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# INTEGRATED MATERNITY SERVICES FOR NEW GENERAL HOSPITAL

**H**ead of the National Authorising Office, (NAO) (European Development Fund) Mr. Wilfred Pierre has responded firmly to questions from the former Prime Minister Sir John Compton on the establishment of a maternity wing at the new general hospital. In a statement earlier in the week Mr. Pierre also reminded the Sir John that this information was previously released to the general public. The following is the full text of the statement from the NAO.

Mr. Pierre said "As the officer with overall responsibility for the design and management of the implementation of the New General Hospital project I wish to clear the air as to whether



Mr. Wilfred Pierre  
NAO - Saint Lucia

or not the New General Hospital has a maternity wing."

"The Office of the National Authorising Officer (European Development Fund) in its capacity as Contracting Authority on behalf of the Government of Saint Lucia and with overall responsibility for the management of the design contract with Sir Frederick Snow and Partners Ltd of the United Kingdom wishes to provide further information and clarification on the functional content and full schedule of services being planned for incorporation into the soon to be constructed new general hospital" Mr. Pierre added.

*Continued on page 6*



New Hospital Design sharing location of Maternity Services



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# CELEBRATING OUR LAUREATES

## PREPARING TO PUBLISH

**T**he lives and achievements of Saint Lucia's two Nobel Laureates were celebrated in Saint Lucia in January with a series of cultural and educational activities. For the first time a major seminar on book production was held here. The Book Production Seminar has been welcomed by local writers and printers as a tool that could provide in the business with insights.

Writer and Poet Mr. Robert Lee was chief organizer of the event. Mr. Lee said the absence of a publication industry in Saint Lucia compounds the difficulties faced by writers in their quest to publish works at internationally accepted standards.

The workshop was facilitated by Former Deputy Librarian to the St. Augustine campus Ms. Maureen Henry of Trinidad and Tobago. The seminar was held at the conference room of the Cultural Development Foundation.

The feature address delivered by Dr. Alison Plummer, Director of the Saint Lucia Bureau of Standards. The following is the full text of the address.

"It starts with a dream! – A strong desire to tell a story – communicate an idea, whether based on a particular experience or a creation of your imagination. Now many of us want to write some piece of literature, a book, poem, short story, (time, usually of course being the major deterring factor), – and many of us have the capability to do so, once you can express an opinion, and think logically, and you have the drive, you can write a book!

But writing alone does not cause communication. Communication is caused when the second party receives the information either by listening, seeing, feeling or reading. For written literature, where the latter applies, it is the Book Making Process that provides the medium through which the author can communicate his ideas. This process, which is called Publishing, is not just printing, but rather, printing is just one several stages of a process that is no different from any other manufacturing process; only that in this case, the starting or raw material is the manuscript, and the product produced is the book.

Book Making is a huge industry in the more developed parts of the world. In these parts, authors usually have a choice to utilize an independent publisher, or to publish the manuscript on their own. Note that once the decision is taken to make or publish the book on your own, you are no longer just an author, but you are now a publisher – a self-publisher.

As a publisher, the individuality and other similar attributes which worked well for you as an author, now has to take a back seat, and, like all other manufacturing processes, industry standards need to be applied, in order to produce a product of high quality – one that is fit for its purpose – that is, one that satisfies the needs of the reader.

I think that in order for us to have a deeper appreciation of why scientific principles based on standardization need be applied to the Book Making Process, we need to look more closely at the three stages involved in this manufacturing process: (1) book design (2) book/copy editing and (3) book printing.

Let's look at the first step: Book Designing. This is the stage where the physical structure, the visual layout and cover of the book is created, this is a very important stage because, despite the platitude 'Don't judge a book by its cover', this is exactly what happens, as it relates to not only the cover of the book, but its interior design as well.

Why? Because poor interior design can

make the writer seem incompetent, can damage your credibility, and destroy your message. And why would we, as writers, who spend so much time expressing our thoughts on paper, want to have that effect? For example, if I were to have walked in here with some a pair of shorts and a tight short top, inappropriately dressed for this occasion, would my message be the same?

Simple things like font size and style: it is reported that the wrong font can reduce comprehension from 95% to 35%.

A well-designed book – one that is appropriate to its content and intended use, is not just practical and economical, but simply put, it is satisfying to the senses. Its visual design enables the reader to achieve understanding of the author's message with the least effort, and that is what you want!

Let's now look at the second stage in the Book Making Process: Book Editing or Copy Editing. During this stage, the manuscript is reviewed to make it ready for printing. Now this is the stage where the self-publisher can run into serious problems. You see, the self-publisher cannot help but identifying himself closely with his or her 'child' – the manuscript. The ego involvement and the over familiarity with the material, can prevent the self-publisher from being able to divorce himself from the material and critically examine the manuscript.

It is therefore necessary, whether you are the self-publisher or nor not, to outsource this stage of the book making process. Now I am not aware that this service, or any other form of proof reading service, is being offered formally here in Saint Lucia. I tell this you based on our experience at the Bureau: it is always a nightmare to get persons who are willing to get this service of proof reading our draft standards, even when we are willing to pay for someone to do it. However, I realize that this service is such a big business in the developed world, that it is even being offered on the web - US\$10 per page - and you can get a response in as little as one hour.

