



NATIONAL REVIEW



GOVERNMENT ADVANCES LEGISLATIVE AGENDA ON CRIME BY INTRODUCING NEW MEASURES ON THE BAN OF CAMOUFLAGE AND PROCEEDS OF CRIME AMENDMENT

The King led administration is focused on and dedicated to improving governmental effectiveness in addressing and managing crime in this country. To meet this objective several approaches and strategies are being employed to mitigate the crime situation including the advancement of the legislative programme of the government. Recently two new amendments were tabled before Parliament. These two amendments namely Ban on Camouflage and Proceeds of Crime Amendment Bill form part of Government's wide ranging assault on crime.

The former is an amendment to the Public Order Act chapter 14.05 of the Laws of Saint Lucia. The Section of particular concern is Section 30, which reads as follows: A person commits an offence who wears in a public place without authority;

(a) An article of clothing made from any of the descriptive pattern material used for making the military uniform commonly called the "camouflage uniform" or any other clothing resembling such as is likely to deceive.

The wording of this section may appear well intending and appropriate, but the use of the phrase likely to deceive is subjective and means that the burden of proof rests with the arresting officer. There in lies the problem in proving in a court of law that the person wears the camouflage with the intention to deceive. This has created an impediment in carrying out the real intent of the section 30. As such Law Officers have been unable to act decisively having the knowledge that it is near impossible to prove beyond reasonable doubt that a person wore



the camouflage with the intention of deceiving.

The amendment which went through all its stages in the House of Assembly on Tuesday 13th July, 2010, addresses this by impediment by removing the wording: "likely to deceive" and, therefore, making it an outright prohibition. This now clears the way for police to act decisively to enforce the ban on the wearing and sale of camouflage material within the state. Subsequently the amended section - Paragraph (a) of sub-section (1) of Section 30 of the Public Order Act Chapter 14.05, now reads:

An article of clothing made from any of the descriptive pattern material used for making the military uniform commonly called the "camouflage uniform" or any other clothing resembling such.

With respect to the Proceeds of Crime Amendment Bill, the purpose of this bill is to amend a previous Bill to permit the prosecution of offenders who are found to have

in their possession the proceeds of crime such as money etc. More recently the Caribbean Financial Action Task force (CFATF) had insisted that its member states including Saint Lucia, enact legislation to control money laundering and as such a number of related Bills have been passed over the last eighteen months.

As it relates to the Proceeds of Crime Amendment number 4 of 2010, the intention is to strengthen that bill so that the state can effectively prosecute persons who are found to have in their possession the proceeds of crime. If a person is dealing in the trafficking of drugs and buys a house it can be confiscated under that law. That bill was passed earlier this year following which it was discovered that there was a slight limitation which had to be addressed.

The act as it stood then did not provide for the police to retain cash that has been seized and is suspected to be the proceeds of

liament at which time Government is expected secure passage of the Bill.

The bill seeks to amend the Proceeds of Crime Amendment to insert a new section (Police Power) which gives guidelines on how seizure and detention of cash should be made. Under this section the police may 'seize and detain any cash in Saint Lucia if the officer has reasonable grounds for suspecting that it directly represents any personal proceeds from criminal activity or is intended for criminal use. Under the amendment confiscated cash cannot be held beyond 48 hours unless the continued detention is authorized by an order from a magistrate.

The amended section, 29A, addresses matters of seizure and detention of cash. Such an order must not exceed three months beginning with the date of the order and that further detention is allowed providing that the total period of detention must not exceed two years from the date of the order.

The introduction of these two amendments related to camouflage material and proceeds of crime are part of what is intended by Government to be an aggressive and ongoing programme involving the review, updating and introduction of new legislation which would strengthen and position law enforcement Officers to augment their assault on crime. Members of the public and police officers in particular will all welcome the new legislative ammunition provided through these two amendments. Government assures all that it will continue on its aggressive programme of legislative review as part of its commitment to confront crime in Saint Lucia.



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

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New Attorney General Promises Aggressive and Dynamic Approach

Mr. Lorenzo Rudolph Francis was sworn in on Tuesday 20th July, 2010 as Saint Lucia's new Attorney General and Minister of Justice, in keeping with Section 27(2) (e) of the Saint Lucia Constitution Order 1978. It was upon the advice of Prime Minister King to Her Excellency, the Governor General, that the former Attorney General relinquished his position as Attorney General and Minister for Justice with effect from Friday July 16, 2010, paving the way for the new AG's appointment.

The Prime Minister further advised Her Excellency in accordance with Section 24(2) (a) of the Constitution to appoint Mr. Lorenzo Rudolph Francis as a Senator, to replace former Senator, Dr. Frederick. Francis' appointment to the post of Attorney General and Minister for Justice is pursuant to Section 60 (4) and 62 of the Saint Lucia Constitution Order 1978.

Government Press Secretary Mr. Danley Lebourne said that, 'the appointment of Mr. Francis as a Senator and Minister is consistent with the objective of exposing

new and younger persons into the process of governing the country and bringing new ideas into government'.

The new Attorney General holds a BSc in Economics and Accounting with post graduate qualifications in Management. He has served the public of Saint Lucia at the Treasury Department, as an Accountant at the Ministry of Education and at the Inland Revenue of the Ministry of Finance. Francis played a critical role in restructuring the Inland Revenue Department, examining the legislation, regulations, formulas and procedures.

His academic career was followed by extensive tax accounting training in Canada, from which he moved to the post of Acting Deputy Comptroller of Inland Revenue.' I realized that at that level and given my age I needed to expand my horizon and I knew that one day I would like to serve my country in the Parliament, so I basically prepared myself for higher national service'.

His decision to pursue legal studies was a result of his interaction with Sir Vincent Flossac a for-



The Attorney General Lorenzo Rudolph Francis takes his oath

mer Chief Justice and President of the Court of Appeal of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court, who convinced him of the need for expertise in the areas of corporate and tax law. This is when he proceeded to study for a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree and later specialized with a Masters degree (LLM) in Tax and Corporate Law from the prestigious London School of Economics.

While in the UK, Francis lectured at East and West London University, City Banking College and the University of Leicester.

He has also taught at the University of the West Indies and the Sir Arthur Lewis Community College.

He has gained regional experience in both the legal and tax administration arenas, having served in various capacities in Barbados, Trinidad, Saint Kitts and Dominica.

Senator Francis acknowledges that he has a serious responsibility and says he intends to focus on putting in place structures for the proper functioning of the Attorney General's Chambers.

As a matter of urgent priority the department of the Civil Status Registry and the High Court will be strengthened. A collective and consultative process with the staff will be undertaken to bring speedy resolution to outstanding and pending matters in order to improve the general delivery of services to the public.

Senator Francis is looking to take a different approach to court matters. He believes that cases with a less than 40% chance of success should not be pursued and alternative dispute resolutions should be explored. Such an approach would speed up the conclusion of matters outstanding from the Attorney General's Chambers.

The Attorney General says his small but experienced staff can be confident that they are being led by someone who will not hesitate to stand up for them when it is justified but who will also not be afraid to pull them up when they fall short or breach the laws of the public service.

As a signal of his proactive and aggressive stance, the Island's new Chief Legal Advisor and Minister of Justice has presented a nine point broad Plan of Action to address areas of concern and priority at this time. The nine point plan of action includes the following: (1) Restructure the Attorney General's Chambers to function more effectively as a legal chamber, bearing in mind that the Attorney General is the Chief Legal Advisor to the Government; (2) Be more strategic and timely in responding to litigation. This would involve pursuing the option of settlement where it is determined to be in the best interest of the state; (3) Improve the public image of the Attorney General's Chambers; (4) Restructuring of the Civil Status Registry; (5) Restore public confidence in the Civil Status Registry; (6) Protection of the Judiciary; (7) Facilitating efficiency in the court system; (8) Improving working conditions for Magistrates; (9) Ensure that the Attorney General's Chambers provides the best legal advice to the Prime Minister and Cabinet of Ministers.

Senator Francis says he is humbled by the opportunity to serve his country and looks forward to improving service delivery to the public. The debonair 47 year-old is father to Jodi, Jada and Jai, and husband of Cheryl Francis who heads the Corporate Sales Department at Lime St. Lucia Ltd. The Government of Saint Lucia welcomes Senator Hon. Lorenzo Rudolph Francis to his new position. Government looks forward with confidence and high expectation to the tenure of its new team member.



