



NATIONAL REVIEW



REMEMBERING SIR JOHN



National Review met with the Honourable Stephenson King who is prime among the cabinet of ministers, to share his sentiments on the life and work of one of our greatest sons and father of the nation, Sir John George Melvin Compton. Prime Minister King chronicled the life time of Sir John in the body politic of our Fair Helen from 1954 as an independent parliamentarian in the legislature representing Micoud and neighboring Dennery, to 2006 when he return to lead the United Workers Party barring a brief inter-regnum.

Sir John's life must inspire us all as the embodiment of dedication, sacrifice, national service and a profound love for people and country. Prime Minister Hon. Stephenson King highlighted education, social and economic advancement and development as the hall mark and corner stone of Sir John's achievements and life's work. He went on to explain how that legend of a man laid the foundation for preparing Saint Lucia for the twenty first century.

Sir John ensured that Saint Lucia was recognized in international law and that our diplomacy was "sovereign". There was an urgent need to ensure that our state evolved beyond mere national symbols of flag, anthem, historical figures, events and special holidays to the point of engendering national focus, identity and consciousness.

Education was most certainly paramount in traversing that path to progress and advancement. Naturally Sir John moved to litter the

length and breadth of the island with infant, primary, secondary and vocational schools, with the Sir Arthur Lewis Community College serving as a gate way to further academic development.

Prime Minister King vividly remembers that as a giant of a leader, Sir John had long accepted the logic that the global market place will be difficult because of the structural impediments that inhibits many of today's developing nations. This is where he developed a kin interest and focus on the East Asian model of economic development which enjoys a rise in foreign investment, production, exports and improved standard of living.

Such a model is based on certain core fundamentals which must be pursued if any country is to attain a significant difference or improvement in growth. The first and perhaps most important is: the emphasis on education, a high level of national savings, a strong political framework within which economic growth is fostered, a commitment to exports and fifthly, development of a local economic model based on technical skills, high savings ratios, long term state-guided targeting of industries and markets, and determination to compete on the world stage. By his own admission Sir John has stated clearly that there were times that he thought he pushed St. Lucia to much and too fast but in the end balance obtained.

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EDITORIAL

Commitment at the Wheel of Leadership

The fundamental law of navigation tells us that any one can steer a ship, but it takes a captain to set the course. Certainly Prime Minister King was on an urgent course set for Vieux Fort in the early hours of September 9th 2009 amidst the savage and brutal devastation of the St. Jude's Hospital in the south of the island by a raging fire.

The leader of our nation proved clearly that leading is a function of commitment, courage, and conversation. That passionate commitment displayed by him is not only grand and spectacular in an unassuming manner but reflects a genuine spirit of love, care that goes beyond the call of duty. The accompany members of cabinet displayed that wonderful call of unity at a critical time reflecting

the essence of togetherness and harmony.

It is clear that the Leadership displayed by the Prime Minister echoed in the conversations that he engage in through the media. This certainly help to give us as a people the fuel and the opportunity to do something to commit ourselves to rally in a call of unity to rebuild St. Jude's Hospital.

We must shower commendation on our fire personnel and the individuals who helped to ensure that the patients got out safely. Our prayers are with the family of those who lost their loved ones in such tragic circumstances.

There is no doubt that the government will move expeditiously to rebuild St. Jude's Hospital with the kind assistance of the cor-

porate community, ordinary St. Lucian's, friendly governments and friends in the international donor organizations.

The Prime Minister remains confident that we will rise from the ashes and rebuild a brighter beacon of hope in the south of the island. For though it is in our nature to accept finite disappointments as a people we must never lose infinite hope.

FirstCaribbean International Bank makes a Donation Towards Rebuilding St. Jude's



Mr. Michael Mansoor
Chairman of FirstCaribbean International Bank

Given this tragedy's cost in human life, infrastructure and physical and emotional disquiet, we felt your country should not have to bear the burden of rebuilding alone. Because of our relationship with St. Jude's FirstCaribbean felt it fitting that we communicate to you directly our com-

mitment to the rebuilding process.

We applaud your leadership in the recovery effort, and we note that you were on the scene within a matter of two hours or so.

We are grateful that Saint Lucia's National Emergency Management Authority is vibrant and effective.

We want to do our part in keeping the momentum going to limit further damage and despair.

FirstCaribbean International Bank has therefore established an account in the name you have suggested – St. Jude HOSPITAL REHABILITATION FUND, Account number 106906839 - and we have started off the fund-raising effort with a deposit of XCD 200,000.

This we hope will facilitate the speed with which the hospital management and the Ministry of Health needs to forge ahead to rebuild and re-equip. Additionally, we are making arrangements to facilitate dona-

tions, by publicising the account number so that persons wishing to contribute will know where to make their donation.

It is our hope that all Saint Lucians – Corporate, individual and organisational – will embrace the rebuilding effort as a matter of national service.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to those who have lost loved ones, and our sympathies to the injured, our encouragement to the management and staff of St. Jude's Hospital, and our best wishes to the government and people of Saint Lucia.

St. Jude's Hospital, Vieux Fort Saint Lucia destroyed by fire on September 9, 2009



In a letter to Prime Minister King, Mr. Michael Mansoor, Chairman of FirstCaribbean International Bank expressed his heartfelt sympathy on behalf of the management and employees of FirstCaribbean across the region, in the wake of the St. Jude's Hospital tragedy on September 09, 2009.

FirstCaribbean International Bank received the news of this dreadful tragedy at a very personal level, for it was not a month ago that we had taken the initiative to lead the effort to make some enhancements to the St. Jude's Hospital through our Community outreach programme.

OPSR Undertakes Private Sector Baseline Study



OPSR facilitates seminar on baseline study

The European Union through the Office of Private Sector Relations (OPSR) has commissioned a Baseline Study for St. Lucia to provide the information required to complete St. Lucia's assessment of sector budget support under the 10th European Development Fund (EDF) in the area of 'Sector Policy and Overall Strategic Framework' and Institutional and Capacity Development.

For the baseline an enterprise census and Investment Climate Survey were carried out in July by the Central Statistics Office. The objective of the Economic Census was to create a comprehensive list of enterprise to provide frame for the enterprise activities in St. Lucia. The basic idea is to create the Enterprise Address Register containing structural information about each enterprise, including (but not limited to) name, enterprise activity, location and employment by sex. This structural information is central to the collection of enterprise statistics because it enables one to identify and describe more precisely each enterprise participation in the economy.

The goal of the investment climate study (ICS) was to help improve the environment for doing business in St. Lucia, thereby fostering private sector development that contributes to sustained poverty reduction.

The result of the 2009 Enterprise Census shows that there are over 7,400 enterprises, employing approximately 42,000 persons. Out of the 7,400 establishments recorded 5,600 are small scale enterprises (76%) (i.e. employing less than five persons). The large establishments account for 24 percent. It is not surprising that the Castries Suburb and Gros Islet have the highest number of formal establishment, while Canaries have no formal employment.

It is important to note that this census is based on the information from the enterprises operating from fixed locations, and does not include itinerant enterprises (mobile enterprises i.e. hawkers and selling along road sites), subsistence's farmers & fishermen, and own account enterprises operated from households. The 2008 Survey on Household Un-

incorporated Enterprises & Informal Sector conducted by the CSO revealed that there are total of 71,151 persons employed in the country for both formal and informal sectors. The Enterprise Census results showed that about 60% of the total employment is in the private sector.