I know we have several persons in Saint Lucia with an eye for editorial detail who can look at this untapped market of copy editing.

At book editing stage, other activities such as indexing is also carried out – another service which can be out sourced.

Then finally, you get to the third stage, which is the book printing stage, where you execute the design, produce the end product – the book.

At each stage in the book production process, standards apply; standards for proof reading, indexing, paper sizes, format for

layout etcetera and that is the marvelous thing about standardization – that is, transfer of information. One does not need to re-invent the wheel, but the best practices are available for shared use. One just has to be aware of them, and know how to access the information.

The book making process, because of its complexity, is ideally managed by specialized persons or companies, leaving the author to concern himself with the creativity involved in writing. But this is, by no means meant to intimidate us in our part of the world where access to such services is limited. Besides, it is usually quite competitive to get your manuscript accepted by independent publishers. JK Rowlings' work got rejected three times, and it took her over one year before she got a publisher to accept her manuscript. Now Harry Potter is an unmatched best seller.

And there are several other examples of self-publishers, who, with discipline and organization, made it very big in the book industry: Mark Twain – Huckleberry Finn, Edgar Rice Burrough – Tarzan Series And 'The One-Minute Manager', which was made popular as one of the first books to present practical management in story form, was first self-published, by author-publisher, Dr. Kenneth Blanchard, and Dr. Spencer Johnson. This book has sold over 20 000 copies.

In fact it is argued that a major strength is a motivated author-publisher, who truly believes in his work, and is therefore likely to make it a greater success. And we have several of our very own to demonstrate this: our renowned Sir Derek Walcott, Garth St. Omer, Stanely French, John Robert Lee, Kendel Hippolyte, Mc. Donald Dixon, and several others.

But having said this, I think that in order for us to create and maintain a vibrant book industry in Saint Lucia, we need to first create the right environment; – one that is facilitating and encouraging.

We need to first recognize that there is tremendous potential in the Information Industry, that is, in the production and distribution of ideas and knowledge, as opposed to goods and services. This industry accounts for over half of the Gross Domestic Product of the United States of America!

People are constantly willing to learn, and learn from the experiences of others. And so, people are continuously in search of new material to read, whether it is just for learning sake or for fun and relaxation.

I commend the Noble Laureate Committee for organizing this session today. But bear in mind though, that our writers need help in many other areas as well as the Marketing of their material, which is



**Dr. Alison Plummer Director of the Saint Lucia Bureau of Standards**

particularly important in an open market economy, and budgeting and funding for book production.

Let us not forget as well, that in order to cause the development of any sector, we need to start collecting data....creating statistics that would give a true picture of what the industry is really like. We have no system in place to formally keep track of how many books are produced locally, let alone, to determine how many copies of a locally produced book have been sold.

Recognizing that our Copyright Laws are fairly modern, may we need to consider strengthening them further to allow for national depository for our publications and to ensure that they are registered not just locally, but internationally, through the ISBN system.

Finally, we need to recognize the contribution of our writers to our economy, and we need to ensure that the systems are in place to help them reap the rewards of their hard work. The music industry seems to organizing themselves locally in this regard. Let us look at the benefits of creating a Collective Management Organization that would manage reprographic rights for our authors.

Let us do everything we can do to support the development of our very own book industry, so that we can truly maintain the legacy of our Nobel Laureates.

I have never experienced it, and I don't know that I ever will, but I am sure that you will agree – the prestige and esteem enjoyed by the published author, must be unparalleled to nothing else that one can achieve.

A book does not only bring recognition and wealth (if produced properly), but it can certainly accelerate and elevate a sense of fulfillment on a job well-done!

I wish all of you a productive working session. Thank you!"



**Local authors and artistes celebrate their achievements**

# GOVERNMENT AND FIFA JOIN HANDS FOR SPORTS IN SAINT LUCIA

Minister for Education Human Resources Development Youth and Sport, Hon. Mario Michel has said that the decision to locate the new project for the development of football at the former agricultural site at Union is a sound one. Delivering remarks at the ceremony to initiate the project on Friday January 20th, the Minister that he was happy to be part of the entire exercise.

He said “Allow me to join in welcoming everyone to this historic ceremony this morning that has been called a groundbreaking ceremony, a launching ceremony, a commencement ceremony and, quite innovatively, an initiation ceremony. By whatever name it is called the ceremony here today signals the birth of the long-conceived FIFA Goal Project in St. Lucia, which remained in embryo for a few years after it was first conceived by Mr. Mark Louis and his executive only to be fathered today by Mr. Wilkie Larcher and his executive.

I want to particularly welcome our overseas guests, Mr. Jack Warner, whom I am told left a major function in Cairo, Egypt to be here with us today and Mr. Harold Taylor, who has overall responsibility for the Goal Project in the CONCACAF region.

I welcome too Her Excellency, our distinguished Governor General, whose presence at a function is always a signal of how significant the function is to us as a nation, and the Prime Minister and members of the Cabinet of Ministers who – unlike me who is here because I have to be here – have chosen to attend this historic occasion for the sport of football in St. Lucia.

