



NATIONWIDE

A publication of the Department of Information Services



Lower Electricity Costs for Hoteliers
- page 2



Our Shared Values
- pages 4 & 5



Caricom: Make Bananas a
Sensitive WTO Product - page 6



Caricom must not Compromise on
Democracy - page 6



Journalists Study Education
For All - page 7

CABINET REJECTS CENTRALISED BUS SYSTEM PROPOSAL



See page 3

SAINT LUCIA CHINA MUSICAL COOPERATION



See page 2



“Take ②” - A fifteen minute news review of the week.
Every Friday at 6.15 p.m. on **NTN**, Cablevision Channel 2.

Government Notebook
A fresh news package
daily
on all local radio stations



ACTING PM WELCOMES LOWERING OF ELECTRICITY COSTS FOR HOTELIERS

Acting Prime Minister Philip J. Pierre has welcomed the decision by Government of St. Lucia to lower electricity costs for hoteliers, saying it was because the Cabinet agreed that their energy bills were too high.

Speaking about the recent amendment to the Electricity Supply Act (ESA) at the last sitting of the House of Assembly on February 7, the Acting Prime Minister, who is also Minister for Tourism, said it was “a most pleasurable moment” to have been part of the decision to ease that particular burden for hoteliers.

The hoteliers have complained steadily over the years about high electricity costs. Some even accused the Government of St. Lucia of not being interested in easing their plight – a claim the Tourism minister always rejected.

During the debate on the amendment of the legislation to adopt a formula for distributing benefits from savings accrued from reduction of tariffs charged by the St. Lucia Electricity Company Limited (LUCELEC), the Tourism Minister said this action “vindicates the Government against the claims of insensitivity or disinterest.”

Said the Minister: “There is a tendency to assess the Government’s support for the



Acting Prime Minister Philip J. Pierre

tourism industry only in dollar terms, but this decrease in basic energy rates is another indication of the government making a direct intervention to assist – this time, to

ensure the hotels pay less for electricity.”

He said he hoped this “will help reassure the critics that we are committed to the development of the hotel sector.”

The Acting Prime Minister said Government agreed that the rates previously charged to hoteliers were high, but he explained that was “because of the high fuel costs on the world market and the fact that the legislation, as passed by the previous UWP administration, assured LUCELEC a guaranteed Rate of Return that was also high.”

The minister recalled that “in 1998, soon after taking office, the Labour administration appointed an Electricity Review Commission, which identified key areas requiring priority attention.”

“Among the areas identified were customer service, community relations, reduction of fuel costs and application of the fuel surcharge,” he said.

Mr Pierre continued: “Out of that review exercise came the Government’s first direct intervention, which was a reduction in the overall cost of electricity to consumers, which required the first amendment to the Act.”

He added that “in December 2005, the

second direct government intervention in favour of consumers came with the introduction of the first reading of that second amendment to the Act.”

Said the minister: “This was done to reflect, among other things, a greater component of the fuel costs in the base price, replacing the allowable rate of return with a new formula based on contributed capital, and distributing 50% of any excess return to various sectors through a reduction in the tariff price.”

He continued: “On February 7, the House of Assembly agreed, through further amendment, that the profits from reduction in tariff will be distributed among hoteliers, manufacturers and certain sections of the consuming public, to be defined by the Government.”

The minister said: “Now that the hoteliers had been taken care of, the island’s manufacturers are next in line to benefit from the lowering of electricity rates.”

He explained that “with our manufacturers now having to compete within the context of the Caricom Single Market and Economy,” it is the government’s intention “to help improve their competitiveness by lowering their electricity costs as was done for the hoteliers.”

Saint Lucia China Musical Cooperation

Relations between the Government of St. Lucia and the Government of the Peoples Republic of China were deepened this week when the Chinese Government donated gifts to a number of local organizations, including two government institutions.

On Tuesday, the Chinese Ambassador to St. Lucia His Excellency Gua Hamming handed over a set of musical instruments to the Royal St. Lucia Police Band, the second time that China has made such a donation to the band. The new equipment consists mainly of wind instruments. The Chinese Ambassador said he hoped the musical instruments would help the Royal St. Lucia Police band serve the St. Lucian people better and added his wish for the continuation and enhancement of the sound relations of cooperation between China and St. Lucia.

While expressing the hope for future donations from the Chinese Government, Minister for Internal Security and Home Affairs Senator the Honourable Calixte George said he hoped the positive image established by the police band within the public domain would be sustained. The Minister said that one of the major objectives of his ministry is to improve the public image of the Royal St. Lucia Police Force in general. “In the course of this year therefore, I will be exploring avenues aimed at enhancing the image of the Royal St. Lucia Police Force to the Same level now enjoyed by the band and I look forward to the participation of the General public assisting us in meeting that objective”

The gift of musical instruments to the Royal St. Lucia Police Band comes only a week after the Police Band played alongside the Military Band of the Peoples Liberation Army of China, at an open concert at the Derek Walcott Square. The Military Band is China’s

official state band and their visit to St. Lucia came after a tour to Grenada for that country’s independence celebrations. That was their only other stop in the region.

Their concert with the Royal St. Lucia Police Band has been described as a once in lifetime experience.

President of the St. Lucia/ China Friendship Association, Mr. Earl Bousquet said the local audience was caught by surprise by the repertoire of the Chinese musicians.



