainous topography makes every inch of land in the country very critical as it is on the same body of land that housing and other activities must take place. All our land is important for water, soil and wildlife conservation especially that found in the protected areas of the island. Let us take great care to prevent further land degradation in the country. Let us cooperate with the policies that have been established for the maintenance and enhancement of our quality of life. Let us build roads and other infrastructure with conservation of the land as the base for protecting these developments. Let us maintain buffer zones along our rivers by securing our river banks with the appropriate vegetation. Let us be careful how we develop our steep slopes. Let us practice land conservation measures on our farm holdings or sustainable land management. The old adage, "Cut a tree, plant a tree", still holds and should be aggressively pursued by everyone.

With these few words, I bid everyone a meaningful celebration of the World Day to Combat Desertification. I thank you!

Agreement Signed for New Hotel at Malgretoute

The Government of Saint Lucia has signed a development agreement for the construction of a Mixed Use Hotel on lands partly owned by the Government and partly by Developers, Malgretoute Hotel Development Company Limited, at Malgretoute in Soufriere, site of the current senior citizens home.

The development involves the transformation of the Malgretoute site into a five star hotel boutique and spa, run by the world renowned Heritage Hotels, the construction of a new senior citizens home in La Tourney Vieux Fort and the relocation of the current tenants to the new modernised home .

Heritage Hotels Limited was represented, at the signing ceremony by its founder Stuart Le Gassick who stressed that the hotel is intended to be built in harmony with the exceptional natural habitat that has afforded Malgretoute its World Heritage status. He suggested it would be one of the best hotels in Saint Lucia, if not throughout the Caribbean that would provide greater

in conditions which are going to have medical facilities, in conditions where they are going to be spending the last days of their lives in comfort and where they will be well looked after.”

Government’s plans are to effect the transfer of the home for the Elderly and make the Malgretoute site available to the Malgretoute Hotel Development Company within 21 months of completion of the sale of the land. Stuart Le Gassick says that facilities that will be build for the elderly will be a considerable improvement on what currently exists at Malgretoute.

“I think that has been a point of the government and the talks that we’ve had are all about providing something better than what they’ve got at the moment which is a sort of a derelict building and is not a good environment for these people to live in. I think what’s intended by the Government is an improvement by 1,000 percent.

Work on the development has started and is expected to be completed in two years time.



