



NATIONAL REVIEW



PRIME MINISTER STEPHENSON KING ANNOUNCES APPROVAL OF HEWANORRA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT



The Government of Saint Lucia continues its forward march in spearheading initiatives that are geared at sustaining economic growth despite a global recession unprecedented since the 1930s. During an address to the nation, Prime Minister presented the welcomed news that his Government had approved the submission of the Saint Lucia Air and Sea Ports Authority for the redevelopment of the Hewanorra International Airport during an address to

the nation on Wednesday, September 15th, 2010.

During his address, Prime Minister King noted that despite what he referred to as a "Global Tsunami" his Government has remained focussed on keeping the ship steady within the context environment sparked by the world wide recession.

The Prime Minister explained what he said was a "deliberate and aggressive posture" to confront the external shocks while at the same time preparing the Country for anticipated opportunities as the glob-

al recession waned. The Saint Lucian Leader referred to the theme of the 2010 – 2011 budget: "The Road to Recovery: Engineering Growth, Engendering Social Cohesion and Building Resilience to External Shocks" as capturing his Government's strategy. Mr. King stated: "In this regard, Government's policy has been one based on the approach of applying public investment as a strategy for stimulating economic activity".

During his address, the Prime Minister listed a number of projects undertaken to date, which he

explained as: "public sector investment initiatives not only to generate economic activity and provide employment, but also to position our nation at the forefront of emerging trends and technological advancements". The projected he noted had contributed to the creation of jobs and critical advancements in the health, communications, agriculture, and other sectors.

He noted that the Administration's determination to continue its programme of modernizing and stimulating economic growth despite efforts by certain elements to

derail the efforts of Government. Prime Minister King stated the following: "In the process of advancing their self-serving agenda, the opposition has resorted to attacking the integrity and professionalism of persons who proudly serve this nation. We are confident though, that Saint Lucians fully understand the enormous challenges faced by their Government and our efforts to deliver against phenomenal odds".

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St. Jude Hospital Reconstruction Project of Saint Lucia

Rising from the Ashes

St. Jude Hospital Reconstruction Project
projectmanagerstjude@gosl.gov.lc | www.finance.gov.lc

Ministry of Education and Culture

Back to school Support for 2010 – 2011



Parent Applying for Text Book Rental Programme



Ministry of Education Mobile Library Service

The government has a responsibility to assist in breaking the vicious cycle of poverty through an effective education system. According to the Poverty Assessment Report (1995) as cited in the Education Development Plan 2000-2005 there is an urgent need for more and better targeted resources as well as greater sensitivity to problems of the poor in order to provide student support services/ programmes and strategies which will break the cycle of poverty and increase life chances for children from low income houses. This point is reiterated in the Pre-social Assessment Secondary Education Report (2001) by stating "the lack of education is a core cause of poverty so that lack of inclusion has a vicious circle effect" (p. 2).

The existing student support ser-

vices that have been implemented by the Ministry of Education in primary and secondary schools were intended primarily to assist in breaking the vicious cycle of poverty that threatens to overwhelm a significant number of students among the school-age population.

With increased efforts by the Ministry of Education to make Universal Secondary Education a reality in St. Lucia, it was imperative to ensure greater equity in the distribution of education sector resources and by extension to ensure that the less privileged students receive the necessary support to access and participate in the education process. For these reasons various student support services programmes have been implemented to provide welfare, social and psychological support. Hence, the pov-

erty stricken, disadvantaged, abused and marginalized students are assisted not only in gaining access but also in receiving quality secondary education that would equip them in satisfying the demands of globalization and the labour market.

Assistance is provided in Special Education, Counselling, School Attendance, School Bursaries, Book Rentals, School Feeding, and Transportation subsidy to ensure that participation is open to all students at all levels in the education system. In spite of these forms of student assistance, the private cost of education at the secondary level is still prohibitive for some parents.

Based on the number of students assisted via the student support services, the Ministry estimated that about 30 percent of the overall secondary school population was classified as "needy" and deserving of assistance.

Counselling Services

Counselling Staff - Presently there is one counsellor at each secondary school and one district counsellor at each Education District office. The District Counsellors serve the primary schools and supervise the secondary school counsellors. There is one overall counselling coordinator. All positions have been filled.

Module Writing - Modules in the areas of Conflict Resolution and Mediation, Stress Management, and Self Esteem/Self Worth are being completed for use in classroom guidance. The counsellors worked on these modules during the summer workshops and they will be completed during the first school term. These modules will be piloted and refined for regular use by counsellors as well as Health and Family Life Teachers in the classroom.

Character Education - Character Education training will commence during the first school term and the intention is to train all primary school teachers in that area. The ultimate goal is to implement character education throughout the school system. The Six Pillars of Character are Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, Citizenship.

Career Education - The Career Education Programme is better structured this year because the counsellors received specialized training last academic year in that area and they are now equipped with all the necessary materials to assist students. The Career Exposition will be held in the South of the Island this year and planning and preparation will commence during the first school term.

The Career Exposition was held at the Gaiety on Rodney Bay in the North last year and was very successful. All secondary school students visited the Exposition with over thirty organizations taking part.

Why Try Programme - Last academic year all school counsellors were trained to conduct "Why Try" groups and a pilot programme was conducted at four schools in District Two. The pilot is being evaluated presently with the intention of expanding the programme to ten other secondary schools this academic year. The United States Peace Corps was instrumental in securing funding for the programme from J.Q. Charles Group of Companies.

Eight primary school "Why Try"

kits were purchased under the HIV/AIDS programme by the Focal Point for the Ministry of Education. Each Education District Office will receive one kit and the programme will be implemented at the primary school level this academic year.

The Why Try Programme is a strength-based approach to helping youth overcome their challenges and achieve opportunity, freedom and self-respect by using education and interventions that motivate and create positive change. The programme teaches basic life skills principles such as problem solving, stress management, conflict resolution, dealing with peer pressure, living with laws and rules, that decisions have consequences, goal setting and creating positive support systems.

Parent Education - Parent Education programmes will be implemented at all schools. A developmental approach will be taken in the delivery of the programme.

School Performance - The coordinator will be visiting all low performing schools during the first term with a view to assisting principals and school counsellors in forming a team within their respective schools that will put structures in place for improving school performance.

The above programmes represent some of the preventative/proactive programmes planned for this academic year. However individual counselling of students by counsellors continues on a case by case basis.

Special Education Programme - The Ministry of Education will continue to provide educational services to address the differences and needs of children with special educational needs as outlined in the Education Sector Development Plan for 2009-2014. In that regard the Ministry is dedicated and genuinely committed to helping all our diverse learners reach their full potential so that they can lead better and more productive lives.

While, it is very clear that extensive work has been done to influence the progress made in Special Education over the past years poor student performance is becoming a very hot issue.

According to the Chief Education Officer the Education commandment for 2010-2011 is "high performance" which implies the need for a significant improvement in the educational opportunities for all learners with special emphasis on learners at risk. The Ministry will provide support through collaboration, consultation and teamwork (CCT). We will continue to work with and continue to network with other stakeholders of the Education System if we are to make measurable strides.

Principals, Special Education Needs teachers, class teachers must routinely make good use of rigorous monitoring activities related to teaching, other provisions and outcomes, planning must be founded on robust evidence and good quality data. In this way there will be sustained evidence of strong improvement in the services offered to children with special needs.

By doing so we will be providing positive learning experience that will facilitate success for students both at special and regular schools. All stu-

dents must be encouraged to focus on their positive attributes and recognize their individual strengths in order to maintain high performance.

Our five major goals are: (1) Promote and provide Early Intervention Strategies in order to identify infants with developmental delays; (2) Improve the structure to meet individualized needs of all students who fit into their normative categories of disabilities (CP, blind/low vision, deaf, epileptic, severe mental handicap) and are in special school; (3) Provide continued support to students in the non-normative categories: gifted, learning difficulties, behavior or emotional problems, and are in regular schools; (4) Collaborate among Education Service Providers - Special Education Unit, Examinations Unit, ECE, SALCC, CAMDU, SALCC and (5) Encourage parents to make effective use of the Special Education Support services available.

The Ministry oversees five (5) Special Schools: Lady Gordon Opportunity Centre (in Castries); Dunnottar School (in Castries); The Education Unit of the SLBWA (in Castries); Soufriere Special Education and Rehabilitation Centre and Special Education Centre (in Vieux-Fort).

Students in regular primary and secondary schools are served through Special Education Student Support Programme staffed by a Special Educational Needs Teacher (SENT). Concerns of students with difficulties with learning are referred to the Multi Disciplinary Team (MDT). The team comes together to provide comprehensive assessment and consultation and make recommendations for the increased academic success of the students referred. All MDT recommendations are assessment-based, and are achieved through a consultative and collaborative process.

