

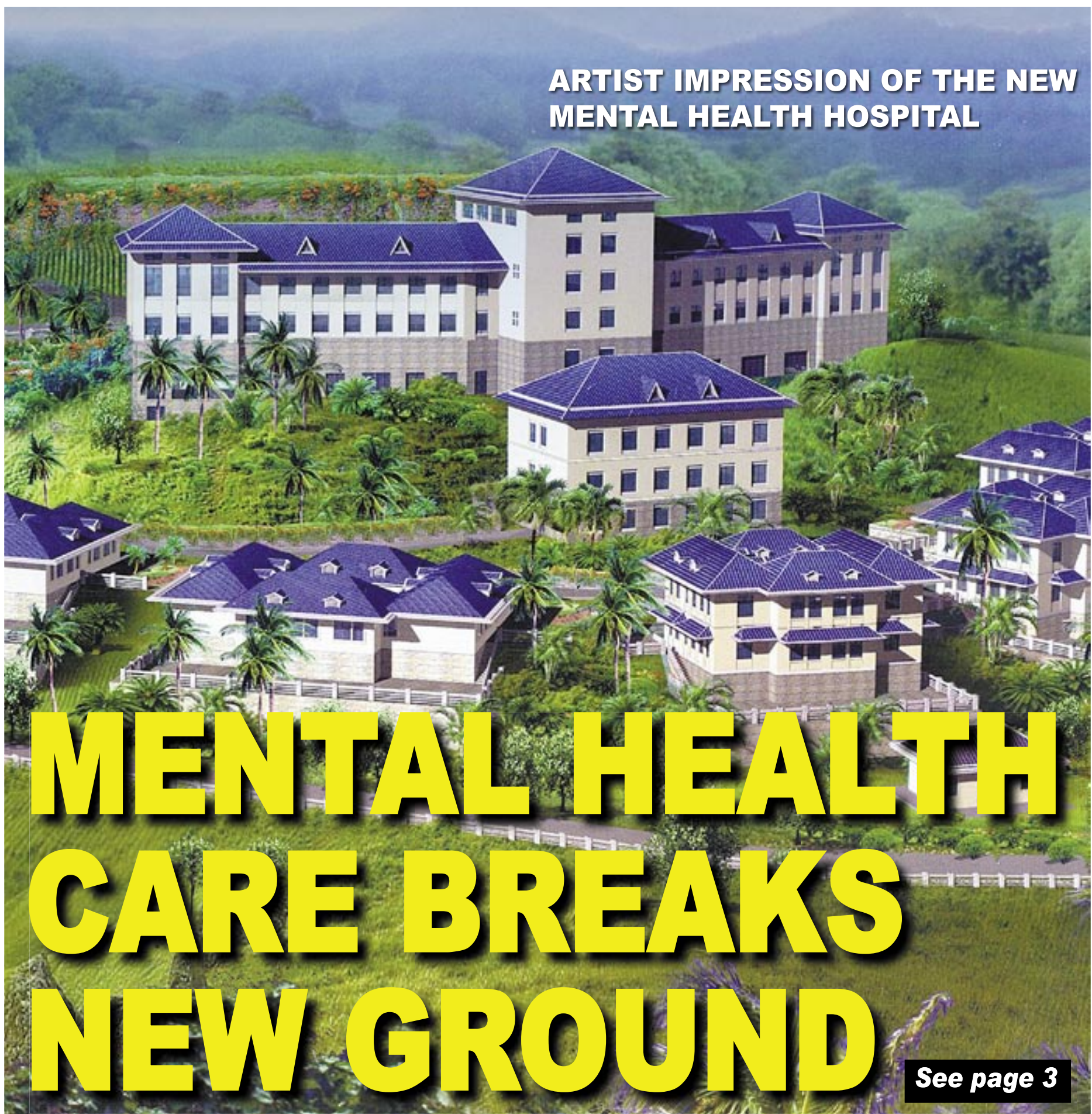


# NATIONWIDE

A publication of the Department of Information Services



## ARTIST IMPRESSION OF THE NEW MENTAL HEALTH HOSPITAL



# MENTAL HEALTH CARE BREAKS NEW GROUND

See page 3



Former Attorney General Supports Labour Code - page 2



Government's Perspectives on Public Private Sector Partnerships - page 4



Mixed Results in Region's Crime Fight - page 6



Prime Minister Anthony Conners Converses with the Nation on Aids - page 7



"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





# GOVERNMENT EXPANDS STUDY LEAVE WITH PAY

**Prime Minister Dr Kenny D. Anthony says a recent Cabinet Conclusion regarding the granting of study leave with pay for Public Servants in receipt of scholarships is aimed at ensuring that more Public Officers can have an equal opportunity to benefit from study leave with pay.**

By Cabinet Conclusion dated February 27, 2006, Government has decided that that, effective March 1, 2006 "a public officer receiving a scholarship award and who would normally have been eligible for a Study Leave With Pay award, will be entitled only to the difference between the annual value of the scholarship and his/her basic salary."

Last week, the President of the St. Lucia Civil Service Association (CSA), Mr Joseph Dosserie, issued a public statement condemning what he described as "the unilateral change in the position of granting of study leave with pay for public officers receiving a scholarship award."

The union claimed in its March 22 statement that the Cabinet Conclusion ran "contrary to the provisions of the duly signed collective agreement between the Government and the CSA."

But the Prime Minister, who is also the Minister of Finance, says he does not think that is so.

Explaining the rationale behind the decision, Prime Minister Anthony said this week that contrary to the impres-

sion given by the union, "the Government is anxious to give more formal training to more Public Servants."

He said this was so because "the number of public officers applying for study leave with pay has substantially increased over the years."

Dr Anthony explained that the Cabinet Conclusion specifically targeted public servants receiving scholarships for study abroad, "because, in most instances, their study is paid for by the donor agency or government and then they still apply for study leave with pay at home."

Such persons, the PM said, "would thus be receiving double benefits, while others cannot get study leave with pay."

The Prime Minister said that "with

hundreds more public officers applying for study leave with pay, Government has to look closely at how the benefits are shared across the Public Service."

In this regard, he said, Cabinet has decided that "when it comes to public servants receiving scholarship awards that include payment for their studies, Government will pay the difference between the annual value of the award and his or her basic annual salary."

"Whatever savings are realised from this approach," said Dr Anthony, "will be spread across the board so that others in the service who have also applied can also be granted study leave with pay."

## Former AG Supports Labour Code



**Mr. Parry Husbands**  
Former Attorney General

**A former Attorney General says the Labour Code, which is in its final stages of preparation, will herald a new era in industrial relations in Saint Lucia.**

The Code, which has been contributed to by the unions, employers and the Government, has been welcomed by a former Attorney General of St. Lucia as "good news" for the island's trade unions.

But Mr. Husbands gives the unions no credit for bringing the Code about.

The former Attorney General in the previous administration expressed the view that "the recent announcement that the Government intends to put the Labour Code through the legislative

process must be welcome news to the trade unions."

But, he added, the unions "must take no credit for its passage into law."

That notwithstanding, Mr. Husbands called on the unions -- and the employers -- to make the Code work, as it will be in their interests to do so.