Stuart Le Gassick of Heritage Hotels



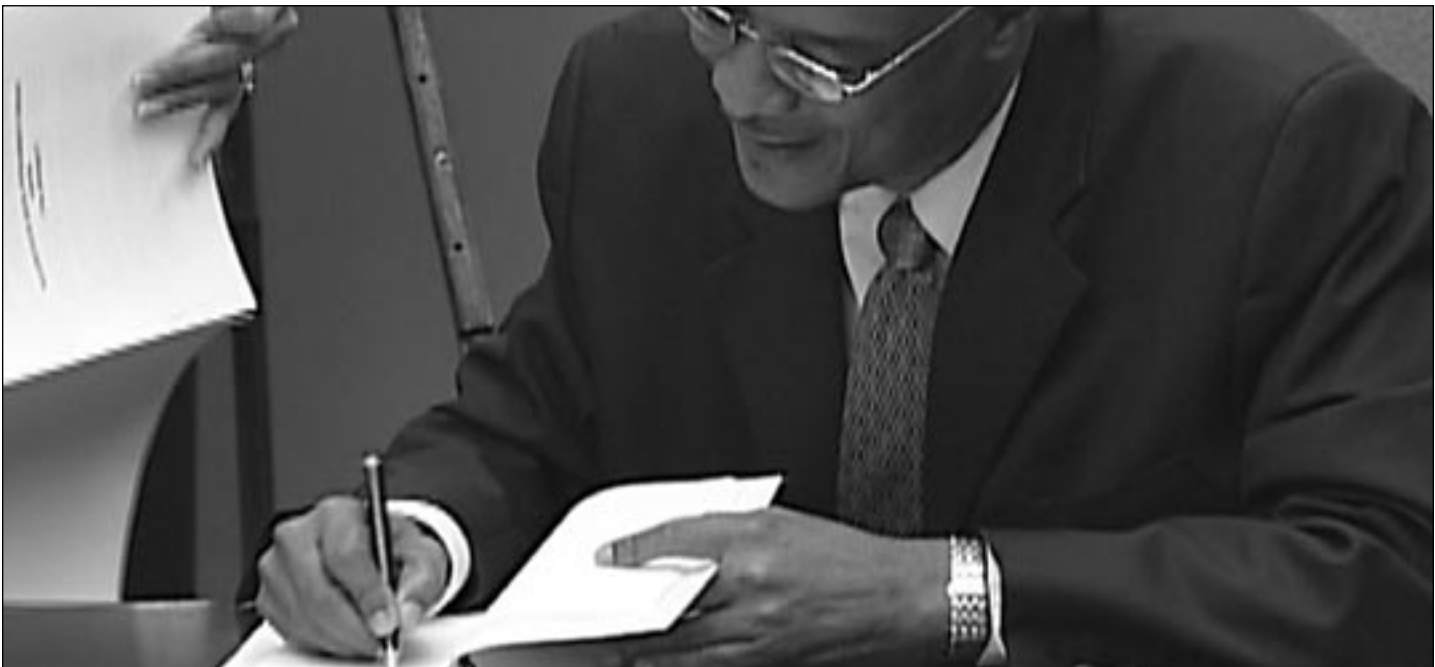
The master plan for the new hotel

scope for residents in the immediate community.

I would like to say that without the help of the Saint Lucia Government we would not be here today. Everybody worked together as a team to make this particular day and this deal happen. And we feel it is in everybody’s interest for employment, the home for the elderly. I think it will improve their life and lives of the people in Soufriere.”

Acting Prime Minister Felix Finisterre speaking during last Monday’s signing, commneted on the plan to re-loacte the home for the elderly.

“We are very pleased to note that we have agreed, as a prior condition to construction of your hotel, to ensure the construction of that property and that the people are adequately relocated



Acting Prime Minister Felix Finisterre signing the development agreement



Hon. Ignatius Jean
Minister for Agriculture

Intellectual Property is tangible proof of products created from human intellect. Once an idea or a creative process can be described it has potential to be intellectual property, for which a value can be assigned and which can be traded.

Intellectual property rights (IPRs) for short, are rights granted exclusively to protect inventions, innovations, or creations from being copied, reproduced or replicated without permission. Two main categories of products for which protection are granted include Intellectual Property and Copyright and related rights.

The granting of IPRs come from the belief that persons who create new products should be compensated for the time or money which was spent on the creation, on the assumption that it is a product that would be useful to others.

IPRs ensure that knowledge of certain processes or ideas becomes a private good that can be traded, and this is an incentive for inventors to produce new products.

IPRs in general and the patent system in particular, were established originally as a way to reward creativity and promote innovation. They allow the holder of the rights to recoup the investment in research required to develop the new invention, which can be quite substantial for high technology inventions.

Patents or copyright are granted on inventions or products which are novel, inventive, with a useful application and sufficiently described to allow verification, for a limited time period, usually 20 years, and are only valid in the country where they have been granted. Before the possibilities offered by modern technologies in the agricultural sector were available, inventions based on living organisms were considered natural phenomena, or discoveries, and were thus not patentable. However, developments in modern biotechnology require substantial levels of investment in research and development, and its processes and products can be easily copied. For the agricultural sector, plant variety protection provides protection to new plant varieties that have not been previously commercialized. The IPRs system provides a way of en-

Moves are afoot to introduce intellectual property legislation in St. Lucia and several other countries of the region, that speaks specifically to the protection of inventions in the agricultural sector.

The Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), the organization which is spearheading this initiative, on Monday June 26th 2006, commenced in St. Lu.

Only three CARICOM countries have enacted such legislation; they include Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago and Belize. Executive Director of CARDI Wendel Parham thinks the other countries of the region need to do more to educate their populations about these rights in conjunction with sensitization on intellectual property in the cultural sense, that is music and arts and craft.

"It is necessary but not sufficient to know the science and manipulation of the plant and animal material utilizing science to create and preserve new germplasm. We must also know of the breed.

Through its research CARDI has discovered that several of its creations of new varieties of plants that produce new varieties of seeds and produce have been used by many international organizations.

Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Honourable Ignatius Jean, who delivered an address to formally open the workshop said, that this is occurring at a loss to CARDI and the Region, which could be collecting royalties from these organization for the use of its creations. The following is the text of the Minister's address:

During the financial revenues required to make the technology investment profitable.

As a result of the economic value of intellectual property, a number of major conventions, treaties and organisations have been developed to protect it. The oldest of these organisations is the World Intellectual Property Organisation – an international organisation dedicated to ensuring that the rights of creators and owners of IP are protected. The majority of CARICOM Members States are members of WIPO.

