



NATIONWIDE

A publication of the Department of Information Services



2006 COMMON ENTRANCE RESULTS SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES FOR ALL



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“Take ②” - A fifteen minute news review of the week.
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New Aids Testing Drive

Promoting safe and responsible sexual behaviour during the carnival season is likely to take on new meaning with the commencement of the “ Know your status - do the test drive” on the 10th of July.

The Saint Lucia Medical and Dental Association is spearheading this new initiative using some 40 members of the Association. It was during a press launch of the project on Monday , May 03rd, President of the Medical and Dental Association Dr. Leslie Bishop explained that the \$50,000.00 project will be a free service during the month of July.

“Members of the public are encouraged to visit their doctors and dentists for VCT and the rapid HIV test. At the visit the doctor and dentists will 1. Discuss HIV/AIDS. 2. The doctor will as-

sess and discuss with the patient their risk and ways of reducing their risks, 3. Discuss the HIV test. 4. Discuss what will happen after the result is positive or negative. 5. The test will be done if the patient agrees 6. The patient will be given the test the same day within 15 minutes And the patient will be given advise based on the result.”

Chief Medical Officer Dr. Stephen King underscored the support of the Ministry of Health for the project. “ And I want to say that the ministry’s policy with regards to this whole negotiation is one not just dealing with HIV but more dealing with systems”

Meantime the Medical and Dental Association will be hosting another workshop for its membership on Saturday, in order to fully prepare them for implementing the project.



Dr. Stephen King

Nursing Students Leave For Cuba

194 nursing students left the island last week for Cuba where they will pursue the Cuban Nursing Scholarship Programme which was developed by the governments of St. Lucia and Cuba to address the shortage of nurses facing the island. Over the initial three year duration of the programme, Saint Lucians along with Vincentians and Kittitians will study to become qualified nursing assistants. Under the programme, students will be provided with board-

ing, meals, free medical attention and books and stationery

Prior to their departure from St. Lucia, the Ministry of Education conducted an orientation session for 194 successful nominees at the NIC conference room on Thursday June 28th. Cuban Ambassador to Saint Lucia His Excellency Hugo Cabrera briefed the students on the kind of environment Cuba offers.

“You will find in Cuba a very friendly country, a very friendly people as

you are, very hospitable, but you have to be prepared to discover a country which is not a developed country. As a matter of fact we are on the way to becoming developed.”

Dr. Mkabi Walcott who studied in Cuba for six years, shared the perspective of a former student. She noted that sacrifices would have to be made in order to make good on this opportunity but the experience can be very rewarding with the right mindset and approach.

‘You are extremely lucky that you’re going to be provided with accommodation which is new. A new school is going to house all of you together, along with some persons from St. Vincent and St. Kitts. So you are extremely lucky. You will not have to go through periods of loneliness, because you have each other right there .’

The nursing students will be based in the province of Cienfuegos some six hours from Havana.



Nursing Students at Briefing Session

Ministry of Health To Benefit From Food Security Consultation

The Ministry of Health, Human Services and Family Affairs stands to benefit from ongoing consultations and study of the levels of food and nutrition security on the island as well as the profiling of persons who may be vulnerable.

The initiative spearheaded by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries is being supported by the Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute (CFNI) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

The issue of food security and safety, according to Food and Nutrition Specialist with the Ministry of Health Patricia Joseph, remains an essential and necessary requirement.

“Once the assessment is over the Ministry of Health will benefit from some of the information that we desperately need for adequate planning, implementation and evaluation of certain components of the food and nutrition strategy, which we have endorsed within the national strategic plan,” said the Ministry of Health official.

It has long been documented and proven that food as a basic need, requirement and a right—in many ways—has a considerable impact on the health and well being of individuals, communities and countries.

“Food of the right quantity, quality and variety is necessary for optimum health and wellness. In-fact currently, at the Ministry of Health, we are looking at the impact of poor nutrition on the outcome of babies, the outcome of learning for school

children as well as the impact of productivity of individuals,” said Miss Joseph.

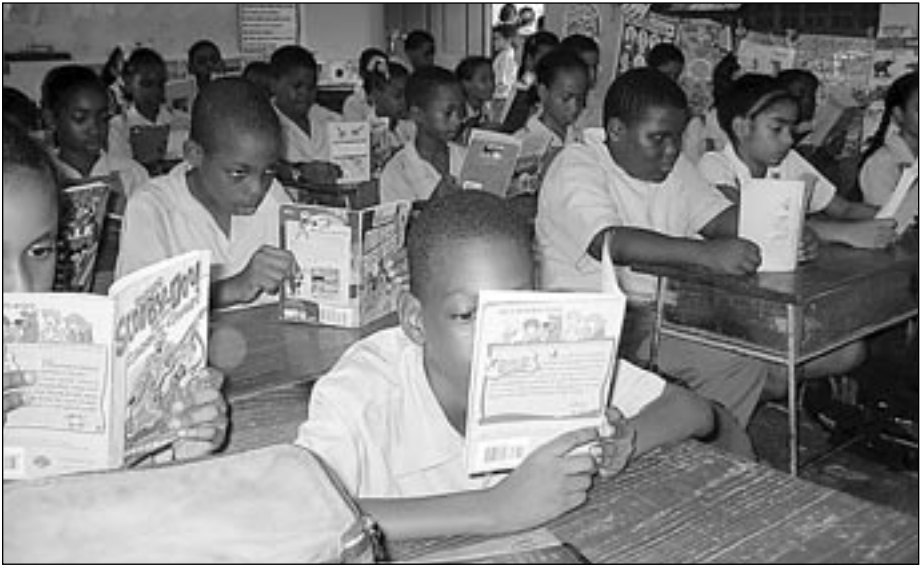
Recently the Ministry of Agriculture engaged representatives from a wide cross-section of the St. Lucian society in dialogue on the issues faced in their communities, as far as food security is concerned. It is hoped that this will assist in profiling, in terms of under nutrition and groups of persons that are vulnerable.