In an article in the Weekend Voice of March 25, Mr. Husbands wrote: "When the Labour Code becomes law, it is imperative that its principles are adhered to, as the Code is meant to foster good industrial relations by promoting the establishment of trade unions."

He also urged workers to resist temptation to misuse or abuse the Code when it becomes law.

Said Mr. Husbands: "Many members of a trade union may be tempted to feel that this is the time to seek revenge for the past. They should desist from such action."

The former AG also called on the country's employers to "extend the hand of friendship and reconciliation to the unions."

"If they treat the unions responsibly," he opined, the unions "will respond in similar fashion."

Mr. Husbands expressed the view that "many reforms in the union/employer relationship can be effected through good understanding and co-operation."

He also called for honest circulation of information about the Code,

saying that "the matter of information about the operations and profitability of the employer must be divulged with truth and frankness."

Mr. Husbands also expressed his hope that the Labour Code would have positive change on the relationship between the em-

ployers and their workers.

He wrote: "I trust that the coming into operation of the Labour Code will herald a new era in the history of Labour relations in this State."

## PM Meets Chamber of Agriculture

**Prime Minister Dr Kenny D. Anthony last Thursday afternoon met with a delegation representing the recently-formed St. Lucia Chamber of Agriculture, to discuss a wide range of issues pertaining to the vital agricultural sector.**

The Chamber delegation, which was led by its founding President Cuthbert Phillips, brought the Prime Minister up to date on the objectives of the newly established agency and its future plans.

The Prime Minister welcomed the establishment of the Chamber of Agriculture and pledged the support of the Government of Saint Lucia for the Chamber and its objectives.

The Prime Minister also raised with the delegation the problems associated

with payments to some farmers for produce sold to the hotels and the meeting explored possible solutions.

A range of incentives offered by the Government of Saint Lucia to the island's farmers was also discussed at the meeting, which took place at the Office of the Prime Minister on Thursday afternoon.

In this regard, the Prime Minister took the opportunity to review with the Chamber delegation the regime of incentives brought into force last year and indicated they will be published in the form of a booklet to be circulated to farmers.

The Prime Minister said later that it was "a very useful meeting, coming as it did just a few weeks before presentation of the 2006-2007 Budget."

## Police Recover More Illegal Firearms



Some of the illegal firearms

**The Royal St. Lucia Police Force has so far recovered 36 illegal firearms during the first quarter of this year.**

The police force last year reported having recovered some 203 illegal firearms through the Programme for the Recovery of Illegal Weapons.

The programme, which rewards informants for information leading to the successful recovery of illegal guns, was initiated by the Prime Minister in the latter part of 2004.

The police report that as a result of the reward programme, hundreds of illegal firearms have been taken off the streets and out of the hands of unlicensed individuals, which could otherwise have been used for criminal or illegal purposes.

The 36 illegal firearms recovered so far this year are being described by the police as proof that the programme continues to be effective, more than a year after it was first introduced.

# MENTAL HEALTH CARE BREAKS NEW GROUND

## SOD TURNING CEREMONY



Artist Impression of the new Mental Health Hospital

The St. Lucia Government on Tuesday afternoon took another step in implementing its massive programme of reforming the island’s health sector with the ground breaking ceremony for the construction of the new Mental Health Hospital at La Toc off the Millennium Highway. The new Psychiatric Hospital along with a new general hospital are the centre pieces in the health sector reform programme.

The new Mental Hospital, which will cost EC\$ 27 million is being built with assistance from the Government of the People’s

Republic of China as part of an aid package agreed upon when St. Lucia and China established diplomatic relations in 1997. The Chinese company undertaking the project have completed the necessary preparatory ground work and the sod turning ceremony marks the commencement of the actual construction phase of the project . Chinese Ambassador Gu Huaming, in his remarks at the ceremony, promised that the hospital would be constructed on time and that St. Lucia would be given a high quality, beautiful and modern psychiatric hospital.

## CHANGING DIRECTIONS IN MENTAL HEALTH CARE



Hon. Damian Greaves  
Minister for Health, Human Services,  
Family Affairs and Gender Relations

St. Lucias’ Health Minister, Damian Greaves has declared that the sod turning ceremony for the construction of the new mental health hospital, symbolizes not only the actual commencement of construction of the facility but more importantly a change in the direction of mental health care in the country as the Government undertakes one more

round in the march towards health sector reform.

The Minister added that mental health reform grew out of many challenges that the country had been facing in that area. These included: an emphasis on mental health care as something institutional and custodial where people put their relatives and friends at the old existing mental health hospital – Golden Hope- and never returned for them, sometimes giving authorities false names, telephone numbers and home addresses so that they could not be contacted; an absence of documented health policies; inadequate mental health legislation; a limited supply of quality health professionals; limited reinvestment in mental health care; a lack of community involvement in mental health; a heavy bias on physical as opposed to mental health.

Minister Greaves said that all of these had served to inform government’s mental health philosophy, its mental health policy development and its interventions in that sector. According to him, the emphasis in mental health would now be on recovery. Mental health patients were no longer to be treated as outcasts and the discrimination against them would have to be discontinued. The Minister explained that the site for the hospital had been deliberately chosen, through the widest possible consultation, to reinforce that philosophy as the view of the blue Caribbean Sea from the hospital transmitted calm, peace, tranquillity and recovery.

## MENTAL HEALTH REFORM AND COUNTRY MODERNIZATION

St. Lucia’s Prime Minister Dr. Kenny D Anthony has emphasised that his Government’s health sector reform programme was part of its process of modernising the country. Speaking at the sod turning ceremony for the construction of the new mental hospital, Prime Minister Anthony said that the new building should not be seen as just another building but as part of the larger vision of modernizing the country to prepare it for the future. He added that the modernization’s of the country was the job that his government had been entrusted with and so it had invested heavily in modern sports facilities, roads, universal secondary school education and a

new prison. That modernization process would go one step further when the new general hospital would be constructed and become, after the mental hospital, the next greatest triumph in that modernization programme.

The Prime Minister also had high praise for the workers of Golden Hope- the island’s ancient mental health institution - thanking them for their “ sacrifice in working in the most difficult and exasperating conditions; not many people would have worked in those conditions but your humanity has come through. You were prepared to offer your services in an extremely difficult environment while you waited for this great day.”

## THE OBJECTIVES OF MENTAL HEALTH REFORM



Mr. Fidelis Williams

The Permanent Secretary in the, Ministry of Health, Fidelis Williams outlined the objectives of the health reform programme in his opening remarks at the sod turning ceremony for the new mental health facility.

As part of the reform of the mental health services, we propose to reduce the stigma and discrimination associated with mental illness

and to increase access to a wide range of mental, physical and social health services to all clients. Our objective is to achieve this by way of a decentralized and integrated model of care. The objective behind the mental health reform is: (1) Improve quality of mental health services; (2) Improve access to mental health services; (3) Integrate mental health services; (4) Facilitate patient rehabilitation; (5) Re-integration into the community

The integrated model of which we speak will be delivered through regional and community health teams and through the continuum of care provided by hospitals and community health services. It is anticipated that all the needs of clients are addressed as they pass through the health system. Thus the physical closeness of the two hospitals will facilitate the integration of services referred to earlier. In addition, it is anticipated tht there will be overall administrative economies to be achieved.

