



NATIONWIDE

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RAMBALLY

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

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NDC/CDF Announce ¼ Million Dollar Assistance Package to Artistes & Entertainers

Come early September 2006 artistes on the island will be better able to access seed money for the purpose of financing sustainable income generating activities. The latest cause for optimism was announced Thursday, July 27, 2006 with the launch of the Artiste Assistance Programme.

The initiative is a collaborative effort of the National Development Corporation (NDC) in partnership with the Cultural Development Foundation (CDF). Under the pilot project, some \$250 thousand dollars is being made available to artistes and entertainers in the form of grants ranging from five to twenty thousand dollars. The initiative was first announced by Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Economic Affairs, International Financial Services and Information Dr. Kenny Anthony during the 2006/07 Budget Address.

According to Dr. Anthony, “artistes and entertainers are in a challenging business in which returns are uncertain. The Government is aware that it is not always easy for artistes and entertainers to access finance for projects that are expected to provide them with a stream of income and therefore we cannot continue to ignore the need to encourage the development of an entertainment industry, not only locally but beyond our borders into the region and elsewhere.”

Executive Director of the CDF Gabriel “Teddy” Francis has hailed the initiative as a much needed step in the right direction, one that will allow artistes and entertainers to better position themselves in the Arts and Entertainment industry. Francis says, “Naturally the amount of the grant will hinge on the quality of the proposal submitted. A



(L - R) Executive Director of the CDF Gabriel “Teddy” Francis; Chief Executive Officer of the NDC Wayne Vitalis

joint committee comprising two representatives from the CDF and two from the NDC will meet to administer the programme. This committee will evaluate the first set of proposals received and within a three week period be in a position to make determinations, announce and inform the applicants of successful admissions.”

Proposals under the prescribed applications forms will be received for the entire month of August, while the first set of disbursements is expected to be made by early September 2006. Over the next few weeks the public will be informed of the criteria for project proposals via the mass media. One

main criterion however is that artistes applying for grants must be registered with the CDF. NDC/CDF officials say all has been done to ensure that the process from application to approval has been simplified while still maintaining strong accountability and transparency monitoring mechanisms.

Chief Executive Officer of the NDC Wayne Vitalis says the pilot project marks the culmination of eighteen months of discussions on how the arts can be assisted by the government entity. Vitalis says if the project is successful, consideration will be given toward extending it for another year. “We hope that artistes and others involved in the arts will take

full advantage of it and ensure that the benefits intended are met,” said Vitalis.

He told media representatives who gathered at the NDC head office for Thursday morning’s launch, “Today’s activity is all geared toward the creation of a viable and sustained cultural industry for St. Lucia.” According to Vitalis, the development of this industry dovetails nicely into the development of a viable service industry, which in itself will spurn further economic growth for the island. He went on, “We must recognize that the creative industry is a viable industry, one that needs all the assistance it can get especially from government agencies.”

Book Launchings For Emancipation Day

Two new publications dealing with slavery and its impact in the Saint Lucian context will be launched on Monday, 31st July as part of the celebration To observe Emancipation Day here on 1st August. The UNESCO sponsored publications were written as separate projects by two Saint Lucians. However both books

deal with the similar theme.

“From Slavery to Freedom: Some aspects of the impact of Slavery on Saint Lucia” was written by National Archivist Margot Thomas and lecturer at the Sir Arthur Lewis Community College Ancillia Louis authored the book “Slavery and Family Life”.

Secretary General of the National

Commission for UNESCO Mrs. Paule Turmel John says the publications were part of a project to celebrate 2004, the international year to commemorate the struggle against slavery and its abolition.

“Ms. Louis looks more at the notions that are transmitted in Social Studies on Slavery and so on and how it effects the behaviour of male adoles-

cents in particular and Mrs. Thomas looks at – besides giving a history of slavery and a historical perspective on slavery in St. Lucia - making an inventory of all the plantations .

Mrs. John described the projects as a ‘big achievement’ for the local UNESCO office and also for the country.

Nursing Students in Cuba Concerned About Misinformation at Home

The officer in charge of St. Lucia’s diplomatic mission in Cuba, Consul General Peter Lansiquot, says Saint Lucian nursing students in Cuba are concerned about what they consider to be mis-information about the recent death of a fellow student and their living conditions in Cuba.

Mr. Lansiquot, says that Khania Melius, who died soon after she arrived in Havana earlier this year with other local nursing students, passed away as a result of a chronic case of advanced Hepatitic Insufficiency.

Regarding the allegations that the students were facing difficult conditions in Cuba, Mr. Lansiquot says he visited the school in Matanzas province where the 184 new students were assigned and addressed what he de-

scribed as “a group of very excited, enthusiastic and upbeat students.”

According to the Consul General, “a brand new school has been provided by the government of Cuba for the Saint Lucian students who were recently offered scholarships in Nursing, during discussions between Cuban President Dr Fidel Castro and Saint Lucia’s Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony last month.”

With regard to claims that their studies would be insufficient for national service when the students return home, Mr. Lansiquot says “arrangements have been made for the students to eventually graduate as General Nursing Practitioners, with an option for those interested to also be able to complete a Bachelor’s Degree in Nursing.”

Mr. Lansiquot also reported concerns



Some of the nursing students at a briefing prior to their departure from St. Lucia

expressed by the body of Saint Lucian nursing students that a local Kweyol talk-show host, monitored on the Internet, had been misinforming the nation about their living conditions in Cuba.