The agreement on the Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property (TRIPS) was adopted by the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and has been made mandatory for Member States to adopt a minimum standard for protecting intellectual property by 2006.

Most of the TRIPs and other legal frameworks governing IP has implications for the agricultural sector, however the most important aspect of the agreement are those related to patents and plant varieties.

The International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants, known as "UPOV" is an intergovernmental agency which allows member countries to apply for "plant breeder's rights" through the use of a model application process. Barbados, Belize and Trinidad & Tobago are members of UPOV.

The region recognises the importance of the agricultural sector for food security, income generation, poverty alleviation and sustainable development. And the Jagdeo Initiative has identified a number of key binding constraints, which require a more competitive approach and the development of a range of new valued added products. Therefore agricultural and agri-business producers must be more creative and innovative in an effort to conquer new markets.

While the positive impact of the IPRs system on investments in research is not in question, at an international and regional level concerns have been raised regarding the ability of developing countries in particular to benefit from the use of IP.

One of these issues related to the fine line of difference between invention and discovery when dealing with living material, such as is the case of the isolation of a gene from its natural environment. Another question which raises considerable debate in crops is



Local agricultural products pictured in photos above and on page 5

the insertion of patented genetically modified organisms (GMOs) into existing organisms, thus bringing the entire organism under patent protection, often without compensating the owners or developers of the original plant variety. Coupled with this is the patenting of genetic resources native to developing countries.

In addition the patenting of technologies that are essential for the practical implementation of a wide range of other biotechnological processes has already had adverse impact on access to these technologies by agricultural researchers.

Developing countries have also expressed concern about the small number of transnational and multi-national corporations which own the majority of the patents, and are therefore in a position to engage in cross-licensing, exchanging or negotiating their patents. Thus for small developing countries such as the Caribbean region which do not have IPRs to trade may find licensing negotiations difficult and costly.

The impact of IPRs on agricultural biotechnology in developing countries therefore provides many opportunities for investment, involvement of the

responsibility to ensure that new technology products generated from our research, such as seeds, germplasm, crop varieties, livestock breeds, machinery, laboratory processes, industrial processes, research techniques, experimental techniques and publications, are protected.

The current global and legal framework means that our Governments and other stakeholders in agriculture and rural development need to identify, secure, manage and exploit the intellectual property we generate. Strategies must be designed to protect our research outputs as well as the materials generated throughout the various processes. Even as we examine potential opportunities for exploring strategic partnerships, we need to balance commercial obligations with obligations for poverty alleviation and sustainable livelihood issues. We need to examine carefully the conditions under which any joint arrangements are managed to ensure that we maintain the space and freedom to continue research and also to facilitate technology transfer. Farmers' rights and breeder's rights must be protected to ensure our future.

But time is of the essence. Over the past thirty years CARDI has generated/selected several new lines of crops such as rice, peanut, sorghum, tomato, pigeonpea, soybean and hot pepper. No protection has been obtained for these novel varieties mostly due to the undeveloped regional framework for protection. Even as we speak here today, CARDI's hot pepper variety – West Indies Red – is being sold on the Internet by some American company, with no royalties or financial return to the region which developed this product.

This seminar for CARDI staff will provide these regional researchers with new skills to support the region's capacity to better manage our intellectual property. CARDI is well placed to contribute to the coordination of management of IPR for agricultural research in collaboration with the Ministries of Agriculture, Trade and Health. CARDI has also been collaborating with CTA to promote farmer innovation, identification and development of indigenous technologies, which will require protection if it is to be of benefit to the region.

Governments must continue to do their part to ensure the success of this effort, in the face of challenges which have the potential to make research management a very complicated process. To this end we need to promote general awareness and understanding of the importance of IPs and also to encourage and introduce the management of IP rules as part of the day to day working environment. A database will facilitate the collection and organisation of IP related information and data coupled with the assignment of teams of researchers to manage the process. An appropriate policy framework which will define the requisite policies and mechanisms for using existing IPs and developing new IPs must form a major part of our response.



Developments in modern agricultural biotechnology require the use of several processes and products which in many cases can and already have been subject to patent protection. For an example, seventy techniques and materials used in developing one plant variant have been patented by 32 different parties.

private sector and for development of new production and value added technologies. In order for these benefits to be realized however, the region must improve the process of managing our intellectual property rights for the agricultural and related sector.

