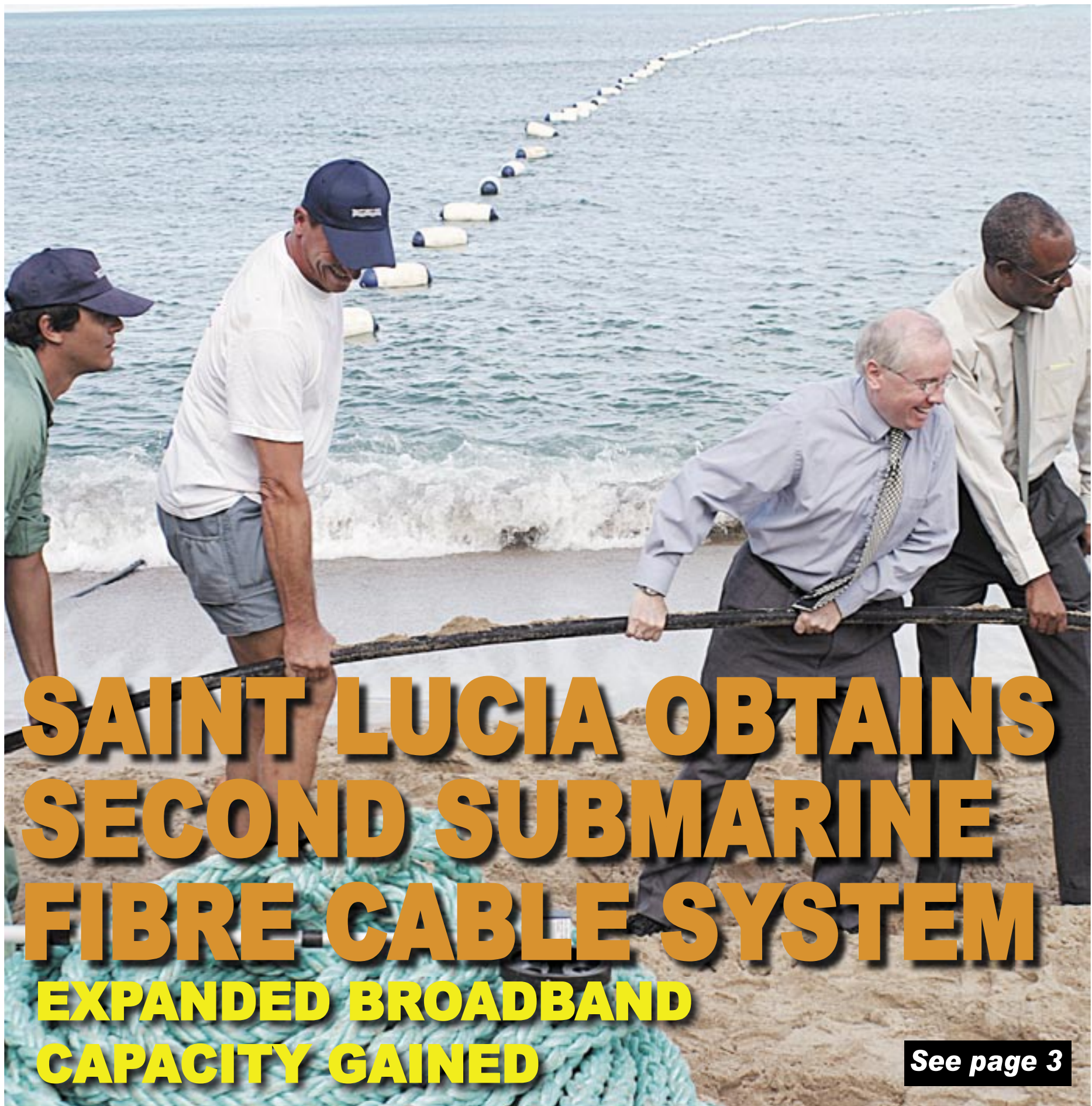




NATIONWIDE

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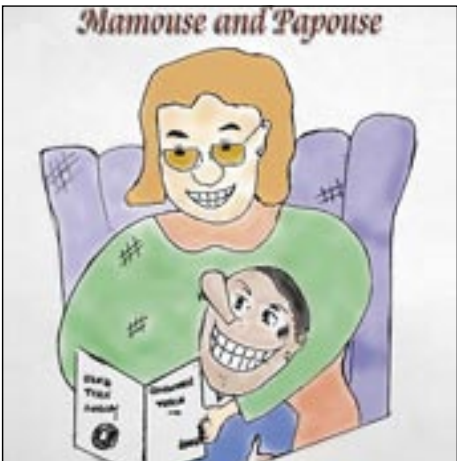


