



NATIONAL REVIEW



GOVERNMENT LOOKS FORWARD TO A SUCCESSFUL TOURISM SEASON

TOURIST ARRIVALS PROJECTED TO INCREASE

The Government of Saint Lucia is deeply committed to ensuring a buoyant and vibrant economy amidst one of the worst economic down turns that the world has experienced since the 1930s. In this regard Prime Minister King and his Cabinet are moving to strategically position the economy of Saint Lucia on the road to recovery through engineering growth, engendering social cohesion and building resilience to external shocks. Tourism no doubt has a key role to play as one of the main pillars in this effort.

The month of February 2010, has seen an estimated growth of 10.3% in stay over arrivals compared to the corresponding period last year. During the same period last year an estimated 25,262 visitors landed on our shores as compared to 27,867 this year. This development has contributed to the island recording an impressive 14.3% growth for the first quarter of this year. Saint Lucia along with

the US Virgin Islands was the only two Caribbean islands recording double digit growth in their tourism industry for that period.

With this trend established Saint Lucia's Tourism Industry appears to be well poised for double digit growth during the summer period of May to August and indeed for the entire year. Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation Senator Hon. Allen Chastanet, noted that the projected growth is attributed to a significant increase in airlift capacity from key markets like the United States which was strategically negotiated to cater to travelers looking for an exciting summer getaway.

According to the Minister, Saint Lucia also stands to benefit from increased capacity from the US Market by some of the major airlines servicing the destination. These include Delta Airlines which is upgrading to a daily service but are also adding two additional morning flights on Saturdays and Sundays. This provides the island with a vital connection to our US

west coast traffic and also rekindles prospects for the once existing market in the Atlanta area. Added to these positive developments, Jet Blue began additional services at the beginning of May with an increase from three to five weekly flights. American Airlines is also coming on board with a significant increase in flights. AA is upgrading to four flights a week out of New York. In addition, the morning flight out of Miami will now be serviced by a bigger 757 aircraft which has an increased capacity of 15 to 188 seats.

Coupled with the positive figures for tourism industry arrivals, the island has been ranked within a top five rating for an investment friendly climate. This assessment has been made by Smith's Travel Research, which is an independent benchmarking company.

Saint Lucia's Minister of Tourism who has the reputation of being a "Go-Getter" is accredited with many of the current successes within the industry today. The Minister has employed a deliberate and ag-

gressive approach to improving the Saint Lucian tourism product. This includes promoting the island in a more profound and systematic manner and utilizing various avenues.

The Minister provided evidence of his strategic thinking in marketing the island and how that relates to the current positive showing of Saint Lucia. Mr. Chastanet presented the following reflection: "Last summer we felt that Mexico would not recuperate. There was an opportunity for us to be able to steal some market share from the United States of America and we went out very aggressively. Once we were able to secure the TV show The Bachelor, we then spent a disproportionate amount of funds on the US market. We did a strong trade campaign in the fall along with a major radio and Internet campaign in the month of November and we saw immediate results from that. Now, following The Bachelor filming in St Lucia we expect to see the rewards."

The US Market has registered strong growth and is recorded as a

major contributor to the overall growth picture. Arrivals from this Market shot up by 37 for the first quarter of this year. Minister Chastanet has expressed his confidence in the growth trend of the US Market. He was recently quoted as follows: "Last year we had 9000 seats a month coming out of the US market. This year we are going to have 20,000 seats. The increase in arrivals are not only better than 2009 but they are now the best we ever had. So we have seen real growth."

It is clear that the hard work of the Government and the Tourism Minister in particular is paying dividends and has created a strong platform for the island's tourism industry to continue on its growth course. The news of Saint Lucia's industry performance is certainly welcomed by all industry partners as well as the thousands of Saint Lucians who gain their livelihoods directly or indirectly from the industry.



Tout Sent Lisyen Se Yonn - July 16th, to 31st, 2010

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2010 Common Entrance Leaders

Celebrating Excellence



Natissa K. Scott of the Camille Henry Memorial School
1st Place Common Entrance



Sundar A. Jawahir of the Carmen Rene Memorial School
3rd Place/one of the two boys in the top ten



Lovelle W. Auguste of the Carmen Rene Memorial School
1st Place Common Entrance



Leon P. Abraham of the Pierrot Combined School
the other male in the top ten

Secondary education provides important opportunities and benefits of economic and social development. Both the public and private sectors make increasing demands for a more sophisticated labor force, which is further compounded by the challenges of globalization and the growth of knowledge-based economies such as ours. It is clear in these modern times, that a secondary school education is as essential to our survival as the air we breathe.

The common Entrance Examination provides a gateway to further growth and development of our vital human resource. Although a sense of anticipation and quiet nervousness may have overcome parents and students, there was much joy and excitement when the results were released.

Of the two thousand, eight hundred and thirty-seven (2837) candidates who sat the examination, 1445 were male and 1392 were female. Of that total two thousand, seven hundred and fifty-two (2752) candidates were assigned to the twenty-three (23) secondary schools, while eighty-five (85) candidates were unassigned.

The coveted title of top performers numbered eleven (11) and came from seven (7) primary schools on the island. This group of candidates comprised nine (9)

females and two (2) males with scores ranging from 95.00% to 92.33%.

Lovelle W. Auguste of the Carmen Rene Memorial School and Natissa K. Scott of the Camille Henry Memorial School tied for the number one spot with 96.67% each and will both be attending the St. Joseph's Convent. Ms. Auguste explained to National Review that she felt so happy, overjoyed and elated to hit the top spot. 'I want to thank my parents and teachers for motivating and preparing me. I want to tell students that they should study hard and always try to do their best in everything, and that even though you do not become number one, still try to do your best all the times'. Lovelle is passionate about helping others and wants to fulfil her dream of becoming a doctor.

The other first place student, Natissa Scott of the Camille Henry Memorial School expressed her sentiments in that she was confident that she could manage the examination and prepared by studying a lot, going over past papers and doing extra work with her mom who is a teacher.

A confident Ms. Scott said, "I feel really good about my score because finally I know where I stand. I feel like I just have to maintain my standard. When I heard my score I was crying because I was

so happy, then I stopped and let it sink in. I feel really excited."

Special mention must be made of the other students in the top ten particularly from the out districts schools. They are Shernia C. Joseph from Ti Rocher Combined/Micoud, Tia K. Joseph of Augier Combined, Nayoka Raymond of Belle Vue Combined, Leon P. Abraham of Pierrot Combined and Kedicia J. Edwin of Augier Combined.

The two males in the top ten namely Sundar A. Jawahir from Carmen Rene Memorial (3rd Place) and Leon P. Abraham of Pierrot Combined (who tied at 10th place) scored 95.67 and 94.00 respectively. Although outnumbered by the females the boys gave a good account of themselves. Sundar A. Jawahir told National Review that he is thankful to God for taking him through to this point and advises young people that the true mathematical formula is: "Prayer + Work = Success". His personal motto is the same as his school which is: "Pray Hard, Work Hard and Play Hard". He believes that there must be a balance between work and play. Sundar is passionate about his favourite sport football being a keen player himself, however he has been juggle the balance and keep focussed on his school work.

Sundar is thankful to his parents

and particularly his three year old brother who always cheered him up when he was tired or feeling on a down side. On the issue of what motivated him to excel to the top he said: "when I saw last year's top performer for the common entrance, I said to myself that when my term comes I want to top the island". "Although I did not come out first I am very happy about my performance". He expresses his thanks to all his teachers from kindergarten to Grade 6, especially Ms. Evans and his lessons teacher Mr. Philip Etienne. He wants to be a Gynaecologist and also the Daren Sammy of professional football for Saint Lucia.

Leon P. Abraham of Pierrot placed first in his school and ranked 3rd in District 6, the area in which his school is located. He says that he has always been working hard and is thankful for the support of his family especially his grand mother. In his own words he admits, "I am very happy that I made it in the top ten and will continue to work hard to do even better. I enjoy playing pools, football and going fishing with family members. I am a hard working student and would encourage the youth to stay focus and always work hard at every thing they do". Leon, who has a love for mathematics (a subject which he excels in) wants to be a

Surgeon, and looks forward to enjoying his school holidays so that he can be ready for the next stage of his education.

The Ministry of Education is indeed pleased that there was an increase of 1.78% in the national mean of 58.82%, in comparison to the 2009 national mean of 57.04%. One thousand five hundred and eleven (1511) or 53.26% of the candidates scored at or above the national mean, while one thousand three hundred and twenty-six (1326) scored below the mean. It is important to note that both males and females attained over 50% mean performances in all the three areas namely English Language, Mathematics and General Paper. Special mention must be made of the Dugard Combined School of Choiseul which placed first among the public schools with 74.93%, while the Tapion Private School top both the public and private schools with 83.56%.

