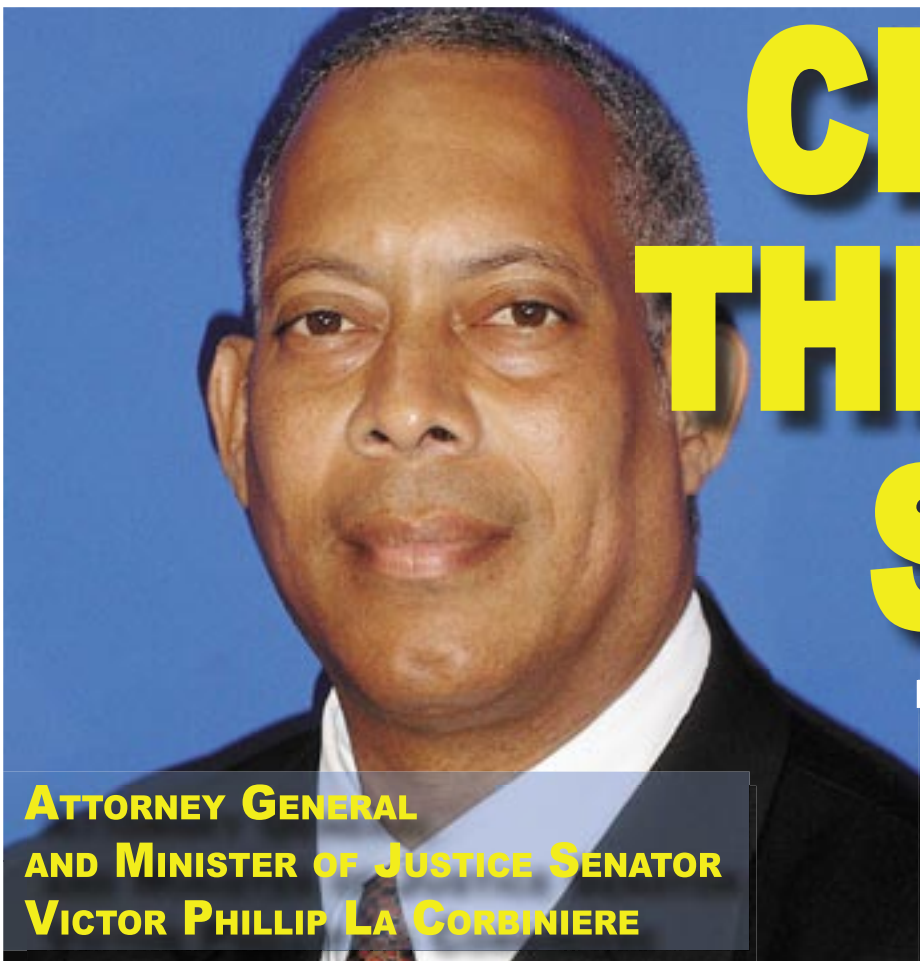




# NATIONWIDE

A publication of the Department of Information Services



**ATTORNEY GENERAL  
AND MINISTER OF JUSTICE SENATOR  
VICTOR PHILLIP LA CORBINIERE**

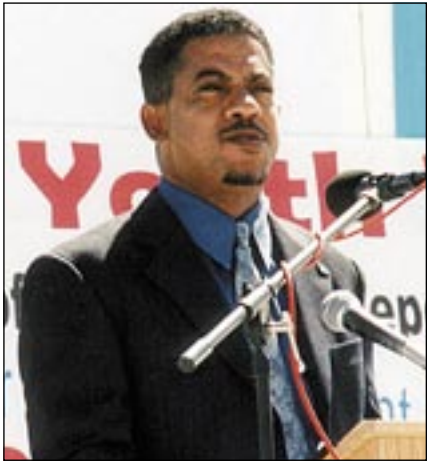
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# YOUTH TOLD: FACTORY OF NATIONAL GENIUS NOT CLOSED



Hon. Mario Michel

**A**llow me to commence my brief address to you this morning by bringing greetings and best wishes to everyone present here today and to those following the proceedings on the electronic media for a happy twenty seventh independence anniversary.

Twenty seven years may seem like a very long time to the majority of you who are gathered here today, since most of you were not yet conceived twenty seven years ago. But to others it might seem like only yesterday that the Union Jack – the red, white and blue flag of Great Britain – was lowered at the wharf in Castries and the black, white, blue and gold flag of St. Lucia was proudly hoisted on February 22nd 1979 to signal the birth of our nation.

But whatever may be one's perception of the time which has elapsed since our attainment of nationhood twenty seven years ago today, the fact is that we have achieved much since then.

Focusing for present purposes only on major achievements in the sectors of Education, Human Resource Development, Youth & Sports, we can highlight the following:

(1) We achieved universal primary education, so that every child in St. Lucia is guaranteed a place in primary school at age 5.

(2) We have eliminated the shift system which had deprived hundreds of primary school students of a full day of schooling.

(3) We have moved from 5 five-form secondary schools in St. Lucia at the time of our attainment of independence to 20 at present and with another 4 to be operationalised by the end of this year.