Commissioner of Police Ausbert Regis receiving one of the instruments from Chinese Ambassador to St. Lucia Gua Hamming



A section of the Royal St. Lucia Police Band playing at the handing over ceremony

“What was given on the square on Friday afternoon from the Chinese military band was also surprising because it was not the kind of Chinese music that people expected. These people were playing everything from the Glenn Miller bands of yesteryear to Kenny G of today and people were obviously quite pleased “

One of the many dignitaries at the

public concert was none other than Honourable Derek Walcott who has had his book Omeros translated into Chinese. Omeros was the masterpiece that earned Derek Walcott the Nobel Prize for literature.

Earl Bousquet says that the visit by the Chinese Military band has to be seen within the context of the continuation of the development of both state to

state and people to people relations between Saint Lucia and China. St. Lucia established diplomatic relations with China in 1997. Since that time China has funded a number of projects which has contributed to the development of the nation. These include the National Stadium and a free Zone Area both in Vieux Fort, and a Psychiatric Hospital now in its early stages of construction along the Millennium Highway.

CABINET REJECTS CENTRALISED BUS SYSTEM PROPOSAL

BUT MINISTER URGES JOINT APPROACH TO IMPROVE URBAN TRANSPORT SYSTEM

Minister of Communications and Works, Transport and Public Utilities Felix Finisterre says Cabinet has considered a Memorandum from his Ministry and agreed to adopt some of the recommendations of a team of consultants hired to solve the City's traffic problems -- and to make Castries look better in the process.

But the Government has categorically rejected some of the proposals -- especially one for the establishment of a centralised bus system -- and is inviting the National Council on Public Transport (NCOPT) to share in a joint approach to the recommendations of the consultants.

The minister says that "after due consideration" of his ministry's memo, Cabinet agreed to establish a Castries Car Parking Authority and will give further consideration a proposal to establish bus terminals.

He says, however, that the Government has "entirely rejected recommendations for a scheduled centralised bus system."

This latest affirmation of the government's intent comes against the background of the minister having previously offered several assurances to minibus operators that the Government did not intend to establish the scheduled system recommended by the consultants.

Cabinet agreed that proposals for improving the City's urban landscape would be pursued "subject to the availability of funds."

When the funds become available, he said, "the landscape improvements for the City will be pursued in a phased manner."

The plans include the establishment of a promenade from the Pointe Seraphine Duty Free Complex to La Plas Carenage, as well as improvements to Jeremie, Westall and Cadet Streets.

Beautification improvements are also on the cards for the William Peter Boulevard, Derek Walcott Square and Constitution Park.

George V Park will also be improved as part of the overall plan, but subject



Hon. Felix Finisterre
Minister for Communications,
Works, Transport and Public Utilities

to submission of a report by the Ministry of Social Transformation, Culture and Local Government.

On the recommendation for a centralised, scheduled bus service, the minister said: "We always realised this would displace current minibus operators, so, from the beginning we said we wouldn't adopt it."

Besides, he indicated, "the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance had long indicated he would not authorise the disenfranchisement of a small property-owning class that is tied to investments and bank loans."

Mr Finisterre said rather than establish a centralised and scheduled bus service his ministry proposes to engage the present minibus operators "with a view to encouraging them to take steps to constantly improve the quality of their service."

He said the ministry "has already encouraged minibus drivers to operate a more comprehensive service during Sundays and Holidays, but we would also like them to establish a customer service training programme for minibus drivers, to encourage best practice."

The minister said he was "very pleased to note that the minibus sector, as represented by the National Council on Public Transport (NCOPT) have hired their own consultants for the future development of the transport sector."

"We welcome this and we will give them any support we can to help," he added.

The minister said: "Now that their earlier fears have been allayed by the Cabinet, I hope the NCOPT and its members will more readily cooperate with the Government to improve the Castries urban transport system."

Mr Finisterre said that in arriving at its conclusion, Government had taken

of the island, where 60% of the population resides.

Among the problems identified in the consultants report were "uncontrolled street parking by private and public transport, poor traffic flows, congestion, poor pedestrian facilities and limited access to Castries from the North."

Indeed, commuters have complained over the years that a trip from the northern town of Gros Islet to the centre of the city -- a mere eight kilometre drive -- can sometimes take as much as two hours.

In November 2005, the consultants submitted a Final Options report, in which they made several recommenda-



Mini-buses on lower Darling Road bus stand

into consideration "both the interest of the minibus operators and the concerns and demands of the public for better service."

The consultants -- Halcrow Group Ltd/CFTY Joint Venture in association with NLBA (WI) Ltd/Interisland Architects and Planners & Eres Transport Ingetrans -- were commissioned in 2004 to undertake a comprehensive study of the urban transport sector.

The study concentrated on the north

tions, including: Improvements to the Urban Road System, Establishment of a Castries Car Parking Authority, Improvements to the Urban Townscape and Establishment of Bus Terminals.

To address the parking problem in the congested city centre, the consultants identified 400 car parking spaces in the city and recommended that a Car Parking Authority be established to manage city parking.

With minibus shelters and bus stops littered in a chaotic manner around the congested city, the consultants noted there was a requirement for organised parking space for over 640 minibuses every day. They therefore recommended that two bus parking terminals be established to serve the North and South of the island from Castries.