The Minister of Education Hon. Arsene James in his response to the 2010 result stated: "We are pleased that students have this year registered improved performances generally. However there is room for improvement in the area of Comprehension. We need to put measures in place to develop the capacity of students do perform better in this aspect". The story of these young people is one of courage, commitment and focus. With continued guidance and dedication our nation will reap the benefits of prosperity and growth, once the right investments are made in our youth. The discipline of these students serves as a refining fire by which talent becomes ability and skills translated into perfection. This is the recipe from which legends are nurtured and evolve.

The admission by these young leaders, that sport and other forms of recreational activity are key factors in their drive and passion to excellence; is a positive reflection that the sporting and social development programmes pursued by the Government continue to form a key component in the education system and building a holistic society.

There are two ways of spreading light, our nation must be the candle that provides the opportunities for our youth to blossom and the youth must be the mirror that reflects that ray of hope and the joys and rewards that comes with it through sacrifice and hard work.

Judging from the great results we have seen for our youngsters, it is clear that our Nation's story is continuously being written and is one geared towards the path of success and excellence. The Government of Saint Lucia extends congratulations to all successful students in the 2010 Common Entrance exams. In particular Government joins in celebrating the excellence of the top performers.

Prime Minister Stephenson King Begins Islandwide Tours of Schools

Prime Minister Honourable Stephenson King has commenced an islandwide tour of schools on the island with a view to getting first hand information on the conditions under which students and teachers work. Mr King has visited schools from Castries North and was accompanied by a delegation of officials from the Ministry of Education as part of a fact finding mission. The Prime Minister

visited eight schools in the Castries North District over a two day period. The schools visited were: St. Marys College, Sir Ira Simmons Secondary School, the SDA Academy and the SDA Primary Schools, Castries Comprehensive Secondary School, Vide Boutielle Primary and Secondary Schools and the Camile Henry Primary School.

Chief Education Officer Mrs. Augusta Ifill says that a visit of this

nature is vital in order to channel the necessary resources and interventions needed to enhance the educational environment for students and teachers.

During the tour, the Prime Minister explained Government's recognition of the importance of developing the technical vocation aspect of the education system as a means of reaching students who are not necessarily academically inclined. He expressed the view

that Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) will ensure that the system caters to the needs of all students.

The Prime Minister has urged the students to stay focus on school, and stay away from bad influences. He noted that a sound education is essential to succeed in life. The Prime Minister gave the assurance that he is committed to enhancing the services and facilities at all schools on the island.



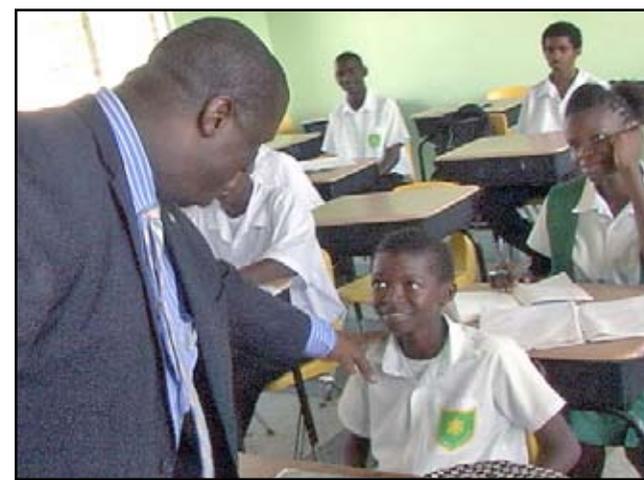
Prime Minister Hon. Stephenson King



Prime Minister King Addressing Students at St Mary's College



Prime Minister meets Admiring Students at Sir Ira Simmons Secondary School



Current Prime Minister King Meets a Possible Future Prime Minister at the SDA Academy

Taiwanese Funding for ICT Computer Lab Schools Project

Transforming Education Possibilities in Saint Lucia

On May 3rd, 2010, the ICT Computer Lab Project funded by the Embassy of the China (Taiwan) was launched. The project has as its goal, the provision of computers for every primary and infant school on the island. Since the commencement of the project until July 1st, 2010 when the project for the first year was concluded, there have been thirty three (33) primary and infant schools all over the country equipped with computer labs. The school labs have been equipped with varying quantities of computers dependent on the size and number of pupils at those schools.

Already three hundred & eighty (380) sets of computers have been installed at secured classrooms in various schools within nine (9) districts. The computer labs have been placed within schools in: Anse La Raye, Babonneau, Castries Central, Castries East, Castries North, Castries South,

Castries South East, Choiseul, Gros Islet, Dennery North, Micoud North, Soufriere, and Vieux North. This computer lab project is based on collaboration between at least four parties, namely the Ministry of Education and Culture, the Embassy of the Republic of China (Taiwan), Mr. Michael Walker and his institution, and LIME.

From the outset Honourable Stephenson King, the Prime Minister, has rendered his strong support for this ambitious project to equip all the primary and infant schools in Saint Lucia with a computer lab in three years, so has Honourable Arsene James, Minister for Education and Culture. All the Principals, teachers, parents and students who have witnessed the handing-over ceremonies of computers to their schools since the inception of the project have expressed their profound gratitude and excitement at the possibilities which this project pres-



Prime Minister King and Taiwanese Ambassador Tom Chou Interacting with Saint Lucia's Future Leaders during the Launch

ents for reaching new frontiers in Education. The main partners on this project are contributing as follows: (1) the Government of Saint Lucia for identifying this project as a top priority and assisting schools to set up their labs, (2) the Embassy of the Republic of China (Taiwan) for its Government's generosity in donating computers and books covering 6 subjects like Math, English, etc, (3) to Mr. Michael Walker for initiating and

making this project possible, and training teachers to be ready to utilize the lab; and (4) to LIME for providing free internet service to the beneficiary schools.

The second phase of this four-party cooperation in education will soon resume in September once the schools which have been identified are adequately prepared both in terms of training and setting up of the basic infrastructure to accommodate the computer

labs as well as satisfying the critical criteria of commitment.

The value of this project cannot be under-estimated as it will certainly contribute to the transformation of education methodologies and potential/opportunities for learning. The Government of Saint Lucia will continue to facilitate the implementation of this project which in it carries the vision of Government to equip each school on the island with computer labs.

Government Ministers and Permanent Secretaries Participate in Retreat on

Good Governance and Effective Public Sector Management



Government Ministers and Permanent Secretaries who Participated in the Retreat



Ministers following closely during their session



Permanent Secretaries in attendance during their part of the Retreat

Government Ministers and Permanent Secretaries participated in a retreat held at the Coconut Bay Beach Resort and Spa, Vieux Fort, during the period June 28, 2010 to July 02, 2010. This is the second such retreat for Ministers and Permanent Secretaries under this current administration.

Over the period April 25 – 28, 2008, Ministers and Permanent Secretaries in St Lucia participated in a retreat held at the same venue, under the theme, Good Governance and Effective Public Sector Management for Cabinet Ministers and Permanent Secretaries. The exercise

aimed to improve the efficiency and accountability of public sector institutions, and create harmony between Ministers and Permanent Secretaries. This retreat was funded by the Governance and Institutional Division (GIDD) of the Commonwealth Secretariat.

As a follow-up to this retreat, the GIDD funded the second retreat for Cabinet Ministers and Permanent Secretaries in St Lucia under the theme "Improving Performance through Enhancing Leadership". This exercise was necessary given the crucial role that Ministers and Permanent Secretaries play in the

public sector transformation process and in setting the vision for National Development. Cabinet Ministers set the policy agenda and are accountable to Parliament and citizens for the performance of their Ministries and the government. Public Servants advise Ministers on policy options and implement the decisions determined by Ministers.

This retreat was particularly timely as it followed the recent passage of the 2010/2011 Budget – a period characterized by great economic and financial uncertainty. Our experience thus far has shown that Budget implementation is rather weak. The

working sessions were geared towards strengthening the leadership, collaboration and teamwork among Ministers and Permanent Secretaries to improve Budget execution.

This retreat was structured differently from the first retreat. The Ministers and Permanent Secretaries were separated initially. Cabinet Ministers attended the first two days (June 28 -29, 2010) while the Permanent Secretaries attended the following two days (June 30 – July 01, 2010). The Ministers and Permanent Secretaries convened on the final day of the retreat (July 01, 2010). The topics covered dur-

ing the retreat include: The role of the Minister in the Ministry, Special Advisers, Cabinet and Permanent Secretaries; Policy Making and Policy Delivery; Performance Management; Service Delivery; Leadership for Senior Leaders; Portfolio Coordination; Public Private Partnerships; The Bill Process – Turning Policy into Law.

