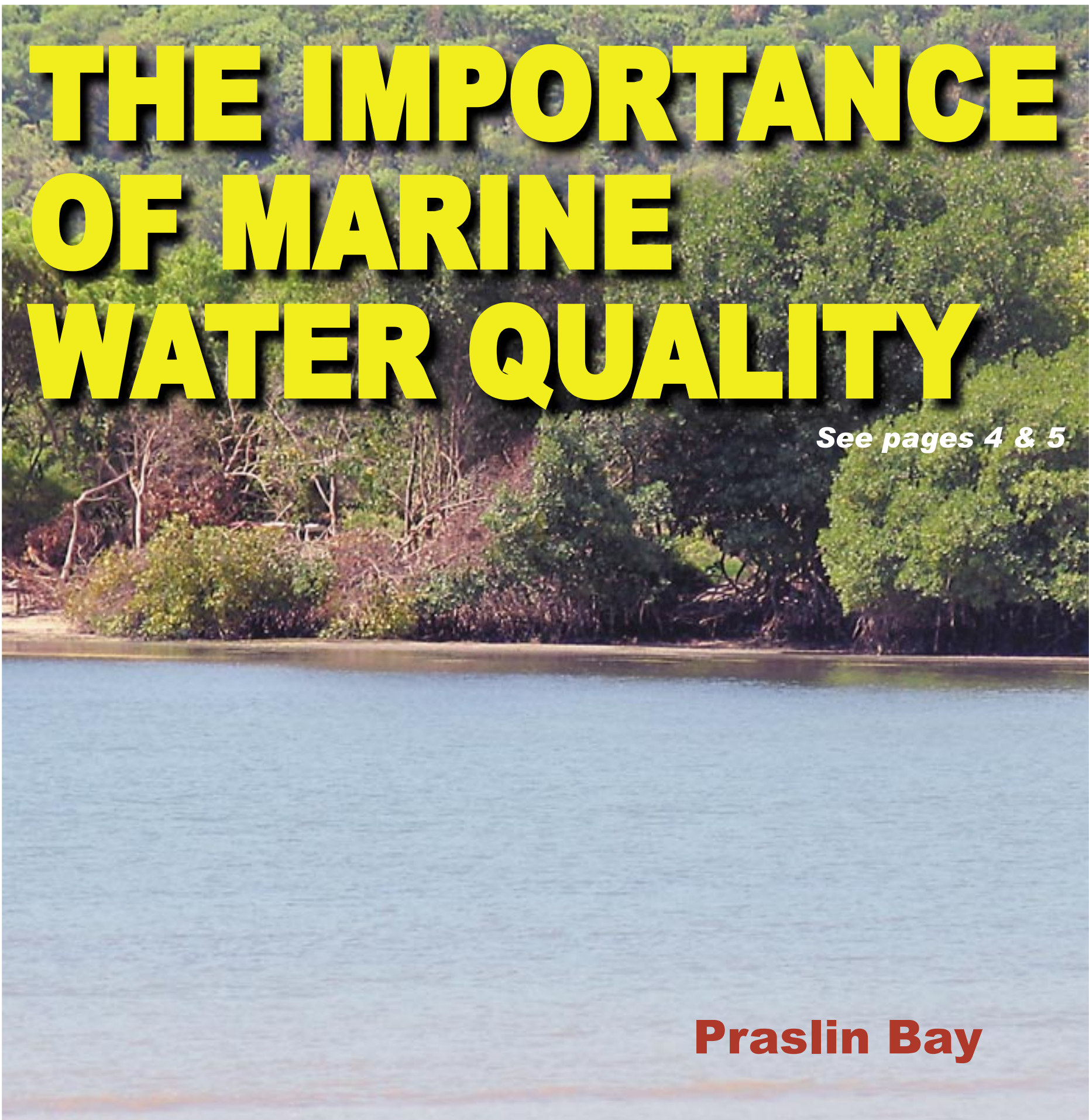




# NATIONWIDE

A publication of the Department of Information Services



# THE IMPORTANCE OF MARINE WATER QUALITY

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“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



# **Parliamentary Secretary says Cuban Nursing Programme: No Need To Worry**

**P**arliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Health, Human Services, Family Affairs and Gender Relations Honourable Jon Odum has made an appeal to members of the public to have more trust and confidence in efforts by government to develop the human resource capacity of the health sector. Mr. Odum was responding to certain criticisms of the Cuban nursing programme on some local radio talk shows.

Mr. Odum says the Cuban Nursing programme was initially undertaken with the best intentions and signifies an important incremental shift in the

future of the health sector.

He added that everything was shaping up positively and that it was time to allow the minds of the students and their families to rest easy.