Looking to the future the minister said that apart from the NCOPT, "the government plans to ensure wider circulation and dissemination of the consultants' report to the other stakeholders, including the Castries City Council, the Chamber of Commerce, the National Insurance Corporation and the St. Lucia Air and Sea Ports Authority (SLASPA)."

He said the Government also intends "to invite the NCOPT to join the ministry for a joint review of the consultants' report and the Government's recommendations."



Minibuses in a temporary bus stand at Hospital Road, Castries

OUR SHARED VALUES

ADRESS BY
DR. THE HON. KENNY D ANTHONY
PRIME MINISTER OF SAINT LUCIA
AT THE OPENING OF THE 17TH
INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING OF THE
CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF GOVERNMENT
OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY PORT OF
SPAIN, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
9-10 FEBRUARY 2006

Colleagues, as you may recall, we met in St Lucia in July 2005 at the commencement of my tenure as Chairman, and by virtue of the decisions which we took, we ensured that the pace of activity would continue to be a frenzied one.

After all, we would have just six months to bring about the inauguration of our flagship enterprise, the CSME. Prime Minister Owen Arthur relentlessly championed the cause of the CSME. He deserves our thanks, praise and commendations. True, he was distracted from time to time by the politics of his opposition, but he kept his focus.

In this period too, we were forced to acknowledge and to respond to a number of challenges of major significance to our Community and economies. The decisions of the EU with respect to sugar and bananas continue to dislocate lives, particularly in the rural sector. These decisions are having a devastating impact on the economies of Member States which have a direct production and trading interest in the commodities in question.

There has been much pain and disappointment, and the growing distrust

and cynicism is understandable. But therein must lie the reason for strengthening our reliance on each other as a Community, and our motivation for continuing to build with even greater enthusiasm, this great enterprise called the Caribbean Community.

Reflections On Portfolio

I have had much reason to reflect on the portfolio responsibility which I hold for Justice and Governance. As you would recall, in July of last year, we engaged the Leaders of Parliamentary Opposition in a precedent-setting encounter which spoke eloquently to the maturity of our Community. Only recently, a representative committee of Heads and Leaders of Parliamentary Opposition met in Jamaica to explore modalities for continuation of the dialogue.

I remain optimistic about this initiative, and it appears to me that we would need, as a matter of priority, to commence the process of building a political architecture for our Community. We must for example, underpin the shared values in the Charter of Civil Society. The Charter requires a political culture that nourishes and supports it. The time has come for example, to adopt Community laws and principles to govern

electoral practice and behavior, campaign financing, and integrity and accountability in public life.

Please do not misunderstand me. Integration is not about mindless uniformity. Integration must not strip countries of their personality, soul, and spirit. Yet it cannot survive without acceptance of common standards of behavior and practice.

Entities other than governments are already pushing the boundaries of our regionalism to their logical conclusions. Just earlier this week, a symposium for National Employers Organisations within the OECS was concerning itself with issues such as (believe it or not) Cross Island Trade Union Representation ! After all, Trade Unions too are service providers. We as Governments must be seen as facilitators of the Community's maturation process, and not as obstacles to it.

Return To Electoral Democracy

Colleagues, two days ago, the people of our sister State of Haiti showed typical bravery and courage by exercising, in the face of untold odds, the right to elect in the first instance, a president of their choice. I speak only for the

Government of St Lucia when I say that I am very happy that Haiti has, once again, embraced electoral democracy.

From all indications, the people of Haiti have shown incredible enthusiasm for the electoral process. This time the voice of the people of Haiti must be allowed to prevail. Never again should the Haitian people be made to suffer the dishonour and indignity of having a government imposed upon them.

But there are lessons to be learned. A clear and unambiguous message must issue from this Community that it will not tolerate or accept the unlawful and unconstitutional interruption of the democratic process. St Lucia urges immediate amendment to the Charter of Civil Society and other appropriate instruments, to authorize the expulsion of a Member State which repudiates the democratic process by violence and intimidation



Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony

Anxiety and fear

Colleagues the CSM is truly upon us, notwithstanding the fact that the Single Market comprises only six Member States at present. It is clear that there is anxiety in many quarters, particularly in the smaller territories. We all bear a responsibility to calm those fears and anxieties. Much of this fear resides in the unemployed, the marginalized, and the ordinary wage earner.

It is vital that the CSM provide opportunities for ordinary wage earners, otherwise it will be seen as an enterprise for elites, for the educated and the well endowed. The CSM must seek to alter the conditions of our regional working class. If they perceive that the CSME is a threat, that it is not in their interest, that it cannot improve their lives, then they will have no commitment to it, and once more, embrace xenophobia. The CSME will not work if there is no ownership of it by every citizen of our Community.

Governments as well as employers have a huge responsibility to calm fears and anxieties. Crucially, we must depoliticize the march to the CSME, and eliminate the temptation by some

to see the CSME as the enterprise of those entrusted with governance.