The Ministry of Education works in partners with the Ministry of Health, Human Services, Family Affairs and Gender Relations, as well as the following non-governmental organizations: St. Lucia Blind Welfare Association (SLBWA); National Council of & for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD); St. Lucia Society for the Deaf; St. Lucia Association for Developmental Disabilities (SLADD) Child Development and Guidance Centre (CDGC); United States Peace Corps Volunteers; Japanese Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV).

Attached to the Special Education Services Unit are the following: A Speech and Language teacher; An Occupational Therapist; A Physiotherapist; A Special Needs Assessor. In addition to a Special Education Needs teacher attached to most primary and some secondary school there are 15 psychometric assessors, 18 Kindergarten Entrants Screeners in the System.

The Ministry of Education respects each child's uniqueness, and will make every effort to create educational experiences that will foster high performance by the end of the school year. The Ministry of Education will strive to create positive, inspiring and safe environment that foster sharing, learning and growth, and will also continue to make a difference in the social and emotional development of the students referred for intervention.

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ST JUDE HOSPITAL RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT PUBLIC DONATION ACCOUNT UPDATE

Periodical Updates will be
Provided through this Medium

EC \$ **306,691.14**

"Rising From The Ashes, A Phoenix Will Emerge" - PRIME MINISTER STEPHENSON KING

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Prime Minister Stephenson King announces Approval of Hewanorra International Airport Redevelopment Project

Continued from front page

The news of Government's approval was presented in the following manner: "My fellow Saint Lucians, It is therefore my pleasure as Prime Minister to inform you of your Government's decision on another major development initiative. After months of exhaustive review and a thorough due diligence process, the Government of Saint Lucia has agreed to approve the proposals of the Saint Lucia Air and Sea Port Authority (SLASPA) on the Hewanorra International Airport Redevelopment Project. The Government, through Cabinet, has officially accepted SLASPA's submission, for the redevelopment of the Airport. This will now clear the way for the start of preparatory work leading to the actual commencement of the project early in the New Year".

This is no doubt an announcement that all patriotic and industry stakeholders had been awaiting for some time. The new facility was designed by renowned architects; Heery S&G Architects International, based in Miami, USA. This is a company which has many years of experience in designing airport terminals. Based on the company's design portfolio, the new Hewanorra International Airport will follow the idea of a Caribbean concept featuring ample light, open spaces and greenery. The Prime Minister explained: "Both the terminal and the airport grounds will be carefully landscaped with trees, tropical plants and flowers, some of which will be innovatively incorporated into the terminal's interior. The architectural design itself will include imitations of the natural environment, inspired by St. Lucia's tropical rain forest. First time visitors will experience the

beauty, vibrancy and attraction of picturesque St. Lucia seconds after arriving on our soil, and will know instantly that they are somewhere special. Departing visitors will have one final memorable image of our tropical "Helen of the West" to leave with".

The new terminal will feature a number of improvements, which are designed to ensure a more comfortable and enjoyable passenger experience. These would include:

- Larger temperature regulated, energy efficient, and handicap friendly departure and arrival halls, for a less cramped experience during peak hours.
- A bigger and improved terminal designed to handle more than twice the number of annual passenger throughput.
- Modern check-in counters which conform to the internationally standardized CUTE (Common User Terminal Equipment) System to allow for the speedy processing of check-in passengers.
- Wider baggage carousels will reduce baggage recovery time.
- There will also be a greater variety of duty free shops, eating establishments, banking services and other improved passenger facilities and services.

The project also addresses a number of major elements of enhancement with respect to the Airport apron. The following are of note:

- The airport apron will be enlarged and restructured. This will see the Hewanorra International Airport which was designed to accommodate five aircraft now increased to a capacity of thirteen.
- Six to eight of the aircraft positions will be accessible via enclosed jet bridges. This will allow passengers to disembark and board planes with full

protection from the elements.

- The apron area will include parking space for bigger jets such as the Airbus 380 – "the liner of the skies"; the largest passenger aircraft currently in service.
- Two additional spaces will also be allocated for Boeing 747- 400 and 777- 200, which are wide body jets.
- In addition, the terminal will include a technical block consisting of a new control tower and modernized air traffic control and meteorological centres. These updated facilities will allow for the smooth execution of airport operations and provide our dedicated Air Traffic Controllers with a better work environment.

Saint Lucians were informed during the Prime Minister's address that a group of companies will be contracted to rebuild the Hewanorra International Airport at a total cost of US\$140 million. This decision was arrived at after a thorough evaluation process with the requisite due diligence. The four companies in question formed a consortium group which would be responsible for the execution of the project. Together the four entities account for a combined experience of over 200 years. The members of the consortium group are:

- Asphalt & Mining (St Lucia) Ltd. utilizing their finance consultants of Branch Banking & Trust (BB&T) and will be engaged in Project Finance and Administration.
- Heery International / S&G Architects will be responsible for Architectural Design, Architectural Construction Administration and Architectural Project Management.
- TY Lin International will be the lead Design professional, Engineering Construction Administration, Engineering,

Project Management; and

- Delant Construction will engage in the Construction Management and Terminal Building Construction.

The Prime Minister made the categorical statement during his address that there will be no Government guarantee, nor will SLASPA have any of its properties mortgaged or debentures placed against its revenue. Rather, debt security will be mainly in the form of rights to a specific revenue stream through a lockbox mechanism, as well as a cash reserve. Funding will be done through loan financing to be repaid over 25 years at a fixed interest rate of less than six percent.

The nation was also informed during the address that Hewanorra International Airport Redevelopment Project is a self-financing endeavour, financed through the implementation of an Airport Development Charge (ADC), to be realized through departure taxes of US \$35.00 and not taxpayer dollars. Passengers leaving St. Lucia, of which approximately 80% are visitors, will incur these charges through pre-purchased tickets and will not pay any additional charges on boarding.

It was noted that the after completion the new Hewanorra International Airport will be expected to provide service for a period of approximately forty (40) years before there will be need for any significant expansion or upgrading.

Prime Minister King assured Saint Lucians that SLASPA had committed to providing stakeholders and the general public with comprehensive information on the Hewanorra International Airport Redevelopment Project in the coming months.

The Board, Management and Staff of SLASPA, as well as the Public officials came in for praise by the Prime Minister who publicly thanked the respective personnel

and cited the professionalism, resilience and integrity, which they displayed throughout the assessment and negotiations process.

In reflecting on the significance of the project, Prime Minister Stephenson King stated: "The Hewanorra International Airport Redevelopment Project will no doubt act as a catalyst for economic development and enhanced competitiveness in regional and international markets. On commencement, the project will provide major employment opportunities for Saint Lucians, particularly those residing in the south of the Island. These would include the Districts of Soufriere, Choiseul, Laborie, Vieux Fort, Micoud, Dennery and, indeed, the entire Country. Skilled residents in fields such as: Engineering, Carpentry, Plumbing, Masonry, Electrical Installation, Painting and other areas requiring skilled and unskilled labourers, will find welcome opportunities for employment during the construction phase of the Airport Redevelopment Project. Once the project is completed, it will create opportunities for a long waiting list of Operators who would like to establish business ventures at the Airport. These include: Tourism Transportation Providers, Retail Shop Owners, Restaurateurs, Travel Agents, Spa Operators, Telecommunication Providers, Bank Operators and Other Small Business Owners".

In a note of determined optimism, Prime Minister King proclaimed that Saint Lucians will, soon be invited to embark and fasten their seatbelts as they participate in "what is expected to be an engaging and educational journey before a smooth landing for the official launch of the Hewanorra International Airport Redevelopment Project".



EARTHQUAKES

PART I

WHAT ARE EARTHQUAKES?

An earthquake is sudden motion or trembling of the ground produced by the abrupt displacement of rock masses.

HOW DO THEY OCCUR?

The earth's outer shell is divided into seven major and some smaller plates which are constantly in a dynamic state, pushing against, pulling away from, or grinding past one another. Forces build up as the plates attempt to move in relation to each other. When the adhesions along the fault give way, stored energy is released in the form of earth tremors, volcanic activity etc.

Types of plate movements and principal effects:

- Oceanic plates pulling away from each other leads to hot volcanic material being expelled from cracks to form mid-ocean ridges.
- Oceanic plates colliding with and forced under continental plates leads to mountain ranges being pushed up, accompanied by earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.
- Collisions of continental plates force up mountain ranges; release compression energy in quakes.

FAULTING

Many earthquakes occur as a result of movement along pre-existing faults or fractures occurring in the earth's crust (e.g. along plate margins). Forces of tension and compression created in the earth's crust largely due to tectonic movements of the plate produce sudden movements along the line of fracture (fault lines) resulting in two blocks of crust slipping with respect to each other. This sudden movement produces seismic waves which travel from the source through the crust to the earth's surface. When they arrive, the vibratory motion felt is called an earthquake.