2006 COMMON ENTRANCE RESULTS

ALL 4,000 STUDENTS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

For the first time in the educational history of St. Lucia all 4,000 students who sat this year's common entrance exam for the island's secondary schools have been placed in schools for the academic year starting in September. The results of the common entrance exam were released this week by the Ministry of Education, revealing that of 4141 students who sat the exam, 3614 candidates had been assigned to the island's twenty four secondary based on the scores they had attained in the exam. This means that 527 candidates did not succeed in reaching scores that would have given them the schools of their choices. However, under the Government's

new policy of universal secondary school education, every child who sat the common entrance exam is guaranteed a place in a secondary school; and the Minister of Education, Mario Michel, in announcing the common entrance results, confirmed that over the next few weeks, the 527 unassigned candidates will be given places in secondary schools. The top student in the common entrance exam was Tenisha H Peter from Mongouge Primary School in Choiseul, who scored 91.67% with Hadia K Venner of the Carmen Rene Memorial who had a mark of 91% coming second. Here is a full analysis of the 2006 Common Entrance Examination results.



A Primary School Class at Camille Henry Memorial

SYNOPSIS OF THE 2006 COMMON ENTRANCE EXAMINATION RESULTS

The results of four thousand, one hundred and forty-one (4141) candidates were processed for the 2006 Common Entrance Examination. Of these, Two Thousand one hundred and ninety-two (2192) were male and one thousand nine hundred and forty-nine (1949) were female. Results were NOT processed for one hundred and sixty-one (161) candi-

dates who did not submit their birth records. One hundred and twelve (112) registered students were absent for the examination. For this year's examination, the average composite scores ranged from 9.000% to 91.667%. The national mean was 45.800% - a decrease of 6.4% compared to the 2005 national mean of 52.241%. Two thousand (2000) or

48.30% of the candidates scored at and above the national mean while two thousand one hundred and forty-one (2141) scored below the mean. At this time, three thousand, six hundred and fourteen (3614) candidates have been assigned to the twenty-four (24) secondary schools leaving five hundred and twenty-seven (527) candidates UNASSIGNED.

Two of these candidates had scores at and above the national mean, while five hundred and twenty-five (525) candidates had scores which were below the mean. It is to be noted that candidates are deemed UNASSIGNED, if their average composite scores do not fall within the range of scores for the secondary schools of their choice.

TABLE 1 ENTRY SCORES FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS			
SECONDARY SCHOOL	SCHOOL CODE	RANGE OF SCORES	
		MINIMUM (CUT-OFF)	MAXIMUM
Castries Comprehensive	A	61.000	87.333
Choiseul Secondary	B	40.333	91.667
Corinth Secondary	C	52.333	60.667
Clendon Mason Memorial	D	30.667	64.000
Entrepot Secondary	E	56.333	64.000
Micoud Secondary	F	41.333	80.333
Soufriere Secondary	G	39.000	82.000
St. Joseph's Convent	H	72.667	91.000
St. Mary's College	I	64.667	91.000
Bocage Secondary	J	37.667	58.667
Vieux Fort Comprehensive	K	51.333	91.000
Leon Hess Comprehensive	L	61.333	87.667
Vide Boutielle Secondary	M	39.333	56.333
George Charles Secondary	N	31.667	55.667
Sir Ira Simmons Secondary	O	47.667	63.333
Piaye Secondary	P	37.667	85.333
Anse Ger Secondary	Q	33.667	61.000
Babonneau Secondary	R	43.667	60.667
Ciceron Secondary	S	42.333	60.667
Grande Riviere Secondary	T	9.000	37.000
Gros Islet Secondary	U	20.333	60.333
Marigot Secondary	V	15.000	45.333
Vieux-Fort Technical Sec.	W	28.667	45.000
SDA Academy	X	30.333	78.667

PERFORMANCE BY SEX

Of the students assigned to secondary schools, 57% were females and 43% were males. The females attained over 50% mean performances in English Language and General Paper. The males attained over 50% mean performance only in Mathematics.

TABLE 2
PERFORMANCE BY SEX

		Males	Females	Total
Number Sat		2192	1949	4141
Number Scoring at & Above the National Mean		860	1140	2000
Number Assigned		1826	1788	3614
English Language	National Mean	40.173	50.597	45.079
	Standard Deviation	17.265	16.231	17.574
Mathematics	National Mean	33.996	40.540	37.076
	Standard Deviation	17.304	17.626	17.759
General Paper	National Mean	51.978	58.918	55.245
	Standard Deviation	18.301	16.495	17.814

SUBJECT PERFORMANCE

The national mean performance in each subject area is shown in Table 3. General Paper recorded the highest national mean of 55.245%, which represented a decrease of about 3% over last year. Both English Language and Mathematics recorded decreases in mean performance when compared to 2005. The scores in these subject areas ranged from 3% to 94%, from 0% to 99% and from 2% to 96% in English Language, Mathematics and General Paper respectively. The descriptive statistics for each subject topic are provided in Table 4. All components in the General Paper except for Social Studies recorded means of over 50%.

