



Nine ministries within the government service are actively seeking to improve the quality of service offered to the public, other organisations and other ministries and departments of government.

An initiative of the Saint Luca Bureau of Standards (SLBS) the project is the result of what the Bureau explained is the recognition that setting standards and improving quality will effect value for money and by extension provide a strategy for improvement to ensure the operations of the public service run smoothly.

In June 2009, SLBS began the coordination of a new initiative entitled The Establishment of Standards and Quality Focal Points (SQFPs) in the Public Service i.e. point people within the various government departments who would work closely with SLBS.

The overall goal was the promotion and support for a quality culture in the public service through the application and implementation of standards.

The initial aim of this initiative is the establishment of focal points (key persons) in the public service who would promote the

use of standards in technical regulations and the implementation of quality management systems.

The SQFPs are internally appointed within their respective ministries and will receive technical training and support from the Saint Lucia Bureau of Standards.

The role of these SQFPs includes: to serve as a link between SLBS and the ministries on standards and quality issues; to channel information on standards and quality to public service personnel, to promote the use of standards in technical regulations, to advocate for

quality service in the public service of St. Lucia and to maintain a database of activities related to standards and quality at the various ministries

As of last month, an initial pilot phase has been underway that will run until September 2010.

This pilot project hopes to achieve a number of objectives including establishing the nine SQFP's and training them, getting them on par with the initiative, quality infrastructure and quality management systems based on ISO 9001:2008 – quality management system – requirements; standardization, technical regulatory framework and

facilitating the Development of Action Plans to name a few.

The government ministries currently participating in the initial phase of the project are: Agriculture, Lands, Forestry and Fisheries, Commerce; Industry and Consumer Affairs; Communications, Works, Transport and Public Utilities; External Affairs, International Trade and Investment; Health, Wellness, Family Affairs, National Mobilisation, Human Services and Gender Relations; Home Affairs and National Security; Justice and Attorney General; Labour, Information & Broadcasting and Tourism & Civil Aviation



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Invest and Save says Prime Minister

Prime Minister Stephenson King is calling on Saint Lucians to save and invest their money to ensure a secure financial future.

Prime Minister King made the call just as the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) spearheads activities to highlight the month of October as "Financial Information Month" under the theme: "Save and invest today, enjoy tomorrow".

The Prime Minister, who is also the Minister of Finance, emphasizing the global eco-

nommic recession over the last year, said the current crises serve as a stark reminder of the need to manage money and to make wise investment decisions.

"We in Saint Lucia have not been spared the effects of the turmoil in the international financial markets. The instability in the financial system has resulted in a noticeable tightening of liquidity as bank lending was at a premium and in some cases had almost dried up. Like many other countries, we in St. Lucia have been adversely affected by a de-

cline in inflows of foreign direct investment, which has severely dampened private sector investment in mainly tourism related construction."

The Prime Minister said, for the economy to grow and for jobs to be created, every citizen should get into the habit of saving, no matter how small. No economy, he added, can grow without savings and investment.

Quoting from one of the island's Nobel Laureates, Sir Arthur Lewis who was awarded for his work in Economics, Mr. King



Prime Minister
Hon. Stephenson King

said: "In his seminal work, 'Theory of Economic Growth', Sir Arthur Lewis emphasised the dependency of growth on savings and investment. He wrote: investment is necessary to economic growth. Implicit in this statement, is that saving is necessary for growth, because investment has to be matched by savings. This then is the answer to the question as to whether saving matters. It does matter."

The ECCB will be partnering with various institutions throughout the month to promote engendering healthy money management practices, through discussions with community groups and businesses, exhibitions at public libraries and school presentations.

Saint Lucian is First Principal of UWI Open Campus

Saint Lucian Educator Professor Hazel Simmons-McDonald has been appointed the first Principal and Pro Vice Chancellor of the Open Campus of the University of the West Indies (UWI).

Professor Simmons-McDonald, was formally inducted as Principal of the Campus on the grounds of Government House last evening.

As the first Pro Vice Chancellor and Principal of the newest campus of the UWI, Professor Simmons-McDonald has the responsibility of leading the effective implementation of one of the main strategic aims of the UWI's 2007-2012 strategic plan; this is to create an Open Campus to enable the University to expand the scope, enhance the appeal and improve the efficiency of its service.

Among the initiatives implemented during her first year as Principal said university officials here, "have been the creation and successful establishment of the Open Campus from concept to a streamlined organisational structure to the implementation of an institutional system within a distributed environment across the Caribbean region and the forging of a distinctive culture that promotes quality Open and Distance learning (ODL) within the UWI."

According to the UWI representatives, under Professor Simmons-McDonald's leadership, "there have been enormous strides in the area of programming in the Open Campus with increases and improvements in the number and range of offerings at all levels. These include the launch of two Masters Programmes beginning in January

During its first year of operation, the UWI Open Campus was accepted as a member of the International Council for Open and Distance Education (ICDE) and in her capacity as Principal of the campus, Professor Simmons-McDonald serves as a member of the organisation's Standing Conference of Presidents (SCOP) of ICDE, which is concerned with policies related to Open and Distance Learning internationally

2010, as well as the development of a record number of professional certificate programmes. Several new in-demand undergraduate programmes and more Masters level programmes are also currently being developed."

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Professor Hazel Simmons-McDonald

ference of Presidents (SCOP) of ICDE, which is concerned with policies related to Open and Distance Learning internationally.

She is scheduled to give a keynote presentation and to lead a workshop for the presidents at their meeting in November 2009.

As Pro-Vice Chancellor and Principal of the Open Campus, Professor Simmons-McDonald has also continued her substantive academic duties in teaching and advising doctoral students, as well as continuing her research work, publications and presentations at conferences.

Jounen Kwéyòl and Creole Heritage Month in Saint Lucia

The celebration of Creole Heritage Month, observed annually in the month of October here, continues this month as nationals prepare for the lavish feasting, fun and displays of culture that traditionally marks the end-of-month celebrations - "Jounen Kwéyòl" on Sunday, October 25, 2009.