(4) We have established a reputable national community college offering certificate, diploma and associate degree

programmes in a range of disciplines and offering as well first, second and even full bachelor's degree programmes of the University of the West Indies.

(5) We have trained thousands of young St. Lucians in all professions and disciplines, to the extent that we now have or are approaching an over supply of lawyers, doctors and engineers, in addition to persons trained in fields like management, agriculture and psychology.

(6) We have established, recognized and institutionalized a National Youth Council in St. Lucia and formulated a National Youth Policy.

(7) We have built the most modern state-of-the-art national stadium in the Caribbean today, catering to football and track and field.

(8) We have built the best cricket ground in the Caribbean, which will next month host the first ever international night cricket matches to be played in the region.

(9) We have also seen the establishment of several other sporting facilities in St. Lucia, both by the private sector – like the tennis center, the squash court, the 18-hole golf course and the aquatic center – and by government – like the Vigie Multi Purpose Complex, the Phillip Marcellin Ground and several new and improved playing fields and courts around St. Lucia.

(10) Of course our major human resource achievement since independence is the award of Nobel prizes to two of our native sons – the late Sir Arthur Lewis and the living literature legend, the Honourable Derek Walcott.

But there is still so much to be achieved and it is your turn now – the youth and students of St. Lucia – to contribute to these achievements.

We have given the world Sir Arthur Lewis and his brother, Sir Allen; we have given the world Derek Walcott and his brother, Roddy; but the factory which produces national genius is not closed, and any of you students here today can become a major contributor to your country in the future. But it is now that you must put in the effort.

Even without trying to achieve genius though, our youth and students must work hard just so as to be able to deal with the realities which will confront them in the immediate future.

## ADDRESS DELIVERED BY HONOURABLE MARIO MICHEL MINISTER OF EDUCATION, HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, YOUTH AND SPORTS AT THE NATIONAL YOUTH RALLY VIGIE SPORTS COMPLEX WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 22, 2006



Young Violinists at the Youth Rally

Our country will as of June this year become part of a Caribbean Single Market in which goods and services will trade freely between the countries of the Caribbean. By 2008 it is expected to become part of a single Caribbean economy when the full Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME) becomes operational and then there will be no barriers to the free movement of people and money between the countries of the Caribbean. At that time your birth certificate will not be enough to secure you a job in your country and you will need some other certificate to show academic or technical competence in order to guarantee you employment. That is why we have insisted that universal secondary education will be ushered in this year – the year of the single market – and that as of this year every child sitting the Common Entrance Exam will be offered a place in secondary school; and that by 2008 – the year of the single economy – no child will leave school in St. Lucia without attaining a secondary education. We have no choice, unless we want to condemn our children to a life of roaming the Caribbean in search of crumbs from the table of regional integration.

But students, I want to caution you that universal secondary education is not a license to slack off on your school work in the certain knowledge that you will have a guaranteed place in secondary school. On the contrary, it should cause you to realize what the new minimum standards of educational attainment are and why, therefore,

you need to work even harder than the students before you.

The world is changing, and while in many respects it may be changing for the better, there is no doubt about the fact that it is becoming better and better for those who are prepared to put in more effort and achieve more, but much more difficult for those who are not prepared to put in the effort.

I want therefore to appeal to you students to give of your best in these formative years of your life – the youthful years that will determine the quality of your adult life. If you use these student years well you will at least ensure that you become in the future the best adult that you have the potential to be, as opposed to one who goes through adult life regretting the time wasted in your youth. So be good, disciplined students and try your best to achieve as much as your abilities will allow you to – whether in academics, in sports or in other enrichment activities.

As a government we will continue to do the best that we can to lay the foundation for you, but it is you who must build the house of your future. So go out there students and give of your best – whether at Minimum Standards Test, Common Entrance Exams or CXC's, in sports, in culture or in your school enrichment programmes. Your future depends on you. And remember: "Se payi nou – pouvwa se ca nou" (it is our country – the power is ours).

I thank you.

## PM Appeals for 'Patience and Understanding' as Major Infrastructural Works Begin in the North

**P**rime Minister Dr Kenny D. Anthony has appealed for the patience and understanding of Citizens of Castries and the North of the island as major infrastructural works continue to improve the road network, the water supply and flood mitigation.

The Prime Minister is calling on St. Lucians to be careful on the roads and to exercise patience. He said the major infrastructural works in the city and the north "will cause inconveniences and patience will run thin," but he urged citizens, commuters, drivers and pedestrians that "while the road will be rough, please bear it as it is all for the better."

According to Dr Anthony, these inconveniences are for the sake of development and citizens should bear patience, as the results will benefit all.

Prime Minister Anthony noted that in this period immediately following our 27th Inde-

pendence Anniversary celebrations, several major infrastructural projects have either begun or are continuing into other phases, while others are just about to begin.

The projects concerned include the second phase of the East Coast Road Rehabilitation Project, continuation of the Castries Flood Mitigation Project, the start of work on the rehabilitation of the Castries-Gros Islet Highway and improvement of the water supply to the North.