SAINT LUCIA OBTAINS SECOND SUBMARINE FIBRE CABLE SYSTEM EXPANDED BROADBAND CAPACITY GAINED

See page 3



Social Recovery Programme for
Banana Farmers - page 2



Consumer Education Manual for
Schools - pages 4 & 5



Caricom Condemns Radio Active
Waste Shipment - page 6



One Year Countdown to Cricket
World Cup 2007 - page 7



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

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



EU Funds For Social Recovery Programme For Banana Farmers

Part of the proceeds of an EC \$20 million contribution from the European Union to the St. Lucia Government to assist the country's banana producers will be spent on a social recovery programme that has been deemed necessary because of the social dislocation caused by the recent decline in the banana industry. Since a WTO ruling in the late 1990's which deemed that the protective regime under which St. Lucian and Caribbean bananas were marketed in Europe was incompatible with the WTO regulations, banana prices have fallen leading to a steep drop in the numbers of farmers involved in the local industry and an even greater decline in the levels of foreign exchange earned by the country from bananas. This decline in the banana industry has had serious economic and social implications for St. Lucia.

Last week Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony and the European Union representative to the Eastern Caribbean, Ambassador Amos Tincani signed

an agreement that will mobilize EC \$20 million for the country's banana farmers under a 2005 SFA (Special Framework of Assistance for banana producers) Project. Two of the five components of the project are: the reinforcement of social stability in the country and the promotion of the sustainable use of the country's natural resources.

The social recovery programme encompasses the following major activities: Crime prevention initiatives; Housing and shelter; Education/training; Community infrastructure

Crime Prevention Initiative

This initiative seeks to reduce the high crime rate accruing as a result of the displacement cause a result of the restructuring of the banana industry by the following: Community based recreation programmes; Support for the police force so as to facilitate direct patrol in crime hot spots; Provision of trained youth counsellors directed at gangs to redirect gang energy towards legitimate activities and to help discourage crime; Installation of a programme for

prisoner rehabilitation and integration in the society.

Housing and Shelter

This initiative seeks to improve the housing situation and thus to enhance living conditions for the rural population through: Regularisation of unplanned settlements via settlement improvement programmes; The low income housing scheme established under SFA 2000 to facilitate access to loans for land acquisition and low-income housing construction or rehabilitation will be further supported.

Education and Training

This initiative seeks to facilitate the enhancement of skills of persons displaced as a result of the restructuring of the banana industry. To this end the following would be done: Support for skills training/enrichment programme; Support for school feeding programme.

Community Infrastructure

This initiative seeks to support rural the following economic infrastructure

through labour intensive mechanisms: Provisions of drains and footpaths in rural Communities; Soil protection infrastructure in rural communities.

Promotion of the sustainable use of the country's natural resources

This component will focus on the development of eco-tourism and agro-forestry enterprises. Additionally, attention will be paid to critical elements such as integrated watershed management and soil conservation. Where necessary, the institutional capacity for natural resource management (including review of legislation and enforcement capability) will be strengthened.

General project benefits

Overall, it is hoped that the SFA project in its entirety will increase banana output by 5% by 2008, increase the volume of non banana agricultural exports by 15% by 2008, reduce the island's trade deficit by 10% by 2008 and give assistance to at least 100 farmers under the social stability segment.

BNTF PROMOTES SKILLS TRAINING AND ARTS CRAFTS

BNTF promotes Skills Training at Upton Gardens Girls Centre

On Wednesday 15th March 2006, The Basic Needs Trust Fund officially handed over the Upton Gardens Girls Centre Agricultural Programme to the Centre.

The Upton Gardens Girls Centre has been in existence since February 1980. An initiative of the National Council of Women, it serves to rehabilitate underprivileged, abused, neglected or abandoned teenage girls who are on the verge of delinquency.

One area of focus of the Centre is skills development, this includes Hospitality Services Skills, Creative Arts and Craft, Horticulture and Agriculture. The Centre once had a thriving

agricultural programme which has been plagued by pilferage and lack of adequate equipment, among other things. This programme was beneficial as it generated income for the centre and promoted the overall skills development.

The Upton Gardens Girls Centre with the financial assistance of the Basic Needs Trust Fund has revived and enhanced their agricultural programme. Through the grant funding

available from the BNTF, the Centre has benefited from a green house, shade houses, farming tools and materials totalling \$26,774.45 EC. A memorandum of understanding will subsequently be signed by the the Upton Gardens Girls Centre, Ministry of Home affairs and the Basic Needs Trust Fund, to ensure sustainability of the programme.

The Basic Needs Trust Fund, a project of the Caribbean Development Bank serves not only to improve infrastructure for their target

population but also promote skills for income generation and enhancement. BNTF recognises the significant contribution which skills acquisition can make to the alleviation of poverty through enhancing

employability to obtain increased earnings.