In Mathematics, number concepts and whole numbers and rational numbers recorded means of over 50%. In the English Language, Reading 1, Composition and Comprehension re-

TABLE 3

NATIONAL MEAN PERFORMANCES IN SUBJECT AREAS FOR 2006, 2005 & 2004

SUBJECT AREA	YEAR 2006	YEAR 2005	YEAR 2004
English Language	45.079	49.101	51.334
Mathematics	37.076	49.175	46.165
General Paper	55.245	58.446	54.588

corded means of below 50%. Overall, the highest mean of 62.03%

was recorded in General Science while the lowest mean of 5.55% was record-

ed in Comprehension.

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DECISIONS

FROM THE 27TH MEETING OF HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF CARICOM

Introduction

The Twenty-Seventh Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community was held in Bird Rock, St. Kitts and Nevis, from 3-6 July 2006 under the chairmanship of the Honourable Dr. Denzil Douglas, Prime Minister of the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis. St. Lucia was represented at the meeting by Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony and a delegation which included the Foreign Minister Petrus Compton, the Ambassador to the Caribbean Community, Anthony Severin and representatives of the social partners – the private sector and the trade unions.

At the opening ceremony of the Meeting on Monday 3rd July, Prime Minister Douglas alluded to the strengthening of the co-operation within the OECS and the benefits it would bring to the wider Caribbean Community. "Indeed as we accelerate and deepen the integration process in the OECS, it is our aim that the OECS union would be seamlessly integrated into the CARICOM Single Market and Economy," Prime Minister Douglas said. Outgoing Chairman of



From L - R St. Lucia's Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony; Caricom Chairman Prime Minister Denzil Douglas of St Kitts and Nevis; Outgoing Caricom Chairman, Prime Minister Patrick Manning of Trinidad and Tobago

the Conference, Prime Minister Patrick Manning of Trinidad and Tobago urged the Community to diversify its foreign relations even as it deepens the



integration movement. In that regard he stressed the need for the free movement of people within CARICOM. "Without that freedom, our integration

process will stagnate and decline." The following are some of the decisions emanating from the 27th Meeting of the Caricom Conference.

CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME)

The Conference welcomed the six OECS countries joining the original six countries, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago participating in the CARICOM Single Market launched on 1 January 2006.

Heads of Government agreed that the categories of CARICOM nationals entitled to move freely within the Community be expanded to include nurses and teachers, except in Antigua and Barbuda. They deferred decision on artisans, domestics and hospitality workers, pending elaboration of procedures for certification and accreditation.

Heads of Government further agreed to the contribution formula proposed for the regional Development Fund and mandated that the Fund and the regional Development Agency be fully operational by the 28th Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government in July 2007.

Heads of Government endorsed the formation of the Caribbean Business Council which was announced in Barbados in June. The Council is seen as an important link with the social partners as the Community seeks to include all stakeholders in the efforts to build a strong Single Market and Economy.

The Heads of Government congratulated the Members of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States for their announced intention to form an economic union within the next year.

The Heads of Government congratulated the Prime Minister with lead responsibility for implementation of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy, the Rt. Hon Owen Arthur, Prime Minister

of Barbados for the successful staging of four symposia, one in Montego Bay, Jamaica, and the other three in Barbados, all aimed at providing the foundation for the CARICOM Single Economy. They agreed to work assiduously towards the establishment of the framework for the Single Economy by 2008.

Heads of Government endorsed the recommendation for Member States to take the necessary steps to address any deficiencies in their Labour Market Information Systems (LMIS), given its importance to the arrangements for free movement. They also noted that there are still some issues which impede the free movement of skilled nationals and requested the concerned Member States to take the necessary actions to address these. In particular, Member States were urged to expedite the completion of the establishment of their National Accreditation Bodies.

Functional Cooperation

Heads of Government agreed that there is some urgency in addressing issues related to functional cooperation that parallel developments related to trade and economic cooperation in the CSME. It was recognised that attention must be paid to those issues that would increase the welfare of the citizens including the reduction of poverty, social protection, human resource development, health and education, among others, namely quality of life issues.

The Heads of Government agreed to establish a task force involving the University of the West Indies and other universities in the Region to review the issues involved and make recommendations on the most appropriate mechanisms to enhance skills and capabilities required to make the CSME more viable.

Health

Heads of Government received the report of a study on the macro-economic implications of non-communicable diseases which is a follow-up to the Report of the Caribbean Commission on Health Development headed by Sir George Alleyne OCC, Chancellor of the University of the West Indies.

The study showed that the number of deaths, resulting from diabetes, hypertension and heart disease were ten times higher than the number resulting from HIV/AIDS. It also identified the high costs of treatment of diabetes and hypertension in the region.

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago offered to host a special regional consultation to consider mechanisms for implementing specific recommendations which included a tax on tobacco products and a ban on smoking to combat tobacco use; making physical education compulsory in schools and ensuring healthy meals; and establishing regulations and standards by ensuring that marketed foods show calories and fat content and regulation of the importation of fats.