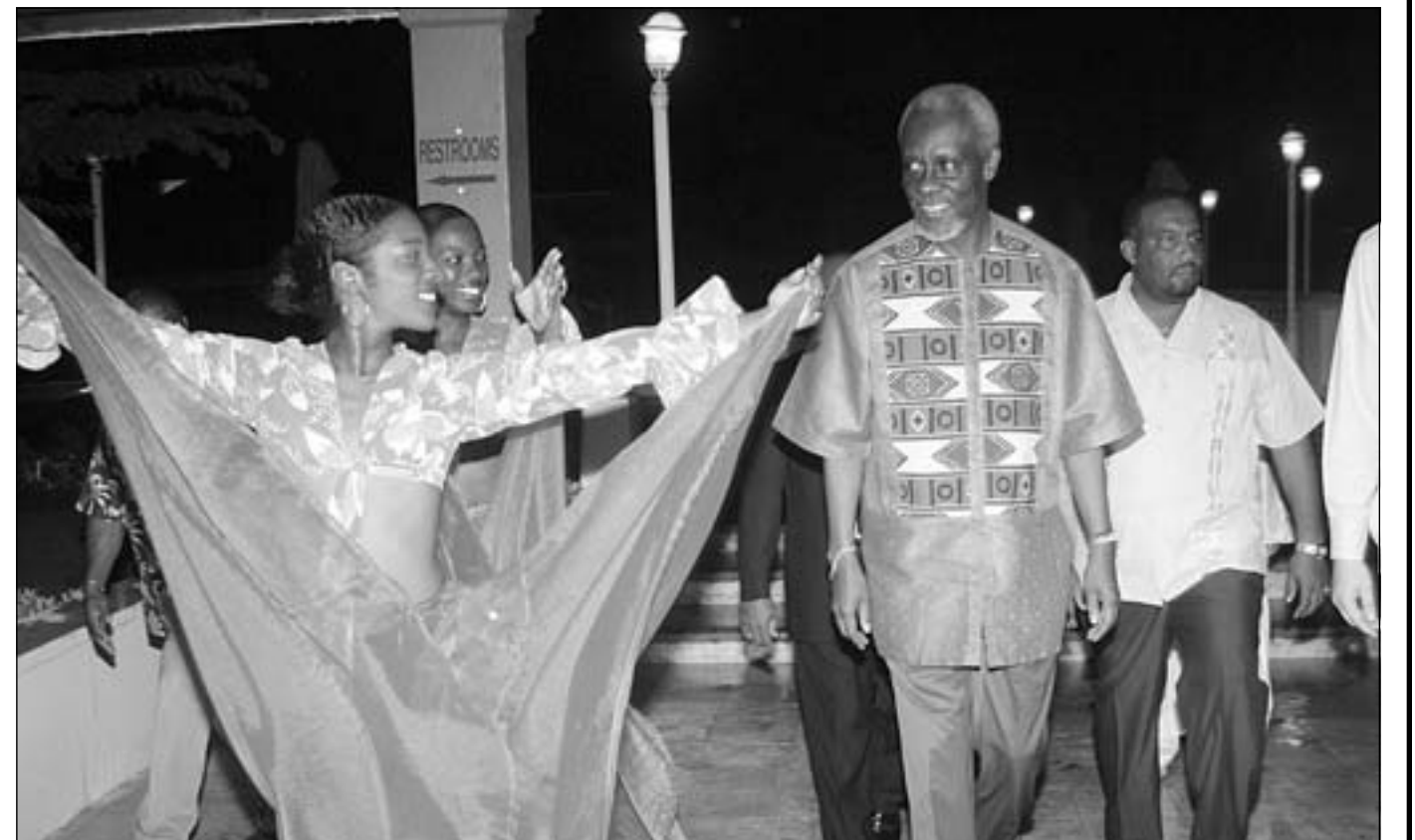
An Imminent Departure

This Inter-sessional Meeting will sadly be tempered by the imminent departure from our midst of our beloved PJ Patterson. I will personally miss his calming presence at our meetings – his thoughtful and analytical mind, his capacity to focus on the incisive issues, his friendship and his sincerity. No Caribbean leader since the Founding Fathers has participated in, and presided over Caricom with the sagacity of Percival Patterson.

In closing, I wish to extend my sincere thanks to you, the Secretary General and staff of the Caricom Secretariat for your support, patience and understanding during my tenure as Chairman, at the same time, I offer my full support to our new Chairman, Prime Minister Patrick Manning, and wish him the best, as he pursues his new responsibilities.

For some, the doors in Trinidad and Tobago are open much wider than for others. In this regard, we are not equals, but we all gladly accept the invitation.

CARICOM HEADS LAUD JAMAICAN PRIME MINISTER'S CONTRIBUTION



Prime Minister P.J. Patterson of Jamaica arriving at the Royal St. Lucian Hotel for a farewell reception at the conclusion of his State Visit to St. Lucia in 2004

The Prime Minister of Jamaica, the Most Honourable Percival James Patterson, who has announced his intention to demit office shortly, has received fulsome tribute from his colleague Heads of government for his contribution to the regional integration movement. The praises were showered on the Jamaican Prime Minister during the 17th Inter - Sessional meeting of the Caricom Heads of Government in Port of Spain 9 -10th February, Patterson's last such conference. All Heads of Government and the Secretary General of Caricom delivered personal statements of praise to Prime Minister Patterson highlighting his immense contribution to the development of the Caribbean people and wishing him well in his retirement.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the meeting, Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community, His Excellency Edwin Carrington, in calling the meeting to order, referred to the Prime Minister of Jamaica as "a veritable Caribbean Titan". Immediate past Chairman of The Heads of Government, the Prime Minister of Saint Lucia, Dr. the Hon Kenny D Anthony, in his statement said he would personally miss Mr. Patterson's calming presence, "his thoughtful and analytical mind, [and] his capacity to focus on the incisive issues." The Chairman of Conference, the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, the Hon Patrick Manning, said he was privileged to be among the fortunate few who would have experienced at first hand the love and commitment for Caribbean people which had been demonstrated by Prime Minister Patterson "in every contribution he makes and every decision he supports."