BNTF also seeks to provide assistance to the Upton Gardens Girls Centre under its vulnerable groups component by doing rehabilitative work on the existing structure. The Vulnerable Groups component covers not only youth at risk but also the elderly, physically and mentally challenged.

Laborie Arts and Craft Training Programme

The Basic Needs Trust Fund in collaboration with the Anse Kawet Craft Association on Wednesday 15 March formally launched the Laborie Skills Training Programme on the premises of the Laborie Girls' School.

The BNTF has committed a total of over EC40,000.00 to ensure that 54 Laborians will be trained in the areas of: Sewing and Needle wor, Knitting and Crotchet, Basketry, Tie Dying, Culinary and Seafood Art, Bamboo and Wood craft, Flower

young men and unemployed elderly women and men, as well as small seafood entrepreneurs who want to learn or enhance arts and craft skills. The training they receive will reduce unemployment, improve their capacity to derive more revenue from craft

and seafood sales, facilitate the transfer of craft skills from aging crafters to youth crafters, and strengthen the craft and small restaurant/catering sectors in Laborie.

This skills training is a precursor to another proposal which has been

Construction and Floral Arrangemen, Doll Construction and Decoration.

The goal of the programme is to create opportunities for the transfer of craft skills and the training of unemployed Laborians in craft skills, so as to facilitate self-employment and to increase awareness of craft as viable businesses. It is intended to target a large number of unemployed young women, single mothers, unemployed

submitted to BNTF, the Laborie Arts and Craft Training and Trading Centre which is currently at CDB for approval. The workshop in conjunction with the craft centre is consistent with the development plan for Laborie.

Training consultancy will be provided by the Anse Kawet Craft Association, a formidable craft group within the community.

The BNTF has committed a total of over EC40,000.00 to ensure that 54 Laborians will be trained

SAINT LUCIA OBTAINS SECOND SUBMARINE FIBRE CABLE SYSTEM

EXPANDED BROADBAND CAPACITY GAINED

A new submarine fibre cable system that will significantly expand St. Lucia's broadband connection to the rest of the world has been landed in the country. The new cable system was brought ashore at Vide Bouteille recently in the presence of the Minster of Communications, Hon. Felix Finisterre and officials of the company that is undertaking the project, Antilles Crossing (St. Lucia Limited).

Antilles Crossing was granted a submarine Cable license last year as part of the ongoing process, started in 1997, of revamping the telecommunications environment in the member countries of the OECS. Since the Governments of the OECS undertook this liberalization, significant benefits have been realized to their people except in the area of the provision of broadband capacity out of the islands. Greater access to broadband capacity is still constrained due to the de facto monopoly situation operating there and the consequent the high cost of bandwidth to consumers. This is occurring at a time when development of the Internet, email and video and subscriber TV between continents has led to an immense growth of optical submarine networks.

The new system to be operated by Antilles Crossing will supplement the existing broadband capacity out of St. Lucia and give it greater information communications technology linkages to the rest of the world. The new cable will link St. Lucia and Barbados to the North American mainland through St. Croix in the first phase of a development process that will eventually link all of the ECTEL Member States through this cable system to the US, Trinidad and Tobago and the South American continent. This will provide increased bandwidth for all who wish to exploit the vast potential of ICTs.

Bandwidth will not just be widely available, but also affordable to individuals, business houses and public institutions. Once this fibre cable system becomes operational, there will be a continued reduction in the prices for services, increased choices and introduction of new technologies. These changes will bring new opportunities, increased employment and enhanced competitiveness for goods and services from the region.

Under its licensing agreement, An-



The boat used in the laying of the fibre cable to St. Lucia



St. Lucia's Minister for Telecommunications, Hon. Felix Finisterre (left) and Mr. Douglas Cunningham of Antilles Crossing (St. Lucia Limited) at the ceremony marking the landing of the new submarine fibre cable at Vide Bouteille

tilles Crossing is authorized to provide the following telecommunications services to a range of other Licensed Operators whether these are: (I) Domestic or international services; (II) Transit or termination services; (III) Any-to-any service; Telecommunications or information services; (IV) Services using wireline or wireless technology, or any combination thereof; and (V) Services provided using packet technology, or any other form of transmission, or any combination thereof.

The licensed services include: Voice,

Text, Data, Video, and Inter-active Services, including Internet; Lightwave Services, including infrared and other systems inside and outside the visible spectrum; Facilities management including: (1) Data network hubs; (2) Voice and data network distribution and terminal equipment including data storage and business continuity services; (3) Services for audio, text, data and video programme transmission:

Leased Lines facilities and circuits directly or indirectly to any licensed telecommunications operator in St Lu-

cia. The company will also have to make available: Capacity to provide access to public places for broadband internet services and broadband capacity to facilitate Regional ICT investments.

