



NATIONAL REVIEW



RISING FROM THE ASHES FULFILLING THE VISION

LAUNCH OF ST JUDE HOSPITAL RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

The Government of Saint Lucia launched the St Jude Reconstruction Project earlier this week during a ceremony held at the original site of the St Jude Hospital on Thursday, September 9th, 2010. This development comes as we commemorate the anniversary of the devastating fire of September 9th, 2009, which rendered the hospital dysfunctional. Following months of deliberations and consideration of various options, the Government has decided on a well thought out and forward looking plan, which gives

consideration to the current challenges and futuristic demands. Government along with all patriotic Saint Lucians can now celebrate the commencement of work that will see the St Jude Hospital fully functional within the next eighteen (18) months at its original location. The hospital which has a long history is a key component of the national health development plan. The history of St Jude Hospital makes a very interesting story.

Hogarth Belizaire was asked by Sister Irma to accompany them to visit an abandoned United States military hospital. The Government of St. Lucia led by then Chief Minister John Compton agreed to

allow the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother to develop and manage what eventually became known as St. Jude Hospital, named after the Patron Saint of Lost Causes.

On the 5th of September 1966, St. Jude Hospital was formally opened by Sister Irma and the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother on behalf of the Catholic Church Charity hospital, giving care at no charge.

In 1992 the St. Jude Hospital was handed over the Government of St. Lucia – ending over two decades of management under the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother who through their network of hospitals, medical professionals and philanthropists made St. Jude a top rate hospital. St.

Jude since then has been committed to partnering with individuals and entities in providing the best quality health care services that are accessible, holistic and client focused. The hospital values that these services will contribute to improved quality of life for our citizens and result in greater productivity and development so that continuous improvements can be maintained.

Based on its original plan, St. Jude Hospital operated at its maximum as a 110 bed hospital. The numbers of beds were reduced over the years to 88 as a result of a need to find space for the inclusion of new specialty services being offered.

The vision of the hospital was established as follows: “To be an effective and prudently managed centre for medical excellence, that is patient friendly and contributing to the national development by maintaining the health and well-being of all citizens”. The mission of the institution reads: “To Promote, Restore and Maintain the health of all patients by providing quality, timely, efficient and effective services through a cadre of competent staff, within an enabling environment”.

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St. Jude Hospital Reconstruction Project
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Back to School Welcome Message

from Minister of Education – Honourable Arsene James

Time has passed by so quickly. The end of school year holidays are over and it is back to school for the new academic year 2010-2011. As we welcome all our Ministry of Education Staff, Principals, teachers and students to this new academic year, we draw attention to the fact that the school atmosphere ought to be formal, and conducive to teaching and learning. Teachers and students must co-exist in an environment where pastoral care is critical.

Primary education has in effect been the actual foundation phase within the education system. Presently, Primary School is, a gateway to Secondary School, since the introduction of Universal Secondary Education (USE). USE has exposed the deficiencies at the Primary School level, and thereby the fragility of the foundation set for our children.

Two major deficiencies have been the problems of Illiteracy and Numeracy. Some students complete Grade 6 without being able to read, write, compute or use problem solving skills. The The common Entrance Examination provides much evidence of this. Some students are known to score 0 both in summarizing and problems solving. We also get

constant complaints from some Secondary School Principals and teachers, that certain students enter the Secondary School system only able to read and write at the Grade 1 level.

These problems need to be addressed urgently in order to limit the counter productive effects of high dropout rates; high incidences of low self esteem, morale and indiscipline; high turn-over of low or non-skilled achievers who would degenerate into poor and non-productive citizens of society.

We plan on attacking the problem the problems of illiteracy and innumeracy with a two-prong approach. The problems must be addressed at the Primary School level and Secondary School level simultaneously. The Ministry of Education and Culture will be engaging all major stakeholders on the need for retention of students at the Primary School if they do not acquire the basic proficiency to be promoted to Secondary Schools. This is to ensure that every child can maximize the educational opportunity provided.

The time is fast approaching for Government to consider the provision of Universal Early Childhood Education. These are the formative years of children's

education and we should seize this opportunity to mould and nurture them positively for life within our society.

There is also a trend where there are lowering registration levels. The school population is dwindling. There are several Primary Schools with low enrolment and there are two Secondary Schools where there are no Form One students thereby resulting in over-staffing. We will be dialoguing with all major stakeholders including the SLTU once the data has been gathered and the trends have established.

We have attempted to set the strategic direction for a smooth transition for the re-opening of school. We maintain that 'The single greatest determinant of learning is not socio-economic factors or funding levels, it is instruction' (Shcmoker, 2006). The strategic focus for the academic year 2010/11 should include, among other factors: increased supervision, proper planning and preparation, differentiated teaching approach, remediation for struggling students, a learner centred environment and a deliberate emphasis on improving student performance. Hence, for this new academic year, 'the one and only commandment is high performance'.

We at the Ministry of Education have put the necessary measures to in place to make this happen. Staffing was conducted with maximum efficiency this year. Supplies have been distributed throughout our schools. There was orientation for new Principals and Vice Principals. There were sessions with school Principals and Ministry officials so that unknown problems could be identified and solutions found. At those meetings other concerns such as meeting to share best practices were taken into consideration as well. The sessions were held in order to help chart the way forward and eliminate some of the barriers to the teaching/learning process. The Ministry of Education has met with all Principals and Vice Principals of Secondary Schools and there is general consensus that the school must make a difference. The Ministry will continue to dialogue with the St Lucia Teachers' Union and the National Principals' Association on the way forward for the education system.

Having said all of this, let me take the opportunity to wish all our Principals, Teachers and Students a pleasant first week back to school and success for the academic year 2010/2011. I hope that all schools will settle



Hon. Arsene James
Minister for Education & Culture

down swiftly to ensure that the teaching/learning process begins promptly. I wish to encourage all students to continue to work hard for improved success and high standards throughout the school year. I also ask for the support of all principals, teachers, parents/guardians and other major stakeholders within the Education system. We reiterate the words of our Nobel Laureate that the fundamental cure to poverty is not money but education.

Rising From The Ashes Fulfilling The Vision

Launch of St Jude Hospital Reconstruction Project

Continued from front page

On September 9th, 2009 the St. Jude Hospital located in Augier, Vieux Fort was a devastated by fire. At that time the Hospital which operated as a ninety-seven (97) bed major referral Hospital on the island was rendered non-functional. The fire destroyed the surgical ward and the operating theatres of an already aging plant. This resulted in significant major disruptions and termination to services in the south of the island. The fire resulted in the unfortunate loss of 3 lives.

Prior to the fire, the St Jude Hospital provided a wide range of inpatient, outpatient, ancillary and outreach care, including: Medical, Surgical, Ophthalmology, Psychiatry, Ear Nose and Throat (ENT), Obstetrics and Gynecology, Dental Care, Nutrition, Internal medicine, Dermatology, Orthopedics, Pediatrics, Cardiology, Urology, Emergency medical Service, Surgery and General Outpatient Services.