The Caribbean Plate interacts with the North-American Plate at its eastern boundary, where the Atlantic sea floor attached to the North American and South American Plate is being forced or subducted beneath the Caribbean Plate. The subducted material underwent partial melting which because of its then less buoyant nature was, sometimes forced to the surface in the form of volcanic activity to produce the chain of Caribbean islands.

This process of subduction is still occurring and is largely responsible for the seismicity felt today in these islands. In addition, the sometimes slow, upward, less violent intrusion of molten magma into the crust of these active volcanic areas produces seismic activity which is felt on the surface as earthquakes.

LIKELY IMPACT

Primary effect of earthquakes:

- Total or partial destruction of structures.
- Blockage or breakage of transport activities.
- Interruption of Water Supply.
- Breakage of Sewage Disposal Systems.
- Loss of Public Utilities, eg. electricity & gas

Casualties may be due to:

Direct Hazards

- Total or partial collapse of structures due to poor design and construction materials.
- Falling debris and dust from rubble.
- Transportation casualties due to collapse of bridges etc.
- Floods from collapsed dams or river banks.
- Release of hazardous materials.

- Landslides.
- Tsunamies, loss of life by inundating low-lying coastal areas.

Indirect Hazards

- Fires.
- Release of hazardous material.
- Electrocution.
- Exacerbation of chronic diseases

The Eastern Caribbean Islands are particularly vulnerable to impact from submarine eruptions from the "Kick-em-Jenny" volcano located five miles north of Grenada, about 450 feet under water. Also historical records have shown that a tsunami was generated by the earthquake of 1867 which affected St. Thomas and Tortola in the Virgin Islands.

Earthquake Safety

Before an earthquake

- Build your home in accordance with the recommended building codes. See your local disaster management office for details.
- Bolt heavy furniture, water tanks, water heaters, gas cylinders and storage units to a wall or floor.
- Place largest and heaviest items on lower shelves.
- Emergency items such as canned foods, medication, flashlights, battery-operated radios, fire extinguishers and a First Aid kit should be readily available and working properly.
- All family members should know how to use this emergency equipment and should know how to turn off electricity, gas and water using safety valves and main switches.
- All family members should know what to do during an earthquake and should practice these safety tips through regular drills.

During an earthquake

- STAY CALM. DO NOT PANIC. BE ALERT.
- If inside stay inside, do not run out of the building.
- If inside, stand in a strong doorway or get under a sturdy desk, table or bed and hold on. Do not use elevators or stairs. Move away from windows, mirrors, glass doors, pictures, bookcases, hanging plants and heavy objects.
- If outside and there are no obvious signs of danger nearby, stay there.
- If outside, stay away from glass buildings, electricity poles, and bridges.

- If in a vehicle, do not stop on or under a bridge.
- Always look out for falling plaster, bricks, lighting fixtures and other objects.

If trapped under debris

- Do not light a match.
- Do not move about or kick up dust.
- Cover your mouth with a handkerchief or clothing.
- Tap on a pipe or wall so rescuers can locate you. Use a whistle if one is available. Shout only as a last resort. Shouting can cause you to inhale dangerous amounts of dust.

After an earthquake

DO

- Check for broken gas lines and fires.
- Check utilities and switch them off, if necessary.
- Check your house for serious damage and evacuate if the house seems likely to collapse.
- Be prepared for more earthquakes (aftershocks).
- Stay away from landslide-prone areas.
- Turn on transistor radio for emergency news.
- If possible, check the Seismic Research Centre's website at www.uwiseismic.com for updates on the earthquake.

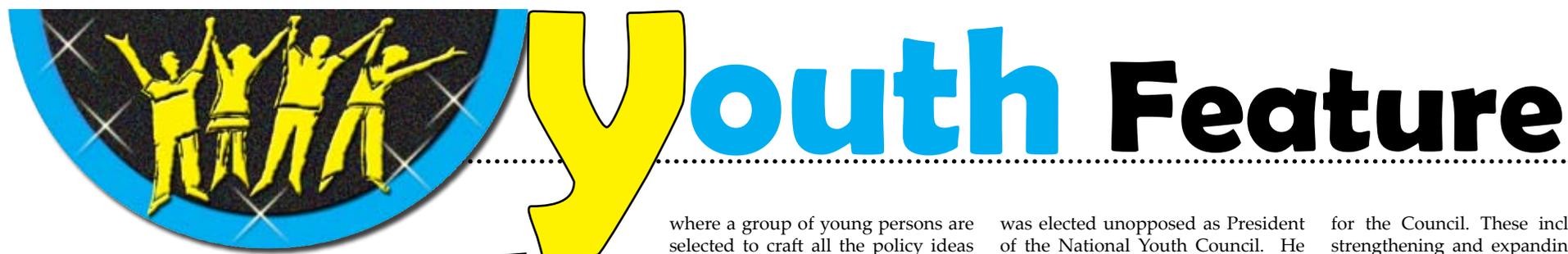
DO NOT

- Do not light a match or turn on a light switch. Use a flashlight instead.
- Never touch fallen power lines.
- Do not go sightseeing. Leave the streets clear for emergency and rescue vehicles.
- Do not attempt to move seriously injured persons unless they are in danger of further injury.

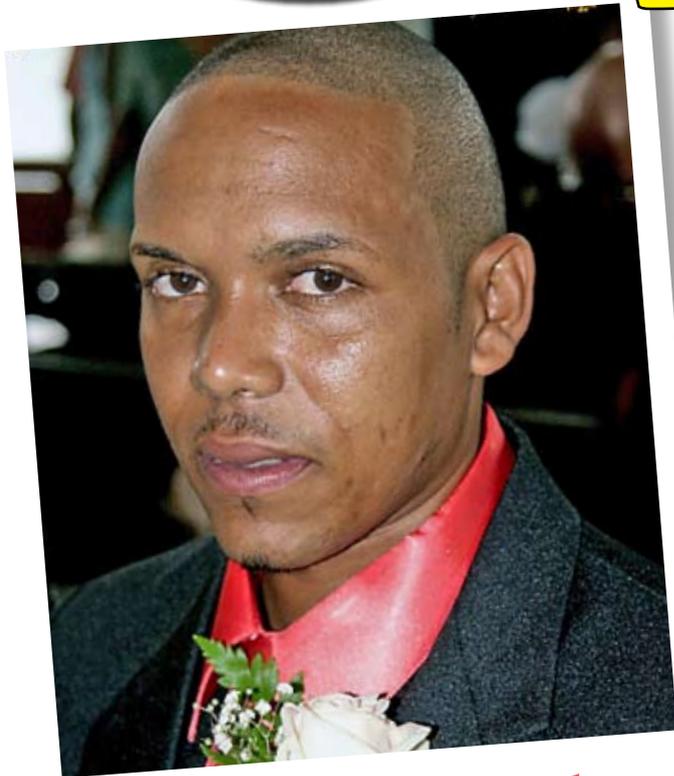
What about the Triangle of Life?

This is a widely circulated suggestion which states that during an earthquake it is safer to curl up next to a desk or bed rather than to go under it. We do not recommend this practice for the following reasons:

- The Triangle of Life is not a scientifically proven theory.
- It is unknown if during the earthquake these "triangles of life" - spaces next to desks, beds etc.- are impacted in any way which may make them unsafe areas.
- In the Eastern Caribbean, 'pancaking' or crumbling of buildings which would crush occupants as described in the 'Triangle of Life', is not expected.



Youth Feature



Jonathan Chalon

Organization	Position	Years
Commonwealth Caribbean Youth Program	Regional Youth Caucus Representative	2005 - 2007
Choiseul Youth & Sports Council	President & Others	2003 - 2010
District Seven Sports Committee	Chairperson	2003 - 2005
District Eight Sports Committee	Chairperson	2009 - Ongoing
Saint Lucia Red Cross	Instructor trainee (HIV/AIDS)	2004
Choiseul Football Committee	Chairperson	2003 - 2009
Choiseul Catholic Youth Group	President	1996 - 1999
La-Fargue Development Committee	Treasurer	2007
Village All Stars	President	2002 - 2004
International Peace Federation	Volunteer (Project Coordinator)	2008
National Youth Council	President	2010 - ongoing

Jonathan Chalon was carved out of the beautiful clay from the industrious fishing village of Choiseul on February 2nd, 1981. He humbly admits that it is the special nurturing of his mother who is now differently able, that has groomed and guided him and ensured that he mushroom into who he is today. He summed up his appreciation for his Mother's role in his life as such: "For her angelic hands of guidance, her unending, usurping love and support I remain forever grateful, thankful and indebted".