The technical features of the new fibre cable system are as follows:

System Configuration - (a) A System design capacity of 40 Gigabits/second; (b) With an initial system capacity of 10 Gigabits/seconds between St Lucia and St Croix and between St Lucia and Barbados, upgradeable to 20 Gigabits/seconds from the Underwater Branching Unit (UBU); (c) Featuring a Wet Link cable length as detailed in the summary table below, and attached map:

Segment	Landing Points	Length (km)
1	Barbados – St Croix	898
2	St Croix – St Lucia UBU	655
3	St Lucia UBU – Barbados	243
4	St Lucia UBU – St Lucia	40
Total		1836

(d) Additional fibre network redundancy will be provided through use of satellite earth stations.

Backhaul System Design and Specification including - System design capacity 20 Gigabits/second in a redundant configuration with segment 1 being able to provide redundant capacity in the event of a failure of either of segment 2 or segment 3; With the initial system capacity of 19 Gigabits/second; Having the Terminal Points located at the Cable Landing and providing domestic network interconnection from the Cable Landing Point at Vide Bouteille by multiple microwave links to existing carriers and by fiber to the incumbent's fiber network.

Now that Antilles Crossing has brought their new fibre cable to St. Lucian shores, their task now is to take it inland and connect St. Lucian consumers to the system either through installing their own domestic fibre network or reaching an agreement with the owners of an existing network in the country. Negotiations are presently underway with one local company in order to achieve the latter.



Officials of Antilles Crossing and Minister Finisterre pulling in the cable (left) and in discussion (right)

WORLD CONSUMER RIGHTS DAY – MARCH 15, 2006

CONSUMER PROTECTION IMPORTANT TO GOVERNMENT

FEATURE ADDRESS: MINISTER FOR COMMERCE, TOURISM, INVESTMENT AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS – HON. PHILIP J. PIERRE



Hon Philip J. Pierre

Saint Lucia is indeed proud to be associated with World Consumer Rights Day. The transformation of the Price Control Division into a full-fledged Consumer Affairs Department in 1997 paved the way for becoming part of the Universal Family of the Consumer Movement spearheaded by Consumers International.

In June 2001 the Ministry became a government affiliate member of Consumers International and a few months earlier we gained membership of the American Council on Consumer Interests.

Consumer Protection is very important to the government of Saint Lucia for a number of reasons. Consumer protection is intended to address disparity in the Consumer – supplier relationship, the disparity of knowledge and the disparity of resources.

The economic efficiency theory is one reason for protecting consumer interests. Economic efficiency is a requisite to ensure that all systems function optimally in a market economy. State intervention is necessary to ensure that suppliers behave responsibly and aggrieved consumers have access to redress.

The state therefore must enact consumer protection laws, provide for or facilitate the flow of information to consumers and set up effective consumer redress mechanisms to protect and promote consumer welfare.

Consumer rights are seen as part of the new range of social rights that individuals are entitled to claim in a

modern society and that consumer protection measures must contribute to equity and social justice.

The Government of Saint Lucia is taking steps to ensure that the necessary measures and relevant policies are in place to protect consumer welfare. The signing of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas indicates that the Government is obligated to fulfill its commitments enshrined in Chapter 8 which deals with Competition Policy and Consumer Protection.

A Consumer Protection Bill has been drafted and is now at the Attorney General's Office to be fine-tuned and subsequently transmitted to Cabinet for Approval. A Consumer Credit Bill has been finalized and will shortly go to Cabinet for approval and onward transmission to Parliament for enactment. This Consumer Credit Bill which will replace the Hire Purchase Ordinance No. 13 of 1962 has been developed after a series of consultations with the public and its new provisions reflect a piece of modern legislation that is in tune with current thinking. When this legislation is enacted, it will be the most modern and comprehensive Law in the CARICOM Region dealing with Hire Purchase, Credit Sales Agreement and Lay-away plans.

Work is also in train to enact competition legislation to prohibit anti-competitive conduct in the market and in this regard, the establishment of a Fair-trading Commission is contemplated.

The Ministry views Consumer Education and Information as critical elements in the promotion of Consumer Welfare. One of the failures of the market system is the lack of Consumer Education to enable consumers to make informed choices. So important is this consumer right to education, that the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas in Chapter 8 Article 184 called on Member States in the Community to take appropriate measures that will promote the provision of adequate information to consumers to enable them to make informed choices and to ensure the availability of adequate information and education programmes for consumers and suppliers.

Since 2003, the Government through the Ministry of Commerce, Investment and Consumer Affairs has collaborated with other agencies including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to build capacity in the region.

Through the Ministry's insistence and influence, UNCTAD developed a nineteen (19) Chapter Manual on Consumer Protection. This manual is designed to train consumer experts throughout the world, so that they can



Students dramatising the eight Consumer Rights

be equipped to train others on consumer protection matters.