Ancillary Services: X-ray, LABS, Pharmacy and Physiotherapy.

As a result of the damage to the components of an already aged facility, the Government of Saint Lucia has taken a policy decision to re-

construct the Saint Jude Hospital. This is necessary in order to restore the capacity of the southern region to facilitate the healthcare needs of the population in the South as well as clients from the north which includes almost 66,000 patrons.

The goal of the St. Jude Hospital Reconstruction Project is to rebuild St. Jude Hospital to reinstate the core and ancillary health services previously offered to the public. This will also be in keeping with the Government's health sector objectives and as such expanded where necessary.

The St Jude Reconstruction Project is conceptualized in two phases. This includes: (a) Short Term / Temporary Accommodation for St. Jude Hospital at the Original Location; and (b) Medium Term / Permanent Facility of St. Jude Hospital on a New Site in the vicinity of the Proposed Site for National University in Vieux Fort. The intention is for these two components of the project to be implemented simultaneously.

The first component as identified above would entail - the reconstruction of the surgical building on the old site as well as the renovation of the other two (2)

buildings. The facilities will be made fully functional to allow St. Jude Hospital to relocate from the George Odium Stadium and operate until the new facility is built on the new site. Upon relocation of St. Jude Hospital to the new facility, the old site buildings will be developed as a Medical Research Facility or other medically related use.

With respect to the second component, this will entail - the planning, design & construction of a new 90 bed health care facility for St. Jude Hospital at the new site. This modern, state of the art health care facility will be designed and constructed as a Tropical Sustainable multi -purpose Hospital. The design is expected to produce an effective and efficient health care facility according to modern day requirements but building on the solid foundation of St. Jude Hospital. St. Jude Hospital has charted a legacy of volunteerism and partnerships geared towards superior healthcare for the community as well as the country in general. Old partnerships will be fostered and New partnerships will also be developed. St. Jude Hospital will be more than just buildings. It will be a modern health care experience

incorporating as well aspects of healthcare tourism.

The New St. Jude Hospital will feature the following: Modern Health Care Infrastructure; Innovative, efficient and affordable Health Care Services; Specialized medical care for St. Lucia and the region; Tropical Sustainable design incorporating principles of : Energy Efficiency, Water Conservation and Sustainable Environmental Management; Teaching hospital to facilitate training of health care professionals.

National Vision Plan

The Government of Saint Lucia recently approved the National Vision Plan which charts out the future development of the island. This National Vision Plan is a framework through which the entire island can share in a common vision, positioning Saint Lucia at the economic and social heart of the Windward Islands.

The future expansion and redevelopment of St. Jude Hospital aligns itself seamlessly with the National Vision for the south. This vision includes developments in tourism, education, industry. The South, often referred to as the New

Frontier is no doubt well placed to receive the New St. Jude Hospital Health Care Facility catering for St. Lucians as well as our Caribbean Family. During that eventful night of September 9th, 2009, Prime Minister Stephenson King boldly proclaimed: "Out of the Ashes a Phoenix will Rise".

The launch of the St Jude Reconstruction Project will signal the emergence of that phoenix which will begin to soar in fulfillment of the hopes and expectations of the many Saint Lucians and in particular the people of the south who hold St Jude Hospital so dearly to their hearts. This love and hope has been demonstrated since the fire of September 9th, 2009 by the outpouring of donations and goodwill from community organizations, the private sector, individuals, friendly Governments and numerous other sources.

Our nation will mark the anniversary of the St Jude fire confident in the knowledge that the reconstruction of St Jude will begin in earnest and that Prime Minister King's pronouncement is being fulfilled through the rise of the Phoenix of St Jude Hospital from the ashes of despair into a flight of success.

Ministry of Education Expresses Concerns over the 2010 Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate Results



The overall pass rate for the 2010 CSEC examinations was 73.83. This represented a minimal increase over the 2009 performance. Some schools, however, recorded significant improvements. For example, Gros Islet Secondary recorded a pass rate of 64.10 compared to 45.71 in 2009; and Marigot secondary from 33.33 in 2009 to 53.49 in 2010. Other high performing schools include St. Joseph's Convent (98.83), St. Mary's College (94.96), Leon Hess Comprehensive (92.02) Castries Comprehensive (87.13), Vieux Fort Comprehensive (86.29), Ciceron Secondary (85.77), Corinth Secondary (76.90), Entrepot Secondary (76.33) and Babonneau Secondary (67.97).

Two subjects recorded 100%

pass rate, namely Home Economics Management and Theatre Arts. All other subjects with the exception of Mathematics (41.49%) and Visual Arts (55.68%) recorded pass rates of 63% and above.

Despite these positives there are three areas of major concern:

(1) The small number of entries in the technical/vocational areas - The technical areas (Agricultural Science, Clothing & Textiles, Food & Nutrition, Home Economics Management, Technical Drawing, Information Technology, Building Technology, Electrical and Electronic Technology and Mechanical Engineering Technology) registered 2291 (14.73%) out of the 15,555 entries. The pass rate for these

subjects ranged from 70% to 100%. The business subjects accounted for 19.04% (2963) of the total entries and Creative Arts 1.95%. The TVET subjects accounted for 35.72% of the total entries. Given that the thrust globally towards the combination of traditional and technical subjects to increase marketability and to maintain a competitive advantage, there ought to be an emphasis on increasing the number of entries in those areas.

(2) The small number of students graduating with at least five subjects including Mathematics and English Language - Out of 2737 candidates who wrote the examinations only

795 attained passes in at least five subjects including Mathematics and English Language. This means that only 795 or 29% of the cohort can move on immediately into the work place or institutions of higher learning. Most jobs require that applicants possess passes in both Mathematics and English Language and matriculation for higher/tertiary education requires same. It is therefore of great concern that 71% of our students graduated in 2010 after 12 years (7 at Primary and 5 at Secondary) of schooling without passes in at least 5 subjects including Mathematics and English Language.

(3) The quality of passes - Whilst

an overall pass rate of 73.83 appears to be fairly satisfactory, it should be noted that the percentage of Grade 1s is the lowest. Grade III passes account for 29.85%, Grade II 28.82% and Grade I, 15.17%.

The Ministry of Education takes this opportunity to congratulate all Principals, Parents, Guardians and Teachers of students as well as the students who excelled in this year's examinations. The Ministry will continue to provide the necessary leadership and creative outlook in partnering with all major stakeholders towards the realization of excellence. We look forward to the active participation of all towards ensuring improved results in the ensuing period.