Agriculture

Heads of Government reviewed the progress made and the status of actions taken in respect of each of the constraints under the Jagdeo Initiative, and supported the initiatives being taken to increase the involvement of the CDB in providing financing to the sector as an interim mechanism, in particular to the Private Sector, in a timely manner and through channels that are accessible. Heads of Government also supported the mandate to establish a Regional Research and Development Committee to urgently develop the Research and

Development Strategy for the Region. Heads of Government noted the work undertaken in the Region with respect to the preparation of a programme to combat any incidence of Avian influenza in the Region and in alerting the Region to the impending danger. They also noted the collaborative support provided by the various agencies in particular FAO/IICA/PAHO/OIE with regards to the efforts relating to prevention and ultimate control of Avian Influenza.

Sugar

Heads of Government reiterated the urgent need for the EU to make available adequate and timely funding under their Financial Perspective 2007-2013. They agreed that H.E Bharrat Jagdeo, President of Guyana and Lead Head with responsibility for Agriculture should communicate the concerns of the Community to the appropriate authorities within the European Union.

Heads of Government noted that CARICOM sugar-producing countries had developed integrated Action Plans for improving competitiveness of the industry, for diversification by way of value-added activities involving use of the sugar cane plant, and for transition into other economic activities. They emphasised the importance of the European Union providing adequate, readily accessible and front-loaded resources to facilitate implementation of the plans.

They endorsed the decisions taken by the ACP Ministerial Consultations on Sugar held on 28 May 2006, in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

Heads of Government welcomed the initiative by the Sugar Association of the Caribbean, in collaboration with the CARICOM Secretariat, to present a concept paper for a Regional Sugar-cane Policy for the consideration of the Conference at its next meeting.

Bananas

Heads of Government agreed that initiatives would be taken at the political level to engage countries which benefit from MFN treatment and the EU in relation to the level at which the tariff for bananas should be bound, and which will enable ACP and CARICOM countries to maintain supplies to the EU market.

They also agreed that action should be taken at the political level to support the ACP initiatives to convince the EU that bananas should be listed as a sensitive product.

Heads of Government urged CARICOM banana exporting countries to take steps to determine a collective approach to the treatment of bananas in the EPA currently being negotiated with the European Union.

Heads of Government underlined the importance of continued access at remunerative prices for CARICOM banana exports to the European Union market. In this regard, they emphasised the necessity for the EU to ensure that the preferential access for ACP, including Caribbean bananas is not further eroded by reduction of the current third-country tariff.



ENERGY

The Heads of Government noted the report of the Task Force on Regional Energy Policy.

In that context the Heads of Government noted the possible synergies between the Trinidad and Tobago energy plan for CARICOM and Venezuela's energy cooperation agreement (PETROCARIBE).

The Heads of Government agreed that the Task Force should continue its

work and submit a draft regional energy policy to the Eighteenth Inter-sessional Meeting of Conference in February 2007 for consideration.



External Trade

Heads of Government reaffirmed the Region's commitment to a multilateral trading system that takes account of the needs of small vulnerable economies such as those of CARICOM. They expressed the view that the recent failure to achieve a breakthrough in the WTO negotiations provided the major trading countries and blocs the opportunity to adopt more flexible positions including in relation to issues of importance to CARICOM countries that will facilitate the achievement of the development goals of the Doha Round.

Heads of Government reaffirmed the Region's commitment to the conclusion of an Economic Partnership Agreement with the European Union (EU) which is supportive of the development objectives of CARIFORUM countries. They called on the EU to give practical effect to its undertaking that the EPA will support CARIFORUM market strengthening before market opening. Heads called on the EU to provide without further delay the required development support to facilitate the mutually agreed strengthening of the capacity of CARIFORUM countries to fully implement the EPA.

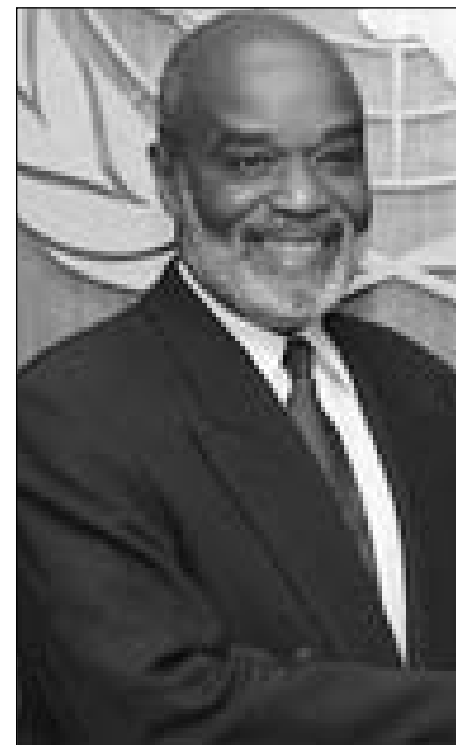
Heads of Government reiterated the readiness of the Region to commence negotiations for a free trade agreement with Canada. In this regard Heads agreed that a Ministerial mission to Canada, led by Hon. Kenneth Valley, Minister of Trade and Industry of Trinidad and Tobago, will be undertaken. Legislation recently adopted by Canada that has the effect of limiting CARICOM rum exports will also be addressed by the mission.

Heads of Government underlined the importance attached to the deepening of the CARICOM/Dominican Republic free trade agreement and to the development of strategic alliances with

other countries and Regions through negotiated trade arrangements.

Heads of Government also reiterated the need for all Member States to take an active part in the development of the Region's positions for the various negotiating theatres.