In April 2005, this manual was tested in Saint Lucia at a Regional Training programme for Consumer Agencies in the CARICOM Region. UNCTAD is committed to providing more training throughout the Region on Consumer Protection which will be beneficial to Consumer Advocates and professionals in light of the CSME.

Also, last year 2005 the Ministry initiated a programme of involvement with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) in the USA and this resulted in a member of staff from the Consumer Affairs Department and other Consumer professionals within the Region embarking on a study tour of the FTC in Washington DC to learn hands on how the FTC functions as a Federal State Department by promoting consumer interests. In fact, we were reminded

that the acronym FTC should be interpreted "For The consumer".

The Ministry intends to pursue other training programmes with this institution geared towards Capacity Building and Institutional Strengthening.

Currently, the Ministry is in discussion with the Trading Standards Institute (TSI) of the United Kingdom to explore opportunities for introducing the institute's Trading Standards Diploma in Consumer Affairs (TSDCA) and other relevant programmes to the Caribbean Region through Distance learning. The TSDCA is a foundation programme and pre-requisite for all Trading Standards Officers in the UK, who are involved in enforcement of Trading Standard legislation.

We are also exploring opportunities and weighing the possibility of establishing a testing centre in the region for the TSI qualifications.

The introduction of this Consumer Education Manual, Mamouse and Papouse into the primary school system is a first and very important step. The incorporation of Consumer Education studies in the School curriculum is fundamental to nation building. International Cooperation through the establishment of mechanisms for sharing and exchange of regulatory information on products and services; training programmes on consumer protection and related matters are of paramount importance.

Therefore, the Ministry will continue its Education drive on the CSME and other important developments to ensure that the public is fully sensitized on these issues.

We would like to thank the Consumer Affairs Department for its effort

over the years in educating the public on Consumer matters and specifically for producing an excellent manual for primary schools, other students and the public at large.

The work of the National Consumer Association (NCA) must be noted for advocating for change and the support of the private sector must be underscored in this TRIPOD which ultimately results in a win-win situation for all.

For as businesses are the engine of growth, consumers provide the fuel for growth and the country benefits from the improvements in GDP which essentially generates more wealth for redistribution to the poor and disadvantaged consumers in our country.

Happy World Consumer Rights Day to all Consumers and let us all work together to build a stronger nation in the midst of insurmountable challenges.

CONSUMER MANUAL FOR SCHOOLS



Philip Mc. Lauren
Director of Consumer Affairs

The Ministry of Commerce Investment and Consumer Affairs on Wednesday launched a consumer education manual for upper primary schools at the NIC conference centre, as part of activities to commemorate World Consumer Rights Day. Consumer Rights Day is observed annually on March 15 and this year

the theme chosen by Consumer International, the body representing consumer organizations, is "Energy, sustainable access to all". However in keeping with its thrust to educate the public on CSME matters, the Consumer Affairs Department has developed a local theme "Consumer empowerment in a CSME environment".

The launch of the consumer education manual, which is called Mamouse and Papouse, took the form of a competition among primary schools from eight education districts. Each school dramatized one of the eight consumer rights. Philip Mc. Lauren Director of Consumer Affairs explained: "the manual was developed at the Ministry and what we have done is to bring in the form of drama, the message of consumer rights, the eight universally declared rights of the consumer and the son papouse is more or less educating his mamouse on the 8 rights."

Mc. Lauren says the aim of the manual is to develop a nation of educated and assertive consumers. With the support of the private sector special prizes were awarded to the four best performers.

Mamouse and Papouse



Characters & Names are Fictional

THE EIGHT CONSUMER RIGHTS

- THE RIGHT TO BE INFORMED
- THE RIGHT TO SAFETY
- THE RIGHT TO SATISFACTION OF BASIC NEEDS
- THE RIGHT TO CONSUMER EDUCATION
- THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE
- THE RIGHT TO BE HEARD
- THE RIGHT TO REDRESS
- THE RIGHT TO A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

Caricom Condemns High Level Radio Active Waste Shipment Via Caribbean Sea

The Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago and current Chairman of the Caribbean Community Caricom, Patrick Manning on Tuesday issued a statement on behalf of the Community, decrying the Planned Shipment of High-Level Radioactive Waste from France through the Panama Canal via the Caribbean Sea. The statement reads:

The CARICOM Heads of Government at their 17th Inter-Sessional

Meeting held recently in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, expressed strong condemnation of the proposed shipment by France of High-Level Radio-active waste through the Caribbean Sea.

The Caribbean Community wishes to reiterate that any accidental or deliberate spill of nuclear or toxic waste in the Caribbean Sea could pose a serious threat to the economies of the Region and is concerned that despite its

repeated opposition to the shipments, the practice continues.