Castries combined (Metro, Suburb and Rural) have the highest proportion of establishment (47%), and also had the highest proportion of employment 45 % compared to 17 % in Vieux Fort and 12 % in Gros Islet. Anse La Raye and Canaries have the lowest number of establishment (3% & 1% respectively) and also offers the least opportunities for employment 5% and about 1% respectively.

The three leading economic activities in the country are as follows: (1) Distributive trade, with 2,478 establishments representing 34 percent of the total employment; (2) Hotel Restaurants and Bars, with 1,645 establishments representing 15 percent of total employment and (3) Manufacturing, with 653 establishments representing 9.8 percent of total employment.

In examining the issue of establishment ownership, over 77 % (5,758) of the establishment are owned by individuals (Individual Proprietor) of which 56% are owned by women (3,251) and 44% are owned by men (2,507). Majority of these enterprises are operated by the proprietors themselves.

St. Lucia continues to be ranked first among Caribbean countries in the World Bank's Doing Business Indicators. St. Lucia has a reputation for excellent macroeconomic management, modest inflation,

and moderate rapid growth. Others aspects of the Investment Climate also appear favorable. Firms complain little about many areas of the investment climate, such as regulation and infrastructure, and objective indicators usually confirm that St. Lucia compares favorably with other middle income economies in these respects. Although firms have concerns in other areas such as corruption, taxation, and macroeconomic instability, St. Lucia often compares favorably with other OECS (Organization of Eastern Caribbean States) economies and high performing middle income economies in these areas as well.

Despite having a relatively attractive investment climate, firms in St. Lucia are not highly competitive. Both labor productivity and total factor productivity are low compared to the best performing middle-income economies, few firms export, and domestic firms sell a large share of their output to the Government. Given that with a few exceptions, most notable worker skills and education, the investment climate appears favorable, this suggests that structural problems (e.g., the small size and remoteness of the economy and the macroeconomic effects of tourism on the rest of the economy) probably play an important role in limiting competition.

The investment climate assessment asks enterprise managers to rate how great an obstacle various areas of the investment climate are to their enterprise's operations and growth. For each area, we calculate the percent of firms that rated each area as a very severe or major obstacle. One interesting feature of the St. Lucian data is that relatively few firms

rated the constraints as major or very severe obstacles. Only about 33 percent of firms rated the biggest constraint, crime, as a serious problem and most obstacles were rated as a serious concern by less than one in five enterprises. This is far lower than in most countries. Although it is difficult to compare perception based measures across countries, this suggests that enterprise managers are not overly concerned about any area of the investment climate.

Another feature of the data is that six areas of the investment climate: crime, theft and disorder, tax rates, cost of financing (interest rate), custom and trade regulations, skills and education of the available workers, and tax administration, stand out as particular problems. Between 20 and 33 percent of enterprises rated each of these areas as major problems, compared to less than 20 percent for all other areas.

Firms had few complaints about most other areas of the investment climate. Few firms rated infrastructure, regulation, corruption or the court system as serious obstacles. The objective indicators are generally consistent with these perception-based measures. Most firm believe that courts are able to enforce property rights and court cases appear to be resolved relatively quickly. Losses due to power outages are modest. Tax rates are low and have been declining over time. Burden of regulation is not particularly low, and is comparable to most middle income countries. In summary, the objective indicators are consistent with firm perceptions on most other areas of the investment climate; St. Lucia appears to perform relatively well.

REMEMBERING SIR JOHN

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When it came to the undiluted politics Sir John stood a cut above the rest. He had the remarkable gift and ability to rise above the fray as it were, and to engage in the "high politics" (which relates to the clear threats to a nation whether it is of an economic, social or its perceived implications of sovereignty and "low politics" (that which attracted petty partisan quarrels, wild accusations, the fueling of hostility and inflammatory parliamentary language and the adrenaline rush to fuel unrest and uneasiness by inciting demonstrations merely to gain cheap political mileage).

When all is said and done Sir John did it his way in a manner captured by Sir



The soul of a legend will live forever

Dwight Venner that reflects "vision, tenacity, sensitivity, kindness, passion and common sense of a truly remarkable human being". "He has been by far based on performance, one of the most outstanding ministers of finance

in the Caribbean".

He was an engineer and an architect of St. Lucia's development but above all he was a community man and embraced the broader humanistic appeals of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, that "an indi-

vidual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow individualistic concerns of his narrow confines to the broader concerns of all humanity".

Sir John, our proud son and our hero, we love and appreciate

all that you have endeavored to do for the betterment of Saint Lucia. May God's guidance and blessing lie gently upon you and your family?

All of Saint Lucia salutes you.

Saint Lucia and Taiwan Sign Agreement on Volunteers

Honourable Rufus Bousquet, Minister for External Affairs, International Trade and Investment, signed an Agreement between the Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan) and the Government of Saint Lucia on ICDF Volunteers with his Taiwanese counterpart H. E. Ambassador Francisco Ou in Taipei, Taiwan on 1st September. It lays the legal foundation for the International Cooperation and Development Fund in Taiwan to dispatch volunteers as requested by the Government of Saint Lucia.

H. E. Ma Ying-jeou, President of the Republic of China (Taiwan), met with Minister Bousquet and his delegation on the afternoon of 1st September. He commented that over the past two years since the two countries resumed diplomatic ties, significant progress has been seen in agricultural and computer-related cooperation projects. The president acknowledged with deep appreciation Saint Lucia's donation of US\$100,000 in the wake of the disaster caused by Typhoon Morakot, adding that the people of Taiwan will always

remember this friendly gesture. President Ma also said that in the course of the ROC's quest to participate in international organizations, Saint Lucia has spoken on behalf of Taiwan on many occasions. He stated that the support of Saint Lucia was a major reason why Taiwan was able to attend this year's World Health Assembly as an observer, and specially thanked Saint Lucia in that regard.

President Ma also remarked that while Saint Lucia has a population of only 170,000, it has produced two Nobel Prize laureates, which attests to the excellent education and unique training provided to students in that country. The president said that in addition to the existing agriculture and information technology cooperation projects, the ROC is pleased to share its developmental experience with Saint Lucia in a variety of national and community development projects. He stressed that interaction and cooperation between the two countries will not be adversely impacted by improvement in relations between Taiwan and mainland China.



(Right) Hon. Rufus Bousquet, (Center) H. E. Ma Ying-jeou, President of the R.O.C. (Taiwan) (left) Mrs. Farida Bousquet

Rather, President Ma said that he hopes to see cooperative relations between Taiwan and Saint Lucia be further expanded in the future.

Minister Bousquet, on behalf of Prime Minister Stephenson King, expressed his sympathies to Taiwan in relation to the August 8 disaster here. He said that the people of Saint Lucia are deeply

moved by the many efforts made by the ROC over the years to assist in his nation's development, adding that the people of his country are willing to lend support to the people of Taiwan in their hour of need. In the future, Saint Lucia will continue to support Taiwan's participation in the international community, he said. Minister Bous-

quet also expressed his hopes that cooperation between the two countries will become even more comprehensive, helping to forge even closer relations and a stronger alliance in the future.

It was the first time for Minister Bousquet to lead a delegation to visit Taiwan from 30th August to 4th September in the capacity of the Minister for External Affairs.

Plant Tissue Cultural Laboratory Opening Ceremony

The opening of the Plant Tissue Culture Laboratory at union on Wednesday 2nd September 2009 marks a milestone in our history and symbolizes the resilience of our government and people in the face of the current global economic crisis. Prime Minister Hon. Stephenson King expressed his heart felt gratitude to the Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan), Ambassador Chou and the Taiwan Technical Mission for financing this project which is testimony to their commitment and willingness to contribute to improved livelihood of all Saint Lucians.