Hurricane Preparation Tips

Insurance



Those who plan ahead will find themselves in the best position to weather the storm and get their lives back on track after the disaster”. The ensuing quote is attributed to Loretta Worters, Vice President of the Insurance Information Institute

In this article we focus on four important steps homeowners can take to protect themselves and their property:

1. Review Your Insurance Coverage

The time to review your insurance policy is before you have to file a claim. Make sure that you have both the right amount and type of insurance:

- Amount of insurance. You should have enough insurance to rebuild your home or business and replace all of its contents. If you have made a major alternation or improvement to your home or business, get in touch with your agent or company representative to update your policy. Homeowners should find out how much coverage is available for Additional Living Expenses (ALE). These expenses could include the cost of a temporary rental home or hotel room, restaurant, meals and any other expenses incurred in the event your home is uninhabitable while it is being repaired or rebuilt. Some policies provide coverage for 20 percent of the amount of insurance you have on your house. Others may specify a time period. Additional coverage is generally available for an additional cost.

- Type of insurance. Ninety percent of all natural disasters involve some form of flooding. Flood damage may not be covered by standard home insurance policies, but may be available at an additional cost. Excess flood insurance may also be available.

2. Create a Home Inventory

A home inventory is a list of all of your personal or business possessions and their estimated value. Take pictures and make videos of your possessions and property. An up-to-date inventory will help you:

- Purchase the right amount of insurance.
- Speed up the claims process by substantiating losses.
- Provide documentation for tax purposes or disaster assistance.

3. Protect Your Property

Hurricane proof your home by keeping wind and wa-

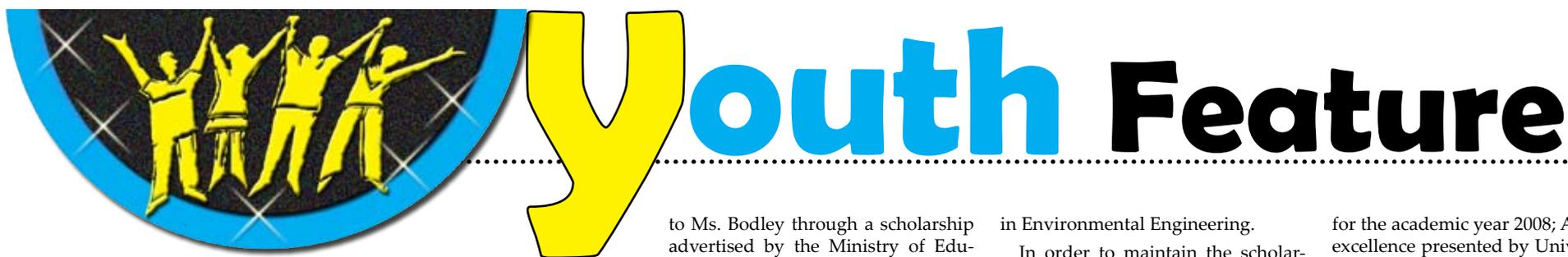
ter out. Invest in storm shutters. Secure roof sheeting and shingles and seal any openings, cracks and holes.

4. Have an Evacuation Plan

When a hurricane is approaching, advanced planning is essential. Decide ahead of time where you will go and how you will get there, and have more than one option. If you have pets, contact your veterinarian for a list of preferred boarding kennels and facilities or ask your local animal shelter if they provide emergency shelter or foster care for pets.

Practice your evacuation plan by doing a test run: giving yourself just 10 minutes to pack up your family, pets and important items and get out—possibly for an extended period of time.

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youth Feature

Charlin Bodley



Charlin Bodley was born on the 27th of March 1984 and raised by her mother Veronica Bodley Hyacinth, whom she credits for her achievements and success in life thus far. In reflecting on her Mother's role Charlin notes: "I owe my achievements to the guidance, love and attention of my mother, and I guess it's true what singing Sandra sang - 'Dem woman stronger than a wall.'" In relating the indelible role which her Mother played in nurturing her, she stated: "I don't understand how my Mother was able to do so much with just two hands."

In recounting her life journey to date, she explains having numerous pacts with her mother including the replacement of her rusty BMX trainer wheeled bike in exchange for an improvement from her drop from 4th to 13th place. At the age of 9, she took up the challenge and placed 2nd, thereby earning herself a brand new 5 speed bike. That early incentive served as a key factor in her being continuously motivated towards aiming for the best. Upon sitting the common entrance exam in 1996 she placed 12th on the island, and attended the St. Joseph's Convent as was her wish. She received a scholarship from the C.S.A for the 5 year period of her Secondary School education.

The encouragement from her mother was not always manifested in pacts, but also with frequent inspirational lectures about the future and the ultimate importance of education, as her mother reflected on her own life's challenges.

Charlin has a passion for Photography which she hopes to pursue as an appendage to her professional career. Her involvement in the Arts gives insights into her well-rounded development as a young lady. This is a dimension which can only ensure holistic development of the individual. She was a member of the St. Lucia School of Ballet for 6 years, and then danced with Les Enfants

Dance Group. During that period she attended a dance workshop in Guadeloupe. In 2001, she participated in the St. Joseph's Convent Carnival Princess Pageant, and emerged first runner up and also received the best talent award. As a student at the St. Lucia School of Music for 4 years, she played the steel pan as her main instrument and succeeded in music at the CXC level.

As she recalls "I played with the SJC Steel Orchestra for many years, and served as captain of the same band for at least 2 years. I also played with the North Stars Steel Orchestra, and the Pan Time Steel Orchestra, during which time I served on several committees. I belonged to the drama club at SJC. I served as P.R.O for Circle K (Junior Kiwanis) at the Sir Arthur Lewis Community College and formed part of a contingent group which represented Saint Lucia in an annual regional conference for the entire Caribbean district. I became actively involved in cheerleading at the Sir Arthur Lewis Community College, as a choreographer".

Her earlier exposure and orientation in the Arts served her in good stead during University years in Mexico where she served as a co-teacher of a Caribbean Dance Class. This opportunity further helped to augment and her passion and love for the discipline of dance. Charlin sees dance as a great avenue to express one's self positively.

Her deeper passion and love for nature was influenced by the occupations of both her parents and had a great impact with respects to her thinking and attitude to environmental conservation. Charlin notes: "I love and excelled at the science subjects, and therefore attained CXC qualifications in the sciences as well as foreign languages and information technology. As a result of my performance I received a scholarship from the Civil Service Credit Union to pursue further studies at the Sir Arthur Lewis Community College".

Ms. Bodley Jr. has a love for sharing knowledge and information and sees herself as a candle which consumes itself to light the way for others. It was not at all surprising therefore when she embraced the vocation of teaching as a temporary science teacher at the Entrepot Secondary School, for two years.

