



NATIONWIDE

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DISCOVERY AT MARIGOT BAY OPENS NEW WAVE OF LUXURY HOTELS



Saint Lucia's recent designation by the World Bank as the best island to do business in the Caribbean Community (Caricom) is seen by the island's Government as a vindication of what local and overseas investors already know. The island has for some time now been experiencing an investment boom in the tourism industry. Construction is at its highest and unemployment is at its lowest in 15 years. The report by the World Bank's affiliate, the International Financial Corporation (IFC), ranked Saint Lucia 27th out of 175 countries surveyed to determine which among them better accommodated investors. No other

Caricom member-state ranked in the top 30. Puerto Rico, a US Associated State, was the only other Caribbean territory mentioned in that bracket, ranking 19.

But long before the survey was done, investors have been flocking to Saint Lucia to invest in the island's tourism industry. Many have been taking advantage of generous incentives on offer from the Government to provide much-needed accommodation for the island's hosting of the Cricket World Cup in 2007. With over 50,000 cricket fans expected here during the 51-day world cricket series, new hotels and resorts are being built, while existing properties are expanding. However, not all the new structures are for rooms for fans of the England team

— which will be based here -- and those from the world's cricketing nations.

A New Wave

There's a new wave of investments in luxury resorts aimed at the high end of the spending market, adding to the several existing properties offering award-winning services that attract rave reviews from visitors and travel writers alike. Tourism-related construction is booming, with thousands employed on construction projects racing towards completion for the cricket World Cup in March.

The industry has long replaced agriculture as the island's biggest employer and income earner and more people are being trained in related services at all

levels of the industry. Over 8,000 Saint Lucians are permanently employed in tourism today and together they earn over a \$150 million dollars each year — more than the island ever earned in any of its best years as a banana exporter. Another 200 Saint Lucians trained for the high end of the market will be fully employed when Discovery at Marigot Bay, the island's latest ultra-modern, ultra luxury, five-star resort has its grand opening in late November. However, the hotel's "soft opening" took place on Friday 15th September and Molly Mc Daniel, Discovery's Public Relations Manager, said that all had been in place for the hotel to begin business that day.

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Every Friday at 6.15 p.m. on **NTN**, Cablevision Channel 2.

Government Notebook
A fresh news package
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Disney Cruise Ship Makes Inaugural Call

The Tourism Industry is continuing to see increased arrivals in the cruise sector with the Disney Wonder Cruise Ship making its inaugural call to St. Lucia on Monday. Officials from the Ministry of Tourism, St. Lucia Air and Sear Port authority and the ship's agent M&C /Foster and Ince. boarded the vessel for the traditional exchange of plaques and gifts.

The ship's captain Henery Anders-

son said they are delighted to bring their guests to St. Lucia as part of a special voyage. He said the culture and local flair are ideally suited to what the guests are looking for in their family vacation.

The 2700 passenger vessel built in Italy, is currently sailing a 10 -night southern Caribbean itinerary. The ship is scheduled to return to the island on Thursday September 21 and again in December



A cruise ship at Pointe Seraphine, Castries

Caribbean Countries to Ratify UNIFEM Protocol

Two experts on a mission to get Caribbean governments to ratify an Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women are expressing satisfaction with the level of response from the countries they have visited.

The experts, who were presently on mission in St. Lucia, have visited four other Caribbean countries, two of which have already ratified the UNIFEM led initiative. By ratifying the Optional protocol, a state recognizes the competence of the Committee on the CEDAW Con-

vention in monitoring the state parties' compliance with the convention.

Former UNIFEM Regional programme Director Professor Joycelin Massiah is one of the two officials conducting the advocacy tour in the region. She says the countries of the region, all of whom have ratified the CEDAW Convention, have realised the peculiar situation of not supporting the Optional protocol.

“And having done so, it means they have committed themselves to taking all the appropriate action on behalf of women and then on the other hand by

not ratifying the protocol, they are denying women the very rights they say they are protecting under the convention. In a sense they are in an anomalous situation and they are recognizing that and really beginning to try to correct that situation.”

Honourable Madame Justice Desiree Bernard, the other expert on the Advocacy tour says their work is also erasing the idea that the optional protocol will result in a flood of applications to the committee on the CEDAW Convention.

“This hasn't been the experience since 2000, when it was established.

There have only been about four or five or six possibly that have gone on to the committee. The committee also reserves the right to reject these complaints if they do not satisfy the criteria laid down, if they have not proved there was any discrimination.”

Under the Convention complaints can only be submitted to the Committee once all mechanisms in the country of origin have been exhausted. When St. Lucia ratifies the Optional Protocol it will join Belize, St. Kitts and Nevis and Antigua and Barbuda which have already done so.

Injured Protective Officers to be Compensated by Law

The Government of Saint Lucia is about to enact legislation to allow for compensation for police, fire and correctional officers who may be injured in the line of duty. Prime Minister Dr Kenny D. Anthony announced the Government's plan to introduce the Protective Services Compensation Bill, which will provide for the pay-

ment of compensation in respect of personal injury or death of officers of the protective services as a result of or in the course of employment with the state.

Under the legislation, Protective Services include the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force, the Fire Service and the Correctional Service and its provisions will allow for the establishment of a

compensation Commission. The functions of the commission will include the investigation, hearing and determination of claims for compensation and sets out the benefits that are to be granted in respect of death or injury.

The Bill provides too for a right of appeal by a person aggrieved by a decision of the commission. The commission will also be able to consider compensa-

tion otherwise awarded. The new legislation, when passed, will also provide for protection from disentitlement and disqualification from making a claim in respect of personal injury or death.

The draft of the bill, which has 40 sections and was prepared by the Attorney General's Department, was published as an appendix to the current issue of the Saint Lucia Government Gazette.

Fire Service Holds First Responders Course

Efforts at improving the Emergency Medical Services of the St. Lucia Fire Service are continuing at a brisk pace. Divisional Officer in charge of the northern operations Cuthbert Charles, says currently the St. Lucia Fire Service is undertak-

ing another leg of the Emergency Medical Service training programmes.

These programmes, according to Officer Charles, will ensure a ready and component pool of officers, especially with the ICC Cricket World Cup on the horizon. At present 23 officers are are receiv-

ing training as first responders, the first stage in the Emergency Medical Service training.

“So by the end of December we would have had 40 EMT's which is the highest level we have now, and 40 first responders. This will assist us greatly in preparing for the general improvement of the EMS section.”Mr. Charles said.

The workshops cover several topics including patients assessment, bleeding control, and trauma. The courses also entail lots of hands on exercises and are being facilitated by trained officers from within the St. Lucia Fire Service.