“I wish to put the minds of Saint Lucians and especially the parents of some of the students who are on the Nursing programme in Cuba at ease, totally at ease. The parents who have not experienced studying at a university, university life is usually crammed with problems of dislocation, melancholy, challenges, fear, new lifestyles, new cultures, foreign friends.”

Mr. Odum says with so many fac-

tors to cope with, added pressure and criticism is really counter-productive for the students who are trying to make the best of a golden opportunity.

“The frenzy created by some unprofessional radio announcers and others with alternative plans is very unfortunate and unfair to students, families and to Saint Lucians in general. To begin with any degree is better than no degree at all especially when you have surmounted the problems of finance.” Minister for Health Hon. Damian Greaves is to travel to Cuba next week with a delegation to further clear the air on this issue.



Jon Odum Parliamentary Secretary

## **IMMINENT ROAD RELIEF FROM CASTRIES FLOOD MITIGATION PROJECT**

**M**otorists are expected to enjoy more conducive road conditions on the Darling Road, the John Compton Highway and Jn. Baptiste Street in the heart of Castries in the next six to eight weeks. These roads, which are key access routes to and from Castries, have been undergoing major infrastructural transformation from earlier this year but its completion has been delayed. However, officials from the Ministry of Communications and Works have given the assurance that they are working assiduously to ensure that the civil works will soon be completed so that the asphaltting of the roads can be undertaken and road usage reinstated.

During a discussion on NTN this week, Chief Resident Engineer on the Castries and Anse La Raye Flood Mitigation Project, Mr. Mandish Singh explained the reasons for the delay in completing the project.

“The original plan or the plan was to approach this in a manner that was just suggested, which was to take a part of the project do it, complete it and then move over. There are three main road arteries



Work on Jn. Baptiste Street

coming into Castries, the Chausee, John Compton Highway and the Darling road and the intention was to have only one of those roads closed at any one time to facilitate traffic. What has transpired is that as work has transpired for example on Chausee Road, we had conflict with utilities. We had to divert some utilities, this actually involved ordering new pipes. Pipes which had to be fabricated which added a time of say 4 to 8 weeks to the programme.”

Coordinator of the Castries and Anse La Raye Flood Mitigation Project, Mr. Anthony Jn. Baptiste explained that the absence of a blue print of the location of underground utilities was a great stumbling block.

“Castries is a very old city and as it develops maybe it was an oversight, on the part of the utility companies, to basically keep records of where the various infrastructure was placed. That was not the case when we essentially begun this project, which involved basically major changes, especially in Castries, to the drainage infrastructure in the part of the City which we are concerned about. We encounter sewer lines we did not know were there. Water lines we never envisaged were in certain locations, power lines ect; and this has caused serious interruptions, essentially to the implementation of the works.”

He added that corrective measures will definitely be put in place by the Ministry of Communications and Works to avoid this in the future. “But we are hoping that with the completion of the project we will record where every single utility line passes that we have encountered; we will record this on what we call our AS-Built Drawings so that if in future there is need for any intervention where the works are, we will not encounter the problems that we have encountered in the past.”

Meanwhile Chief Resident Engineer, Mandish Singh, elaborated on the type of decisions that had to be taken to minimize the impact of the delays caused by the utility lines.

“The question arose do you now wait for this pipe to be delivered so you can divert and continue with the works on the Chausee and have everybody sitting down doing nothing or do we try and progress works elsewhere. And by doing so minimize the costs the contractor would be bearing because he still has people on the ground. You cannot or wouldn’t like to say send these people home until you can continue.”

The US \$7 million Castries and Anse La Raye Flood Mitigation Project is funded by the Caribbean Development Bank.

### **Banana Export Regime Still Unresolved**

**Two fundamental issues critical to the type of Regime that will govern the export of Windward Islands Bananas to Europe are still unresolved. According to the Chief Executive Officer of WIB-DECO, Bernard Cornibert, tensions still surround the issue of the tariff level as well as the ACP Quota of bananas.**

He said that at the moment nothing much was happening to move beyond some of the difficulties.

“The Latin American countries are the main protagonists in this thing and for them the issue of the tariff level is still a matter to be decided, despite the fact that the European union has more or less imposed a tariff of 176 Euro per tonne; it is not a matter that has been settled with the WTO and so Latin American countries are still making noise about the tariff level which they have always argued is too high.”

Mr. Cornibert says on the other hand the ACP countries have a totally different view, resulting in a stalemate between the two on the issue. They argue that the tariff should have been higher. The matter he says is still being negotiated at the level of arbitrators.

He also explained the problem with the ACP quota: “There’s also the issue of the management of the ACP quota; as you know there is a quota for bananas coming in duty free from the ACP countries; the issue is not really the size of the quota but how the quota is managed.