Governor General Dame Pearlette Louisy signing document during the swearing in ceremony

Government Supports the Establishment of a National Fisher Folk Organization in St. Lucia

The agricultural sector remains a key pillar in the economic tripod of the nation and contributes meaningfully to the Saint Lucia's development. Through the fisheries sub-sector that growth is poised to take on new dimensions. Prime Minister King in his budget address for the Financial Year 2010/2011, in an all encompassing theme, "The Road to Recovery: Engineering Growth, Engendering Social Cohesion and Building Resilience to External Shocks", highlighted the performance of the fisheries over the past year. During his budget address Prime Minister King noted the following: "The performance of the fisheries industry was buoyed by the deployment of additional fish aggregating devices, resulting in a 9.6 percent rise in fish landings to 1,870 tonnes in 2009".

The Secretariat of the Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) in its efforts to promote co-management of fisheries within the Caribbean region embarked upon a capacity building programme during the period 2003 -2004. A regional study examined the organizational strengths and weaknesses of existing national and primary or community based Caribbean fisher folk organizations. Results revealed that fisher folk organizations suffered from challenges of weak management skills, insufficient access to information and limited communication and advocacy skills.

Upon the recognition of these shortcomings and the need to apply remedy there was a recommendation emanating from a regional workshop held in Belize in October, 2004 that as part of this programme a Regional Network of National Fisher folk Organizations would be established. This proposed body would be comprised of National Fisher folk Organizations (NFO) in the Caribbean region establishing relationships and linkages to form this network geared towards capacity building and institutional strengthening among the fisher folk organizations. It would require at least 50% of the ACP countries + 1 establishing their own national fisher folk organizations.

The overall objective of the National Fisher folk Organizations is to improve earnings, foster higher standards of living of fisher folk and sustainable use of fishing resources in the Caribbean. In July 2007 the Government Fisheries Department in St. Lucia would facilitate the Secretariat of Regional Fisheries Mechanism's consultation to launch a national fisher folk organization in St. Lucia. This consultation would form part of the Government's programme at capacity building and institutional strengthening of fisher folk organizations aimed at

developing the fishing industry in St. Lucia.

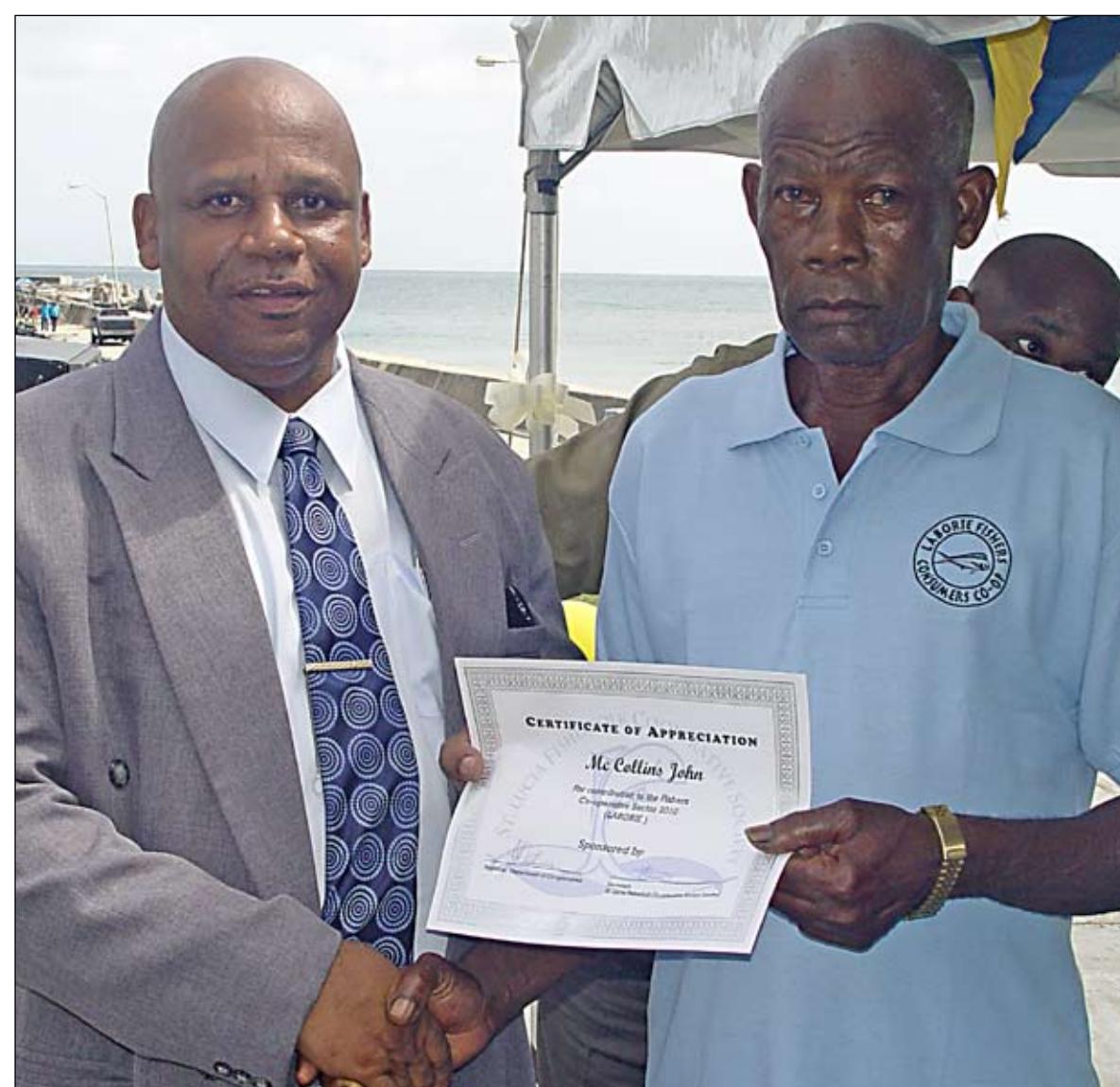
Government recognizes that the fishing industry which makes a significant contribution to the GDP in most CARICOM member states is underestimated and pledged in its developmental plan to improve the fisheries industry. Fisheries are a major contributor to food security, employment, income and foreign exchange earnings. As part of this development plan Government has improved the fishing facilities in a number of the fishing communities, such as Anse La Raye and Choiseul and, have increased the rebate on petrol to assist the fisher folk in its continuing efforts to improve the fishing sector.

The national consultation captured the views of fisher folk, regulators and practitioners of co-operative legislation. This consultation recognized that the Government's Department of Co-operatives had already spear headed an initiative to establish a national fisher folk organization. Five out of a registered eight fisher folk co-operative societies had already ratified decisions to establish this type of organization. Consequent upon this it was agreed that these five primary fisher folk co-operatives would seek registration as a national or secondary co-operative society to function as a representative body for all primary fisher folk co-operatives in St. Lucia.

The function of this body would be advocacy, institutional development and training of primary fisher folk organizations, representation on bodies such as the Fisheries Advisory Committee, bulk purchase of fishing gear and material, and participation in activities to conserve and manage the fishery resources.

St. Lucia Fisher folk Co-operative Society Limited secured registration as a body under the St. Lucia Co-operatives Societies Act Cap. 12.06 on September 21st, 2007. The main operation of this society is as follows:

- a. Promotion, development and provision of services to fisher folk co-operatives connected to the welfare and occupational activities of their members pursuant to their economic growth and participation in the fishing sector and the sustainable use of fishing resources.
- b. Sale of inputs/commodities used by members pursuant to (a) above.
- c. Promotion and processing of approved products to generate sale within local market segments and possible for export.
- d. Training of co-operative members.



Minister of Agriculture Hon. Ezechiel Joseph presents certificate to a rep. of one of the member Cooperatives

- e. Supply of products and services and engage in consultation, forums and activities relevant to laws governing marketing of fish products and use of fishing resources.

The objects of the society are to promote the economic and social interest of its members and specifically to:

- a. Promote the organization and development of fisher folk co-operative in St. Lucia;
- b. Enhance improvement of the fishing sector and living standards of fisher folk;
- c. Carryout collective supply of services and purchase of fishing inputs which will benefit individual fisher folk societies and their members through economies of scale.
- d. Safeguard the common interests of its members;
- e. Raise capital, funds or loans for the objects of the Society;
- f. Associate itself with other registered societies and related regional and international agencies for mutual concerns;
- g. Undertake such other activities that are consistent with the operations of the Society, the economic and social interests of its members, their

community and promotion of the co-operative movement in general;

- h. Invest in or carry out allied economic activities which will serve the economic needs of members;

- i. Provide whenever necessary, representation at all bodies touching or connected to the interest of the Society;

- j. Device and carryout programmes for production, marketing, planning and regulations to assure improvement of standards, regularity of supply and income generation of members.