The second phase of the East Coast rehabilitation programme, from the La Toc Highway to the Praslin Bridge, started on February 24 and has been continuing, mainly by night, along the La Toc Highway.

The contract for the Gros Islet Highway rehabilitation has been signed and sealed and work is expected to begin soon. The work on the highway to Gros Islet will also coincide with water works aimed at in-

creasing the supply of water to residents of the north via the route of the highway.

Another project concerns the works associated with the \$22.5 million water improvement project funded by the World Bank to improve the water supply to the north from the Roseau Dam.

Work continues on the Chaussee Road sec-

tion of the Castries flood mitigation project and the time frame for its completion has been extended to allow for correctional works on pipes already laid.

In addition, the section of the project along Jn Baptiste Street to link the newly constructed drain to the outfall in the harbour is due to begin by next week.

The Prime Minister says these works will continue and he projects that similar inconveniences will occur when other major projects come on stream in the coming weeks and following the presentation of the 2006-2007 Budget, which is expected in April.



Road construction on the East Coast Highway

# CHANGING THE JUSTICE SYSTEM TO FIGHT CRIME



Attorney General and Minister of Justice Senator Victor Phillip La Corbiniere

Attorney General and Minister of Justice Senator Victor Phillip La Corbiniere, who demitted office as a Senator on Thursday in order to contest the up coming Central Castries By – election for the St. Labour Party, has said that changes being implemented in the island’s justice system are helping in the fight against crime in the country.

Speaking to St. Lucia Nationwide on his year in office so far, Mr. La Corbiniere rejected the criticism that the Justice System was not helping to control the problem of crime in St. Lucia. He cited the recent measures undertaken to improve on the functioning, efficiency and speed of the justice system as factors which were having a positive impact in the battle against crime.

The principal measures were the establishment of a Prosecuting Service and a dedicated Criminal Court. “With the Prosecuting Service we have brought together all of the prosecutors under the direction of the Director of Public Prosecutions and what we have done is to ensure that she has the day to day control of the case load and how it is structured and how it goes through the courts and that gives, we hope, a greater measure of accountability in the process. The establishment of the dedicated Criminal Court for sittings of the criminal court should lend to a greater level of speed and efficiency in the discharge of criminal cases.”

The Attorney General pointed out that while this Prosecuting Service was set up in Castries, the Government was about to create a similar service in Vieux Fort and “with all the officers for Vieux Fort already identified, the Southern Prosecuting Ser-

vice will be operational very shortly.” However Mr. La Corbiniere conceded that the justice system had not yet found all of the adequate solutions to the problem of rising crime and admitted that there were areas of weakness in the system which still need to be looked at, the major one being the magistracy which he called “the Achilles heel of the system”.

“We have stated as matter of policy, in our discussions with the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court, that the time has come for a more effective rationalization of the court system which would allow for the magistracy to be completely absorbed in terms of the discharge of responsibilities, completely absorbed under the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court so that it would have a tighter control over the magistracy and man the District Court in the same way that it has been doing across the board for the High Court and the Court of Appeal.”

The Minister added that the restructuring of the magistracy would also entail the separation of the judicial and administrative functions currently carried out by magistrates because court administration now had to be professionalized and taken away from the magistracy so that the magistracy could concentrate on its judicial role.

Mr. La Corbiniere identified the police

as another area of weakness in the system. However in his opinion the issue with the Police had more to do with accountability and proper structural arrangements rather than inadequate resources for the Police Force. He believed that there was a growing recognition of this view and this was being reflected in a shift in approach by the authorities in dealing with the Police.

The Minister explained that the Government was adopting a structured approach to tackling crime and that meant bringing a number of elements together, since one could not leave the issues of crime to the Police alone. These elements were an effective court system for criminal jurisdiction, the police and a rethinking of some of the social issues related to crime, for example dealing with juvenile justice and rehabilitation issues particularly for juveniles. “We cannot pretend that the juvenile issue is not fundamental in this equation since many of the criminals now are between the ages of 16 to 25 years.”

Mr. La Corbiniere resigned from the Senate on Thursday, one day before nominations closed for the Central Castries by – election since, according to Section 27 of the country’s Constitution, he cannot remain a Senator at the point of being elected to Parliament or at the point of nomination for election to Parliament.

# Beausejour Cricket Ground Lights Up

St. Lucia’s state of the art national cricket stadium, the Beausejour Cricket Ground (BCG) was ablaze with light on Tuesday evening when Prime Minister, Dr. Kenny Anthony officially switched on the lights that give the ground the capability of staging cricket matches at night. The new lighting facilities at the Ground make St. Lucia the only country in West Indies cricket which can host night matches and they maintain the BCG’s reputation as being the best cricket stadium in the region which is now preparing to host the ICC Cricket World Cup in 2007. St. Lucia will be the venue for a semi final game in the Cricket World Cup as well as for matches in the Blue Group comprising, England, New Zealand, Canada and Kenya. The new lighting facilities are part of the improvements being made to the ground in preparation for the Cricket World Cup.