According to Consul General Lansiquot: “The students expressed their outrage at this misinformation and unanimously requested that he should inform the nation that they are very ex-

cited and are extremely satisfied with the care and attention that they have been receiving from the Cuban authorities at their school.”

During his two-hour exchange with the group, Mr. Lansiquot challenged the nursing students to perform to the very best of their abilities, suggesting that they should do so in honour of their departed friend, Khania Melius.

DEVELOPMENT TOO OFTEN SEEN AS ASPHALT AND CONCRETE

REMARKS BY HON. MENISSA RAMBALLY AT A MEETING ON THE OECS HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT BAY GARDENS JULY 20, 2006

In preparing for this conference, my thoughts have been propelled by the now seemingly immortalized title of the West India Commission, "Time for Action"

The reality is that several governments in the Eastern Caribbean and the wider region have within the past decade outlined declared boundaries for social development and the social transformation agenda. A closer look will reveal that these have met with varying degrees of success.

In reality however, in many territories, Ministries of Finance, when it comes to social development issues, have been quick to talk the talk but slow to walk the walk.

Ladies and gentlemen, if so, I wish to advance that there needs to be a paradigm shift in our concept of development

Unfortunately from an electoral perspective development is too often measured in terms of asphalt and concrete.



Hon. Menissa Rambally

But the deteriorating social fabric of our society has made it mandatory that we begin to in-corporate human issues in our national development thrust, for example, the role that poverty and illiteracy have played and continue to play in youth deviancy, crime and anti-social behaviour.

We look also at the role of poverty, joblessness and again illiteracy in the growth of the pandemic HIV/AIDS.

These are but some examples of how human development issues have seemed to distort and redefine development in these islands of the region.

Therefore, what we need to emanate from a session such as this is a strong message to private and public sector "chancellors" of the Exchequer, that it will take more than policy outlines to bring about the changes that are required. Put simply we need the resources to do the job.

The private sector in particular must appreciate the need, role and

importance of able bodies and motivated workers to find the engine of productivity.

Today, I wish to use the opportunity of this forum to channel a request, to call for a joint meeting of ministers of finance and social development to look at the whole issue enabling and sustaining the process in the light of fact that there are no quick fixes and this must be a medium to long term undertaking.

Therefore, this conference as I said is most timely because it comes at a time when, with cricket world cup 2007 the focus of many of our energies, we need to spare a thought for the forward movement of our people in the context of preparing these islands for the opportunities that are post World Cup 2007.

It is against this back drop that I invite you to open your minds and let ideas contend. Thank you.

Officials Finalize Health Strategic Plan

The final draft of St. Lucia's National Health Strategic Plan is on its way to the Cabinet of Ministers for approval. Last Friday Senior managers of the Ministry of Health and other health related institutions met at the NIC conference centre to ratify the final draft.

According to Chief Medical Officer

Dr. Stephen King, Friday's exercise was necessary as a means of ensuring that the health plan reflects exactly what all parties have agreed to. Dr. King says St. Lucia's health plan was formatted using modules from various countries.

"We have looked at a number of different plans to see how they put them

together, because there are a number of different ways you can put a plan together, and we selected this particular format for ours. Also the way we formatted the plan was determined to a certain extent by the process we have been undergoing in St. Lucia since 1997, in terms of the health sector reform"

Dr. King says while the plan was developed in accordance with PAHO and WHO standards, it also considers St. Lucia's peculiarities. Meanwhile Health Minister Hon. Damian Greaves says the plan has implications for the governance of the Ministry of Health.

According to the Ministe, "Part of the whole movement is to ensure that the Ministry of Health devolves authority to the program managers in the various institutions and therefore you will see a move towards the institutionalization of hospital boards. We have experimented already with St. Jude's hospital, lessons are being learnt from that experiment, we have to do certain tightening up of knots and bolts and iron out some of the chinks in the system and we are looking at Victoria hospital, Golden hope and of course the new general hospital."



Victoria Hospital to be replaced by a new General Hospital as part of the Health Strategic Plan

Tenders Invited for New National Hospital

Saint Lucia's new national hospital is now one step closer, with tenders being invited from suitably qualified and experienced contracting firms interested in bidding for the construction of the massive building.

The Office of the National Authorizing Officer for the European Development Fund (EDF) Operations in Saint Lucia this week published an advertisement in the Saint Lucia Government Gazette, informing interested contractors of the terms and conditions of participation in the tendering process.

The advertisement, which is also being advertised internationally in all member-states of the European Union, as well as the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries that are signatories of the Cotonou Agreement, also informs interested contractors on how to obtain the tender dossier.

But even before they submit their tenders, tendering companies and other interested parties are being invited by the NAO to an optional information meeting, which could also include a site visit, next Wednesday, August 9, 2006.

The complete tender dossier, available in hard and electronic copies, is available from the Office of the NAO on the 5th Floor of the Conway Business Centre on the Waterfront in Castries, upon payment of EC\$4,250. The dossier is also available for inspection at the NAO's Office. Interested firms will also be required to provide a tender guarantee of 180,000 euros when submitting their tender.

The deadline for the submission of tenders is October 11, 2006 and any tenders received after that deadline will not be considered.

However, tenderers with questions for the NAO must submit them in writ-

ing at least 21 days before the deadline and their questions will be responded to by the contracting authority at least 11 days before the expiration of the deadline, which shall coincide with the public opening of the tenders.