- k. Promote and engage in activities of education, technical assistance and research which will benefit members and the general operation of the Society;

- l. Do all such lawful things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the aforesaid objects.

Membership in the St. Lucia Fisher folk Co-operative Society is opened to all registered fishermen's co-operative societies operating in St. Lucia. Currently the membership consists of the following registered fishermen co-operative societies: (1) Castries Fishermen

Co-operative Society Limited; (2) Choiseul Fishermen Co-operative Society Limited; (3) Dennery Fishermen Co-operative Society Limited; (4) Soufriere Fishermen Co-operative Society Limited; (5) Gros Islet Fishermen Co-operative Society Limited; and (6) Anse La Raye Fishers and Consumers Co-operative Society Limited.

The St. Lucia Fisher folk Co-operative Society Limited was formally launched on the 27th June, 2010 at the Department of Fisheries, Vieux Fort Fishing Port in Vieux Fort. The launching ceremony was addressed by Prime Minister Stephenson King and Minister of Agriculture, Land, Fisheries and Forestry. Government continues to develop and support this co-operative likewise all co-operative endeavors in St. Lucia through its established Department of Co-operatives which is charged as part of its mandate in administering the Co-operative Societies Act to stimulate, encourage and develop co-operative association throughout the island. Government welcomes the formation of the St. Lucia Fisher folk Society Limited and looks forward to working closely with this new entity towards progressive growth and development of the sector.

2010 Common Entrance Examinations Results and Data by Key Categories

The Common Entrance Examination results revealed that of two thousand, eight hundred and thirty-seven (2837) candidates who were processed for the 2010 examination, of these, one Thousand four hundred and forty-five (1445) were male and one thousand three hundred and ninety-two (1392) were female.

Two thousand, seven hundred and fifty-two (2752) candidates were assigned to the twenty-three (23) secondary schools. Eighty-five (85) candidates were UNASSIGNED. This assignment was done because their average composite scores do not fall within the range of scores for the secondary schools of their choice.

Performance by Sex

Of the students assigned to secondary schools, 49% were females and 51% were males. Both males and females attained over 50% mean performances in all the three areas namely English Language, Mathematics and General Paper.

	Males	Females	Total
Number Sat	1445	1392	2837
Number Scoring at & Above the National Mean	664	847	1511
Number Assigned	1396	1356	2752
English Language	National Mean 53.05	63.10	57.98
	Standard Deviation 20.11	15.89	18.84
Mathematics	National Mean 56.05	62.96	59.44
	Standard Deviation 25.09	21.71	23.74
General Paper	National Mean 56.20	61.97	59.03
	Standard Deviation 19.27	16.57	18.22

The national mean performance in each subject area is shown in Table 3. English Language and Mathematics recorded an increase in performance in this year's examination. Mathematics recorded the highest national mean of 59.44%, which represented an increase of about 4% over last year. English Language recorded approximately 5% increase while the General Paper recorded a decline of approximately 4%.

National Mean Performances In Subject Areas For 2010, 2009 & 2008

SUBJECT AREA	YEAR 2010	YEAR 2009	YEAR 2008
English Language	57.98	53.25	52.610
Mathematics	59.44	55.32	46.130
General Paper	59.03	62.54	59.603

In the General Paper, all subject areas recorded means of over 50%. In Mathematics, all sections of the multiple choice paper (Rational Numbers, Number Concepts and Whole Number Operations, Measurement and Geometry and Money and Graphs) and Problems-Part 1 recorded mean of over 50%.

In the English Language, all areas with the exception of Comprehension recorded mean of over 50%. Overall, the highest mean of 72.7% was recorded in Number Concepts and Whole Number Operations while the lowest mean of 42.6% was recorded in Mathematics-Part 2.

Performance of Candidates in each Subject Topic

SUBJECT TOPIC	MAXIMUM RAW SCORE	MEAN	STANDARD DEVIATION
Social Studies	30	17.85	6.49
Science and Technology	30	17.16	6.09
Health & Family Life	20	11.19	4.87
Study Skills	20	12.83	3.95
General Paper (Total)	100	59.03	18.22
Mathematics Problems - Part 1	40	22.90	10.60
Mathematics Problems - Part 2	10	4.26	3.22
Number Concepts & Whole Number	10	7.27	2.20
Rational Numbers	15	8.88	3.73
Measurement & Geometry	15	9.17	3.72
Money & Graphs	10	6.96	2.58
Mathematics (Total)	100	59.44	23.74
English Part 1 - Comprehension (Main Idea)	10	4.89	2.96
English Part 2 - Composition	30	15.70	6.34
Spelling	10	6.58	2.46
Word Usage	10	6.62	2.10
Punctuation	10	6.84	2.29
Vocabulary	10	5.28	2.51
Reading 1	10	5.84	2.36
Reading 2	10	6.25	2.23
English Language (Total)	100	57.98	18.84

Top Performers

The top performers for the 2010 Common Entrance Examination are disclosed in Table 5. These eleven (11) candidates 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%.

RANK	NAME	SEX	PRIMARY SCHOOL	SCORE %	ASSIGNMENT
1	Lovelle W Auguste	F	Carmen Rene Memorial	96.67	St. Joseph's Convent
1	Natissa K Scott	F	Camille Henry Memorial	96.67	St. Joseph's Convent
3	Surabhi Gupta	F	Tapion Private	95.67	St. Joseph's Convent
3	Sundar A Jawahir	M	Carmen Rene Memorial	95.67	St. Mary's College
5	Jaycie P Dalson	F	Bonne Terre Preparatory	95.00	St. Joseph's Convent
6	Shernia C Joseph	F	Ti Rocher Combined (Mic)	94.67	Vieux Fort Comprehensive (A)
6	Tia K Joseph	F	Augier Combined	94.67	Vieux Fort Comprehensive (A)
6	Nayoka Raymond	F	Belle Vue Combined	94.67	Vieux Fort Comprehensive (A)
9	Leeann D Charles	F	Dame Pearlette Lousiy	94.33	St. Joseph's Convent
10	Leon P Abraham	M	Pierrot Combined	94.00	St. Mary's College
10	Kedicia J Edwin	F	Augier Combined	94.00	Vieux Fort Comprehensive (A)

Schools' Performance

A total of the seventy (70) schools wrote this year's examination. Thirty-six (36) schools attained means above the national mean. Thirty (30) of these schools were public and six (6) were private. Table 7(a) and Table 7(b) reveal the schools with means at and above the national mean while Table 8 presents the performance of all schools for the 2010 Common Entrance Examination

Schools with means at and above the National Mean

PUBLIC Primary Schools	No. Sat	Mean Performance (%)	PUBLIC Primary Schools	No. Sat	Mean Performance (%)
Dugard Combined	9	74.93	St. Aloysius R C Boys' Primary	108	62.44
Camille Henry Memorial	101	70.80	Canon Laurie Anglican Prim.	87	61.84
Carmen Rene Memorial	125	70.73	Piaye Combined	21	61.49
Dame Pearlette Lousiy Prim.	153	69.93	Ti Rocher Combined (Mic)	27	61.22
Plain View Combined	84	68.20	La Ressource Combined	14	61.19
Derniere Riviere Combined	19	66.84	Pierrot Combined	47	61.16
Riviere Doree Combined	14	66.64	Balata Combined	30	61.08
Laborie Girls' Primary	23	65.77	Bexon Combined	40	60.96
Ti Rocher Combined (Cas)	13	65.72	Desruisseaux Combined	41	60.94
Les Etangs Combined	18	64.93	Bogquis Combined	12	60.69
Forestieri Methodist Comb.	13	64.85	Canaries Primary	32	60.46
Reunion Primary	22	63.67	Fond St. Jacques Primary	38	60.25
Ave Maria Girls' Primary	169	63.51	Millet Primary	29	60.21
Roblot Combined	13	63.44	Mongouge Combined	21	59.98
Mon Repos Combined	26	62.58	Delcer Combined	27	59.17

TABLE 7(b)

PRIVATE Primary Schools	No. Sat	Mean Performance (%)
Tapion Private	9	83.56
Montessori Centre	12	79.81
Bonne Terre Preparatory	16	79.79
Castries SDA Primary	15	68.71
L'Abeyee SDA Primary	13	64.77
Emmanuel SDA Combined	12	61.58

As the global economy rapidly changes and new technologies are introduced, more highly skilled workers are required. In the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), the private sector continuously face the challenge of getting workers who are adequately trained to meet the required skills set. This occurs while the number of unemployed low skilled workers is growing. This paradox especially affects youth. Even during recent economic booms, youth unemployment has remained high, indicating a mismatch between skills acquired in school and the critical skills demanded by the labor market.