At the brief ceremony marking the occasion of the switching on of the lights, Prime Minister Anthony said that he was elated with what he described as a very significant investment and he applauded those behind the idea. “I think it is a tremendous testimony to the vision not only of our Minister of Sports, Hon. Mario Michel and Ernest Hilaire, but more importantly I am excited about the prospects for St. Lucians. It means that they have



PM Anthony switching on the lights

an alternative means of leisure. I could well imagine that in the near future hundreds could come here with their families and enjoy the experience.”

The historic occasion was also marked by a ceremonial 25 over game between a team representing the local media and one representing the Local Organising Committee of the Cricket World Cup. The latter became the first team to win a game at the BCG under lights, defeating the media by 58 runs. A large crowd turned up for the historic event



Minister of Sports Mario Michel also switches on lights

Meanwhile the first international games under lights at the BCG will be played on March 9th and 11th when the West Indies A team will clash with England A in two day/night One Day Internationals. This will be followed by a day/night game between the West Indies senior team and Zimbabwe on May 10th.

CEO of Cricket World Cup St. Lucia Inc, Ernest Hilaire says that the installation of the lights at the BCG is part of

a strategic development plan to ensure that St. Lucia’s facility remains at the forefront in the hosting of international matches since other stadia are being improved upon and constructed in the region.

“The first addition to the BCG was the improvement to the drainage system which now has a herring bone pattern; the second component was adding the lights and of course we are viewing it in terms of the future development of cricket. 20/20 is the next wave of cricket development and by having the lights we have strategically positioned ourselves where we can host 20/20 matches and keep St. Lucia in the forefront for being a venue for cricket.”

The lighting system consists of towers carrying 36 to 40 lights each with each light having a power of 1500 watts. The system is powered by two generators

The Beausejour Cricket Ground is the second major sports stadium built by the St. Labour Party Government since it came into office in 1997, the other being the National Stadium at Vieux Fort, constructed with Chinese Government assistance.



The LOC Team



The Media Team



# Order of the Saint Lucia 2006 Investiture Ceremony



**Dr. Jimmy Fletcher**  
Cabinet Secretary who delivered  
following Introductory Remarks

**W**elcome to the 2006 Investiture Ceremony for the Order of Saint Lucia. This year, we celebrate our twenty-seventh anniversary of the attainment of Independence under the theme “Se peyi nou, pouvwa-a se san nou”, which translated means “It is our country, the power is ours”.

This theme is significant for a number of reasons. The first and perhaps most obvious significance of the theme is that it is acclaimed in our native Kweyol language. This represents another in a series of deliberate acts directed at ensuring that our Kweyol language assumes its rightful place in our culture, our society and our every-day lives, or to paraphrase the comments of the Chancellor of the Order of Saint Lucia on the publication of ‘Frank’s Dictionary of Saint Lucian Kweyol’, it is another firm step on the road to reclaiming our own voices.

The second element of significance is the fact that the theme underscores the point that Saint Lucia is our country; it belongs to each and every one of us. That point often appears to be lost when we see and hear of acts of careless and irresponsible destruction of person, property and patrimony by a small minority of Saint Lucians who seem oblivious to the fact that with every such act, we are destroying “the land that gave us birth”. While on their own the individual acts may appear to be insignificant and inconsequential, when they are woven together they form a hideous patchwork quilt of disrespect and discord, which is slowly disfiguring the lovely tapestry that characterises life in Saint Lucia.

However, our theme also recognises the fact that the Power is Ours to ensure that this “land of beaches, hills and valleys” remains the “fairest isle of all the earth”. Permit me once again to quote the Chancellor of the Order of

## They Used Their Power To Improve The Quality Of Saint Lucian Life

# THE 2006 AWARDEES

Saint Lucia, who in her 2005 Throne Speech stated the following:

“We cannot turn the blind eye and expect to see the light. We cannot smile quietly at each other’s misfortunes and not expect the same to be visited upon ourselves... We cannot stay silent in the night and then make a mighty noise when the sun rises”. “As law abiding citizens, we are all custodians of our country; we are all responsible for the preservation of our cherished way of life”.

In her customary and now trademark eloquence, Her Excellency, on the opening of the Fifth Session of the Eighth Parliament, reminded all of us of our responsibility to safeguard our common future. In other words, pouvwa-a se san nou to determine the type of Saint Lucia that evolves in the coming years. If individually and collectively, we harness that power and use it positively and effectively, then the world is our oyster. If however, we abdicate our responsibility and relinquish that power to those who wish to take us to a state of constantly increasing entropy, then just as the Second Law of Thermodynamics suggests, we will see a gradual degradation of the quality of our energy and our life, and our culture and our society will die. At this point, I would like to apologise sincerely to all of my former Physical Chemistry lecturers for my very liberal interpretation of this fundamental principle of Physical Chemistry.