Mr. Cornibert says the implementation of a first come, first serve system proposal did not seat well with the Windward Islands and Jamaica and this has now led to a hybrid of the licensing and the first come first serve systems. He added that this situation is up for review by the European Commission and as such the jury is still out on those two critical areas.

# POLICE FORCE GETS NEW BARRACKS, 64 NEW OFFICERS

*The Government’s policy of strengthening the human resources and the physical infrastructure of its law enforcement agencies so as to more effectively combat crime received another significant boost last week with the commissioning of a new police barracks in Vieux Fort and the addition of sixty four new members to the Royal St. Lucia Police Force.*

## NEW BARRACKS FOR SSU SOUTH



US Ambassdor Mary Kramer

New barracks for the Special Services Unit of the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force (SSU) in Vieux Fort was handed over Thursday morning by the Government of the United States of America to the Government of Saint Lucia. The construction of new barracks has been described as phase two of the development of the compound which also houses the Marine Police Unit. Top police officials say this physical integration of

the two units augurs well for the war on crime.

Speaking at the official handing over of the barracks last week Police Commissioner Ausbert Regis noted that the location provided better coverage for the southern region.

“This compound has been strategically located to deal with the crime and security issues affecting the south of our island and further afield. This building will facilitate the establishment of a fully fledged SSU base in the south to serve the needs of the south. The Prime Minister has already committed additional resources for the SSU in that regard.”

The facility was constructed with the assistance of the United States Government through its Air Force Reserve command. American Ambassador to the Eastern Caribbean Her Excellency Mary Kramer took the opportunity to thank local law enforcement officials for their role in preserving democratic principles in the region.

“Thank you for being willing to do this work, for looking out for your fellow citizens and for protecting what is right. We at the embassy have a number one goal which is to preserve, protect and maintain stable democracies in this region. The main pillar of a stable democracy is the respect for the rule of law. That would not be possible without your efforts, without your work.”

The American Ambassador added that the personnel who built the barracks came from The United States Air Force Reserve Command with a total of 192 people being involved in its construction. “The materials and the funds for duration staff came from



The Barracks

Southcomm and then the Air Force reserve command provided airlift to bring people in and out. All in all this project is worth about 1.2 million US dollars. It is planned to house approximately 40 people. We know it is going to greatly enhance the ability of Saint Lucia to prosecute the regional war on drugs, maritime and natural disaster relief operations.”

Prime Minister Hon Dr Kenny Anthony, who is also Parliamentary Representative for Vieux Fort South where the new facility is located, said the Special Services Unit has performed magnificently in the south of the island providing vital support to the regular police force. The Prime Minister

noted that the investment in the new barracks will be worth it in the long run and placed special emphasis on the fight against drug trafficking.

“These comments should all signal to you that Saint Lucia is on the front line with respect to the fight against drugs. In respect of the co-operation we share with all countries which deal with the scourge of drugs and the dangers it poses to all of us, it saddens me sometimes that there are those who question the wisdom to invest in resources on the issue of drugs and the dangers of drugs and why interdiction must remain for us such an important aspect of work that we do to manage our security challenges.”

## SIXTY FOUR NEW POLICE OFFICERS

Sixty four fresh faces from Course 27 of the St. Lucia Police Academy were last week ushered into the Royal St. Lucia Police Force. The latest turnout from the Academy draws the overall number of police on the island to seven hundred and fifty.

Minister for Home Affairs and Internal Security, Senator Calixte George, welcomed the achievement, saying that it resulted from government’s significant investments in the police.

Guest speaker of the graduation ceremony, Justice Hugh Anthony Rawlins, told graduates that they are coming into an environment where policing is more challenging and citizens are more enlightened. He called on them to know the law and to be guided by it.

“As police officers you are going

out into the world with a different role from the role that I knew it as. You are going out as police officers in very difficult circumstances. You have to prepare yourself for it but mind you one of the reasons for this is because the public also understands the law.”

This new group of police officers will be dispatched to the communities to take up duties shortly. Most of the young men and women hailed from the south of the island and the Minister of Home Affairs noted this development. “It is very pleasing to see that the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force is getting full blooded young men and women from throughout the country and the centre of gravity is now changing to the south other than it remaining in the north, so you have nice counterbalancing occurring there.”