According to Officer Charles: “ Initially we had two instructors from the US, Bill and Gloria Gibb, who started the program. What they did was that they started off the program and they trained 9 instructors from the fire service. So what has happened now 2 of these instructors have been assigned full time to continue the program while the other instructors come in and provide lectures on a visiting basis.”

On completion of the training, officers would be required to play the dual role of fire fighting and emergency response as there are insufficient of them for specialisation

100 More For Cuban Nursing Programme

The second recruitment drive for 100 more candidates to study nursing under the Cuban Nursing Scholarship Programme is ongoing. The application process is being handled through the Ministry of Education's Human Resource Development department. Director of Human Resource Development in the Ministry of Education Elizabeth Bailey says the deadline had been set for the 12th of September.

“Generally I would like to say that the scholarship programme is for a diploma in nursing and it's tenable at a university in Matanzas Cuba commencing September 25th 2006. And eligible candidates should possess the following: four CXC's with grades 1,2,3, inclusive of English,

Maths, one science subject. They should be between the ages of 18 and 25. Applicants should also bring with them a certificate of character, what we call a police record.”

In addition candidates were expected to provide other documents such as a medical certificate, inclusive of HIV, hepatitis and pregnancy tests. When submitting the prescribed forms which are still available within the HRD department persons should also include seven passport sized photos and attach certified copies of their academic qualifications.

The Cuban Government offered the additional one hundred scholarships to the Government and People of Saint Lucia after it was ascertained that there were more places available in the programme.

Fire Service Recruitment Drive

The human resource capacity of the Saint Lucia Fire Service is to be strengthened via an ongoing recruitment drive seeking to employ several more officers into the service. Fire Chief Leslie Fontenelle says training of recruits to man the new Micoud Fire Station as well as to provide World Cup services will commence soon.

A selection process has begun to select the most suitable candidates out of an overall 130 applicants. They will have to meet the basic requirement for the fire service as well as for the public service in general. Further aspects of the recruitment procedure currently under way in-

clude background investigations of the prospective candidates.

The Fire Chief says: “ The fire service is a highly disciplined organization and persons who form the rank and file must exhibit that level of credibility and good ethical report in their community, have good attitudes and be persons of good character. So our examination involves going into the communities and finding out about these persons.”

He added that a sound medical assessment is also required to ensure trainees can undertake the rigorous four month period of training that lies ahead. By March 2007 the numbers should be at an overall 302 officers.

Discovery at Marigot Bay Launches New Wave of Luxury Hotels

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“The First True Five Star Resort”

She added that:“Everything’s also going fine for our formal launching at the end of November and this is going to be the first truly five-star luxury resort on the island.” Discovery at Marigot Bay is a US\$40 million property that has changed the face of the island’s most secluded hurricane shelter for yachts. It is located where the first Dr Doolittle movie (starring Rex Harrison) was filmed some four decades ago.

Indeed, this is the first of the new wave of new luxury properties on the island aimed at the very high end of the market. It’s also the first totally, newly-built property here for many years. And it’s got all the amenities that will be expected for the price. Premier Resorts, which is marketing the property, says almost all of the properties – which cost approximately US \$630,000 each -- have already been sold.

“All the Bells and Whistles...”

But apart from the villas for sale, clients at Discovery will also be able to bask in the sunshine and be pampered by the highly-trained staff. They can savour the goodies and quench their tropical thirst at the Hurricane Hole Bar and the Boudreau restaurant. Or they may prefer the extremely sophisticated Pink Snail restaurant, which is already being described by some as “a slice of New York in Saint Lucia.” Or they may simply wish to laze it out at the Coffee Dock with pizzas and croissants.

“We’ve got all the bells and whistles,” says Mc Daniel, indicating the guests will also have “everything from Wi-Fi Internet access, flat screen TVs in all rooms and BOSE surround-sound systems with MP-3 connectivity, to 300-thread Egyptian cotton sheets in all rooms and luxury bathrooms with top-of-the-line Kiehls amenities.”

The trained local staff will manage and operate various parts of the resort, including the 57 large two-bed, furnished luxury villa apartments, with plunge pools and bay views surrounded by tropical gardens in a secure resort setting. But apart from that, they will also be operating the world class Lapli (“Showers of Blessing”) Spa, which features local and Caribbean herbal products, as well as super-luxury international line products by E’spa. The new development has been taking shape over the past two years in what is being described by travel writers as “the most beautiful bay in the Caribbean.”

World Class Properties

But Discovery is only one of several major large, medium and small properties under way here. Other new properties under way include the billion-dollar Landings at Rodney Bay, a luxurious marina-type resort aimed at the mega-yachting sector and big-spending investors in holidays.

The Landings, which has three local families as the major investors, offers plunge pools, luxury spa, gourmet dining, private yacht harbour and every possible amenity, in addition to free lifetime golf and yacht club membership. The Landings properties range from US \$595,000 to US \$1.8 million each.

Also under way is The Harbour at Rodney Bay, which is constructing waterfront apartments within the Bay. Together, The Landings and The Harbour

employ over 220 construction workers and on completion, the Landings is expected to employ over 600 staff.

Other major properties under construction include Le Paradis at Praslin Bay. This is a 600-acre property with a Greg Norman-built and Troon-managed 18-hole golf course, offering three-and four bedroom luxury residences with four-plus star rated services, a world-class spa, plus 26 private ocean-side treatment cabanas, lavish restaurants and lively bars on the island’s East Coast. To be operated by the world-famous Westin Hotels and Resorts, Le Paradis will also feature a full-service deep water marina capable of harbouring up to 70-foot yachts, a five-star boutique hotel, a commercial centre and upscale boutique shopping.

Also on offer to buyers are The Villas of Le Sport, which is an enclave of 33 deluxe villas on the grounds of the famous Body holiday at Le Sport. These villas range from US \$827,750 to US\$1.5 million each. Villas are also available at Villas Jalousie Plantation in Soufriere, ranging from US \$450,000 to US \$2.5 million, while the new Jalousie Residences (now under local ownership and operated by Premier Resorts) offers plots ranging from US \$200,000, on which the

operators can help build residences that meet the highest expectations of taste and comfort.

Cap Maison, located at Cap Estate on the island’s extreme northern tip, is offering 22 one-two-and-three bedroom residences “for sale on a buy to let basis” and where owners can live for up to eight weeks in the year. Located on a cliff overlooking the sea, this new resort seeks to target the affluent market and its spending power.

Theo and Helen Gobart, the two only shareholders, say they are seeking to offer an alternative to the all inclusive resorts (such as Sandals, the Body Holiday at Le Sport, Anse Chastanet, etc) which have mushroomed over the past decade. This resort, which is being constructed by builders from the Dominican Republic, will offer the Spanish colonial style of architecture better known in the Northern Caribbean, featuring overhanging balconies, open rooms, courtyards and roof terraces with pools. Construction began last month and some rooms are expected to be ready for the Cricket World Cup in March. However, completion is estimated for 2008.