Having applied to the University of the West Indies to pursue studies in Civil and Environmental Engineering, there was deep contemplation on how to finance her studies. She was nonetheless always mindful that the Lord works in fascinating and mysterious ways and kept her candle of faith burning. Eventually a door opened

to Ms. Bodley through a scholarship advertised by the Ministry of Education in the area of Environmental Engineering. As Charlin recalls, "My prayers were answered. My strong belief in God has proven yet again that everything good, comes through the Almighty. I was accepted through a selection process by the officials of the Ministry of Education and Mexican Government along with twenty one (21) other St. Lucian students to pursue studies in Mexico".

The element of spirituality has played a vital role in Charlin's personal development to date. Ms. Bodley explains that it was her faith in the God and the love and support of her mother that kept her focused during the first three (3) years in Mexico. Although there were numerous challenges with some of the living conditions the Saint Lucian students had to find creative means in overcoming the numerous problems they encountered.

She laments, "We went to Mexico under the impression that we would be able to choose a suitable University out of hundreds. We soon discovered that this was far from the truth. We had to get additional financial support from our families to undertake tutorials in Universal and Mexican History, and soon realized that we were on our own in getting accepted into an educational institution".

The competitive reality which Charlin had to contend with in Mexico is explained by the fact that she and other Saint Lucian students had to participate in entry exams

for the best Universities, along with tens of thousands of Mexican nationals with no special exams prepared for foreign students. Charlin recalls that in 2006, she and four (4) other St. Lucian nationals, sat entrance exams for the Autonomy Metropolitan University (Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana) and were included along with 18, 124 Mexican nationals who also wrote the exam. They succeeded in being among the 4, 471 students (roughly 25%) accepted into that university. The costs of these exams were not catered by her family. Apart from the alarming news that Charlin along with her Saint Lucian colleagues had to compete with Mexican nationals in exams written in Spanish, they were also faced with the challenge of time constraints in gaining acceptance.

With over 300 Universities in México and with the time constraint Charlin had just one option, in relation to Environmental Engineering. Through constant studying, and perseverance, and against the odds, Charlin began her four (4) year programme to gain a bachelor's degree

in Environmental Engineering.

In order to maintain the scholarship, she was required to maintain an average of 8.5 and above out of ten. She explained, "The thought of reaching so far and failing, scared me, so I strived and put my best foot forward". She was able to maintain a perfect 10 during her first three (3) trimesters. This performance was no doubt a tribute to her fighting spirit.

Charlin recalls that Mexico turned out to be a serious culture shock with which she had to struggle whilst facing the challenge of her studies. She was faced with major difficulties securing living quarters and had to contend with dishonest landlords, and over priced living arrangements. She remembers sharing a room and a bed with two (2) other compatriots, they were required to pay a price that they later learned could have earned them an almost luxurious apartment of three rooms. Other financial constraints surfaced throughout the 5 years period in Mexico, which had to be supported by financial assistance from her family. One example is the US \$200 fee for renewal of student visas annually. In one graphic account, she recalls being held up with a weapon and her bag with valuable belongings being taken away.



"I remember running home to call my mom, as I felt helpless, and with no option other than to return to St. Lucia, however, through strength, determination, endurance and my mother's unconditional love and support, I stayed on and got to know

México, and I started seeing it's beauty". Such experiences went a long way towards strengthening her resolve and brought her head on to the realization that the true measure of an individual is not where he or she lies in the time of comfort and luxury, but where one stands in time of difficulties, challenges and adversity.

Ms. Bodley points out that she was very fortunate at her University to meet among the world's best Professors who saw her through. They were always impressed and somewhat amazed by my determination and keen interest in going the extra mile, and generally my ability to produce. Through her hard work, Charlin was able to secure numerous awards for outstanding achievements and excellence. These include: Award of excellence presented by the Division of Natural Sciences and Engineering for the academic year 2006; Award of excellence presented by the Division of Natural Sciences and Engineering for the academic year 2007; Award of excellence presented by the Division of Natural Sciences and Engineering

for the academic year 2008; Award of excellence presented by Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana, for academic excellence in the first year of the degree program in Environmental Engineering; Award of excellence presented by Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana, for academic excellence in the second year of the degree program in Environmental Engineering; Award of excellence presented by Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana, for academic excellence in the third year of the degree program in Environmental Engineering and Award of excellence presented by the Chancellor of Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana, for the highest average in the Natural Sciences and Engineering Division.

She was also presented with a gift of a mini laptop for her exemplary performances. Charlin has been invited to an award ceremony to be held in November 2010, at her school, where she will be awarded a gold medal for graduating as the top student in her field, and her faculty with the highest average. Ms. Bodley assures, "I am proud of my achievements, knowing how much sacrifice it entailed, and knowing how much my mother has sacrificed for me to be where I am today".

Charlin Bodley is a graduate with First Class Honours, from the Autonomy Metropolitan University (Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana) in the area of Environmental Engineering. Her initiative and perseverance has resulted in many opportunities for her to work closely with her lecturers of that university, thus receiving insight and experience in areas dealing with the environment, whenever the opportunity presented itself. She participated in a number of related projects, on a voluntary basis, as a student of her university.

In the last year of her degree programme, Ms. Bodley completed an internship period with the Caribbean Environmental Health Institute, (CEHI), as part of the IWCAM project, where she was able to gain valuable experience in her field.

Through her involvement in extra curricula activities and through group work throughout her University life, she has shown leadership qualities, and most importantly, ease and willingness to be a team player. Her experience in Mexico City as a young student, has in part prepared her for the challenges of her professional life and the attainment of fluency in Spanish has also made her better equipped to interface with a broader field of professionals and the global village.

The Government of Saint Lucia proudly salutes this outstanding young Saint Lucian who has succeeded against many odds and tremendous challenges. It is hoped that the achievements of this exceptional young Saint Lucian provides a success story that can serve as a motivating factor and inspiration for other young Saint Lucians to excel to new heights of outstanding achievements.



BEM award 1972 - Charles Cadet, Eddie Gaston, Sesenne Descartes, Denis Descartes, Clement Springer.



Sesenne Descartes, October 1966



Sesenne Descartes (left), group, Expo 69



Hon Derek walcott pays tribute with his poem Home Coming



Mon Repos La Rose Group paying tribute



Sesenne Descartes



Sesenne Descartes, with Paba



Sesene Descartes, 2000



Family, Friends and Members of the Public at Funeral Service

Dame Marie Selipha "Sesenne" Descartes



La Woz chantwelle



Sesenne, 1985 Fond Assau



Sesenne with Marylene Gaston



Children viewing the Queen



Musical Tribute at Funeral Service



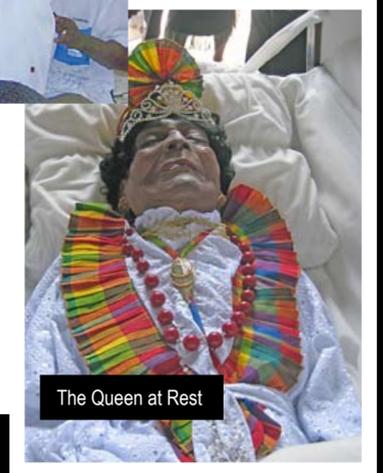
Sesenne with children



Prime Minister & Wife Paying Respect



Members of Government Stand in line as the Flag Drapped Casket of Sesenne is carried out of Church



The Queen at Rest

Community / Citizens Action

CLR James, one of the foremost thinkers of the twentieth century, a Caribbean intellectual and writer, has long posited the view in his book *Beyond a Boundary* (one of the finest books ever written on Cricket), that what happened inside the "Boundary Line" in cricket affected life beyond it, as well as the converse.