He went further to point out that the contribution of Agriculture to the local economy over the past few decades is no secret, and in particular, the contribution of the banana industry as the principal revenue generator within the economy, is irrefutable. However, due to several external and internal factors the levels of production and productivity within the banana industry and broader agricultural sector have declined considerably. This elicited the need for policy changes and strategies for revamping the ailing sector with a view to developing a more diversified sector in a sustainable manner and at the same time increase the level of competitiveness of our agricultural products, while addressing the social ills suffered by those directly affected by the decline in the banana industry. Some of these policies and strategies were indeed articulated. However,



Saint Lucia's Governor General H.E. Dame Perlette Louisy examines a tissue culture sample

very little was achieved during the tenure of the former administration. Perhaps as a consequence of the absence of a vision for holistic development which excluded agriculture or the lack of political will to get the job done?

Today the need for food security is more urgent than any other time in our history given the status-quo of the global economy. The question therefore, of how we are going to tackle not only this problem of food security but also the issue of our very big import bill must be addressed in a very deliberate and enduring way. So what are we doing in that regard? We have embarked on a holistic approach to agricultural development and one area

that must be pursued is that of the use of science and technology to modernize our local industry. Aware of the tremendous leaps in the area of science and technology especially as it relates to agriculture and the potential benefits we can enjoy if we follow strategies that allow and encourage the introduction of improved technologies within our agricultural production system.

Specifically, Biotechnology which is defined as technological applications that use biological organisms or derivatives thereof to make products is one such technology that will be used to revolutionize local agricultural production. Plant Tissue Culture which is a biotechnology application allows for the mass production of planting material that is superior to conventional planting material. The use of Plant Tissue Culture technology locally will ensure that farmers will have available top quality planting material in large quantities leading to increased yields and revenue and decreased production costs.

Over five hundred thousand plants will be produced every year at this laboratory and the new modern green-houses that will be built very soon on these grounds. Bananas, Orchids, Yams, Dasheens, Pineapples, Anthuriums and other plant species of economic and/or ecological importance will be produced.

It is William Blake who said that "what is now proved was

once only imagined" and this axiom captures the spirit of this opening ceremony. The fact is, we will now be producing our planting material right here in Saint Lucia and our people will be the ones doing this work unlike what obtained under the former government where hundreds of thousands of plants produced via tissue culture were imported every year from Israel costing us hundreds of thousands of US dollars.

In conclusion, I would like to again extend many thanks to the Government of Taiwan for their generosity and I would also like to challenge the staff of the Ministry of Agriculture to match that generosity with due diligence and commitment above the call of duty and so ensure that we seize the opportunities presented and grow from strength to strength.

For his part Ambassador Tom Chou this opening ceremony as a historical moment. He explained that we are witnessing the modern agricultural technology taking root in St. Lucia today. The plant tissue culture is an important joint effort project on agricultural diversification between our two governments, meeting the challenge of global financial crisis and food security.

The goal of the tissue cultural lab is to mass produce orchid, banana seedlings and other profitable crops in St. Lucia. Among these crops, orchid is our flagship product. We are planning to make St. Lucia the kingdom of

butterfly orchid in the Caribbean. I strongly believe that the image of the beautiful flower matches that of St. Lucia, the Helen of the West. The tourism industry and farmers will benefit greatly from the success of the orchid project.

Moreover, we are building two green houses next to the lab. They are important parts of the plant tissue cultural project and will be completed in October this year. The green houses will not only cultivate the valuable seedlings, but also control the temperature of the environment and blossom of the orchids. Those enable us to enjoy orchid flowers all year around.

Tissue culture is one of our agricultural joint efforts in St. Lucia. Other efforts include aquaculture, organic farming and animal production. We are in the process to make Union the capital of modern agricultural technology of this island. Your government has an excellent vision and Taiwan has a lot of valuable experiences in agricultural development. Together, we can make St. Lucia a better place.

Before concluding my short remark, on behalf my government and the people who suffer badly from the recent Typhoon Marokot, I would like to express sincere gratitude to government and people of St. Lucia for your kind donation of US\$ 100,000 for our disaster relief effort. Your generosity has been deeply appreciated by the people in Taiwan.

The Sustainable Development and Environment Department Emphasizes The Need for Recreational Water Quality Standards



The discussion on Policy Formulation for Water Quality Standards continues

We Saint Lucians are very fortunate. We live on an island, and that means we are surrounded by water: the sea. Also, the mountainous nature of the island, as well as the fact that we are located in the tropics, has resulted in the island having a number of streams, rivers and waterfalls. These streams and rivers have from the beginning provided us with the water necessary to run our homes: to drink, cook, wash and clean. The water available from our pipes in our homes is called potable water. Potable water, or drinking water as it is more commonly known, is actually water of sufficiently high quality that can be consumed or used without risk of immediate or long-term harm to us humans.

However, we will NOT be focusing on drinking water for the purposes of this article. Instead

we will be discussing recreational waters: these are waters that we play in, fish in, swim in, and bathe in. These recreational waters include our rivers, waterfalls and the sea. Because we are in physical contact with the water, we have to ensure that these waters are safe enough for us to recreate.

Poor water quality can have a negative impact on our health. What causes poor water quality?

A number of activities can result in poor water quality. One is the improper disposal of litter and garbage. Garbage in water makes the water unappealing for us to bathe or swim in. Garbage can also have a negative impact on animals that live in the water. We know that turtles often mistake plastic bags for jellyfish. Once eaten, the plastic bags choke the turtles making it diffi-

cult for them to breathe and they often die.

Another form of pollution is sewage. Sewage is waste associated with humans and/or animals and, when in high concentrations in waters, can result in a number of ailments including ear infections, diarrhea and stomach aches. High sewage concentrations can often result in the death of fish and their associated habitats, such as coral reefs, that require clean waters to survive.

Some chemicals found in fertilizers, pesticides and detergents are also regarded as pollutants when present in high concentration. These chemicals or nutrients as they are referred to result in what is known as algal blooms that 'suck' up all the oxygen in the water resulting in green or grey-coloured water. Again, this impacts negatively on organisms

that live in these waters such as fish, and it makes the waters unappealing for humans to bathe in and can impact negatively on human health.

The final pollutant to be discussed is sediment. This pollutant is often associated with poor land-use practices where exposed soil, after heavy rainfall, is carried into streams, rivers and finally, the sea. Sediments cause discoloration of water and often result in the death of the animals that live in the water or the destruction of their habitats.

The Government of Saint Lucia through the Ministry of Physical Development, Environment and Housing, has received funding for the development of a national recreational water quality standard. Two consultations have been planned with key stakeholders for August

and September, in the North and South of the island respectively, to discuss the standard. Recreational water quality standards, if properly implemented, should control the amount of waste that is allowed to enter the island's waterways, reducing the incidence of ailments associated with poor water quality and habitat destruction.

The draft Guidelines for Recreational Water Quality document is available online at www.slbs.org.lc.

For more information on the national recreational water quality standard development process, please feel free to contact the Saint Lucia Bureau of Standards or the Sustainable Development and Environment Section of the Ministry of Physical Development Environment and Housing.