Cap Estate East Development, also located at Cap, offers 60 spectacular ocean view home sites on three-quarter-

plus acres of land, to be managed by the St. Lucia Golf Resort & Country Club, which also manages the island’s largest and best known only 18-hole golf course. Cap Estate East also offers Villas on the Green, which comprises 75 luxury homes overlooking the championship golf course. Twenty villas are already available and prices begin at US \$555,000. Mount du Cap, also at Cap Estate, offers 16 individual luxury homes within a 38-acre site and is also inviting buyers.

Castles in Paradise, located on the East Coast, offers villas from US \$375,000 and each has its own car ports, sun deck roof and private car park. Plantation at Cotton Bay, which is already completed, offers three sets of five star villas featuring unlimited usage and net returns on investments ranging from US \$432,000 to US \$695,000 and US \$2.5 million.

Still on the drawing board are the billion-dollar Sapphire Cove development carded for the island’s South-West coast at Laborie and the Ritz Carlton Residences on Saint Lucia, which will be located at Black Bay. Beaches, the family market arm of the Sandals group, is also said to be planning a major investment to introduce the brand to the island, where there are already three Sandals hotels. Almond Morgan Bay St. Lucia, owned by the Barbados-based Ralph Taylor group, is also said to be eyeing other investments on the island.

Major Expansion of Minor Properties

But the large properties are not the only ones taking shape. Small and medium properties are also appearing and expanding. One such property is the Bay Gardens Hotel – the island’s best known small hotel and winner of several Caribbean and international awards -- which is now constructing Bay Gardens apartments and villas in Rodney Bay after recently expanding with the bay garden Inn, which is located next door to the original hotel.

Other small and medium properties are also springing up island-wide, as local investors and individuals take advantage of the attractive incentives for World Cup accommodation. Incentives for the larger and medium-sized properties have expired, but Bed-and-Breakfast incentives continue until December.

Still More Rooms May Be Needed...

The island’s stock of hotel rooms needs to be significantly increased and tourism officials are optimistic that the number of rooms required will become available in time for the games. Some here are already suggesting that the island may have to host more than its expected share of matches in the tournament, since a regional cement shortage has retarded and delayed the pace of construction of new stadiums in the other eight Caricom territories that will jointly host the World Cup.

But local World Cup officials here say they will not be able to fully determine exactly how many more rooms may still be required as per original estimates until after an assessment of tickets sales so far is made later this month. With the formal opening of Discovery carded for November, however, the island’s tourism officials are already bracing for many more such openings in the months ahead, as the island speeds towards its co-hosting of the biggest sporting event in Caribbean history – the Olympics of World Cricket.



Living Room Suite (top), Bayview Bedroom (middle) and Dockside Restaurant (bottom) at the Discovery at Marigot Bay

2006 FIRST QUARTER ECONOMIC REVIEW FOR SAINT LUCIA

EMPLOYMENT RISES IN CONSTRUCTION/HOSPITALITY INDUSTRIES

By The Ministry Of Finance, International Financial Services And Economic Affairs

Summary of Economic Developments

During the first quarter of 2006, there was mixed performance in the various sectors of the St. Lucia economy with the major economic driver, tourism, showing a decline in arrivals. Rising international petroleum prices have impacted on domestic developments in major sectors such as construction, wholesale and retail trade and tourism.

Notwithstanding the lower than expected arrivals in the tourism sector, growth in our major trading partner, the United States (US) was recorded at 8.4 percent in the first quarter. This was accompanied by a 4.8 percent increase in consumer spending and a modest 2.7 percent inflation1.

Money, Prices & Employment

The money supply, as measured by M1, grew by 4.6 percent, as compared with moderate growth of 2.6 percent in the comparable period of 2005. This was due to a 6.6 percent growth in private sector demand deposits. In contrast, growth in loans and advances was 4 percentage points lower during the quarter growing by 1.9 percent. The slower growth is largely attributable to a marginal decline in personal lending, which accounted for 43 percent of all credit.

The inflation rate as measured by changes in the consumer price index, moved by 4.4 percent relative to the first quarter of 2005. In a reflection of the direct and indirect impact of high crude oil prices, the food and light sub-

index, the most heavily weighted in the CPI, rose by 7.4 percent while the fuel and light sub-index rose by 7.6 percent.

While the Labour Force Survey is currently unavailable, national insurance statistics indicate a 3.0 percent rise in the number of contributors. The significant expansion currently underway in the tourism plant on the island has been reflected in an increase in the number of contributors in the construction sector of 14.7 percent. An increase of 6.5 percent was also recorded for hotels and restaurants sector, which accounted for the largest share of contributors.

Sectoral Developments

Despite the increase airlift provided by the return of Air Jamaica's services out of St. Lucia, tourist arrivals declined by 5.5 percent to 257,249. Of this, stay-over arrivals fell by 2.3 percent and cruise ship arrivals also fell by 8.0 percent as higher fuel cost began to impact on the cost of travel. Moreover, arrivals in 2006 have also been impacted by the recovery of Asian tourist destinations following the tsunami in 2004.

The value of manufacturing production grew by 3.0 percent, albeit at a slower pace than the previous year. The growth was led by the continued strong performance in the beverages sub-sector, which saw a 10.7 percent growth in the production of alcoholic beverages. This was accompanied by a 6.4 percent growth in the production of non-alcoholic beverages.

Construction activities remained buoyant in the first quarter, with preliminary estimates indicating a 55.2 percent increase in spending by the Central Government to \$48.3 million. Of this approximately \$40 million was devoted to economic infrastructure in particular, the Castries/Gros-Islet Highway, the Tertiary Road Programme and the East Coast Road Rehabilitation project.

Notwithstanding the unavailability of data on imports of construction materials, banking data indicate that lending for home construction and land purchase rose by 1.5 percent.

Further major hotel projects such as the construction of the Landing, the expansion of the Bay Gardens Hotel, and Villas on the Green in Cap Estate along with other tourism projects oriented for Cricket World Cup have increased construction activity.

The performance of the agricultural sector was mixed. Banana exports declined by 5.5 percent as the abandonment of fields continued in the face of rising input costs. By contrast, the level of domestic consumption of non-traditional crops (as measured by purchases by supermarkets) rose by 48.2 percent to \$1.4 million. Activity within the fisheries and the livestock sub-sectors, also measured by purchases, rose by 76.2 and 6.0 percent respectively.