Haiti



Haitian President Renee Preval

The formal return of Haiti to the Councils of the Community was greeted with great satisfaction by the colleagues of President Preval. Not only does the return strengthen the Community as well as ending Haiti's isolation in its sub-region, but, as President Preval emphasized, it would facilitate Haiti's efforts at development and renewal.

Heads of Government pledged the full assistance of the Community to Haiti. In this regard, they called on the international community to disburse in a timely manner the funds pledged for Haiti's renovation and development, and to help Haiti concretise its priorities as expeditiously as possible. Trinidad and Tobago indicated that Haiti would enjoy access to its Petroleum Stabilisation Fund.

At the request of President Preval, Heads of Government agreed to send a technical mission to help the Haitian authorities assess the country's legal and regulatory readiness to comply with its Community obligations. The steps and measures for Haiti's entry into the CARICOM Single Market which came into being on 1 January 2006, as well as the nature of the assistance required, would also be identified. To this end, the Caribbean Community is making efforts to re-open its representation office in Haiti. Heads of Government indicated their readiness to provide the required technical cooperation within the limits of the Community's resources.

Heads of Government welcomed the offers of bilateral co-operation with Haiti made by The Bahamas, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago. The Government of Haiti looked forward to the presence of the Community at a Donors' meeting to be held on 25 July 2006.

Heads of Government also decided to send a representative delegation of the Conference to Haiti to demonstrate the Community's support to Haiti and its people.

Guyana/Venezuela Relations

Heads of Government were encouraged by the level of dialogue and engagement which now characterise the relations between Guyana and Venezuela. They noted in particular the agreements reached by the two countries in several areas of functional co-operation under the aegis of the High Level Bilateral Commission which last met in March 2006, and their renewed commitment to the United Nations Good Officer Process with the view to achieving a peaceful settlement to the controversy which exists between them. Heads of Government reiterated their firm support for the maintenance of Guyana's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and for its right to the development of its entire territory.

Belize/Guatemala Relations

Heads of Government were briefed on the ongoing process in respect of the Guatemalan claim on the territory of Belize.

Heads of Government expressed satisfaction with the Framework Agreement signed by Belize, Guatemala and the Organisation of American States (OAS) on 7 September 2005. The Agreement provides the best hope for a timely and just resolution of the claim, since it calls on the Parties to negotiate and also gives the Secretary-General of the OAS the responsibility to declare at any time during the process that the negotiations are not likely to result in agreement and to recommend that the claim be submitted to an international tribunal for final adjudication. In the Agreement, the parties commit to accept and carry forward that recommendation. The Heads of Government expressed the hope that both would adhere to the terms of the Agreement.

The Heads noted with satisfaction in particular that the OAS received the assurances of all the Guatemalan settlers in the illegal settlement in Belize that they wished to be relocated by the OAS. Heads of Government thanked the Governments of the United Kingdom, the United States of America and Mexico for their financial donations. They repeated their appreciation for the work of the special OAS Office that is helping to maintain peace and improve relations between peoples of the two countries, especially in the border area, and appealed to countries to support the special OAS Fund for that purpose.

Heads of Government reaffirmed their unequivocal support for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Belize, and pledged their continued solidarity with Belize in its quest for a peaceful, just and definitive resolution of the claim by Guatemala.

Synopsis of the 2006 Common Entrance Examination Results

Continued from page 3

TABLE 4
PERFORMANCE OF CANDIDATES IN EACH SUBJECT TOPIC

SUBJECT TOPIC	MAXIMUM RAW SCORE	MEAN	STANDARD DEVIATION
Social Studies	30	13.963	5.456
General Science	30	18.610	6.340
Health & Family Life	20	10.893	4.390
Study Skills	20	11.779	4.947
General Paper (Total)	100	55.245	17.814
Mathematics Problems - Part 1	40	11.566	8.096
Mathematics Problems - Part 2	10	2.081	2.613
Number Concepts & Whole Number	10	5.316	2.385
Rational Numbers	15	7.600	2.921
Measurement & Geometry	15	5.579	2.385
Money & Graphs	10	4.934	2.328
Mathematics (Total)	100	37.076	17.759
English Part 1 - Comprehension (Main Ideas)	10	0.555	1.374
English Part 2 - Composition	30	12.699	7.024
Spelling	10	5.504	2.518
Word Usage	10	5.285	1.950
Punctuation	10	6.063	2.288
Vocabulary	10	5.333	2.410
Reading 1	10	4.556	2.292
Reading 2	10	5.085	2.402
English Language (Total)	100	45.079	17.574

Top Performers

The top performers for the 2006 Common Entrance Examination are disclosed in Table 5. These ten (10) candidates came from eight (8) primary schools on the island. This group of candidates comprised seven (7) females and three (3) males with scores ranging from 89.333% to 91.667%.