The genesis of his community involvement began as early as his enjoyable years in the Boys Scout Movement where his sobriquet 'Jakes', which he is affectionately known as, originated. Jakes emanated from a strong Christian faith (Roman Catholic), and as his leadership skills developed from an alter boy, he served in other roles within the Church eventually becoming the President of

the Church Youth Group and subsequently Deanery leader.

In 1992 Chalon began his Secondary School Education at the Saint Mary's College, where he derived an immediate passion and love for sports. His exemplary sporting talent led him to the leadership of his local sports club Village all Stars, where he guided them to unprecedented success in Choiseul's Community Sports activities in cricket and football. His leadership potential was recognized at the national level and he was selected as Saint Lucia's Commonwealth Youth Representative from 2004 - 2006 where he served with humility, commitment and dedication.

In that capacity he represented Saint Lucia at the Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting (CYMM) in 2008 held in the Bahamas. He was a member of Youth Communiqué Drafting Team (2006) and was the Youth Delegation Leader. This was a Youth Communiqué Drafting team

where a group of young persons are selected to craft all the policy ideas suggestions and recommendations presented at the various youth consultations. This was then put into a communiqué or document which was brought to the Commonwealth Ministers of Youth for ratification. He also participated in youth Camps in collaboration with other agencies in support for Commonwealth projects hosted in Saint Lucia which involved entrepreneurial grants and undertaking workshops in that regard.

As a result of his service to numerous organizations, national regional and international, he has acquired a wealth of skills and experiences which has proven critical and vital to all spheres of life, especially youth work. The table above shows a listing of his community/organization involvement and experience

Endowed with a multitude a talents Jonathan's employment experiences include: Primary School Teacher, Pastry Cook (Jalousie Hilton: 1997 - 1999 and Coconut Bay (2005 -2006). He also worked as a Customer Service Attendant at Moorings International in 2000, Accounts Clerk with Courts St. Lucia Ltd (2001), and Information Technology Clerk with the Electoral Office in 2006.

Jonathan's passion for youth work was aptly demonstrated by his successful honorary completion of a Diploma in Youth in Development Studies with the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus from 2006-2008. Moreover, in 2009 he successfully completed an Associate Degree in Primary Teacher Education at the Sir Arthur Lewis Community College, Division of Teacher Education and Educational Administration. He was the recipient of an award for Educational Research and now teaches Physical Education at the Les Etangs Combined School in Soufriere.

His career interests entail Physical Education & Sports as well as Human Resource Development. When he is not involved in his usual voluntary or Career work, Jonathan enjoys socializing with friends, playing football, cricket and table tennis, as well as performing and choreographing traditional and ballroom dances.

The multi-talented Chalon is also involved in the performing arts/dance and served as a member of Traditional Dance group named MICHOI for five years and with the Chyrstlights Dance Academy. With a joy for imparting knowledge he did not hesitate to serve as a Dance Instructor this year for the National Skills Development Center in Choiseul at the Choiseul Centre of Excellence in Reunion for one month, June 2010.

Jonathan also conducts dance workshops for Latin and Classic ballroom dance in Salsa, Cha-Cha, Meringue and Waltz.

At the recently held Bi-annual General Assembly of the National Youth Council held in Dennery from August 13-15, 2010, Jonathan Chalon

was elected unopposed as President of the National Youth Council. He points out that his previous experiences have adequately prepared him to assume the leadership of an organization so vital and critical to the needs and aspirations of our youth. He has always taken a keen interest in the Youth Development and is not a neophyte in the youth movement as he was instrumental in the revitalization committee, which led to the revival of the NYC in 2006, after the collapse of two presidents within a year.

He is committed to pursuing the philosophy of the organization which is geared towards harnessing the talent, energy and creativity of Saint Lucian Youth and turning them into a potent resource for individual, community and national development. Upon his ascendancy to the Presidency, he focused and highlighted the NYC motto: "Participation, Peace, Progress" and urged the young people at the General Assembly to play their part in ensuring that the organization remains a vibrant entity that continues to serve the needs and interest of the youth.

He did not hesitate to remind them that the power of a national body that represents all youth can only bring progress through the vibrant participation of everyone. He challenged his fellow youth to get involved, get others involved, participate and let their voices be heard. Chalon notes that under his stewardship, he is committed to restoring the pride and confidence that the entire nation once had in the NYC. He intends to do this with a renewed thrust to mobilize and organize young persons to confront the challenges ahead.

Demonstrating their youthful exuberance and leadership, Chalon and his team quickly hit the ground running and in less than a month they have begun to advocate vigorously on behalf of young persons, planned youth consultations on Trade, Caricom Integration and Unemployment.

A planning workshop has been organized for the leadership and subcommittee members in an effort to address the Priority Areas of the Council. This workshop which will be held on October 2nd - 3rd, 2010 at the NYC Office Lapanse Castries, seeks to achieve the following:

1. Design a mobilization plan that seeks to strengthen and establish formidable youth structures especially at the grassroots level.
2. Devise a Marketing and Advocacy strategy that will get all youth to more actively involved in their organizations and provide a voice for the youth of the nation on issues that affect them and
3. Provide training that will ensure that members can successfully access and manage the resources of the organization.

A variety of mechanisms, programs and projects have been outlined with the expressed intention to focus and adequately address the priority areas

for the Council. These include the strengthening and expanding of the National Youth Parliament; a focus on research and innovation which is guided by a participatory learning approach, capacity building programmes for NYC membership, the revitalization of the NYC National Debating Competition, Youth Leadership and Training Programmes, etc.

Chalon posits the view that the relationship between government and the Youth Movement is one where a very healthy balance must be encouraged and developed. He recognizes that if serious national development is to occur especially in the youth sector, the NYC and Government must be partners and a relationship of mutual understanding and respect must be maintained. However, he says, Government must expect the youth of any nation to advocate robustly for the necessary changes and development in any society.

Mr. Chalon looks forward to a positive and fruitful interaction with Government and non state actors in the development process but maintains that any plans or policies made for development without the involvement of the youth, is just a myth and not more than that. He adds: "Our job is to build the country from the ground up and that involves the collective energies and effort of every Saint Lucian man, woman and child. This is certainly not the time to engage in petty squabbles over matters that will not take us forward. As a nation we must remain united and focused to row the oars of the ship of state against whatever tide that comes our way".

The NYC President is of the firm conviction that all too often we are giving young people cut flowers, when we should be teaching them how to grow their own plants. The latter he says is at the core of the mandate of the NYC and as such the organization is ever ready and willing to work with all organizations, (private and state) to continue to prepare our youth for nation building.

In relation to his style and approach to the management, leadership and direction of the NYC, the President summed it up this way. "Management is doing things right and that I certainly intend to do, while leadership is doing the right things to take the organization to places it has never been before. When it comes to matters of approach and style I will swim with the current, but in matters of principle I will no doubt stand like a rock, and that the only direction that I am prepared to go, is in the direction that our wonderful country must go, forward".

Jonathan has a strong love and commitment to family and as such recently plunged into the pool of matrimonial bliss. He is indeed thankful to his wonderful wife Jessica for her support and encouragement in his quest to continue serving his country.

Eye on the Constituencies

The approach of Government in the overall development of the island embraces a comprehensive and integrated process which is inclusive so that there is equity in the allocation of resources at the local district level. The allocation received from the Local Government to District Councils has been used in Laborie to improve the infrastructure in the community with foot paths, drainage works, safety railings etc.

While the need for road improvements have been a major issue in the community, the Ministry of Communication, Works, Transport and Public Utilities has engaged Members of Parliament through

community field visits in order to address community infrastructure issues in a balanced manner. In that regard the Morne Le Blanc and Banse La Grace Road have been given serious attention in order to ease the inconvenience for mini bus drivers, motorist and the general public. The Government has embarked on a comprehensive road improvement programme in the community which has seen a healthy state of all the major roads in very good condition.

Other community initiatives include the Rudy John Beach Arts and Craft Center which is due to be completed in November 2010 at a cost of EC\$1.3 million. It comprises of toilet block

and four (4) craft stores in Section A, while Section B has four (4) craft stores, a training center and an office. This project is long awaited by the people and will no doubt elevated the village of Laborie and improve the local economy with increased tourist activity. Some of the key areas which are to be addressed include the Augier to Maganier farm road and Banse to Grace Farm roads. According to the Hon Guy Joseph, Minister for Communication and Works, "this will be given due attention to bring much needed relief to the farmers of the community".