Justice Hugh Anthony Rawlins inspecting the Guard



Some of the graduating officers

# The Importance of Monitoring Marine Water Quality

*A United Nations conference, hosted last week by the Government of St. Lucia, through its Ministry of Physical Development, Environment and Housing, has brought to the attention of decision makers in the member states of the OECS the importance of monitoring the marine water quality in the region. The Conference actually consisted of two workshops, one of which dealt with the issue of marine water quality and also highlighted the effects of poor water quality on human health, fisheries and tourism. The other workshop focused on the importance of the Protocol Concerning Pollution from land based sources and activities (LBS) and National Programmes of Action (NPAs) as tools for improving environmental management. The conference was organized by the Caribbean Environment Programme of UNEP (the United Nations Environment Programme) and ongoing projects in the region by UNEP and other partners which support the implementation of National Environment Management Strategies (NEMS) in OECS countries were also examined. The Conference aimed at generating high-level government commitment to address marine water quality issues, pollution reduction and prevention measures through ratification or accession and implementation of the LBS Protocol. The following are extracts of some of the discussions at the Conference and a summary of the conclusions of the Marine Water Quality Workshop.*



Vieux Fort Bay

## UNEP RESPONDING TO THE REGION

**EXTRACT FROM THE OPENING REMARKS BY MR. CHRISTOPHER CORBIN, AMEP PROGRAMME OFFICER, UNEP-CAR/RCU AT THE PROMOTIONAL WORKSHOP ON THE LBS PROTOCOL**

Madame Chair, UNEP has been accused in the past of not responding to the needs of the English Speaking Caribbean Countries – and that most of the resources and projects developed by the two offices of UNEP in this region, ROLAC in Mexico and CAR/RCU in Jamaica were benefiting mainly the Latin American countries.

I am probably in a unique position because I was one of those accusers along with many of your country delegates as we lobbied for greater assistance from UNEP.

I am pleased to say that is another anomaly that has also been righted - UNEP through the Caribbean Environment Programme has supported the development of four National Programmes of Action to deal with Pollution from land based sources in Barbados, Jamaica, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago

We have sourced financing for pilot projects on Sewage and Wastewater Management in Saint Lucia and Jamaica.

We are currently conducting a Marine Litter Pilot study in 10 Caribbean SIDS countries to assist in developing a Regional Strategy for Marine Litter Management and perhaps most significant of all, we are co-executing along with CEHI the UNEP UNDP GEF Integrating Watershed and Coastal Area Management (IWCAM) Project to a tune of over 20 million US Dollars for 13 Caribbean SIDS over the next 5 years.

Madame Chair, it is also a unique opportunity when a regional workshop takes place in Saint Lucia so that I can also extend a special welcome to all participants not just on behalf of UNEP Jamaica but also as a Saint Lucian.

This promotional workshop is a follow-up to a similar regional promotional workshop held in Costa Rica in December 2004 for the Spanish Speaking Countries of the Wider Caribbean.

It’s taken a little while to pull together and I would like to acknowledge the financial support and patience from the Government of the USA and in particular to Ms Anne Chick which helped make this a reality. I know that Anne has recently taken up a new posting but perhaps our US colleagues could convey our recognition and appreciation of her efforts.

It is perhaps quite appropriate that this meeting is being held in Saint Lucia. Saint Lucia was the ninth country to formally accede to the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife Protocol (SPAW), effectively bringing it into force.

We at CEP look forward to the possibility of Saint Lucia being the third country in the Wider Caribbean, second English speaking Caribbean Country after Trinidad and Tobago, and the first of the Eastern Caribbean to accede to the LBS Protocol.

Madame Chair, this workshop takes place during our silver anniversary - the 25th Anniversary of the Caribbean Action Plan and please note in your calendar the dates of our 12th IGM this year at the end of November in Montego Bay – it promises to be a very special one.

While the workshop is entitled a Regional Promotional Workshop for the LBS protocol, it is more than just providing you with a justification or reasons to sign or accede to the Protocol, it is about highlighting it’s importance as a tool for improved cooperation in environmental management in the region.

I wish all of you a very successful workshop over the next 3 days and let me end with a special word of thanks to the media/press. You have an important role to help demystify many of these environmental agreements and show how they can contribute meaningfully to economic and social development in our countries.

## The LBS Protocol

Tourism and Fisheries are two of the major economic activities of the Wider Caribbean Region. Both are directly dependent on coastal and marine resources. These resources are degrading at an alarming rate due to unsustainable practices. These practices include overfishing, unplanned coastal development, poor land use practices and pollution.

The LBS Protocol to the Cartagena Convention, adopted in October 1999, is designed to address the causes of pollution that threatens the region’s socio-economic health. It is a regional agreement requiring specific plans to limit domestic wastewater (sewage) discharge and agricultural non-point runoff.