This retreat provided Ministers and Permanent Secretaries with opportunities to strengthen their leadership skills and to strengthen the collaboration and commitment among them. Essentially, the interaction provided Cabinet Ministers and Permanent Secretaries with a better understanding of how to effectively work together to achieve strategic objectives for their Ministries and the Government and for the attainment of national goals. Additionally, Ministerial Colleagues and Permanent Secretaries were presented with an ideal platform for sharing experiences and identifying best practices from the Commonwealth that can be adopted locally.

14 Talented Saint Lucian Youth Granted Full Scholarship to Pursue Degrees in Taiwan

More than 80 related people gathered together in the Ministers of Government, Hon. Lenard Montoute, with responsibility for Public Service and Human Resources, Social Transformation, Youth and Sports, and Hon. Arsene James, with responsibility for Education and Culture were among officials gathered at the National ICT Centre in Castries on 29th June, 2010 to attend the awards ceremony for the 2010 Taiwan and International Cooperation Development Fund (ICDF) Scholarship programme. Also present were Hon Dr. Rosemarie Husbands-Mathurin, Speaker of the House of Assembly, Hon, Marcus Nicholas and other senior Government officials as well as parents and families of the beneficiaries of the 2010 Taiwan and ICDF Scholarships.

Both Ministers Montoute and James joined H. E. Tom Chou, Ambassador of the Republic of China (Taiwan), in extending congratulations to the fourteen (14) recipients, seven (7) for the Taiwan Scholarship and the other seven (7) for the ICDF Scholarship. The recipients were challenged to study hard to excel at Universities in Taiwan and conduct themselves like Saint Lucian Ambassadors to Taiwan. Government officials in Saint Lucia and Taiwan are pleased to see that an increasing number of talented Saint

Lucian youth are chosen not only to further pursue academic development in various disciplines, but also to conduct a unique cultural exchange mission. Since the re-establishment of bilateral diplomatic ties between Saint Lucia and the Republic of China (Taiwan) in April 2007, the two Governments have identified education as one of the priorities of their cooperation programme. The Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan) along with other friendly nations have contributed in a significant manner in providing for the training needs of Saint Lucian academics.

Over the last three years we have witnessed a trend of increasing support to Saint Lucian students benefiting from Taiwan and ICDF Scholarships. In 2007 there were four (4) scholarships awarded, six (6) in 2008, nine (9) in 2009 and fourteen (14) this year. It is generally expected that the awards for next year will follow the trend with an increase number of young Saint Lucians selected to undertake these scholarships. This year saw the submission of over 110 applicants vying for the limited placements in 2010. To date some Saint Lucian students have graduated with distinction and awarded Master Degrees by Universities in Taiwan and are moving on to achieve their goals in life.

The Government of Saint Lu-

cia and indeed the scholarship awardees over the years and their families are deeply gratified at the

opportunities granted to young Saint Lucians to contribute in a meaningful way to the progressive

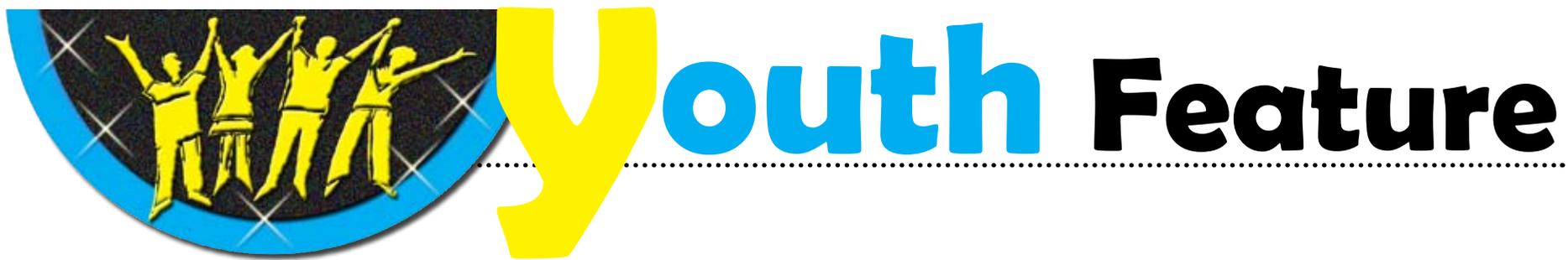
development of our nation. Below is a listing of the awardees for 2010 Taiwan and ICDF scholarships:

Taiwan Scholarship

	Name of Awardee	Constituency	Study Interest
1	Shorn Justin	Micoud North	Master in Tropical Agriculture
2	Tricia Mangal	Micoud North	Financial & Economic Law
3	Lee Joseph	Gros Islet	Mechanical Engineering
4	Phoebe Fedee	Gros Islet	International Relations
5	Mara St Clair	Castries North	Civil Engineering
6	Kennan Cotter	Laborie	Computer science
7	Kerdel Paul	Canaries	International Trade and Management

ICDF Scholarship

	Name of Awardee	Constituency	University	Study Programme
1	Edwin Henry	Castries North	National Pingtung University of Science and Technology	Master in Tropical Agriculture
2	Cresida Bishop	Anse-La-Raye	National Taiwan Normal University	Graduate in International Human Resource Development
3	Vanda William	Dennery North	National Taiwan Normal University	Graduate in International Human Resource Development
4	Germaine Mitchel	Micoud South	National Taiwan Normal University	Graduate in International Human Resource Development
5	Humphrey Regis	Dennery South	National Cheng Kung University	Graduate in Civil Engineering and Management
6	Shanna Emmanuel	Castries South	National Ocean University	Graduate in Marine sciences and resource management
7	Janice Gaspard	Babonneau	Taipei Medical University	Graduate in Health Care Administration



2010 National Youth Parliament

A Positive Showcase of Future Leadership

On Wednesday, June 16 and Thursday, June 17, 2010 the nation's Youth Parliamentarians took their seats inside the House of Assembly in order to participate in the annual Youth Parliament exercise as part of activities in commemoration of Youth Month 2010. Youth Parliament is staged every month as one of the highlights of the annual programme of activities for Youth Month. Although the exercise can be viewed as largely symbolic, its significance in relation to the youth Parliamentarians who participate cannot be underestimated. Youth Parliament serves as a training forum in the art of public speaking and parliamentary procedures. The young persons who participate in this important exercise are given a certain measure of exposure. They are able to give voice to their views and aspirations in the hope that the opinions and sentiments that they express so eloquently and emphatically can impact on and influence Government Policy.

The young people of Saint Lucia took over the House of Assembly for two days with a display of much splendor and panache. The composition of the Parliament for those two days comprised: seventeen (17) youthful members of the lower house and ten (10) youth Senators. Other functionaries and Officers of such as Clerk of Parliament and Speaker also took their positions. The subject of the debate for the special Parliamentary session was a motion of futuristic concern with direct and practical application in our current technological reality.

The motion put forward by the Opposition was "That Government takes immediate steps to introduce legislation to Parliament designed to institute and ensure the protection of all citizens of St Lucia from the criminal injury or damage that would likely be caused from the abuse of technology".

Youth Parliament has several objectives, among them, to provide opportunities for young people to learn about procedures of parliament, to speak on issues of national development that directly concerns them, and most importantly to ensure that young people have a voice in the national decision making process.

This year a bold and forward thinking decision was made to submit the minutes of Youth Par-

liament 2010, to the Government of Saint Lucia. The Ministry of Youth & Sports was charged with this responsibility. This is done with the clear expectation that the concerns, issues and recommendations made by the Youth Parliamentarians will be taken into consideration by the political directorate.

The Youth Governor General Dame' Louise Victor did not hesitate to attend to the urgent matters of business captured within the motion. She delivered a solid throne speech dissecting the diabolic nature and tendencies of cyber crime. Equally as well she did not hesitate to catalogue the usefulness and importance of a world wide internet system which is so vital to our modern mode of communication and interaction.

The Youth Head of State went on to point out that the ills and misuse of the internet in particular. She posited that the internet with all of its tremendous benefits has an evil façade that erodes its true utility value. The Youth Governor General argued that while it is important for the promotion and encouragement of social networking people sometimes became so engrossed that the intended purposes shifted.

Dame' Louise Victor during her address indicated that she was troubled by the flood of information available online, which ranges from everything such as 'how to make a bomb, to how to kill someone without leaving witnesses or DNA behind.'

"That's the power of the Internet, it constructs criminals," she said. "Is that what you'd want your child to be doing to pass time? We rely too much on technology to raise our kids, and almost totally mould their Characters. But, can technology be totally blamed for the behaviour of young people? Should we not be questioning the moral decay so rampant in society? These cyber problems are a manifestation of the true social issues that plague our society."

The real Prime Minister Hon. Stephenson King was present. Prime Minister King made his presence felt by granting the young aspiring leaders his time and attention. The Saint Lucian leader addressed the House noting the significance of Youth Parliament and that his government is committed to giving

value and recognition to the Youth Parliament debate in a meaningful way.