In fact Custodians of the cultural commemoration the Folk Research Centre (FRC) says Jounen Kweyol in St. Lucia has developed since its inception in 1984, into the biggest national cultural activity on the island.

"Indeed, Jounen Kwéyòl has broader impact across communities and social sectors than any other calendar events in St. Lucia. The survival and growth of the event has undoubtedly contributed to a tremendous development in national awareness and pride in St. Lucia's cultural heritage, and greater self-confidence among St. Lucians at home and all over the world" said FRC Director Kentry Jn. Pierre.

Noting the Centre's satisfaction with the evolution of the annual observation and celebration, he explained that Jounen Kwéyòl activities have spread economic, educational and cultural benefits across all social sectors, particularly at the grass roots level of many traditionally marginalized local communities, adding that the cultural activity has even developed into a tourist attraction.

"In recent years Jounen Kwéyòl has also become a tourist attraction for lovers of folk culture, particularly from the French Antilles and other neighbouring Caribbean terri-



One of Saint Lucia's Creole Band

ories. In that regard, Jounen Kwéyòl makes a significant contribution to the development of the important tourist industry. Clearly, the event has become such an important resource for national development that broad national support is an imperative to ensure its sustainability.

Every year, Jounen Kwéyòl is celebrated in Creole Speaking countries to increase the awareness and pride among Creole speaking people of their rich cultural heritage; to encourage the practice of the Creole Language and Culture and to encourage solidarity among Creole speaking

communities around the world.

On the day of the grand climax of Creole Heritage Month, Jounen Kwéyòl, the main activities usually take place in four communities that are specifically selected as host communities for the particular year. Thousands of people flock these communities to participate in the celebration. Standard activities in each host community include a Creole Mass; a massive Creole Food and Drink Fair; an indoor exhibition of Creole technology, equipment and items depicting the folk life of the ancestors of modern day St Lucians; outdoor

demonstrations of traditional technologies and other folk traditions; cultural performances throughout the day, and; other community-specific spontaneous activities.

On that day St. Lucians are also encouraged to speak the Creole language as much as possible.

This year, Jounen Kwéyòl 2009 will be celebrated in the host communities of Vieux Fort, Soufriere and Boguis, Babonneau.

Throughout the month of October, a number of creole related activities will take place, including a Kwéyòl

Music Festival, La Wenn Kwéyòl Pageant and Vanndwédi Kwéyòl (Creole Friday) with activities organized in all schools and in business places around the towns.

For Jounen Kwéyòl itself, the activities in each host community will be organized around a similar programme of core activities such as a kwéyòl church service, a traditional food and drink fair, an indoor exhibition of cultural items, outdoor demonstrations of traditional technologies and other cultural traditions and, spontaneous and rehearsed cultural performances.

Programme for Creole Heritage Month, 2009

Theme: Kwéyòl-la vivan; Annou Wibaté!

Domino competition, 2pm, Sony's Place, Boguis				6pm, St Isidore's Hall, Soufriere		Place, Boguis
11 Creole Tea Party, Mount Pleasant	12	13	14 Lunch of the book 'The Flower Festivals of St Lucia' by Patrick AB Anthony, 12:30pm, Castries Town Hall	15 Kwéyòl library course, 6-7pm, Central Library	16 Vanowitch Kwéyòl (Djènen Magsit)	17 La Marguerite Festival
National Woulelebe Competition (quarter final)			Drama Night and Spelling Competition, 7pm, Boguis Combined School	Creole Games, Vieux Fort	Djènen Magsit, 12 noon, Mount Pleasant	Creole Night, 8pm, Country Pub, Boguis
Woulelebe, 10am, Boguis Playing Field					Solo, 8pm, Elusant's Place, TI-Bon, Boguis	
Koudren, 8am, Soufriere Playing Field					Creole cooking competition for secondary schools in Vieux Fort	
18 National Woulelebe Competition (semi final)	19 Panel Discussion, 7pm, Boguis Combined School	20	21 Kwéyòl Poetry and Music, 7:30pm, Castries Town Hall	22 Launch of the Toulelou costume exhibition, 7pm, Alliance Française	23 Vanowitch Kwéyòl	24 Souyon Zouk (a souk file in collaboration with Toxic Carnival Band, featuring Ludjyon) 8pm, Spinnors
Country (11am, 10am, Chateaux Belleir, Soufriere					Conferman Presentations by Travels Weebes of St Lucia and Edmond Mondair of Martinique, 6pm	Jounen Kwéyòl Jou Ouvi, Team's Bar (TI Bon), Boguis
Boguis Combined School's Laseann Kwéyòl, 2pm, Boguis Combined School					Boguis Combined School's Creole Breakfast and Lunch, 9am onwards, Boguis Combined School	Sale of T-shirts and Books, 9am, Williams Peter Boulevard
					Sabine's Creole Night, 8pm, TI-Bon, Boguis	Kwéyòl Exhibition, 10am - 6pm, Soufriere Primary School
					La BAI Jernis competition among primary schools in Vieux Fort	

						Kwéyòl Exhibition, 10am - 6pm, Soufriere Primary School
						Latin Kwéyòl, 6pm, Fond Gene Libre
25 Jounen Kwéyòl: Vieux Fort, Soufriere, Boguis	26 Kwéyòl Exhibition, 10am - 4pm, Mount Pleasant	27 Kwéyòl Exhibition, 10am - 4pm, Mount Pleasant	28 Kwéyòl Exhibition, 10am - 4pm, Mount Pleasant	29 Kwéyòl Exhibition, 10am - 4pm, Mount Pleasant	30 Kwéyòl Exhibition, 10am - 4pm, Mount Pleasant	31 "Le Ban" Toulelou; Creole Ball, Pita's Country Palace
	Kwéyòl Exhibition, 10am - 6pm, Soufriere Primary School	Kwéyòl Spelling and Dictation contests, 6pm, Central Library	Best Kwéyòl House (Final Judging), 8am, Soufriere			Soufriere Prize Giving, 5pm, The Still, Soufriere