Eye on the Constituencies

The constituency of Anse La Raye Canaries has been a constituency of much neglect in the past. I vowed that I would make a fundamental difference by providing quality and committed representation that would bring about an improvement in the lives of my constituents.

There are significant challenges added to the fact that my constituency has been burdened as the poorest on the entire island. The Member of Parliament Hon. Keith Mondesir is of the firm belief that education must be one of the key approaches to addressing and reversing the current situation.

Consequent upon this a serious education initiative for capacity building has started with five computer centers in Anse La Raye Primary School, Canaries Infant School, Millet Primary School, in Bois Den and another to be placed at the Jackmel Community Centre.

The computers are not only for students but are to be accessed by adults and the wider community in the evening. There is collaboration with the Ministry of Education as the centers are stat of the art numbering twenty computers at a time.

We have undertaken a lot of infrastructural development initiatives such as foot paths, retaining walls, drainage works, road development, human resource centers, health centers, etc throughout the constituency. These projects have been supported by the Embassy of Republic of China (Taiwan) which must come in for special praise and commendation. Ambassador H. E. Tom Chou is working tirelessly to help us achieve the goals and objectives that we told the people of this country that we would deliver to bring about meaningful changes in their lives.

The constituency beautification programme provides an opportunity for a large number of individuals to eke out an existence at various periods. Such an undertaking provides much needed economic relief. In the process our environment and road sides remain clean and beautiful.

Project initiatives within the constituency are as follows:

- Human Resource Development Center in Millet



Construction of Walkway



Construction of Drains



Hon. Keith Mondesir
MP for Anse La Raye/Canaries



One of five IT Centres in Anse La Raye/Canaries



Construction of walkway for double amputee



Development of Anse La Raye Fisheries Complex and Jetty



Road Rehabilitation Projects



Health Centre at Vanard



Human Resource Development Centre at Tete Chemen, Millet



Bus Shelter at Morne D'or



Wash Room and Toilet Facility at Belvedere, Canaries



Change Rooms and Storage Facilities for Fishermen in Canaries

- A new health Center in the Vanner
- Agricultural programmes in the agricultural belt of the constituency i.e. Roseau, Millet, Venus area: seedlings and other agricultural inputs were provided to farmers at a reasonable rate
- In the Roseau area walk ways and bus shelters have been constructed and we are now in the process of developing a wash room facility which is long over due. For the past decade this has been neglected and a facility costing approximately EC\$45,000.00 is in progress.
- A computer center in Bois Den
- Rehabilitation of the road from Jackmel to Morne Ciseau from Kuwaiti Funds which will include drainage works

and proper surfacing so that the mini bus drivers and the residents will have a properly constructed road for the first time.

- A new fishing complex in Anse La Raye costing approximately EC\$9 million.
- A day care center coming on stream in Anse La Raye costing in excess of EC\$700,000.00
- Toilet/ Bathroom to be constructed in Roseau
- Water Project is on the way with UN funds costing EC\$6 million. This is expected to seriously address the water problems of Anse La Raye which has caused the people so much pain. A French company has been contracted to do the works and the consultants have been appointed to see the project through. Pipes will be laid in the new hous-

ing areas to bring relief to the people.

- A new human resource centre is being constructed because it was felt that the old one is not structurally suited for the new waterfront development of the village.
- A new health centre is to be built in Anse La Raye as plans are already advanced in relation to this project.
- In Anse La Verde numerous foot paths have been constructed and an agricultural project is on the way to assist farmer in growing new varieties of cassava, to replace what is coming out of Guyana.
- In Canaries we have linked the upper areas of Flora Villa to the village by a network of beautiful walk ways. This has been the wish of politicians from the time of Mr. Kenneth

Foster from 1974. This has been accomplished now since your humble servant has taken over the proper representation of the people of Anse La Raye/Canaries.

- The entire waterfront has been reconstructed in the area where the fishermen occupy so that they can store their equipment, repair their nets and engage in social intercourse.
- A new wash room facility in the Flora Villa area is soon to be constructed.
- The construction of a washing and toilet facility in Belvedere, Canaries.

The future of Anse La Raye/Canaries cannot escape the tourism element to enhance the Sea Food Friday's and the Canaries Coal Pot Fiesta. Consequently we will position the constituency to harness its resources and poten-

tial to develop along the lines of Heritage Villages to attract visitors so that we can get a bigger slice of the tourism pie, as visitors make their way to Soufriere.

In this regard we will keep and improve the characteristic, architecture and ambience of Anse La Raye/Canaries so that the villages will become a must stop for both local residents and visitors alike.

In the Roseau we intend to relocate the residents and develop a tourism arcade complex. The development of such a facility will attract entrepreneurship for the people as well as to capitalize on the history of the area from its rum and sugar days. It must be incorporated with the distillery in the vicinity of the area to create employment and promote development.

The village square in Canaries is being renovated to add to the attraction of the village for locals and visitors. The old church will be purchased and converted into a museum and art gallery.

The lands above the cemetery in Canaries have been purchased to develop housing for the local people and the returning nationals from the UK and the USA. To this end the Village Council and the Canaries Improvement Association will dialogue and interface with the Diaspora Unit of the Office of the Prime Minister's Office, headed by Ambassador Dr. June Soomer, to coordinate our home coming activities and celebrations to encourage our St. Lucians overseas to come home to invest for further growth and development the constituency.

The expansion and development of the Canaries waterfront

is critical to the further enhancement of the village. This will involve the removal of a row of houses and naturally the relocation of some individuals.

The provision of walk ways to residential areas has not only provided better access for residence but it has also improved the value of the real estate of their property.

This is what we consider true representation and progress for an area and people that has been so deprived for so long. We are pushing ahead with education programmes and initiatives and this is why we have made computers available, so that every single child going to school within Anse La Raye/Canaries will have access to a computer. That is an important mild stone and is clearly in keeping within the dream and vision of our distin-

guished Prime Minister for every child in St. Lucia to have access to a computer.

Two scholarships of EC\$1000.00 each have been granted to two students male and female by the District Representative. These students did exceptionally well in the CXC Examinations.

The male student who attended the Soufriere Comprehensive Secondary School has eight grade 1's with four distinctions while the female has eight grade 1's with five distinctions from, the Castries Comprehensive Secondary School.

The Chamber of Commerce in Martinique has been approach with keen interest to set up shop in Anse La Raye/Canaries to serve as a gate way for French goods to enter the OECS and wider region. This will serve to provided

a much needed economic boost to the constituency and go a long way in reversing the deprivation in that part of the island.

The Jackmel area has been identified as one such area to be transformed into an industrial zone. A delegation from the constituency has gone to Martinique to further negotiations and there has also been a return leg of that dialogue where the Martinique Chamber of Commerce has been to Anse La Raye twice.

The Member of Parliament wishes to thank all his constituents for the support strength, courage and guidance that they have given him in the quest to develop and transform the landscape of the constituency along with the dreams and aspirations of the people who live in that precious and wonderful part of St. Lucia.

Inside the *Ministry*

FOCUS ON THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH WELLNESS, FAMILY AFFAIRS, NATIONAL MOBILISATION, HUMAN SERVICES AND GENDER RELATIONS



Dr. Keith Mondesir on his farm at Millet

National Review caught up with the Minister of Health Dr. the Honourable Keith Mondesir on his farm at Tete Chemen, Millet where he was engaging in his past time of farming and recreation. From his piggery to the vegetable garden the minister seem to move with comfortable ease as he engaged us on matters relating to his portfolio.