The World Bank reports that there is a clear need for more relevant education and training to prepare young people for the demands of work. In this context, the OECS governments are seeking ways to foster economic growth and competitiveness and strengthen their human resource base. How we pursue this as a government and people will determine the future of the entire Caribbean region in all aspects of enterprise, development and civilization. The Government of Saint Lucia is committed towards the realization of improved and sustained educational standards and performances.

Mean Performances For All Primary Schools - continued

School Code	Name of Primary School	No. Sat	No. at and Above the National Mean	Mean Performance (%)	Standard Deviation
42	Roblot Combined	13	8	63.44	13.26
31	Roseau Combined	43	9	44.49	18.14
46	Saltibus Combined	17	9	52.49	18.90
34	Soufriere Primary	93	22	43.77	18.51
04	St. Aloysius R.C. Boys' Primary	108	65	62.44	21.10
26	Tapion Private	9	9	83.56	8.57
12	Ti Rocher Combined (Castries)	13	9	65.72	14.60
57	Ti Rocher Combined (Micotud)	27	15	61.22	20.46
67	Vide Bouteille Combined	65	23	54.15	16.48
48	Vieux Fort Primary	106	53	56.56	21.28
90	Vigé Primary	6	3	46.22	24.00
91	Other	3	2	56.00	32.25
TOTALS		2837	1511		



Youth Feature



Mr. Jermile Daniel, CEO, The Cell A Visionary and Pioneering Youth Entrepreneur

The 2008 Entrepreneur of the Year Jermile Daniel points out that progress and success are not only the product of hard work and relentless effort in forging forward, but also stems from an understanding of the definition of one's self. He finds wisdom in Shakespeare (Hamlet) "This above all: to thine own self be true...." He explains that there must be that key ingredient of believing in yourself and having faith in your talent, creativity and abilities. For it is with some reasonable measure of confidence in your own powers, success will not stray too far from your path. As we liberate from our own fears, our presence liberates others.

With a sound grounding and background in economics and management (UWI), Mr. Daniel immersed himself in accounting services for a local building contractor. While employed in that enterprise, he got engaged in selling downloaded music as a side hustle.

His involvement with the National Skills Development Center (NSDC) as a Research Specialist provided him with a sound grasp of the labour market as well as the training needs assessment offered to the island youth from the center. This also provided him with key and vital information that was

instrumental in inspiring ideas for him to embark on new and bold business ventures.

The liberalization of the telecommunications sector in Saint Lucia and the region saw an end to monopoly control, high costs of services, low quality of services, limited access to technology and telecommunications infrastructure. With that also came universal service to ensure the widest possible access to telecommunications services and products at affordable rates, and to enable the freedom to communicate over an efficient and modern telecommunications network. Fair competition practices by discouraging anti-competitive practices by telecommunications providers; and increased penetration of usage of telecommunications services, provided a window for new opportunities to be nurtured.

Daniel points out that after reading the book Rich Dad, Poor Dad by Robert T. Kiyosaki it completely changed his view of life and in particular money. At a trip to Miami he saw the case fittings for several phones and thought that he would certainly like to get involved in supplying such a product to the Saint Lucian public.

For Jermile that opportunity could not be missed and led to the

birth of his new creation, The Cell (St. Lucia) Ltd. With support and assistance from family members the first phase of business was initiated with overwhelming response from the public. He however notes that the greatest support came from Ms. Myia Samuel, who not only provided unwavering emotional support and motivation but managed the local operations which enabled him to expand regionally. The new and unique service in retailing mobile accessories was done from a 200 square foot mobile phone shop.

The evolution in the retail of mobile accessories immediately got the attention of Digicel, in which the market grew exponentially resulting in a need for more locations. Jamal thought to himself that if KFC can have many outlets, Michael Chastanet could expand all over and people like Dennis O'Brien could accomplish so much over the years, then there must be a way he could do it as well. Three months later ushered in an expansion of two new outlets including a major Digicel Flagship on Jeremie Street in Castries.

As an ardent supporter of regionalism the Cell's CEO plunged head on into five (5) Eastern Caribbean territories namely Grenada, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, Barbados and Guyana

and is a fore runner as the largest mobile chain and Digicel partner in the Caribbean.

'Partnering with Digicel' says Mr. Daniel, 'is wonderful and I share their vision and direction in which the company is headed in terms of its people centered approach to growth and development'.

The young CEO Guru is extremely proud of his professional and dedicated team which is a tightly knit group that goes above and beyond to achieve its mission. His advice for young potential entrepreneurs as an example of what contributed to his success is as follows: (1) Dream – visualize your life like you'd want it to be and create it; (2) Never say "I can't". Instead ask yourself "how can I?" (Block out negativity); (3) Stay Focussed – there are plenty of opportunities out there if you're paying attention; (4) Stay Hungry

– Maintain the tenacity and aggressiveness that you had growing up; (5) Believe in yourself and (6) Most importantly – Despite all the potential success in the world, family and loved ones are still more fulfilling.

Jermile also admits that he has grown stronger in his spirituality and believes that one must remains very focused on the road to success. He notes that you cannot be in business by having one foot in and one foot out. As Mr. Daniel puts it 'at some point you just have to jump off the cliff and grow your wings on the way down'.

National Review asked Mr. Daniel where next he was headed, he responded 'with continued focus, direction and hopefully luck, forward'. Mr. Daniel is certainly a success story that other young persons in Saint Lucia can emulate. He can no doubt serve as an inspiration to Saint Lucia's youth.

Eye on The Constituencies



Honourable Rufus Bousquet
Minister for External Affairs,
International Trade and
Investment, and Parliamentary
Representative for Choiseul

Choiseul MP and Minister for External Affairs, International Trade and Investment, Honourable Rufus George Bousquet sat with National Review to discuss matters relating to the constituency of Choiseul. He pointed out that Choiseul seems to be one of the largest and most diverse community in Saint Lucia and in his own humble view; there is an urgent need to address the tribalism that exists at the community level. This is critical so that we can tap and harness the collective talents, skills and abilities of our people on a whole. Within the various districts and small communities there are numerous infrastructural and other undertakings that need to be accomplished, whether it is a four mile stretch of road starting in Sauzay going to Debreuil, Morne Tete, La Maze and so on.

Each one of these communities sees themselves as unique and distinct from each other and that is not to say that there aren't inherent peculiarities and special qualities among them. What is surprisingly lacking or absent is that very few

people see themselves as Choiseul's first, instead most see themselves as members of their individual communities first and foremost.

This leads to a situation where the demand of each individual community multiplies to the extent that each community desires its own playing field for example. This often leads to a serious lack of cohesiveness and unity at the community level. What is needed is for us as a homogeneous set to avoid situations which generates tension among community members where one community does not want the other to use certain facilities whether it is a playing field or any other community facility. This naturally places tremendous pressures on the Government to meet these mounting expectations.

Choiseul though charmingly beautiful, seriously needs an infrastructural upgrade as there are many areas in the constituency where the infrastructure is less than desirable and was not attended to for a long time. The approach by the MP in the first term is to improve and enhance the infrastructural landscape of the community. This has led to the construction of bridges, foot paths, drains, im-

provement in a more consistent water supply, sports and youth development initiatives, refurbishment of roads and community facilities in the case of Mongoue and so on. Hon. Bousquet points out that although all of these individual achievements are important there is much more to be done.

The people of Choiseul are creative and industrious and eke out an existence as artisans, farmers, micro-entrepreneurs etc. Consequently there is an urgent need to generate and develop economic activity in the area to sustain the livelihoods of the people. That is what the MP sees as bringing him the greatest satisfaction and he is working on this with every ounce of energy in his being.

In this regard the prospect of a Hotel in the community will contribute to employment creation and provide a stable economic base within the community and surrounding areas.

The MP views the evolution of Choiseul in holistic manner and not just one that is confined to the engagement of individual initiatives that are seldom linked and interwoven in the entire fabric of the society. He remains mindful that

health care, education, the arts, recreation and economic opportunity are among the myriad factors that influence a community's quality of life and that community improvement does not happen by accident. He explains that it happens when local citizens plan and work together cooperatively and inclusively along with the necessary leadership support which takes ideas from plans to final realization of the vision.

In this regard he views economic development in a holistic sense as a process which includes raising the standard of living and quality of life for all residents through higher-skilled jobs and diversifying the local economy in a sustainable manner thereby developing the social capacity of the entire society. The broader goal of national development of the country as a whole is of paramount importance if we are to realize the benefits at the community level.

Honourable Rufus Bousquet is particularly thankful to the people of Choiseul for the support and confidence that they have placed in him to take charge of their affairs. He thanks the Government and People of the Republic of China on Taiwan, for the support and assistance given to the people of Choiseul for the many programmes and projects initiatives undertaken in the Community and at the national level for the benefit of the country as a whole.