Prime Minister King commended the exemplary performance and conduct of the Youth Parliamentarians and clearly articulated his desire to use the proceedings of the youth debate as an instrument to communicate to "the senior parliament" the thoughts, vision and intention of young people, and allow the Parliament of the land to consider their resolutions and bring them into actual law, and into the consideration of the Parliament.

The youth opposition leader Alisha Ally opened the debate at the first day's sitting and expressed disappointment that the opposition had to be the one to put the motion to the House and in that regard questioned the foresight and vision of the government. She urge members to work together to protect the citizens of St Lucia and stated that it was not the intention of the Opposition to about oppose for opposing sake. She seriously urged members of Parliament to examine the merits of the motion in an effort to see how we can move forward as a nation.

The youth Prime Minister Marcellus Cazaubon, made it very clear that the House of Assembly was certainly not the place for neither political comedy nor partisan belligerence. He went on to state that his "government recognizes the need to protect citizens but we cannot allow passion and emotion to supercede logical thinking, and analytical thinking," he said. "We believe there is a need to protect citizens from cyber crime and computer misuse . . . but we need to recognize the challenges that exist, moving forward and protecting people from cyber criminality." Cazaubon felt that enacting such legislation required immense fiscal and human resource investment that would undoubtedly deepen national debt pointing out that the country was still trying to shift from negative growth.

Discussions range from the need to work at the OECS and CARICOM level to taking preventative measures to deal with the situation. There was much discussion and debate which centered on the use of peoples' images on the internet and misuse of cell phones.

The idea that this motion was introduced by the opposition was seen as an interesting and an instructive development which departed from the norm. Although parliamentary procedure allows for bills to be introduced from sources other than government. This is something that is seldom if at all practiced. It is certainly a new approach that presented new possibilities for our Parliamentary system.

Debate also focused around a heavy reliance or inclination to restrict the use and access of internet thereby allowing for creative misuse of the technology instead of empowering of youth to use the technology. There was also an examination of what obtains in other countries but such legislation was limited and not all encompassing.

The participants all agreed there was evidence of thorough research in the various presentations made during Youth Parliament and that speakers were eloquent and passionate. It was generally felt that the majority of the youth Ministers handled their portfolio very well and that their speeches were well crafted and witty.

The motion for Youth Parliament was carried as follows:

WHEREAS Article Section 40 of the Constitution provides Parliament with the power to make laws for the peace order and governance of Saint Lucia;

AND WHEREAS the application of Internet Technology has evolved whereby it can be available through various mediums including computers, telephones and game consoles;

AND WHEREAS the Government through the Ministry of Education has endorsed the use of the Internet Technology in the national curriculum of public and assisted schools to encourage students to pursue and advance their knowledge and skill to prepare them for the challenges of this technological era;

AND WHEREAS the Constitution of Saint Lucia demands that the Government protects each citizen and that with the exception of section 267 of the Criminal Code of Saint Lucia Cap 3.01 (which deals with Computer Fraud), there is no other law to protect Citizens in Saint Lucia against any abuse relating to the use of the technology;

AND WHEREAS through the lack of adequate regulation on the access and application of this form of technology, there is sufficient evidence to substantiate the abuse of the technology through the creation, storage and distribution of sexual images, photographs and video clips for display to the World;

AND WHEREAS the application of Internet Technology as a form communication has modernized the social, economic and political status of many countries of the world and that its indiscriminate use has caused the introduction of many institutional controls in many countries designed to ensure protection from the misuse by individuals or group of persons;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Her Majesty's Opposition demands that this Government take all immediate steps to introduce legislation to Parliament designed to institute and ensure the protection of all Citizens of Saint Lucia from the criminal injury or damage that will or likely be caused from the abuse of the technology.

Presented to the House of Assembly this 16 day of, June 2010.

Leader of the Opposition

The youth Parliamentarians express much joy, excitement and enthusiasm at the opportunity to address pertinent matters of national significance that could invite the consideration of our nation's leaders. The participants applauded the Department of Youth and Sports for continuing the programme as a regular staple of the annual youth month calendar. They indicated that it not only provided a great learning opportunity through the many training workshops and sessions, but it further cemented the bonds of amity among youth parliamentarians that will last a life time.

The Youth Parliamentarians are eagerly looking forward to addressing the real parliament when the Government Bill on Cyber crime will be introduced as Prime Minister King promised. Youth Parliament 2010 was certainly a successful venture which proved the substance and insightfulness of nation's youth. The Government of Saint Lucia salutes all participants in Youth Parliament 2010.

Eye on the Constituencies

The Member of Parliament for Babonneau Hon. Ezechiel Joseph humbly expressed his gratitude to the people of Babonneau and the surrounding communities for investing their trust in him, as their District Representative. He believes that this is a sacred trust and is committed to working relentlessly to ensure that the constituency develops in a holistic manner.



Hon. Ezechiel Joseph
MP for Babonneau and
Minister for Agriculture, Land,
Fisheries and Forestry

He has plunged immediately to work and has undertaken numerous programmes in an effort to being about much need improvement and relief to the people. To this end a comprehensive infra-structural development agenda was initiated. This led to repairs to major roads which including the Babonneau to La Croix Road and the Alan Bousquet High Way.

A number of community roads have been repaired and constructed including the Des Barras School Road, Boguis Health Center Road, a road in Cacao named after Levern Spencer Road, Morne Du Don/Balata Road, the Aplough link Road between Cabiche and Babonneau. The Balata Laundry Road, the Inner Ti Morne Road, the Popo and Dollar Road in Paix Bouche and the Ital Street Road in Garrard all got due attention. Other road projects included the link farm roads between Chassin and Des Barras and the Comba area.

The community continue to see many developments in the areas of renovations/expansion of a number of community halls. The De Barras and Paix Bouche Mothers and Fathers Hall, the Garrard and Balata Mothers and Fathers Halls were expanded and repaired for purposes of housing Pre-Schools. Work also continued at the Boguis Mothers and Fathers Hall as well as the complete construction of the Plateau Community Hall.

The focus to education remains right on target and a concerted effort has been made to provide computers to a number of schools in the community of Babonneau. Over fifty computers have been given to the La Gare, Boguis, Babonneau and Fond Assau schools as the main beneficiaries of this programme. Additionally an Information Technology Center has been set up in the Fond Assau School while an assembly hall has been constructed in the Boguis School.

In the area of youth and sports development the Member of Parliament was instrumental in re-organizing a vibrant Youth and Sports Council under his leadership. A successful youth awards ceremony was organized to recognize the contribution of the youth of the Babonneau Community in various areas of community life.

Numerous football, basketball and net ball tournaments have been and continue to be organized to promote and develop the sporting talents and enthusiasm of the youth of the community.

A number of playing fields have been refurbished to ensure sporting activities can continue in the community. With support from the European Union the playing surface of the La Gare field is being graded, including commencement works for the construction of changing rooms and sitting accommodation. This was made possible with support from the Government of Saint Lucia through the Saint Lucia Social Development Fund. The lighting

of the field has been accomplished with the support of the Taiwanese Embassy and the government of Saint Lucia. A similar development will be replicated on the Balata field where lights, improvement in surface works, drainage, toilets and change rooms as well as some concrete pitches for cricketers to practice on.

Government has acquired lands at Union Terrace, Cacao and Ti Morne communities to build a multipurpose court and community hall. These lands are currently being surveyed and commencement of the establishment of these facilities is soon to come on stream. In the case of Garrard land has to be acquired for the establishment of a playing field and that will be done during this financial year.

On the spiritual side of things there have been two Gospel festivals designed to develop the spiritual upliftment of the community, where most of the churches participated in the activity.

Health services have seen some major improvements in that the Babonneau Health Center is currently being upgraded to a level four health facility and the La Gare Health Center will be brought to a level two facility. The proposal for La Gare has been approved by Cabinet and lands are being acquired to achieve this. With regards to other projects, land is being acquired in Central Babonneau for the establishment of a Police Station. A Fire Station will be built on Government land in the vicinity of the Babonneau playing field. NIPRO is currently planning and conceptualizing the projects with commencement works expected before year end.

A new school will be constructed to replace the La Gare Combined School under a project of the Ministry of Education funded by the Caribbean Development Bank. The resources are available and contractors are currently being identified. Added to this the Fond Assau School will have a new wing developed to enhance the capacity and service delivery of the school.

There was also a historic development in the establishment the Babonneau District Council under the leadership of Mr. Paul Edgar and that institution has been undertaking a number of community initiatives.

Enhancing the capacity of the community in the area of added value in terms of agricultural production has been foremost on the mind of the Babonneau MP. The old boxing plant was converted into the Fond Assau Agro-Processing Center which will house the newly established Babonneau Rural Women's Group.