Prime Minister Patterson delivering an address at the State Dinner in St. Lucia in his honour in 2004



Prime Minister Patterson and Her Excellency the Governor General of Saint Lucia, Dame Pearlette Louisy



Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community at their annual meeting in St. Lucia in July 2005

Caricom: Make Bananas A Sensitive WTO Product

A call has been made by the Heads of the Government of the Caribbean Community for St. Lucia's vital banana export crop to be designated as a sensitive product in the context of the European Union's agricultural negotiations with the WTO. The exports of bananas by St. Lucia and other Caribbean Community countries to the United Kingdom have been adversely affected by a ruling of the World Trade Organization (WTO), that the preferential arrangements under which they exported to the European Union were contrary to WTO rules and regulations. Since then, as revenues from banana exports have decreased, Caricom countries have been fighting to preserve their share of the European market in conditions that will continue to allow banana production to be profitable to these countries. The designation of bananas as a sensitive product would limit the degree of tariff cuts that could be applied to it.

In the communique issued at the end of the 17th Inter - Sessional meeting of the Caricom Heads of Government in Port of Spain on February 9- 10th , the Caribbean Community agreed on its key negotiating objectives for bananas with the European Union. The Conference communique also made statements on a number of other issues of critical importance to St. Lucia at this time. These included, The Caricom Single Market and Economy, Crime and Security, Petroleum and the hosting of the Cricket World Cup in 2007 by the West Indies.

On Bananas the Communique declared

The Heads of Government noted that a new EU tariff-only regime of €176 per tonne had come into effect with respect to banana imports from Most Favoured Nation countries since January 2006 and that banana supplies from the African Caribbean Pacific Group of Countries (ACP) are being restricted by a duty-free quota of 775,000 metric tons. They further noted that the MFN countries had already given notice of trade litigation action.



In that context, the Heads of Government agreed that the key negotiating objective of the Region at this time, paying due regard to negotiations with respect to Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) with the European Union (EU), should be to ensure that the new tariff of €176 per tonne is not subject to further downward revision and that the EU proceeds to bind such tariff in the shortest possible time.

They also agreed that the Caribbean should secure a tariff preference on its banana exports into the EU within the context of EPA negotiations and further agreed that the Caribbean should request that the EU designate bananas as a sensitive product in the context of WTO agriculture negotiations, in which case bananas would be sub-

jected to very little or no tariff cuts, at least in the current Doha Round of trade talks.

The Heads of Government took note of the differences in the situation of Jamaica and the Windward Islands producers, on the one hand and Belize and Suriname, on the other. They resolved to make every effort to resolve those differences prior to discussions with the European Union.

The Heads of Government agreed that Member States would work closely with CARICOM Institutions to find a practical programme for rural transformation and to seek the means to implement it.

CARICOM Single Market and Economy

The Heads of Government applauded the signing of the Agreement by The Bahamas to enable the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas to make the final step from Provisional Application to Entry Into Force. The Revised Treaty is now applicable to all Member States of the Caribbean Community except The Bahamas, Haiti and Montserrat.

The Heads of Government complimented all Member States for their effort to comply with their Treaty obligations and agreed to give Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines until 30 June 2006 to become Single Market compliant.

In that regard, the Heads of Government mandated the Community Council and the Secretariat to follow up closely with those countries to explore all feasible options to ensure completion of outstanding action for compliance by the agreed deadline.

With respect to the free movement of Skilled Community Nationals, Heads of Government agreed that with the establishment of the Single Market, it was even more urgent that the eligible categories of wage earners be expanded.

They mandated the Lead Head of Government with respect to Free Movement to consult with the relevant stakeholders and develop recommendations for immediate expansion for consideration at their Regular Meeting in July.

The Heads of Government lauded those Member States: Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Suriname, which had already introduced the CARICOM Passport and noted the timetable for the introduction of the CARICOM Passport in the other Member States, while urging them to accelerate the introduction of the passport where feasible.

The Heads of Government acknowledged the importance of Aliens' Landholding for the small countries of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and mandated the CARICOM Secretariat to work with those countries to develop proposals to resolve the issue of access to land consistent with the Revised Treaty, for their consideration at the Twenty-Seventh Meeting of the Heads of Government in July 2006.

The Development Fund moved closer to realisation when the Heads of Government agreed that the Development Fund should aim at a capitalisation of US \$250 million and, building on the initial pledges of US \$17 million already made by the Governments of Barbados, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, all Member States should contribute a total of at least US \$120 million.

The Heads of Government noted the progress made, to date, with respect to developing the CARICOM Single Economy (CSE) framework and emphasised that its effective implementation required the active participation of the political directorate and all stakeholders.

To this end, the Heads of Government lauded the work of the private sector in moving towards the imminent establishment of a Caribbean Business Council, thereby ensuring a mechanism to effectively work with the appropriate institutions of the Community to advance the Single Economy.

Crime and Security

The Heads of Government were apprised by the Lead Head of Government with responsibility for Crime and Security, Hon. Patrick Manning, Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, of the status of implementation of the new Framework for the management of crime and security following the decisions taken at their Twenty-Sixth Meeting. They agreed on measures for expediting the process including the appointment of an interim director for the implementation agency .