This project, which essentially entails the establishment of a national headquarters for the sport of football in St. Lucia, is in my view an excellent one, involving as it does the construction of a standard international-size football field, two small training fields, a 3000-capacity seating area, a 100-bed dormitory, administrative offices, coaching rooms and referees offices, as well as a gymnasium and a swimming pool – all aimed at enhancing and advancing the sport of football in St. Lucia.

Although the entire complex will not be established under my watch as Minister



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

with responsibility for Sports in St. Lucia, I do hope that it will all materialize someday. In the meantime, I am happy to be part of the initiation of the project and the implementation of the first phase involving the construction of a standard international size football field (fenced and drained) at a cost (I am told) of some \$1.4 million.

Ofcourse, I was part of the decision made in 2003 to make available these twelve and a half acres of formerly agricultural land for use for the Goal Project and must accept the criticism of those who think that this decision should never have been made. But, as a Government, we are convinced that the decision was then and remains now a correct one and one that is compatible with the changing nature of the Union area, once a dominant agricultural community, but now an industrial, educational and sporting complex sandwiched by the two most popular districts in St. Lucia (Castries and Gros Islet) which together accommodate over 60% of the national population. The decision too to move the agricultural station to the south of Castries, where agricultural activity in fact takes place, is also one founded in sound logic.

I therefore commend this project not only to its initial (and one hopes still further) financiers, the International Football Federation, but also to the local business and diplomatic community whose support would be required in order to take the project through to its full completion.

I look forward to the realization in full of the St Lucia Football Association Centre of Excellence, with all of its several amenities and facilities”

Through the project administrative and training facilities for the St. Lucia Football Association will be constructed at Union. FIFA provides a yearly subvention of \$US250 thousand to each association for developmental projects . Saint Lucia is expected to benefit from a number of FIFA initiatives, some of which include social and humanitarian activities, the promotion of youth development and capacity building, and the development of women football.

Among the officials at the ceremony were Her Excellency the Governor General of Saint Lucia, Dame Pearlette Louisy, Honourable Prime Minister, Dr. Kenny Anthony and other Ministers of Government . Also present were the members of

the diplomatic corps, Vice President of the FIFA and President of CONCACAF, Mr. Austin Jack Warner, FIFA Goal Project Development Officer for the region, Mr. Harold Taylor, President of the Saint Lucia Football Association, Mr. Oswald Wilkinson Larcher, officials of the Saint Lucia Football Association and members of the local Goal Project Committee

In his address at the ceremony, First Vice President of the Federation of International Football Associations Jack Warner encouraged Saint Lucian youth to get involved in sports, as one of the means ways of avoiding the negative influences of crime and drugs.

Mr. Warner says while he believes the future of the sports in St. Lucia looks hopeful, its success is not the sole responsibility of government. He has called on the corporate community and the society in general to come on board.

“What you have here as a project will determine in the long run the fortunes and future of this country. Young people will understand, they will come here and learn the basics of football and will understand that they can build ahead on the field of sports and not in a cocaine den.” he said



The National Stadium in Vieux-Fort - The premier football facility in Saint Lucia

## CELEBRATING THE ARTS

### REMARKS BY H.E. DAME PEARLETTE LOUISY AT THE OPENING OF NOBEL LAUREATE WEEK JANUARY 22, 2006

I am relieved that we were able once again to bring to fruition the concept behind Nobel Laureate Week: the acknowledgement that we have what it takes to reach the highest heights of human endeavour; that excellence is within our reach if we are determined enough to reach out and extend ourselves. Nobel Laureate Week is into its fourteenth year, and some might be generous enough to commend us for our perseverance and tenacity, given the lifespan of some of our initiatives. Those of us who undertake the annual task of planning this event find ourselves having to explain time and time again what the celebrations are all about. I hope this year’s theme goes some way to explaining what we are inviting the nation to do not only during the week, but every day of our lives. It is about unlocking the potential within each one of us, so that we can begin that journey towards realizing it to the fullest. It is an individual, personal odyssey, yes,

but it has to be as well a collective, community endeavour, since we all share each other’s success.

Nobel Laureate Week pays tribute to Sir Arthur Lewis and the Hon. Derek Walcott, but it also pays tribute to the many St. Lucians who have excelled in their fields. It is also an opportunity to give support and encouragement to the rest of us who have undertaken to travel the road to excellence. For some it might be smooth cruising; for others, it is a rocky road. Our two Laureates have their own story to tell, and i invite your to take time to listen to them to understand the discipline, the commitment and the sheer hard work it takes to excel.

But tonight, we celebrate. We celebrate the creative imagination of our people in Music Poetry and Dance. Sir Arthur believed that it is in the exercise of that creative imagination that we can be different from the rest of the world, and bring something uniquely ours to the table of human civilization. Hon. Derek Walcott continues by his life

and work to demonstrate that this is so. The artistes that will be performing this evening are well on their way to adding to our contribution to that civilization. I applaud them all, and, on your behalf, i thank them for embodying the heart, the spirit and th soul of our people.