However, since its adoption only two countries have ratified the LBS Protocol – Trinidad and Tobago and Panama. The Protocol requires ratification or accession by nine states in order to come into force. Addressing pollution issues through mechanisms such as the LBS Protocol is imperative for the preservation of the domestic and regional health of our environment and economy.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING MARINE WATER QUALITY

Marine environmental degradation often results from short-term economic considerations, but at great long- term cost. Degraded fisheries mean lower catches and lost revenue. Investments that encourage increased fishing effort in many fisheries already considered overexploited, often driven by politically expedient subsidies, costs tens of billions of dollars annually. Seafood contamination reduces the value of many catch-

## CONCLUSIONS OF THE RECREATIONAL MARINE WATER QUALITY WORKSHOP

- Degradation of coral reefs in the region associated with Declining Water Quality
- The sustainability of vital economic sectors are threatened - Tourism and Fisheries
- Urgent measures needed to reduce pollution of the marine environment
- Decision makers, the general public, and private sector need improved information on water quality
- The time to take action is now

Saturday, August 12, 2006

## CARIBBEAN COASTAL AND MARINE ENVIRONMENTS THREATS TO COASTAL AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS IN THE CARIBBEAN

Approximately 36 percent of Caribbean coral reefs lie within 2 km of the coast, making them highly susceptible to pressures arising from coastal populations.

Direct damage can occur to the reefs through dredging and mining, and indirect damage can occur from run-off and pollution generated by industrial structures, construction sites, and roads.

Traditionally, sediments and nutrients coming from the land were filtered by mangrove forests and seagrass beds, however the loss of these important areas is widespread throughout the Caribbean.

In addition to the threats created by human activities, our biological presence also poses a threat to the Caribbean reef systems. It is estimated that less than 20 percent of sewage water generated in the Caribbean region is treated before entering the ocean.

Coral reefs thrive in traditionally

Nearly two-thirds of coral reefs in the Caribbean are threatened by at least one form of human activity.

Nearly two-thirds of the Caribbean coral reefs were threatened by coastal development especially along the coastline of the Greater Antilles.

In the Lesser Antilles, one third of the coastline is threatened by sediments and pollution.

Human activities had threatened over 80 per cent of the reefs in Jamaica, Haiti, and the Dominica Republic.

An estimated one-third of coral reefs in the Caribbean are threatened by coastal development, sediment, and pollution from land-based sources.

Overfishing threatens 60 percent of Caribbean coral reefs.

Disease and rising sea temperatures threaten to damage coral reefs across the Caribbean region.

These are among the findings from “In the Front Line: Shoreline Protection and other Ecosystem Services from Mangroves and Coral Reefs”. It has been produced by UNEP’s World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) in collaboration with the International Coral Reef Action Network and IUCN-the World Conservation Union.

### Climate Change and Coastal and Marine Ecosystems

The main environmental components of the coastal zone under threat from climate change impacts are beaches, coral reefs, mangals and the diverse species which occupy these coastal habitats.

The degree of climate change impacts on the coastal zone will be determined by the existing condition of the resource base and by the degree of stress to which it has already being subjected.

The major stresses include both non-human causes of stress such as storm surges associated with tropical cyclones and human induced stresses such as pollution from land-based sources and activities. These affect the fresh and marine water quality that result in the degradation of coastal resources.

Coastal Ecosystems that are already stressed have reduced ability to adapt to the effects of climate change.

### Economic Valuation of Ecosystem Goods and Services

The coastal communities and national economies of the Caribbean region are poised to sustain substantial economic losses if current trends in coral reef degradation continue.

Coral reef-associated fisheries in the Caribbean region provide net annual revenues valued at an estimated US\$310 million.

Further degradation of the region coral reefs could reduce these net annual revenues by an estimated US\$95 million to US\$140 million per year by 2015.

A decrease in dive tourism could also significantly affect annual net tourism revenues.

In 2000, the net benefits from dive tourism total was estimated to be US\$2.1 billion per year with US\$625 million spent directly on diving on reefs , with divers typically spending 60-80 percent more than other tourists. The average diver spends about

US\$2,100 per trip to the Caribbean compared to US\$1,200 by the regular tourist.

By 2015, coral reef degradation could result in annual losses of US\$100 million to US\$300 million.

In addition to being a source of revenue in the region, coral reefs also protect coastal shorelines in the

Caribbean by dissipating wave and storm energy.

The estimated value of this protection is between US\$70 million and US\$2.2 billion per year.

If coral reef degradation continues, within 50 years the Caribbean could experience annual losses totaling US\$140 million to US\$240 million.



Sewage Plant



Truck being washed in a river



Sediment Plume in a Bay

# New Headquarters for NEMO



NEMO Director, Dawn French

**T**he handing over of the NEMO Operations Centre by the Government of the United States to the Government of Saint Lucia marks a significant juncture in the history of the National Emergency Management Organisation – NEMO. The handing over ceremony took place last thursday with PM Dr. Kenny Anthony and US Ambassador Mary Kramer participating.

As of September 2006 the offices and warehouse will be permanently housed at the Old Quarry - Bisee. This achievement has been long awaited by the Secretariat which been a tenant for some 17 years.

Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony, who is also the Chairman of the National Emergency Management Organisation - NEMO, said regional and international catastrophic events serve as constant reminders that the country should be prepared at all costs.