This will pose a considerable challenge. Notwithstanding, we have a

Agreement on Regional Development Fund Formula

The establishment of the regional Development Fund has now been assured with the general acceptance by participating Member States of a contribution formula put forward by the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and endorsed by CARICOM Ministers of Finance.

Addressing a regional press conference on Tuesday 20 June, CARICOM's Assistant Secretary-General for Regional Trade and Economic Integration, Mr. Irwin La Rocque said the formula had been finalised

by the CARICOM Council for Finance and Planning (COFAP) at its recent meeting in Jamaica.

Mr. La Rocque said the Ministers also decided that the Development Fund would be a separate legal entity with its own personality, and would be capitalised at US\$250M of which US\$100M would come from Member States via contributions, and \$20M from the Petroleum Fund operated by Trinidad and Tobago. The remainder will be sourced from donor contributions.

The CARICOM Assistant Secretary-General noted, too, that the Min-

isters of Finance "have also recommended to Heads the setting up of two task forces, one of which will be looking at the implementation of the Development Fund with a view to getting it implemented as quickly as possible, while the other will look at mobilising additional resources from the donor community."

He said "already the Secretary General of the Community and the Lead Head with responsibility for the CSME, the Rt. Hon Owen Arthur, have approached a number of donors and responses have been encouraging."

Mr. La Rocque said the Development Fund was considered "an instrument that will help us to transform the regional economy to help it to become more competitive." He noted that the Development Fund was grounded in Chapter 7 of the Revised Treaty which establishes the fund.

In underscoring the importance of the Development Fund to the operation of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME), Mr. La Rocque pointed out that "positive feedback" had already been received from potential donors.

Statement by the Secretary General of Caricom on The Inaugural Caribbean-American Heritage Month

We, the peoples of the Caribbean, both in the Homeland and in the Diaspora, will without doubt always remember the sixth month of the sixth year of the 21st century. It is both an historic and a momentous occasion, as on 5 June 2006 the President of the United States of America, George W. Bush, officially proclaimed June 2006 Caribbean-American Heritage Month.

For centuries, the United States of America has benefited from the contributions of the sons and daughters of the Caribbean. As stated by the President, "We celebrate the great contributions of the Caribbean-American, to the fabric of our nation and we pay tribute to the common culture and bonds of friendship that unite the United States and Caribbean Countries. Our nation has thrived as a country of immigrants and we are more vibrant and hopeful because of the talent, faith and values of Caribbean-Americans. For centuries Caribbean-Americans have enriched our society and added to the strength of America."

The President pointed to Caribbean-Americans being "leaders in Government, sports, entertainment, the arts and

many other fields." Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-Oakland), lead sponsor of the Bill which was passed in the Congress in February of this year, and to whom our profound gratitude goes, cites a long list of Caribbean people and their descendants in this regard, including: "Alexander Hamilton, Hazel Scott, Sidney Poitier, Jean Michelle Basquit, Eric Holder, Colin Powell, Susan Taylor, Edwidge Danticat, Kelsey Grammer, Jean Baptiste Point Du Sable, Roberto Clemente, Maryse Condé, Cecily Tyson, Harry Belafonte, Celia Cruz, Mervyn Dymally and Shirley Chisholm." Congresswoman Lee and her co-sponsors truly deserve our gratitude for providing the voice that strongly called for the recognition of the people of the Caribbean Diaspora.

In marking this historic step in the strengthening of ties between the Caribbean and the United States, it would be remiss not to pay tribute to the Institute of Caribbean Studies for the very important role it played in lobbying for the recognition of this month as Caribbean-American Heritage Month. Since 1999, the Institute has been observing June as Caribbean-American Heritage month. In addition, its efforts to make the celebrations nationwide this year

must be highly commended.

This is therefore, definitely a time for celebration for the people of the Caribbean, be they in the Homeland or in the Diaspora. In so doing however, let us not forget that there are even more valuable benefits to be gained from such an observance. And, while we greatly value and give due praise to the sterling contributions Caribbean-Americans have made to the United States in a wide variety of fields, we must always remember the intrinsic bonds that forever bind the Diaspora to the Caribbean region.