- Other Notable Dates:**
- August 20th: Le Rose Festival; Woulelebe, Micoud/Anse Ger
 - September 6th: Start of National Woulelebe Competition
 - September 20th: Quadrille Dance, 2pm, Boguis Mothers and Fathers Hall
 - November 1st: National Woulelebe Competition (Finals)
 - November 8th: Menmalé Kwéyòl (20-35 years), Mon Repos School Grounds
- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Jounen Kwéyòl, Vieux Fort | Jounen Kwéyòl, Soufriere |
| - Church service | - Battle of Rabot |
| - Lawann Kwéyòl | - Story of Empress Josephine |
| - Live band | - Traditional Sewing |
| - Exhibition | - Kwéyòl Choir Singing Competition |
| - Food fair | - Kòdwi (Quadrille) Competition |
| - Folk life demonstrations | - Country and Western Youth Competition |
| | - Kwik Kwak |

Staff at Bordelais Pumped Up!

Forty new recruits have begun work at the island's sole prison, the maximum security institution - Bordelais Correctional Facility.

The recruits who have been undergoing training over the past two months are expected to work alongside senior officers within the prison, to maintain a high level of security at the facility.

Home Affairs and National Security Minister Senator Guy Mayers called on the new officers to execute their duties with the highest level of discipline and professionalism.

"Like in any organisation, the majority of officers are professional and they conduct them-

selves well, but amongst them are some officers who are not professional and they will pose a challenge to you. Let me say to you do not allow yourselves to be disturbed or distracted by these officers, who will not serve your best interest. Instead, I ask you to follow the example of the good officers who have made securing Bordelais their key agenda, and they are there every day to protect and serve," Mr. Mayers added.

The Home Affairs and National Security Minister also reaffirmed government's commitment to maintaining security and law and order at the Bordelais Correctional Facility. Senator Mayers said despite the unexpected turn

of events at the prison, securing the institution remains government's top priority.

Following two weeks of hands-on training at the Bordelais Correctional Facility, the perfor-

mance of the forty recruits will be assessed to determine their future.

Tighter Borders, Less Crime Says Security Boss

Saint Lucia's borders are under close scrutiny as the island's national security boss blames the laxness in securing these points of entry for contributing to escalating crime here.

Minister for Home Affairs and National Security, Senator Guy Mayers is calling for the tightening of security at the island's borders. This against the backdrop of the island becoming infamous for being one of the transshipment points for illegal substances in the Eastern Caribbean.

With the right quantity of small vessels and manpower within the Marine Unit and Royal Saint Lucia Police Force, the island could guard against the proliferation of drug-related transactions that take place on its waters Minister Mayers said.

He added that there is a correlation between activities at the borders and the growing number of murders in communities around the island.

The minister who said one of the measures being looked at to handle the situation was to increase the manpower of the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force and Marine Police, lamented the use of fishing vessels to bring narcotics into the island.

"Some of these drugs are being transported by some of those small fishing boats, coming from South America, Venezuela, and other areas coming up our coast. They are also coming from Martinique or transported from Saint Lucia to Martinique. We have very porous borders and we need to properly protect them," he said.

Saint Lucia, JetBlue Airways pursuing VFR market

Airline and tourism officials, who are counting down the days until JetBlue Airways touches down at Hewanorra International Airport in Saint Lucia, believe the Caribbean-American Diaspora will be an important part of the success of the thrice weekly service between the island and New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport.

Saint Lucia's Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation, Senator Allen Chastanet said the new service, beginning on Monday, October 26, 2009, gives Saint Lucians and other Caribbean nationals abroad a new option to "come back home and visit loved ones," participate in the 2010 Homecoming celebrations, as well as experience the new and recently renovated hotels, resorts and attractions that are on offer.

"JetBlue complements the existing airlift to the island, and with available airfares significantly lowered between New York and Saint Lucia, the airline makes Saint Lucia that much more accessible to residents of the Big Apple, including our vibrant and upwardly mobile Caribbean-American constituencies," said Senator Chastanet. He added that with JetBlue's high level of service and affordable pricing, "we look forward to welcoming even more New Yorkers and residents of the Tri-State area to our shores."

Marty St. George, JetBlue's Senior Vice President of Marketing and Commercial Strategy, said that while each and every customer is important to JetBlue, VFR (Visiting Friends and Relatives) traffic has been a major contributor to its success and Caribbean expansion. "Last year was a superb year for JetBlue in the Caribbean," reported St. George who looks forward to introducing new St. Lucian and West Indian travellers to the JetBlue experience.

The airline executive said JetBlue believes its unique value proposition - including providing more legroom, more free entertainment and more friendly service - differentiates the carrier within the industry. "We remain committed to building our brand on an unrivalled customer experience, something that we share with the island of Saint Lucia," said St. George, who will lead a group of JetBlue executives on the inaugural flight from JFK Airport on Monday, October 26, 2009.

For September and October, JetBlue expects its Caribbean capacity will be up by more than 50 percent year over year, largely due to the launch of new Caribbean markets, including Barbados as well as Kingston and Montego Bay in Jamaica. "Given the relative strength of our Caribbean markets, we believe it is prudent to continue to pursue opportunities there," added St. George.

JetBlue will operate its Saint Lucia service with spacious 150-seat Airbus A320 aircraft. The A320 offers travellers all of the

amenities for which JetBlue has become renowned: complimentary seatback television programming including free first-run movies on flights to and from the Caribbean, comfortable leather seats, lots of legroom, unlimited free snacks and industry-leading customer service.

JetBlue complements the existing airlift to the island, and with available airfares significantly lowered between New York and Saint Lucia, the airline makes Saint Lucia that much more accessible to residents of the Big Apple, including our vibrant and upwardly mobile Caribbean-American constituencies

JetBlue Airways starts new non-stop flights from New York to Saint Lucia on October 26, 2009

Lebourne Appointed New Press Secretary

The Government of St. Lucia has appointed a new Press Secretary who will be in charge mainly of the image and visibility of the administration.