In this context the Saint Lucian leader conveyed the gratitude of the government and people of Saint Lucia to United States representative, Her Excellency Mary Elizabeth Kramer, Unit-

ed States Ambassador to Saint Lucia. “It is in that spirit that I want to ask you to express the thanks of the Government of Saint Lucia, the people of Saint Lucia for this magnificent gift of support that you have extended to us. I assure you that it will always be appreciated and treasured not just by those who are here this afternoon but by all the people of Saint Lucia and a major challenge has been resolved.”

Meantime Ambassador Mary Elizabeth Kramer has publicly commended the National Emergency Management Organisation for its sterling contribution to disaster preparedness on the island. “I know that the national emergency management operations have done well in St. Lucia and are well thought of by our folks from the Office of Federal Disaster Assistance. They are certainly appreciative of the organisation here in Saint Lucia. We are confident that if we are to work together, we can.”

The NEMO Operations Centre was constructed under the Southern Command Humanitarian Assistance Programme, an arm of the United States Military.



US Ambassador Mary Kramer cutting the ribbon to officially open the Headquarters



The new NEMO Headquarters



Ambassador Kramer and Prime Minister Anthony share a light moment



Agriculture Minister Ignatius Jean ( first row left), Prime Minister Anthony ( first row right) and other guests at the handing over ceremony

# Caricom Moves For Closer Collaboration On Climate Change

**C**ARICOM Secretary-General, His Excellency Edwin Carrington concluded and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Tuesday 1 August between the CARICOM Secretariat, on behalf of the Mainstreaming Adaptation to Climate Change (MACC) Project, and the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC). Dr Kenrick Leslie, the Executive Director of the Centre, signed on its behalf at the ceremony which took place one year after the official opening of the CCCCC. Both the Centre and the MACC Project are located in Belize.

The MOU provides for, among other things, the exchange of information and documentation on climate change; policy and technical support for and coordination of the articulation of regional positions on climate change matters; identification of opportunities for resource mobilisation; and the sharing of physical and human resources to improve efficiency and effectiveness of both organisations.

It also allows for cooperation, where

possible, in the implementation of some components of the Project, including the building of capacity to: assess vulnerability and risks associated with climate change; reduce vulnerability to climate change, and to effectively assess and utilise resources to reduce vulnerability to climate change. The MOU also provides for cooperation in Public Education and Outreach programmes.

The Secretary-General and the Executive Director discussed ways to strengthen collaboration between the MACC project and the Centre. The Secretariat team, which included the Deputy Secretary-General, Her Excellency Ambassador Lolita Applewhaite, the Assistant Secretary-General for Regional Trade and Economic Integration, His Excellency Ambassador Irwin La Rocque and the Chef de Cabinet in the Office of the Secretary-General, Ms Glenda Itiaba, also held discussions with the Project Implementation Unit of the MACC Project which is led by Dr Ulric Trotz.

The objective of the MACC project is to create the capacity and the environment in the Small Island and

Low-Lying Coastal developing states in CARICOM to implement adaptation measures to minimise the adverse impact of climate change. The main elements of the project include expanding and strengthening the technical and information capacity to assess vulnerability and the risks associated with global climate change and the development of a regional position on adaptation and mainstreaming adaptation to climate change in national development planning and public and private sector development strategies.

MACC is a US \$10.9 M project financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), CARICOM Member States, the Government of Canada and the Government of the United States of America, through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The twelve (12) participating countries are Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago.

The role of the Climate Change Centre in the Region includes protection of

the climate system; enhancement of regional institutional capabilities for the co-ordination of national responses to the negative effects of climate change; the provision of comprehensive policy and technical support in the area of climate change and related issues; spearheading regional initiatives in these areas and being the executing agency for regional environmental projects related to climate change.

While in Belize, the Secretary-General paid a courtesy call on the Prime Minister of Belize the Honourable Said Musa on Wednesday 2 August, the last day of his four-day visit to that Member State. Earlier in his visit, Mr. Carrington met with the Deputy Prime Minister the Hon John Briceno.

The Secretary-General also took the opportunity to formally hand over the CARICOM video conferencing facilities to the Government of Belize on Tuesday 1 August. Mr Briceno received the equipment which has been provided to the Community by the Government of Japan. All Member States with the exception of Haiti are now equipped with video conferencing facilities.

## OECS STUDIES IMPACT OF EPA

**M**ember countries of the OECS met in St. Lucia last Thursday and Friday to examine the findings of a study on the impact on these states of the proposed Economic Partnership Agreement with the European Union. The OECS Member States along with other Members of the CARICOM and the Dominican Republic have been negotiating the Economic Partnership Agreement with the Europeans since 2004. Negotiations are scheduled to be completed at the end of 2007 so that the Agreement takes effect in 2008.