May Sir Arthur rest in peace. When Lady Gladys visits his tomb tomorrow, as she has done every year on his birthday, she will, I hope, be able to say to him that we are trying. To Hon. Derek, I say “Happy Birthday” from all of us. Long life, peace and happiness.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all those who have collaborated in putting together this Week’s Programme: The Government of St. Lucia through the National Standing Independence Committee for funding; The Cultural Development Foundation for coordinating this Evening of Music, Dance and Poetry and the Junior Pan Festival to take place next Sunday; The Ministry of Education; Sir Arthur Lewis Community College; The St. Lucia School of Ballet and Modern



**H.E. Dame Pearlette Louisy**  
**Governor General**

Dance; Labowi Promotions; The National Archives; Mr. Robert Lee; The St. Lucia Bureau of Standards; Jako Productions; Radio St. Lucia; The Government Information Service and the media houses who have been doing an excellent job in publicizing these events and in making their own special contribution to the Week of activities. I am pleased, therefore, on their behalf and on behalf of the Committee which i chair, to declare Nobel Laureate Week 2006 formally open.



# MORE SUPPORT FOR OUR FARMERS

## HON. IGNATIUS JEAN MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES FOOD SECURITY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT LAUNCH SUNDAY JANURARY 22, 2006

National Strategies as articulated by the Government of Saint Lucia

**T**he national Strategic Priorities as outlined by the Government of Saint Lucia includes the promotion of sustainable development, and reduction of poverty in the country. Government also has the responsibility to ensure that food security takes place within sustainable development mandate by ensuring: (1) adequate quantities of wholesome, quality food are available to meet the nutritional needs of its residents; (2) Citizens have the resources to access and procure this food, and (3) Agricultural development including food production is sustained through sound economic and environmental management practices.

Our government, in its continued support of agricultural development, has long recognised that technological innovations are of vital importance for modernization of the Agriculture Sector if it is to position itself to meet the current global challenges. The Government of Saint Lucia has provided

support for the procurement of various technologies such as irrigation, albeit mostly focused on the Banana Industry.

### Agricultural diversification and technology adaptation

Government has also recognised that Agricultural Diversification focusing on an agribusiness/enterprise development approach is the most suitable strategy for further transformation of the agricultural sector.

We are also conscious that the tourism sector, as one of the main economic sectors, provides opportunities for agricultural entrepreneurs once they can optimize productivity and improve income. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries has been promoting agricultural diversification, based on the production of non traditional commodities in combination with cultivation of traditional crops. The Ministry has also encouraged farmers to move away from the extremes of monoculture at one end and subsistence farming at the other and to move in the direction of blending the two systems in order to enhance pro-



Hon. Ignatius Jean



Public education is central to Food Security Programmes

ductivity and food security. Of course the Ministry is also aware that the use of appropriate technology is critical to agricultural development and food security.

We have experienced the vagaries of the weather patterns, especially in recent times (our climate does not allow for availability of water as needed; either too much or too little) and the effects of climate change especially on the Sector's ability to supply the demands of the market. We cannot depend on rain-fed production to feed our growing population and get more out of our limited resources (land, water, labour, capital). Agricultural lands are becoming less available, more costly to purchase and generally less productive. We therefore need to focus more on technological modernization to enhance productivity and conserve our

natural resources. Increasingly, information and communication technology has found favour with producers as advertised by mobile phone companies (Cable & Wireless advert). In fact our officers have had to deal with the fact that some farmers can only be contacted via cell phone or email. Even the exchange of information, especially production monitoring and market required is facilitated by Information and Communication technology which is relatively new.

Drip irrigation, however, is by no means new but adoption of this technology has been slow for a number of reasons. It is our aim and that of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), through this project, to demonstrate to agricultural producers, school children and persons in the community, that technologies such as drip irrigation,

water harvesting, storage and other water management techniques are part of a package that could enhance productivity, lessen the gap between supply and demand for local produce thereby facilitating trade, and lessen the effects of climate change. Notice, I said "part of a package". There are other areas that need to be addressed in our quest to ensure food security.

### Challenges faced by small Farmers

The production of most of our non traditional crops such as vegetables is undertaken by small producers. These producers face problems with cash flow, access to credit and ability to procure appropriate technologies. In addition, crop losses due to praedial larceny, pests and diseases, natural disasters (droughts or floods), seem to be felt more by the smaller producer. Adverse effects of global issues such as fuel price increases resulting in increases in costs of production are also more diffi-

tification programme to be continued. Focus on ensuring compliance with Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs). To date, over one hundred farmers have been certified; (6) Strengthening of Agri-tourism linkages – discussions being held with both Tourism and Manufacturing sectors; (7) Legislation: Praedial Larceny, Sale of Produce Act and Plant Health Act (new) In final stages prior to enactment; (8) Promotion of Agricultural goods and services at major events such as: Jazz, Cricket events including Cricket World Cup 2007 and World Food Day. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries needs to ensure that our local food supply is adequate to meet increased demands for these occasions. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries has therefore contracted a consultant to develop a strategy aimed at: (a) forecasting demands for agricultural commodities at the country level and (b) planning enterprises and scheduling



Banana - a major export crop

to implement a comprehensive program aimed at encouraging young entrepreneurs to select agricultural enterprises. Tomorrow (January 23, 2006) will see another gathering of key stakeholders, this time to develop a model for an integrated school garden – school feeding programme for Saint Lucia.

One of the unique aspects of the Food Security Demonstration component is the selection of the Bordelais Correctional Facility as one of the demonstration sites. We do not think that any of the other countries have a correctional facility as a demonstration site. This selection was the result of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries assistance to Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security in the establishment of a farm at the facility. This farm would be used to provide prisoners with a skill that would facilitate their rehabilitation into mainstream society and also promote a cer-

tain level of self sufficiency and food security at the Correctional Facility.