Donation of Wheelchair to Morne Sion Senior



Common Entrance Recipients of Laptop and Printers



Choiseul Secondary School Principal receiving Intercom system



Donation of cheque to Choiseul Secondary Youth group



Newly lighted Court at La fargue



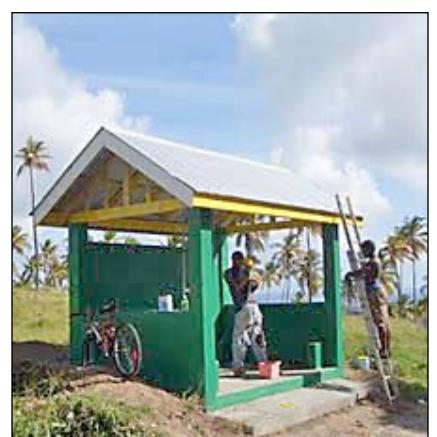
Village Court



Delcer Irrigation Project



Donation of cricket gear to Fiette Youth Group



Construction of Delcer Bus Shelter



Commencement of the La Maze road



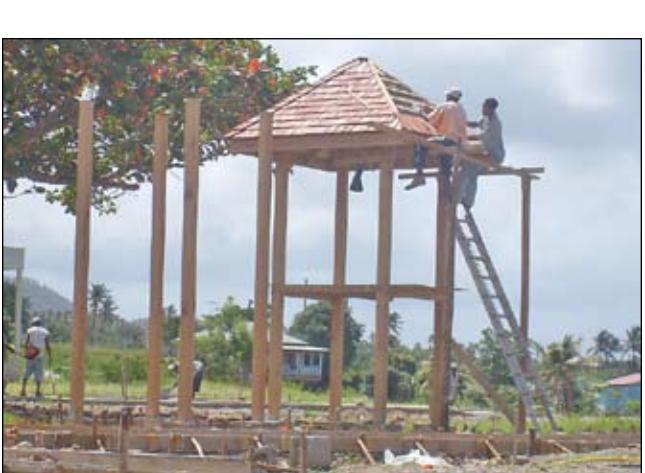
Footpath in Industry



Launching of carnival



Upgrading of Caffiere Playing Field



Construction of Children's Playground



Strategising plans for a drive-way at Morne Sion



Drainage works in La Fargue



Community/Citizens Action

Hyperbaric Chamber Donation



Photo of donated equipment

The Saint Lucia Hyperbaric Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing state of the art Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT) services to the residents and tourist population of Saint Lucia and the region on an emergent, elective and long term care basis.

The Hyperbaric Chamber was donated to the people of Saint Lucia by Ms. Barbara Perfect a resident who now leaves in Choiseul. The equipment is located at the Tapion Hospital and is available for use by the Saint Lucian public. The Chamber represents an additional treatment modality for patients in St Lucia who suffer with certain conditions.

Ms. Perfect recalls that a group of people had been trying to get a chamber here for about 15 years but were unable to do so due to insufficient funds. As she puts it, "I have been coming to this Island since 2002 and in 2006 was introduced to diving and became certified. Upon learning that there was no chamber on this Island, I decided that we needed one for all of the divers for their safety and mine. In the US, Hyperbaric chambers are in most major hospitals. I knew they were for the treatment of the bends or DCI and for burns. In fact it is the only treatment for the bends; which can be very painful and can lead to paralysis and or death".

This resident of Saint Lucia who has fallen in love with our beautiful island explained how she felt compelled and determined to se-

cure this vital piece of equipment for the benefit of the country she had now made her home land. She therefore used her Philanthropic spirit towards that end. Ms. Perfect was able to convince her sister Pat to come on board by matching her financially. In that way they were able to come together to purchase the Chamber as a gift to the people of Saint Lucia.

Having secured the Chamber, Ms. Perfect came together Mr. Kai Wulf, who was at the time, the manager of the Soufriere Marine Management Area in Soufriere in an effort to form a local committee. It was determined sometime afterwards that the Tapion Hospital was the best Institution to place the equipment as it had doctors who were trained in Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy. The chamber which was acquired has the capacity to treat up to five (5) persons at the same time.

The Hyperbaric Chamber was purchased from the German manufacturer "Gussow" and was only used twice in Austria for digging tunnels through the Austrian Alps. The fact that it was slightly used and almost new, meant that Ms. Perfect was able to secure the equipment at a reduced cost. She managed to negotiate an arrangement with the Tapion Hospital which graciously offered a rent free building for three (3) years on their premises. The St. Lucia Hyperbaric Society was formed soon after. She explained that the goal of the Association is to have the Government

and or Insurance companies subsidize the cost, so all St. Lucian's can benefit from use of the chamber.

The St. Lucia Hyperbaric Society needs financial support, so we can become what we are striving for: "To serve all of the people of St. Lucia. That no one should be turned away for lack of funds".

The Chamber was installed at the Tapion Hospital in August last year. The equipment is likely to benefit three (3) subsets of patients most, Divers (Bends and Arterial gas embolism), diabetics (ulcers and infections) and Sickle cell patients with ulcers. The other conditions are more rarely encountered. To date we have treated several local and foreign divers with dive related issues and a few diabetic patients as well.

Hyperbaric chambers are used to deliver hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT) which was developed to treat underwater divers suffering from decompression sickness (the bends). It has since been approved by the Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society for numerous conditions including:

Acute/Emergent - Cyanide/Carbon monoxide poisoning; Cerebral arterial gas embolism; Decompression sickness; Exceptional blood loss anaemia; Necrotizing soft tissue infections (necrotizing fasciitis); Gas gangrene; Crush injury; compartment syndrome; Reattachment and suturing of limbs; Peripheral ischemia, including compartment syndrome; Thermal burns; Brown Recluse spider bite.

Chronic - Actinomycosis; Enhancement of healing in selected problem wounds; Compromised skin graft flaps; Radiation necrosis; Refractory osteomyelitis; Refractory mycoses

Research - Closed Head Injury; Traumatic Brain Injury; Cerebral Palsy/Stroke; Near Drowning; Myocardial Infarction (heart attack); Chronic Fatigue (in HIV)

Saint Lucia has high rates of diabetes and sickle cell disease thereby underlining the importance of the facility to the country. By providing these services, a higher standard of care will be enjoyed by all residents. At the same time, Saint Lucia will be a more competitive tourist destination for the rapidly growing, safety conscious, sport diving market.

Saint Lucians will benefit tremendously from having such a long awaited facility on the island, which will avoid the high cost of travelling overseas where such treatments are required.

The traditional use of a hyperbaric facility or recompression chamber, as it is commonly known in the dive fraternity, is the treatment of dive accidents; when divers exceed the limits and body tissues become over saturated with nitrogen, an inert gas which forms bubbles in the blood stream upon direct return to the surface. In severe cases, this condition, decompression sickness or "the bends" can cause paralysis and even death if not treated immediately. The chamber, which is basically a pressure vessel, works by gradually increasing and then decreasing air pressure around the body, thereby allowing to re-dissolve the bubbles and to breathe off excessive nitrogen levels under controlled conditions. When planning a dive vacation, many individuals chose their destination based on the availability of a Hyperbaric facility.

What is Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy?

The new green medicine - Recently Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT) has become an emerging medical specialty whose scientific basis, while supported by over 6000 studies, continues to be explored. We like to call it "Green Medicine", using the air we breathe to heal the body and restore the soul. With HBOT, one breathes 100% oxygen at pressures (baric) greater (hyper) than sea level atmospheric pressure, which enhances the body's natural healing virtually risk free. HBOT is a medical treatment that helps the body heal itself by mak-

ing oxygen available to body tissues or organs that because of illness or trauma are not receiving an adequate supply.

Therapeutically, HBOT has a positive effect on the central nervous system (the brain); it reduces swelling, repairs the blood-brain barrier and stabilizes cell membranes. It increases the ability of white blood cells to clean up damaged areas, and ultimately creates a whole new supply of blood vessels via angiogenesis. Much of the damage associated with injured tissue occurs when blood supply comes back into the injured area - white blood cells (the soldiers of the immune system) activate inappropriately. HBOT reduces this injury by preventing such activation. Also, if the damaged tissue is the brain, for example, HBOT can be used immediately to deliver the necessary oxygen the tissues require to stay alive, control the damage and promote healing.