The participants at the seminar considered the findings of the study

paying particular attention to the recommendations and the strategy for negotiations. Participants were drawn from Ministries of Trade and Planning in the Member States, regional private sector and non governmental organizations. The conference was a joint effort between the OECS Secretariat and the Economic Partnership Agreement Project Management Unit in Brussels.

The rationale for the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States pursuing an Economic Partnership Agreement with the European Union is based on the existing relationship between both territories. Director of the OECS Economic Affairs Division of the OECS, Randolph Cato, who chaired the meeting, says

the Economic Partnership Agreement is a matter of building on the ties that exist between Europe and ACP (Afro Caribbean Pacific) Countries.

“The economic partnership agreement with Europe is a continuation of the relationship between the ACP countries and Europe that has been ongoing since 1975 with the first Lome Convention. In fact there were arrangements that preceded that. So what we are looking at is a continuation of those arrangements into a new form in terms of the Economic Partnership Agreement to enable Trade and Development Cooperation between Europe and the ACP countries and in this context the Caribbean and most specifically the OECS.”



OECS Economic Affairs Director  
Randy Cato

## Air Space Utilisation Workshop

A week long meeting of the Eastern Caribbean Working Group of the International Civil Aviation Organisation ended in St. Lucia on Friday. The Working Group, which was established to examine problems affecting airspace organisation and utilisation in the Eastern Caribbean region, comprises all Caricom countries and also includes Venezuela, Aruba and France. The St. Lucia meeting which was held at the Bay Gardens Hotel was the group's thirty second and St. Lucia's special interest there was the issue of radar services.

Eustace Lee Cherry, the Aviation Officer in the Ministry of External Affairs, International Trade and Civil Aviation, told the Government Information Service, GIS, that discussions took place on an element of radar sharing in the near future.

“Without radar most times air traffic controllers have to rely on pilots giving their positions and often times it can be difficult for the air-traffic controller to fully understand where everyone is at one point in time. They try their best, but in this modern age, where there is technology like radar it should be a simple thing of looking at a screen and you can see where every aircraft is, know their speed, know their altitude, where they're heading without asking persons all the time, “please state your position !”



The control tower at George F L Charles Airport

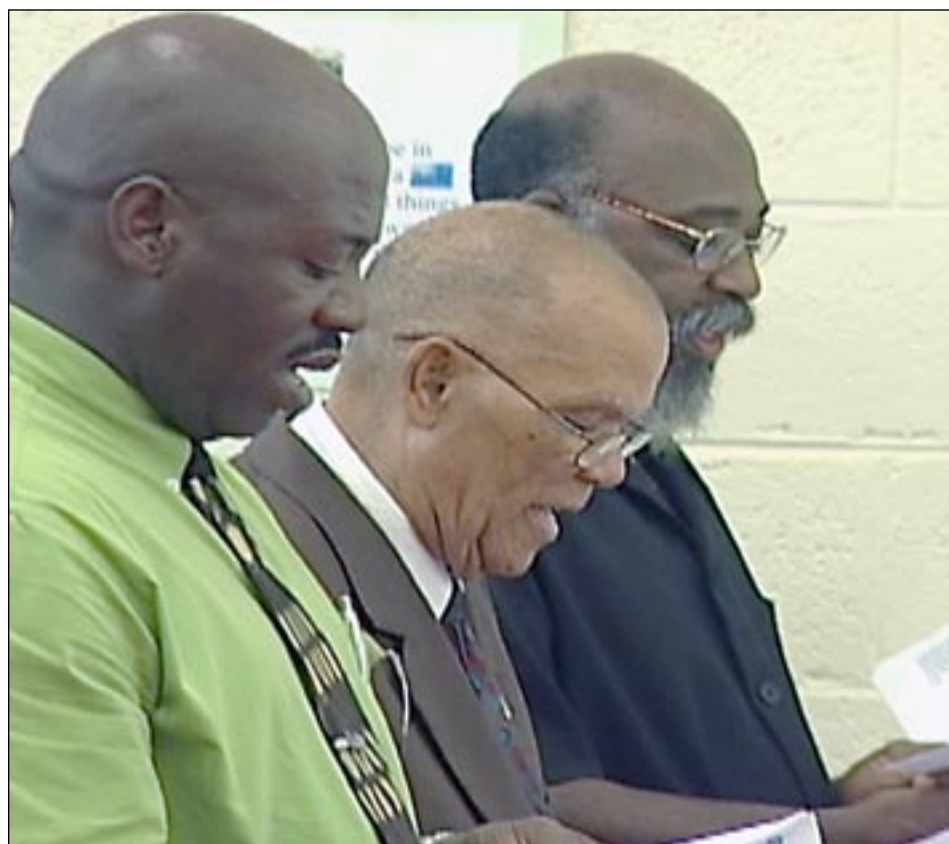
# Bordelais Visiting Justices Initiate Prayer Service At The Prison

**T**he newly created Board of Visiting Justices of the Bordelais Correctional Facility has staged its first major activity – a special prayer service at the prison on Wednesday morning. The prayer service, the theme of which was “Called to Serve”, brought together the Visiting Justices, inmates, government officials and members of the clergy in what was a moving experience for all concerned.