Cricket for us has always gone beyond the boundary into all aspects of life such as self determination, resilience; character, motivation etc and even became a sort of civil rights struggle. Through the game, West Indians fought for democracy and social justice. Sir Vivian Richards, former West Indies captain and one of the world's finest batsmen states that 'playing cricket is in itself a political action.

The Sandals Cricket Academy evolved out of the sole objective to develop the talents of young cricketers and produce more West Indies cricketers from St. Lucia. When the cricket academy started 10 years ago there was no Beausejour Cricket Ground. It was launched at the Gros Islet playing field and it took place over a six-week period on weekend only. Every other week a different West Indies cricket legend would attend and coach the young cricketers.

It was only in 2003 that the academy became a two-week intense training camp, honing the skills of the cricketers from all over the island. The two week initiative every year provides young Saint Lucians with the opportunity to be coached by West Indies Cricket legends and some of the best coaches on the island. In addition to batting bowling, fielding, wicket keeping, young people learn relevant life skills to take them forward. Life skills include: Healthy Life styles, coping with success, playing the game at the highest level, how to do an interview with the press, History of West Indies cricket, sportsmanship etc.

For the last ten years the programme cost the Sandals Foundation and the Ministry of Youth and Sports EC\$60,000. Mindful that there is no other organized academy on the island, the Sandals Cricket Academy has become the premier development program on the island if not the OECS region. Both Sandals and the Ministry of Sport remain committed to the development of the game and the academy as a tool in which to do so.

The academy acts as a tremendous stimulus to fine tune other efforts like the primary school and



Sandals Cricket Academy
Former West Indies middle order batsman, Augustine Logie teaches the art of gripping the bat at the 10th annual Sandals Cricket Academy

secondary school cricket program and prepares the National Under 15 Cricket Team for the annual Windward Islands competition. Using cricketers who have played at the highest level and arguably one of the best team the world has ever seen is a tremendous boost to the coaching and interest on the students. Its strong focus on personal development of the player is also of much value, especially in an era when the West Indies team seems unable to apply the wealth of talent that's available to produce victories.

No doubt the value of the Sandals Cricket Academy can only be described as immeasurable in terms of its contribution to the nurturing of young talent. This investment by Sandals has no doubt resulted in tangible result mindful considering the recent exploits of Saint Lucia's Under 15 and Under 19 Cricket teams which won the Windward Islands Cricket Championships in 2009 and 2010 respectively. These successes came after so many years of being on the losing end. A total of three hundred and fifty (350) students have graduated through the program and several have played for St. Lucia and the Windward Islands at all levels.

With a rich reputation as St. Lucia's premier cricket development program exposing over three hundred young cricketers to some of the greatest names in West Indies Cricket, the Sandals cricket academy bowled off its 10th anniversary on August 14th, 2010. Former West Indies players Michael Findlay and Augustine Logie were on the line up of coaches this year joining a long list of their colleagues. In previous years cricket greats like Sir Garfield Sobers, Brian Lara, Gordon Greenidge, Desmond Haynes and Jeffrey Dujon, all coached or lectured at the annual cricket clinic.

Sandals Halcyon's General Manager Lennox Dupal says that the Sandals Foundation is extremely proud of the accomplishments of the academy over the years and the 10-year milestone represents his company's commitment of the development of young people in the Caribbean. "When you think of the accomplishments of people like Dalton Polius who was included in the West Indies under-19 provisional 20-man squad, he is also now playing professionally in England after completing a scholarship, we know that we have done the right thing," notes Dupal. The General Manager said that the academy must also be credited for the recent success of the national Under-15 and Under-19 teams in the Windward Islands Cricket Competitions, in addition to the development of dozens of Cricketers who now play for St. Lucia and the Windward islands at all levels.

His comments are supported by Keith Charlery, who has been the head coach of the development clinic from its inception. Charlery explains, "The Academy has really been a tremendous boost to cricket on the island. It's the only opportunity that our young cricketers have to rub shoulders with legends of the game. Whenever this happens it creates a remarkable impact on the whole attitude of the young cricketers". Former West Indies middle order batsman Augustine Logie who played 52 test, and 158 one day internationals for the West Indies, scored 2,479 with an aver-

age of 35.79 in test, and 2,809 with an average of 28.9 at the shorter version of the game, was on hand to coach at the 10th annual Sandals Cricket Academy which began on August 14th, 2010 at the Beausejour Cricket Ground.

Former Coach Logie was indeed elated about his involvement in relation to the academy this year. Logie noted, "I have worked with young people my whole life and so when I was invited to be part of the Sandals Cricket Academy, it was really in keeping with my passion. I have worked with a number of young people in the Windward Islands like Darren Sammy, Devon Smith and Sergio Fedee from St. Lucia," added Logie.

Regarded as an outstanding fieldsman during his career for the West Indies team, Logie, conducted several batting and fielding clinics for young under-fifteen Cricketers, and also facilitated a workshop dubbed "Building Champions." Regional Director for Sandals Resorts International, Jeremy Jones believes that Logie's presence was invaluable to the students of the Sandals Cricket Academy.

"Logie is certainly one of the leading coaches in the region and this kind of experience and profile will certainly aid the development of our young cricketers as well as our coaches from St. Lucia. He would have learnt a lot coaching the West Indies senior team, Trinidad, Bermuda and other high-profile assignments," states Jones.

The Sandals Foundation is a non profit organization which was created to continue and to expand upon the philanthropic work that Sandals Resorts International has undertaken. It is a result of three decades of dedication focused on playing a meaningful role in the lives of the communities where Sandals operate across the Caribbean. The Sandals Foundation funds projects in three core areas: Education, Community Development and the Environment. One Hundred percent of the monies contributed by the general public to the Sandals Foundation go directly to programs benefiting the Caribbean community.

Minister of Youth and Sports Hon. Lenard "Spider" Montoute hails the contribution of Sandals in sports particularly cricket, as a significant mile stone that will help develop and enhance the skills and talents of many Saint Lucian sports men and help catapult them to great prominence. He added that "We must produce more Daren Sammys and Lavern Spencers and the Sandals Cricket Academy serves as a vital vehicle to allow us to achieve this".