During the lecture series to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the Caribbean Community in 2003, the former Prime Minister of Jamaica, the Most Honourable P.J. Patterson used the occasion to speak directly to the Caribbean Diaspora. He was of the firm view that persons of Caribbean descent needed to come together to advance concerns of common interest to all CARICOM countries, concerns relating to trade and investment issues, developments in US immigration policy, security matters, the narcotics trafficking, gun-smuggling and criminal deportees. The Caribbean Diaspora, he emphasised, needed to continue as an

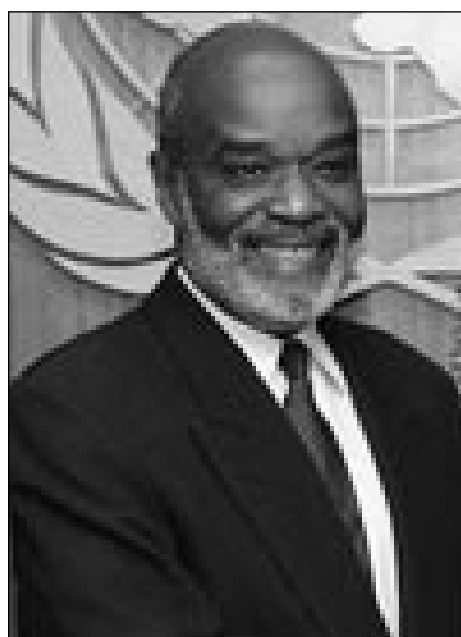


**Caricom Secretary General
Edwin Carrington**

essential partner in Caribbean civilisation. All needed to be involved!

It is in this spirit that it behoves us all to keep working to strengthen the ties that already exist between the peoples of the Caribbean and of the United States, as we launch this inaugural Caribbean-American Heritage Month.

Preval Delighted at Haiti's Return



Haitian President Rene Preval

His Excellency Rene Garcia Preval, the President of Haiti, expressed his great delight at his country's resumption of formal arrangements with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

The President was speaking during a meeting with CARICOM Secretary-General, His Excellency Edwin Car-

ington, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, on Friday 23 June. The Secretary-General, accompanied by the Assistant Secretary-General for Foreign and Community Relations, Ambassador Colin Granderson, and Chairman of the CARICOM Task Force on Haiti, Mr Hugh Cholmondeley, brought the President up to date on current issues in the Community. He also briefed him on the preparations for the forthcoming 27th Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government.

In addressing the agenda for that meeting, scheduled for St Kitts and Nevis from 3-6 July, 2006, Secretary-General Carrington told President Preval that the Community was looking forward eagerly to the Haitian leader's participation in the Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government.

The President indicated that he, too, was eager for Haiti to resume its place in the Councils of CARICOM, and requested that a team from the Community come to Haiti immediately after the Meeting of the Conference to work with officials there on facilitating and providing support for Haiti's resumption of its participation in the operations of the Community.

The Secretary-General assured the President of the full support of the rest of CARICOM for his efforts in pursuit of the development of Haiti – CARICOM's newest Member State. He confirmed that the Community would be ready to lend any assistance it can in such areas as determined by Haiti.

President Preval touched on certain

areas of immediate concerns including some which were outside the formal CARICOM structure including among the Universities of the Community.

The Secretary-General and his team leave Haiti on Saturday to return to the Secretariat headquarters in Guyana to finalise preparations for the upcoming Heads of Government Meeting.

Caricom to consider expanding skills national regime in CSME

A case for the inclusion of artisans, nurses, domestics and teachers to move freely as skilled nationals under the CARICOM Single Market and Economy will be presented to Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community when the 27th Regular Meeting of the Conference convenes in St. Kitts and Nevis early next month.

In reporting on the progress made in the region since the establishment of the CARICOM Single Market on January 1st, last year, CARICOM's Assistant Secretary General for Regional Trade and Economic Integration, Mr. Irwin La Rocque said on Tuesday June 20th that 3,500 free movement certificates have already been issued

by Member states.

These were some of the issues raised as the CARICOM Secretariat engaged the regional media in a briefing, conducted via video conferencing.

He noted that as part of the exercise to expand the categories of skilled persons eligible for free movement under the Treaty, several member states have conducted national research and will present their findings to the Conference for consideration.

CARICOM Secretary General Mr. Edwin Carrington expressed optimism that the remaining member states will sign onto the Single Market by the 30th of June deadline before the upcoming Meeting of the Conference.

NCC AND CADETS MOURN ROGER EUDOXIE

THE NATIONAL CRIME COMMISSION REMEMBERS ROGER EUDOXIE



Linwall James of the National Crime Commission

The National Crime Commission (NCC) is deeply saddened by the death of Mr. Roger Eudoxie who passed away Thursday 23rd June after a long illness at age 54 years.

The National Crime Commission expresses sincere condolences to his wife and two daughters who were a source of inspiration to him and his greatest devotion.