The newly installed Board was appointed in July under the Correctional Services Act 24 of 2004 Part 7 Section 59. It is responsible for seeing into the welfare of Bordelais inmates and correction officers. The Board meets twice monthly with the Director and the Senior Staff of the Correctional Facility as well as with the Executive members of the Prison Welfare Association, either collectively or separately in order to address their needs, concerns and challenges. The Board also meets regularly with small groups of inmates on a one to one basis to listen to their con-



Home Affairs Minister Senator Calixte George and some Bordelais inmates during the prayer service



From Left to right, Prison Director Hilary Herman, Visiting Justices Chairman, James Prudent and the Deputy Chair, Monsignor Theophilus Joseph at the prayer service

cerns and convey those to the Director or relevant authorities for appropriate action.

Chairman of the Board of Visiting Justices is James Prudent and he explained the rationale for the Board's

role. “The inmates are citizens who will one day be released and re – integrated into society; how best can we prepare them for this. The Correctional Officers have to remain calm and maintain stability even when the challenges seem insurmountable.”

The other members of the Board are: Monsignor Theophilus Joseph, Deputy Chair, Andrea Bourne, Eusebe Lawrence, Joanne Deveaux, Davis Thomas, Deacon, Randolph Evelyn, Obed Regis

Wednesday's prayer session was a packed one consisting of an address by the Chairman of the Board of Visiting Justices, hymns, readings from the holy scripture, the lighting of a peace candle and a procession around the Bordelais correctional facility with lighted candles.

According to Prudent: “This is where we really need the prayer; and hence the reason we thought we should ask people to come and pray with them and for God's guidance and the holy spirit to give them the relevant knowledge to do their tedious jobs.”

The Board of Visiting Justices of the Bordelais Correctional Facility is holding discussions as to whether the prayer service should be done on a half yearly or yearly basis.

## COMMUNITIES PREPARE FOR CRICKET WORLD CUP 2007

**T**he Local Organising Committee (LOC) for the ICC Cricket World Cup 2007 is making every effort to ensure that Saint Lucia is fully prepared for the hosting of the ICC Cricket World Cup in 2007. One of the activities being undertaken to achieve this objective is Community involvement in the country's hosting of the event.

Regular meetings are being held with the LOC and communities throughout the country, as the organization seeks to provide information on the Event while encouraging

communities to seek opportunities for long term benefits through legacy projects and events.

With the influx of visitors expected through the island's hosting of one of the major teams, England, communities can see immediate benefits through the hosting of events which are cultural and in keeping with the community lifestyle. Communities like Gros Islet and Anse-La Raye are already known for their Friday night events and the organizers can now review and enhance the product to maximize the benefits to be derived to the community.

The scenic beauty of the island's lifestyle which is expected to be televised to billions of people worldwide, also provides the incentives to enhance villages and towns through beautification initiatives encouraged and assisted by Government and spearheaded by the LOC.

Such ideas are being channeled to other communities to develop their own Personality and Brand which can be marketed to increase visitation and commercial activities among their residents while leaving many legacy benefits for our nationals to enjoy.



### THIS WEEK ON NTN

Sat. August 12th to Fri. August 18th 2006  
NTN – PROVIDING INFORMATION YOU NEED

**The Government of Saint Lucia highlights steps taken to lessen criminal activity in the country** – Sat. Aug. 12th, 10:30 a.m.

**Hidden Treasures – Discover the intimate secrets of Bouton and Fond Gens Libres** – Sun. Aug. 13th, 10:30 a.m.

**Secondary school students from the north of the island express themselves on the way forward for St. Lucia and much more** – Mon. Aug. 14th, 8:00 p.m.

**The Youth Apprenticeship Programme – providing avenues for unemployed young persons** – Tues. Aug. 15th, 6:15 p.m.

**Why was the Cultural Development Foundation established and how is the organization assisting artistes? Find out on** – Tues. Aug. 15th, 7:30 p.m.

**Why are there delays on the Castries flood mitigation project? and when will the project be completed? Answers provided on** – Wed. Aug. 16th, 6:15 p.m.

**Chief Executive Officer of WIBDECO reveals the latest information on efforts to sustain the banana industry in the Windward Islands** – Thurs. Aug. 17th, 8:00 p.m.

**Fish vending expose = The Fish Marketing Corporation or road side vendors – A fascinating feature** – Fri. Aug. 18th, 6:30 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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