If we are going to be successful at dealing with mental illness, it will require the re-orientation of the health workers and the general public to a more appropriate concept of mental illness as just another disease. It will also require an appreciation of the role that each stakeholder must play to ensure that all clients receive the support required to recover and contribute to the development of the society.

## THE DESIGN OF THE NEW MENTAL HEALTH FACILITY

**EXCERPT FROM THE REMARKS BY THE PERMANENT SECRETARY IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, FIDELIS WILLIAMS, AT THE SOD TURNING CEREMONY FOR THE NEW MENTAL HEALTH FACILITY**

This facility is part of the design of mental health structure known as hidalgo. It is simply a model where the environment in which care is provided is as close to a home environment as much as possible. For those of you who have seen the plans, you will notice that the buildings in which care will be provided are separated, resembling a mini housing scheme. Internally each unit will depict a home environment as much as possible. Our objective is to place people in an environment which facilitates healing.

In the facility being constructed, three levels of care will be provided:

(1) **Acute Care** - These are patients who require a secure environment given their condition, who are severely mentally challenged and who may have the propensity for violence against their own person or others.

(2) **Assisted Living** - Care will be provided to patients who are recovering but are not well enough to care

for themselves completely. They will be closely supervised and assisted by medical and other staff.

(3) **Independent Living** - Care will be provided to patients who have recovered to such an extent that they can care for themselves by doing their own domestic chores under some supervision in preparation for re-integration into the society.

The entire complex will comprise of the following: (a) an administrative building with acute care facilities, staff facilities and out patient facilities. Included will be the high dependency unit and four isolation rooms; (b) treatment building; (c) six independent buildings.

Upon completion, the complex will house a total of approximately 104 patients.

The six independent buildings will comprise 48 assisted living units, 36 independent living units.

This health facility will also cater for the following: Diagnostic and treatment services; Radiology services; Occupational therapy to accelerate the healing process.



# GOVERNMENT'S PERSPECTIVE ON PUBLIC PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS

## FEATURE ADDRESS DELIVERED AT THE RECENT OPSR WORKSHOP FOR THE TRAINING OF CONSULTANTS UNDER THE THEME OPSR: YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW



Dr. James Fletcether

**Public versus Private Sector**  
I wish to thank the Office of Private Sector Relations (OPSR) for the invitation to share with you the Government's perspectives on Private Sector Development and the Role of Public Private Sector Partnerships.

Let me start off by identifying the differences between public sector institutions and private sector institutions, so that we can place this presentation in its proper context. The difference between the public and private sectors in its most simplified form may be viewed primarily in terms of ownership. So, something is regarded as being public or in the public sector if it is government-owned, while something that is not owned by Government is seen to be in the private sector. This definition can sometimes be complicated by issues of legal status, whether the entity receives public funds, or the nature of the service that it provides<sup>1</sup>, but for our purposes here today it should suffice.

There are noticeable differences in the modus operandi of public and private sector organisations. In Public Management, the New Zealand Model, by Jonathan Boston et al, the following are highlighted:

Unlike private sector firms, the public sector does not allow for trading in its equity by its citizens, leading to an absence of market prices that reflect the market's assessment of the quality of management. Instead, Governments are held accountable via the legislature, elections and constitutional conventions such as ministerial responsibility. This accountability is very different to what obtains in the private sector, and often, public officers serve multiple principals.

The context within which public officials work differs significantly from that of their private sector counterparts. They are bound by different loyalties and obligations, and their conduct is governed by a range of important constitutional principles. This contextual difference is highlighted by the fact that there is no equivalent in the private sector to the relationship between the Minister and the Permanent Secretary.

There is no performance measure in the core public service that equates to the role that profit plays in the private sector. Instead, Ministries and Departments are often required to implement programmes with multiple and sometimes conflicting objectives, many of which cannot be measured or quantified.

Non-commercial public sector organisations do not generate a profit, and this makes incentive schemes based on profit sharing difficult to apply. Similarly, the

use of sanctions against wayward public servants is difficult because sometimes, their application will tend to embarrass or damage the Government as much as the official concerned.

And finally, the functional interdependencies between Government agencies are greater and more complex than those encountered in the private sector, even in large, multi-divisional firms.

It is necessary to highlight these important fundamental differences between the two types of organisations for us to understand the factors that must contend when a marriage between the two is being contemplated. This is further compounded by the fact that not all public sector organisations are alike, and there is therefore no common set of managerial principles that is applicable to all public sector bodies. In much the same way that it is also wrong to suggest that inherently, private sector organisations are better managed than public sector agencies.

### Public Private Sector Partnership

What then is a Public Private Sector Partnership? There are varying definitions. Industry Canada defines a Public-Private Partnership as a co-operative venture for the provision of infrastructure or services, built on the expertise of each partner that best meets clearly defined public needs, through the most appropriate allocation of resources, risks, responsibilities and rewards. The logic for such a partnership is that both partners have special features that give them advantages in specific aspects of service or project delivery. For our purposes, permit me some latitude to simplify and broaden things and consider a Public Private Partnership to be any collaboration between public bodies, such as central government or local authorities, and private companies or organisations.

### Why a Public Private Sector Partnership?

The question that should now arise is why do we need a Public Private Sector Partnership and what is the nature of such a partnership?

To answer the first question, permit me to quote from the White Paper on Public Sector Reform of the Government of Saint Lucia. This White Paper states that the Vision for Public Sector Reform is 'A more sensitive, responsive, efficient, cost-conscious and accountable Public Service', while the Mission of the reform exercise is "To develop a Public Service imbued with a strong ethical, professional, and national development orientation, which is capable of delivering cost-effective quality service". This White Paper goes on to inform that transparency and governance are

enhanced through the greater participation of Civil Society, both organised and individually, in the affairs of the State. To do this, it identifies (i) the establishment of a Permanent Consultative Committee and (ii) the strengthening of the Office of Private Sector Relations as two recommended strategies. So, Public Private Sector Partnerships, in the broadest sense of the definition, are seen in the context of public sector reform as a medium to enhance transparency and governance.

Allow me also to quote from the major policy document of the Government of Saint Lucia, its 2001 Election Manifesto, in which it stated "our general economic policy will be geared towards improving linkages with the global economy. This will be achieved through the implementation of coherent strategies that will boost exports, augment domestic and foreign investment levels, diversify production, increase productivity and efficiency, eliminate unnecessary bureaucracies, facilitate greater public and private sector collaboration, and make production more internationally competitive".

Therefore, we must deduce from the preceding that Government sees the establishment of a vibrant Public Private Partnership as essential for improving governance and enhancing national development.

But what are the experiences with Public Private Partnerships are if they are so useful, why are they not entered into more often?