The Government of Saint Lucia received a grant of 20.2 million euros (EC\$65 million) from the 9th EDF, for the construction of the new general hospital, which will form part of the new national hospital complex already taking shape at Coubaril, off the Millennium Highway.

The objective of the project is to improve the quality, access and range of acute care general services available in Saint Lucia, by establishing a new general hospital to complement improved primary care services.

The works being tendered comprise the construction of the new hospital on 14,000 square meters in floor area and

including 33 departments. The departments to be constructed include A&E, Outpatients, Acute General Wards, Operating Theatres, Radiography, Intensive Care, Special Care Baby Unit and associated support facilities.

The new national general hospital will be located next to the new national psychiatric hospital, which is already taking shape along the Millennium Highway.

The Government of Saint Lucia, which has already contributed the land and some other infrastructural costs, including the access road currently being established, is expected to eventually contribute some 7.6 million euros (or approximately EC\$24 million) by the time the project is completed in 2008.

The entire project is expected to cost in the region of 28 million euros or approximately EC\$93 million.

National Risk Register Launched

The National Emergency Organisation (NEMO) has announced that Saint Lucia has developed its first National Risk Register. According to the Director of NEMO, Ms Dawn French, the Register looks at the numerous threats to the island and sets a rating of Very High, High, Medium and Low. This allows one at a glance to see where the priorities for Disaster Planning should be.

Understandably at present those hazards that have the Very High rating are: Severe Weather, Avian Flu and Terrorism. The ratings are colour coded as follows: Low - Light Green; Medium - Green; High - Amber; Very High - Red

Risk ref	Hazard or threat category	Hazard/Threat sub category	Risk rating	Controls currently in place
AH01	Animal Health	Infectious disease that can be transmitted between different animals species and humans These diseases are often referred to as being Zoonotic. e.g. Avian Influenza, Rabies, West Nile Virus	High	1. The Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Health monitor this risk on an ongoing basis. 2. The Local Agricultural Officer identifies the local action to be taken in the event of an emergency. 3. Fortnightly meetings of the Communicable Disease Surveillance Committee (Ministry of Health).
AH02	Animal Health	Infectious disease transmitted between animals of the same species These diseases are often referred to as being Non-Zoonotic e.g. Foot & Mouth Disease, Mad Cow Disease.	High	1. The Ministry of Agriculture monitors this risk on an ongoing basis and issue Qualitative Risk Assessments and advice. 2. The Local Agricultural Officer identifies the local action to be taken in the event of an emergency.
CD01	Civil Disturbance	Riot or serious disturbance This could be a spontaneous event or a planned disruptive protest	Medium	1. The Royal Saint Lucia Police Force maintains appropriate response plans 2. All agencies of NEMO support the police plans with their Contingency plans in such an event.
CD02	Civil Disturbance	Riot or serious disturbance in a prison including immigration removal centers and secure training centres	Low	1. The Royal Saint Lucia Police Force maintains appropriate response plans 2. All agencies of NEMO support the police plans with their Contingency plans in such an event.
EP01	Environmental Pollution/Infestation	Harmful release from storage facility or other site including industrial premises and laboratories, e.g. chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear.	Medium	1. Disaster Plan & Procedures for the site. 2. Standard emergency operating procedures for the site. 3. National Emergency Response Plans
EP03	Environmental Pollution/Infestation	Harmful release during transportation [on land or at sea] e.g. fuel oil, chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear.	Medium	1. Individual agency generic emergency plans 2. CBRN procedures 3. National Emergency Response Plans
EP04	Environmental Pollution/Infestation	Harmful release from pipeline e.g. natural gas, ethylene, fuel, oil or untreated sewage.	Medium	1. Major accident hazard pipelines regulations. 2. Multi agency major emergency plan 3. Public Health (Nuisances) Regulations No. 10 of 1978, Public Health (Sewage & Disposal of Sewage and Liquid Industrial Waste Works) Regulations No. 22 of 1978.
EP05	Environmental Pollution/Infestation	Illegal dumping of toxic waste/hazardous material [on land and/or at sea	Medium	1. The Marine Coastguard National Contingency Plan. 2. Multi agency major emergency plan. 3. National Emergency Response Plans

Risk ref	Hazard or threat category	Hazard/Threat sub category	Risk rating	Controls currently in place
PS04	Public Safety	Evacuation of neighbouring countries e.g. influx of people/vehicles into Saint Lucia	Low	National and Community evacuation plans
PS05	Public Safety	Safety at Festivals and Mass Gatherings e.g. Large scale outdoor events (Jazz Festival, Calypso Finals etc.)	Medium	1. GOSL Guidelines on Mass Events 2. Event organizers contingency plan 3. Licensing conditions 4. Site emergency plan 5. EMS response procedures
PS06	Public Safety	Safety at Sport and Entertainment Venues e.g. Large scale indoor/outdoor events (Beausejour Cricket Grounds, Gaiety entertainment venue etc.)	Medium	1. GOSL Guidelines on Mass Events 2. Event organizers contingency plan 3. Licensing conditions 4. Site emergency plan 5. EMS response procedures
SD01	Supply Disruption / Failure	Fuel shortage Industrial dispute, targeted disruptive protest, overseas supply failure/refusal	Medium	1. The Ministry of Commerce monitors this risk nationally and provide advice regarding the impact and likelihood of a shortage occurring. 2. The Saint Lucia Emergency Response Plan identifies the emergency services as priority fuel consumers.
SD03	Supply Disruption/ Failure	Electricity	Low	1. Electricity company contingency plans to maintain supply
SD05	Supply Disruption/ Failure	Communication systems e.g. telephone, mobile phones, internet	Medium	1. Telecom company contingency plans to maintain service
SD06	Supply Disruption/ Failure	Retail Supplies e.g. Food and other essential supplies	High	1. Police operating procedures 2. Ministry of Commerce contingency plans to maintain supply 3. Supply company contingency plans to maintain supply
SE01	Structural Emergency	Collapse of building (e.g. due to land movement or fire/explosion)	Low	1. Site specific local authority emergency plans 2. Fire service operating procedures 3. EMS operating procedures
SE02	Structural Emergency	Collapse of bridge	Low	1. Multi agency emergency response plans 2. Traffic Department redirection plans / Strategic route diversion plans 3. Traffic enforcement and Emergency response plan (to maintain transport routes) 4. Government Information Service Communications Plan