### Closing Remarks

On behalf of my Ministry I wish to acknowledge the support of a number of agencies involved in the implementation of this project. I do not want to burden you by listing names but I must mention the CARICOM/CARIFORUM, Government of Italy and of course FAO for their sponsorship, technical and administrative support, the input suppliers, the contractors for the installation of the irrigation systems and the officers (extension, engineering, marketing) for their dedication to this project.

To the farmers, I say it is a symbiotic (of mutual benefit) relationship and the success of this project depends on your commitment. I can now state that the vertical component of the Regional Food Security Project is officially launched. Thank you.



Modern irrigation systems to increase productivity



Fresh local produce

cult for small agricultural producers to deal with. These situations therefore affect food security at all levels.

### MAFF's Initiatives

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in collaboration with a number of agencies and with support from the Government of Saint Lucia has commenced implementation of a number of policies, strategies and programmes aimed at ensuring food security: (1) Agriculture Sector Policy and Strategy; (2) Water Policy – Water Resources Management Unit (WRMU) to be established this year; (3) Incentives Regime - Above (1, 2, 3) adopted by Cabinet of Ministers during 2005; (4) Agricultural Health, Food Safety and Standards plan to be developed by a Cabinet appointed committee which was established in 2005; (5) Farmer cer-

production to meet these demands; (9) Establishment of the Saint Lucia Agricultural Diversification Agency (SLADA); (10) Credit Access. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries has been holding discussions with various financial institutions on institutionalizing a mechanism to provide credit access to agricultural entrepreneurs at reasonable rates and pay back options; (11) Land Bank Mechanism - special programme for agricultural lands; (12) Youth in Agriculture programme.

Various phases of this programme are being developed and implemented. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries has been collaborating with a number of agencies including IICA, FAO, the European Union and the Ministry of Education, Human Resource Development, Youth and Sports



# INTEGRATED MATERNITY SERVICES FOR NEW GENERAL HOSPITAL

*Continued from page 1*

The statement from the NAO continued "Encompassing approximately 14,000 square metres in floor area, the new general hospital will comprise thirty-three departments which includes:

Accident and Emergency, Observation Bay, Radiology, Pharmacy, Outpatients Department, Cardiology and Respiratory, Social services, Physiotherapy, Intensive Care, Operating Theatres, Day Surgery Unit, Children's Ward, Acute General Ward, Obstetrics Ward, Ante-natal outpatients, Delivery Suite, Special Care Baby Unit, Dialysis, Cafeteria, Records Administration, On-call Pathology, Mortuary, Sterile services, Laundry, Chapel, Maintenance workshops, Kitchen Receipt and distribution, Plant rooms, EBME, Security.

Planned in the design of the New

General Hospital is a state of the art Maternity Department which would include obstetric and neonatal services, providing a fully integrated childbirth service responsive to the needs of mothers and their new-born babies. The Maternity Department of the New General Hospital consists of the following components: (1) Ante-natal out patient section; (2) Ante-natal section; (3) Post-natal section; (4) Delivery Suite; (5) Special care baby unit; (6) Staff facilities and (7) Relatives facilities.

In the New General Hospital Project \$EC 17 million is allocated towards establishing of the Maternity department. The new hospital will be but one of two facilities forming a major national hospital complex to be situated on 15 acres of land at Coubaril just off the Millennium Highway. The other facility is new psychiatric hospital funded by the People's Republic of China.



Health officials from Saint Lucia on tour of Hospital Services in Martinique

## Govt Workers Draw \$18M Backpay

**G**overnment employees across the Public Service this week drew down on millions of dollars in back-pay, as the Treasury began paying the 10% increase awarded to workers at the end of negotiations between their unions and the Government's Negotiating Team last December.

On Tuesday (January 24) – the official pay date for Government employees – Civil Servants, Police Officers, Prison officers, Fire Officers, Nurses, Teachers and Daily Paid Workers represented by the Vieux Fort General and Dockworkers Union received their share of the \$18 million package announced by the Government last December.

The payment, which represents the first three percent of the overall award, was added to workers salaries.

Accountant General Augusta Degazon confirmed on Thursday that "all has been going smoothly, except for the occasional calls by persons claiming they were either under-paid or over-taxed." But he also indicated this was a regular occurrence whenever such massive payouts are made.

Mr Degazon indicated that "apart from a few grey areas" regarding those daily paid workers for whom negotiations have not yet been completed, the bulk of the \$18 million has been paid out.

The payout was made in accordance with Cabinet Conclusion #19 of 2006 and accord-

ing to Mr Degazon the 10% increase will be distributed for three periods covering the three years negotiated for by the unions with the Government's Negotiating Team.

According to the schedule, the workers will receive the first three percent (3%) covering the first one-year period from April 1, 2004 to March 31, 2005. This amount, which was paid this week, was also "tax free."

The second payment, for the period April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006, will be for another three percent (3%), and the remaining four percent (4%) will be paid for the period April 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007.

However, the two final payment will not be tax free, as per the agreement.

The 10% pay hike for Government employees is the highest percentage they have received in the past 25 years.