The Heads of Government expressed concern over the state of crime in the Region, its developing transnational nature, and the upward trend in homicides and kidnappings in some jurisdictions. They agreed to move expeditiously to put in place regional management systems in relation to border control, maritime operations and intelligence and information sharing and discussed measures for implementation in the medium term aimed at impacting on the crime and security situation in the Region.

With respect to security issues surrounding the hosting of Cricket World Cup 2007, the Heads of Government also agreed to recommendations for expediting security planning including the harmonisation of systems and procedures to enhance border control. They urged that all Member States work towards the timely activation of these systems.

Petroleum Fund

The Heads of Government accepted the proposal on the modalities for administering and managing the Petroleum Fund as



submitted by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.

The Heads of Government determined that the Minister of Finance of the countries that comprise the Members of the Bureau of the Conference should assume responsibility for the decisions on the allocation of resources from the Petroleum Fund.

The Heads of Government approved the proposal that US \$20 million from the Petroleum Fund should be allocated to the regional Development Fund as a one-off disbursement.

The Heads of Government agreed that some of those resources should be used to assist in establishing the proposed Regional Development Agency.

PetroCaribe

The Heads of Government had full discussions with regard to the PetroCaribe Agreement.

The Heads of Government welcomed the willingness of Trinidad and Tobago to facilitate the PetroCaribe Agreement, particularly through its indication of support for the application for a suspension of the Common External Tariff in that regard.

The Heads of Government also agreed that the Task Force on Regional Energy

Policy should meet as a matter of urgency to discuss several related issues.

Cricket World Cup 2007

With only 394 days to the opening ceremony of the Cricket World Cup in Jamaica, the Heads of Government received a report on the status of preparation by Mr. Chris Dehring, Chief Executive Officer/Managing Director, International Cricket Council/ Cricket World Cup (ICC/CWC) 2007 Inc. who pointed out that the overall performance in the nine host countries is rated as "cautious". The Heads of Government agreed that Governments and the Local Organising Committees would need to work assiduously to ensure that the requirements of the host agreement are met and stated their commitment to staging a successful event.



Construction work at the Beausejour Crick Ground

Prime Minister of Grenada, Dr. the Hon Keith Mitchell, reporting on the deliberations of the Prime Ministerial Sub-Committee on Cricket of which he is Chairman, highlighted a 10-point plan for spreading the benefits of CWC 2007 to include local and regional businesses, especially the tourism industry, and to ensure that these benefits are transferred to the people of the Region in the form of enhanced skills in events planning and management and innovative ideas.

The Heads of Government agreed to consider the removal of all taxes on hotel rooms assigned to teams, officials and the media during Cricket World Cup 2007.

The Heads of Government also received a report from the Chairman of the Prime Ministerial Sub-Committee with respect to the Sub-Committee's meetings with the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) and the West Indies Players' Association (WIPA).

The Heads of Government noted the acceptance, in principle, by the WICB and the WIPA of a proposal for the establishment of a three-member team of officials to mediate between the WICB and WIPA in the event of a dispute.

The Heads of Government welcomed the acceptance by the West Indies Cricket Board of the offer to become an Associate Institution of the Community and mandated the CARICOM Secretariat to conclude the necessary steps, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas.

The Heads of Government also noted the need for them to clearly define their role in West Indies Cricket in order to ensure that they do not encroach on the functioning of the WICB.

The Heads of Government mandated the Chairman of the Sub-Committee to engage the WICB with a view to being updated on new initiatives, including the development programmes for the resuscitation of West Indies Cricket.

Prime Minister Anthony: Caricom Must Not Compromise on Democracy

St. Lucia's Prime Minister Dr. Kenny D Anthony has admonished the Caribbean Community to be uncompromising in the preservation of electoral democracy in the region. Speaking at the opening of 17th Inter Sessional meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community in Port of Spain on Tuesday February 9th, Prime Minister Anthony, in commenting on the Sunday February 7th Presidential and Parliamentary elections in Haiti, the first since the overthrow of President Jean Bertrand Aristide in February 2004, said that the Caribbean Community must learn lessons from the halting of democracy in Haiti and the obvious incredible enthusiasm by the people of Haiti for the electoral process.

He said that the lesson for the Caribbean is that: "A clear and unambiguous message must issue from this Community that it will not tolerate or accept the unlawful and unconstitutional interruption of the democratic process. St. Lucia urges immediate amendment to the Charter of the Civil So-

ciety and other appropriate instruments, to authorize the expulsion of a member state which repudiates the democratic process by violence and intimidation."

When the legitimately elected President of Haiti Jean Bertrand Aristide was ousted from power in February 2004, Haiti was suspended from Caricom and St. Lucia was one of four countries which steadfastly refused to deal with the unelected administration that replaced the Aristide Government.

Prime Minister Anthony expressed the joy of the Government of St. Lucia at the fact that Haiti had once again embraced electoral democracy and the Heads of Government as a whole also praised the people of Haiti for the manner in which they had turned out for elections.