On behalf of the Governments and people of the Caribbean Community, I strongly urge those countries which ship or transship high-level radioactive waste through the Caribbean Sea to desist from so doing in the interest of the environmental safety and integrity of an already fragile regional eco-system and ultimately the security of the Caribbean population.



Chairman of Caricom, Prime Minister Manning of Trinidad & Tobago

OECS Searching for Bird Rock Solution

The members countries of the OECS concluded a week-long consultation in St. Lucia from March 13-17, on Bird Rock, the rock formation off the coast of Dominica that is being claimed by Venezuela.

OECS Heads of Government, at the last meeting of the OECS Authority in Anguilla in November 2005, had issued a statement expressing "deep concern" about Venezuela's continued promotion of the owner-

ship claim. In recent times, the Venezuelan authorities have stepped up activities on the ten acre rock, including among other things, the conduct of weddings and baptisms. The OECS Authority had called for a cessation of these activities and indicated its intention to seek early negotiations aimed at a speedy resolution of this long standing issue.

There are two major issues at stake for the OECS; the ownership of Bird

Rock, and the 'ability' of Bird Rock to generate an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) in accordance with the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, to which Venezuela is not a party. Venezuela's ownership would result in the country greatly increasing the area of its EEZ at the expense of the relevant OECS Member States.

The week's consultation began Monday at the OECS Secretariat in Castries and involved maritime and legal ex-

perts, Secretariat staff and officials from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). The talks then moved to the Bay Garden Hotel on Tuesday when government representatives from OECS Member States and officials from the CARICOM Secretariat joined. The initial group then returned to the Secretariat from Wednesday to Friday to prepare a road map and project proposal on the way forward.

CUBA ACCREDITS NEW AMBASADOR TO CARICOM



Caricom Secretary General Dr. Edwin Carrington (l) receiving Ambassador Alejandro Marchante Castellanos of Cuba at the Caricom Secretariat, Georgetown

Long-standing relations between the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Republic of Cuba have served to enhance the standard of living of citizens of both CARICOM and Cuba, and represent a celebration of true fraternity.

This was the view expressed by CARICOM Secretary-General, H.E.

Mr. Edwin Carrington at the Georgetown, Guyana Headquarters of the CARICOM Secretariat, where he received the credentials of His Excellency Alejandro Marchante Castellanos, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Cuba to CARICOM, on Friday 10 March.

In welcoming Ambassador Marchante Castellanos to the Region, the

Secretary-General said the December 2005 signing of the Declaration of Bridgetown and a CARICOM/Cuba Cultural Cooperation Agreement between CARICOM and Cuba marked a reaffirming of relations between the two sides.

Mr. Carrington stated, "The countries of the Region and Cuba enjoy a shared Caribbean identity that enriches and

strengthens our common regional interests." He pointed out that CARICOM/Cuba bilateral relations had also resulted in the Region's development through exchanges that had benefited persons particularly in the social sector.

While noting that CARICOM/Cuba relations were initially underpinned by social and political cooperation, Mr. Carrington also noted Cuba's active participation in the work of the Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery (CRNM). This is in addition to its collaboration with CARICOM at the World Trade Organisation (WTO). In reciprocal remarks, the Cuban Ambassador to CARICOM said his post to the Region presented an opportunity for the pursuit of stronger relations between Cuba and the countries of the Community. He noted that as Cuba sought to further strengthen its bonds with individual Member States, plans were on stream for the establishment of diplomatic missions in Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Suriname, giving Cuba a diplomat presence in all Member States. Ambassador Marchante extended best wishes to the Governments and people of the Region, and pledged his support for the continued cementing of relations between his country and CARICOM. CARICOM/Cuba diplomatic relations were established in 1972 between that Caribbean country and the then four independent nations of the Caribbean Community - Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago. Twenty one years later, in 1993, the Caribbean Community and Cuba established a CARICOM-Cuba Joint Commission as a mechanism for advancing cooperation between the two sides in a number of areas vital to their mutual development. A number of CARICOM citizens have benefited from training in several disciplines including health and education, as a result of scholarships offered by Cuba.

ONE YEAR TO CRICKET WORLD CUP IN SAINT LUCIA



A section of the Beausejour Cricket Ground during a West Indies England one day match last year

The one year countdown for the island’s hosting of matches in the 2007 ICC Cricket World Cup is on.

Cricket World Cup St. Lucia Incorporated is in the throes of putting everything in place and will be stepping up its drive in order to adequately prepare for the hosting of the first match between Kenya and Canada on the 14th of March 2007.

Chief Executive Officer of Cricket World Cup St. Lucia Incorporated Ernest Hilaire says his department is very happy with the work that has been accomplished in getting the venue ready by that time. Only last week lights to accommodate day/night matches at the Beausejour Cricket Ground were installed and tested with two, first class matches between the England and WestIndies ‘A’ teams.