Today, however, we are here to celebrate persons who not only recognised the power that they possessed to improve the quality of life for Saint Lucians and for their country Saint Lucia, but used that power to positive effect. If you will allow me to stay a little longer on the thermodynamics theme, because by now I can do no more damage to the work of Clausius and Carnot – the fathers of thermodynamics – than I have done already, then it would be fair for me to say that each of today’s recipients is living proof of the theory of the First Law of Thermodynamics – they converted the innate energy that they possessed, the ‘potential’ energy so to speak, into another vibrant and powerful kinetic or creative energy that continues to contribute to the construction of a better Saint Lucia. You see, according to the First Law of Thermodynamics, the energy of the universe remains constant: it cannot be created or destroyed, merely transferred from one system to another. Our award recipients discovered how to transfer the energy from themselves to the people and systems around them.



2006 Awardees with Her Excellency the Governor General



**Her Excellency the Governor General Dame Pearllette Louisy, Chancellor of the Order of Saint Lucia and Dr. Leton Thomas**  
holder of the Saint Lucia Cross



**Patricia Ann Volney, The Public Service Long Service Award (The Saint Lucia Prison Service)**



**Bertram Fontenelle, The Public Service Long Service Award (The Saint Lucia Prison Service)**



**Eleanor Grant Collymore**  
Les Pitons Medal Gold



**Jones Jn Baptiste**  
The Public Service Long Service Award (The Teaching Service)



**Raymond Henry Biscette**  
The Public Service Long Service Award (The Saint Lucia Air and Sea Ports Police)



**Luther Francois**  
Medal of Honour Gold



**Felicia Mc Farlane**  
Medal of Merit Silver



**Mary Clara Edwards**  
Les Pitons Medal Silver



**Shela Cecile Charlemagne**  
The Public Service Long Service Award (The Public Service)



**Samuel Eugene**  
The Public Service Long Service Award (The Saint Lucia Air and Sea Ports Police)



**Dr. Susan King**  
Medal of Merit Gold



**Clarissa Dwarkasingh**  
Medal of Merit Silver



**Theresa Howell**  
Les Pitons Medal Bronze



**Joan Morgiana Dolcy Charles**  
The Public Service Long Service Award (The Public Service)



**Augustin Mathurin**  
The Public Service Long Service Award (The Royal Saint Lucia Police Force)



**Lawrence Laurent**  
Medal of Merit Gold



**Gertrude St. Helene**  
Les Pitons Medal Gold



**Frankie Gustave**  
Les Pitons Medal Bronze



**Henry David Pierre**  
The Public Service Long Service Award (The Royal Saint Lucia Police Force)



**Gloria Mathurin Cyril**  
The Public Service Long Service Award (The Saint Lucia Fire and Emergency Services)

# JAMAICA'S PORTIA

## A Triumph For Caribbean Women

### Says P M Anthony

**P** Prime Minister Dr Kenny D. Anthony says the election of a woman as the next Prime Minister of Jamaica is a triumph not only for her but also for all the women of Jamaica and the rest of the Caribbean.

In a message of congratulations to Mrs Portia Simpson-Miller on her election as the new President of the ruling People's National Party (PNP), Dr Anthony noted that "it's a tribute to the women of your country and our region that you have been chosen for the task of leading your country in these challenging times."

Prime Minister Anthony congratulated Mrs Simpson Miller "for executing a brilliant and well-planned campaign to become the first woman President of your party and the first woman Prime Minister of your country."

He said she "carried out a courageous and determined fight and prevailed despite the odds."

The St. Lucian PM said he looked forward to working with the new Jamaican leader, "to continue to advance the cause of our respective people and to work together to continue building the structures for meaningful and effective regional integration."

Dr Anthony, who is also Leader of the ruling Saint Lucia Labour Party (SLP), said: "I also look forward to working closely with the new PNP Leader, to further cement the fraternal ties and bonds of friendship between our respective parties, in our mutual interests."



**St. Lucia's Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony**

Prime Minister Anthony fondly recalled Mrs Simpson-Miller's "sterling feature address at the Saint Lucia Labour Party's Annual Conference in 1998, when she reaffirmed the solidarity and friendship between the SLP and the PNP."

Granada's Prime Minister, Dr. Keith Mitchell, has also sent his congratulations to the new PNP leader. Dr Mitchell telephoned Mrs. Simpson Miller to offer his congratulations and indicate his willingness to work with her. He noted Jamaica's assistance in helping his country rebuild after Hurricane Ivan in 2004.

Mrs Simpson Miller is the fourth

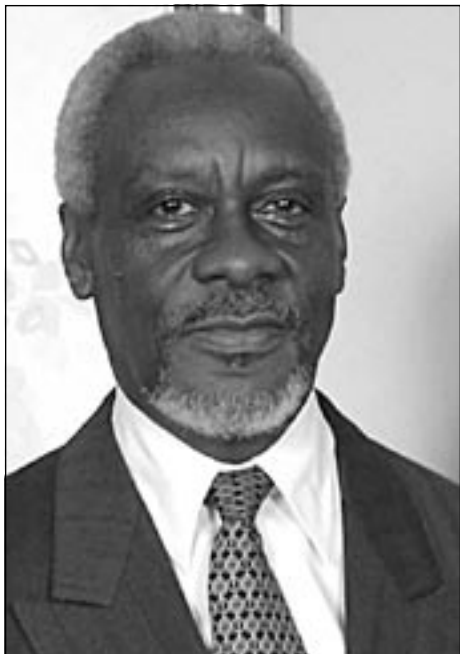


**New President of the PNP and Prime Minister Designate of Jamaica, Portia Simpson Miller at a Church Service last Sunday**