The last double-digit increase was paid to the Public Servants by the Labour Administration in 1980, following a long period of intense and intractable negotiations that involved a 57-day strike against the then UWP administration in the lead-up to the general elections of 1979.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister has indicated that since the 10% increase was way above the 7.5% originally projected by the Ministry of Finance, there may have to be some cost-cutting measures to meet the enormous bill.

## Grambling State University Provides Scholarships to Saint Lucians

**A** number of Saint Lucians are set to benefit from several scholarships being provided by the Grambling State University of America (GSU). The University successfully conducted an exercise on Saturday January 21st that would help it determine who, of the many applicants, should qualify for the GSU scholarships.

The US\$20,000 bursaries will go towards subsidizing the cost of a four-year study with the university. This sum will go towards tuition, boarding and lodging.

Associate Vice president of the Centre for International Affairs and Programmes of the Grambling State University Mahmoud Lamadanie said as part of an agreement with government the GSU will be providing 50 scholarships, valued at approximately US\$1,000,000 each year for five years.

"We make it affordable because we know the economic profile of the students in the region—they must be subsidised in order for them to be able to afford coming and study with us. From experience, I have brought over 150 students to study with us and they were the top of the class at the university. So while the students come to learn from us, we actually end up learning from about their culture and that is a great point for our global classroom," said Mr. Lamadanie.

Whilst here the GSU official held discussions with government on the possibilities of further cooperation that would contribute to the human resource development of the country.



"One of them is an articulation agreement; another is to have a certain number of scholarships coordinated through the Prime Minister's Office and Ministry of Education for Saint Lucians to come to study in Grambling State University every year. As you know we live in a global age where the interdependence between nations—today it is important for students to intermingle and learn in a global classroom concept, so that the students will be prepared to deal with the global economy," the GSU official said.

He says the institution understands the problems being faced by persons from third world countries in acquiring funds to pursue studies abroad, and is the main reason for the GSU investment. Similar offers, he said, are also being made in other countries of the Caribbean.

## CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

**T**he coordinator of the National Volunteer Programme which is receiving administrative support from Cricket World Cup St. Lucia, is calling on the hundreds of Saint Lucians submit their application forms collected from the programme office. The appeal comes as a result of the slow pace of volunteer selection which has been attributed to mainly to the late arrival of application forms. To date two hundred forms have been returned.

Head of the National Volunteer Programme Mrs. Paula James says it was an oversight of the programme not to set a deadline for the return of applications.

The ICC Cricket World Cup is a little over a year away but volunteers are already gaining some experience, having served at the recent launch of the FIFA Goal Project held last weekend at Union. Mrs James

says once persons apply they will be trained in a variety of areas. She says being part of the Volunteer Programme will enhance the skills of the individual volunteer because of the areas in which they will be trained.

"Specific areas like customer service which will help you in your workplace and well as help you become a better person. You will be taught CPR and life saving, which you may not have had before. Conflict resolution is another area where you will be taught and a number of things like communication—it will enhance you as a person. It will also give you the benefit to volunteer in a wide scope of areas." Mrs James said.

Areas of training include the use of the media, customer service, VIP protocol and hospitality, and tourism among several others. She says some thirty-five persons have already been selected to undergo training. These persons will in-turn train the remainder of volunteers.

### Become a Volunteer

National Volunteer Programme

Home About Us Volunteer Contact Site Map

#### EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

Building upon the strong culture of volunteering in St. Lucia, Volunteer Saint Lucia will develop working relationships with the existing volunteer efforts, community sectors and organizations and add value through training, experience, and the development of a multi-level structure of volunteers and volunteer leaders.

Volunteer Saint Lucia will be based on the principles of equal opportunity and non-discrimination while celebrating the talents and strengths of our citizens. By capturing the enthusiasm for volunteering triggered by the hosting of Cricket World Cup 2007, Volunteer Saint Lucia will manage this CWC 2007 legacy and promote a culture in which more people can give more time to helping in their communities in exchange for acquiring new skills and experiences.

**Press Releases**

**1st. Dec 2005**  
Volunteer Saint Lucia develop working relationships with the existing volunteer effort

**Resources**

- Register
- Members
- Events

[www.volunteersaintlucia.org](http://www.volunteersaintlucia.org)



# MORE PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVEMENT IN AGRICULTURE

**T**he inaugural report of the National Economic Council (NEC) has produced detailed assessments of the major sectors of the Saint Lucian economy with some recommendations for strategy and programme development. **NATIONWIDE** publishes the major findings for the Agriculture and Fisheries sectors.

## Agriculture industry

**Strategic Focus** - The agriculture sector remains an important component of the economy and the banana industry has been the dominant sub-sector in this regard. Production and income from the banana sub-sector have however, declined progressively since peaking in 1992.

A Banana Industry Task Force was therefore, commissioned by the Government of St. Lucia in 2001 to recommend measures for the reorganization and restructuring of the industry to reverse the decline and create an industry that is more internationally competitive. Based on the recommendations of this Task Force, a Banana Emergency Recovery Unit (BERU) was established in 2002 to begin the process of change

The European Community and other aid donors have provided substantial assistance in funding agricultural development. The Japanese Government for example has also been generous in assisting the development of the Fisheries sub-sector, particularly in the provision of infrastructure. The NEC cognizant of the wealth of expert input applied to these initiatives has not attempted to analyse, validate, or provide alternative recommendations for the sector.