Risk ref	Hazard or threat category	Hazard/Threat sub category	Risk rating	Controls currently in place
H01	Fire/Explosion	At a gas terminal as well as LPG and other gas onshore feedstock pipeline and flammable gas storage sites	Medium	1. Fire service tactical plans 2. Fire service procedural documents 3. National Emergency Response Plans
H04	Fire/Explosion	At a fuel distribution site and tank storage of flammable or toxic liquids	Medium	1. Fire service tactical plans 2. Fire service procedural documents 3. National Emergency Response Plans
HL07	Fire/Explosion	At Industrial Site	Medium	1. Fire service tactical plans 2. Fire service procedural documents 3. National Emergency Response Plans
HL12	Fire/Explosion	Crash involving transport of fuel/explosive chemicals	Medium	1. Fire service tactical plans 2. Fire service procedural documents 3. National Emergency Response Plans
HL22	Fire/Explosion	Collapse of Building (following fire/explosive damage)	Medium	1. Fire service tactical plans 2. Fire service procedural documents 3. National Emergency Response Plans
HL23	Fire/Explosion	Collapse of Building (following earthquake)	Medium	1. Fire service tactical plans 2. Fire service procedural documents 3. National Emergency Response Plans
IA01	Industrial Action/Staff Shortage	Disruption of emergency response cover e.g. industrial dispute, widespread illness affecting ambulance, fire, police, coastguard, health service	Medium	1. Agency contingency (business continuity) plans 2. National Emergency Response Plans
IA02	Industrial Action/Staff Shortage	Port blockade/closure e.g. industrial dispute, widespread illness	Low	Contingency plans to manage this risk are under development
IA03	Industrial Action/Staff Shortage	Withdrawal of labour with Prison Service e.g. industrial dispute, widespread illness	Low	1. HM Prison Service maintains good industrial relations to minimize this risk 2. Borderlais contingency plan 3. National Emergency Response Plans
II01	International Incident	War (Internal)	Low	1. Multi agency contingency plans
II02	International Incident	War (External)	Low	1. Multi agency contingency plans
II03	International Incident	Humanitarian crisis overseas e.g. resulting in large scale immigration to Saint Lucia or aid requirement	Medium	1. National Emergency Response Plans in particular the Mass Migratory Flow Plan.
II04	International Incident	Humanitarian crisis overseas (Casualties) e.g. resulting in large scale casualty influx to Saint Lucia	Low	1. National Emergency Response Plans in particular the Mass Migratory Flow Plan.

SE03	Structural Emergency	Collapse of road tunnel	Low	1. Multi agency emergency response plans 2. Traffic Department redirection plans / Strategic route diversion plans 3. Traffic enforcement and Emergency response plan (to maintain transport routes) 4. Government Information Service Communications Plan
SE04	Structural Emergency	Major reservoir dam failure caused by internal erosion or overtopping	Medium	1. Water and Sewerage Company normal operating procedures (reservoir damage inspections)
SW01	Severe Weather	Hurricane/high winds	Very High	1. Hurricane Response Plan 2. Company Disaster Plans
SW02	Severe Weather	Coastal flooding Major sea surge, gale force winds, heavy rainfall, many defences, overtopped or failing. Combined tidal and fluvial event.	Very High	1. The Saint Lucia Met Service monitors weather conditions. 2. The flood warning is issued by the Met Service to members of the public living in areas considered at risk. 3. In the event of major flooding multi agency response plans are actioned to minimize damage.
SW03	Severe Weather	Flooding of rivers, streams A sustained period of heavy rainfall extended over two weeks, resulting in steadily rising river levels over region.	Very High	1. The Saint Lucia Met Service monitors weather conditions. 2. Flood Mitigation works around the island are managed by MoW. 3. An annual river desilting is done by MoW. 4. The flood warning is issued by the Met Service to members of the public living in areas considered at risk. 5. In the event of major flooding multi agency response plans are actioned to minimize damage.
SW04	Severe Weather	Localised fluvial/pluvial flooding (flash flooding)	Medium	1. Flood warning system 2. Emergency response procedures
SW05	Severe Weather	Extreme High Temperature	Low	1. Meteorological Office [PROPOSED] High Temperature Alert 2. Multi agency contingency plans

The information displayed in the document is valid only at the date of publication as risks are monitored on an ongoing basis.