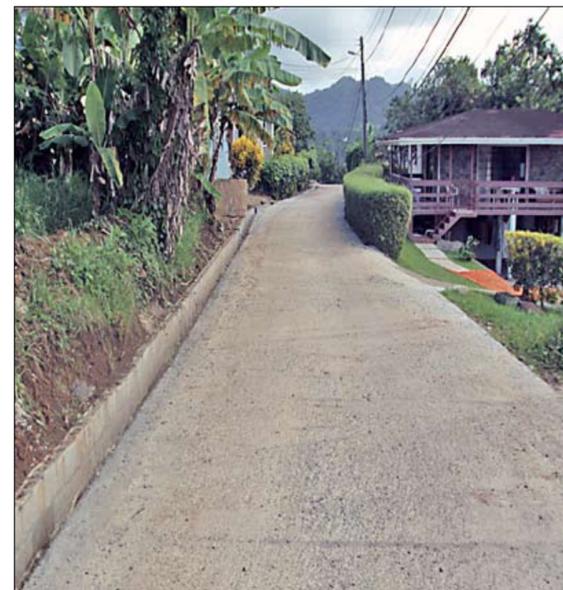
The District Representative expresses his heart felt thanks and appreciation to the constituents for their patience, understanding and

support as they work together for the enhancement and development of Babonneau.

The Member of Parliament is deeply thankful for the support and assistance given to the people of the Babonneau and all Saint Lucian's in general by the Government and People of Taiwan through the Taiwanese Embassy. Their support goes right to the heart of the people contributing to profound improvements and changes in their social and economic condition.



MP Hon. Ezechiel Joseph and Taiwanese Ambassador H.E. Tom Chou at opening of Levern Spencer Drive in Cacao



Levern Spencer Drive



2009 Babonneau Gospel Festival



Presenting field covers to the Balata Cricket Team



Lights on Babonneau Field



Balata Mothers and Fathers Hall



Babonneau District Council with Member of Parliament



Awardees' for the Babonneau 2010 Sports Award



Some Schools which have benefited from computer donations by Babonneau MP Hon. Ezechiel Joseph



Health Outreach Programme



Refurbishment of Babonneau Health Center

Community / Citizens Action

Iyanola Council for the Advancement of Rastafari/IMCS Partners with Government on Crime Peace Concert Initiative

The Iyanola Council for the Advancement of Rastafarians and the Iyanola Multi-purpose Cooperative Society have collaborated with Government as part of the comprehensive strategy in dealing with unlawful acts. The approach is one that is similar to the Peace and Love Initiative forwarded by Hon Richard Fredrick.

The idea of this initiative was born out of a realisation on the part of Rastafarian leaders that they had to act responsibly in upholding the values and principles of peace and love for fellow man which is professed by their faith. The organisations also felt it was critical to come forward and be counted in safeguarding the stability of our beloved homeland.

In order to embark on this mission the two entities chose the medium of music as an avenue to communicate the positive messages of peace and love. A series of peace concerts were planned targeting young people through positive music. The strategy being, to tap into the exuberance

and dynamism of the youth, by channelling these energies into positive expression.

With music serving as the vehicle, a number of local artists have come forward to identify with this effort and to contribute their performances in a campaign which will serve as a weapon in the war on crime. The use of music in fighting crime is certainly not new. The effort undertaken by the leadership of the ICAR/IMCS represents a bold and courageous which Government recognises and appreciates. Government encourages other civil society entities to explore similar efforts as a response to the challenge of crime among us. Such methods run parallel with similar undertakings by the SSDF through its recent "Scoring Goals Against Crime" initiative.

The ICAR/IMCS "Peace Concert" project was launched on May 29th, 2010 in Millet in an effort to harness the musical creativity of our youth in the area. This activity was largely successful



Aaron "Ras Iron" Alexander - President IMCS

and was well attended. This was followed by another hugely successful show on June 26, 2010 in the east Coast village of Dennerly. The next scheduled show is set for July 31st, 2010 in the village of Canaries and will be followed by concerts in Choiseul and Gros Islet during the months of August and September respectively.

This campaign by the ICAR/IMCS has received the support of Community Action Programme for Safety (CAPS), which has allocated some financial support to assist in off-setting the expenses of staging these concerts.

The organizers hope that this programme gather momentum

I.M.C.S
Presents
Music to fight Crime
Birthday splash 2

Music By: A big Sound

M.C Ras Iron & Ras Vision

DADDY TWAN WADADLIE & JONAH

also featuring:

Culture Rebel	Courage
Meshach	Empress Wasin
Ruben	Ityrock
Lightening	Zuki

And Many Surprise Artiste from Dennerly....

Venue : Dennerly Multi Purpose Center
Date : Saturday 26th June, 2010
Showtime : 8:00p.m. onwards

Eats & Drinks on Sale

Lots of Giveaways

Make it a date, don't be late. BE THERE !!!!!!!!!!!!!

Sponsors: Hot Fm, Mayers Printing, Jungle House, C.A.P.S & GUINNESS

and attract the support of private sector interest who may wish to partner with them in this creative venture geared towards bringing about a reduction in incidents of serious violent crime within our

society. Government commends the ICAR/IMCS for their bold and courageous commitment to join Government in the fight against the scourge of crime in our nation.



One of the Artiste Crooning Lyrics of Peace



Performers at one of the Peace Concerts



A section of the Crowd at one of the Concerts

COMMUNITY YOUTH ACTION PROGRAMME

PUTTING A CAP ON CRIME

Creative and People Centred Approaches to Crime Management

The history of the Community Action Programme for Safety (CAPS) goes back to the National Crime Commission which was launched in 2003. During that time period the organization engaged solely in information gathering on crime data to help formulate its platform for a broad approach to dealing with crime. Through that intelligence hot spots were identified and studied as well as an examination of the instances and types of crime committed in various areas in terms of the socio-cultural dynamics.

On the advent of this government it was felt that the time had come to get into action to implement programmes based on the findings, since field research had been ongoing for sometime. This gave birth to a new entity called the Community Action Programme for Safety (CAPS). The safety aspect deals with programmes geared towards the reduction of crime and crime prevention.

Meetings were schedule with deviant youths/gangs, to the extent that a number of gangs were brought together for a football competition, lectures on anger management, conflict resolution, violence etc. These sessions were facilitated by personnel from the Ministry of Social Transformation, RISE and other local experts. The idea was to bring about a difference in attitudinal and behaviour changes through a series of behaviour modification workshops both in the north and south of the island.

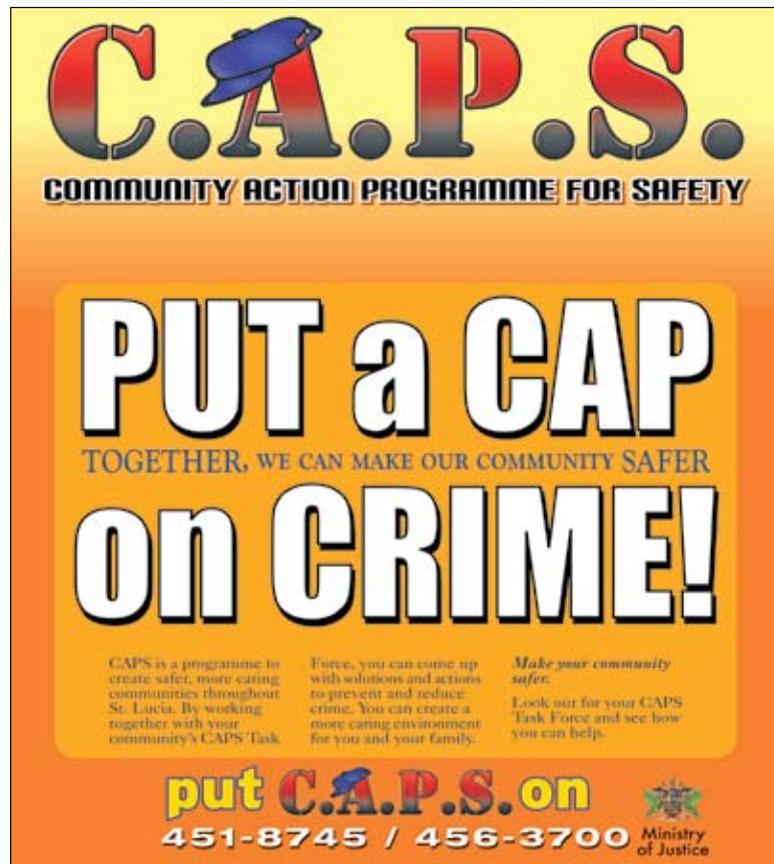
Numerous lectures were organized at various schools such as St. Mary's College, Ciceron, Gros Islet Secondary, Monchy Schools, R.C Boys Schools etc. The churches have requested the support and assistance of CAPS to address their various groups. CAPS is deeply involved in doing the ground work to bring about peace among communities in an effort to reduce crime and violence. Recently, as a result with the work done with the school children a new entity called RAWKY was formed. It means Reach Out and Work to Keep Your community safe. One such group has been launched at the R. C Boys School on June 19th, 2010. They developed a pledge which is now used as the national pledge for the RAWKY Clubs which will be established at all schools island wide.