Some of the benefits of PPPs or P3 as they are sometimes called are: (1) **Cost savings** - Government is sometimes able to realize cost savings for the construction of capital projects as well as the operation and maintenance of services. (2) **Risk sharing** - Government can share the risks with a private partner. (3) **Improved levels of service** - P3s can introduce innovation in the manner in which service delivery is executed and it can introduce economies of scale and new technologies that may reduce the cost or improve the quality and level of services. (4) **Enhancement of revenues** - PPP may set user fees that reflect the true cost of delivering a particular service. They provide an opportunity to introduce more innovative revenue sources that would not be possible under the conventional Public Service-constrained modes of service delivery. (5) **More efficient implementation** - Efficiencies may be realized through combining various activities, more flexible contracting and procurement, quicker approvals for capital financing, and a more efficient decision-making process. (6) **Economic benefits** - Increased involvement of Government in PPP can help to stimulate the private sector and contribute to increased employment and economic growth.

However, there are also risks associated with PPPs, and these include: (1) Loss of control by Government, which may compromise Government's ability to protect the public's interest. (2) **Increased costs** - The removal of Government subsidies through a more realistic cost accounting mechanism can cause an increase in user fees. (3) **Political risks** - Inexperience in the nature of PPPs may result in high political risk. (4) **Unacceptable levels of accountability** - The lines of accountability for the provision of services are less clear. (5) **Unreliable service** - PPPs may be prone to labour disputes or financing problems. (6) **Inability to benefit from competition** - If there are few eligible private sector partners, the Government may lose the benefit provided by an RFP. (7) **Reduced quality or efficiency of service** - If not properly structured, PPPs can result in a reduction in service quality and inefficient service delivery. (8) **Labour issues** - Trade Unions and existing staff may respond negatively to PPPs.

In the light of the foregoing, under what circumstances would a PPP be advisable: (1) When the service or project cannot be



Examples of local projects built through Public Private Sector partnerships: Top, the Bordelais Correctional facility; Centre: the Ministry of Communications and Works building; Bottom: the Viux Fort Police Station

provided with the financial resources or expertise available to Government. (2) When a private partner would increase the level or quality of service that Government on its own can provide. (3) When the project or service provides an opportunity for innovation. (4) When there are opportunities to encourage economic development.

### Examples of Public Private Sector Partnerships in Saint Lucia

You will recall that in my earlier broad definition of a public private sector part-

nership I stated that it was any collaboration between public bodies, such as central government or local authorities, and private companies or organisations. In that light, there have been several variations of the PPP in the Saint Lucian context.

In their simplest form, PPPs in Saint Lucia have been characterised by extensive dialogue and discussion between the Government and the private sector, both through Standing and Ad Hoc committees and arrangements. From early on in the life of this administration, it emphasised the importance of dialogue with social partners and Civil Society in developing consensus and formulating policy. In the Budget preparation exercise, the Minister for Finance has routinely called on the Private Sector to submit ideas and policy measures for consideration in the annual Budget Statement. Almost every Ministry has engaged its stakeholders and its clients in dialogue in the formulation of policy and strategies and the management of resources. From the consultations in the Ministry of Education, Human Resource Development, Youth and Sports that gave rise to national Youth and Sports policies to the co-management initiatives employed by the Fisheries and Forestry Departments to manage critical resources in their respective sub-sectors in conjunction with the users of these resources, we have seen successful examples of Public Private Sector Partnerships. While on the surface these may not appear to be significant, in the case of the co-management initiatives for example, there have been positive spin-offs in terms of the development of semi-autonomous marine management areas, resource user groups and cooperatives that have been able to generate employment and stimulate economic activity that would otherwise not have been possible.

The presence of the EC Delegation here today is another reminder of this process, which started with the participation of the private sector in the work of the STABEX Committee that met routinely to deliberate on the programming of EU STABEX resources and to receive reports from implementing agencies on the use of these resources. The process was carried further in the development of the Country Strategy Paper for the Banana Industry, Agricultural Diversification and the Social Recovery of Rural Communities, which set the stage for the accessing of funds under the Special Framework of Assistance (SFA) programme.

A more permanent medium for dialogue between the Public and Private Sectors can be found in the National Economic Council, which was inaugurated in 2002 and re-incarnated in 2005 as the National Social and Economic Council (NSEC). This body, particularly in its current form, allows for ongoing dialogue between the public and private sectors on issues relating to Saint Lucia's economic (and social) development. The OPSR serves as the secretariat to the NSEC.

Again in its 2001 policy document, the Government signalled its intention to commercialize the Saint Lucia Marketing Board, and discussions have been initiated with the Saint Lucia Chamber of Commerce aimed at the development of a Public Private Partnership to manage this important agriculture marketing institution. It is also envisaged that the much anticipated National Abattoir, when its funding finally receives the long-awaited nod of approval from the EC Delegation in Barbados, will also involve a Public Private Partnership.

In his 2004 Budget Statement, the Prime Minister and Minister for Finance announced the establishment of a Saint Lucia Agriculture Diversification Agency (SLA-DA), which is conceptualised as an agency with public and private sector participation responsible for the execution of the national agriculture diversification programme.

However, perhaps the most striking forms of PPP undertaken to date in Saint Lucia are the Build Operate, Lease Transfer (BOLT) arrangements between the Government of Saint Lucia and NIPDEC and then NIPRO to construct the Bordelais Correctional Facility, the Ministry of Communications, Works, Transport and Public Utilities administrative office and several of the Police and Fire Stations around the country. This arrangement is perhaps the most widely seen form of PPP and is most commonly used worldwide for public infrastructure services and facilities, Gov-

ernment administration and operations buildings, parking facilities, solid waste management facilities, and water and wastewater systems.

Most recently, in his 2005 Budget Statement, the Prime Minister informed the nation that "the Government has decided to pursue a public-private sector partnership for WASCO that will permit the Government to remain on the Board of Directors as the protector of the public interest, but will allow for the divestment of the majority shares of WASCO". This is intended to "ensure stability and viability in the provision of this vital resource to our citizens".

It should be clear from the preceding that the Government is committed to the establishment of Public Private Partnerships where appropriate, and to the active participation of the private sector in areas previously under the sole preserve of central government. This allows Government to simultaneously protect the public interest while leveraging important resources and expertise to catalyse the development of the country.

### Development of the Private Sector

Of course, for a private sector to flourish and play the significant role expected of it both in the wider context of national development and the more specific area of Public Private Partnerships, Government recognises that resources must be placed at the sector's disposal to aid its development. This recognition is what gave birth to the Office of Private Sector Relations, which was established in January 1998 and which operates out of the Office of the Prime Minister. The role of the OPSR is to serve as the link between the public sector and the private sector and to channel development funds and incentive regimes allocated and established by Government to assist and strengthen the private sector. Until recently, Saint Lucia's OPSR was the only organisation of its kind in the sub-region, and it can be argued that its mandate since its inception in 1998 has not only been to strengthen our local private sector, but also to make it ready for the advent of CSME, an issue that I am sure Mr. Prevaille will touch on in his presentation.

In the Ministry of Commerce, the Small Enterprise Development Unit, which itself also benefited from EU funding in its infant years, is another agency established by the Government to assist with the development of the small and micro enterprise private sector.