Mr. Eudoxie was the former Chairman of the NCC having served in that post from the inception of the Commission in 2003 to 2006 when his illness forced

him to retire from active duty with the Commission.

Mr. Eudoxie is a consummate community worker with long periods of distinguished service in a number of organizations.

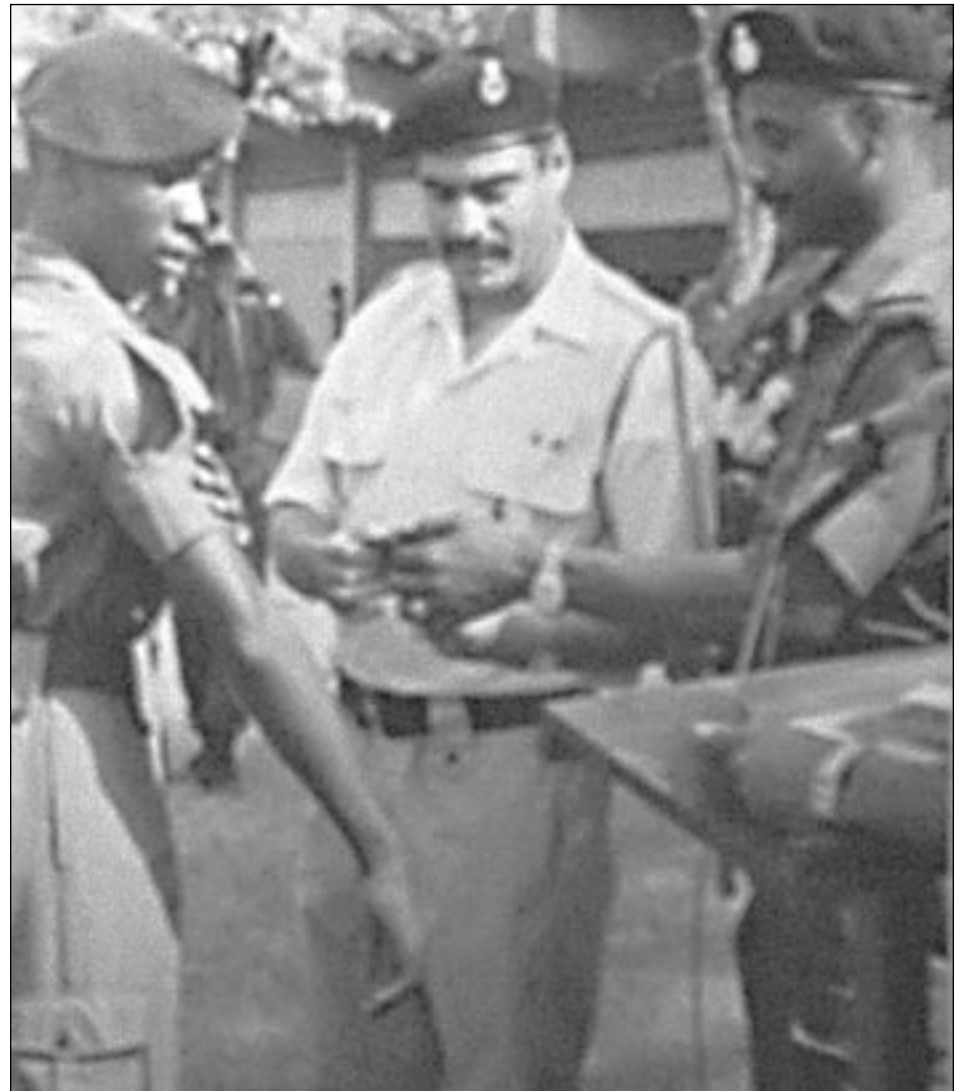
Mr. Eudoxie was a Senator from 1992 to 1997, a businessman, owner of Sentinel Security and the Friendship Inn. He served as Chairman of the Red Cross and was ADC to the Governor General. He was awarded the Member of the Victoria Order for serving as Equerry to the Queen during one of her visits to St. Lucia.

Mr. Eudoxie had a passion for training and discipline, particularly for young men. This was demonstrated in his long commitment to the St. Lucia Cadets taking the reins of the St. Lucia Cadet Corps in 1973 and serving with distinction for 25 years.

His other accomplishments include service to the St. Lucia Private Security Industry Association as President, President of the Lions Club and District Governor of Lions International.

Mr. Eudoxie was a strong advocate for personal and national security and contributed tremendously to the consolidation of private security operations in St. Lucia.