Many of the participants are extremely happy with the programme and vowed to make the best use of the skills and techniques taught at the academy. The Government salutes Sandals for its philanthropy and its investment in the youth of our nation through the Cricket Academy. We hope that the Sandals Cricket Academy will continue batting for another ten (10) years.

Government embarks on the Establishment of a National Competitiveness and Productivity Council (NCPC)

The Government of Saint Lucia is fully aware of both the limitations and challenges posed by global competition, at a time when effective government action is constrained due to a decline in government revenue. Coupled with that fact, the private sector faces significant barriers to competing in domestic and international markets.

The Government has an equal appreciation for the fact that national prosperity is created, not inherited. In conjunction with a country's natural endowments, its labour pool and its fiscal health, a nation's competitiveness depends on the capacity of its industry to innovate and upgrade.

Saint Lucia is a small island developing state which must respond to and function within a fast changing global economy: characterized by the erosion of preferential trade arrangements; dwindling aid; increased competition for foreign direct investment and donor fatigue. This means that Government must maximize the use of already limited resources.

Within this context, the Government of Saint Lucia has initiated the establishment of a National Competitiveness and Productivity Council (NCPC), consistent with its goal of ensuring the efficient use of available resources and increase levels of productivity thereby enhancing national competitiveness and ultimately providing greater economic opportunity at all levels.

The National Competitiveness and Productivity Council (NCPC) is engineered to assist greatly in determining equitable compensation and reward schemes, establish scientific measurements for productivity and engender a more meritocratic system for hiring, promotion and rewards. Its effectiveness depends largely on the extent to which stakeholders can dialogue and maximize their synergies. We must seek to enhance the nation's competitive advantage with a renewed focus and determination, by creating high national values and revamping economic structures and institutions. Ultimately, nations succeed in particular industries because their home environment is facilitating, forward-looking and dynamic.

The first tripartite consultation on the establishment of a National Competitiveness and Productivity Council was commissioned by the Ministry of Finance, Economic Affairs and National Development on August 20th 2010 at the National Insurance Corporation's Conference Center.

The Consultation exercise was attended by members of Cabinet,

representatives from the Public and Private Sectors, Trade Unions, the Employers' Federation, Saint Lucia Manufacturers Association, the Chamber of Commerce and Civil Society. The proceedings began with opening remarks by Permanent Secretary/Director of Finance in the Ministry of Finance, Economic Affairs and National Development, Mr. Isaac Anthony.

Mr. Anthony made it clear that the Government of Saint Lucia responded quickly, to cushion the impact of the financial crisis by adopting the necessary machinery to restore confidence and stability in the economy. He remained guarded that notwithstanding an immediate response to a crisis, the long term plans of the country remain a key priority. He reiterated the value of ensuring productivity remains at the forefront of the national agenda. "Productivity" he said, "does not come about by accident but certainly as a result of a relentless commitment to excellence, intelligent planning and focused effort".

Senator the Honorable Allen M. Chastanet who delivered remarks in place of Prime Minister, Honorable Stephenson King, pointed out that Saint Lucia will only achieve and sustain real growth through effective national and sectoral planning, in which we must fervently believe, and upon which vigorous action is required. He reminded the audience that there is absolutely no other route to sustained growth, an absolute necessity to our continued success.

The Executive Director of the Barbados Productivity Council, Mr. John Pilgrim also addressed the gathering along with representatives from the Employers Federation and the Trade Union Federation. Some of the key issues which informed the debate and discussion include:

1. The challenges plaguing the public and private sectors with respect to productivity.
2. The policy measures that can be pursued / implemented to enhance productivity in the society and
3. The proposed organizational structure for the Council.

Some of the key challenges identified were poor utilization of resources (Human, capital etc); allocative inefficiency; ineffective Government policies, procedures and processes; a mismatch between Government priorities, education curriculum and market demands; limited access to "certifiable" skills training; inappropriate/inadequate skill levels on the job; absence of an entrepreneurial culture; absence of clearly articu-

lated national medium to long term goals and unethical behavior and corruption.

Other related issues considered were the:

1. Lack of productivity measurements, tools and methodologies across sectors
2. Perceived absence of performance-based criteria in the public service (performance evaluations / security of tenure)
3. Lack of redress mechanisms
4. Lack of synergy within the public service (Duplication of effort)
5. Lack of appreciation felt by workers / absence of appropriate recognition system for good performers.
6. Perceived preference for expats (negatively impacts performance)
7. Poor implementation of change management
8. Absence of appropriate planning institutions
9. Institutional rigidities (within the public and private sectors)
10. Absence of leadership / management
11. Reluctance to work in particular sectors (agriculture – hence the creation of artificial shortage of labour causing increased wages.)
12. Lack of synergy, coordination and communication within and among ministries.
13. Absence of data capture mechanisms (thus impacting on informed decision making.)
 - a. Poor human resource management: hiring practices and performance management
14. Poor time management and absenteeism
15. High (prohibitive) cost of introducing new technology
16. Cultural stagnation
17. Lack of information / knowledge on productivity itself, along with understanding of the interrelatedness among productivity, national competitiveness and personal wealth or wellbeing
18. Non adherence to protocol
19. Lack of Accountability
20. Civic irresponsibility

The participants identified several key recommendations which can go a long way in addressing some of the challenges previously highlighted. They include:

1. Develop a culture of planning and goal setting to build national consensus on St. Lucia's future with a view to determining government national goals and alignment with training priorities.

2. Redesign/revamp education system (curriculum innovation etc)
3. Incorporate total factor productivity (TFP)
4. Develop productivity measurement models – tools and methodologies
5. Develop and implement appropriate reward, incentive and recognition system
6. Eliminate duplication, waste etc
7. Incorporate Management Information Systems and new technology (in day to day activities, government processes and procedures)
8. Use of data capture for information storing and retrieval
9. Institute mechanisms that facilitate greater communication, information and knowledge exchange within and among agencies.
10. Review existing institutional structure (optimization)
11. Sensitize and educate employers and the public on stimulating higher levels of productivity and competitiveness
12. Revamp the roles of the public service commission (to give direct supervisors and management more control over staff) and private sector Human Resource Management
13. Review and rationalize the number of days (paid) for non production
14. Institute more government incentives to facilitate the introduction of technologies along with greater use of local expertise.
15. Initiate public service reform
 16. Engender an environment that facilitates a cultural shift towards international standards (best practice)

The proposed institutional structure of the NCPC must reflect broad inclusion that embraces the key national stakeholders. These include Independent Board of Directors, Multi-sectoral (multipartite) Representation, Government (Public Sector), Private sector, Workers' Representatives, Trade Unions, Employers' Associations, Academia, Civil Society and the Youth.