The incentive regimes provided by Government for the growth and development of the local private sector have been varied and generous. Unfortunately, however, the onus is often on the Government, through its agencies such as the Ministry of Commerce, Investment and Consumer Affairs, to devise incentive and support regimes for the private sector. Private sector organisations must be more proactive in articulating their needs. As an example, the initial slowness of the private sector in articulating its needs with respect to readiness for the opportunities presented by the 2007 ICC Cricket World Cup was a concern for the Government. Fortunately, the formation of BOOST, which in itself is another useful and potentially productive partnership



Jackie Emmanuel, Director OPSR

between the public and private sectors, has filled a void in this area and should allow the benefits expected from this mega event to accrue to the local private sector.

### Conclusion

Chairman, I have attempted to articulate the position of the Government on Public Private Partnerships and the development of the private sector. I hope that I have left you with absolutely no doubt about not just the Government's involvement, but its commitment in both these areas. Perhaps I can end by providing an analogy to demonstrate the level of responsibility the Government feels towards this process and the difference between mere involvement and actual commitment.

Martina Navratilova, the famous Czechoslovakia-born female tennis player who won 167 singles titles and 18 Grand Slam singles titles was once asked by a reporter, towards the end of her dominant career in women's tennis, whether she was still committed to tennis or merely involved with the sport. Without pausing too long to come up with her response, Ms. Navratilova explained that to understand the level of her association with the sport of women's tennis the reporter first had to comprehend the difference between bacon and eggs. She explained that the chicken was involved in the production of eggs, but the pig was committed to the production of bacon. Martina was committed to the sport of tennis. I believe that to extend this analogy it would be safe to say that the Government is committed to the development of the private sector and to the creation of productive partnerships with that sector, because it understands that for Saint Lucia to survive and flourish, particularly in the challenging era of multilateral trade agreements, mega trading blocs, and undifferentiated free trade, we must have a vigorous, viable and vibrant private sector, working in close partnership with the public sector.

I wish you a very successful workshop. I thank you.



Soufriere Marine Management



# Mixed Results in Region's Crime Fight

## Its Nature is Changing, But Investment in Crime Fight Pays Off For Some

**T**he carnage continues in some Caricom countries, with first-quarter homicide reports that vary from unchanged numbers to new record highs. But while the nature of killings take on more sadistic tones in some territories, there is evidence in some others that investing in public confidence is paying off.

In St. Lucia, the homicide rate remained the same in 2005 as it was in 2004, with 37 murders reported each year. This year, the first quarter figure stands at nine homicides between January 1 and March 31 -- a figure hardly different from that of the same period last year.

In several other Caricom member-states, the homicide ratio has been basically the same. But in some other territories, the nature and size of serious crime and homicides continues to escalate.

The changes in pattern were seen last month across the region in the murder of the Press Secretary to the Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, the killing of a member of St. Lucia's gay community and the sodomizing to death of a six-year-old in Trinidad & Tobago by two young men.

In Jamaica, the number of homicides and the effects of gang and drug-related violence continue to alarm the public and the Government, with the new Portia Simpson-Miller administration putting crime-fighting among the top on its list of priorities.

The new Jamaican Prime Minister has also called on the nation's religious leaders to bring the country together in prayer against crime.

But the carnage continues in Trinidad & Tobago, where the recent kidnap, rape and sodomy committed against a child by two young men has also resulted in religious leaders calling for the nation to pray and repent.

The homicide rate in Caricom's richest country has escalated to previously unimagined proportions, with a major local newspaper describing the comparative figures for the first quarter of 2006 as "the highest for the Century."

In its March 30, 2006 issue, the Trinidad Guardian reported comparative first-quarter statistics on the island's homicide rate over the past six years.

The report indicated the number of killings in the twin-island republic moved up from 17 at the turn of the century in 2000 to 58 in 2003 and

climbing steeply to 106 in 2006.

Crime watchers in Port of Spain note that the figures increased by 300% in 2003 over what it was three years earlier and there was a 200% increase in 2006 over 2003.

But there is evidence in St. Lucia that investing in the fight against crime can pay dividends if the correct avenues are found. While the homicide rate remained stable in the first quarters of the year, the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force is also reporting continuing progress in the recovery of illegal weapons.

A Government-funded programme initiated by Prime Minister Dr Kenny D. Anthony that rewards informants in the sum of EC \$2,500 for information leading to the successful recovery of illegal firearms has so far netted 38 illegal weapons between January 1 and March 31, 2006.

Encouraged by the success of that programme, the Police last week announced a new reward programme offering \$8,000 for information leading to the solution of each of 38 unsolved murders.

The Police Commissioner said at a press conference announcing the new



**Mr. Ausbert Regis Police Commissioner**

initiative that it was being undertaken in light of increasing evidence of renewed and growing public confidence in the police.

Commissioner Ausbert Regis said a reason for the success of the reward programme for illegal guns has to do with the fact that in no case has the identity of any informant been compromised.



**Ambassador Sonia M. Johnny**

## SAINT LUCIA'S AMBASSADOR HER EXCELLENCY SONIA M. JOHNNY WELCOMES RENE PREVAL

**STATEMENT BY HER EXCELLENCY SONIA M. JOHNNY AMBASSADOR/ PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SAINT LUCIA TO THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES AND CHAIRMAN OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL AT THE PROTOCOLARY SESSION OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL TO WELCOME PRESIDENT-ELECT, MR. RENÉ GARCIA PREVAL MARCH 29, 2006**

the fall of the Duvalier regime in 1986, Mr. Preval became active in several civil groups, particularly the "Respect for the Constitution", group, and the "Family is Life Orphanage" which was managed by former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

In 1991, Mr. Preval served as Prime Minister and Defense Minister in the government of President Aristide, until he was forced to leave the country following the September 30, 1991, military coup. Unable to be kept away from his country, he returned to Haiti in 1994, and served as the director of the internationally funded Economic and Social Assistance Fund, until he was elected President of the country.

As President, Mr. Preval's record demonstrated his ability to deliver within the concept which sees democracy, in the words of Mahatma Gandhi as "Something which gives the weak, the same chance as the strong". Mr. Preval also demonstrated that he understood that good governance is forged from a combination of visionary and competent leadership which delivers what it promises. Throughout his presidency, Mr. Preval espoused the need for a dynamic engagement between government and the people it represents.

He was, however, forever mindful and was often quick to point out that, and I quote "Democracy was not an easy thing. It is a process that must be built. It is a struggle that cannot be achieved overnight without problems"; [March 21, 1996, interview with Charlayne Hunter - Gault].