Fiscal Developments

Preliminary estimates indicate that there was a narrowing of the Central Government's fiscal deficit by \$12.8 million as at March 2006 in comparison to the same period in 2005. This was as a result of a 13.0 percent increase in total

Monetary Developments

At the end of March 2006 St. Lucia's net foreign asset (NFA) position was \$141.3 million, an increase of 67.3 percent. Growth in NFA, associated primarily with changes in the commercial bank net position, was significantly greater than the expansion of 11.9 percent recorded in the comparable period in 2005. This increase was due to a stronger asset position by commercial banks which offset a decline in imputed reserves.

In the first quarter of 2006, commercial banks liabilities increased by less than half a percent, while assets grew by 17.1 percent. The increase in foreign assets was due to a 13.0 percent increase in investments and other assets, which constitute two thirds of foreign assets. This suggests higher rates of return outside the ECCU area. Claims on banks outside the ECCB area, 20 percent of foreign assets, grew by 44.8 percent. This resulted in a decline in the net liability position from \$218.1 million at the end of 2005 to \$139.4 million at the end of March 2006.

Fuelled by growth in the real economy, St. Lucia's share of the imputed reserves continued to decline, falling further by 7.2 percent at the end of March 2006.

Net domestic assets grew by 3.2 percent to \$1,834.7 million, compared with growth of 4.3 percent in the first quarter of 2005. Of this, domestic credit expanded by \$56.9 million, or 3.2 percent during the quarter, albeit at a slower pace when compared with the 4.3 percent expansion in the first quarter of 2005.

This decreased rate of growth is linked to decelerated growth in private sector credit, which grew by \$40.5 million or 2.1 percent, compared with an increase of 3.7 percent in the comparable period of the previous year. Marginal growth of 0.4 percent in household credit was primarily responsible for the decelerated pace of growth in private sector credit. Business credit, by contrast, grew by 3.8 percent after growing by 2.9 percent in the previous year.

In tandem with growth of domestic and foreign assets, monetary liabilities (M2) grew by 6.2 percent compared with growth of 7.4 percent in the comparable period of 2005. The money supply, as measured by M1, grew by 4.3 percent in the first quarter, as compared with moderate growth of 2.6 percent in the comparable period of 2005. This was due to a 6.6 percent growth in private sector demand deposits as currency held by the public declined by 5.1 percent.

Credit

Loans and advances to various sectors of the economy grew by 1.9 percent to \$2,216.4 million during the quarter. This was 4 percentage points lower than the comparable period in 2005. The slower growth is largely attributable to marginal decline in personal lending, which accounted for 43 percent of all credit.

Personal credit fell by 0.4 percent in comparison to a 2.9 percent expansion at the end of March 2005. Of this, lending for house and land purchase fell by 0.1 percent, after expanding by 7.8 percent in the first quarter of the previous year.

However, the pace of lending for house construction and land purchase did not slacken, expanding at 1.5 percent, the same as the comparable period in the previous year. Lending for the purchase of durable consumer goods grew at an expanded rate of 4.8 percent in comparison with 3.5 percent in the first quarter of 2005. By contrast, other personal loans fell by 2.3 percent, after expanding by 1.1 percent in 2005.

An analysis of credit by borrower reveals that, approximately 45 percent of resident loans and advances were absorbed by business firms at the end of March. Reflecting activity in the private sector, lending to business firms continued to expand. Lending increased by 3.0 percent in the first quarter of 2006, in comparison with growth of 3.8 percent in the first quarter of 2005.

Table 1 - Loans & Advances by Borrower

Borrower	Dec 04	March 05	Dec 05	March 06	Dec 04	Dec 05
					Mar 05	Mar 06
Government	\$34.8	\$48.9	\$58.4	\$58.1	40.9%	-0.6%
Statutory Body	\$99.9	\$129.0	\$120.0	\$121.0	29.1%	0.9%
Business Firms	\$791.0	\$815.0	\$851.8	\$987.6	3.0%	3.8%
Private Individuals	\$839.5	\$874.3	\$951.0	\$954.9	-2.0%	-8.6%
Other	\$22.2	\$12.8	\$34.2	\$33.0	10.2%	3.6%
Non-Residents	\$20.4	\$33.5	\$59.2	\$61.9	50.9%	4.5%
Total	\$1,807.7	\$1,913.5	\$2,174.6	\$2,216.4	5.9%	1.9%



Construction of the Discovery Hotel at Marigot Bay

by 11.3 percent. Time and savings deposits by business firms each accounted for 18 percent of EC dollar deposits and rose by 64.6 and 44.5 percent respectively.

Deposits by households rose by 1.1 percent in the first quarter compared with 4.6 percent in the first quarter of 2005. Savings deposits by households, which accounted for 72 percent of EC dollar deposits, rose modestly by 1.5 percent,

However, interest rates on demand deposits were 50 basis points above the level of March 2005.

Consumer Prices

Consumer prices continued to rise during the first three months of 2006. The inflation rate, measured by the percentage change in the three-month average of the CPI, rose by 4.4 percent relative to the first quarter of 2005, moving up from

Table 2 - Deposits by Depositor

Depositor	Dec 04	March 05	Dec 05	March 06	Dec 04	Dec 05
					Mar 05	Mar 06
Government	\$292.1	\$286.3	\$345.3	\$342.3	20.6%	-0.9%
Statutory Bodies	\$293.4	\$304.2	\$304.9	\$290.8	0.2%	-4.6%
Business Firms	\$250.7	\$284.9	\$343.5	\$423.3	20.6%	23.2%
Private Individuals	\$1,120.4	\$1,146.4	\$1,190.7	\$1,213.3	4.6%	1.1%
Other	\$113.8	\$173.9	\$156.5	\$169.7	-10.0%	8.4%
Non-Residents	\$109.4	\$177.2	\$187.6	\$196.4	5.5%	4.7%
Total	\$2,239.8	\$2,372.9	\$2,337.5	\$2,633.8	6.9%	3.9%



slower than the comparable quarter of 2005. Demand deposits grew marginally by 0.8 percent, in line with growth of 0.8 percent in the first quarter of 2005. Time deposits held by households declined by 0.5 percent in the first quarter in comparison with a decline of 4.2 percent in the first quarter 2005.

Liquidity

Liquidity as measured by the loans and advances to deposits ratio eased slightly falling from 86 percent at the end of 2005 to 84 percent at the end of March 2006. This represents a higher level of liquidity than at December 2005, but suggests tighter liquidity than at March 2005.

Interest Rates

During the first quarter, there were no changes in either lending or deposits rates as compared with the end of 2005.

3.9 percent at the end of 2005.

The movement in the CPI was due to rises in the fuel and light and food sub-indices. During the quarter there were increases in the prices of fruits and fish, which contributed to a rise of 7.4 percent in the food sub-index. Consequently, the food sub-index, as the most heavily weighted in the CPI, contributed 3.4 percentage points to the overall level of inflation. The fuel and light component rose by 7.6 percent, outpacing growth in all other sub-indices including food as international oil prices continued to rise during the quarter.