NEMO Director Dawn French

Risk ref	Hazard or threat category	Hazard/Threat sub category	Risk rating	Controls currently in place
PH01	Public Health	Pandemic Influenza [Spanish, Avian]	Very High	1. The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture monitor this risk nationally and provide advice regarding the impact and likelihood of an event occurring. 2. A National Flu Pandemic Plan has been developed and is about to be presented to the Cabinet of Ministers.
PH02	Public Health	Epidemic [Seasonal Flu, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), Dengue Fever, Leptospirosis, Conjunctivitis (Red Eye), etc.]	High	1. Monitor outbreak plan [Ministry and Health Centre] 2. Ministry of Health Surveillance activity
PH03	Public Health	Localise outbreak of Food borne illness or communicable disease e.g. E.coli, Salmonella, Legionella, Norwalk virus infection, Meningitis, Mumps, in hospital, school, prison	High	1. General Practitioners monitoring occurrences 2. Annual National Vaccination Programme 3. Major outbreak plan 4. Ministry of Health Surveillance activity 5. Communicable and Notifiable Diseases, Regulations No. 12 of 1978.
PH04	Public Health	Mass fatalities by accidental poisoning or suffocation during transportation (at sea) e.g. carbon monoxide release within contained (ship) environment	Low	1. Marine Coastguard incident procedures 2. SLASPA Response Plans 3. National Response Plans
PH05	Public Health	Contamination of water supply e.g. industrial accident, malicious act at water treatment works	Medium	1. Water company contingency plan to maintain supply
PH06	Public Health	Food product contamination e.g. Beef infection with BSE, industrial accident, malicious act	Low	No specific plans have been developed to manage this risk. The likelihood of occurrences will be monitored by the Ministry of Health and action taken as necessary.
PS01	Public Safety	Hostage/seige incident	Low	1. Major crime plan 2. Multi agency contingency plans
PS02	Public Safety	Indiscriminate killings/serious injury by individual(s)	Low	Major crime plan
PS03	Public Safety	Dangerous person at large e.g. escaped violent prisoner/suspect	Low	Normal police operating procedures

Risk ref	Hazard or threat category	Hazard/Threat sub category	Risk rating	Controls currently in place
SW06	Severe Weather	Drought	High	1. Draft National Drought Plan 2. Water Companies Contingency Plans
TE**	Terrorism	Acts of Terrorism	**	** Given the sensitivity of the information supporting these risk assessments and the potential for use by adversaries, further details regarding action being taken to control the likelihood of this risk will not be made available in this document.
TR01	Transport	Aircraft crash	Medium	1. Air crash emergency plan 2. Airport specific emergency procedures 3. National emergency response plans
TR02	Transport	Sinking of vessels in/near Saint Lucia waters	Low	1. Marine Search and Rescue response plans 2. National emergency response plan
TR03	Transport	Collision involving vessels in/near Saint Lucia Waters	Low	1. Marine Search and Rescue response plans 2. National emergency response plan 3. Inspections of vessels and certification of vessel operators/skippers
TR04	Transport	Major crash on road network	High	1. Mass Causality plans 2. Strategic route diversion plans 3. Hospital Response Plan
TR05	Transport	Incident in road tunnel	Medium	1. Mass Causality plans 2. Strategic route diversion plans 3. Hospital Response Plans 4. Site specific plans [e.g. Millennium tunnel plan]
TR06	Transport	Crash involving transport of hazardous chemicals	Medium	1. Fire service tactical plans 2. Fire service procedural documents 3. National HazMat Plan
TR07	Transport	Crash involving transport of radioactive materials	Medium	1. Fire service tactical plans 2. Fire service procedural documents 3. National HazMat Plan

AG Tours Vieux Fort/Soufriere Court Houses

Minister for Justice and Attorney General Senator Philip La Corbiniere recently undertook a tour of the Soufriere and Vieux Fort Courthouses which are being renovated as part of the extensive reform that is taking place within the judicial system. Senator La Corbiniere explained that he was undertaking these periodic tours to ensure and see for himself that things were running as they should.

The Justice Minister made his first stop at the Vieux Fort Courthouse where \$100,000.00 was invested in renovating “dilapidated conditions”. The Vieux Fort Court house was re-commissioned in April this year while the \$64,000.00 Soufriere Courthouse was recommissioned on Monday, July

10th. While the renovation works were ongoing the Soufriere court sessions were reassigned to Choiseul and proceedings continued uninterrupted in Vieux Fort.

The Attorney General explained that the renovation programme was not new. “We have been undertaking a number of repairs and commissioning courthouses over the last couple of years. We’ve done, for example, the courthouse in Anse La Raye which is attached to the police station.”

Mr. La Corbiniere added that security concerns for courthouses were also receiving attention. As a result 12 hand held scanners have been procured for use in courthouses and during the tour the minister presented hand held scanners to the Vieux Fort and Soufriere courthouses.



Attorney General Philip La Corbiniere

Night Court Imminent

The Night Court proposal for St. Lucia as one of the ways of reducing the heavy backlog of cases could become a reality in the not to distant future. However Attorney General and Minister for Justice Senator Honourable Philip La Corbiniere, says staffing is the main concern at this time. Mr. La Corbiniere says once

the issue of staffing is addressed, the night court will become operational.

“ We do have some indication in our minds, that we want this to come on stream as soon as possible I do not want to give a time frame now but i think within another three months we should be well on our way with the night court functioning at least in the Castries area.”