As President, Mr. Preval launched his "Democratisation by Capitalisation", a programme which privatises government enterprise through joint ventures with private

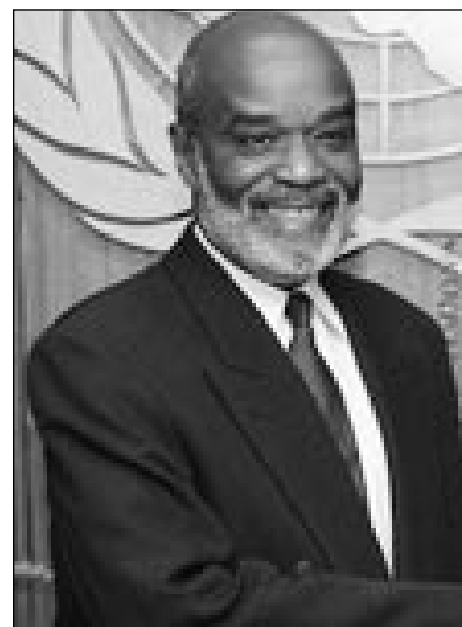
capital. This programme, although it was not wholly popular, was a move steeped in political and economic realism and which consequently brought about the release of \$226 million in foreign aid to Haiti through the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

As President of Haiti, Mr. René Préval was a strong supporter of investigations and trials related to human rights violations committed by military and police personnel, and we look forward to his continued efforts in this regard. The importance of a fair and credible judicial system is a basic condition for a democracy and we all know that there are currently matters in this regard that need urgent and immediate resolution.

In spite of the many incidents that marred his presidency, Mr. Preval earned the reputation for trying to stamp out corruption. He advocated that the government must be answerable to the people that ushered it into power, and that there was a need to keep the government free of taint and greed.

Mr. Preval's return to the political arena in 2005, after a low key absence, during which his bamboo cooperation on his family farm became a model for rural development, have again brought to the fore the many principles, which he espoused during his presidency of 1996-2001.

His plain talking style, his modest campaign pledges, and realistic promises to school age children, peasants and those in need of urgent health care, have won over the many who appeared to have given up hope within the past few years. His recent statement to a reporter captures the essence of the man which the people of Haiti have chosen to lead them, and I quote "This is not a victory for René Preval, this is a victory



**President-Elect Mr. Rene Preval**

for the Haitian people. The Haitian people did not vote for René Preval, they voted for a change and they have given René Preval the responsibility of leading this project to achieve a change in their lives" unquote. Therefore, the President-Elect concluded, and I quote again "it is not my victory, it is the victory of the people" unquote.

Missié Pwésident-Electé, nous ni confiance ou pas kai dé sa pwenté pep-ou, pis yo, ka sipporté-ou, bien fort. Oui, Missié Pwésident-Electé ou, sé l'espwa Ayiti.

Without a doubt, this is one of the most important moments in Haiti's history and your visit to the OAS is quite timely. The people in Haiti need it and deserve it. They have suffered, in my view, far too long from the lack of political stability and economic opportunity. It is time to stop this trend and you, President-elect, have a unique and historic mandate in this regard.

Excellency, as you well know we have been attentively and actively following the developments in your country. We will continue and will be there accompanying your people and the new government authorities in the immense undertaking which Haiti now faces. More than ever the international and the hemispheric community need to demonstrate in political, economic and financial terms, its long term commitment to the social and economic reconstruction in the Republic of Haiti.

**T**oday I feel particularly honored and privileged to welcome Haiti's President-Elect, Mr. René Preval to this distinguished Organization, the house of the Americas, a place where the name of your country was called incessantly, a place where the political, social and economic situation of your country were hotly debated and most importantly, a place where the work of promoting, preserving, protecting and consolidating democracy throughout the hemisphere so that its benefits can be attained and maximised by all member states of the hemisphere, continues relentlessly.

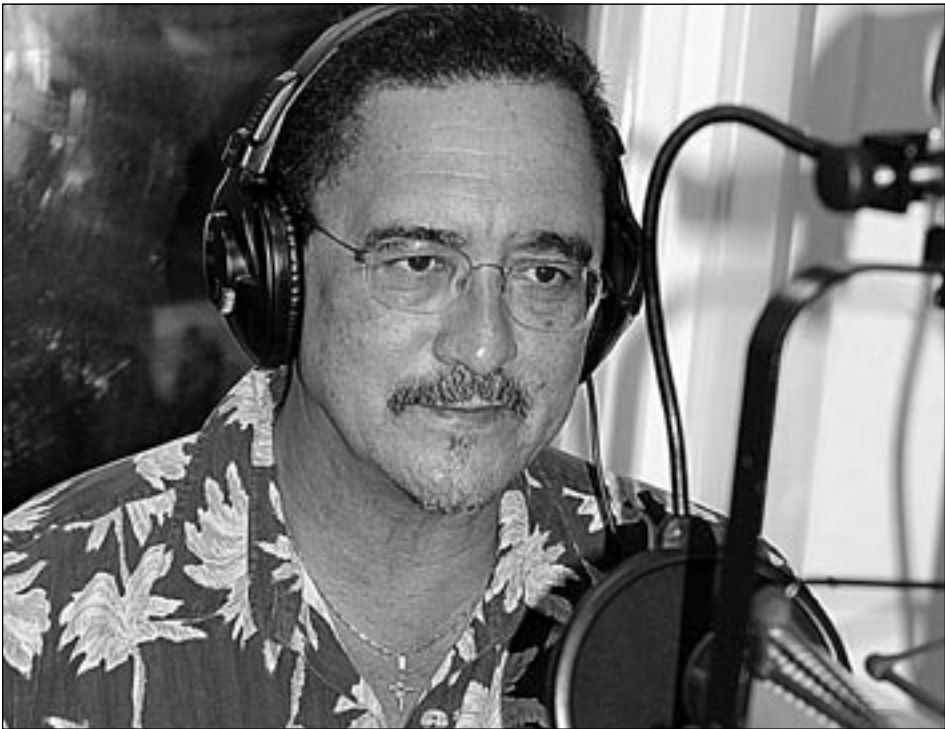
Mr. Preval, on behalf of the Council, let me welcome you to the Headquarters of the Organization of American States -- bien vini, Missié Pwésident-Electé, bien vini.

Mr. René Preval, however, is no stranger to the Organization for he graced us with his presence in March of 1996, neither is he a stranger to the issues of Democracy and Governance. In 1996, Mr. Preval, who holds a degree in Agronomy, was elected President of Haiti for a five-year term, with 89% of the popular vote. He had come a long way, and had weathered many political storms before he became the second democratically elected head of state in the country's two hundred year history.

Raised in a political family, it was not surprising that Mr. Preval became immersed in the politics of his country. With

# AIDS: All Not Infected, But All Are Affected!

## PM Converses with the Nation



Prime Minister Dr. Kenny D. Anthony

**You must have wondered whether I had abandoned our “Conversations”. After all, the last programme was aired a long time ago. The truth is that the last few weeks have been exceedingly busy. And, the by-election and its aftermath has had a lot to do with it. But I am back, and frankly, it feels good to be back. Today, I have decided to share some thoughts with you on a neutral subject – the HIV/Aids epidemic.**

### The Spectre of HIV/AIDS

A few weeks ago, I participated in a meeting of parliamentarians and politicians summoned to discuss the fight against AIDS. I regret that more representatives of the political parties, particularly the Opposition, did not attend. Some very useful information was shared with my colleagues. This information will empower us to promote the fight against the spread of AIDS and HIV.

But, as is the case everywhere else, there are differences in the approaches of different people. While many of us have moved beyond the stigmatism associated with persons affected by or working with sufferers from AIDS or HIV, there are still, unfortunately, those who continue to behave as if AIDS is a plague on Man sent by God.