Other significant movements in the CPI were registered in the Medical Care & Health (5.5 percent) and Transport and Communications (5.3 percent) sub-indices. This outcome was the result of price increases in medical products and services, and transportation over the re-

view period. Marginal movements were recorded for the sub-indices for Beverages and Tobacco (1.9 percent), Recreation and Culture (1.1 percent), Miscellaneous Goods and Services (1.1 percent), and Housing (0.1 percent). However, the remaining sub-indices comprising of Clothing and Footwear and Furniture and Household Equipment registered unchanged readings during the first quarter.

Employment

Preliminary figures indicate that the number of active contributors to the National Insurance Corporation (NIC) increased by 3.0 percent to 36,260 in the first quarter of 2006 compared to the same period a year ago. This outcome was owed largely to the 14.7 percent rise in the number of contributors in the construction sector, marking the largest increase in contributors among all economic sectors. This outturn was consistent with the continued robust growth in the construction industry, much of which is spurred by projects relating to Cricket World Cup 2007 and the expansion of the island's tourism plant.

Increases in the number of contributors were also recorded for hotels and restaurants (6.5 percent), real estate (6.6 percent), and transport, storage and communication (2.2 percent) sectors. The ho-

Table 3 - Loans to Deposits Ratio

	Mar 04	Jun 04	Sept 04	Dec 04	Mar 05	Jun 05	Sept 05	Dec 05	Mar 06
Loans to Deposits Ratio	79%	79%	81%	81%	81%	80%	85%	86%	84%

tels and restaurants sector accounted for the largest share (20 percent) of overall contributors by economic sector, followed closely by the wholesale and retail trade sector. In contrast the number of contributors from the manufacturing sector, the fourth highest contributor, declined by 7.4 percent

An analysis by institution indicates that during the first quarter, the number of active contributors to the NIC by the Private Sector grew by 2.3 percent while Public Sector1 contributors increased by 6.8 percent relative to the first quarter of 2005.

Data by sex indicates that there were increases in both female and male contributors. The number of male contributors rose by 3.4 percent, while female contributors increased by 2.5 percent.

Wages

The average monthly income for the first quarter of 2006 increased by 4.9 percent to \$1,581 compared to that of the corresponding quarter in the previous year. Overall, average monthly income in the private sector increased by 3.2 percent to \$1,558, while that of the public sector rose 9.8 percent to \$1,788.

An analysis by economic sector indicates upward movements in the average monthly incomes for all sectors, except that of hotels and restaurants and mining and quarrying which fell by 1.3 percent and 6.5 percent respectively.

The largest increases in average monthly incomes were recorded for the education (10.9 percent), wholesale and retail trade (6.4 percent), transport, storage and communication (5.3 percent), real estate (4.6 percent) and manufacturing (4.1 percent) sectors. The marked increase in the monthly income for the education sector was largely on account of the settlement of wage negotiations between the Central Government and teachers which affected salaries in the first quarter. There was a moderate increase in the monthly incomes for the agricultural and construction sectors of 3.3 percent and 2.1 percent, respectively.

THE PROSPECTS FOR FURTHER CHANGES TO THE EC BANANA TARIFF

The tariff arrangements on Latin American bananas determine both the effectiveness of the protection enjoyed by Caribbean bananas as well as the volume of bananas imported on an MFN basis and hence price conditions in the market. Since the introduction of the €176 single tariff on the 1st Jan 2006 there has been continuing pressure, coming from different sources, for further reduction of the EU banana tariff. The first is the “monitoring mechanism” set up after the Hong Kong Ministerial. The second is the WTO process, both Dispute settlement and the agriculture negotiations of Doha that can lead to automatic reductions in tariff levels. The final factor is the prospect of regional trading agreements between the EC and Central and possibly South American regions.

Background

Through a mix of high tariffs and a quota/licensing system, CARICOM banana exports have so far been enjoying security of access to the EC market and reasonably remunerative prices. These benefits have been shared with other suppliers i.e. the ACP and Europe’s own producers who benefited from the protective tariff measures. Initially they had been concerned at the potentially damaging impact on prices of unlimited imports of the cheaper dollar bananas resulting from the abolition of the tariff quotas on Latin American bananas as of the 1st January 2006. An immediate and undeniable consequence was the loss of the lucrative quota rents, previously enjoyed by all suppliers¹. The Latins though have their own additional grouses. True, declining market prices and the loss of quota rent are of grave concern since they reduce income from banana exports, but they complain that the actual import duty paid on their bananas has increased from €75 to €176. In such an open competitive market the duty increase cannot simply be passed on to the consumer. In consequence a portion of that duty increase will be borne by the producer. This further reduces income.

Fortunately for Caribbean suppliers the lifting of import restraints by the EC on their banana imports coincided with a period of global (temporary) shortfall of bananas on the world market that has permitted the continuation of reasonably buoyant prices. Consequently, the anticipated flooding of the EC market with vast quantities of bananas diverted from third country markets has not so far materialised. However, there have been increases in overall supplies both from Latin America and from the ACP. Analysis of the data indicates though that the patterns within the export groupings have been uneven with certain suppliers including the newer ones³ showing spectacularly rapid growth whilst some actually declined.

Understandably the most vehement Latins are those that have suffered the severest losses since the change-over. They are, however, in a “bind”. Their losses are the inevitable consequences of what they and the US have been fighting for more than a decade, the liberalisation of the banana market through the abolition of quotas. This can be described as “a tale of disaster foretold”. For political reasons of Latin American solidarity, they will not openly concede that the difficulties in part stem from increased imports from amongst themselves. Instead they bash on familiar and convenient targets, ACP preferences and the high tariff level.

Norwegian monitoring

The 6th WTO Ministerial in Hong Kong decided on “monitoring” by Minister Store of Norway that would determine whether Latin American market access was not reduced by the tariff change. However, the process was boycotted from the outset by some of the Latins, Panama, Honduras and Nicaragua. Colombia, which had been participating along with Costa Rica, Ecuador and Guatemala, withdrew from the process since April.

Although monthly MFN exports overall were higher, except in February, the Latin participants have been arguing that their share of the market has been falling as ACP exports have been growing. The ACP has countered that market trends need to be observed for at least a full year, as was initially agreed before it could be possible to be definite as to the impact of the tariff on sourcing patterns. The EC rejects the MFN suppliers’ argument so there is a de facto stalemate.