The Ministry of Health he explained, undertook renovations of just about every single health center on the island to facilitate and enhance a better working environment. Additionally we have improved on the doctor's time at the health centre to deal with the frequent complains which prevailed in the past of doctors spending two or three hours trying to serve eighty to ninety people. That did not provide the type of confidence in the health services and it led to over crowding and mounting complains.

We have seen the wisdom and vision of extending full time contracts to the doctors so that they will spend a full day at the health centers or wellness centers. As a government we are very concerned about the people getting the best health care possible hence we are going the extra mile as provide home visits from the doctors.

The diagnostic capabilities of the health services have been improved significantly with equipment to do the kind of analysis that gives us quicker and better results especially in regard to kidney failure. We have a machine that tells us how the patient managed their diabetes over the last few months. There are numerous times that patients say that they are taking their medication only to find out that they are neglecting their treatment and by the time they come to the wellness centers a lot of damage is done and it poses an additional challenge and resources to get them back on track.

There is a greater emphasis on public community health services mindful that primary health care is at the focal point of our health services strategy, in view of the widely accepted view that prevention is better than cure.

The Soufriere hospital is undergoing a major expansion to provide some of the services that should have been offered but were not previously done. With the assistance of the Government of Saint Lucia and

the Pan American Health Organization new equipment will be added to complement the services at the Soufriere Hospital.

This will include upgrading the laboratory services to allow the lab technician to function properly as currently no lab work is being done in Soufriere. There is a physiotherapist but not therapy is being done at the moment. In the maternity division there are two midwives neither of whom are delivering babies but are taking of about fifty babies from parents who have given birth elsewhere but return for post natal care. We have the capability of delivering babies safely in Soufriere and such an important health service must be remedied with a fierce urgency.

The issue of the services of midwives is of critical importance as we all know a mother and daughter lost their lives in Soufriere under the watch of the last administration. That is a shameful situation that must never be repeated.

Soufriere Hospital must have a functioning emergency department in view of the vital role of Soufriere as a tourism Mecca where the bulk of visitors go to. Therefore the health services in Soufriere must be that which is beyond what a health center provides. It is important to factor in the drawing areas around Soufriere such as Canaries, Choiseul and other small pockets of communities. In that regard further expansion is scheduled for the next phase of the improvement of the hospital.

As a result of the new health facilities of the mental and general hospitals we have jolted our accelerated health plan (a five to ten year plan) prior to these facilities becoming fully operational. We now have a thirty six month plan in preparation for the opening of the general hospital.

These new health facilities require proper operational mechanisms and strategies. There are programs in place for the mental hospital such as a community based mental health care system and we are very successful at it as it is clear from the reviews we have gotten from our health care colleagues in the region places us ahead of the pack.

Having received a state of the art mental health facility from the Republic of China (Taiwan) we have attracted visits from the Minister of health in Guyana and a delegation from Dalhousie University who are

most impressed. Dalhousie has indicated that they will incorporate in the Canadian system, some of the lead initiatives that we are undertaking in our community health program.

St. Lucia under this government is proud to be in the forefront of mental health delivery services mindful that there was so much neglect previously regarding mental health. Last week Sunday the Ministry of Health launched the education component of the mental health program to address the issues of stigma and discrimination.

There must be a clear differentiation between mental health and mental problems. The former is an integral part of the health system while the latter include depression and other forms of mental concerns and issues and is not merely attributed only to mad people. Therefore a holistic approach must be the basis upon which we deal with mental health issues.

The community mental health initiative has reduced over one hundred and sixty mental patients to a little over ninety patients now. There has been a coordinated reintegration of treated mental patients into the society. The success of this program is due to the healthy coordination with the police, community health practitioners and the wider society.

We are dialoging with the families of those patients released and this is supported by professional health care services to ensure that these individuals take their medication on time.

One of the main aims of the Ministry of Health is to improve the overall on the diagnostic capabilities of the entire health care system. Improper diagnosis naturally leads to improper treatment. The government is committed to improving equipment at the various health care and wellness centers. This includes: (1) The physical health plant (infrastructural development); (2) Addressing the issues of dialysis issues by adding more machines; (3) School dental programme; (4) New hospital will be commissioned in 36 months; (5) More specialized training for doctors; (6) Enhancing diagnostic capabilities and mental health services and (7) Restructuring of the entire health ministry.

Given the amount of real estate that the ministry of health has under its jurisdiction (hospitals, health cen-



Minister of Health Dr. The Hon. Keith Mondesir



Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health Mr. Felix St. Hill

ters, offices etc) there was no centralized structured maintenance department. Doors were falling apart, roofs were leaking because it took so long before a contractor was called in to address such simple matters, and this led to the rapid deterioration of the various health plants.

Maintenance also includes the equipment at the hospitals and health centers. Our vision for the health sector now involves a central maintenance structure that deals with biomedical maintenance as well.

The friendly governments of Mexico, Brazil, Canada and France are assisting us in training of our health personnel.

In the area of Gender Relations the ministry is moving speedily to access a new transit home for the care and protection of young children some where close to the Uptown Gardens. It is not intended to be a permanent residence but a place that will take in the children for a period of eight to ten months after which they will be reintegrated with their families. The program includes counseling for both parents and children to assist in uniting the family.

On the aspect of human services there has been a significant increase

in the allowances to the indigent since this government has assumed the reigns of power. Most certainly there will be constant assessment and review of this and periodic increments will be made to reflect the country's financial capabilities.

Saint Lucia is now in the forefront of a new health record system that makes us the envy of the OECS. This system is designed to give us the capability to monitor all our patients in all our various centers of treatment.

Under the diabetic programme which allows for free medication it was discovered that some people go to one health center to get a set of tablets and then move to another health center to get another set of medication. With the implementation of the new programme we will be able to monitor everyone in every health facility. This will also allow our health professionals to feed diagnosis to other international health agencies and institutions to assist in medical solution. There will be major costs savings from this initiative as it will perhaps reduce on the need for numerous consultants.

There is also the added dimension of removing the need for St. Lucian's who are travelling overseas

for medical treatment, to take along documents such as x-rays, that are cumbersome. All they will be given is a number and the doctor or medical institution overseas will be able to access the necessary medical records.

This will revolutionize the health system in the twenty first century. We are proud of the new system because we are way advanced in this regard. There are currently five test run stations at the Monchy Health Center, Victoria Hospital, St. Jude's Hospital, Barboneau Health Center and the Gros Islet Polyclinic. A new computer system is being placed at all health centers to accommodate the new system.

It will also assist in dealing with health threats at the sea and airports so that we can activate the mechanism and alert all health centers and medical institutions if there is any health threat such as the ongoing H1N1 information will be at our finger tips within minutes. It will give us the capability for the Epidemiology Unit at the touch of a button can determine the exact health profile of the country at any time.

We will be able to make various

kinds of analysis in terms of the areas where diabetes is more prevalent for example and it will assist in critically examining areas with health problems that are not known. Migration patterns might be assessed in determining health threats as to whether one came from Martinique, St. Vincent or Barbados.

There is an ongoing World Bank supported HIV/AIDS Project which provides medication free of charge for patients all over the island including counseling, testing and all aspects relating to HIV/AIDS. This is supported by the National Aids Program which complements our HIV Program by providing additional support.

At the moment a new senior citizens home is being constructed in Vieux Fort on ten to fifteen acres of land at a cost of approximately EC\$6 Million.

There will be a more therapeutic outlook on this project whereby people will not just be placed in a home but there will be the opportunity to engage in gardening, craft and other recreational pleasures.