TABLE 5
TOP PERFORMERS

RANK	NAME	SEX	PRIMARY SCHOOL	SCORE %	ASSIGNMENT
1	Tenisha H. Peter	F	Mongouge Primary	91.667	Choiseul Secondary
2	Hadijah K. Venner	F	Carmen Rene Memorial	91.000	St. Joseph's Convent
2	Akim A. Mathurin	M	Bexon Combined	91.000	St. Mary's College
2	Amanie T. Mathurin	F	Plain View Combined	91.000	Viuex-Fort Comprehensive (A)
5	Amani Z. Emmanuel	F	Camille Henry Memorial	90.667	St. Joseph's Convent
6	Yenver C. Caesar	M	Camille Henry Memorial	90.000	St. Mary's College
6	Mc Kessa T. Augier	F	Augier Combined	90.000	St. Joseph's Convent
8	Yakinie A. Khodra	F	Ave Maria Girls' Primary	89.667	St. Joseph's Convent
9	Nichola L. Surage	F	Plain View Combined	89.333	Vieux-Fort Comprehensive (A)
9	Delroy T. Fontenelle	M	St. Aloysius R.C. Boys Primary	89.333	St. Mary's College

Schools' Performance

Thirty-seven (37) schools attained means above the national mean. Thirty-three (33) of these schools were public and four (4) were private. Table 7(a) and Table 7(b) reveal the schools with means at and above the national mean.

TABLE 7(a)
SCHOOLS WITH MEANS AT AND ABOVE THE NATIONAL MEAN

PUBLIC Primary Schools	No. Sat (With birth records)	Mean Performance (%)	PUBLIC Primary Schools	No. Sat (With birth records)	Mean Performance (%)
Camille Henry Memorial	105	56	St. Aloysius R.C. Boys' Pri.	197	49
Carmen Rene Memorial	128	56	Canon Laurie Anglican Pri.	140	48
Plain View Combined	85	54	Ciceron Combined	81	48
Dame Pearlette Louisy Pri	168	54	Bouton Combined	9	48
Forestiere Methodist Comb'd	24	53	Mon Repos Combined	26	48
Ave Maria Girls' Primary	180	53	Derniere Riviere Combined	46	48
Riviere Doree Anglican Comb'd	21	53	Des Barras Combined	10	48
Lady Gordon Opportunity	5	52	La Ressource Combined	27	48
Morne Du Don Combined	56	52	Balata Combined	39	48
Dugard Combined	19	51	Roblot Combined	17	48
Pierrot Combined	74	50	La Guerre Combined	37	47
Vide Bouteille Combined	62	50	Bexon Primary	87	47
Anse La Raye Primary	37	50	Augier Combined	80	47
Piaye Combined	23	50	Bocage Combined	32	47
Laborie Girls' Primary	28	49	Belle Vue Combined	48	47
Boguis Combined	21	49	Patience Combined	45	46
Delcer Combined	51	49			

TABLE 7(b)

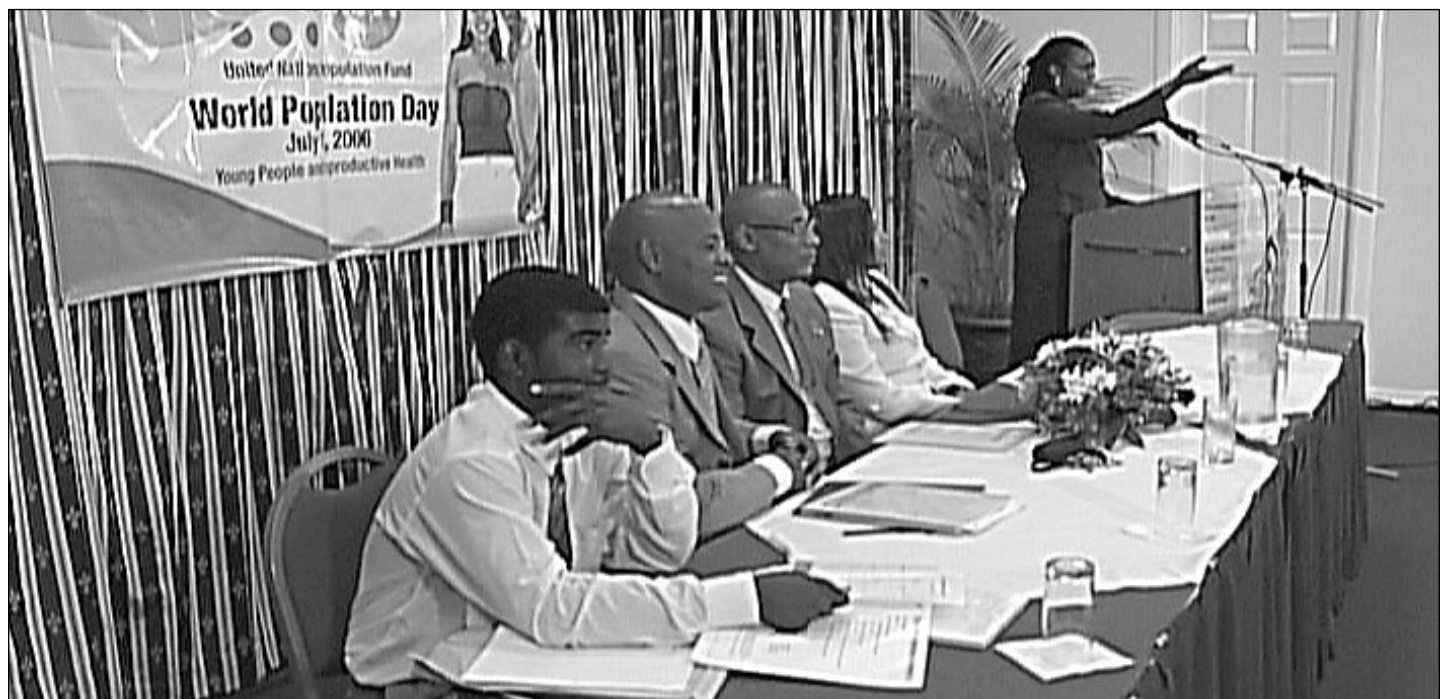
PRIVATE Primary Schools	No. Sat (With birth records)	Mean Performance (%)
Bonne Terre Preparatory	30	67
Tapion Private	16	60
Emmanuel SDA Combined	19	57
Castries SDA Primary	17	50