Today HBOT is approved for use in air embolism, blood loss, bone infections, burns, carbon monoxide poisoning, smoke inhalation, crush injuries, skin grafts, gangrene, soft tissue infections, intracranial abscess, non-healing wounds, radiation tissue damage and decompression sickness. Other conditions that show evidence of HBOT value as a treatment include stroke (cerebrovascular accident), head injury (cerebral edema/coma), cerebral palsy, bone fracture, acute retinal artery occlusion, migraine & cluster headaches, chronic fatigue-syndrome (CFS), sports injuries, AIDS, sickle cell anemia crisis, acute spinal cord injuries, multiple sclerosis (MS), Lyme disease, diabetic neuropathy, colitis, diabetic foot ulcers, and plastic / reconstructive surgery (preparation & recovery)

The use for the hyperbaric chamber is critical for Saint Lucia as a key tourist destination given that the diving subsector is of major importance, as the Caribbean accounts for a significant portion of corals globally. Additionally, it will save lives as modern medicine is finding ever increasing uses for the use of the hyperbaric chamber.

The people of saint Lucia will now have an added facility that will assist in providing treatment to them at an affordable cost and will not have to travel overseas for that kind of medical assistance thanks to the benevolence of Ms. Barbra Perfect. The Government of Saint Lucian expresses its appreciation to Ms. Perfect for her kind gesture of goodwill and community spirit.

Cuban Government Provide Medical Specialist to Assist with Retinal Eye Complications and Diabetic Foot Ulcers

In January of this year Prime Minister King headed a five person delegation on a five day official state visit to the Republic of Cuba. The Prime Minister was accompanied during that visit by three Government Ministers including the Minister of Health Hon. Keith Mondesir. During that visit the Minister was very aggressive in negotiating a number of assistance packages from the Government of Cuba to Saint Lucia. The Minister on his return continued to work assiduously towards the realisation of the much needed medical support from the Cubans.

Now it appears that the hard work of Minister Mondesir is about to produce tangible benefits. A team of medical experts from Cuba are due to visit Saint Lucia during the month of August, 2010 to conduct a number of national clinics for the treatment of diabetic foot ulcers and retinal eye detachments. Based on the Ministry of Health's plan, these clinics will be established to cover all medical districts within the

north, south, east and western parts of the island.

The Cuban team is expected to consist of two (2) experts from the Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology Centre in Havana and an Ophthalmologist. The Experts who will be attending to diabetic foot ulcers are expected to conduct clinics over a two week period, while the Ophthalmologist will be treating patients for a period of two to three weeks.

The Ministry already has a database of persons who have been diagnosed with retinal complications. Hundreds of Saint Lucians are expected to undergo corrective surgery during clinics to be conducted by the Cuban Retinal Specialist. The Government of Saint Lucia plans to continue such clinics by Cuban Retinal Specialist on a periodical basis. Government is hoping that it would have the services of Saint Lucian doctors who would be training through the Cuban Scholarship programme in this area of specialisation. The vision of the Minister of Health is that Retinal Surgeries will in the not to distant future be conducted by Saint Lucian Specialist at

recently established Cuban Eye Centre of Excellence located at the Victoria Hospital.

The intervention by the Cuban Medical Experts in relation to diabetic foot ulcers will be of a ground breaking nature. The idea is to determine the effectiveness of a product called Herberprot P in the treatment of diabetic ulcers.

Herberprot P is an injectable formula that steps up the cicatrization of deep and complex ulcers, thus reducing the number of surgical operations (amputations), possible complications like gangrene and infections. Additionally it avoids the high costs derived from long term hospitalization as well as bringing about an improvement of the quality of life and the functional recovery of patients.

Statistics indicate that 85 percent of amputations can be prevented, while 70 percent of those surgeries are applied on patients suffering from diabetes, a disease affecting some 19 million people around the world.

Diabetics tend to have problems with healing of sores, so for such

individuals the programme seeks to provide them with treatment of Herberprot P. Daily treatment and care will also be provided to aid in the healing process thereby reducing the possibility of amputations.

Currently the Ministry of Health is contacting all registered or known patients with diabetic ulcers within the public health system, to inform them about the programme by soliciting their input on a voluntary basis. People with other forms of foot ulcers who are not diabetics will not be accepted in the programme at this time.

Thorough examinations will be conducted on those who are qualified for the treatment while follow up treatment will be given to the patients as well as training in caring for their wounds. Regulation supervision and examination of the ulcers will be undertaken to monitor the state of progress. Depending on the rate of success the programme will be expanded to cater for individuals with other types of foot ulcers. Following conclusion of this initial intervention a determination will be made

on the feasibility of conducting these clinics in Cuba or Saint Lucia.

In addition to the provision of direct treatment to those patients, the Cuban medical officials will also be training our local health professionals on the use of the medication as well as other aspects of diabetic foot care. The Ministry of Health and indeed the Government of Saint Lucia is thankful for the continued assistance provided by the Government of Cuba in the area of medicine and health care. The impending visit of the three (3) Cuban Medical Experts will be awaited eagerly by many Saint Lucians who will be expecting to benefit from the generosity of the Cuban Government. The Minister of Health must be commended for his relentless work in ensuring that hundreds of Saint Lucians with diabetic foot ulcers and retinal complications, who would otherwise not have access to such services, can benefit in a manner that would improve their lives in a meaningful way.



Prime Minister
Hon. Stephenson King

Prime Minister King Steps in to Rescue Pre Carnival Mas on The Square



Thousands of appreciative patrons enjoying entertainment at the event



Superman in high definition performance

Saint Lucians have grown used to Mas on the Square as a major Pre Carnival event which serves as a sought of "warm-up" ahead of the main Carnival events. Mas on the Square this year was in jeopardy of being erased from the calendar of events due to sponsorship problems experienced by the event Organiser over the years. Prior

to 2010, the event had been staged for fifteen consecutive years and as such had become an important tradition and appetizer which served to nurture and stimulate the carnival feeling among locals and visitors alike. Mas on the Square could essentially be described as a vital ingredient which added flavor to the bouyon that is Saint Lucia Carnival.

Prime Minister Stephenson King mindful of the void that would be created with the absence of this event stepped in to assure Saint Lucians that they would not be without that Carnival tradition that they had become so used to. Through collaboration with the Saint Lucia Home Coming Secretariat, the Office of the Prime

Minister, Lucian Mas Events and the Cultural Development Foundation a plan of action was put in place to stage what would be titled Home Coming Mas Jam.

The event was held over a five day period and featured popular performers and a range of exiting acts. Home Coming Mas Jam 2010 was quite a revelation and

turned out to be a massive success with thousands turning out to patronizing the event. Carnival enthusiast - Saint Lucians and visitors alike were no doubt deeply appreciative of Prime Minister Stephenson King for his timely intervention to save the traditional Pre Carnival Mas on the Square.



Government takes the Lead in Facilitatting Comprehensive Review of Saint Lucia Carnival

The Government of Saint Lucia is mindful of the many challenges which presented ahead of and during the Carnival festivities this year. These challenges were a manifestation of fundamental concerns and issues, which need to be addressed in order to ensure the sustainable development of the Carnival product. Government thinks that it critical at this juncture to take the lead in facilitating a comprehensive review of Saint Lucia Carnival. Government is firmly aware of its responsibility to tax payers to ensure that the investments made in Carnival are applied in an efficient and strategic manner. Government is convinced that there is need to determine a clear vision and "road map" for Carnival in the immediate future. Government has taken note of the rich and insightful debate related to the staging of Carnival 2010. The Administration has therefore taken the decision to channel this discussion into a productive framework for the benefit of all. This will take the form of an organized and structured forum with the goal of ensuring that a comprehensive strategy and plan of action is arrived at.

Towards this end, the Government of Saint Lucia has decided on the following:

1. To commission a consultancy that will conduct an in-depth and comprehensive study of Saint Lucia

Carnival. This would involve the preparation and submission of a report that will include the formulation of recommendations for future planning.

2. The staging of a National Symposium which will target all key stakeholders, interest groups and resources agencies/persons including representatives of: Carnival Bands, Calypso, Private Sector/Sponsors, Community Carnival Organisers, Marketing Agencies, Steelband, Musicians, Carnival Enthusiast, etc. This symposium will focus on discussing the Consultant's report and will also undertake an evaluation of Carnival 2010. The major stakeholders will be encouraged to present discussion papers that will guide discussion at the Symposium. One of the major outputs of the proposed Symposium would be a plan of action for "The Way Forward" that would pave the way for development of viable and sustainable carnival product.

The Government of Saint Lucia assures all Saint Lucians of its commitment and support for the growth and development of Carnival and Creative Industries. This commitment has been evidenced by the unprecedented allocation of EC \$1. Million towards Carnival festivities over a three year period, 2007 to 2009. Government extended this support by providing a further allocation of EC \$1. Million for Carnival 2010.