Additionally, an ITC Center for Augier and Laborie as well as a recreational center and playing field

in the upper Augier area is down for consideration. This will assist in providing an avenue for the youth of the area to have facilities that they can better channel their creative energies. The Laborie playing field is seriously hampered by the use of the road going right through the playing field. There is a road at the back of the field which needs to be addressed urgently so that use of the field will not be hindered.

Government through its relevant Ministries and agencies seek to continue empowering individuals and groups of people by providing these groups with the skills and support needed to affect change in their own communities.



Contractors for Craft Center, John and Rufus Michel



Construction of Laborie Arts & Craft Center in progress



Drainage works High Road



Morne Le Blanc Road Refurbishment



Railing and Footpath at JFKennedy Highway



Enhancement of Enbas Citron Road



Retaining wall & Drainage at Morne La croix Road



Road Upgrade from La Grace to Banse



Railing at High Road



Railings Jetty Road



Refurbishment of Mon Repos Hill - Road



Upgrade of Labatoire Road Near Coast



Hon. Guy Joseph with Laborie MP Hon. Alva Baptiste at Ministry of Communication & Works Constituency visit of Laborie assessing Infrastructural Concerns

Community / Citizens Action

The Wilton's Yard Experience

Community empowerment is at the very core of the approach and policy of the current administration and as such is fundamental to Government's modus operandi in pursuing development undertakings at the community level. Government is therefore committed to ensuring that local communities are facilitated and empowered to enable them to play an active and more direct role in the decisions that affect their communities.

The approach taken by the Ministry of Social Transformation is one that embraces the concepts of capacity building, sensitization, organization and empowerment, in an effort to ensure that communities are functional and stable. Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Mr. Donovan Williams, outlines the importance of the functionality and stability of inner city and rural communities, as being critical in the overall scheme of societal development. He adds that "the approach of the Ministry in realizing this objective is to provide support and direction to communities to make them inclusive in which we will be working in ways which recognize that discrimination exists, promote equality of opportunity and good relations between groups and challenge inequality and exclusion".

"We must ensure that they are organized so that they can bring people together around common issues and concerns in organizations and groups that are open, democratic and accountable. They must also be co-operative by working to build positive relationships across groups, identify common messages, develop and maintain links to national bodies and promote partnership working. Additionally we must ensure that they are also influential in that they work in to encourage and equip communities to take part and influence decisions, services and activities".

Mr. Peter Reynolds President of the Wilton's Yard Association shares a similar outlook and points out that his association views community development in terms of building active and sustainable communities based on social justice and mutual respect. It is about changing the way people think and see themselves by removing the barriers that prevent them from participating in the issues that affect their lives.

Mr. Reynolds outlines the objec-



**Peter Reynolds, President
Wilton's Yard Association**



One of many Workshops at Wilton's Yard



**Cheryl Clarke, Vice President of the
Wilton's Yard Association**



**Students following attentively during an
on farm training session**

tive of the Wilton's Yard Association as follows: (a) Strengthening peoples' capacity to achieve sustainable livelihoods; (b) Adopting a cross-sectoral multidisciplinary approach to planning and implementation; (c) A strong emphasis on organizational and technological change and innovation; (d) Placing emphasis on the need to build social capital through experimentation and learning and; (e) Developing the skills and performance of both individuals and community institutions.

It is in that context that the Wilton's Yard Association is forging ahead to undertake its programmes and activities that are all geared to make a significant difference in the lives of Wilton's Yard residence. One of the main programmes currently being undertaken is the After School Home Work Programme which runs three days a week on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The association expresses its thanks to the generosity and help of patrons from the private sector like Mr. Ronald "Boo" Hinkson for his vital contribution to this project.

The idea was to start with twenty (20) kids but the programme quickly grew to thirty four (34) kids and is on the incline. There are four (4) tutors (qualified teachers) who facilitate the sessions. The age range is from five to sixteen (5 to 16) years from Kindergarten to CXC level. The kids who are the direct beneficiaries are indeed eager to participate in the programmes hence

the numbers are climbing rapidly. They welcome the initiative as it provides a serious platform and avenue for them to develop and excel, stay focus, improve their school grades and most importantly stay out of trouble.

The Association also undertook an Agriculture Summer Camp at Bexon from August 2nd to 31st, 2010. According to Vice President of the Wilton's Yard Association Mrs. Cheryl Clarke, the purpose of this workshop was to encourage young people to get involved in farming as a career option and to keep them off the streets during the summer vacation.

She added that "the project objective was to educate a cadre of persons on farming methods and techniques in the area of sowing and planting, weeding, use of pesticides and its effects on crops, harvesting and post harvesting technology". There were also sessions dealing with group dynamics, self respect and cooperation. Award certificates were issued at the end of the workshop.

The Vice President adds that the Association is working relentlessly to engage in activities that will impact positively on the community. Some of their initiatives in that regard include: the Stop the Violence Initiative in September 2007, the Give Peace a Chance Initiative in September 2008 and the Alternative to Violence Initiative in March 2009.

The community which is a small settlement within the city of Cas-

tries and comprises approximately twenty five (25) house-holds continues to receive the support and assistance of Government through the Saint Lucia Social Development Fund in undertaking numerous community infrastructural projects. These include foot paths, drainage works, sidewalks and other community support initiatives.

The Member of Parliament Hon. Richard Fredrick pledges his total support and assistance to the organization and applauds the dynamic and forward thinking methods that it has adopted in changing the lives of members of the community.

The Wilton's Yard Association is geared towards focusing on the youth by providing guidance and direction to them and seeks to put politics aside and deal with everyone. The focus of the organization is on the principles of learning, equality, participation, co-operation and social justice.

Other programmes include several workshops on conflict resolution, drama, violence, motivational lectures etc. Additionally with the support of the Ministry of Social Transformation another after school programmes is due to start in October 2010 and will focus on providing skills training in a range of activities which include arts and craft, music, sports, information technology, etc. This initiative which is part of a broader national program targeted at inner city and rural communities will provide financial assistance in terms of fa-

ilitators, materials, snacks for kids and other relevant support assistance. Government has allocated EC\$1 million for this programme nationally.

Assistant Programme Coordinator of the After School Home Work Project and Chairman of the Wilton's Yard Association, Mr. Jeffery Gabriel (a.k.a. Jah Diamond), points out that his organization is valuable to the development of the Wilton's Yard Community as it seeks to provide the necessary support and direction geared towards changing the associated stigma of the area.

He explains: "We are thinking of the future so that the kids that we are assisting will take on the mantle and continue with the programme as well as the leadership of the organization. We are concentrating on the mothers and fathers of tomorrow so that they will not miss out like the generation of their parents. We therefore urge the kids and parents to embrace the programme so that they will reap the benefits".

Jah Diamond's message to the youth of Wilton's Yard is that there is no good in going to Bordelais nor is there any real value in being arrested, and that there is absolute no gain in violence as violence begets violence. Instead Chairman Gabriel advised that they get involved in positive organizations to harness their energies and creativity.

The Chairman expressed his profound appreciation for the support and assistance that the organization continues to get. Special thanks go out to individuals like Ronald "Boo" Hinkson, Inspector Lansiquot from the Royal Police, Dr. Stephen King, Mr. Kendal Hippolyte, Dr. Jacqueline Bird, Mr. Darnley Lebourne and Mr. Laurianus Lesporis from Solid Waste Management, the SSDF and other Government Ministries and agencies. The association looks forward to its many programmes to come on stream such as its kid's foot ball tournament, the annual stop the violence fair to be held at the Courts Car Park in October 2010, as well other activities to be undertaken.

The Government of Saint Lucia is firmly supportive of organizations like the Wilton's Yard Association, which contributes in a meaningful way in providing hope and leadership for their communities. The lesson from the work of entities like the Wilton's Yard Association is that communities can take charge of their own development in partnership and with the support of Government. Government will continue to support the efforts of the Association through its various social intervention programmes.

Ministry of Education and Culture

Back to school Support for 2010 – 2011

Continued from page 2

HIV and AIDS and Education - Since 1985 when the first case of HIV was diagnosed in St. Lucia in, the Government has spearheaded numerous initiatives to reduce the rate of infection especially among the youth. The initiative was lead by Health sector, however currently a multi-sectoral approach to addressing HIV and AIDS is being pursued. As part of its response strategies, the Ministry of Education appointed a Focal Point to coordinate its response which initially comprised education and sensitization. The education sector's response has expanded significantly and now includes curriculum development, care and support, creating an enabling environment and the development of an HIV Policy of the Education Sector.

In the fight against HIV and AIDS it is generally accepted that education contributes to the knowledge base and personal skills essential for the prevention of HIV. Thus, HIV/AIDS education in schools is promulgated through the Health and Family Life Education curriculum. Teachers have been trained to deliver HIV and AIDS education both at the primary and secondary school levels.