According to Hilaire: “The new Bella Rosa Road to the Cricket ground, including the drop-off zones, is almost completed and will be ready for May 10th and we are also happy with that progress. Drainage at the ground has been completed and very soon we will start the construction of the indoor practice facility and that will be ready for December. We have done a lot of upgrades in terms of the Players Pavilion to establish the Presidential Suite and some other upgrades in the players areas.”

The more challenging aspects of event and traffic management and security arrangements are still being ironed out. Recently held matches at the Beausejour Cricket Ground provided the Local Organizing Committee with an opportunity to focus on those areas, in particular, the Park and ride facility. Ernest Hilaire spoke about the difficulties with getting St. Lucians to accept the concept.

“We have a culture, a tradition wherever you go you want to go with your vehicle and when you want to leave you leave at your leisure-you don’t have to wait for no friend or someone else or public transport, but the reality of hosting mega events is that such cannot be

done and I think St. Lucians have to get accustomed to that. The more often we do it the better we become at managing

it and the better St. Lucians become at understanding it .”

St. Lucia will host the English team

as well as six opening matches and one semi-final match under the 2007 ICC Cricket World Cup.

LOCAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE KEY TO A SUCCESSFUL CRICKET WORLD CUP 2007

The year 2007 will see the Caribbean region hosting one of the biggest international events in its history, Cricket World Cup 2007, and Saint Lucia will be featured prominently having been chosen as one of the venues to host six first round matches and one semi-final match. The first round matches will feature the much sort after England team together with New Zealand, Kenya and Canada.

Key to a successful hosting of this event is the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) established by the Government of Saint Lucia for the sole purpose of preparing for and managing the staging of the ICC Cricket World Cup 2007. The LOC is responsible for undertaking all the Host Venue Agreement and Bid Response activities that is expected to deliver a successful event in partnership with Government Agencies, Private Sector bodies and Communities.

One major task of the LOC is to provide an Enabling Environment for the Tournament to ensure a successful hosting of Cricket World Cup 2007. Saint Lucia will also be provided with an historic opportunity to utilize the Enabling Environment concept for Cricket World Cup to address a number of national development needs.

In its effort to address the number of development needs, Sector Teams have been established by the LOC to assist with the Management and Implementation of Key Tasks and to advise on issues related to particular



CEO of Cricket World Cup Saint Lucia Ernest Hilaire

subject areas. Membership of the Sector Team is drawn from the private and public sectors and from civil society who serve on a voluntary basis.

Another action taken by the LOC is the formation of Local Action Teams in each major community in the island to plan and coordinate activities in their community leading up to and after Cricket World Cup. Activities undertaken by both the Sector Teams and Local Action Teams are expected to have Legacy Impact as it is expected

that the benefits to Saint Lucia will be felt long after this event.

The Local Organizing Committee recognizes the enormous potential for commercial activity both through the event directly and as a result of spin offs. The event will provide opportunities for the Government of Saint Lucia, Businesses and ordinary Saint Lucians to develop new markets, new products and services through their participation. The mandate of the LOC therefore is to ensure that Saint Lucia is efficient in the various major activities: Accommodation, Communication, Cricket Stadia and Facilities, Immigration and Customs, Media facilities and Liaison, Match Day Operations, Medical and Emergency Services, Transportation, Security, Volunteers, Cricket Development, Customer Service, Events Management & Hospitality, Food Supply, Infrastructure and Utilities, Marketing, Public Education, Commercial Opportunities for the Private Sector and Community Branding.

Ensuring that the mandate of LOC is achieved is the responsibility of thirteen employees headed by its CEO Ernest Hillarie and the Board of Directors. Each major activity is managed by Project Officers working alongside the Operation Manager, Hospitality Manager, Public Education & Liaison Officer and our Legal Officer. The commitment of the staff can be seen through their efficient execution and management of the huge tasks for which each individual has been assigned as they work together to ensure that Saint Lucia host the best Cricket World Cup ever.

BEAUSEJOUR LIGHTS PASS TEST



The floodlights at Beausejour (top) and West Indies A in the field against England A in one of the recent day/night matches at Beausejour

The latest addition to the amenities at the Beausejour Cricket Ground - the lights for night cricket- has passed its initial test.

The two recent day/night first class fixtures between the West Indies 'A' and England 'A' were the first of its kind played under lights in the Caribbean.

England 'A' captain Vikram Solanki

said after the first match on March 9 that he thought the floodlights at the Ground proved adequate for the match despite a 118 run loss to their opponents.

"The lights proved adequate. It was interesting as there was great anticipation as to how day/night cricket would develop in the Caribbean," he said.

Solanki added: "Lights react in different ways in different parts of the world. We just had to see how the first game went to assess the situation."

The next major test for the lighting at the Beausejour Cricket Ground will come on May 10 when the West Indies and Zimbabwe play in a day/night One day International.