WTO required reductions

The other impetus for possible tariff reduction comes from the DDA agriculture negotiations. One of the aims of the current Round of WTO negotiations is for the substantial reduction of agricultural tariffs. Applying any of the reduction formulae currently under consideration, would mean that within a very short time import duties in the EC would be too low to provide meaningful or effective protection for Caribbean bananas. Of course with the stalling of the DDA this threat has been put on hold. But sooner or later these reductions will be implemented.

It is nonetheless possible to treat imports of certain products more favourably, i.e. by reducing their protection levels more slowly. Importing countries can designate certain products as “sensitive”. According to the rules that could finally be agreed on to govern such imports, this designation would permit the importing country greater flexibility in reducing its import duties on the item in question. Of course this will not automatically lead to special treatment or less rapid tariff reduction but will permit the EC to provide more favourable tariff treatment. It is merely a precondition; on its own it will not secure the desired treatment. It can also temper the levels of ambition within the negotiations.

The EC will however be able to designate only a limited number of products as sensitive. (Ironically it is developing country negotiators who ensured that this would be so). With the number of products that it can protect being strictly limited, the EC intends to give priority where it has major domestic interests at stake. Not surprisingly, the Commission advised the ACP that it would not be seeking this status for bananas.

Quite rightly Bananas is already on the ACP’s “longstanding preferences” list, which could permit the EC greater flexibility in reducing protection. Designation of bananas as a “sensitive product”, would in fact provide the best prospects (particularly if it is simultaneously on the longstanding preference list). Therefore, even if for tactical reasons, the ACP must also continue to lobby for it. However it would be essential that arrangements governing tariff reductions on products on the “longstanding preferences” list should be flexible enough for the EC to be permitted to maintain adequate tariff levels, in other words the required rate of reduction will not be drastic but “sufficiently gradual”.

EC/Latin American FTAs

Negotiations for an FTA between the EC and Central America were launched in May of this year. The Latins intend that the trading arrangements would provide them with preferential market access and they are seeking zero-rated access for duties on all tropical products including bananas. The Commission has signalled that the Latin American interests must be accommodated though it has not indicated acceptance of a tariff on bananas at zero. Given the importance of a protective tariff to domestic producers, unlimited duty-free access for “dollar” bananas, seems most unlikely. The options are likely to be a straight tariff reduction, (as was being canvassed by the Parliament’s President), or TRQs with zero or reduced in-quota rates. The implications for the Caribbean will depend very much on which of the options is pursued since the two could have different consequences for import volumes. In the first case any reduction from the current rate will encourage appropriate increases in imports. On the other hand a limitation of the volume of bananas that enjoy the “concession” could have a different impact on the overall state of the market. Once the out-of-quota tariff is prohibitive, then even a low in-quota tariff on Latin American bananas will not necessarily cause market oversupply if price falls. It would be in the Caribbean’s interest to monitor closely progress in these negotiations and seek to influence whatever proposals are to be made to the Latins.

Aims of the Latins

Whether or not this conforms with their underlying objectives, the strategy of the Latins is to press for substantial reduction of the applied €176 tariff rate and its binding at a low rate in advance of WTO triggered reductions⁴. In keeping with the agreement that led to the 1/1/2006 tariff, the grounds for reviewing/reducing the €176 tariff level would be that it has reduced market access for the Latins. Whilst some of the Latins have sold less, overall MFN imports have been increasing rather than falling. The Latins though have not been daunted by the technical weakness of their case for lowering the tariff, and have been relying on creative and often misleading interpretations of the accord and the facts to justify their contention that the tariffication change has improved the position of the ACP at their expense. Of course in such matters political considerations can be as decisive as strict technical facts. The Latins have therefore been applying indirect pressure that they realise could influence and even intimidate EU Member States, the majority of whom are inherently hostile to regulation of the banana market in which there is considerable preferential advantage for the ACP. They are making preparations for a new Panel in which they might claim that the EC has not complied with earlier Panel rulings and more worryingly that the waivers for the ACP have lapsed. The Commission has told the ACP that some of the Latins are threatening to withhold co-operation in the WTO agricultural talks.

It is conceivable that the real aim of the Latins is not actually a Panel since, even if they win, their concerns over prices will not be alleviated but could in fact be only aggravated. The most they can hope for from a Panel victory would be that the EC will be forced to further reduce the tariff and maybe even rule against ACP preferences. True this will be viewed as positive since they will have to pay less duty and therefore increase the returns from their banana sales to the EC would improve. But their real problems stemming from market oversupply and

resulting low prices will only worsen. The Latins have not actually forced the constitution of a Panel, despite some of them having lodged the complaint from earlier in the year. This “delay” accompanied by their continued manoeuvrings, lend credence to the suspicion that what they really want is something other than what could be delivered from a Panel process. Of course it could simply be that they are worried about losing. This though is doubtful given the vehemence with which they have been propagating their arguments.

Whatever the true intentions of the Latins, the fact is that their tactics can succeed in tilting political opinion in the EU even further in their favour. This sets the ground for their more sympathetic and favourable treatment in the event of negotiation and a political deal. Recently the President of the EU Parliament has been sounding out the Governments of Panama and Costa Rica regarding a possible reduction of the tariff to €140 per/tonne. Also the negotiation of possible Association Agreements (FTAs) between the EC and the Latins could entail some form of preferential access for bananas originating in participating Latin Members.

Prospects

The banana dispute has not in fact yet come to an end. Despite the public statements and postures, it is not only about the technical/legal issues but also the commercial/political. In this the Latins and the Africans have been the focus of attention. By contrast the traditional sympathy for the Caribbean in the EU has largely dissipated. This has been due to a combination of factors including the increased global focus on addressing the pressing economic problems of Africa and the effective and concerted lobby campaign orchestrated by the French interests operating in Cameroon and Côte d’Ivoire. Their campaign has often been characterised by misinformation and a willingness to attack the “privileges” enjoyed by the Caribbean.

Unlike the Africans, the Caribbean has not consistently pursued an ongoing campaign to advocate its interests. The signals received in Europe are that the region is divided and that banana production and exports are no longer of overwhelming importance. In such circumstances the region’s interests, which are in any event difficult for the EC to accommodate, can and are being ignored.

CARICOM needs to consistently stress the importance of the banana trade to the producers and call on the various players like the EC to ensure secure preferential access on a remunerative basis.

It would be essential for CARICOM to remain actively engaged with the various parties including the EU Member States, the Latins and most especially the US particularly since it can, and often has exerted such major influence on EC banana policy. The recent letter of Prime Minister Gonsalves to the USTR was most timely. The US needs constantly to be reminded of the importance of bananas for the region’s welfare and security. (Not just that of Latin America). CARICOM therefore should urge the US to work with the region and other interested parties, including the EU, to pursue whatever steps that are required to ensure market stability and remunerative prices.