A policy on HIV and AIDS for the education sector has been developed and when approved will guide staff, students, parents and other stakeholders when dealing with issues related to HIV and AIDS in the schools and the work environment.

The School Feeding Programme - The School Feeding continues at seventy six schools (76) island-wide. Approximately seven thousand children are served a hot balanced mid-day meal daily. Some schools also operate a small breakfast programme for some students before morning classes at a cost of approximately seven hundred thousand dollars annually (\$700,000).

In preparation for this new school year the following additional works have been undertaken

1. Complete refurbishment of kitchen at Camille Henry Memorial School. \$17,315.00
 2. Complete refurbishment of the kitchen at Carmen Rene Memorial School. \$24,465.00
 3. Servicing and repairing most electrical and non electrical equipment. \$4,000.00 (9 freezers, 2 refrigerators, and 7 cookers)
 4. Construction of four large storage cupboards to facilitate the storage of dry goods. \$8,500.00
 5. Construction of five large tables to facilitate the serving of food. \$6,000.00
 6. Purchase small equipment for schools and protective gears (bib aprons) for cooks. \$32,478.40
- A total of \$85,758.40
In addition
7. Seventy cooks were trained in Food Safety Principles and HAC-CP Level One.
 8. Twenty five cooks obtained certification from the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (London)

The Infant, Primary and Secondary Book Bursary Programmes - These programmes are available for all students. To date, five hundred and thirty eight (538) infant and primary students received book bursaries and two hundred and eighty three (283) secondary students are enrolled in this programme. The programme continues.

Thirty eight thousand five hundred and nine dollars and fifteen cents \$38,509.15 were spent on purchasing new textbooks.

The Textbook Rental Programme at Secondary Schools - At least twenty two (22) secondary schools participated in the Textbook Rental Programme this year. So far five hundred and fifty (550) students have been enrolled on this programme and the numbers continue to increase. Some students were also granted waivers off the rental fees due to their financial circumstances. The programme continues at the schools.

The Government of Saint Lucia Sir Arthur Lewis Community College (SALCC) Bursary Programme - Students accepted to the Sir Arthur Lewis Community College and Vieux Fort Comprehensive Secondary School - Campus B (Post Secondary Programme) may become eligible to receive bursaries from the Government of Saint Lucia to pursue studies leading to Certificate/Diploma/Associate Degree in approved areas of study, including: Sir Arthur Lewis Community College - Advanced Level Programme (A' Level); Agricultural Science; Architectural Technology; Applied Arts - Business Studies/Administrative/Office Administration; Automotive Technician; Building Trades Foundation; Building Technician; Building Craft (Preliminary Studies); Carpentry and Joinery; Construction Engineering; Computer Maintenance Technician; Diesel Mechanics; Electronic Service Technician; Electrical Installation; Electrical/Mechanic Technician; Hospitality Studies; Nursing; Refrigeration and Air Conditioning; Secretarial Studies and Teacher Education.

Vieux Fort Comprehensive Secondary School - Campus B (Post Secondary Programme) - Advanced Level Programme (A' Level); Business Studies; Carpentry and Joinery and Secretarial Studies

The Government of Saint Lucia offers seven five (75) new bursaries per year to first and second year students (also third year to nursing students only). In addition the bursaries would continue for second year students (and third year where applicable) who are continuing their studies upon their successful completion of the previous year.

Eligibility Criteria - An applicant for bursary becomes eligible for consideration based on the following criteria: (a) Acceptance into one of the full-time programmes offered by the Sir Arthur Lewis Community College or the Vieux-Fort Comprehensive Secondary School, Campus B (Post Secondary Programme); (b) Financial Need: the applicant's inability to support himself/herself using personal or family resources while at school or

the number of dependents who rely on the applicant's personal and/or family income. The average income per head in each household should be less than \$200.00 for an applicant to be eligible for consideration.

The Government of St. Lucia Bursaries covers full-time programmes only. Bursaries are not granted to enable applicants to pursue programmes offered by the Department of Continuing Studies of the Sir Arthur Lewis Community College, the University of the West Indies, Distance Education Centre or the University of the West Indies Open Campus.

The bursaries cover SALCC fees (which include tuition, registration, examination, laboratory and insurance fees) and transportation allowances on behalf of the successful applicants. Transportation allowance is paid as follows: (a) EC\$100 per month (for 10 month / 1 academic year) for residents of Castries attending SALCC and residents of Vieux Fort attending Vieux-Fort Comprehensive Secondary School Campus B (Post Secondary Programme); (b) EC\$200 per month (for 10 month / 1 academic year) for students who do not reside in Castries attending SALCC and students who do not reside in Vieux Fort attending Vieux-Fort Comprehensive Secondary School, Campus B (Post Secondary Programme).

In terms of the financial implications for the coverage of bursaries in respect of the 2010/2011 financial year, the overall amount which has been budgeted for is EC \$285,410.00.

Transportation Subsidy Programme - From September 2007, the Ministry of Education provided free transportation to needy secondary school students. This service was discontinued in 1997. To this end, the Ministry of Education and Culture, in keeping with the policies of new Government of St. Lucia has re-introduced the transportation service at the cost of approximately four million dollars (\$4M).

The transportation Subsidy Programme was implemented in 2007 at eleven secondary schools to address the need to assist needy children in covering the cost of transportation to and from school. In addition, many school principals on the island lamented the irregularity and punctuality of their students. Moreover, an evaluation study conducted in 2006 on the student support services recommended that a transportation subsidy programme be implemented to assist the needy students attending secondary schools. Tardy students blamed their lateness and absence from school on not having enough money to pay bus fare to and from school.

Currently, approximately 3000 students from all over the island are benefiting from the programme. There are now sixteen secondary schools on the programme. The Subsidy started with 11 secondary schools and was further expanded in 2008 to include 5 more schools including the Vieux Fort Special Education Centre. A total of 156 bus drivers are now employed with the subsidy programme.

The programme has registered

overwhelming success in the following areas: (1) Reduced transportation cost to parents, thus making additional funds available for purchasing other school requirement; (2) Increase attendance, punctuality and regularity among students; (3) Maximum participation of students in their education; (4) Elimination of loitering by students in commercial areas after school hours; (5) Increased student participation in co-curricula activities, especially those held outside of school hours; (6) Increased earnings by/employment for bus operators and families

School Attendance - Some parents have indicated that they are not able to get their children to attend school because of lack of control. Truancy and regular absenteeism are also reported. To combat such a practice the Ministry of Education has secured the services of a School Attendance Counsellor to ensure that students of compulsory school age (5- 15 years) attend school regularly and punctually.

Last academic year, forty three (43) unregistered infants of age ranging from 6 to 9 years were assigned to various schools. Several students of compulsory school age, who were delinquent in their attendance were contacted. Most of them were readmitted to their schools. Parents were informed of their parental responsibilities of ensuring that their children attend school regularly and punctually at several presentations at Parent /Teacher and Orientations meetings. Eighteen (18) parents were taken before the Courts because of the high level of absenteeism of the children. One student was taken from his foster-parent because she had not sent him to school for over eighteen (18) months.

Parents are reminded that they should give priority to their children's education for this new academic year 2010-2011.

New Initiative To Market Saint Lucia

British Cabbies To Cruise, And Push, Saint Lucia



SAINT LUCIA

After years of speaking of the wonders of the island, tourist officials want to accelerate the promotional drive of selected London cabbies - by flying them to Saint Lucia.

The drivers of three Saint Lucia-branded taxis in London have begun experiencing Saint Lucia's legendary experiences first hand.

The drivers, all revved up to participate in a novel Saint Lucia Tourist Board-coordinated familiarisation trip, will see them cruising and exploring the most attractive and interesting facets of the island.

Explaining the innovative move, Vice President of Marketing and Sales Nerdin St. Rose points out that familiarization trips usually target travel agents and journalists, however, the Saint Lucia Tourist Board



One of the British Taxis Participating in the Campaign

thought it was important to sharpen the knowledge of taxi drivers since they come into contact with so many consumers, and potential tourists, on a daily basis.

Studies show some 60 passengers ride in a London taxi every day so the improved product knowledge of taxi drivers will help strengthen Saint Lucian sales and marketing efforts in one of the world's wealthiest markets. In addition, she indicated "the knowledge gained of Saint Lucia's unique attributes will no doubt also filter to the drivers' family members and friends."

It is already educational for the drivers who, in order to qualify for

the September 14 to 21 Saint Lucia trip, had to answer 10 questions about Saint Lucia, covering basic facts on the island as well as activities and special events.

Another condition is that drivers hand out either a special offer flyer or brochure from the host hotel they are stationed at to their passengers following the trip to Saint Lucia. This will be done for two months, in October and November.

Apart from taking in the island's beautiful scenery, the drivers will also hold talks with their local counterparts.

NATIONAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

Developing the Nation's Entrepreneurial, Management and Administrative Skills

The National Skills Development Centre (NSDC) was established to provide skills training and career information service for unemployed clients seeking integration into the work environment. The Centre was formerly launched in February 15, 2001 and has since embraced its mandate to expose clients to the relevant aptitudes, skills and knowledge needed to conduct effective job search activities to access self and wage employment opportunities.

The NSDC structure includes a Board of Directors, General Manager, a Headquarters and five Satellite Centres. The Centre was born out of a vision to become a progressively viable self-sustaining institution, dedicated to the advancement of attitudes, skills and knowledge, necessary for survival in the global working environment.

The National Skills Development Centre has a mission to work together with the support of the private and public sectors, to assist in providing information and training services towards developing a skilled, informed and marketable workforce, which will contribute to the development of St. Lucia.

The NSDC has a three prong approach in carrying out its objectives: (1) To work closely with private and public sector agencies towards creating a skilled and marketable labour force; (2) To offer a range of services and programmes which will help unemployed disadvantaged clients become self-reliant and realize their career potential and; (3) To provide local, regional and international labour market information to better inform clients' career decisions.

The primary sources of funding are from the European Development Fund (SFA), the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the Government of Saint Lucia, the World Bank, the Organization of American Eastern Caribbean States (OAS) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Productivity Enhancement Training (Soft Skills Training) is a crucial aspect of the NSDC training methodology and includes self management, conflict resolution, team building, communication skills, job search skills, customer service and computer training.

The programme is further complemented with training in the areas of Wood Work/Joinery, Outboard Engine Repair, Bartending and Beverage Services, Plumbing, Culinary Skills, Auto Mechanic, Welding, Heavy Equipment, Decorative Upholstery and Drapery, Air Condition and Refrigeration, Scuba Diving, Green house Farming, early Childhood Education, Masonry and Tiling.

Table 1

No.	Skills Training Programme	Implementation Period	No. of People Trained
1	Technical vocational Training (local TVET funds)	2001-2002	250
2	Basic Needs Trust Funds (BNTF) funded by CDB	2002-2003	213
3	Special Framework of Assistance (SFA) 1999 EU funding	2002-2003	550
4	Special Framework of Assistance (SFA) 2000 EU funding	2003-2004	512
5	Hospitality and Construction skills Training (HCP) Government Funded	2006-2007	498
6	Youth Apprenticeship Programme (YAP) Government Funded	2004-2006	167
7	Construction Skills Training for Women (West Coast) Saint Lucia Funded by BNTF/CDB	2007-2009	112
8	Special Framework of Assistance (SFA) 2002 EU funding	2007-2009	329
9	Special Framework of Assistance (SFA) 2004 EU funding	2008- Present	70 plus
10	POETA Funded by OAS	2008-2009	157
11	OECS Skills for Inclusive growth World Bank funded	ongoing	

Table 2

Projects Name	Funding Agency	Year	ECS	US\$ - Equivalent
Caribbean Youth Empowerment Project	USAID	2010-2011	625,000	250,000
Youth Path Project	UNESCO	2010	26,000	10,000
OECS Skills for Inclusive Growth	World Bank	2007-2012	9,275,000	3,500,000
Social Framework of Assistance (SFA 04)	European Union	2008-2010	9,828,000	3,708,679
Social Framework of Assistance (SFA 02)	European Union	2007-2009	1,456,000	549,434
POETA – ICT (Trust of the Americas)	OAS & Donors	2007-2010	79,500	30,000 & in kind
Construction for Women	Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)	2008-2009	380,000	143,400
Hospitality & Construction Project (HCP)	GOSL	2006-2007	1,348,000	508,679
Basic Need Trust Fund - South	Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)	2001-2003	150,000	56,604
Basic Need Trust Fund - North	Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)	2002-2003	75,000	28,302
Youth Apprenticeship Programme (YAP)	GOSL/C	2004-2006	543,600	205,132
SFA 2000	European Union	2003-2004	896,500	338,302



Mrs Selma St. Prix
General Manager

The Centre offers a wide range of programmes and services which includes Career Counselling, Productivity Enhancement Training, Technical and Vocational Skills Training, Job Attachment, a Job Placement Programme and Referral to other agencies for which the clients qualify. The target group includes displaced banana farmers, school drop outs, teenage mothers, as well as youth at risk whom the NSDC is mandated to impact on their lives, socially, through their personal development and transforming their lifestyles. There are naturally collaborating agencies such as CARE, SALCC, NELU, RISE (St. Lucia) Inc, NRDF, SLDB, Government Agencies and Employers, which add to the broad base approach of the NSDC training programmes.

Orientation workshops which provide in-depth information on how person can qualify for access to NSDC's programmes and services are held at the Centre's headquarters at the Bisee

Industrial Estate every Thursday at 9:00. All interested persons are welcome to come in and chat with NSDC about the various ways they can explore their potential.

NSDC is mandated through its mission to work together with the support of the private and public sectors to provide information and training services towards developing a skilled and marketable workforce. The principle objectives of the Centre are: (a) Offer a range of services and programmes which will help unemployed disadvantage clients become self-reliant and realize their career potential; (b) Provide local, regional and international labour market information to better inform clients' career decisions.

NSDC seeks to provide a holistic approach to the development of market driven attitudes, skills and knowledge through the retraining of unemployed people. Additionally there continues to be frequent engagements in corporate endeavours with other social partners and funding agencies.

Through the six (6) satellite centres island-wide the NSDC ensures that its services are decentralized. The strategic approach to skills training and development has al-



Participants in one of the Many NSDC Training Programmes



Beauty Therapy Training



Housekeeping Programme



Green House Training Programme



Black Bay Skills Training Center under construction



Electrical Instalation Programme

lowed the NSDC to implement over two hundred different technical vocational areas under eight (8) training projects to date.

With a vision dedicated to becoming a progressively viable institution, dedicated to the advancement of knowledge, skills and the attitudes necessary for survival in the changing global work environment, the NSDC has refurbished and revitalized the Choiseul Arts and Craft Centre (CACC) to facilitate increased sales.

The NSDC's mandate is to strengthen our nation through standards for global challenges'. The Centre embraces its mission to work together with the support of the private and public sectors, to provide information and training services towards developing a skilled, informed and marketable workforce.

Guided by this objective, the NSDC has already begun taking steps by infusing quality into its policies, procedures and training process in general. As such, the NSDC utilizes most of its training standards and modules from the Heart Trust NTA of Jamaica.

These standards and modules have been recognized and endorsed by the International Labour Organization (ILO). More recently however, the NSDC had secured the services of HEART Trust once again to provide Auditor Training to approximately 20 participants as well as a Gap Audit of the Centre's facilities. This training was perceived to be very timely and was well received by its participants who comprised NSDC staff, MOE staff and private sector representatives. The NSDC is very proud to have taken this BOLD first step towards becoming a full fledged accredited training Institution.

To date, the NSDC has been engaged in many projects two of which had recent graduations; SFA 2002 and CDB construction for women. There are also two new small projects from proposals recently written for training; UNESCO, USAID.

According to the General Manager Ms. St. Prix, "These projects generally, provide skills training and employment opportunities in a wide variety of areas ranging from & Culinary Skills and Tour Guiding in Choiseul, A/C & Refrigeration Repairs and Electrical Installation at Patience, Beauty Therapy and Office Administration in Castries just to name a few. Over the past years, the NSDC has continued to move from strength to strength".

Not only has the NSDC been able to increase the number of persons trained in technical and vocational skill areas as well as to increase numbers in job attachments and placements, but it has been able to partner with an ever increasing number of local, regional and international organizations, to share with them our mandate and vision for skills training in St. Lucia. The Centre has collaborated with (PO-ETA) Partnership Opportunities through Employment and Technology in the Americas, to ensure that the ICT programmes have certification of international recognition, which is now continuous and systemized as a mandatory part of the NSDC.

With reference to technical/vocational training, the NSDC has successfully trained approximately 3500 persons and our rate of job-placements range from 60% to 80% as it pertains to different projects. The NSDC's success stories are clearly evident with approximately three hundred (300) trainees, 169 of whom are already attached and approximately sixty (60) kept full-time. It is worth noting that one of those sixty full-time employees became a supervisor within a period of three (3) months.

In reflecting her appreciation for the Corporate sector, Mrs. St Prix pointed out, "We commend highly, all our corporate partners who have embraced their social responsibility by, not only participating in our Job Attachment and Placement Programmes, but also by suggesting positive recommendations to help strengthen and improve them ultimately".