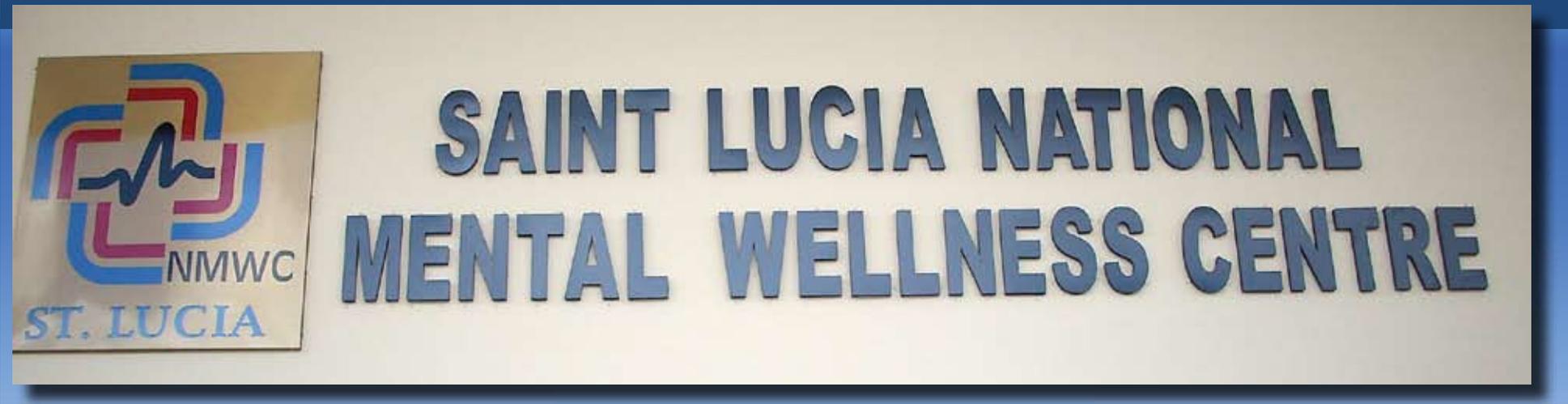
This is a clear commitment from this government that we cannot ne-

glect the elderly as they are an important and integral part of our society who has laboured before our time to help lay the foundations of this country of ours.

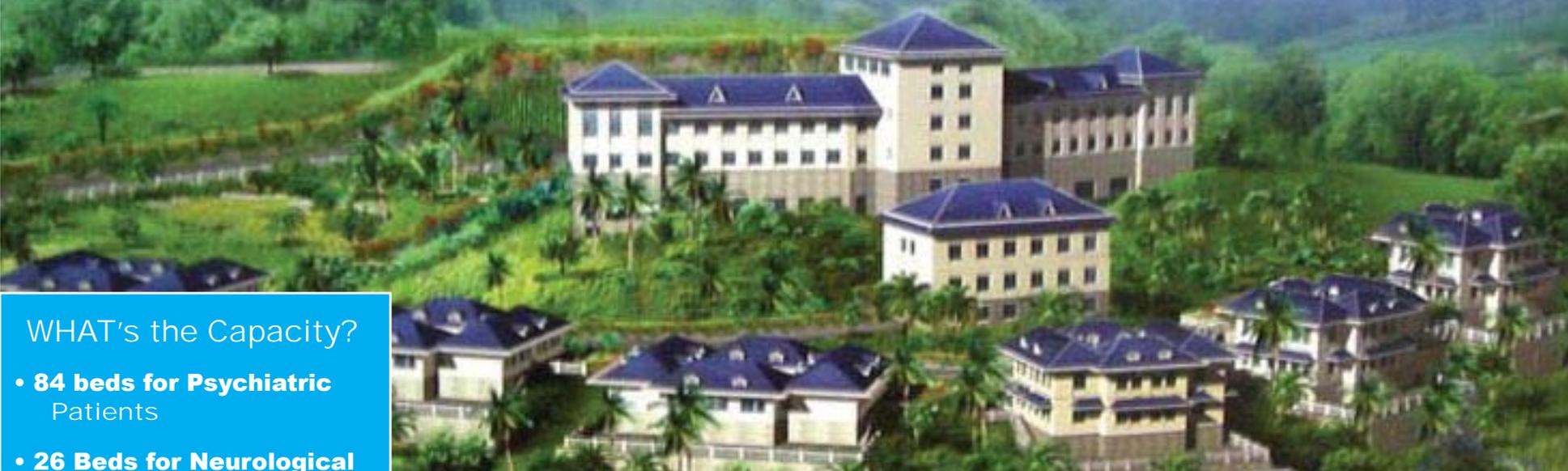
The minister was clear in pointing out that all the activities of this ministry are undertaken within the brother role and context of national mobilization. He went further to state that the meaningful progress that we are making under this government is all in the effort to develop this country in a holistic manner for all St. Lucian's at home and abroad.

The minister ended on the note of great thanks and appreciation to the Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan) for the significant contribution that they have given to St. Lucia in all areas especially with regard to the health sector. He went further to convey his sympathy to the people of Taiwan who are affected by the typhoon. Our boundless prayers and support are with the Government and people of Taiwan at this time of tragedy and discomfort.

PHOTO FOCUS

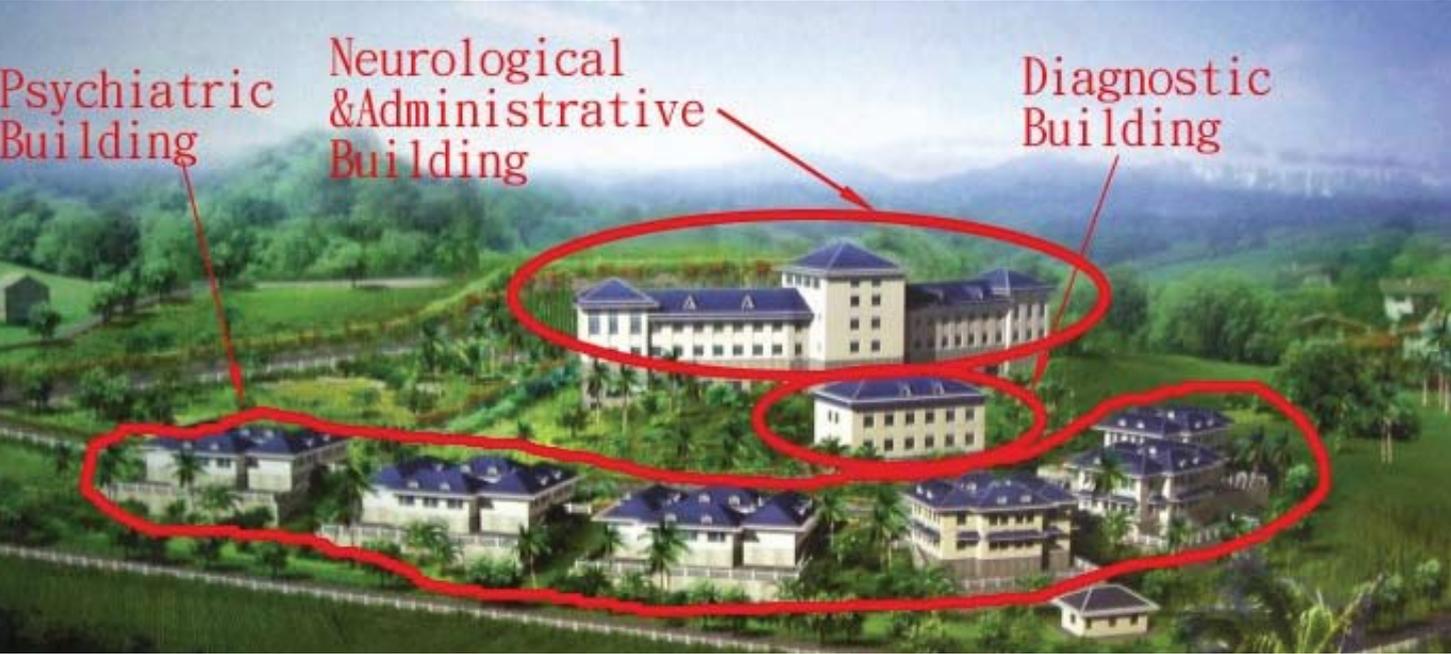


Coming October 2009!