The Minister for Justice says government is continuing to take a holistic approach to the issues of crime and justice, unlike in the past where these were addressed in a singular fashion.

“ We need to look at the courts, the police, our social components of crime; this is why we have brought in the national crime commission, this is why we are doing work with the social services and so on and so so we have to look at all of these, it is not just a one

-pin strategy, but it’s a strategy that attempts to bring together all of the key areas and to begin to do work in all of those areas.”

As part of the holistic approach to crime and justice attention is also being given to enhancing the physical structure of the courts. The Office of the Attorney General is also working towards ensuring that there is a tighter management of cases throughout the courts as well as better prosecuting techniques.

PM Orders Review of Responses to Crimes Committed Against Visitors

Prime Minister Dr Kenny D. Anthony has ordered an immediate review of procedures adopted by government agencies following crimes committed against visitors to the island.

The Prime Minister ordered the review following a meeting with officials of the Ministry of Tourism and the Saint Lucia Hotel and Tourism Association (SLHTA).

According to the Prime Minister: “It is clear that crimes committed against visitors can have dire consequences for the visitors -- and indeed, for all of us. Aggrieved visitors have a capacity to vent their anger on the Internet, thus causing severe damage to our reputation.”

“Our Police Force, in particular,” he added, “has to be sensitized to better follow-up on crimes against visitors, as this is where the major break-down takes place.”

“Equally,” he added, “the roles of the respective agencies involved in following up on crimes committed, need to be clarified.”

Prime Minister Anthony said: “Visitors to the island need to be reassured that they are not being neglected by our law officers.”

He explained: “The need for sensitivity applies, not only to the visitors, but also to all of our citizens who are victims of crime. They too need to be reassured that their concerns are be-

ing addressed.”

Prime Minister Anthony reiterated that “our tourism industry is so important to our economy and to our national development that we all have to be as concerned about attacks on visitors as we are about crimes against citizens.”

The Prime Minister said: “It is important for all Saint Lucians to understand that one single incident can have grave consequences for all of us.”

He urged that “the objective of all of us, including the law enforcement agencies and related bodies, must be to create a safe environment in Saint Lucia for ourselves, that visitors can also enjoy.”



Prime Minister Dr Kenny D. Anthony



Mr. Hermangild Francis

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF POLICE APPOINTED

A new Deputy Commissioner of Police has been appointed in the Royal St. Lucia Police Force. He is Hermangild Francis, a former Assistant Commissioner of Police who recently acted as Police Commissioner while Commissioner Ausber Regis was on vacation.

Francis says his appointment will create a more fluid chain of command between the Commissioner and the Assistant Police Commissioners and he sees the implementation of discipline within the force as one of the challenges with which he will be faced. He

believes also that the first step to improving the police force is to gain the trust of the island’s citizens.

Francis’ promotion has created a vacancy for a new assistant police commissioner in charge of crime who will be appointed through either promotion or transfer. Police Commissioner Ausbert Regis returned to work on Monday was due to met with the Minister for Home Affairs and Internal Security, Calixte George o Tuesday to discuss the appointment of a new assistant commissioner in charge of crime.

Highway Works to end for school opening



A section of the propose Choc Roundabout



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

Minister for Communication, Works, Transport and Public Utilities Honourable Felix Finisterre says every effort is being spared to have road-works in the immediate vicinity of the Castries Comprehensive Secondary School completed by the re-opening of school.

While on a tour of the works on the Castries/Gros-slet Highway Wednesday, Mr. Finisterre said the issue of noise and dust pollution were always factored in and are the main reasons why works in that area commenced upon the close of school. Mr. Finisterre is very confident the plans adopted to protect the school from negative impacts from the nearby road, will work.

“The big wall which is going nearer to the school is in-fact to enhance the operation of the school and the safety of the road users, the school children, because that is only the foot foundation for a pedestrian bridge with a big bus lay-by on both sides of the road.”

Minister Finisterre says the Ministry of Agriculture is being brought in to advise on physical development that will mitigate against noise pollution. “The forestry department have a role to play—that role being to provide us with the most effective fast growing species—Ficus, Glory Cedar, whatever they come up with so we can put in some environmental measures in place along the new fencing for the school. We want to make sure that gets done and we want all those physical works done September 15th.”

Apart from the vegetative barrier, the minister says, contractors will also build an additional wooden structure that will further mitigate against noise.

Meanwhile the Ministry of Communications and Works and contractors of the Castries/Gros-Islet Highway Rehabilitation Project have confirmed that they are able to obtain the required width necessary for the route’s expansion although they have decided not

to acquired as much land as was previously proposed to get a three lanes carriageway from Paul’s Gas Station to the Vigie Roundabout and four lanes from that roundabout to the Sandals Halcyon Entrance. From that point the route will be reduced to three lanes to the Choc Roundabout, now under construction.

Chief Engineer Jude Regis says the decision not to acquire more land will save the project millions dollars and have avoided the disruption of business space of several local businesses along that route. “What we decided to do is to narrow the lane widths to the minimum international standards. Hence we are looking at the outer lane widths of three meters, on either sides of the carriageway and inner an inner lane width of 2.75 meters. We are confident these lane widths can suffice for the movement of traffic along the highway.”

One of the issues raised by members of the public is the ability of contractors to have 90% of the work complet-

ed in time for the hosting of world cup matches, in March of next year. Project Manager Dereck Far says though the project is being affected time to time because of rain delays, the route will be fully motorable by the time.