In addition to its support for Carnival, Government in the past months provided a sum of EC \$437,533.53 to the Cultural Development Foundation for the payment of outstanding debts. Government has also provided support to various local artiste amounting to EC \$441,962.17 under the special allocation of \$1.5 Million for assistance to Creative Industries.

The Government of Saint Lucia commends all Saint Lucians for their support in ensuring the success of Carnival 2010. Despite the planning and organizational challenges which surfaced, Government is gratified by the high level of discipline, enthusiasm and participation displayed by Saint Lucians. Government is further pleased by the fact that the 2010 Carnival was conducted largely incident free. Government takes this opportunity to also commend all those who worked assiduously to ensure the smooth execution of Carnival 2010. These include: the Police, the Staff of the Cultural Development Foundation, Castries City Council Sanitation Workers, Carnival Band Leaders, the Executive of the Interim Calypso Association, Judges and all other major contributors.

Government is appreciative of the input made by all these entities. We look forward to the further support and participation of all as we seek to chart the way forward for a viable and sustainable Saint Lucian Carnival product.



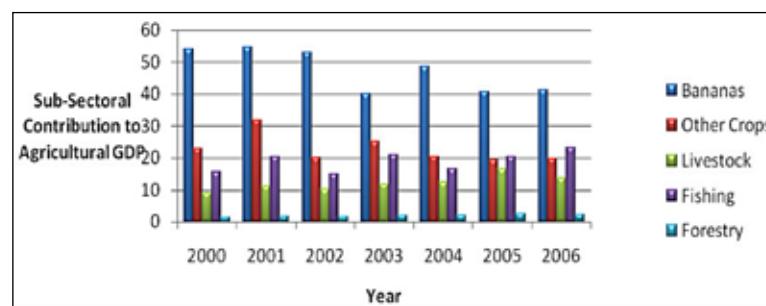
Construction of National Meat Processing Facility Underway in Beausejour, Vieux Fort

In keeping with the diversification and expansion of the sector the Government of Prime Minister Stephenson King has initiated a Meat Processing and Marketing Facility, to encourage the growth and development of the livestock sub sector along with the marketing network to supply hotels, supermarkets and community based distribution outlets. The new facility will assist in increasing local production, productivity, processing and marketing of meat in a viable and sustainable manner through a financially and economically viability meat processing and marketing facility. The facility which will be located at a 2.98 acres site adjacent to the Dairy farm at Beausejour, Vieux Fort is being funded at a cost of EC\$12.5 M of which the Government of China (Taiwan) is contributing EC\$8 M while the Government of Saint Lucia is committed to the remaining EC\$4.5 M.

The objectives of the facility is to improve food security and the nutritional status of the population, create additional employment opportunities in rural communities, and contribute to the improvement in the balance of payments by import substitution and to increase viable diversification through the livestock sub-sectors and primary production enterprises.

Agriculture remains a key sector contributing to Saint Lucia's national economy by its share in total GDP, its foreign exchange earnings, and its role in supplying savings and labor to other sectors. The Livestock subsector, as part of the agricultural sector is small and dominated by the poultry and pork industry. The subsector contributes approximately ten to fifteen percent (10% to 15%) to the agricultural Gross Domestic Product (GDP) which has steadily declined over the last five (5) years but continues to play a significant role in the country's socio-economic development by playing a multi-functional role in earning foreign exchange, generating employment, and contributing towards economic growth and food security. In 2002, for instance, the sector accounted for 5.62% of total GDP, compared with 3.08% and 3.20 and importers of meat and meat products % in 2005 and 2006 respectively (Figure 1). Agriculture's contribution to total GDP for the period 2002 to and the contribution of the various sub-sectors including livestock to total agricultural GDP.

A national abattoir will assist in providing greater monitoring (disease surveillance) and control in the slaughter of animals for consumption, among other things and will contribute to better quality in local meat production and ultimately lead to increased local consumption. In a nutshell, the facility will serve as a catalyst for the growth and development of the livestock sector.



For the period under review, the graph (Fig 2) shows growth in the relative contribution of the livestock, fishing and forestry sub-sectors; the relative contribution of the "other crops" sub-sector fluctuated over the period with a tendency to decline. However more rapid growth of the livestock subsector remains limited mainly due to the following:

- Absence of quality standards of production processing and marketing.
- Competition with cheap imported livestock products.
- High cost of production inputs.
- Access to credit by the agricultural sector for investment and working capital.

At present St Lucia has an increasing population of over 160,000 people and the demand for meat from pigs, sheep, goat, cattle, broiler and rabbit enterprises exceeds production / supply. The market spectrum ranges from higher priced quality fresh meat products for all income groups to lower priced edible offal also used by all income groups. Therefore to significantly meet the demand through local production and reduce the food import bill the following should be considered:

1. The growth in pig and broiler production should be aided by a very good carcass price to meal cost ratio.
2. Ruminants have potential for growth in view of the favorable climate and potential for production based on grass and bush legumes efforts to protect small ruminants from dog attacks and stock theft are necessary.
3. Rabbits are a relatively small enterprise and their true commercial potential should be ascertained.
4. A meat slaughtering and processing facility is needed to serve as a catalyst for the growth and development of the livestock sector by improving on the marketability of meat and meat products in a country that is developing, marketing and selling a quality tourism product and ultimately resulting in a reduction in the food import bill and increased employment within the sector.

The project will provide for a central meat processing facility which will facilitate the availability and accessibility of fresh local meats and value added meat products; will catalyze the expansion of production through the adoption of technology and scientific methodologies.

The increase production of biomass can be used for the production of bio-fuel and organic fertilizer which will significantly

enhance soil fertility and the production of foods of plant origin. The facility will provide an avenue for direct employment at the plant and the farm level that would have expanded to warrant an increase in farm workers. There will be the reemergence of agricultural activity in the rural communities which were displaced from bananas. The establishment of meat shops at the community level will make available wholesome, fresh and safe local meat to the community and assuring that the butchers who operate at the community level are not displaced by the intervention.

St. Lucia has a long history of seeking to provide an efficient slaughtering and primary processing facility to assist with the control and supervision of slaughtering, storage and marketing of local fresh wholesome meat since 1970. After almost three decades, the situation remains the same today.

There are a number of butchers and roadside facilities where slaughtering of animals takes place on weekends, under inhumane and unhygienic conditions thus representing a potential danger to human health. Slaughtering is done by either stabbing at the back of the head (as in the case of cattle) or by clubbing (as in the case of pigs) and such methods can have a negative effect on the quality of the meat. In addition, the lack of portable water in most places is a major problem posing a potential serious health hazard.

The need for adequate facilities for Saint Lucia has become most urgent and is absolutely critical in encouraging the diversification thrust and standing up to the challenges posed by new trading agreements. As part of the Ministry of Agriculture's revitalization strategy, its initial focus is to satisfy the protein requirements of the population through increased domestic consumption of locally produced livestock products and it is envisaged that with the construction of such a facility, the revitalization of the Livestock Industry would gain impetus.



Computer generated impression of Meat Processing Facility

The construction of a meat processing facility will contribute to the following: (a) To serve as a catalyst for the growth and development of the livestock sector by improving on the marketability of meat and meat products and ultimately resulting in a reduction in the food import bill and increased employment within the sector; (b) To serve as a central marketing and processing facility which will create the marketing network to supply hotels, supermarkets and community based distribution outlets; (c) To ensure food safety issues are adhered to; (d) For more organized livestock disease surveillance purposes and (e) For more organized anti mortem and post mortem inspection.

Expected Outputs

- Abattoir constructed and equipped to plan and budget in less than one year.
- Operational viability achieved by providing a slaughter service with the capacity to effectively supply markets and allow livestock producers to identify their own markets, without compromising the abattoir business through any shortfall in livestock quality.
- Achieve an estimated throughput of 450 pigs, 160 sheep, 140 goats, 32 cattle and 300 rabbits slaughtered every week on average.
- Whole sale and retailing of primary and secondary products to the general public, restaurants, hotels and supermarkets.
- Biomass to be used as organic fertilizer.
- Anaerobic treatment of effluent waste will be the preferred method instead of aerobic treatment due to lower cost of maintenance and climatic conditions.

Capacity building will be focused on enhancing the technical and managerial competence of technical and managerial staff via in-house and formal institutional training at the National Pingtung University of Science and Technology in The Republic of China, Taiwan.

Minister of Agriculture Hon. Ezechiel Joseph is confident that the facility will place the Beausejour Agriculture Station in the south of the island as the livestock hub of the nation. This facility he adds, play a critical function in reducing the national import bill in coming years.