CARICOM should monitor closely progress in the negotiations for FTAs between the EC and banana producing regions of Latin America and seek to influence whatever proposals are put forward so as to ensure conformity with its interests.

Diabetes Medication Top Quality, UHC Says

The Point man on the UHC for the procurement of medication for the Diabetes Pilot Project, Mr. Francis Burnet, says that FREE does not equal inferior quality. “There is a tendency for customers and some health professionals to believe that branded products are superior to the generic but this is not so.” The truth, according to Mr. Burnett is that generic products are “copy-cat” versions of the brand-name products but without the gloss and glamour of the original. “Nothing is lost, except the fancy packaging. The active ingredient, the potency, safety and the effectiveness remains the same,” he said.

Mr. Burnett is the secretary of the UHC’s National Pharmacy and Therapeutic Committee, which is chaired by Dr. Martin Didier and comprises other doctors, pharmacists and related health

professionals. The main responsibility of this UHC committee is to develop a national formulary – a storehouse of essential medication that will cover treatment for most of the illnesses in the health profile. Mr. Burnett’s substantive position is Managing Director of the OPPS, OECS Pharmaceutical Procurement Service.

He says the overriding factor for buying generic products is the substantial savings – as much as 40% below the cost of the same branded medication. He adds that some branded products are included in the list of medications available for the treatment of diabetics.

He explained that when a company markets a new medication, there are hidden costs and overheads that are included in the price to allow the

company to recoup its costs for the research that went into the development of the product. That new medication is also protected by intellectual property rights for 20 years. Once these protections are lifted, other companies manufacture generic version or bio-equivalents, with the same active ingredients and clinical outcomes but without the glossy packaging and glamour of the original.

Dr. Burnet notes that 18 different products are available for the treatment of diabetics under the UHC pilot and these medications are guaranteed to meet the demand of 95% of persons diagnosed with diabetes. The medications are available free of charge at all public pharmacies. Persons using private doctors are asked to ensure their doctors use the UHC prescription forms

in order to access the UHC supplies.

Mr. Burnet says the medications provided free under the pilot project are of the highest quality and meet international standards. Mr. Burnett says UHC would be shooting itself in the foot if it took the approach of using inferior medications for the pilot. “It just doesn’t make any sense to say that UHC is promoting better health for all and turns around and then jeopardises people’s good health with poor quality medicine.”

He stressed that all UHC suppliers have to meet highest manufacturing standards. In addition, there is aggressive post-marketing surveillance whereby all medications are tested in quality labs “to ensure they perform to the highest standards of efficacy and safety.”

CBU’s New TV Station

A “new Caribbean television station” to come on stream later in the year, a “Caribbean Media Partnership on HIV and AIDS “ and “Training for journalists and other media workers “ were among the major points of discussion tabled at the recently convened 37th CBU Annual General Assembly.

Representing St. Lucia at this important meeting was the Director of Information Services in the Office of the Prime Minister Embert Charles. He said the meeting highlighted some of the key accomplishments achieved by the Caribbean Broadcasting Union -CBU, over the past year and also outlined future plans

“ As a parent agency for CMC - CBU was able to usher in a new Caribbean television channel called Carib Vision which is available to all Caribbean members of CBU. I have been advised that through cable -vision this channel will soon be accessed in Saint Lucia and we got reports of the launching of this earlier in the year, as well as the type of programming. It’s really supposed to give daily updates of regional news as well as documentaries and so forth.”

The CBU meeting was chaired by President of the CBU Vic Fernandes who called for regional media collaboration on educational initiatives to increase public knowledge of HIV and AIDS.

“Media executives were invited to commit their agencies to sup-

port a region wide public education campaign on HIV/AIDS. This programme is being coordinated by a small steering committee made up of executives and a lot of the content which includes television productions, Public Service Announcements – PSAs, radio productions, news releases. Radio productions will be shared among members in order to assist the Caribbean addressing the issue of HIV/AIDS education” Charles explained.

The Caribbean Broadcasting Union 37th Annual General Assembly attracted a strong showing by the St. Lucian media to the island of St. Maarten where the meeting took place.

Meantime serving as the communications backbone of the region for World Cup 2007 the CBU is exploring ways of providing support services to foreign media for coverage of the event.

“A number of outside media agencies would be coming into the Caribbean to cover World Cup. And it presents the opportunity for members of CBU to offer services to these media agencies on terms that can benefit these agencies both financially and professionally.”

The region’s media representatives were also greeted with some motivational news. The CBU has given the nod to the revival of the CBU Annual Awards and to expand it to include the print media.

Minister of Ecclesiastical Affairs Meets New Adventist Head

Minister of Social Transformation, Culture and Local Government Honourable Menissa Rambally has officially welcomed the newly elected President of the Mission of Seventh Day Adventist in Saint Lucia. Pastor Johnson Fredrick is the second head of the mission in it’s seventh year existence here and the first Saint Lucian to hold the position.

The Minister used the opportunity to congratulate Pastor Fredrick on his election. She says she is optimistic that his election would bring an opportunity for youthful and visionary leadership. She says in her personal capacity as a member of the church family that she believes Pastor Fredrick has inherited a solid foundation which was well laid by his

predecessor Pastor Livingstone Aaron.

The growth of the SDA church over the years, she says, has made it now one of the largest denominations in the island. She says this indicates that the new president will have the challenge of leading a large flock including a growing youthful following.

Minister Rambally who also has responsibility for Ecclesiastical Affairs wished the Mission’s president and his team Gods blessings and every success in the management of the church.

Government, she says, recognizes the role that the church plays in influencing the moral fabric of the society and the church is called to assist with building strong families, communities and by extension a stronger nation.

NOMINATIONS FOR NATIONAL AWARDS 2007

The National Awards Committee invites nominations for National Awards to be announced at our Twenty-Eighth (28th) Anniversary of Independence on 22nd February, 2007.

As you may be aware, the Society of Honour known as the Order of Saint Lucia was established as from 13th December, 1986.

The grades are as follows: **(1) The Grand Cross; (2) The Saint Lucia Cross; (3) The Medal of Honour in classes of Gold and Silver; (4) The Medal of Merit in classes of Gold and Silver; (5) The Les Pitons Medal in classes of Gold, Silver, and Bronze; (6) The National Service Cross; (7) The National Service Medal**

GRAND CROSS: - The Grand Cross is for award only to a person appointed to the office of the Governor-General.

NATIONAL SERVICE CROSS: - Nominations for an award of the National Service Cross can only be made by the Chairman, Public Service Commission as this award is intended for Gazetted Officers of a certain rank in the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force, the Saint Lucia Fire Service and the Saint Lucia Prison Service.

NATIONAL SERVICE MEDAL: - Nominations for the National Service Medal can only be made by the officers in charge of the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force, the Saint Lucia Fire Service and the Saint Lucia Prison Service.