The consultation sought to galvanize previous efforts at establishing a National Competitiveness and Productivity Council (NCPC). Perhaps the greatest success thus far has been the coming together of representatives from the various sectors (public, private); trade unions, employers' associations and civil society to deliberate on national productivity.

Riding high on the momentum displayed at the first Consultation, future consultations will be held within the next few months in the

North, South, East and West of the island encompassing all sectors, to ensure multiple perspectives and representation.

Government recognizes that for the NCPC to be successful some fundamental adjustments must be made, which include:

1. A paradigmatic shift in the way the society views "work"
2. An emerging lexicon that reflects an understanding of concepts such as productivity and national competitiveness
3. An explicit display of political will to implement changes in the public sector (processes, procedures, staffing etc.).
4. A cultural shift that seeks to encourage and engender positive behavioural changes (a civic revolution - that will infiltrate the psyche of the wider society is required)
5. A commitment at all levels of society to the overarching developmental goals of the society and
6. An adequate allocation of resources to implement the necessary reforms

Participants displayed a high level of enthusiasm and dedication to the establishment of the Council. Representatives of the various organizations, civil society etc in attendance volunteered to serve on a steering committee charged with birthing the Council. It is anticipated that Cabinet will soon approve the composition of the Steering Committee and facilitate the continuance of this effort.

This most recent initiative is geared towards putting in place the requisite programmes and policies which will guarantee our survival, since our nation's prosperity depends on its competitiveness; a large function of productivity. Our strategy must include the pursuit of sound macro-economic policies, ensuring a stable political environment and well equipped and functioning legal and regulatory institutions all of which are critical to ensuring that our economy remains buoyant and can realize increased levels of economic growth and development.

For further information on the National Competitiveness and Productivity Council, please contact: Gale T C Rigobert (PhD) Advisor, National Development, Ministry of Finance, Economic Affairs & National Development, Government of Saint Lucia, Corporate Office, 3rd Floor, Financial Centre, Bridge Street, Castries, Saint Lucia, W.I., Phone : (758)468 5550, Cell : (758)284 0048, 717 1171, Fax: (758)452 6700, Email: grigobert@gosl.gov.lc.

Bordelais Correctional Facility Upholding the Vision for Rehabilitation

The main objective of the Rehabilitation Programme of the Bordelais Correctional Facility is to empower inmates by providing them with a compendium of skills and education with a view to enhance their chances of contributing to their economic and social well-being. This reflects a fundamental shift in philosophy from a penal to corrections Facility. The programmes in place at the Bordelais Correctional Facility are all geared towards the rehabilitation of inmates with a view to making them productive members of society through the transformation of the total mindset from realization and acceptance of the negativity to a state of reformation through the process of counseling, educational development and employable skills. The goal of Rehabilitation, which is the underlying philosophical outlook of the Institution is therefore sustained by three major programme departments, namely: Education, Skills Development and Counseling.

Education

Education is an integral part of the rehabilitation programme of the Bordelais Correctional Facility. The education unit became functional in September 2006, with responsibility for the education of inmates as it seeks to meet the diverse educational needs of inmates through the provision of quality academic education whereby inmates can successfully re-integrate into individuals/citizens.

The inmates, their welfare and concerns, are most important to the success of the education unit which encourages a working environment based upon the belief that imprisonment, though viewed as justified punishment, should not bring with it additional deprivation of civil rights, which includes education. Moreover, the unit not only discourages physical and mental deterioration of inmates, but also seeks to provide them with opportunities to change and develop. The education unit is committed to the International Covenant on Civil

and Political Rights, Article 10 (3). The penitentiary system shall comprise treatment of prisoners the essential aim of which shall be their reformation and social rehabilitation.

The Curriculum

National Enrichment Learning Programme (NELP) - Lower level education is geared towards fulfilling the requirements of the National Enrichment and Learning Programme (NELP) of the Ministry of Education and Culture. The curriculum focuses mainly on basic literacy and numeracy. This level of education focuses on inmates who have had no schooling to those who have attained grade six.

Caribbean Examination Council (CXC) - Inmates who have successfully completed basic level education at the Institution, and those who have attended lower secondary education prior to incarceration, have the opportunity to enroll in CXC and tertiary level programmes as staff permits. The curriculum is flexible and therefore caters to the diverse needs of inmates - intermediate level CXC (CCSLC) in Mathematics, English and Social Studies. At the general level (CSEC), inmates are offered Information Technology, Mathematics, English Language, Principles of Business and Agriculture.

Current enrollment

A total of sixty-five (65) inmates are currently enrolled in the education programme at the Bordelais Correctional Facility. Twenty-five (25) inmates are enrolled in the CXC programme while forty (40) are enrolled in the basic level programme.

Skills Training - Industries

The main objective of the Industries Unit is to empower inmates by providing them with a compendium of skills from which they can acquire training with a view to enhance their chances of contributing to their economic and social well-being. Currently



Sweet Potato



Watermelon



Cauliflower



Freshly Harvested Cabbage

the unit has three (full-time) instructors for training in Agriculture, Carpentry and Joinery and Tailoring/Sewing. Volunteers provided training in the areas of Small Engine Repair and Electrical Installation. Apart from the training programmes, inmates are hired as apprentices in each of the programmes.

Agriculture

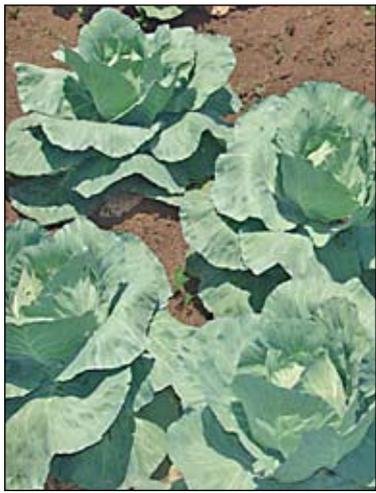
The Bordelais Correctional Facility (BCF) operates a five (5) acre plot with a mixed farming system of production. The objectives of the Agriculture programme are

to reduce expenditure, generate revenue and train inmates in agriculture through the adoption of improved and appropriate technology with a view to engaging in agricultural production upon the release.

Crop Production - A variety of crops are grown to generate revenue and for use in the preparation of meals for inmates. The current markets for the produce are Consolidated Foods Limited (CFL), St. Lucia Marketing Board (SLMB), Staff and the general public. The fol-

lowing crops are grown – root crops (sweet potato, cassava, dasheen), vegetables (beans, sweet pepper, cucumber, ochro, eggplant, pumpkin, broccoli, cabbage, Chinese cabbage, spinach, corn, seasoning pepper), fruits (watermelon, cantaloupe, carambola, cherry, citrus, avocado, pineapple), breadfruit, bananas, plantain, macambou, sorrel, yams and herbs (chives, celery, parsley, celery, rosemary).

During the current fiscal year 2010/11, the Government of St.