- WHAT's the Capacity?
- 84 beds for Psychiatric Patients
 - 26 Beds for Neurological Geriatric and General Patients; and
 - 6 Beds for Emergency Patients
- WHAT kind of Treatment Planned to Offer for Psychiatric Patients?**
- Psychiatric Counselling
 - Clinical Psychology
 - Psychological Testing
 - Child & Adolescent Psychiatric Counselling
 - Music Treatment
 - Occupational Training
 - Fitness

Building Classification:

Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Justice Speaks on approaches to fighting crime

The Government of Saint Lucia has invested heavily in the forensic laboratory to fight crime, as the scourge of crime is one of the main societal issues that we are perennially confronted with. Some thing must be done to take care of those criminals especially those with deviant behavior.

Once someone has committed a crime and that criminal act can be detected this can have a deterrent effect. One of the key components of the forensic lab is the capability to undertake DNA analysis which is one of the main tools for dealing with crime detection.

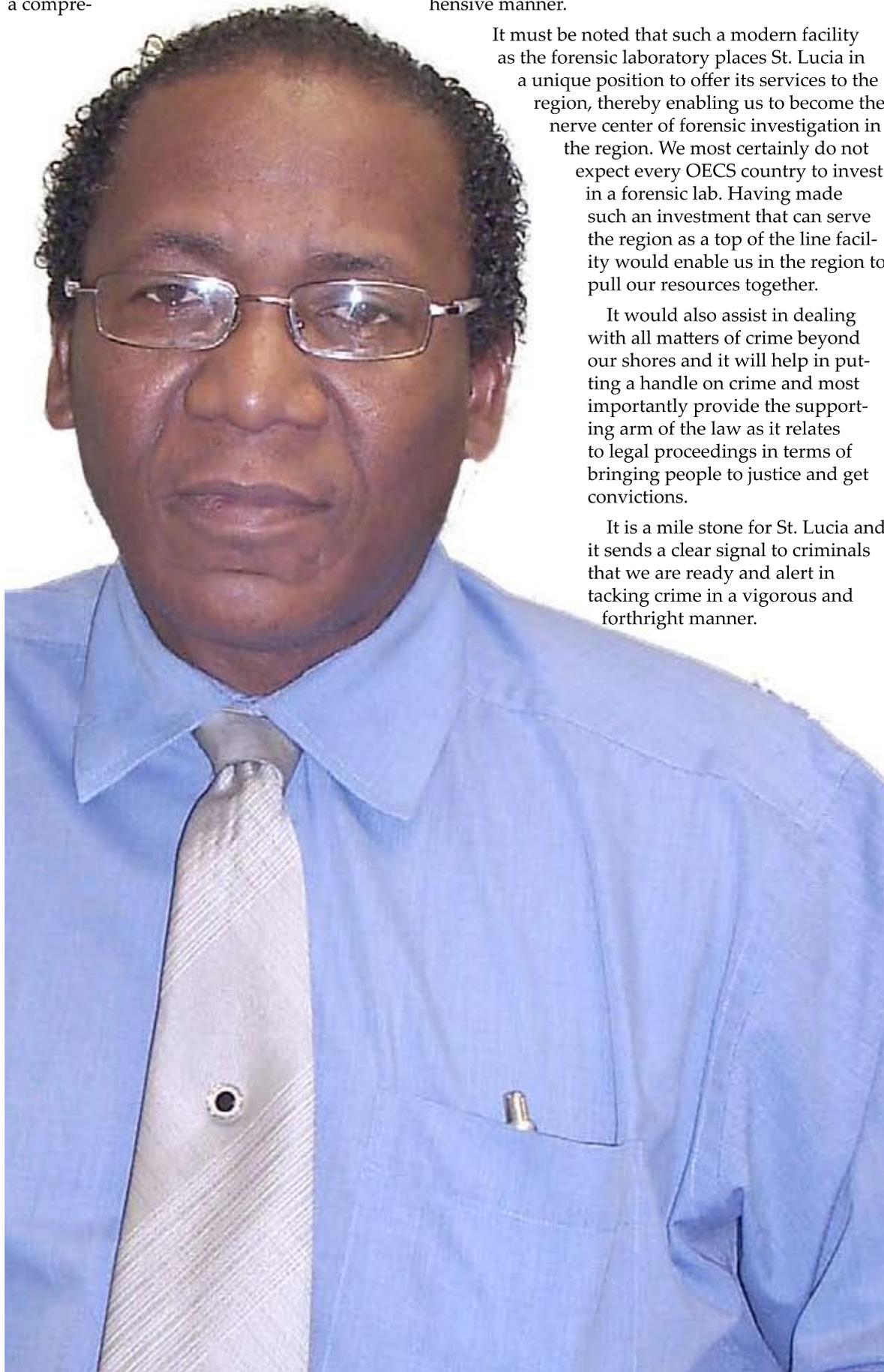
DNA is definitely final so if someone engages in criminality and the DNA evidence can be retrieved, then we would have taken a bold step in managing crime and certainly go even further to dissuade many individuals from thinking of criminal activities.

At the moment several persons have been trained and some of the training is ongoing to ensure that this modern facility is fully functional to address the issues of crime in a comprehensive manner.

It must be noted that such a modern facility as the forensic laboratory places St. Lucia in a unique position to offer its services to the region, thereby enabling us to become the nerve center of forensic investigation in the region. We most certainly do not expect every OECS country to invest in a forensic lab. Having made such an investment that can serve the region as a top of the line facility would enable us in the region to pull our resources together.

It would also assist in dealing with all matters of crime beyond our shores and it will help in putting a handle on crime and most importantly provide the supporting arm of the law as it relates to legal proceedings in terms of bringing people to justice and get convictions.

It is a mile stone for St. Lucia and it sends a clear signal to criminals that we are ready and alert in tackling crime in a vigorous and forthright manner.



Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Justice, Mr. Eustace Monroe

How to get it done!



Ministry of Physical Development Environment and Housing, Urban Renewal and Local Government

Drawing Requirements

Each drawing MUST show the following on all sheets: (a) Title of drawing, (b) Name of the Developer, (c) Location of Development, (d) Postal address (including Email), (e) All Telephone Numbers (including Mobile), (f) Scale of Drawing, (h) Date of Drawing, (i) Sheet Numbers, (j) Name of the Designer/Technician, (k) Postal address (including Email), (l) All Telephone Numbers (including Mobile)

REMEMBER!!! (1) Keep within your Approved Setbacks. Setbacks promote privacy, allow light between buildings, facilitates the circulation of air between buildings, accommodate sewerage disposal infrastructure and drains.