We are quite pleased that progress has improved over the last two weeks. The drainage has improved, the pipe line, now we have gotten past the roundabout—now progress on that has improved. We’ve made some minor adjustments to the design. That’s not making any difference to the progress of the works. In-fact some of the adjustment to the design are actually speeding things up.

Drains that will serve as footpaths along the route are presently being constructed with several diversions , which will serve as lay-bys and bus stops. Several pedestrian bridges spanning the entire width of the highway will also be constructed at strategic locations along the route.

14th CMEx Meeting for Saint Lucia

Air Jamaica has reaffirmed its support for the 14th Meeting of Caribbean Media Exchange on Sustainable Tourism (CMEx) which is to be held in St. Lucia on October 12 – 16 2006. CMEx looks at the sustained growth of the airline industry, among other things

The 14th CMEx in five years will examine the enhancement of sustainable tourism development through the lens of “Chic Communications Concepts”, discussing culinary, cultural, health, sports, and village tourism linkages over four days in Castries. Linking the award-winning airline to the innovative media exchange, senior Air Jamaica executive George deMercado said the regional carrier, one of the companies that helped launch CMEx five years ago, is providing “significant” support to the conference which attracts hospitality officials and media workers from across the Caribbean, North America and Europe.

“Air Jamaica is without question more than an airline,” responded Lelei

LeLaulu, president of CMEx organisers, Counterpart International. “This Caribbean carrier, in spite of the vagaries of the international aviation climate, recognizes its value as a development tool. It promotes the continuing education of Caribbean journalists who in turn have communicated to the public the wide positive impact of sustainable tourism development,” he said.

“Supporting the media is of paramount importance to us,” said deMercado who sees in CMEx a unique forum that fosters dialogue between media practitioners from the Caribbean region and major markets served by the airline. “It is refreshing to see the fruit of our support through the years – from career development and job opportunities for Caribbean writers in the US to teenage education on HIV/AIDS in the Caribbean,” said deMercado.

CMEx St. Lucia, produced by Counterpart International, is sponsored and/or supported by Air Jamaica, Almond Resorts, Association of Caribbean Me-

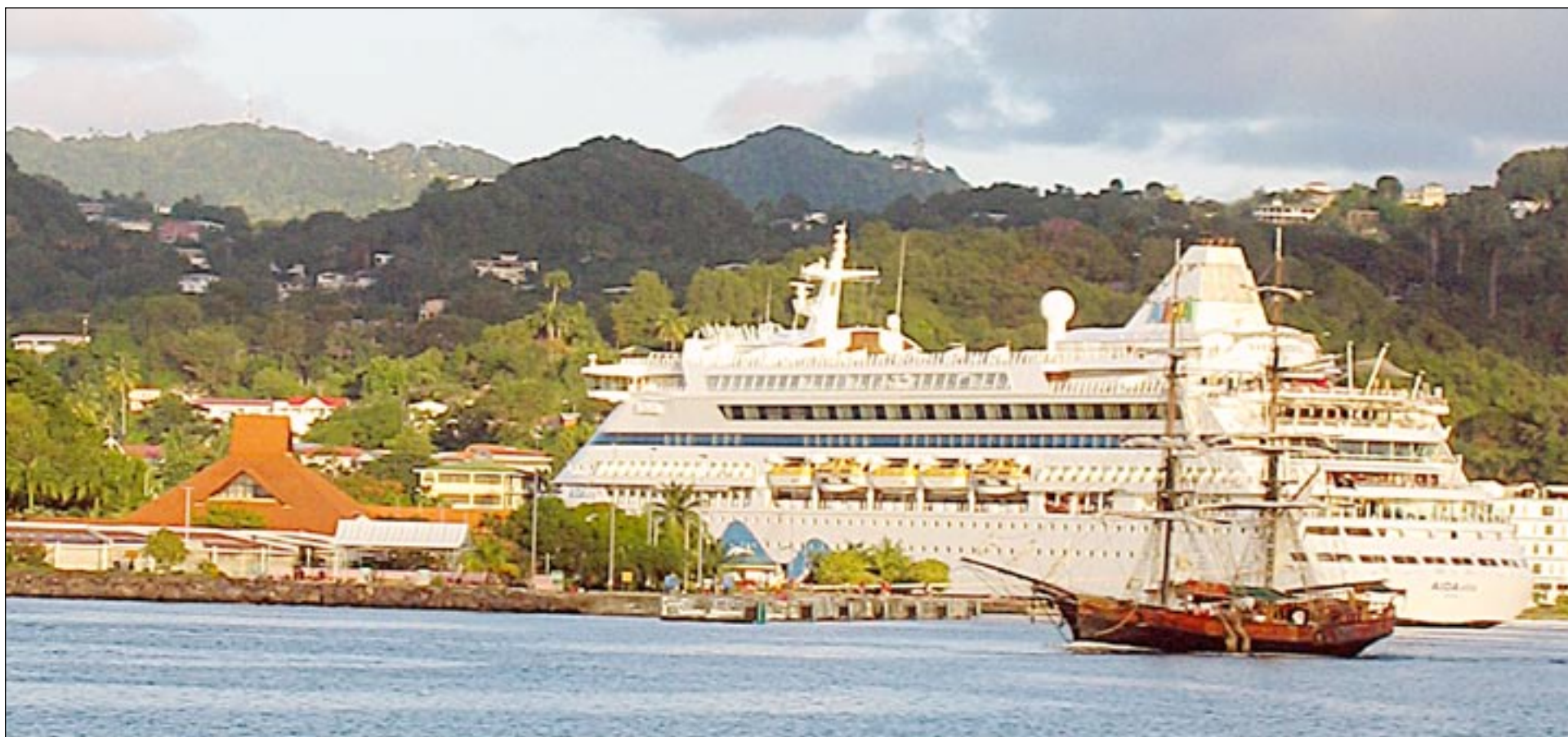


Air Jamaica officials at Hewanorra Airport on the resumption of Air Jamaica flights to Saint Lucia earlier this year