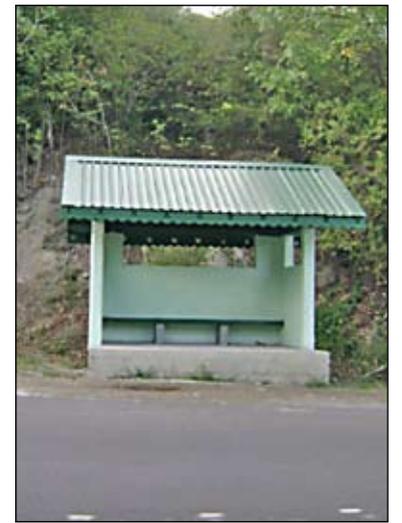
Crops Grown on Agricultural Farm at Bordelais



Bee Hives Used for Bee-keeping



A sample of Pigs kept in the Existing Pig Pen



BCF's Bus Shelter



Construction of Chicken Pen



Samples of Special and Finely Finished Craft Items made by Inmates



School Furniture Built by Inmates



Construction of Pig Pen

Lucia provided funding for the purchase of two (2) 100 ft greenhouses. Through this project, the Agriculture Skills Programme will promote the modernization of agriculture through the adoption of improved and appropriate technology.

Livestock - Through Livestock production, inmates are trained

in the management of:

- i. Pigs – currently, the existing unit is being expanding to accommodate a 10-sow unit. The production of pork is for revenue generation. As an offshoot of this enterprise, a biogas system is currently being constructed with the primary purpose

of providing fuel for the preparation of meals.

- ii. Poultry (broilers) - a 3,000 sq.ft pen was recently commissioned. This unit has the capacity for housing 3,000 birds. The litter will be used as manure in an attempt to improve soil fertility.

- iii. Bee-keeping – this programme entails the establishment of three (3) hives.

Carpentry & Joinery

Inmates are employed as apprentices where they assist in the production of household furniture such as beds, cupboards, dressers, wardrobes etc. Game-boards and sculptors are also produced. These inmates provide the labour for the construction of many projects at the facility – chicken pen, pig pen, biogas, bus shelter, abattoir, and all other minor woodwork and masonry jobs. Also, the department has a School Furniture Project with the Ministry of Education where furniture is repaired for the schools in the south of the island. This programme assists in generating revenue.

Garment Construction/Tailoring

Inmates are enrolled in sewing where they learn the art of constructing garments. They produce bedroom linen for use at the facility, inmates' uniform, and uniform for kitchen staff as well as ceremonial wear for officers. Two (2) inmates have continued the profession upon their discharge.

Counseling/Social Interventions

The Programmes Unit undertakes various social intervention and Counseling initiatives. These are all geared towards the psychosocial aspect of the rehabilitation of inmates. Among some of the activities undertaken are the institutionalization of the Duke of Edinburgh Programme, a football competition among units, religious education from various denominations, Alcoholic Anonymous (AA) and some level of counseling.

Bwa Patat Residents Benefit from New Human Resource Centre

The Government of Saint Lucia views community infrastructure as a key element of critical social intervention that promotes integrated social, cultural, economic and community development. The Bwa Patat Human Resources Center was therefore conceived and conceptualized as part of a key strategic policy outlook which aims to provide service centres for rural as well as urban communities.

The idea for construction of the Bwa Patat Human Resource Centre came through the initiative of two residents, Nigel Robert and George Mann. These two persons who were the main proponents for this project approached the Member of Parliament Hon. Richard Fredrick to convert an abandoned house in the Bwa Patat area into a community center.

Consequently the Member of Parliament Hon. Richard Frederick and the community got together to discuss the idea and to conduct a thorough assessment of the property, which was followed by a survey and subsequent land acquisition. Following the establishment of consensus among residents about the need for the project and the suitability of the location, the Taiwanese Embassy was approached with a proposal for funding. The Embassy provided its approval and the construction of the Human Resource Centre was underway in earnest. The approach in construction of the Centre was one in which all labour was secured from members of the community. This in itself was a reflection of the pride, dedication and positive outlook, which they had towards the re-



Newly Opened Bwa Patat Human Resource Centre

alization of this key community development component.

Hon. Richard Frederick in his address at the opening ceremony on Saturday 21st August, 2010, expressed much joy at the process that led to the completion of the Centre. The Parliamentary Representative for Castries Central, which includes the Bwa Patat area stated during this address: "I am particularly proud that this Centre was conceived by the guys on the block who had the good sense and wisdom to do something constructive in their neighborhood, by turning an old abandoned building into something so wonderful that would benefit the entire community".

Minister Frederick went further to state: "I want to thank Ambassador Tom Chou of the Taiwanese Embassy, for his understanding of the needs of the community of Bwa Patat. We are indeed appreciative of his Government's continued support for local community projects, island wide that make a significant difference in the lives of all Saint Lucians". He urged residents to take great pride and community ownership of the HR Center by keeping it clean and avoid vandalism of such a vital community resource.

Part of the opening ceremony for the EC\$320,000 Bwa Patat Human Resource Centre involved the official handing over of the facility

to the Ministry of Social Transformation which will assume overall responsibility for its management. The day's event was attended by Prime Minister Stephenson King who also addressed the ceremony spoke of his Government's commitment towards alleviating existing hardships and improving the standard of living and quality of life of the people of the community of Bois Patat and Saint Lucia in general.

The Prime Minister appealed to members of the community to demonstrate their appreciation for the facility by ensuring responsible use at all times. He expressed the hope that the Centre would be used by residents for activities that will help to enhance human capacity, address educational needs and contribute to intellectual advancement. This he thought would help to bring about positive transformation in the lives of residents and serve as a beacon of pride and hope.

Prime Minister King expressed his gratitude and appreciation to the Government and people of the Republic of China/Taiwan, for their cooperation programme and work done towards the ho-

listic development of Saint Lucia. He also announced some major projects which are schedule to come on stream in the surrounding communities of Bois Patat. These include a Multi-Purpose Court and Human Resource Centres at Sunbuilt, Agard and Chase Gardens.

The Bwa Patat Human Resource Centre is equipped with a kitchen, meeting/communal hall and other rooms which it is expected will be used to facilitate the setting up of computers stations with internet services as well other services to be identified by the Ministry of Social Transformation in collaboration with residents.

Members of the community will be able to host community social events, educational and cultural programmes among other activities. The ceremony ended with the Prime Minister participating in the cutting of the ribbon to declare the facility officially open. The Bwa Patat Human Resource Centre is one of a number of similar facilities that the Government of Saint Lucia intends to construct throughout the island as part of a policy of community empowerment and sustainability.



L-R: Parliamentary Rep. Hon. Richard Frederick; Min. of Social Transformation Hon. Lenard Montoute; Angel Brouet; H.E. Amb. Tom Chou; Prime Minister Stephenson King