The Government of Saint Lucia looks forward eagerly to completion of the National Meat Processing Facility in Beausejour, Vieux Fort. When this facility is completed it will bring about a major enhancement of slaughtering standards and contribute to the modernization of meat processing as a value added to the livestock sub-sector.

ers will be discontinued for food safety reasons and retail outlets (meat shops) will have to be upgraded based on standards set by the Bureau of Standards (monitoring food safety standards).

- A management team will have to be put in place for management of the abattoir.
- Both short term and long term training will be required in the area of meat technology, meat handling and abattoir management which could be made possible by the Taiwanese Government at the National Pingtung University of Science and Technology in Taiwan.
- There will be need for assistance to manage the abattoir during the initial stages to allow for training of locals in the relevant areas.
- Transportation of animals to the abattoir will be managed by the abattoir in collaboration with livestock organizations.
- The abattoir will provide a slaughtering service, choice cuts and packaging and secondary processing.
- Whole sale and retailing of primary and secondary products to the general public, restaurants, hotels and supermarkets.
- Biomass to be used as organic fertilizer.
- Anaerobic treatment of effluent waste will be the preferred method instead of aerobic treatment due to lower cost of maintenance and climatic conditions.

Government Approves Policy on Faith Based Organizations

The Government of Saint Lucia is currently in the process of implementing its policy on Faith Based Organizations which will come into effect as of August 2nd, 2010. The policy which was three years in the making evolved from numerous meetings and consultations spearheaded by an advisory committee which was set up in 2007. Key persons were nominated from the faith national consultations to represent the stake holders. The meetings reviewed and edited the comments received from the stake holders and this culminated in what is now the National Faith Based Policy.

The Ministry of Social Transformation, Youth and Sports is the lead agency for Ecclesiastical Affairs and the management of activities of FBOs. The Faith Based Policy received the commendation of the Cabinet of Ministers in June 2010. The policy provides the framework within which Faith Based Organizations (FBO's) will be operating. It provides guidelines for registration for FBO's, it outlines the assistance and support that Government offers to FBO's, Duty free concessions, Certificate of exemption, waiver on building fees and guidance and assistance for any organization with interest in faith based matters in the State.

One of the key aspects of the criteria set out in the policy as it relates to registration is that to qualify an FBO must have a membership of two hundred and fifty (250) in its flock. Mrs. Chantal Florent Faith-Based Affairs Officer Ministry of Social Transformation, Youth & Sports points out that it is important that all FBO's make their existence known to the Ministry so that they will be counted for on the books of Government, and that as their membership grows they will be able to access the services and support available to them as it will help make the process of registration easier.

The Government has in times past provided lands (can be better stated) and other forms of assistance to these Churches to facilitate the building of schools and churches. The bond between the Government of Saint Lucia and the community of churches remains strong, resilient, and enduring.

The formulation of this policy is in some measure designed to complement on-going initiatives

in social policy development. In addition, the emergence of a number of new and non-traditional religious groups have served as a catalyst to review and revamp existing measures which monitor the development of FBOs. The purpose of this policy is to provide a general framework and a set of instruments to address the issues, operation and functions of FBOs.

Recognizing that the policy environment is rapidly changing, a well structured policy can be instrumental in optimizing the contribution of FBOs to the development of society. The objectives of the policy are to: (a) Monitor the operations of FBOs; (b) Ensure compliance with the laws and statutes of Saint Lucia; (c) Provide support to FBOs through exemptions, concessions, and waivers; (d) Encourage spiritual and moral development at schools and national, government, statutory bodies, non-governmental organizations and communities; (e) Rationalize the appointment and function of Civil Status Officers; (f) Guide the activity of new entrants into the religious arena; (g) Ensure compliance with existing financial laws and regulations; (h) Facilitate mediation of conflicts within organizations.

Principles and Values

The policy is guided by the following principles and values: Equity; Respect, Tolerance and Trust; Identity; Solidarity and Collaboration; Participation and Partnership; Inter-generational Responsibility; Inclusion; Justice; and tolerance.

Policy Implications

The object of crafting policy aimed at governing the conduct of FBOs is grounded in maintaining and reinforcing the rule of law in our society, as well as recognizing diversity in how citizens approach and understand issues of a spiritual nature. Faith Based Organizations should therefore embody the principle of collaboration with the State and not adversarial entities in implementing social development activities. The State therefore expects these sister organizations to help promote social harmony and peace through dialogue within our borders.

This Policy for Faith Based Organizations embraces equal employment opportunity for all citizens without regard for any

creed or belief system that the individual might espouse. However, in the case of denominational schools, the religious character of the school, which may be State assisted, should be maintained.

As a developing nation, it is imperative that we possess a sense of shared vision for the future of our people, notwithstanding the recognition that various faiths differ fundamentally in terms of belief systems, doctrines and lifestyles. The State will therefore vigorously uphold the philosophy "One people, different faiths" and seek to build tolerance and social harmony among all citizens for the ultimate good of our country.

Revocation of Authorization of Civil Status Officers - The authorization of a person as a status officer to perform a marriage will be revoked in accordance with the Civil Status Act Cap. 4.02 and the Civil Status (Amendment) Act No. 2 of 2008. A recommendation for the revocation of authorization of a person as a status officer to perform a marriage will be made where: (a) He/she fails to comply with the provisions of this Policy or legal requirement; (b) If the conduct of the officer brings the Ministry into disrepute; (c) He/She is absent from the State for three or more consecutive years

NB: The relevant Denominational Faith Based Organisations (DFBOs) are to be informed in writing of the revocation of appointments of Civil Status Officers after consultation with the Ministry responsible for Ecclesiastical Affairs.

Conditions of Service - The Civil Status Officer will exercise the duties and functions of the office with due diligence and in strict conformity with the laws of the State.

An officer so designated ceases to be a Civil Status Officer after being absent from the State for a period exceeding three years.

The officer also ceases to be a Civil Status Officer if he/she is no longer a practitioner of his/her faith.

Religious Ceremonies - The following religious ceremonies are conducted by ministers of religion in accordance with the by-laws/constitution of the respective DFBO. However, only authorized officers outlined in the legislation (i.e. Civil Status Officers, Registrar, Deputy Registrar, District

Registrars) are permitted to sign the respective registers.

Baptisms/Christening/Dedication - Consistent with the legal provisions of/naming children, DFBOs are required to be consistent with the registered name by the State of all infants requesting christening services by its members. Christenings may include baptism.

Funerals/Burials - Civil Status Officers are permitted to conduct funeral services and to officiate at ceremonies for burial of the dead. Legal provisions governing burial of the dead must be strictly observed.

Marriages - Civil Status Officers and other organizational leaders are charged with the responsibility of ensuring that the provisions of the Constitution and other related legal instruments are strictly observed. Where tenets of a specific faith contradict provisions of the Constitution, the Constitution always supersedes. Observations include but are not limited to the following:- Marriage is defined and recognized as a civil and legal union between a woman and a man. In conformity with provisions of the Constitution, bigamy/polygamy, same-sex marriage and polyandry are not permitted under any circumstances. There must be strict adherence to the legal (lower) age limits of persons desiring to enter the institution of marriage.

Income Tax

Denominational Faith Based Organizations and their employees are to comply with the provisions of the Income Tax Act and the Companies Act where applicable.

Concessions

Only registered DFBOs with a membership of two hundred and fifty (250) or more will be entitled to concessions. The concessions for which DFBOs shall be entitled to apply for are the following: Certificates of Exemption, Airport Tax Exemptions, Waiver of Building Fees, Duty Free Concessions.

Each DFBO, on making its first application for concession after the coming into effect of this policy shall submit with that application a Statutory Declaration by the head of the DFBO confirming that the DFBO has at least two hundred and fifty (250) members; and a Certificate of Good Standing with the Registry of Companies.



Chatal Florent
Faith Based Affairs Officer

Transitional Provision

Any DFBO that is enjoying concessions at the introductory date of the policy will continue to enjoy the concession already granted. Any DFBO seeking concessions after the introductory date of the policy will only be granted concessions in accordance with the policy i.e. show that it meets the criteria stated in the policy. Application for concessions shall be made in accordance with the following procedures:

In recent years, policymakers have begun looking to churches, and other faith-based organizations to play a greater role in strengthening communities particularly in the aspect of positive behavioral change. Yet little research exists on the role of faith-based organizations in community development. Through this policy mechanisms will be put in place to allow Government secure better information and knowledge on the identity and work of FBO's. This should contribute to the forging of healthy and productive partnerships between Governments and these organisations towards the national good. It also provides greater legitimacy for such organization to operate and further strengthen the spiritual dimensions of our society on which this nation is founded.



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

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