More recently the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries has prepared A Policy Framework for the Development of the Agricultural Sector with the intention to achieve a more focused and targeted approach to the sector's long term development. The framework establishes a greater facilitation role for Government/the Ministry in providing an environment that encourages increased private sector participation in agricultural development.

A forum organized by the NEC to develop recommendations for a proposed National Economic Strategy recognized the view of the cross section of

in productivity and competitiveness, while safeguarding the country's natural resources, are indispensable to sustainable agricultural commerce. In this regard: The Banana sub-sector must be positioned to capitalize on market opportunities through 2006 and beyond by increasing efficiency and competitiveness; The positioning of other sub-sectors capable of contributing to sustainable economic growth, through the creation of new opportunities for employment and income generation, particularly in rural communities, is equally important; Increased involvement of private sector in developments in agricultural trade, so that the former is better informed and can be proactive in working with the public sector to devise a response framework for realizing the benefits that can be derived from liberalized trading arrangements.

Increasing competitiveness in the sector will be based on: Increasing productivity of land and labour; Implementation of new production and product standards; Broadening the scope of agriculture from primary production to include value-added enterprises encompassing the entire agri-food chain from "farm to table"; Integrated expansion of markets, both domestic and external.

The development of entrepreneurship in agriculture is key to achieving the expansion of agricultural products and services and the focus should be on encouraging and catalysing the involvement of youth in these endeavours. Availability of credit is a sine qua non for investments and entrepreneurial development in the sector.

Direct Government support continues to be necessary for critical interventions in some aspects (e.g. natural disasters, pest and disease management, etc.) which can have a universal impact on the sector.

## Proposed Strategic Interventions

A number of priority actions are proposed in conformity with the Integrated Strategic Development Approach outlined earlier in the document: Establishment of a mechanism for regular consultation between public and private sectors on agricultural development issues. This can begin with the convening of a forum for discussing agricultural policy and strategy; Devise new institutional modalities for re-defining the role of the Ministry of Agriculture and other Government agencies as primarily facilitating agencies for encouraging increased private sector invest-

ment and involvement in intermediary services to the sector, particularly in areas of technical and business services, and operation and management of agricultural infrastructure (e.g. abattoirs, IRDCs, etc.), integral to a more commercial approach to agriculture; Government concessions and incentives in agriculture need to be re-aligned with a view to provide a comprehensive agricultural incentive package that supports private sector participation to achieve competitiveness; Adoption more effective land management systems (e.g. establishment of zoning and productive land-use, etc.); Adoption of more effective labour management systems (e.g. revised current wage practice, contractual labour services, etc.) to achieve greater labour productivity; Utilization of improved and appropriate technologies for reducing unit cost of production and enhancing production and marketing; both hard technologies (e.g. mechanization) and soft technologies (e.g. introduction of appropriate and quick utilization of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) solutions); Accelerate the implementation of production and quality standards, particularly as they relate to export marketing; Establishing start-up programmes that seek to build capacity of entrepreneurial youth particularly in new areas of agri-business. These programmes (e.g. training, credit and incentive, business incubation, etc.) should be largely information based and involve high levels of technology. Accessing appropriate credit will require business proposals that are sound, bankable and sustainable, and facilities to support this should be provided; Expedite enactment and enforcement of modern legislation (e.g. praedial larceny legislation) to provide the required impetus for agricultural development; Establish and provide a package of incentives for a national network of private sector marketing entities capable of: Commercial coordination and facilitation between production and marketing, commercial platforms for export promotion and development of sector-specific e-commerce systems, design and implement a response framework which addresses market requirements and dictates, and which manage identification, development and exploitation of niche markets and emerging market trends; Design and implement a response framework which addresses market requirements and dictates.

*See page 8*



**Integrated environmental management planning is critical to success in agriculture**

towards improved efficiency, competitiveness and viability of the industry. This and other key recommendations of the Task Force generally seek to deepen the commercialisation of the industry with the farmer assuming fuller responsibility for achieving increased productivity and improved quality output to capitalize on market opportunities through 2006 and beyond.

Agricultural Diversification has also long been identified by the Government as necessary to complement the banana industry in the effort to sustain economic growth in the agricultural sector. This involves the repositioning of other sub-sectors such as non-traditional crops, livestock, fisheries and forestry to contribute to economic growth, particularly in rural communities.

The NEC is aware that the Ministry of Agriculture with assistance from a variety of regional and international organizations has initiated a variety of programmes to drive the diversification process. The OECS Secretariat, IICA and CARDI have featured prominently in recommendations relating to their mandates for providing assistance in organizational or technical areas.

agricultural interests that a new direction should be given to agriculture. This would require that Public Sector policy and strategy give greater emphasis to the promotion, facilitation and support of private sector in the increased commercialization of agriculture. The NEC is of the view that involvement of the private sector in the planning and implementation processes is an imperative if the latter is to make a meaningful contribution to sustainable economic growth. The recommendations outlined below provide a framework for achieving these objectives.

**Priority Issues** - The agricultural sector remains an important component of the economy and there needs to be more effective private sector involvement in the planning and implementation of policy for development of the sector. Government should assume a more facilitative role in supporting private sector investment and the provision of services to the sector. Private sector agricultural interests should be better organized to outline their development goals and the facilitative assistance required from Government.