President of the PNP. She is a long-standing member of the leadership of Jamaica's ruling party and her election clears the way for her to replace Prime Minister P.J. Patterson when he steps down in a few weeks time. Mr Patterson succeeded the late Prime Minister Michael Manley, whose father, Norman Washington Manley, was a founder of the PNP in 1938

The 60-year old Simpson Miller last Saturday won the presidential race to succeed Mr. Patterson, capturing 1,775 votes compared to her rivals Drs. Peter Phillips -1,538, Omar Davies -283 and Karl Blythe- 204. Her election victory was followed by a party at New Kingston's Asylum Nightclub and two church services on Sunday. "I hardly got any sleep last night and I think it was a very good that my first appointment (after the election) was representing the Prime Minister (P. J. Patterson) at a church service at the Baptist Union Assembly this morning" she said on Sunday. She asked the Pastors for assistance saying "Pastors, I will be depending upon you to assist me in also promoting the good family life."

While announcing the election outcome on Saturday night, Mr. Patterson restated that he would resign as Prime Minister and MP for Eastern West-



**Retiring Prime Minister P J Patterson**

moreland within the next four weeks. Luther Buchanan has been selected to contest the seat for the PNP in a by-election when Patterson resigns.

According to Section 70, subsection (1) of the Constitution: "Whenever the Governor-General has occasion to appoint a Prime Minister he, acting in his discretion, shall appoint the member of the House of Representatives who, in his judgement, is best able to command the confidence of a majority of the members of that House."

The PNP has a majority of 34 members in the House. On Sunday a statement from Jamaica House said Patterson would consult the party's parliamentary group to "observe certain formalities," and to enable him to advise the Governor-General.

The statement also disclosed that Mr. Patterson along with other ministers congratulated party president-elect Mrs. Simpson Miller on her victory in the presidential race.

In acknowledging the sentiments of the Prime Minister and her other colleagues, Mrs. Simpson Miller pledged to continue to work to make everyone proud. She thanked her colleagues for preparing her over the years, even in areas outside of her portfolio responsibilities. *(With contribution by The Jamaican Gleaner)*

# AIR JAMAICA RETURNS TO SAINT LUCIA



**Minister of Tourism Phillip J Pierre addressing the gathering at Hewanorra International Airport**

**A**ir Jamaica resumed flights into St. Lucia last week Thursday and marked its re-entry with a special flight from the JFK Airport in New York, consisting mainly of local tourism officials, Air Jamaica personnel and members of the local media.



**The Air Jamaica aircraft landing at Hewanorra from New York**

The airline suspended service in March 2005 to Barbados, Grenada and St. Lucia, in an attempt to recover from losses due to higher fuel costs and a drop in passengers after the September Eleven attacks. Air Jamaica earlier resumed flights to Barbados and Grenada but kept flights to St. Lucia suspended.

Chairman of the St. Lucia Tourist Board Costello Michel at a short ceremony to mark the airlines return expressed his delight to have Air Jamaica back after an almost one year absence. Air Jamaica will provide non-stop flights-three times a week-to and from New York.

Minister for Tourism Philip J Pierre while highlighting the importance of the partnership with Air Jamaica and other travel partners, expressed the hope the airline can-at the soonest-make non-stop daily flights to the island.

In 2005, 29,000 tourists visited from the U.S.--St. Lucia's biggest tourism market. Air Jamaica started flying to St. Lucia in 1997.



**Air Jamaica Officials with Minister Pierre**



# Saint Lucia's Emergency Facilities Tested For ICC CWC 2007

Authorities planning St. Lucia's matches in the ICC Cricket World Cup 2007 have been learning much about the island's ability to respond to mass casualty incidents. Last week they conducted a simulation exercise over a two-day period to test the readiness and preparedness of the island's resources and indeed the emergency plan for the 2007 event.

The Simulation presented two scenarios on the Castries/Gros-Islet Highway, which is the main access for traffic to the Beausejour Cricket Grounds, where matches will be held. In one of the scenarios a riot develops as parent cannot get information about their children who were involved in a mass acci-



The scene of the accident



The St. Lucia Fire Service on Location



Regional Security Service Officers take charge of the Stadium



The International Assessment Team

dent. The exercise was conducted with the help of the Regional Security System, the RSS. Assistant Commissioner of Police with responsibility for Operation Moses Charles explained that the the defence force and maritime capabilities of the RSS were to be used as support for the local security forces.

A review of the exercise has taken place and that analysis will help stakeholders determine which aspects of the emergency response needs work. One of the major issues of concern is the disregard shown by motorists for emergency vehicles.

According to Project Officer responsible for Communications, Media Relation and Public Education With Cricket World Cup St. Lucia Jennifer Gaston, directing

persons in an emergency was a problem."