Early this month, the Office of the Prime Minister announced the appointment of Government Press Secretary, Darnley Lebourne.

In speaking about his objectives soon after he began work, Lebourne said he has many plans to be rolled out to strengthen communication between government, the press and the public.

"My responsibility will basically be advancing the image of government, communicating to the general public with the respect to initiatives and programmes of the Government of Saint Lucia. One should expect my efforts to be one that is very open, one that is respectful of the public's right to know and to be informed."

The press secretary, who says he has no intention of operating a one-man show, is just settling into his new job, having only assumed the post on the 6th of October.

New Exam Paves The Way For Easier Travel For Regional Children

Students at the Form 3 level of secondary schools in Saint Lucia may soon face a new exam specifically designed to track their academic progress and standardize their achievement should they relocate to another island.

The exam prepared by the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) would be designed to have "regional currency and portability for parents, who will be moving across the region with their children".

Education officials on the island are now considering

the introduction of what will be known as the Caribbean Certificate of Secondary Level Competence Exam or CCSLC.

The programme now in its second year in the rest of the region comes to Saint Lucia for its first sitting in 2010.

Cleveland Sam, Assistant CXC Registrar for Public Information and Customer Services was recently in St. Lucia accompanied by and Girard Felix, a Syllabus Officer, to conduct CCSLC orientation workshops for teachers in the five subjects areas of English Language, Mathematics, Integrated Science, Social Studies and French and Spanish.

Sam explained that several Caribbean territories were moving to develop national examinations for the third form and a meeting of Chief Education Officers in 16 participating territories organized by CXC concluded that the regional examining body would prepare this exam for third formers.

"A certificate will be awarded after a candidate achieves a minimum of competencies in five subjects within a three year period," said the CXC official.

For more information log onto: www.cxc.org/ccslc.html

National Flu Committee calls for Public Cooperation

In May 2009 the World Health Organisation designated H1N1 as a "Public Health Emergency of International Concern". According to the National Emergency Management Office (NEMO) the virus has lived up to its description and as the National Flu Committee deepens its response to this flu, Saint Lucians are being called upon to partner with the Committee.

In light of this situation, the organization is reminding the public that Saint Lucia's Occupational Health and Safety Act requires that employers provide employees with the equipment and training needed to execute the job they were hired for. "With this in mind the NEMO Secretariat is advising persons who handle money on a constant basis (e.g. Bank and Credit Union Tellers,

Government and Private Sector Cashiers etc.) to wear gloves said NEMO Director Dawn French.

"Gloves do not replace the personal hygiene practices and so money handlers are reminded not to touch their faces or other surfaces with the used gloves... as they may spread infection that way...and they should still wash hands often...maybe change gloves often too" French said. Ms. French added that some

businesses have already started the practice and are highly commended for being so pro-active.

The public is also cautioned that the virus can live on a surface for 2 to 8 hours and contaminated money can spread the virus easily as it goes from hand to hand. "Vendors, deliverymen who collect payments and One Person Shops are reminded to wash their hands with soap and water often for 20 seconds. If soap and

water are not immediately available they are then advised to use hand sanitizer. This advice remains the same for the public." French said.

She added that the Government, Red Cross and Civic Society cannot minimise the impact of the H1N1 virus without the cooperation of the public. "Each one of us must play our part or we will all remain vulnerable."

If someone develops flu symptoms - sore throat, fever, cough, runny nose, muscle aches, vomiting and diarrhea

REMEMBER!!!!!!!

- Stay away from work and school;
- Drink plenty of fluids.
- Keep the ill person as comfortable as possible. Rest is important.
- Do not use aspirin; use panadol;
- Sponging with tepid (wrist-temperature) water lowers fever only during the period of sponging. Do not sponge with alcohol.
- Keep tissues and a trash bag for their disposal within reach of the patient.
- All members of the household should wash their hands frequently.
- Keep other family members and visitors away from the person who is ill.
- Contact a healthcare provider for further advice.
- If the ill person is having difficulty breathing or is getting worse, contact the healthcare provider right away.
- Stay away from farms

If you have questions, please contact the Nurse at the Health Centre or your Doctor.

Further Information is also available at www.cdc.gov/flu/swine/key_facts.htm

Churches Warned: Pa soukwé lanmen!

Churches around St. Lucia of all denominations are being urged to stop the practice of shaking hands and hugging, most often practiced as a "sign of peace" in some churches; this as health authorities try to curb the spread of the H1N1 flu virus commonly known as "swine flu".

This is the latest precautionary measure to be implemented by the local National Emergency Management Office (NEMO) as the virus was recently updated to level 6 status.

In May 2009 the World Health Organisation declared the H1N1 Flu Virus as a Public Health Disease of International Concern and elevated the pandemic level to that of Phase 6 this means that almost every country in the World has reported cases of the Flu Virus.

Since then NEMO says many Churches with overseas headquarters have issued instructions to their Elders, Pastors, and Priests.

NEMO is therefore encouraging all religious leaders of all denominations and faiths to observe

the following: (a) stop the shaking of hands and hugging, (b) suspension of the sharing of the chalice among priests or with the congregation, and (c) hygiene to be of the highest levels with washing of hands or use of sanitizers.

With immediate effect NEMO is requesting the cooperation of all faith based organisations and their members in Saint Lucia to partner with the National Influenza Committee and help stop the spread of the virus by complying with the advice.

Managing Influenza at Home

For the majority of people, H1N1 Influenza is a mild illness that they will be able to recover from at home. After seeking medical advice or assessment, stay home, rest, drink plenty of fluids and take medicines as prescribed. Most persons will get better with rest and paracetamol only, but some persons may be prescribed the antiviral drug, Tamiflu. The illness usually lasts around seven days.

The following tips should help you and your family recover as comfortably as possible.