The general public should therefore be concerned with nominations for the following four (4) grades: (a) The Saint Lucia Cross; (b) The Medal of Honour; (c) The Medal of Merit; and (d) The Les Pitons Medal.

SAINT LUCIA CROSS: - The Saint Lucia Cross is to be awarded to persons who have rendered distinguished and outstanding service of national importance to this country.

MEDAL OF HONOUR (SLMH): - The Medal of Honour is to be awarded in any two (2) classes (Gold or Silver) to persons rendering eminent service of national importance or performing an outstanding brave or humane act to a national of Saint Lucia or of another country.

MEDAL OF MERIT (SLMM): - The Medal of Merit is to be awarded in any two (2) classes (Gold or Silver) to persons contributing long and meritorious service in the Arts, Science, Literature and other such fields.

THE LES PITONS MEDAL (SLPM): - The Les Pitons Medal is to be awarded in any of three (3) classes (Gold, Silver, or Bronze) for long and meritorious service to Saint Lucia, tending to promote loyal public service, national welfare or inculcating and strengthening community spirit.

Members of the public, organisations, statutory authorities and other public or private institutions are requested to submit nominations for awards to the National Awards Committee for its consideration. Your nomination should be submitted to: The Secretary, National Awards Committee, CIO, Prime Minister’s OfficeGraham Louisy Administrative Building, The Waterfront, CASTRIES.

Your nomination should state the name, age, occupation and nationality of the persons being nominated and for which grade and class of the Order. You should also give reasons why you think the person should be honoured with a National Award together with his or her Curriculum Vitae, and a summary of the activities which he or she has/had been involved, preferably in chronological order.

Nomination Forms can be obtained at the Prime Minister’s Office, Government Information Service, Central Library and the General Post Office.

Such nominations should reach the Secretary on or before Friday, 01st December, 2006.

Water Supply Improvement Project On Stream

Saint Lucia has accelerated progress towards a major milestone for the millennium development goals with the Saint Lucia Water Supply Infrastructure Improvement Project. The over 26 million dollar water project will address a longstanding acute water shortage problem in the north of the island.

Speaking at the ceremonial Sod Turning at the Theobalds Water Treatment Plant in Ciceron last Friday, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance, Mr. Philip Dalsou, says there had been serious under investment in the water supply which is being addressed by the project. The project includes increasing the capacity to remove water from the John Compton Dam in Rosseau from 6 million gallons to 10 million gallons as well as upgrading and installation of distribution lines to improve the supply at the intake plant at Hill 20 Babonneau.

Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony says he is elated that this project presents the prospects for finally resolving the water problems in the north of the country. Dr. Anthony says the provision of water supply to the north of the island has not kept pace with expansion in the North and the Project will address the issue. Dr. Anthony says the present water problems plaguing St. Lucia are an inheritance of mismanagement of the islands natural resources. He says the resulting effect is that of an immense burden of collecting water and the added burden of replacing inadequate infrastructure step by step over a phased programme.

The project attracts its greatest fi-



The 20" Pipes to be used in the water supply improvement project

nancing from the World Bank, funding Dr. Anthony says was approved in a record five months the speediest by World Bank standards. Dr. Anthony says it is a statement of the banks confidence in Saint Lucia. Dr. Anthony called for the managers of the project to ensure the project remains on time and within budget. The Saint Lucia Water Supply Infrastructure Improve-

ment Project is taking place at a time when Saint Lucia is preparing for ICC Cricket World Cup 2007.

The project is jointly managed by the Project coordination Unit of the Ministry of Finance, the Water and Sewerage Company WASCO, Halcrow Group Limited and the contractors General Earth Movers Limited and General Earthmovers -UEM Inc. Limited.

TWO WORLD CUP MATCH TICKETS FOR CWCSL FUN WALK

Cricket World Cup Saint Lucia Incorporated is reporting tremendous public response to this Sunday's Fun Walk event which will see some lucky persons winning tickets for cricket world cup matches in St. Lucia next year.

Intended to assist in their public education campaign ahead of next year's World Cup in the Caribbean, organisers of the event say registration had reached 1200 by Tuesday and were expecting the number to increase by the end of this week.

Events manager at Cricket World Cup Saint Lucia Incorporated, Octina Emmanuel, explained the arrangements for the walk.

"The walk will start at 6:30 outside our office and we are going to walk to Beausejour. When we get to Beausejour the walkers could actually participate in "out goes in" competitions and aerobics. Mello is going to be there so it is really a fun morning, a morning where you could bring out your family and have a lot of fun with us. We'll be having information on

Cricket World Cup and basically keeping you hyped and aware of what we are doing for the World Cup in Saint Lucia."

She says that apart from prizes in various age categories for the fun walk, a sponsor has come forward to offer tickets for two matches to be played in Saint Lucia.

"One of our global partners, PEPSI,

has just come on board with us and is going to raffle two tickets to the World Cup games. One is for the first game which is going to be held in Saint Lucia which is Kenya-Canada and the other one is for New Zealand-England. That should really be interesting for persons to get their names into that box and get a chance to attend one of the games."



Mellow meets freelance journalist Robertson Henry

VECTOR CONTROL OFFENSIVE FOR CRICKET WORLD CUP

Cricket World Cup 2007 St. Lucia Incorporated is receiving major assistance from the Department of Environmental Health in preventing the possible outbreak of vector borne diseases in the period leading up to and during the event.

Chief Environmental Health Officer Wenn Gabriel, says such a situation

before or during the World Cup could mean disastrous consequences for the island and should, at all cost, be avoided.

"It would place health at risk and a consequence of that will be negative publicity that no country needs. I mean you don't want in the international environment that you have an outbreak of dengue fever in your country."

Mr. Gabriel says an outbreak can

also affect the execution of the event in that many St. Lucians, including those directly involved, could be sick and unavailable. With almost six months left before the first ball is bowled, the Department of Environmental Health has stepped up surveillance in the locations where World Cup Cricket activities will take place.



THIS WEEK ON NTN

Sat. 16th to Fri. 22nd
September 2006

NTN – PROVIDING
INFORMATION YOU
NEED

Water Reform - Saturday
16th September 9:15 a.m.

Highlights Passing out
Parade 2006 – Sat Sept.
16th 12:00 noon

Hight Lights Honouring of
Rameau Poleon – Sunday
Sept. 17th, 11:30 a.m.

Hight Lights Honouring of
Rameau Poleon – Sunday
Sept. 17th, 11:00 a.m.

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

Konsit Kweyol/Mondays at
8:00pm:

Interview/Tuesdays at
6:15pm :

Issues& Answers/Tuesdays
at 8:00pm

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

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

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

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

www.stlucia.gov.lc

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