"From what I gathered in the review it was not so much the condition of the road or the road it self, it is a matter of directing persons in the event of an emergency and persons understanding the need to accept directions at the same time for the public to understand that if they hear a siren, whether it comes from a police officers vehicle or an ambulance that it most likely is an emergency and they need to give way to traffic because it can cause unnecessary obstructions."

Miss Gaston also said through the simulation exercises, the response ability of the island's hospital facilities to deal with these situations was tested and was felt to be adequate.



Taking Care of the Casualties

## Saint Lucia Far Down The Long Road To ICC CWC 2007

### BUT THERE'S STILL MUCH TO BE DONE

Dr. Jimmy Fletcher, the Cabinet Secretary and Chairman of Cricket World Cup Saint Lucia Inc, the company created by Government to oversee St. Lucia's hosting of matches in the ICC Cricket World Cup 2007, has said that while St. Lucia has completed about 75% of the long journey to hosting the event, there is still much to be done, and that the remaining 25% of the task is the most challenging.

Dr. Fletcher spoke at a cocktail last Friday evening to launch the National Awareness Programme and Call to Action, a public event hosted by the Local Organising Committee at Pigeon Point last Sunday, to inform the public about some of the key issues involved in hosting the Cricket world Cup 2007. Here is the text of his address:

Today we are 379 days away from the Opening Ceremony to the 2007 ICC Cricket World Cup, and 382 days away from the Kenya versus Canada match, which will be the first of the matches in the Blue Group, hosted at our Beausejour Cricket Ground. However, before we look forward to that eagerly anticipated date, it might be useful to look back at our journey to today's significant introduction of our National Awareness Programme and Call to Action.

On February 28, 2003, the then Chairman of the Saint Lucia Tourist Board, the late Desmond Skeete, joined twenty-one other delegates in a West Indies Cricket Board contingent to South Africa to observe the staging of the 2003 ICC Cricket World Cup. On May 5, 2003, the SLTB Chairman submitted his report to the Min-

ister for Tourism, which resulted in the Government of Saint Lucia establishing a Bid Preparation Committee later that month, under the co-chairmanship of the Ministers for Tourism and Sport. The other members of the committee were James Fletcher, Desmond Skeete, Trevor Philip, Trevor Brathwaite, Claude Guillaume and Henry Mangal.

On the 26th and 27th September, 2003, Saint Lucia hosted the first Venue Summit for ICC Cricket World Cup 2007 at the Sandals Grande Hotel.

The Joint Chairpersons of the Bid Preparation Committee established, on 18th February, 2004, a Technical Sub-Committee to assist with the preparation of Saint Lucia's bid, and on 1st March, 2004, Cabinet approved a budget of \$587,532.00 for



Cabinet Secretary, Dr. Jimmy Fletcher

the preparation and submission of Saint Lucia's bid. The Bid Preparation Committee subsequently established 24 Working Groups to address the 24 deliveries contained in the Bid Book.

Continued on page 8



# BEAUSEJOUR CRICKET GROUND LIGHTS UP



Action from the first night game at Beausejour



A section of the lights at Beausejour

## Saint Lucia Far Down The Long Road To ICC CWC 2007

*Continued from page 7*

Cabinet received a presentation by the Bid Preparation Committee on the 5th April, 2004, in which it outlined the elements of Saint Lucia's bid, and on the 13th April, 2004, Cabinet endorsed Saint Lucia's bid and agreed to the formation of Cricket World Cup Saint Lucia Inc. On 30th April, 2004, Cricket World Cup Saint Lucia was incorporated under the Companies Act of Saint Lucia. Six days later, on May 6th, 2004, Ernest Hilaire and Claude Guillaume travelled to Barbados to submit Saint Lucia's bid.

A little over two weeks later, on May 23rd and 24th, a Venue Assessment Team visited Saint Lucia to conduct an independent assessment of Saint Lucia's bid, and on Monday 5th July, 2005, Saint Lucia learned that the Beausejour Cricket Ground had been selected as one of the 8 venues to host matches in the 2007 Cricket World Cup. And we all remember that proud night on the 13th July, 2004, when in a glitzy ceremony in Montego Bay, Jamaica we learned that Saint Lucia had been awarded the highly sought-after Blue Package.

Three more dates are worthy of mention. On the 30th September, 2004, Saint Lucia's LOC received a Notice to Proceed authorizing it to continue and complete its venue planning and event overlay, on 19th April, 2005 the Prime Minister and Minister for Finance announced a \$56 million allocation to fund Saint Lucia's preparations for the 2007 Cricket World Cup, and

on the 2nd August, 2005 Saint Lucia was recognized as being the first jurisdiction to fulfill all of its obligations with respect to the Government endorsement of the obligations under the Host Venue Agreement.

So, Ladies and Gentlemen, 1092 days have elapsed since the day the late Desmond Skeete joined the WICB delegation in South Africa. Therefore, in mathematical terms, we have completed roughly 75% of our journey.