1. Stay hydrated - Drink lots of fluids (water, citrus juice).

2. Stay comfortable - Most people with H1N1 Influenza experience a fever. Persons may also experience aches and pains in the body and joints. If you have these symptoms, take paracetamol as prescribed. Panadol, Calpol and Aaramol are all brand names for paracetamol. **DO NOT USE ASPIRIN.**

You may feel more comfortable by bathing in 'luke warm' water. Each bath should last for 15 to 20 minutes. This helps reduce the fever. It is not advisable to try and 'sweat out' the illness, by covering yourself with extra bedding or blankets.

3. Infection Control Measures to be taken in the Home

- Sick persons should always cover their mouths with tissue when the cough.
- This tissue should be thrown

into a plastic bag, which should be tied and placed in a covered bin.

- All persons in the home should wash their hands often. Hands should be washed with soap and running water. If persons do not have water, alcohol based hand sanitizers can be used.
- If possible, keep the infected person at least 3 to 6 feet away from other persons in the home.
- Infected persons will be given face masks to use at home.
- Utensils such as cups, spoons, plates etc should be properly washed before being used by other persons in the home.
- Persons should never share tooth brushes and sick persons should change their tooth brush after the flu.
- Ensure that the ill individual is cared for in a properly aired, or a well ventilated room.
- If possible, sick persons should use a separate bathroom. Clean bathrooms daily with household disinfectant.
- The sick person should be kept at home.
- The sick person should not go to the supermarket, church, work, school, or other places where close contact with other persons can occur.
- The infected person should

remain at home for at least a week, or until all flu-like symptoms disappear.

- NOTE: children may spread the virus even after they appear well, so it may be advisable for children to remain at home for no less than 7 days.
- If the sick person worsens at any point, please take them to hospital. If possible, call the health facility before taking the individual there. (Please see numbers below.)

What are antivirals?

Antivirals are not a cure for H1N1 Influenza but they will relieve some of the symptoms, reduce the length of time patients are ill by around one day and reduce the potential for serious complications, such as pneumonia.

For more information on H1N1 Influenza, please call: Ministry of Health at 4685300, 4685317, 4685324, 4685309; Victoria Hospital: 4522421, 4568200; St. Jude Hospital: 4546041; Tapion Hospital: 4592000

You can also visit this website for more information on managing H1N1 Influenza at home: http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance_homecare.htm

Website for monitoring Saint Lucia's work: <http://stlucia.gov.lc/flu/>

Website for flu and mass crowd events: <http://stlucia.gov.lc/mce>

Saint Lucia and Taiwan Products Take the Limelight!

A wide array of products made in Taiwan and some manufactured locally took center-stage at the recently held second annual Taiwan-Saint Lucia Partnership Trade Exhibition.

The exhibition staged at the gaiety on Rodney Bay, was the result of a collaborative effort by the Taiwanese Embassy and the Ministry of Commerce Industry and Consumer Affairs.

The 3-day exhibition was the latest effort to further strengthen the trade link between Taiwan, St. Lucia and other Caribbean States.

According to officials from the

Embassy of the ROC (Taiwan), since the first exhibition last year elicited such interest, even more interest was generated in this year's event, translating in more exhibits at this year's event.

This trade show which is expected to be annual event in St. Lucia was intended to create a platform for entrepreneurs and manufacturers, mainly from Taiwan and St. Lucia, to build up their business relationship and it is hoped that by strengthening their connections, the local companies and Taiwanese companies can expand their operations.



Taiwan's Ambassador to Saint Lucia Tom Chou addresses the opening of the three day trade show while Government ministers look on

A variety of products from Taiwan were on display this year, including a wide array of electronic products such as state-of-the-art mini laptop computers, camcorders, portable multimedia projectors, also a variety of memory devices, television sets,

digital cameras, basketball shooting games, smoothie making machines, home appliances, porcelain and a host of other high-end products.

St. Lucia's world famous rums, perfumes and aromatherapy items, culturally enriched handi-

crafts, indigenous artworks, dolls, leather sandals, fashion designer, marble stone tops, baby furnishings, bottled coconut water, bottled water, vegetarian products, engineering services providers and agro-processing products were also displayed.



St. Lucians came out to see the extensive line of products from Taiwan and St. Lucia on show at the exhibition

Travel Trade Shows

Saint Lucia is taking an aggressive approach to attract visitors to the island for this winter tourist season that began earlier this month.

Last month the island kicked off a series of road shows for travel partners in New York City sparing no effort to pro-

mote its renowned products, services and attractions to the travel agent community.

Members of the travel community, including agencies that specialize in selling travel to the Caribbean Diaspora markets, joined the Saint Lucia Tourist Board and hotel representatives

on the road show tour that is slated call at more than 25 cities in the United States and Canada.

"Now's not the time to twiddle our fingers, ride out the fall and assume we will have a strong winter - rather, it's time to tell the world what's on offer on

our island and encourage past and potential vacationers to visit Saint Lucia now," said Director of Tourism Louis Lewis, who was in New York City for the recent premiere.

Encouraging agents and consumers alike to "Live the Legend" of Saint Lucia, Lewis joined New York City-based tourist board executive Lorine St. Jules to share the dynamic

developments on the island as Saint Lucia prepares to welcome 50,000 visitors this Fall, thanks in part to the new thrice-weekly service from JetBlue Airways, beginning October 26, 2009.

The Road Shows feature Saint Lucia's new advertising campaign under the theme: "Legend Has It" which highlights the legacy of this unspoiled island destination.

Diaspora Critical to Constitutional Reform, says Saint Lucian Official

The chairperson of Saint Lucia's Constitutional Reform Commission insists that the Caribbean-American Diaspora is critical to the Commission's work on the island.

Speaking ahead of two recent meetings with the Saint Lucian-American Diaspora - Madam Justice Suzie d'Auvergne said for the first time Saint Lucians will have

an opportunity to say what they would like to see in a written constitution to replace the present version which was handed down from Britain.

"(Saint Lucian-Americans) are Saint Lucians and I think they should have a say in everything," said Madam Justice d'Auvergne, who added they can now "raise their voice" and be connected

with an important discourse even while living in their adopted homelands.