### All Not Infected, But All Are Affected

Unquestionably, AIDS is a significant threat to human dignity and human life. It leaves fear and suffering everywhere it reaches. It is also a challenge to all of us -- as human beings, and as a nation -- to show compassion to our fellow men and women. Every man, woman and child who is afflicted by AIDS or HIV deserves our help and our love, because we share a common humanity. Moreover, while most of us are not infected, all of us are affected.

### Sobering Statistics

In some African countries the percentage of adults infected with HIV is as high as 33 percent. In the Caribbean, it is estimated that about 300,000 people are living with HIV, including the 30,000 who acquired the virus last year alone (that is, in 2005). Already, the AIDS epidemic has claimed an estimated 24,000 lives in our region.

Here in St. Lucia, I am informed that official records show that 300 of our fellow citizens are living with HIV and 246 have died. The 77 newly-infected cases reported last year is at least twice higher than corresponding figures for any given year since the first reported case in 1985.

Because of gross under-reporting and poor surveillance systems, the just-mentioned figures are said to only represent between 20-25 percent of the true estimates for our country. In other words, from what the local experts tell me, we can expect that there are between 1,200 and 1,500 Saint Lucians living with the AIDS virus. In ef-

fect, about one percent of adults are infected with HIV. This is alarming, because this level of adult prevalence means that HIV has now spread to the general population. Indeed, according to official records, every district in the country has been touched by HIV/AIDS.

I do not wish to overwhelm you with figures, numbers and statistics about HIV/AIDS in our country or our region. However, I must forewarn you that the HIV/AIDS epidemic is an unparalleled crisis that demands extraordinary responses. Simply put, we can see much more human suffering if we do nothing, or do not respond in a comprehensive way to HIV/AIDS.

### The Nature of the Problem

Let's talk about the sheer nature of the problem. There are three important features about the HIV/AIDS epidemic in our country and our region. Firstly, the HIV epidemic is not levelling off. In fact, new infections continue to grow. Secondly, in recent times we have seen an increase in not only the number of women newly infected with HIV, but also in the proportion of all persons with HIV who are women. Thirdly, the human toll and suffering is incalculable. Our young men and women continue to get infected, fall sick and die in their hundreds. We work in and have daily experience of the subtle genocide of our most productive Saint Lucians. Consider the hundreds of children orphaned by loss of one or both parents to AIDS. Just think about the impact of AIDS on the capacity of the government and the private sector to deliver quality services because of illness and death among service providers.

### Hope in the Face of Crisis

But my message today is not only about doom and gloom; it is also about hope and optimism. More than ever before, we are experiencing a time of great opportunity to fashion an adequate response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. First of all, there is growing political impetus at home and abroad to discuss and address HIV/AIDS. These days, when global leaders meet, HIV/AIDS is quite often a priority issue on their agenda. Secondly, we are seeing more and more instances of successful prevention efforts on all continents. With the drop in prices for anti-retroviral medicines, there is a real opportunity to bring hope to people suffering from AIDS or advanced HIV infection. In addition, resources to fund HIV/AIDS programs have increased markedly from donors and governments. Our Government has made a significant investment by borrowing US\$ 8.05 Million (in excess EC\$ 21 Million), over the next five years, to implement a National Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS -- the blueprint for guiding our national response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

### Not a Death Sentence

HIV/AIDS is no longer a hopeless death sentence -- and that is a very positive and optimistic development. New drugs and new treatments are extending and improving the lives of persons living with HIV/AIDS. So impressive is the impact of these new drugs that it is referred to as the “Lazarus effect” and people who had given up to death are suddenly alive again and have hope. When one person has hope, it usually spreads to others. We need a hopeful society to beat this epidemic. A hopeful society will think that it could win; a hopeless society quickly surrenders. We will not -- and must not -- surrender to HIV/AIDS.

For almost two decades little or no treatment and care was offered to Saint Lucians who had already contracted AIDS. And so, comprehensive care to all persons living with HIV/AIDS is an important strategy being implemented under the National Strategic Plan, to alleviate human suffering and reverse this situation. Anti-retroviral drugs are now available free in the public sector for all who need them. We have hired a well-trained, experienced and committed physician to treat and care for our clients so that they will have a chance to continue to live positively and make their contribution to their families, the society and the economy. Every life matters to the Creator of life -- and so, every life is important to society.

### Abstinence -- The Key

Another important strategy is ‘Prevention of further transmission of HIV’. We can learn from the experiences of other countries, and adapt them to fit our situation. For example, the nation of Uganda in Africa has fought back and stalled the dramatic progress of the epidemic with an A-B-C prevention approach -- A stands for ‘Abstain’, B for ‘Be faithful’ and C for use ‘Condoms’ correctly and consistently. Through sheer leadership from the highest to lowest levels, Uganda was able to cut its infection rate to 5 percent in one decade by using this A-B-C approach. We now know that Abstinence works ... Being faithful works ... using Condoms works. No matter which you choose -- A, B or C -- each has its place.

Our country needs a moral message that is well-balanced, but also practical. In addition to other prevention methods, our children must know that abstinence is the only sure way to avoid getting infected by HIV. To survive in this HIV/AIDS generation, they must lead healthy responsible lives -- and we must ask and teach them to do so.

### Change Risky Habits

Prevention will require us to compassionately help drug and alcohol abusers to free themselves from their gloomy addictions. Sometimes clinical programs are successful in helping people to change bad or negative habits like taking drugs and alcohol, or risky sexual behaviour. However, most of the time a change of heart is needed to effect a change of habit. If you change your heart, you change your life. The Faith community is quite experienced and adept in addressing matters of the heart. They have a critical role to play in impacting on the behaviour that facilitates the spread or compound the effects of HIV/AIDS.

Voluntary counselling and testing for HIV is also a very important element of our national prevention strategy. This is important because we will not be able to address the problem effectively until we can diagnose it. A significant number of people infected with HIV are not aware that they are infected, because they have not taken the HIV test for various reasons. In this situation it is extremely difficult to reach people who need treatment, and the majority of new infections are spread unknowingly.

Reducing the stigma around testing for HIV and making it more widely available is fundamental. Voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) will be integrated into the health system, and will be a routine part of

the delivery of health care. These services will be provided free of cost in the public sector. At least one Volunteer Counselling and Testing site will be established in each district for easy access.

Community leaders have an important role to play in eliminating the stigma and taboo associated with testing for HIV. I call on all Saint Lucians at risk to get tested for HIV for the sake of their health and the health of others, and then make it known that you have been tested. In so doing, you will be making a significant contribution to eliminating stigma, curtailing the spread and alleviating the impact of HIV in our beautiful country.

### Empower Our Women

Prevention will also require us to empower our women. Many studies have demonstrated their increased vulnerability because of biological, social and economic factors that place them at higher risk of infection than men. I am particularly concerned about our young women 15-24 years of age, whose risk of HIV infection more than doubles that of their male counterparts -- according to official records. Women and girls must make responsible life choices about their sexuality, their health and their right to demand equal treatment in their relationships with their partners. They need to access the information and services available to help them take charge of their life and protect themselves.

The increase in new infections year after year is not inevitable -- and therefore it is unacceptable.