However, the remaining 25% of our journey will arguably be the most challenging. We have been able to make it this far by relying on the very hard work of a small proportion of our population. I know that Fortuna and her team have travelled the length and breadth of Saint Lucia sensitizing people on the exciting opportunities that the Cricket World Cup will bring and preparing them for the challenge of welcoming and hosting the world. I am also aware that scores of people, many of whom are with us here tonight, have worked with much diligence and dedication preparing the various sector plans. However, to host the Blue Group next year we will now have to enlist the efforts and assistance of an entire nation. Everyone must play their part in getting the country ready.

I had no doubt when we embarked on this journey in May 2003 that the Beausejour Cricket Ground would be ready. In fact, at the first meeting of the Board of Directors of CWCSL on the 29th July, 2004 the Board agreed that in view of the fact

that the BCG was significantly more advanced than any of the other venues, our goal would be to complete our physical infrastructure preparations well ahead of schedule and test as many of these out during the 2006 Home Series. I am happy to report that Ernest, Claude, Mark, Claudius and the rest of the team have risen to that challenge, and one only has to visit the BCG to realize that most of our permanent improvements are nearing completion.

The real challenge, as we always saw it, was ensuring that the softer side of our preparations went according to schedule, because for us to keep to that schedule we needed widespread buy-in and cooperation. And this is what tonight's and Sunday's activities are all about. We are here to say thank you to all those who have worked so hard to get us to this point, but also to remind you and inform the wider public that the work has only just begun. We have to improve on customer service island-wide. We must have a more efficient and responsive public service – there is too much indifference, bureaucracy and insensitivity to the needs of the customer, and this will retard many of the private sector-led investments and improvements that must take place. We must clean up Saint Lucia – there is too much littering, too many unsightly billboards, too much clutter and chaos in the city. We have to bring greater order and discipline to our everyday lives – we are witnessing too much recklessness on our roads, too many

stray animals roaming our highways, too much anger and too little conflict resolution among our people. In short, there is much work still to be done, but I am confident that with everyone playing their part, we can do it.

It is a fortunate coincidence that this activity is taking place during the week that we celebrate our 27th Anniversary of Independence under the theme - "Se peyi nou, pouvwa-a se san nou", which translated means "It is our country, the power is ours". We can make no more eloquent and emphatic statement about our commitment to this theme if we respond to this Call to Action and harness and unleash the power within us to make Saint Lucia a better place for the whole world to see just how positive, industrious, friendly, resourceful and progressive a people we are. If we can do this, then we would truly have taken advantage of the enormous opportunities that our hosting of the 2007 ICC Cricket World Cup will bring.

In closing, let me thank my Board of Directors for the excellent support that they have given to this process. Board meetings, though a bit long sometimes, are truly an enjoyable and productive experience. And to Ernest, Fortuna, Daune, Heather, Renee, Denise, Kieran, Reggie, Deale, Octina, Paula, Coxie, Dennis, Sumi, Deborah, and Jennifer, my heartfelt gratitude for the great work that you have done so far. Your commitment to excellence and to this mammoth task of preparing Saint Lucia to boldly go where no one has gone before is truly amazing.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I have work to do, we have work to do. So, no more talk, it's time for action. I thank you.

## World Cup Cricket Issues on NTN's Feedback on Tuesday

On the upcoming edition of the programme Feedback on Tuesday March 7th, 2007, NTN puts the spotlight on issues relevant to St. Lucia's hosting of Cricket World Cup in 2007 – ticketing specifically. Ticketing requires profound attention to detail and our programme will answer several questions. Our guest will be CEO of the Local Organizing Committee, Ernest Hilaire.

Feedback begins at 8:00 p.m. and ends at 9:00 p.m. Persons can make their contributions by calling 468-2162.

Feedback is aired on the first Tuesday of every month on NTN.

**Other Programme Highlights for: Sat. March 4th to Fri. March 10th, 2006**

Is there a national environmental policy for St. Lucia? Find out on Sat. March 4th, 9:30 a.m. Discover amazing products manufactured by the St. Lucia Coconut Growers association - Sun. March. 5th, 10:30 a.m. The Investiture Ceremony 2006 – Mon. March 6th, 7:30 p.m. FEEDBACK LIVE – Ask your questions to officials from the Local Organizing Committee of Cricket World Cup 2007 - Tues. March 7th, 8:00 p.m. "Women Speaking Out" - A cross-section of

women in St. Lucia discuss women's issues

– Wed. March 8th – 8:30 p.m.

Highlights of FIFA's Goal Project – Thurs.. March 9th, 8:30 p.m.

AgriFocus – Discover developments in the local agriculture industry - Thurs. March. 10th – 7:30 p.m.

Remember to tune in for:

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

Issues & Answers/Mondays at 8:00pm:

Interview/Tuesdays at 6:15pm :

Konsit Kweyol/Tuesdays at 8:00pm (Kweyol Discussion):

Your Right to Know/Thursdays at 6:15 p.m.

(Min. of Ed. Prog).

Take 2/Fridays at 6:15pm

(Week in Review)

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

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

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

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