Madam Justice d'Auvergne disclosed that two of the hot topics being debated on the island are possible term limits for the Prime Minister and whether the Head of State of Saint Lucia should be an agent of the Queen of England. "Should we have

a Governor General or should we go the way of Dominica for instance, and have a ceremonial president?" asked Justice d'Auvergne.

She noted that despite the slow speed of the reform process, public participation was encouraging and the consultation process was moving along expeditiously.



Madam Justice Suzie d'Auvergne

FCCA NOTICE

The 16th Annual Florida-Caribbean Cruise Association Cruise Conference & Trade Show to be held in St. Lucia from October 26-30, 2009, is looking for local business people who are interested in doing business with international cruise lines.

- Do you want to do business with cruise line executives?
- Do you want to find out how to do business with the cruise lines?
- Do you have a product, tour or destination you want to promote to the cruise industry?
- Do you want to learn about industry trends, to expand your market base?
- Do you want insight into what the cruise industry wants?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then you need to be at the 16th Annual Florida-Caribbean Cruise Association Cruise Conference & Trade Show in Saint Lucia, October 26-30, 2009!

There is no better place to meet the decision makers of the cruise industry. Cruise executives from the Operations, Purchasing, Marketing and Shore Excursion sectors, committed to working with you, will be there, and so should you.

The Trade Show is the perfect opportunity to showcase your destination and/or product to Cruise Executives from the member lines representing a variety of destinations spanning the globe from Europe, the Caribbean and Latin America. Don't miss this opportunity to be part of the most successful FCCA trade show exhibit! Space is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

An impressive array of industry experts in Marketing, Purchasing/Sourcing and Shore Excursions/Operations will lead informative workshops and round table discussions that encourage free discussion, group participation, feedback and networking.

Special evening Social Events allow opportunities to mingle with cruise executives in an informal, relaxed - and fun - setting.

The RAK Porcelain FCCA 12th Annual Golf Classic, hosted by the St. Lucia Golf Resort and Country Club, is a great networking opportunity during the conference - a chance to tee-off with some of the industry's top cruise executives in a fun-filled shotgun style tournament.

Don't miss your chance to make a splash at the most important cruise conference of the year.

For more information, contact:

Terri Cannici
Florida-Caribbean Cruise Association
Director of Special Events
Phone: 954-441-8881 • Fax: 954-441-3171
E-mail: tcannici@f-cca.com

NDC launches operations' manual for Pointe seraphine

The National Development Corporation (NDC) is continuing to improve the efficiency of its operations while boosting customer service delivery at the island's premiere duty-free shopping complex - Pointe Seraphine.

The latest vehicle for achieving that was the recent launch of the Duty-Free Pointe Seraphine Standard Operating Procedures Manual which clearly outlines operating procedure for all stakeholders doing business at Pointe Seraphine.

The 30-page manual represents the formalization of a combination of old procedures and new

measures currently being implemented to help improve the operations at the facility.

The manual streamlines operating functions at the complex and embodies the culmination of a year-long review and consultation exercise undertaken by the Corporation.

NDC's Acting General Manager Timothy Greene says the much needed manual, covers every aspect of operations at the complex and spells out the ways in which vital processes are carried out.

"It speaks to what is expected from NDC personnel in relation to their duties and assignments;

it identifies the various players and their roles, e.g. vendors, land and sea tour operators, taxi operators and the like and most critically, the manual addresses how to deal with complaints and disputes both with vendors and visitors, taxi and bus operations, security, access to sensitive areas and so on" Greene said.

He noted that the manual was the result of the creation of procedures, rules and regulations adopted in response to various threats/challenges and creates awareness among all of the standard operating procedures to be enforced at the Complex.

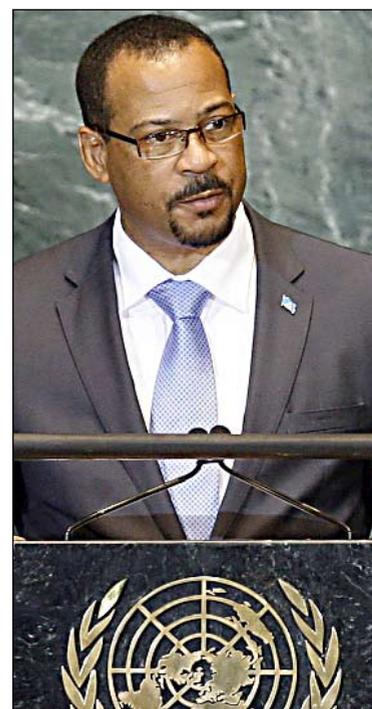
Saint Lucia Wants Urgent Climate Change

Saint Lucia, a founder of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), calls climate change the most serious challenge facing mankind today.

Addressing the United Nations General Assembly, Rufus George Bousquet, the island's Minister for External Affairs, International Trade and Investment, called for an urgent collective response while detailing how his country was working on policies and legislation to develop renewable energy sources, including wind, solar and geothermal sources.

Small island developing states and least developed countries had joined together "to demand, appeal and even beg, if necessary, that the new Copenhagen climate agreement limit temperature increases to the attainable level of 1.5° C, as possibly anything above that will be devastating to our existence," he told the august body, explaining that Saint Lucia was in "crisis-management mode," which had to be part and parcel of sustainable development efforts.

Speaking later during a reception at Saint Lucia's Mission to the United Nations and Consulate General, Minister Bousquet said climate change was already reducing the yield of food producers in



Saint Lucia's Minister of Foreign Affairs Rufus Bousquet Addresses UN General Assembly

Saint Lucia. "The little fisherman who goes out in a pirogue to do his daily fishing and who finds that the fishing stocks are depleted does not understand the reason why it is happening - it may be overfishing in some countries but certainly climate change is part of that," he said, adding that the frequency and severity of hur-

ricanes as well as rising sea levels have damaged small island states. "We did not create the problem (because) our (carbon) footprint is so small ... and we don't have the resources to cope with it at this stage," he said, calling on the donor community to act urgently and meaningfully.