WORLD POPULATION DAY

SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND YOUNG PEOPLE

World Population Day was observed internationally on Tuesday July 11th and on that day, a number of young people from across the region, representing various youth organizations, met in St. Lucia for a one day panel discussion focusing on HIV/AIDS and youth reproductive health. The discussion, organized by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, (UNFPA) was one of the main events to mark World Population Day 2006 which was targeted at young people between the ages of 10-24 years. The theme for this year's world population day observance was "Sexual Reproductive Health and Young People".

At the launch of the discussion, UNFPA's Liaison Officer for Barbados, Camita Douglin, urged the region's youth to look at their role as significant and special in planning programs to address a wide range of developmental concerns affecting them. She said: "It is extremely important to have a participatory approach to this initiative where youth and program managers can collaborate to develop



Members of the Panel

conceptual modules for understanding a health behaviour of greater interest and identify appropriate changes and interventions."

The Keynote speaker for the Discussion was Health Minister Hon. Dami-

an Greaves who said that reproductive health should not be seen as simply a sexual issue but as a health issue as well. The Health Minister has called on parents and teachers to openly discuss issues of sexuality with young

people, noting that the lack of openness and leadership is undermining the reproductive health of young people, and in too many cases threatening their lives. The full text of the Minister's Address is published below.

ADDRESS BY HONOURABLE DAMIAN E. GREAVES MINISTER FOR HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, FAMILY AFFAIRS & GENDER RELATIONS ON WORLD POPULATION DAY JULY 11, 2006

The fact of procreation has become an issue of great danger! If this were to have been the headline of a newspaper twenty five years ago, it would have been received with much skepticism, and perhaps evoked some laughter. The very thought is ridiculous. The propagation of a species is one of the most natural functions, occurring in every part of nature, from the pollination of a flower to the courtship ritual of turtle doves. That is the way God intended it. Perhaps though, it bore in itself the seeds of its own destruction, as the imperative to procreate is so powerful that if it ever became an issue of danger, the species concerned would nevertheless continue to court danger.

It is unfortunate, but in the world of today, every pregnancy is an indication that someone has indulged in risky behaviour. This has terrible ramifications for the world. As we celebrate World Population Day, it behooves us to focus on this unsavoury reality. What will become of the world? One thing is certain. There will continue to be people. Nature has seen to that. What we have to be concerned about is the quality of health of those people we are bringing into the world; our children, and consequently, our own health. So the question of sexual reproductive health, especially among young people, becomes an issue of mammoth importance.

A cursory look at some demographic statistics that relate to St. Lucia will show how important the issue is. We are looking at the period 1985 to 2005. In 1985, when the HIV virus was first identified here, there were 14 reported cases. In 2005 the number of reported cases grew to 77. The total number of reported cases up to 2005 was 546. Reported cases by age and gender indicate the highest incidence between 25 and 49 years, the most productive sector of our population. Females between fourteen and twenty four have a higher



Hon. Damian Greaves

incidence than males. Reported cases of AIDS in the same period was 278 of which 246 have died. This indicates a very high mortality rate, even with the advent of drugs that are known to work. We must stress that the statistics refer to the reported cases. This may well refer to the tip of the iceberg, as stigma and discrimination keep many away from reporting.

Social, economic and political forces are rapidly changing the ways young people must prepare for adult life. These changes have enormous implications for adolescents' education, employment, marriage and childbearing, but also for their sexual and reproductive health and behaviour. As a group, adolescents have sexual and reproductive health needs that differ from those of adults in important ways, and which remain poorly understood or

served in much of the world. Neglect of this population has major implications for the future, since sexual and reproductive behaviours during adolescence have far reaching consequences for people's lives as they develop into adulthood.

Meeting the reproductive health needs of young people means ensuring they have accurate information - and someone to talk to - about sexuality, family planning, childbearing and disease; it means ensuring their access to the means to prevent disease and unintended pregnancy.

Widespread reluctance among adults, whether parents, teachers, or policymakers, to openly discuss issues of sexuality with young people, this lack of openness - and leadership - is undermining young people's reproductive health and, in too many cases, threatening their very lives. Young people between the ages of 15 and 24 have the highest rates of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) worldwide, representing two-thirds of all cases in the developing world. Today, half of all new HIV infections occur among people under the age of 25.

"It's time to stop looking at reproductive health as a sex issue and start looking at it as a health issue," says a Health expert, Ms. Coen. She further stated that there is a misconception that sexual and reproductive health education will encourage sexual behaviour and lead to higher rates of abortion, unintended pregnancy and STIs among youth, but "The Dutch experience proves that talking openly about sexuality and making services available to young people does just the opposite; it benefits their reproductive health."

"Concepts of morality and tradition and the taboos associated with sexuality prevent the kind of healthy exchange of information and open communication that young people desperately need to educate themselves," says another expert, Dr. Greene. "It is unfortunate that some in the international community

are bound by the same taboos, as it is young people who pay the price."