I a RAWKY member, pledge to try my best

To be courteous, knowledgeable, patient, kind, generous and accepting of challenges and in so doing it is

my hope that I will become a better citizen within my community.

This is to help the kids from an early stage to get involved in doing things that will bring about safety



and respect for each other as well as to urge them to get involved in clubs and other positive social groups to channel their creative energies in a meaningful way.

Workshops and lectures continue through out the island in various communities and in some of the Hot Spots. These workshops addressed the critical aspects of anger management and conflict resolution. There has been some success In Anse La Raye and Monchy where big brothers programmes have been formed. This programme was initiated through the efforts of Magistrate Ann Marie Smith who felt that too many young boys were appearing before the courts and sort to find a way to reach out to them and give them a mentor and role model to nurture and protect them from graduating into seasoned criminals. The idea is to have these young boys assigned to professionals in the various fields of their interest to learn a trade or skill so that they can develop a career and stay out of trouble.

CAPS has also been working with the churches particularly in the Babonneau with a programme called cross of life. Areas addressed include resolving conflict amicably, respect for each other and for authority, managing anger and so on. There was an urgent need to develop a road safety programme called ROADS which means Reach Out and Always Drive Safely. This message is essential due to increase road fatalities which averaged 31 in 2009. The intention is to launch this programme on a big scale sometime in the near future. Youth and children will be targeted dur-

ing the school holidays especially those going to the beaches as there has been a number of incidents of drowning (15-17) last year.

A SWIM for change programme has been launched at the Rodney Heights Aquatic Center for ten weeks every Saturday. The Aquatic Center has permitted the use of the facility as their contribution, St. Lucia Electricity Services (Lucelec) has sponsored the swimming gear and the Ministry of Social Transformation Youth and Sports has provided transportation.

The participants were drawn from at risk areas such as New Village, the Grave Yard, Marchard and Grass Street. Many of these kids are often idle especially during school vacation and often find themselves on the beaches. It was therefore necessary to equip them with swimming skills and techniques and to let them know that there is no where in Saint Lucia out of their reach, certainly not the Aquatic Center.

CAPS is now setting up community safety committees and Neighbourhood Watch Programmes, so that the communities will take charge of their communities. It is a slow process and the eventually it will take root as it unfolds. Meetings are being held in communities all over to get members of communities to be our brother's keep and interact in a manner that should remind us of the old African adage that it takes a village to raise a child. CAPS message is clear that 'if war is the violent resolution of conflict, then peace is not the absence of conflict, but rather to resolve conflict without violence'.



Mr. Linwall James -
Consultant - CAPS

The upsurge in Crime and Criminal activity has raised eyebrows in all sectors of society. The shouts from citizens on the island to do something about this scourge can be heard all over. These shouts have not fallen on deaf ears as is evident by the unrelenting search for solutions to our security challenges. We cannot and must not allow these challenges to overwhelm us. It cannot be business as usual because these challenges are great and stakes much too high.

The time for improving community safety is now. We must make it a priority. We have to come together and act as one unit, because any initiative that is pursued must involve all residents. This partnership of residents, governments and NGOs to maintain community safety will also enhance the quality of life. For this we must forge alliances. If this approach is to achieve the desired results, we have to engage all stakeholders in formulating a strategy which incorporates a participatory approval that will result in the implementation of policies designed to prevent crime as well as reduce violence.

One activity which will engender this participatory approach is the "Neighbourhood Watch" Neighbourhoods are the heart of a community. It is the place where the hopes and dreams of citizens are shaped, where ambitions are cultivated and where lessons of citizenship, community and personal responsibility are learnt. Bringing the neighbourhoods together as one unit or encouraging them to form watch groups, empowers them with the ability to devise strategies to ensure safety in their communities. It also sends a signal that the community is taking steps to improve the quality of life of its members and in so doing ensure safety in the community.

There are a number of benefits that are derived from a Neighbour-

hood Watch:

- In essence it brings the community closer together – community members operate as their brother's keeper.
- It engenders stronger community spirits as people get to know each other and look out for the vulnerable both young and old.
- There is the likelihood of less fear of crime as people are aware of the real risks and are therefore empowered.
- It also engenders a better environment since people have more pride in their surroundings and work together to prevent vandalism.
- Such groups also generate improved services from other organizations as they are seen as a united community.
- There is improved communication between the police and the public; they get practical crime prevention advice from the police.
- Criminals are deterred from entering an area since they know that residents are vigilant and have taken steps to safeguard their prosperity.

It must be noted that the relationships in Neighbourhood Watch groups foster a community spirit and give peace of mind since "Crime is Everybody's Business"

The crime hotline is a critical aspect of the crime prevention strategy and is designed to operate on a 24 hours basis, to allow members of the public to provide information while safeguarding their identity. The public has made it clear that there are major concerns when it comes to reporting incidents of a criminal nature to the police. The number for the crime hotline is 453-9999, a simple and easy one to remember.

Fighting Against Increasing Threats to Humanity (FAITH) is another of CAPS programmes which works with the religious community again to reach out to all in an effort to fight against threats to humanity, thereby contributing to curb crime in one form or fashion. The only way we can get an improvement in living conditions is to change and alter our attitude in a positive manner towards each other.

The organization continues to work with all relevant parties and has a strong relationship with the police, mindful that the current Acting Commissioner is the immediate past chairman of CAPS.

CAPS believes like Carl Thorsen that 'it takes courage and commitment to act in a more forgiving fashion. It is not at all a sign of weakness, but a mark of strength'. CAPS continues to soldier on in its unrelenting efforts to put a cap on crime in Saint Lucia. The agency has undertaken an impressive suite of programmes and initiatives and has now established itself as a key entity in the complex efforts to manage and reduce crime so that peace and love can prevail.

Home Coming Is Here

Home Coming 2010 promises to be a great and wonderful experience when we celebrate success, beauty, national achievement and unique Saint Lucian heritage. The Homecoming 2010 Secretariat and the Office of the Prime Minister enthusiastically invites all Saint Lucians to support Homecoming 2010 activities as we unite with fellow nationals overseas in celebration of our rich, unique heritage and identity. As numerous nationals return home from all corners of the Diaspora for two weeks in July to celebrate all that it means to be Saint Lucian with us, let us cheer on, "Tout Sent Lisyen se yonn!"

Our program of events from July 26th comprises a colorful concoction of culture, talent, corporate and social partnerships, an elegant awards evening hosted by the Governor General, community outings and recreation and indispensable dialogue among the youth of the Diaspora to name a few.

Extremely satisfactory numbers of overseas nationals have registered for this historic event with large contingents from the U.S Virgin Islands, The United King-

dom, Canada, Texas and Miami especially. Though special homecoming rates are being offered by hotels on island, it is indeed a pleasant trend that most returning nationals are opting to return to their communities and to reside with family during Homecoming. The enthusiasm of these nationals to return home during this period to share the experience of our paradise island is extraordinary and is primarily due to the visits by Ambassador Dr. June Soomer and her special delegation to various parts of the Saint Lucian Diaspora over the past two years.

These meetings proved to be extremely informative and engaging as Saint Lucians overseas displayed overwhelming curiosity and interest in the matters pertinent to our island and its development. It was evident from these forums that Saint Lucians overseas longed for such opportunities when they can make direct contact and be kept abreast on our progress by persons such as Dr. Soomer and her colleagues who live and work in Saint Lucia and are currently making contributions toward the advancement of our island.

As the Homecoming Open-

ing Church Service on July 25th rapidly approaches, much excitement is underway as regards the Youth Summit and the major Fashion show scheduled for July 28th where Miss Saint Lucia UK who will be here especially for Homecoming will make a special appearance. This fashion show will be coordinated by award winning local icon, Queen Esther of Kuumba Designs and promises to reflect her genius and eye enticing appeal.

The Partnership fair which will give local businesses and non profit and community organizations an invaluable opportunity to forge partnerships with each other and with Saint Lucians overseas has drawn much support. Approximately one hundred local organizations have booked their participation in this four day even commencing July 26th at the Beausejour Cricket Grounds and all Saint Lucians are invited to view some of the unique products and services offered on our island.

Prime Minister, The Honourable Stephenson King, will hold a special reception in celebration of Homecoming 2010 and on the 27th, of July Governor General,



Her Excellency, Dame Pearllette Louisy, will host an elegant Awards Evening to recognize Saint Lucians who have made outstanding contributions to their country of residence. We have so much to be proud of as a nation, especially the phenomenal impact which Saint Lucians have had and are having on the world stage in the arenas on arts, academics, science, etc.