Minister Bousquet, the Parliamentary Representative for the constituency of Choiseul, said being categorized as middle income developing countries has disadvantaged Caribbean nations in attracting resources such as concessionary loans and grants. Other issues that he believes the international community must urgently address include debt relief so that resources can be redirected for the development of the people, the trafficking of illicit weapons through Caribbean waters to the developed world, and deporting criminals back to the Caribbean some of whom now have no connection with the region whence they came.

The Foreign Minister took the opportunity to address nationals in New York and encouraged them to share their knowledge, experience and resources with their home country, in addition to support the rebuilding efforts of St. Jude Hospital, which was recently destroyed by fire.

Stellar Tourism Cast to Descend on Saint Lucia

St. Lucia's Tourism Minister Senator Allen Chastanet is to address media mavens and communications connoisseurs, most of them women, who will converge on Saint Lucia in December, to discuss climate change and tourism outreach to multicultural communities.

Several top communications specialists from the Caribbean, North America and Europe are offering messages of hope and encouragement as tourism rebounds from the global recession in time for the 18th Caribbean Media Exchange on Sustainable Tourism (CMEx) slated for Saint Lucia from December 3 to 7, 2009.

Organizers of the meeting - which attracts travel, tourism, media and government leaders, along with development specialists and the youth - have announced respected public relations counsel and New York University Professor Gail Moaney of Ruder Finn who leads an impressive line-up of top class communicators.



Senator Allen Chastanet, Saint Lucia's Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation

Included are author and motivational speaker Karen Taylor Bass; former CNN vice president and Environmental Editor Barbara Pyle; Image consultant Patrice DaCosta; Lisa-Ann Joseph of Reputation Management Caribbean; social media strategist Pam Perry; Puerto Rican PR professional Nelly Cruz as well as award-winning television executive producer Nancy Gilligan of New York's Barefoot Agency.

Joining the stellar female cast will be CNN Operations Manager Clayton Sizemore; Secretary General of the Caribbean Broadcasting Union Patrick Cozier; and the Caribbean Tourism Organisation's Johnson Johnrose who has been working recently with both Caribbean reporters and tourism executives to hone their communications craft.

"We have been overwhelmed by the response to CMEx over the past several weeks," said Dr. Basil Springer, who serves on the CMEx Board of Directors. "It looks like we

are in shape for an excellent meeting in December which has attracted strong local, regional and international interest, including a youth contingent," Dr. Springer noted, adding that with less than two months to go, the intimate networking exchange is approaching "full capacity".

Also confirmed to address CMEx in December will be McHale Andrew, executive vice president of the Saint Lucia Hotel and Tourism Association; Enrique De Marchena Kaluche, President of the Caribbean Hotel Association; Puerto Rico tourism consultant Terestella González Denton; Fernando William, Chairman of intra-regional commuter carrier WINAIR; Dr. Noel Brown, president of the Friends of the United Nations; and Dr. Robin Andersen, Professor of Environmental Studies at Fordham University.

The theme for the December meeting is "Multicultural Marketing: A Climate for Change."

Sir Dunstan St. Omer to be Honoured by UWI

Local artist and the designer of the Saint Lucian flag Sir Dunstan St. Omer is to be formally honoured by the University of the West Indies this evening.

This will be done at the inaugural graduation ceremony for the Open Campus of The University of the West Indies (UWI) that takes place this evening at the Beausejour Indoor Practice Facility, Beausejour, Gros Islet.

The ceremony scheduled for 5:00 p.m. is the culmination of what UWI officials say is the foresight, hard work and perseverance of many to broaden the scope and deeply embed the work of the University in its constituent communities, to share in the potential, benefits and achievements of the regional university system.

With Saint Lucia being the first host country, the open Ccampus will rotate its graduation ceremonies each year in a different Caribbean country joining the traditional annual UWI graduation ceremonies held at Cave Hill in Barbados; Mona in Jamaica and St. Augustine in Trinidad & Tobago.

During this evening's ceremony, the graduation address will be delivered by Dunstan St. Omer, one of the two honorary graduands who will be receiving academic honours from UWI at



Dunstan St. Omer

the open campus ceremony. Sir Dunstan who is regarded as St. Lucia's leading artist with his major works receiving international recognition, will receive the Doctor of Letters (DLitt).

The other honorary graduand Dr. Peggy Antrobus, is a Grenadian/Vincentian and a lifetime advocate of the role of women in development. She will be awarded the Doctor of Laws (LLD). While at UWI, she established the Women and Development Unit (WAND) within the ambit of the former School of Continuing Studies, one of the antecedents of the Open Campus.

Dr. Antrobus has also facili-

Sir Dunstan is regarded Saint Lucia's leading artist with his major works receiving international recognition....

tated the formation of regional and international organisations, including the Caribbean Association for Feminist Research and Action (CAFRA) and the network of Third World feminists promoting Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN).

Ms. Denise Gordon from Montserrat will be speaking on behalf of the 2009 Open Campus graduands as the Class Valedictorian. She will be receiving the Bachelor of Science in Management Studies with first-class honours at the ceremony. Ms. Gordon graduated from the Montserrat

Secondary School in 2002 as the student of the year.

This inaugural Open Campus Graduation Ceremony will be streamed online. For more information on the inaugural open campus graduation, go to www.open.uwi.edu/graduation.

Coaching Programme Fine Tunes Local Players

Key stakeholders in four of the top sporting disciplines on the island are to benefit from a new coaching programme that will ultimately enhance sports in St. Lucia.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Sports Donovan Williams says the government recently secured funding from the European Union (EU) to produce a sports coaching programme for the four sporting disciplines of: Football, Cricket, Volleyball and Netball.

The programme which is already underway here is first being rolled out in a three month stint that will end in December. Following this initial phase of the project, it is expected that training modules for each sport would be developed and would address levels of development of each game i.e. beginners, intermediate and advanced levels.

Williams said to date sports officials have met with stakeholders as well as sports specialists to discuss how best to improve the targeted sporting disciplines and with a view to establishing relevant training programmes.