Young people have little sense of their mortality, and in fact feel invulnerable. Death happens to the other person, so they take risks, from riding pillion on bikes without crash helmets, to risky sexual behaviour. There is nothing strange about the indulgence in risk-taking, if we adults remember our own youth. We had to contend with peer pressure to behave like the group. Remember how powerful that force was? We wanted the approbation of those of our own age group more than our parents' or our teachers'. That's just the way it was, and is! Perhaps there lies the answer! Since the peer group exerts such influence, if the peer group is harnessed to educate young people as to the behaviour changes that are necessary for survival, they will be listened to and emulated.

Every individual has the task of protecting himself from the onslaught of the AIDS pandemic. It is only when that truth sinks home that some gains will begin to be seen. As long as stigma and discrimination continues to be fed by the demands of the bigoted to quarantine people living with AIDS, or informing the public who they are, as long as they continue to ignore that the power lies within them to make the right choices in protecting themselves at every sexual encounter, the power of HIV/AIDS will not diminish. We must therefore educate our youth to understand the truth about the transmission of the virus so that they will be able to debunk the myths.

According to Ms. Coen, "We want young people to make healthful decisions about their reproductive and sexual lives, but that means we must provide them with the tools they need to succeed. As adults, our instinct is to protect our children. It is clear that the best way to do that is to inform them." I thank you."

Caricom Agrees Security Strategy For CWC 2007



Security forces and firemen during a recent simulation exercise at the Beausejour Cricket Ground

The 27th Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of Caricom has approved of a Regional Strategy for Ensuring a Safe and Secure Environment for the Hosting of Cricket World Cup (CWC) 2007. This strategy includes the creation of a single domestic space and arrangements for the security of this Single Space.

The components of this strategy are: the introduction of a common CARICOM Visa Policy applicable to Nationals for forty six countries; an Advance Passenger Information System and Standard Procedures to be applied at Ports of Entry which will allow the pre-clearance of people and goods; the sharing of intelligence among CARICOM States and with International Partners;

a Regional Security Plan which allows for the establishment of a regional Law Enforcement and Military Operational Team providing additional support to those Member States hosting the CWC 2007 games; and a supporting legislative framework to include a Memorandum of Understanding on Intelligence Sharing Among CARICOM States and a Treaty for Security Assistance among CARICOM Member States.

The preparation and execution of the Regional Strategy is being supported by an International Advisory Support Group; technical and other support from other countries participating in the CWC 2007 games as well as friendly Third States such as the USA, Canada and France. A memorandum of Intent is to be signed shortly with the

Government of the USA with reference to support for the Advance Passenger Information System. In addition Interpol will shortly be establishing a presence in the Region from January 2007. An aggressive Public Education Programme will be launched shortly to apprise CARICOM Nationals and all visitors to the Region about these new arrangements.

Meanwhile the Heads expressed their satisfaction with the progress being made on the other arrangements for Cricket World Cup 2007. The Heads of Government considered the report of the Eleventh Meeting of the Prime Ministerial Sub-Committee on Cricket and were pleased that there has been progress with respect to provision of accommodation, venue development,

transportation and security issues. They noted the plans by CWC 2007 to promote the event internationally and regionally, and congratulated Barbados for being the first country to complete the legal process on 1 July 2006, giving effect to the implementation of its sunset legislation.

Health, anti-doping and disaster management were matters of special concern, and countries were urged to accelerate the process for achieving the international regulations relating to disposal of solid waste and pollution of the sea, upgrading the medical response, putting in place mechanisms for the surveillance of illness, infectious diseases, bio-terrorism and mass casualty plans.

NTN DISCUSSION ON THE BCG AND CWC 2007



Claude Guillaume, Cladius Francis and Jennifer Gaston on the set of Issues and Answers

The National Television Network (NTN) will this week feature a discussion on the state of readiness of the Beausejour Cricket Ground (BCG) for the hosting of the Cricket World Cup in March – April next year. In the programme, Issues and Answers, to be aired on NTN on Thursday at 8.00pm, Jennifer Gaston, Communications and Media Relations Coordinator at Cricket World Cup St. Lucia (CWCSL) speaks to Claudius Francis, Venue Development Manager of the Local Organizing Committee for the World Cup and

Claude Guillaume, the architect who designed the stadium and who is responsible for implementing the plans for the physical improvement of the stadium for the World Cup. Under the agreement to host the World Cup, St. Lucia committed itself to making changes to the physical infrastructure of the stadium to meet the requirements of the ICC. In the programme, Jennifer Gaston examines with Claudius Francis and Claude Guillaume how much progress St. Lucia has made with those plans.



HIGHLIGHTS

Sat. July 15th to Fri. July 21st 2006

NTN – PROVIDING INFORMATION YOU NEED

Crime – Everyone's Business – Sat. July 15th, 9:10 a.m.

Team Helen – an organization established to deal with the less privileged - Sun. July 16th, 11:30 a.m.

Hon. Ignatius Jean speaks on intellectual property in the context of the Caribbean Agriculture - Mon. July 17th 7:10 p.m.

Hurricane Watch – Tues. July 18th, 8:00 p.m.

Principles of environmental sustainability for the OECS - Wed. July 19th, 8:00 p.m.

CWC Officials discuss physical improvements to the BCG ahead of CWC 2007 – Thurs. July 20th, 8:00 p.m.

Carnival Queen Pageant 2006 – Fri. July 21st, 8:00 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)

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

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