Let us seize the opportunity which this historic Homecoming

2010 affords us to rekindle our Saint Lucian pride and to cherish our unique identity in this globalised world.

For the complete Homecoming 2010 program, please feel free to request your copy from the Office of the Prime Minister or download it from the homecoming website at www.saintlucianhomecoming.org

**Saint Lucian Homecoming 2010-
July 16th to August 1st**

"Tout Sent Lisyen Sé Yonn"

Black Bay Senior Citizens Home Nearing Completion

The Government embraces the view that society must encourage and reinforce the notion that each citizen is a valuable member of the community and has a special role in our nation's development. This is even more so for our elderly who have contributed as fore-bearers and architects who laid the foundation on which we stand so firmly now. Age is not just a number but is equated with that glorious crown known as wisdom and experience. The quality of a nation can often be assessed by the way it treats its elderly. Government advances the policy that our elderly must be treated at all time with the outmost respect and dignity.

The establishment of a state-of-the-art home for the elderly in Black Bay, Vieux Fort, encapsulates that policy outlook of the Government. The facility which is nearing completion is being built at a cost of EC \$ 6,454,485.65 and is designed in order to bring quality care and service to the elderly who would be housed within its walls. The new home for the elderly when opened will be a source of pride and dignity for our senior citizens and their care givers. The new facility is expected to open its doors during the last quarter of this year.

The facility is equipped with a



The Near Completed State of the Art Senior Citizens Home

special sluice room so that the handicapped can be aided and handled with ease, assisted living centers, two major sleeping blocks, a central multipurpose dining area, a small gift shop/chapel, a garden section and internal court yards. This is not to exclude the administrative section, staff rooms, kitchen, laundry

and toilet facilities. All of this adds up to an impressive facility that provides assurances that a warm and wonderful atmosphere is provided in a manner that is more conducive, healthier and comfortable to accommodate the residents. Additionally the spacious interior allows for sufficient space when families come to

visit their loved ones.

Currently the process of decommissioning the old facility at Soufriere has begun in order to ensure a smooth transition to the new facility. The new senior citizens' home will accommodate approximately one hundred and ten (110) residents in an environment

of tranquility and peace.

The Government of Saint Lucia look forward to the opening of the Black Bay Senior Citizens Home which will usher in a new era in care and custody for our aged citizens. The commissioning of this home will certainly be a milestone for our nation to celebrate.

THE SAINT LUCIA SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

Creating Hope and Opportunities

During Prime Minister King's address to the nation on the crime situation in Saint Lucia Sunday, 30th May 2010, he made it abundantly clear that his government has invested heavily in such innovative programs as HOPE (Holistic Opportunities for Personal Empowerment), in a determined effort to enhance the quality of life for our citizens. The Prime Minister at that time noted: "Already my Government has invested heavily in such innovative programs as HOPE. In a determined effort to enhance the quality of life for our citizens, the marginalized and deprived in particular, we have targeted interventions at the community level, utilizing both local resources and funds supplied by friendly governments and organizations. Inner city communities and rural areas have benefited from such programs".

The Saint Lucia Social Development Fund (SSDF) was established by the current Government as a vehicle to advance the administration's social intervention programmes. Since the launch of the SSDF they have implemented an impressive suite of projects and programmes which have brought direct benefits to disadvantaged youth and communities. SSDF interventions have been channeled through a number of programme departments namely: Basic Needs Trust Funds, Social Assistance, Slope Stabilisation, Koudemain Sent Lisi and HOPE.

The Saint Lucia Social Development Fund (SSDF) is the amalgamation of the Poverty Reduction Fund (PRF) and the Basic Needs Trust Fund (BNTF).

The Ministry of Social Transformation initiated the amalgamation in an effort to streamline the delivery of the services provided by the two agencies.

As an amalgamated entity, the SSDF eliminates the duplication of effort and combines the resources of these two agencies in a single, strengthened, and coordinated manner to reduce poverty and vulnerability of the most marginalized persons and attain social and economic advancement of the Saint Lucian society.

The core mandate of the SSDF is to ensure the delivery of basic services to disadvantaged and marginalized communities in Saint Lucia. This involves implementing infrastructure projects, providing vocational skills training and upgrading, building capacity

and institutional strengthening, and facilitating the construction and rehabilitation of water and sanitation systems and social assistance services, in an efficient, responsive and accountable manner.

The agency's mission is to provide services that will facilitate the highest social and economical well being of disadvantaged citizens and marginalized communities, through beneficiary involvement, the efficient use of resources, fostering social integration, towards social cohesion and national prosperity.

The SSDF's operations are guided by certain core values. These include: (a) Transparency; (b) Gender Equity; (c) Beneficiary & Stakeholder Participation; (d) Community Strengthening; (e) Sustainability and (f) Technical and Financial Soundness.

With these core values in mind the SSDF carries out its work based on an established implementation methodology. The SSDF takes one of the following approaches when implementing a new project:

- Community contracting – where the community is responsible for the implementation and management of the project.
- Private contracting – where independent contractors are hired to implement the project.
- Co-implementation – where the community provides labour in the implementation of the project.

The Development Approach of the SSDF

For decades poor and marginalized people were viewed as the target of poverty reduction efforts rather than stakeholders or contributors to the development agenda. Development experts saw themselves as the sole owners of development wisdom and having all the answers to the problems which faced the poor. Hence they dominated rather than facilitated decision making disregarding and undervaluing the local knowledge and capacity of the local communities to effect positive and sustainable development in their locales.

The predecessors of the SSDF faced challenges but also learnt from these past experiences recognizing that development initiatives which ignore the input and contribution of all stakeholders, particularly, the final beneficiary, usually do not result in benefi-

ciary buy-in and project sustainability. Too often the projects undertaken in communities were vandalized and destroyed while others became nothing more than white elephants. In its efforts to increase the level of beneficiary buy-in and to make projects more relevant to the needs of the communities and in that way ensure project sustainability the SSDF has mainstreamed the participatory and community driven development approaches in its community development initiatives.

Community Driven Development (CDD) is an approach which responds to the needs of individuals and communities rather than imposes development initiatives on these communities. Hence instead of viewing communities and individuals as merely the recipients of aid, this approach treats poor people and their institutions as assets and partners in the search for sustainable solutions to development challenges.

Participatory Development is probably the most utilized term in present development jargon and is an approach which the SSDF utilizes in the delivery of its development interventions. Participation, or participatory development utilises the local knowledge and expertise which exist in a community and engages beneficiaries and stakeholders in all stages of the project cycle through community meetings and consultations. Through those consultations the views and input of all stakeholders are elicited and included in the preparation and implementation of projects. SSDF is committed to the use of this approach as it increases beneficiary buy-in and enhances project sustainability, two factors that are crucial for successful project implementation.

The Saint Lucia Social Development Fund seeks to deliver basic services to disadvantaged and marginalized communities. They also provide support to the poor and the needy, persons with mentally or physical disabilities, the homeless, the elderly and the youth.

The SSDF is governed by a twelve (12 person Board of Director, which comprises representatives of various Government Ministries, women organizations, the Private Sector, Non Government Organisations and Credit Unions. The Board of Directors is chaired by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Social Transformation.

The King administration is clearly rethinking the social agenda



Ciceron Multi-Purpose Court with Flex Surface Finish



Enterpot Foot Path



Bisee Retaining Wall and Drain



Grave Yard Drains



Georgeville Foot Path



Marisule Road



Trou Rouge Stairs and Drains

and is not just limiting it to merely "safety nets", which in and by itself does not achieve the desired overall impact that will adequately redress years of social imbalances.

In this regard the Saint Lucia Social Development Fund serves as a focal point and implementation arm of Government's social intervention strategies.

Public Service Awards - 2010

Celebrating Excellence

The UN Public Service Day was designated on 23 June, 2003 by the UN General Assembly, in its Resolution 57/277. The intention is to celebrate the value and virtue of public service to the community; highlight the contribution of public service in the development process; recognize the work of public servants, and encourage young people to pursue careers in the public sector.

Public Service Award is the most prestigious international recognition of excellence in public service. It rewards the creative achievements and contributions of public service institutions that lead to a more effective and responsive public administration in countries worldwide. Through an annual competition, the UN Public Service Awards promotes the role, professionalism and visibility of public service. The government of Saint Lucia joined the rest of the world in celebrating Public Service Day on June 23rd, 2010. This year the celebration focused on promoting the role, professionalism and visibility of public service under the theme 'Renewing Our Commitment to Improve Public Service Delivery'.