As Chairman of the National Crime Commission he gave phenomenal support to national crime intervention efforts. He has over the years promoted the need for a Victims Survey and Research and Development Unit as necessary support structures for crime fighting.



The late Major Roger Eudoxie (centre)

Under his leadership the NCC presided over island wide town hall meetings to facilitate community participation in crime fighting. He provided the vision for two exhibitions in the North and South of the island exposing the business community and private citizens to the various technology and resources available for security of person

and business.

Mr. Eudoxie will be remembered by those he worked with on the Board of the Commission as a man who was willing to give advice and assistance when called upon, encouraging all around him in their private pursuits of professional and personal development. May his soul rest in peace.

STATEMENT FROM THE CADET CORPS ON THE DEATH OF MAJOR ROGER EUDOXIE, MVO, SLPM (Gold) A LIFE OF DUTY



A section of the St. Lucia Cadet Corps

It is with deep sadness that the Rank and File of the Saint Lucia Cadet Corps is mourning the death of Major Roger Eudoxie, MVO, SLPM, a former Commandant of the organization.

Major Eudoxie died in Miami, USA, last Friday, where he was undergoing treatment for cancer.

After some thirty [30] years of dedicated and loyal service to the Cadet Corps, Major Eudoxie officially retired from the movement on August 14, 1995, when he presided over the closing parade of the Annual Cadet Summer Camp on the grounds of the

Police Training School. The occasion also marked the handing over of the banner of the Saint Lucia Cadet Corps his then Deputy Commandant Major Curtis Glace, signifying the change in leadership of the organization.

Major Eudoxie joined the Corps in September 1965, as a student of St. Mary's College, the origin of cadetting in Saint Lucia. He moved up to all ranks within the movement – from Private to Major.

During his stint in the Corps, Major Eudoxie attended several overseas camps, including Barbados, Dominica and Canada, and was in charge of the

Windward Islands Association of Cadet Corps' contingent in St. Vincent in 1973. He also attended several cadet courses, including the Cadet Officers Indoctrination Course in London and Canada in 1972, as well as the Senior Officers Political Warfare Course in Taipei, Taiwan, Republic of China in 1987. He also represented the Corps at several Commandants' Conferences, regionally and internationally.

Through his association with the Corps, Major Eudoxie has had some distinguishing affiliating with members of the British Royal Family, serving as Equerry to Princess Alexandra in 1979, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in 1985 and Prince Charles in 1989. He was made a Member of the Royal Victorian Order (MVO) in 1985.

From 1973 to 1977, he served as Aide-de-Camp to former Governor General Sir Allen Lewis, and also had short stint with Sir Ira Simmons. In 1994, Major Eudoxie was awarded the Saint Lucia Piton Medal (Gold) for outstanding service to the Cadet Corps and community. He also served as a Senator in the Saint Lucia Parliament.

Major Eudoxie's life exemplified his position of national duty with the sole objective being to help his fellow man, in particular Saint Lucia and its young people. He was not a man of fanfare but of quiet determination and though he may be best remembered for his links to the Cadet Corps, he was also a member of a number of service

groups, the Lions Club of Saint Lucia in particular, and was very active in the security sector, to which he formed his own company in Sentinel Security Company Limited. It is for this reason that his death is mourned not only by the Cadet Corps movement in Saint Lucia and the wider Caribbean, which he dedicated his life to so selflessly and steadfastly, but also by all Saint Lucians.

The Cadet Corps will remember Major Eudoxie for the following reasons: his positive role model as an officer and a gentleman; his role in helping to bring the Cadet movement to greater National prominence by serving as Aide-de-Camp to two outstanding Governors General; for his selflessness in giving of his time and energy towards the development of the Saint Lucia Cadet Corps; someone you could always seek advice from, and never refused to do so; for his determination in seeing the re-establishment of the Annual Caribbean Cadet Summer Exchange Camp; the establishment of the Caribbean Cadet Commandants' Conference.

Even after his retirement from the Corps, Major Eudoxie was always there to help with the continued development of the movement through his advice, encouragement, leadership and constant availability.

The Commandant, Officers and Rank & File of the Saint Lucia Cadet Corps wish to extend their sincerest condolences to the family of the late Major Roger Eudoxie. His life's work has ended, but his journey continues. May his soul rest in peace.

OECS Raises New Flag



The design of the new OECS Flag

The Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) marked an historic point in its existence, Wednesday, June 21st, when it raised the first ever OECS flag before OECS Heads of Government, regional and international officials, and members of the public, on the compound of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB), in St. Kitts/Nevis.