In the communiqué issued at the end of the 17th Inter - Sessional Meeting, the Heads of Government said: "With regard to the situation in Haiti, Heads of Government paid tribute to the Haitian people for the courage, determination and patience they displayed and the faith they again demonstrated in embracing electoral democracy during the



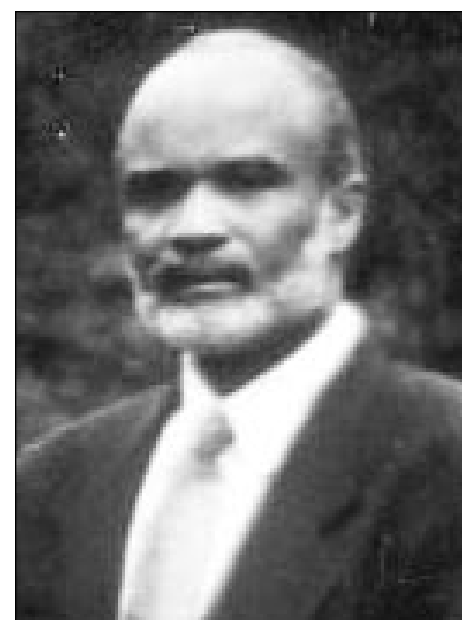
Dr. Kenny D. Anthony
Prime Minister of Saint Lucia

first round of the presidential and legislative elections on 7 February 2006.

They noted that the Haitian people had responded in large numbers, and in a largely peaceful manner, to the opportunity to exercise their democratic right to determine their elected representatives. Heads of Government reiterated their principled stand that the voice of the people of Haiti must be allowed to prevail.

Heads of Government indicated that certification of the elections as free, fair and credible by the groups that monitored the elections, including a CARICOM election observation mission, and the resulting return to constitutional rule would open the way for a return of Haiti to the Councils of CARICOM.

On Friday, it was announced that the former President of Haiti and protege of



Mr. Rene Preval
New President of Haiti

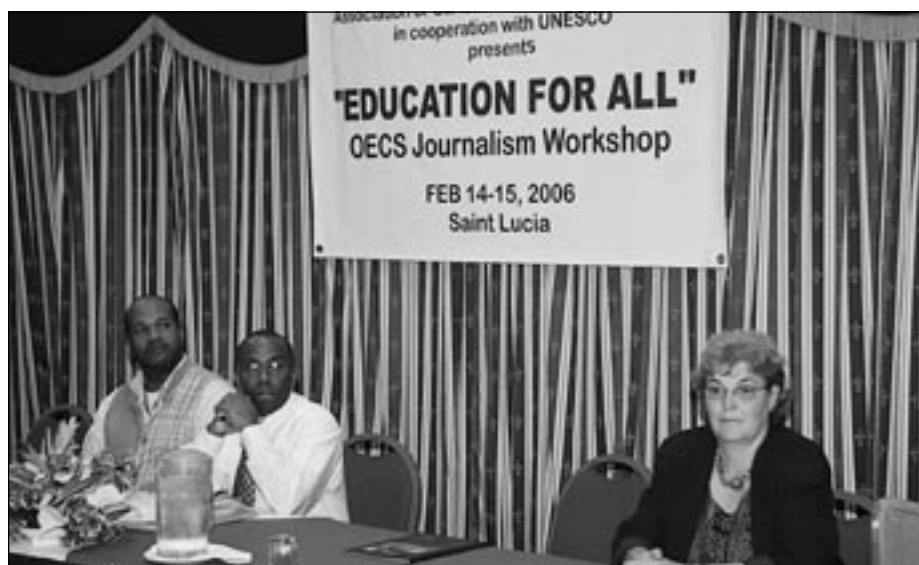
Jean Bertrand Aristide, Rene Preval, had won the elections for the Presidency. The announcement came after street demonstrations by Preval supporters protesting allegations of fraud and ballot rigging that would have prevented him from winning the Presidential race in the first round of voting. Preliminary results had been showing that Preval was ahead of his nearest rival by about fifty per cent of the vote but when the the Electoral Commission began indicating that he was about one percent short of an outright majority to win on the first round and UN troops in Haiti recovered boxes of discarded and burnt ballots at a Port Au Prince rubbish dump the protests began, tensions rose and the UN Security Council appealed for calm. A recalculation of the votes then gave Rene Preval the victory to make him President of Haiti for a second time.

JOURNALISTS STUDY EDUCATION FOR ALL

Journalists from all over the Caribbean were in St. Lucia on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week to attend a workshop aimed at familiarizing them with the UNESCO programme called, "Education for All." The workshop, which was held at the Bay Gardens Hotel in Rodney Bay, was sponsored by the Association of Caribbean Media Workers (ACM) in collaboration with UNESCO, the United Nations Scientific and Cultural Organisation. The Association of Caribbean Media Workers is a non - partisan organization of representative media associations and individual media workers in the Caribbean. It was established in Barbados on November 28, 2001 and is now headquartered in Trinidad and Tobago.

During the workshop, the journalists were introduced to the concept and elements of the Education for All programme which is basically that every child in a country should receive an education. The journalists discussed plans by their countries for the implementation of "Education for All" and examined how journalists should report on the programme. They also looked at how they can make education stories pertinent and effective and an important and regular part of their news productions and publications.

The holding of the workshop in St. Lucia is very timely as the Government of St. Lucia will later this year be providing universal secondary education in St. Lucia for the first time when it completes the construction of two new secondary schools. Minister of Educa-



From L-R Jerry George, Dale Enoch (ACM President) and Paule Turnel-John (Secretary-General of Local UNESCO Office) at the opening of the workshop

tion Mario Michel has announced that when the second of these schools opens at Gros Islet in September of this year, the Government will have achieved its goal of providing a secondary school place for every child in St. Lucia who is eligible to enter a secondary school.