The activities planned for this year's celebration was designed to recognize the valued role that public servants play in bring about improvements in our society. The activities included a wellness walk held on Sunday, 20th June, 2010; an ecumenical service which took place on 23rd, June, 2010; news paper articles, radio and TV shows featuring Public Service agencies as well as on going their roles and functions and initiatives that have led to an improvement in the quality of service delivery, and awards to outstanding public officers.

A Public service fair was held on Friday 9th, June 2010 at the Castries City Hall. The idea of the fair was to encourage young people to pursue careers in the public sector. This provided an opportunity for persons to interact with the agencies of government in a one-stop-setting. The various Ministries/Departments exhibited activities and services that they provide and also use the opportunity to engage the public on any concerns to which they may have with respect to these services.

Awards were presented to officers whose service and dedication has been exemplary based on a set criteria consisting of the following factors: performance, dependability, and the creative display on the job, along with their ability to meet the goals of their respective Ministries. This year the awards are being conducted separately by various Ministries/Departments but the plan

for next year is for a grand ceremony that will cover the entire public service.

The overall purpose of the Public Service Awards is to recognize the institutional contribution made by public servants to enhance the role, professionalism, image and visibility of the public service. The following are the specific objectives of the awards:

- To reward service and motivate public servants to sustain the momentum of innovation and the improvement of the delivery of public services;
- To collect and disseminate successful practices and experiences in public administration in order to support efforts for improvements in country level public service delivery;
- Through success stories, to counterbalance any negative image of public administration, raise the image and prestige of public servants and revitalize public administration as a noble discipline on which development greatly depends;
- To promote, encourage and facilitate networking among institutions and agencies relevant to public administration and strengthen the networks of the United Nations programme on public administration and development; and
- To enhance professionalism in the public service in rewarding the successful experiences in innovations and excellence in the public service.

A committee was established with one representative of every agency of government to coordinate the awards and to set the categories for commendation. These include Most Outstanding Performer, Special Recognition for Innovation, Most Improved Performer, Best Attendance, Long Service and Most Outstanding Department (Unit / Section).

Three Ministries and one Department staged their awards over the past weeks in observation of International Public Service Day, which is commemorated on June 23rd, 2010. These comprised: the Ministry for Social Transformation, Human Resource Development, Youth and Sports; Ministry of Labour, Information and Broadcasting and the Ministry of the Public Service. The Saint Lucia Fire Service also conducted its awards ceremony.

The Ministry of Labour, Information and Broadcasting held its awards ceremony at the Sandals Grande Resort

to award its staff. The winners are chosen from each department and Units of the ministry and the winners are as follows:

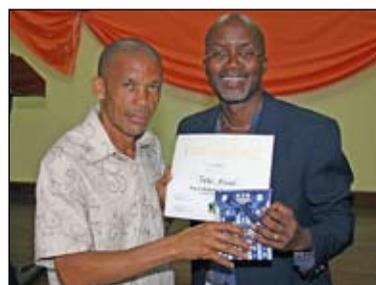
- Most Outstanding Performer:** Mr. Kervin Louisy – (GIS), Mr. Andrew Quashie – (Labour Department) and Ms. Auriela Evans – (Agency Administration).
- Best Attendance:** Mr. Barthelmy Mon Louis – (GIS), Mrs. Cynthia Francois (Labour Department) and Ms. Bernice Esther Fletcher (Agency Administration).
- Long and Meritorious Service:** Gold- Ms. Rose Marie Harris (GIS), Mr. Andrew Quashie (Labour Department) and Ms. Urban Poyotte (Work Permit - Administration)
- Silver –** Mrs. Antoinette Stephens (Labour Department), Mr. Barthelmy Mon Louis (GIS), Mrs. Verena Monbelley (Work Permit - Administration)
- Bronze –** Ms. Cornelius Jn. Baptiste (Labour Department)
- Most Improved Performer:** Ms. Samantha Edwin (Documentation Centre- GIS), Ms. Cyrilla Louis (Labour Department) and Mrs. Agnella Jean- Cox (Work Permit - Administration)
- Special Award for Innovation:** Ms. Lois Jean (Agency Administration), Ms. Dawn George (GIS), Mr. Barthelmy Mon Louis (GIS), Ms. Maria Medar (Documentation Centre- GIS) and Mr. George Melchoir (Labour department).
- Most Outstanding Department:** Government Information Service

The Ministry of Social Transformation, Youth and Sports held its awards on June 24th, 2010 at the Entrepot Human Resource Center with the following individuals being awarded:

- Most Outstanding Performer --** Ms. Theresa Cavalier (Administrative Assistant)
- Long Service Award --** Mr. Peter Flood (Office Assistant)



Special Recognition for Innovation
Ms Lois Jean - Minister for Labour, Information and Broadcasting



Long Service Award
Mr. Peter Flood - MOST Awards

- Special Recognition for Innovation --** Miguel Trim (Youth Facilitator)
- Most Improved Performer -** Kendell Lawrence
- Most Outstanding Department --** Administration

This was followed by the Fire Service Awards on April 30, 2010 where fifteen persons were awarded and was recognized for the St. Jude's Fire which occurred on September 9 2009. There was also an award by the Governor General for Medal of Honour for Bravery and in Hazardous Circumstances which was won by Leading Fireman 316 Peterson Mathurin.

Awardees

Leading Fireman 316 Peterson Mathurin
Subordinate Officer 281 Nicholas Henry
Fireman 516 Mike Moncherry
Fireman 430 Kervine Bicar
Fireman 523 Kimron Badal
Firewoman 505 Doyle
Firewoman 547 Monero

Special Commendation

Leading fireman 183 Francis Gabriel
Leading fm 244 Ligoirus Alexander
Leading fireman 265 Stanley Thompson
Fireman 543 Rohan Lesmond
Fireman 448 Jowin Emmanuel
Fireman 469 Tim George
Fireman 520 Kerten Jankie
Firewoman 578 Mondesir

On June 21, 2010 the Fire Department awarded seven persons for Public Service Day Celebrations.

Awarded for Long and Long and Notable Service

Lfm 130 Hayden Charles
Station Officer Edward Jn. Baptiste
Leading Fireman 146 Victor Jn. Baptiste
Leading Fireman 137 Uosiah Paul
Subordinate Officer 140 Claudius Florius

Outstanding Initiative

Fireman 442 Owen Cazaubon
Subordinate Officer 256 Olsen Peter

The Ministry of the Public Service held it Public service awards in two



Special Recognition for Innovation
Miguel Trim - MOST Awards



Most Outstanding Performer
Ms. Theresa Cavalier- MOST Awards

parts. The first aspect was a Wellness Walk held on June 20th, 2010 and the winners are as follows:

- Mr. Shane Medar – 1st Place
- Mr. Leroy Massey – 2nd Place
- Mr. Gabriel Harrow- 3rd Place
- Ms. Alliah Harrow – Special Award as Youngest Participant (8years old)

On June 25th, 2010 the Ministry staged the second and major component of its awards. Below is a listing of awardees:

- Most Outstanding Performer --** Ms. Alisha Errance (National ITC Office), Mr. Aldean Louis-Fernand (Organizational Development Division), Ms. Verna Augustin (Training Department), Mrs. Cathalina Preville (HR Department), Mrs. Flavia Francois (Administration) and Mr. John Arendel (Security Department)
- Special Recognition for Innovation-** Mr. Richmond Felix (National ITC Office), Mr. Cyprian Alcee (Organizational Development Division), Ms. Verna Augustin (Training Department) and Ms. Irene St. Croix (HR Department).
- Long Service and Meritorious Service --** M. Pamela Cadet (Organizational Development Division), Ms. Jacinta Belrose (Training Department), Ms. Linda Prescod (Security Department), Ms. Flavia Francois (Administration) and Mrs. Margaret Vitalis (HR Department).
- Most Improved Performer –** Ms. Heidi Noel (National ITC Office), Mrs. Augusta Toussaint (Organizational Development Division), Jesse Scotland (Training Department), Mr. Shemaiah Pierre (HR Department), Ms. Gilbertha Prospere (Administration) and Mr. Mario Greaves (security Department).
- Best Attendance –** Ms. Heidi Noel (National ITC Office), Mr. Cyprian Alcee (Organizational Development Division), Ms. Maria Mombelly (Training Department), Ms. Jana Bousquet (HR Department), Ms. Flavia Francois (Administration) John Arendel (security Department).

OVERALL AWARDS OF THE MINISTRY OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE

- Most Outstanding Performer** Ms. Flavia Francois
- Special Recognition for Innovation** Ms. Verna Augustin
- Most Improved Performer** Shirley Hyacinth
- Best Attendance -** Mr. Cyprian Alcee
- Long Service and Meritorious Service** Ms. Jacinta Belrose
- Most Outstanding Department –** (Training Department)

While the Government Ministries and Departments above conducted their awards to coincide with the commemoration of International Public Service Day, other Ministries and Departments who did not do so will be expected to host their awards at different time intervals during the year.