The flag raising is among a number of high profile events being held this year to mark the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Basseterre, which established the OECS on June 18th 1981. The large gathering was

told that the flag and colour scheme represent a positive celebration of the sub-region, while never losing a sense of formality, projecting the OECS as a meaningful and increasingly strong voice within the Caribbean sea.

The flag has an internal ring which shows the nine elements of the OECS, evolving into nine points of contact, radiating from the core, out into the region and beyond. There is an outer "O" which is for the OECS and which is circled by another ring, representing the world at large. The double ring gives the flag a constant dynamism, indicative of movement and growth.

The central core of the flag, also



Gordon Keddie and Philippa Samuel-Keddie, representatives of Present Image Design Limited, the designers of the flag and Rodinald Soomer, OECS, coordinator of the competition to select the winning design, at the OECS meeting in St. Kitts last week

carries a resemblance of a blossoming flower, and a tertiary resemblance of science and technology. The colours are fresh and clean, optimistic and bright as a "refreshed Caribbean" moving out to meet new opportunities, while the formal dark blue retains a firm, corporate and establishment influence. In addition to the flag, the new design will also be used as the new OECS logo, replacing the current logo which is designed as a handshake encircled by nine points and stars.

The flag, logo and logotype were designed and developed for the OECS by Present Image Design Limited, a Total Identity Development and Image

Management Company, located in St. Lucia. The company was represented and acknowledged at the flag raising ceremony.

OECS UNVEILS NEW ECONOMIC UNION TREATY

The OECS on Wednesday unveiled a new Economic Union Treaty as celebrations continue for the 25th anniversary of the sub-regional integration movement. The new Treaty will guide the thrust by the OECS region to create an Economic Union among Member States, and replaces the Treaty of Basseterre which established the OECS on June 18th 1981.

Heads of Government signed a Declaration of Intent in support of the Treaty which now goes to the OECS public for a year-long period of consultation. The Treaty is expected to be signed by the Heads on July 1st 2007 followed by ratification by their respective par-

liaments. Following is the Text of the Declaration of Intent signed by the OECS Heads of Government:

WE, the Heads of Government of the Member States of the OECS meeting in St. Kitts on the 21st day of June 2006 who have affixed their signature hereunder;

RECALLING that the decision to strengthen cooperation between our respective states and peoples and establish common institutions is enshrined in the Treaty of Basseterre on 1981;

CONVINCED that continued social and economic development in a challenging global environment requires greater cooperation and collaboration in the elaboration and execution of de-

velopment policies for the benefit of all our peoples;

RECOGNISING that the benefits realized under the Treaty of Basseterre will be enshrined through establishment of an Economic Union;

DETERMINED that the benefits of cooperation resulting from an Economic Union should be shared equitably among all our members;

MINDFUL that our States while being an integral part of CARICOM are a distinct group with special shared peculiarities of an economic and social nature;

NOW SOLEMNLY AFFIRM our commitment to the establishment of an OECS Economic Union by 1st July 2007.



(left) Outgoing Chairman of the OECS, Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and (right) Foreign Minister Petrus Compton of St. Lucia signing the Declaration of Intent.



THIS WEEK ON NTN

Sat. July 1st to Fri. July 7th 2006
NTN – PROVIDING INFORMATION YOU NEED

Every year the Ministry of Education organises the Schools' Maths & Science Fair: Discover exciting projects – Sat. July 1st, 10:10 a.m.

Inter-secondary schools sports 2006 – exciting and competitive: – Sun. July 2nd, 11:30 a.m.

The Youth Apprenticeship Programme – destined to assist the unemployed – get the facts – Mon. July 3rd 6:15 p.m.

Poised to take off: The Agri-Tourism Link – Tues. July 4th, 8:00 p.m.

Governor General Dame Pearllette Louisy speaks about her life and future plans – Wed. July 5th, 8:00 p.m.

The Desmond Skeete Animation Centre: more than meets the eye – Thurs. June 6th, 8:30 p.m.

Venezuela: A 21st Century Revolution – Fri. July 7th, 7:10 p.m.

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

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

www.stlucia.gov.lc

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Contact us at: The Department of Information Services, Greaham Louisy Administrative Building, The Waterfront, Castries, St. Lucia, West Indies
Tel: (758) 468 2116; Fax (758) 453 1614; E-mail: gis@candw.lc; <http://stlucia.gov.lc>