Given the emerging international trading environment, improvements



**Adding value through agro-processing**



# Dedicated Worker – Genuine Friend Laid To Rest

**M**r. Anthony Darius, the former Administrative Attaché to Prime Minister Dr. Kenny D. Anthony was laid to rest on Tuesday 24th January following a moving funeral service at the St. Joseph the Worker Church in Gros Islet. In attendance were members his family, close friends, co-workers and scores of persons from the community of Grand Riviere where he grew up and lived his adult life.

Tributes were paid to the thirty-seven year old “student of politics and international relations” by his fiancé Charmaine Hippolyte, his brother Anthony Darius, formerly of the Minis-

try of Finance in Saint and Mr. Darrel Montrope, Cabinet Policy Analyst, co-worker and friend.

Anthony Darius passed away Wednesday January 18th after a short period of illness. Most of his life was dedicated to public service having worked in the Ministry of External Affairs and a foreign service officer and also as a lecturer at the Sir Arthur Lewis Community College and St. Mary's College. His intellectual depth and excellent writing skills were reflected in numerous speeches of the Prime Minister of Saint Lucia and the occasional contribution to NATIONWIDE and the local media.



Members of Cabinet at the funeral



Brother, friend and father of Anthony Darius

## MORE PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVEMENT IN AGRICULTURE

*Continued from page 7*

This may encompass the creation of niches in the international, regional and local markets; Create linkages with other sectors particularly tourism and manufacturing to encourage diversification into value-added agri-based products; Develop and upgrade infrastructure for handling, storage and transportation of agri-based products for domestic and export market and institute measures for their commercial operation; Accelerate the implementation of the EUREP-GAP Programme for certifying farms for export to EU supermarkets.

### The fisheries industry

**Strategic Focus** - Fisheries plays an important and sometimes underrated role in the economy of Saint Lucia, providing both full-time and seasonal employment, and contributing significantly to domestic food security and national GDP. In addition, employment in the fisheries sector extends to and includes persons other than those who catch fish, e.g. boat boys, vendors and truckers. Off-shore pelagics and larger pelagics have the best potential for increased exploitation and present an identifiable path for technical and economic diversification of the fisheries sector in Saint Lucia. In addition, fishers are now becoming both professional and more committed. Indeed, the fisheries sector is attracting younger people.

Furthermore, in recent years there has been a significant investment in fisheries infrastructure in Saint Lucia. This has, in many ways, also contributed to the transformation process within the sector. Based on the foregoing, economic diversification in Saint Lucia must both contribute to and ben-

efit from enhanced economic activity within the fisheries sector.

**Priority Issues** - There is need to protect our economic territorial waters from illegal fishing activity to safeguard the depletion of our fish stocks. Saint Lucia has benefited from extensive investment in fisheries infrastructure that is dispersed in various locations throughout the country. Currently the commercial operation and financial returns generated from these facilities are less than optimal. It is necessary for Government to address this situation and put in place appropriate mechanisms for efficient management and maintenance of these facilities.



Modern fishing facilities will enable the expansion of the sector

### Proposed Strategic Interventions

- The following actions would enhance the economic contribution of the fisheries sector: Encourage and facilitate more widespread use of improved fishing technology; Improve post harvest technology and quality assurance; Design strategies to Improve market access both locally and externally; Institute systems for improved fishery management; Re-deploy resources to improved the role and capacity of fishers organisations so as to assured future benefits to fishers; Introduce measures for private sector involvement in improving the commercial operation of the national fisheries infrastructure.



### THIS WEEK ON NTN

Sat. Jan. 21st Fri. Jan. 27th, 2005  
NTN – PROVIDING

INFORMATION YOU NEED  
Men discuss the issue of violence against women

Jan. 28th, 11:00 a.m.

On the threshold of Saint Lucia's entry into the CSME, the GIS speaks with educationalists about the way forward. Sun. Jan. 29th, 11:00 a.m.

Is it worth paying to protect watersheds? Find out on – Mon. Jan. 30th, 8:30 p.m.

Want Business Opportunities in St. Lucia? All the information you need – Tues. Jan. 31st, 8:00 p.m. Saint Lucians have benefited tremendously from the Cuban Miracle Eye Care Programme – Get the real story – Wed. Feb. 1st. – 8:00 p.m.

Learn about the importance and construction of a business plan – Thurs. Feb., 2nd, 7:30 p.m.

Festival of Light 2005 – Fri. Feb. 3rd, 7:30 p.m.

Remember to tune in for:

GIS News Breaks and Kweyol News daily from 6:30 p.m.

Issues & Answers/Mondays at 8:00pm:

Interview/Tuesdays at 6:15pm :

Konsit Kweyol/Tuesdays at

8:00pm (Kweyol Discussion):

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

Take 2/Fridays at 6:15pm

(Week in Review)

Weflechi/Fridays at 6:40pm -

(Week in Review—Kweyol)

For the complete programme guide, log on to our website at [www.stlucia.gov.lc](http://www.stlucia.gov.lc) and then click on the NTN icon.

[www.stlucia.gov.lc](http://www.stlucia.gov.lc)

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

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