Gros Islet Community Prepares For The ICC Cricket World Cup 2007

The Gros Islet community has heeded the call for community participation in the hosting of the ICC Cricket World Cup 2007 and with the assistance the Gros Islet Action Team (LAT), the community is feverishly planning to take advantage of benefits which can be derived from the hosting of this international event.

Considered the Tourism Mecca of Saint Lucia, it is expected that Gros Islet will be the center of the action during the ICC Cricket World Cup 2007, and, the residents who form part of the Gros Islet LAT are determined to promote their community as a "must experience".

Working along with the Gros Islet Town Council, Government Agencies and Private Organisations, the Gros Islet LAT is ensuring that the community is physically ready and aesthetically pleasing to the thousands of visitors who are expected to converge during

the period of the games.

Two weeks of events featuring local musicians, artistes and local cricket are some of the activities and plans of the Local Action Committee while beautification and upkeep of areas within the communities before and during the ICC Cricket World Cup 2007 is expected to be the legacy benefit.

Accommodation and restaurant facilities are also on the agenda of the Gros Islet LAT and a sub-committee has been formed to assist owners in meeting the standards set by relevant agencies to ensure compliance and provide quality service. The Ministry of Planning and Environment is also providing support to the town of Gros Islet through its Promenade project on the waterfront Bay Street area. This project is expected to be completed before the hosting of the ICC Cricket World Cup 2007 and five acres of land at Pigeon Point near the Gros Islet

point will also be developed as a park for residents and beach activities.

The town of Gros Islet will not be the only focus of the LAT as emphasis will also be placed on the communities of Grand Riviere, Corinth, Marisule and Monchy ensuring that the projects implemented will derive benefits for all through the hosting of the ICC Cricket World Cup 2007.

The Gros Islet LAT view their community as multi-faceted with its quaint country appeal while enjoying its reputation of the best "Friday Night Party" town. What is clear however, is the brand "Gros Islet" has been established and has a special and significant meaning to both locals and visitors alike. Today, Gros Islet is recommended as the "must visit" place for first time visitors to Saint Lucia, and, the Gros Islet LAT intends to continue this promotion as Saint Lucia prepares to host the "Best Cricket World Cup Ever!"



Work on the Gros Islet Playing field which is going to be a practice venue for CWC 2007

NEMO/PAHO Train For CWC 2007

In an effort to prepare for the Cricket World Cup in 2007 the Pan American Health Organisation [PAHO] Emergency Preparedness and Relief Program and the National Emergency Management Organisation Secretariat have collaborated with the Local Cricket World Cup Office to conduct training at the Beausejour Cricket Ground from 20 - 25, March 2006.

The areas of training are: (1) Emergency Care and Treatment [ECAT]; (2) Mass Casualty Management [MCM]; (3) Incident Command System [ICS]; (4) Contingency Planning for the Health Sector

The training is aimed at the members of NEMO, namely: (1) Saint Lucia Fire Service; (2) Saint Lucia Police Force; (3) Saint Lucia Red Cross; (4) Saint Lucia Cadet Corps; (5) Medical Personnel; (6) NEMO Secretariat Staff.

This training, which shall take the PAHO Instructors to other CWC Venues, is timely as it fits into the schedule of training planned by the Medical/Disaster Sector Team of CWC.

Presently the Saint Lucia Fire Service is conducting a series of training for its Officers in the area of Emergency Medical Treatment

THIS WEEK ON NTN

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

NTN - PROVIDING INFORMATION YOU NEED

What are some of the challenges faced by young women in decision making positions in St. Lucia? Answers provided on

Sat. March 18th, 9:30 a.m.

Violence against women is an issue that is often in the public sphere, how can women deal with this prickly issue - Sun. March. 19th, 10:30 a.m.

The Black Sigatoka is threatening the very existence of the banana industry - how can banana farmers cope? What can you do to assist in stemming the spread of the disease? - Mon. March 20th, 7:30 p.m.

Rebroadcast of "Town Hall Tuesday" with Prime Minister Hon. Dr. Kenny Anthony" - Tues. March 21st, 8:00 p.m.

As St. Lucia continues to modernize its road network and ancillary facilities, the National Television Network - NTN - brings government officials and technocrats together, to respond to questions from the public. That's on Nation Beat - our live 90 minute programme - Tuesday, March 21 from 8:00 p.m.

The Eastern Caribbean Securities Exchange presents "Investing in Your Future" - An in-depth look at how best to utilise the Securities Exchange Mechanism - Wed. March 22nd - 8:00 p.m.

The GIS discusses the HIV/AIDS matter in the context of legal reform - Thurs. March 23rd, 8:00 p.m.

The CSME: How can we prepare to take advantage of the inevitable? - Fri. March. 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.

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