Set backs vary according to lot sizes and are taken from the further projection of a building to the boundary.

Side Setbacks (standard)

Lot sizes range from:

0 – 3000 sq ft - 4 ft min

3001 – 7000 sq ft - 6 ft min

7001 sq ft and above - 8 ft min

Note: 1 ft must be added to standard setback for each additional floor of building.

Rear Setbacks - 8 ft min.

Front Setbacks - these vary according to category of road

Categories of Access

10 ft. Footpath - 10 ft min

27 ft. Residential Access - 10 ft min

30 ft. Residential Collector - 15 ft min

34 ft. Secondary Lane - 20 ft min

50 ft. Primary Lane - 20 ft min – (Residential)
30 ft min – (Industrial)

(2) Proper setbacks lead to proper development

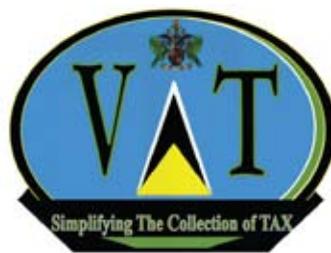
(3) Have some consideration for your neighbor next door.

(4) Incorporate all approved and necessary drainage systems now!

(5) Do not allow any water to flow unchannelled.

(6) Maintain your drains.

Fees are presently under review and are subject to change

Let's Talk About Tax...**Value Added Tax!**

There are many misconceptions about the value added tax system and how it operates. What are the most frequently asked questions about VAT? We have your answers right here!

What is VAT?

The Value Added Tax system or VAT as it is commonly known is a tax on consumption. VAT is an indirect tax charged on imports and on the added value to goods and services, supplied by one business to another or to a final consumer. VAT is designed to ensure that consumer spending is taxed evenly and fairly.

VAT is not a tax on the seller for it is the buyer who pays the tax.

VAT will not be an additional tax, but a replacement for some existing indirect taxes. It will be a broad-based, comprehensive and simplified system of taxation on transactions.

What is Value Added?

Value Added is the value that a business adds to its raw materials or purchases before selling the good/service. It is the mark up on the selling price.

How and when is the tax charged?

VAT will be charged as a percentage of the value added to the good/service at each stage of pro-

duction/distribution. That percentage, also known as the VAT rate, is the standard rate at which VAT will be charged. This is one of the policy decisions that will need careful planning and execution before it is determined.

How does VAT differ from Consumption Tax (CT)?

Because both VAT and CT are taxes on consumption, VAT and CT cannot operate together. Under the VAT system, tax is charged only on the value added at each stage of the production or supply chain. Any tax that VAT will replace will cease to exist when VAT is implemented.

Are there any benefits from changing to a VAT system?

Yes. VAT will improve, simplify and modernize our tax system. VAT is a fairer system because everyone contributes at the same rate and the treatment is the same regardless of the consumer.

A VAT will compensate for the shift in our economy from goods based to service oriented. VAT will also provide relief for businesses that are registered, as they will be able to set off the VAT they have paid on purchases, against the VAT they have charged on sales. Only the difference is paid to the government.

Under a VAT System, we ex-

pect taxpayer compliance to increase while the administrative cost will reduce.

Who can charge VAT?

In order to charge VAT, a business must meet a Threshold. The threshold will be a determined minimum sales amount for a business in one year. These businesses must register with the VAT Office. Under the VAT system, it is these businesses that are referred to as the taxpayers.

VAT on Imports

Businesses who import goods and services will pay the VAT to the Customs & Excise Department at the time of the importation of the good/service.

VAT on domestic products

Businesses supplying local goods and services will pay the VAT to the government at the end of each monthly tax period. Final consumers will pay the VAT only when taxable goods and services are purchased.

Under a VAT system not all goods and services will be charged a tax. Goods and services will be classified into three main categories, namely: Taxable goods; Zero rated goods and Exempt goods.

Taxable goods and services – Consumers will be charged a VAT

at the established rate. A VAT-registered business will charge a VAT on the sale of taxable goods and services and pay VAT on its purchases.

Zero-rated goods and services – A final consumer will pay VAT at a rate of zero percent.

Essentially, this means the consumer pays no tax on the item. A VAT-registered business will be able to claim a credit for any VAT paid on inputs.

Exempt goods and services – No VAT is charged to the consumer. Unlike the zero rated goods the VAT-registered business is not entitled to claim any input tax credit, on purchases.

It is important to note however, that when a good or service is exempt or zero rated, everyone consuming the item will be allowed the same treatment. This means that no VAT will be charged, whether the item is produced locally or imported. Furthermore, VAT will be charged only on goods consumed locally. Items manufactured in Saint Lucia for export will not be taxed. This enables local producers to be more competitive in external markets.

Registration Threshold

All businesses generating taxable sales above a certain Threshold will be required to register for VAT. In this manner the small businessman will not be burdened by any additional paperwork or having to comply with the VAT Law, by making monthly tax returns and by having to charge and collect the tax.

Registered Business

A VAT registration certificate will be issued to all registered businesses, who will be expected to display it in a prominent location at the business premises.

Unregistered businesses

These businesses do not meet the threshold and cannot charge VAT on the sales, nor can they claim from government the VAT paid on purchases.

How will VAT affect me?

Since VAT will replace and reduce the number of indirect taxes on goods and services, oftentimes the final price of these goods and services will be reduced. The prices of goods and services which currently have little or no taxes may increase slightly. However, in order to not have an adverse effect on the lives of vulnerable groups in society, some goods will be exempted from VAT and others will be taxed at a rate of zero percent. This means the final consumer will pay no tax on these purchases.

 **THIS WEEK ON NTN**

NTN – PROVIDING INFORMATION YOU NEED

6:05 pm – Take Two
(A look back at some of the major events in govt)

6:15 - Your right to Know

8:00 pm – Sir John Memorial (Titus Preville interviews Sir John
On plans for the development of Castries

8:30 pm – Your government Comes to You (Winston Springer speaks to Hon. Arsene James

9:00 pm – Gospel Explosion

**Hope Employment Initiatives**

- Community/Public Infrastructural Projects
- Community/Public Beautification Projects
- Public Sector Efficiency Assignments
- Private Sector Job Placement Partnerships
- Youth and Sports Services
- Self Employment Services

All persons employed under HOPE initiatives must participate in the following components of HOPE

The Training Component (which includes but not limited to): On-the-job, and classroom training; Efficiency training; Retooling training; Project & business management training; Certificates will be issued to participants where possible

The Personal Development Component (which includes but not limited to: Life Skills Training; Lifestyles Training; Personal Finance and Budgeting, etc

The Health Component (which includes but not limited to):

- General check-ups
- Diabetes & hypertensive testing
- Health & Hygiene workshops
- HIV & AIDS workshops
- Eye screening

Identification of Projects for HOPE

Through the use of a standard HOPE Project Proposal Form, interested persons, organizations, and district representatives can submit project proposals for consideration to the Technical Committee which would meet frequently to appraise and approve projects. This committee will comprise SSDF Board members, staff and other major stakeholders.

Strategic Partners

- NSDC
- St Lucia Nurses Association
- NCA
- Youth and Sports Department
- St Lucia Chamber of Commerce
- Ministry of Social Transformation
- Town and Village Councils,
- CBO's and NGO's

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Tel: (758) 468 2127/2116; E-mail: rhalexander@gosl.gov.lc or gis@candw.lc; website: <http://stlucia.gov.lc>

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