dia Workers, Bay Gardens Hotel, Black Entertainment Television (BET J), Caribbean Alliance for Sustainable Tourism, Caribbean Broadcasting Union, Caribbean Hotel Association, Caribbean Tourism Organisation, Caribbean World News Network, Coco Resorts,

Counterpart Caribbean, Destiny Group of Companies, Ruder Finn, Scotiabank, St. Lucia Tourist Board, St. Lucia Ministry of Tourism, the Tourism Development Company of Trinidad and Tobago and the United Nations Development Programme.

TRAINING FOR BUMPER CRUISE SHIP SEASON



A Cruise Ship at Pointe Seraphine

Front line workers within the cruise sector are learning innovative ways of improving their services, in order to maximise the economic benefits from the anticipated 11.7 million cruise passengers for 2006. The industry personnel are participating in a two-day workshop organized by the St. Lucia Air and Sea Ports Authority, in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism and the Florida Caribbean Cruise Association. The three organizations have taken the initiative to make free training available for industry personnel, to ensure that customer service has a training benchmark across the sector.

SLASPA's Tourism Officer Donna

Regis, says the authority is working tirelessly to enhance the skills of industry workers, as higher tourist satisfaction translates into greater benefits for the cruise industry. She says with increasing evidence of the significant impact of the cruise industry in the Caribbean, the training of front line workers becomes a critical factor in maintaining St. Lucia's image in the destination of choice for many.

Meanwhile Tourism Hon. Philip J Pierre has affirmed that government will continue to create the necessary environment to ensure that the cruise tourism industry survives. Speaking at the opening of the workshop, Mr. Pierre said: "the cruise industry in St. Lucia has developed from 1997, possibly

there were about one hundred thousand visitors and sometime in 2001/2002 St. Lucia reached about 500,000 cruise passenger; that's a phenomenal jump of about 300 0 500% between 1997 and now. That did not happen because St. Lucia was lucky; it happened because of direct government intervention, direct policy from SLASPA and I really want to congratulate SLASPA for being at the forefront."

The workshop at the NIC conference centre is being facilitated by the vice president of the Florida Caribbean Cruise Association Adam Casseno. Participants will be trained on three main areas—courtesy, professionalism, and marketing.

Saint Lucia Hosts Windward Islands School Games



St. Lucia's hosting of the Windward Islands' Games this coming weekend is being viewed as a launching pad for more youth involvement in sports. Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Henry Mangal, says though the event will serve as a boost for the various sporting disciplines, much of that development will depend on the involvement of the public.

"You have five sporting disciplines taking place at the regional level—you have athletics, basketball, netball as well as volleyball, and the students athletes, many of whom are national athletes. In-

fact we have three national sports personalities in the contingent—you have the junior volley baller of the year Darrel Evans, you have the junior net baller of the year Roxanne Schneider and you have the junior basket baller of the year Aloysius Henry as well as other outstanding national players. So it is going to be very exciting."

The St. Lucian team was selected following a camp conducted by the Ministry of Sports at the Vieux Fort Comprehensive Campus A, over the weekend. The team's final preparations also included the selection of captains and vice captains to head the various squads.

The captain for Athletics is Jeremiah James with the Vice Captain being Leander Ernest. The Captain for Basketball is Merve Louis with Kegan Previle as Vice Captain. The Captain for Football is Dessie Poleon with Chad Philip as Vice Captain. The Captain for Netball is Safia Paul with Roxanne Schneider as Vice Captain and the Captain for Volleyball is Darrel Evans with Geni Alexis as the Vice-Captain.

St. Lucia intends to recapture the title which it lost to St. Vincent and the Grenadines in St. Vincent last year. The games are being held at the National Stadium in Vieux-Fort.



THIS WEEK ON NTN

Sat. July 29th to Fri. August 4th
2006

NTN – PROVIDING
INFORMATION YOU NEED
Professional St. Lucian Women
discuss their rise in the corporate
world – Sat. July 29th, 9:30 a.m.
REBROADCAST: Town Hall
Tuesday with Hon. Cyprian
Lansiquot – Sun. July 30th,
11:00 a.m.

Slavery and Emancipation –
Mon. July 31st 8:00 p.m.

EMANCIPATION: What
does it mean and are we truly
emancipated? – Tues. Aug. 1,
8:00 p.m.

REBROADCAST: Contribution
of black folk in the diaspora
– Wed. Aug. 2nd, 9:00 p.m.

NEMO, the Insurance Council
& the Met Services discuss the
island's preparation in the event
of a disaster – Thurs. Aug. 3rd,
8:30 p.m.

The Ave Maria Infant School
presents "The Miss Princess
Show" – Fri. Aug. 4th, 8:30 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
and then click on the NTN icon.

www.stlucia.gov.lc

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