In keeping with the NSDC's mandate to train individuals from a wide cross-section of the of Saint Lucian population, satellite centre upgrades were required at the Patience Skills Training Centre, and the Choiseul Arts & Craft Centre. According to Mrs. St. Prix "These upgrades were absolutely critical in ensuring that we met the requirements of the SFA 2002/2004 grant funding arrangements. These decentralization efforts made it easier for persons to access training nearest to them at any one of the satellite centres located in the north and east coast of the island. We are now through this SFA 2004 project building training Centre in the south to further facilitate decentralization of training".

The NSDC received grant funding through the European Union special Framework of Assistance (SFA) 2004 for a project with the title: Social Recovery and Human Development. One of the activities of the project is the establishment of a Skills Training Centre in Black Bay Vieux Fort and for the provision of equipment and resources for Training Courses to the centre. The Building is of Conventional Design consisting of two (2) floors measuring Eighteen Thousand One Hundred and Twenty Two Square Feet (18,122 SF) and constructed on a gently sloping lot measuring Forty Seven Thousand Four Hundred and Eighty Nine Square Feet (47,489 SF).

Ground Floor - 10,182 sq. ft. which comprises: Restaurant and Bar; Lounge Area; Reception Area; Two (2) State of the Art Kitchens; Butchery and Store Room; Staff and Guest Toilets; Staff Changing Rooms; Administration Offices and Teaching Stations; and Communications and Electrical Rooms.

First Floor - 7,940 sq. ft. this comprises: Three (3) Main Class Rooms; Library; IT Room; Six (6) Administration Offices Waiting Room; Toilets; and Conference Room Facilities.

The Structure is engineered to accommodate an elevator and a second floor extension in the future.

Other facilities include spacious parking area, fully air conditioned, security alarm systems and a structured telecommunications and IT network system. This facility will enable the NSDC to offer skills training to unemployed persons in the areas of Hospitality, Construction and Information Technology as well as other relevant skills identified through the Labour Market Needs Assessments.

The Centre works with numerous projects listed in table 2 for the benefit of developing the potential of our human resource.

The NSDC is in the process of gaining Accreditation through the HEART Trust, Jamaica (a regional institute responsible for developing quality systems training). As a result, its services will be based on the Caribbean Vocational Qualification (CVQ) Framework - Certification and Accreditation that provides access to skills training and certification based on regionally recognized standards.

This is at the core of the NSDC's sustainability plan and is based on a framework developed at five (5) levels, which has been adapted through the OECS Skills Project with the Ministry of Education and the ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs: (1) Level 1- at form five (5) stage; (2) Level 2- CXC stage; (3) Associate Degree Stage; (4) Towards BSc and beyond and (5) Post Graduate.

Level three (3) and above will be done in collaboration with the Sir Arthur Lewis Community College (SALCC) while levels one (1) and two (2) will involve networking with the Center for Adolescence and Renewal Education (CARE). The awarding body for certification is the Ministry of Education/ Tvet Unit and Council at the level of Caribbean Vocational Qualification (CVQ) and National Vocational Qualification (NVQ).

Additionally there has been serious interest from nationals of the Turks and Cacaos Islands in pursuing a programme of study at the NSDC funded by the Government of the Turks and Cacaos. This is

schedule to come on stream soon along with an initiative with the National Research and Development Foundation (NRDF) for the Association of Business Executive study programme with UK based Universities. The course of study will include Certificates in Business Administration and Hospitality Tourism and Travel, while the Diploma Level 1 programme will start in September 2010.

The NSDC is soon to pilot its Prior Learning Assessment Programme (PLAR) along with the OECS Skills Project and the Special Framework of Assistance 2004 (SFA) funded by the European Union. The programme will work by developing a framework of Certification who are highly skilled but have no certification. It will be based on evidence of work, individual portfolios and work experience.

The Centre is busy developing a variety of programmes to enhance the skills set and capacity of our nationals. Recently the UNESCO funded Youth Path Project was undertaken in collaboration with the Soufriere Regional Development Foundation (SRDF) which focused on dance (traditional dance included), tour Guiding, Craft Production and Education. The programme was of four month duration and ended in August 2010.

The Centre will be undertaking the Caribbean Youth Empowerment Project with the official launching will take place on the grounds of the Ministry of Communication, Works, Transport and Public Utility. The programme will be undertaken in collaboration with the CARE Institute and RISE St. Lucia Inc. The programme targets at risk youth within the urban and sub urban areas and will focus on dealing with delinquency and crime.

Yet another new initiative of the Centre is the Auto Skills Project in literacy and Numeracy Software in collaboration with SSDF (who purchased the master License), the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs (Planning Coordinating Unit) and the NSDC which bought the Training License. The programme will target individuals up grade 12 (past form five levels).

In his theory of economic growth Sir Arthur Lewis consistently contended that if there was a choice between foreign investment and domestic capital, the latter should be preferred. In the absence of domestic capital, foreign investment should, given its scarcity and competing claims for its use, be encouraged and offered incentives provided that the net results are favorable to the domestic economy. It must of necessity contribute to the development of entrepreneurial, management and administrative skills, the lack of which has hitherto served as a constraint on development in the Caribbean.

It is these very skills that the NSDC is developing and nurturing for the long term benefit of our human resource. In the process the Centre is rapidly earning the reputation of becoming a major national training agency.

DCA Declares Enforcement Area Along Dennery Village Coastline

Following Tropical Storm Debbie in 1996 the Dennery Waterfront and Coastline was severely impacted. One of the outcomes of this was an additional 15,000 square feet area of reclaimed land. By 2004 the Off-shore Break Water Project was initiated to provide protection from the break waters in the event of a natural disaster. This involved providing coastal protection to the Village of Dennery from damage or erosion as a result of wave action. One of the key components included hydrological studies of the Dennery and Trou a l'Eau rivers and maritime movements, This involved developing physical mitigation options with preliminary costs and economic analysis, carrying out an Environmental Impact Assessment for the proposed options, developing detailed designs, including Bills of Quantities, drawings and technical specifications, for the preferred option of possible mitigation measures.

Mindful that the area is vulnerable to storm surges and sea swells it became important to restrict access to the open communal space created. Therefore there is a critical need to ensure that the geographical area along the Dennery Waterfront was restricted by declaring it a Special Enforcement Area.

This according to the Physical Planning and Development Act, No. 29 of 2001, section 43, which reads as follows: "the Minister may, for the purpose of preventing squatting or other forms of unauthorized development, by Order published in the Gazette, declare any area to be a special enforcement area".

The reclaimed area has been air marked for a community recreation park along the waterfront. The site for the proposed park is the northernmost of the identified coastal nodes (a point of intersection -a vertex) which is the first coastal land encountered on entering Dennery Village from the north, crossing the Trou a Leau Ravine. The location of the



Model of Communal Recreation Facility at the Dennery Waterfront

A. Event Structure	F. Boardwalk	K. Storage
B. Amphitheatre / Play Space	G. Colonnade / Entry	
C. Interactive Sculpture Area	H. Future Tree Grove	
D. Pole Field	I. Lighting	
E. Entry Beacons / Rest Facilities	J. Earth Forms	

Dennery Communal Recreation Facility Proposals
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proposed park within the first of the nodes has some significance as it forms a part of the gateway to Dennery High Street. This area has potential to develop as a major focal point within the village.

It is correct to state that the village of Dennery needs additional economic activity and income generation outside of fishing, agriculture and other current activities. The project is an opportunity to create more than a park, but a basis for stimulating economic activity within the small east coast village.

From the perspective of future thinking and consideration, it is the intention of the Ministry of

Physical Development to utilize the project is an opportunity to demonstrate how careful design can contribute to minimizing environment impact and conservation of use of resources and energy. Some of the factors informing the design portfolio for the proposed undertaking include storm surges and flooding from the river and proper drainage of storm water. These are key elements of the project design which may help to ameliorate the negative impacts of these events on the immediate area.

Some of the important linkages established allow the project to create links that both tangible

(physical) as well as intangible (economic) between the identified nodes and the community such as the existing Saturday Sea Food Fiesta.

With respect to the emerging concept it is envisaged that the project in question will make provisions for relevant security and safety measures and to serve as an area of convenience to meet, play and relax. Figures gathered from the Statistical Department (2005), indicates that adolescents and the elderly are the major groups living in the Dennery area, consequently the proposed park caters for all ages and will include accessibility for users with special needs.

The project planners are cognizant of its environmental and socio-economic impacts as well as its potential for use as a rural planning model. Consistent with this model, the necessary infrastructure will be put in place to facilitate the utilization of solar energy as the preferred source of power. Member of Parliament for Dennery South Hon. Edmund Estephane welcomes the initiative and urge residents to comply with the Special Enforcement Area. He views the proposed park as a vital component which will contribute in a significant manner to economic and recreational activity within the village of Dennery.