The Gros Islet Secondary School, which is being built at Massade on 8.32 acres of land will contain 20 classrooms, 3 science laboratories, a computer laboratory, a learning resource centre, an art room and segregated sick bays for male and female students along with individual offices for the principal, vice principal, school bursar, counsellor and a 1000 person capacity auditorium. According the Minister of Education, Mario Michel, the school will accommodate 700 students and will be a four stream five form secondary school. The other school is being built at Marigot on 10 acres of land and

will contain similar amenities as Gros Islet's except that it will have an agricultural/science laboratory instead of



Hon. Mario Michel
Minister for Education, Human Resource Development, Youth and Sports

an art room as in the Gros Islet school. The two schools will cost over twenty three million dollars.



Clearing of the Ground for construction of the new Gros Islet Secondary School at Massade, Gros Islet

SPORTS AWARDS KICK OFF INDEPENDENCE DAY FESTIVITIES



Darren Sammy
2005 Sportsman of the Year

The celebrations to observe the anniversary of St. Lucia's independence on February 22nd will kick off tonight with the staging of the National Sports Awards ceremony at the National Cultural Centre this evening at 7.30. The 2006 National Sports Awards, coordinated by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, will honour the most outstanding achievements by the nation's sportsmen and women in 2005. A total of 16 national sports associations have nominated 47 persons for the titles of Sportsman and Sportswoman of the year, in the senior and junior categories. Last year, the National Cricket Association captured both the Sportsman and Sportswoman of the Year prizes. The 2005 Sportsman of the Year, cricketer Darren Sammy, is once gain in contention for the title but the Sportswoman of the Year, the female cricketer, Nadine George, did not make the nomination this year.

Following the Sports Awards on Saturday, the Independence Day festivities will continue on Sunday with the International Food fair at the Phillip

Marcellin grounds in Vieux Fort from 11:00am. The religious aspect of the celebrations take centre stage from Sunday afternoon with the staging of a gospel concert entitled, "Concert of Praise and Inspiration" at the national Cultural Centre in Castries starting at 5.00pm, the holding of the National Ecumenical Service at the Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Castries on Monday at 9:00am and the Ceremony of Lights on Tuesday from 6:00pm at the Derek Walcott Square and in Roman Catholic Parish Churches throughout the island.

A lighter side of the celebrations will be the Miss Independence Pageant scheduled for the National Cultural Centre on Tuesday evening at 8:00pm. Independence Day itself, Wednesday 22nd February, will feature the Independence Day Parade at the Mindoo Phillip Park from 9:00am, the National Schools Rally from 11:00am at the Viegie Sports Complex and a Motorcycle Island Motorcade and Bike Show.

The theme for this year's celebrations is "THIS IS OUR COUNTRY- THE POWER IS OURS - SE PEYI- NOU - POUVWA-A SE SAN NOU."



Nadine George
2005 Sportswoman of the Year

CITY COUNCIL RECEIVES 600 BINS

A donation of 600 bins was presented to the City of Castries over the weekend. The donation was the second of its kind on the part of the People's Republic of China through the Chinese Embassy, who have in the past assisted the Castries City Council in its efforts to keep the city clean.

Chairman of the Castries City Council Mr. Peter Foster says the Castries City Council has taken into account many observations that have been made in regard to the city's cleanliness and appearance.

He says as a result the Council is about to embark on projects to beautify and rehabilitate amenities within the City centre.

In this regard one of our initiatives has been to satisfy the need to install additional garbage receptacles within the city in an effort to control the lit-



Chinese Ambassador to St. Lucia Gua Hemming and City Council Chairman Peter Foster at the handing over of the bins

tering on the streets. We are concerned that if the situation is not adequately managed it will have a negative impact

on the city environment and consequently upon the citizens of and visitors to Castries."



A sample of the Bins



THIS WEEK ON NTN

Sat. Feb. 18th to Fri. Feb. 24th,
2006

NTN - PROVIDING INFORMATION YOU NEED

The GIS discusses Ambush Marketing & Other Legal Issues Pertinent to Cricket World Cup 2007 -Reorganizing Agricultural Sites

Feb. 18th, 11:00 a.m.

Sports Talk - The GIS discusses the upcoming National Sports Awards - Sun. Feb. 19th, 11:00 a.m.

Junior Panorama 2006 - Mon. Feb. 20th, 8:30 p.m.

Nobel Laureate Week Lecture 2006 -Tues. Feb. 21st, 7:30 p.m.

Learn more about your laureates

- Wed. Feb. 22nd, 6:30 p.m.

The GIS discusses a programme teaching abstinence from sexual activity undertaken by some schools in St. Lucia Thurs. Feb. 23rd - 8:00 p.m.

Developman Lanng Kweyol-la Part 1-Thurs. Feb. 23rd - 9:00 p.m.

Developman Lanng Kweyol-la Part 2 - Fri. Feb. 24th, 9:00 p.m.

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

Issues & Answers/Mondays at 8:00pm:

Interview/Tuesdays at 6:15pm :

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

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

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

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

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

www.stlucia.gov.lc

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

Contact us at: The Department of Information Services, Greaham Louisy Administrative Building, The Waterfront, Castries, St. Lucia, West Indies
Tel: (758) 468 2116; Fax (758) 453 1614; E-mail: gis@candw.lc; <http://stlucia.gov.lc>