### Five Key Elements

We must learn lessons from the few developing nations that have demonstrated real successes in their response to HIV/AIDS, particularly with respect to prevention of new infections and especially among young people. Once we have learned these lessons, tailored and implemented them according to our own situation, we will need to sustain the successes.

Five key elements have been found in every effective response, and these should form the basis of all our efforts in moving forward. Here are the elements: (1) Courageous Leadership -- This is important, not only from the highest level, but at all levels. More money is undoubtedly necessary. However, wise programming is critical. But without leadership on the part of everyone involved, we will lose. (2) Comprehensiveness -- sustained but simultaneous approaches on prevention, treatment and mitigation of impacts of HIV/AIDS. (3) Inclusiveness -- it is impossible for this epidemic to be brought under control by the health sector or the government alone. Broad participation of all sectors and people of all walks of life are needed, including people living with HIV/AIDS. (4) Elimination of Stigma and Discrimination -- stigma and discrimination are major barriers to encouraging persons to use prevention and care services. The human rights and dignity of persons living with HIV/AIDS must be guaranteed and respected at all times. (5) Act Sooner or Pay Later -- Africa has learned the hard lesson that denial and ignorance will not stop the epidemic from spreading. This is a lesson that we must internalize and act upon from today.

All of these important measures are needed to enable more Saint Lucians infected or affected by HIV/AIDS to live longer and more productive lives.

### Conclusion

But in the face of all this suffering there is hope and courage. With hope, life can prevail. We want all Saint Lucians to triumph over this great crisis.

I thank you for sharing in this conversation today, and urge your love and your compassion for those living with HIV.

May God continue to bless all those who suffer, and may we comfort them as and bring them peace and hope. I thank you.



# CWSL Inc. Says NO AGREEMENT FOR ELECTIONS BEFORE CRICKET

**C**ricket World Cup Saint Lucia Inc, the Local Organising Committee for the ICC Cricket World Cup 2007, has made it absolutely clear that, contrary to reports, “there is NO ICC requirement or agreement that elections in Saint Lucia or any other host venue must be held by September 2006.”

CWCSL Inc. issued a statement Wednesday, in which it said: “CWCSL Inc. has learnt that the comments originated with (Radio Caribbean International News Editor) Mr. Timothy Poleon.”

CWCSL Inc. said its offices contacted Mr Poleon “to verify the source of his information.”

According to the release: “He has informed CWCSL Inc. that he read the information in some newspaper, but cannot remember the exact date or name.”

The CWCSL Inc office also indicated that “at no time did he (Mr Poleon) seek to contact the CWCSL Inc office to verify the information he claimed to have read.”

CWCSL Inc. said it has since “pro-

vided Mr.Poleon with the contact information for the International Cricket Council and the ICC Cricket World Cup 2007 Inc officials to verify his information.”

At the same time, the CWCSL Inc. issued an “appeal to all Saint Lucians to recognise that this event requires the support and effort of all our people.”

“The hosting of this event can have either a positive or negative impact and it is the responsibility of each of us to ensure that we make it a positive and lasting legacy for our country,” said the release.

It added: “We must all resist the temptation to make Cricket World Cup a political issue and let us rally irrespective of partisan allegiance to show the world that we can host the best cricket world cup ever.”

The local organizers for the biggest sporting event in the history of Caribbean Sport ended their statement with an appeal to the nation.

It said: “Let us be proud Saint Lucians, stand as one family and show the world our collective creativity and capability.”



Ernest Hilaire CEO CWCSL Inc.

## SEVERAL COMMUNITIES TO BENEFIT FROM CDF'S STEEL PAN PROJECT

**T**he Cultural Development Foundation has unveiled the first of four Steel pan centres in the village of Anse la Raye. Micoud, Dennery and Laborie are the other communities in line to benefit from the \$300,000 Steel Pan Project, an initiative of the Cultural Development Foundation – CDF in conjunction with the Poverty Reduction Fund.

Executive Director of the CDF Teddy Francis says, “this is one of the most important projects for the foundation since its inception.”

The project will help to develop the artistic skills of young persons, as well as to build character.

Francis regards the CDF's gesture as a deliberate attempt to build the ‘esprit de corp’ which is crucial for steel band and even more importantly for social cohesion. The CDF he added is “establishing the fact that the Cultural Development Foundation is cognizant of its mandate to activate cultural activities throughout the island.”

The Poverty Reduction Fund is the collaborating agency for the steel pan project. The PRF has described the initiative as an innovative one designed to improve the quality of life of the persons in Anse-La-Raye and the other communities earmarked to receive steel pan equipment.

Social Coordinator of the CDF Juliana Alfred encouraged persons within the community – regardless of age – to seize the opportunity presented by the CDF and to “let the pan melodies resonate throughout Anse La Arye, to enjoy the music, practice discipline and allow the community to be a model for others in St. Lucia.”

Minister with responsibility for social transformation, Hon. Menissa Rambally described the event as “truly

historic and a genuine example of an activity that is people oriented.”

Anse La Raye is a community that depends heavily on tourism. Parlia-

mentary Representative for the area believes that with the introduction of the steel pan centre the tourism product in that constituency could be enhanced.



Teddy Francis  
Executive Director CDF



Hon. Menissa Rambally  
Minister for Social Transformation,  
Culture and Local Government



The smiling faces say it all:(l-r) Calypsonian Waleigh, Parliamentary Representative for Anse La Raye, Hon. Cyprian Lansiquot, Social transformation Minister Menissa Rambally and a young Anse La Raye pan student herald a new beginning for Anse La Raye



### THIS WEEK ON NTN

Sat. April 8th to Fri. April 14th, 2006

NTN – PROVIDING  
INFORMATION YOU NEED

REBROADCAST: Nation Beat  
– Officials from the Ministry of  
Communication discuss road works  
throughout the island - Sat. April  
8th, 11:30 a.m.

CSME SPOTLIGHT: Prime Min-  
ister DR. Kenny Anthony speaks  
to the issue of the CSME - Sun.  
April 9th, 11:00 a.m.

The Commonwealth – Under One  
Umbrella – Mon. April 10th,  
9:30 p.m.

Preventing & Mitigating Natural  
Disasters -Tues. April 11th,  
8:00 p.m.

REBROADCAST: Senior Games  
2005 – Wed. April 12th, 8:00 p.m.  
The OECS Civil Aviation Author-  
ity is upgraded to Category 1  
– What does that mean for the  
ECCAA? - Find out on - Thurs.  
April 13th – 8:00 p.m.

Should the Caribbean retain the  
death penalty? The pros and cons  
discussed – Fri. April  
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Remember to tune in for:  
GIS News Breaks and Kweyol News  
daily from 6:30 p.m.

Issues & Answers/Mondays at  
8:00pm:

Interview/Tuesdays at 6:15pm :  
Konsit Kweyol/Tuesdays at 8:00pm  
(Kweyol Discussion):

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

Take 2/Fridays at 6:15pm  
(Week in Review)

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

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

[www.stlucia.gov.lc](http://www.stlucia.gov.lc)

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

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](mailto:gis@candw.lc); <http://stlucia.gov.lc>