Currently, renowned cricket specialist Mark Harper is working with the national team, in preparation for the upcoming Windward Islands Tournament, while international sportsman Daley Thompson participated in the recent programme launch. Cyril Podd of the UK's Sheffield United Football Club Academy is facilitating the football coaching component of the programme.

Speaking with The National Review as to why his department felt it necessary to engage in such workshops, Williams explained: "Our role is to facilitate the development of sports; what we



Minister for Youth and Sports Lenard Montoute, alongside decathlon champion and star athlete Daley Thompson

have observed is the absence in St. Lucia of organized coaching/training programmes at community, school or even at the national level.

"What we do have is not consistent and is ad hoc at best. We felt there was a need for a more systematic approach to sports" he said.

A view that was most certainly echoed by the EU, which he explained does not customarily fund projects of this nature. According to the Permanent Secretary, the sports coaching programme is one of the first to be funded by the international body that went further also providing funding for sports equipment to complement the programme.

Williams added that for the preliminary part of the coaching programme focus will be on the four disciplines which he said his Ministry felt were the most pertinent. "We saw the need to institute this programme in these particular areas – volleyball, football, cricket and netball because we felt they have the least coaching capacity. We also felt that they represent four of the most popular sports in St. Lucia."

Vigie Playing Field Gets Major Sprucing Up!

Sports people from the Castries Basin and even beyond are soon to benefit from a much improved facility catering to most of their sporting needs.

That's when the Vigie Playing field is completed after an intensive 3-month renovation and facelift.

The decades-old playing field that was made up primarily of sand with grassy aprons that catered mainly to football and to a lesser extent cricket in recent years, will be upgraded to the tune of EC\$500,000.

Funded by the government of St. Lucia through the HOPE project, the field upon completion will boast a 2 lane synthetic track for athletes, 3 practice cricket pitches and grassy fields for the avid footballer.

Expected to go into full new and improved mode come the New Year, the Vigie Playing Field will undergo major excavation and drainage works followed by new top soil and grass put in, repairs to the fencing and concrete drains installed.



The Vigie Playing Field under renovation

Why A Value Added Tax

An essential role of government in any country is to provide the appropriate environment for economic growth and development. Government's economic policies must therefore be geared towards ensuring that jobs are created in the economy, at a pace in sync with the maintenance of an acceptable rate of employment, while at the same time increasing the purchasing power of its citizenry, so that their standard of living would be improved or at the very least, maintained. This entails an adoption of the appropriate mix of fiscal, monetary, exchange rate and other policies aimed at increasing employment, keeping inflation low and generating economic growth.

nerability to natural disasters such as hurricanes and volcanic eruptions. The damages sustained by Grenada in 2004,—more than 200 percent of their GDP—attests to this vulnerability. The impact of the current global economic and financial crisis on small economies such as St. Lucia's is a case in point of our vulnerability to external developments.

St Lucia, like all the other OECS islands, is heavily dependent on tourism as the main generator of foreign exchange and a major source of employment. Notwithstanding the fact that the sector has contributed immensely to economic growth, the heavy reliance on tourism could also be

The heightened vulnerability of St Lucia's economy to external shocks can be viewed in the context of the historical shift towards a services oriented economy over the last three decades.

Since the 1970s, there has been an obvious shift from a largely agrarian, to a service-based economy. From the 1980s, the share of agriculture, manufacturing, mining and quarrying (non-services) to a total GDP has declined consistently from 21.6 percent, to 10.9 percent in the period 2000 to 2007. In particular, the share of the agricultural sector fell from 13.7 percent to 4.6 percent of the GDP. Conversely, the relative shares of the services sectors (tourism in



Over the last decade or so there has been a proliferation of various services-oriented skills, for example, entertainment skills, hair dressing and culinary skills, among others. These types of services have varying levels of value added—i.e. the additional value generated in the production of goods and services. The higher-end services such as legal, accounting and medical services generate greater value added compared with that of the lower echelon. These structural changes to the economy have important implications for the generation and distribution of income and spending and how government's policies shape the pattern of income and spending in the economy.

The dominance of services in the economy also has implications for government's fiscal policies. Unlike an economy whose productive sectors are dominated by the production of goods, the tax base of a service dominated economy may be less visible. As a result, an increasing share of St Lucia's tax revenue is generated from service-oriented transactions.

Government's tax policy should therefore be adapted to reflect the changing structure of the economy.

Currently, taxes on imports of goods account for 50 percent of total tax revenue. Given the increasing importance of services in domestic economic activities, coupled with St Lucia's international trade obligations under the Economic Partnership Agreement and the World Trade Organization, public policy should be geared towards restructuring the tax system to better reflect the changing economic circumstances. Further, the current global economic crisis and its negative consequences for the economy

have given added impetus for implementing the required reforms to the tax regime.

For more information, contact: VAT Implementation Project Office, #4 Bridge Street, Castries St Lucia
Tel: 1758-468-1420
Fax: 1758-452-4984
Email: vatcoordinator@gmail.com, vatcoordinator@gosl.gov.lc
Website: www.vat.gov.lc

Currently, taxes on imports of goods account for 50 percent of total tax revenue... the current global economic crisis and its negative consequences for the economy have given added impetus for implementing the required reforms to the tax regime

However, the ability of countries within the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) to successfully implement such policy measures could be thwarted by their extreme openness to external shocks such as rising import prices, falling export prices, reductions in access to concessional financing and inflows of foreign direct investment.

This situation could be compounded by our countries' vul-

nerability—made evident by the current global recession.

As a result, the number of visitors coming to our shores has been declining from September 2008 relative to the same period in 2007. This trend is expected to continue and may accelerate in the coming months, as job losses in the US and UK and other source markets will influence spending on leisure and travel significantly.

particular) have increased from 78.4 percent to 89.1 percent over the same period. Further, tourism earnings account for approximately 68 percent of total exports of goods and services.

The structural changes to the economy have important implications for the type of training and skills required for the labour force as well as the kind of goods and services produced.

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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

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