Recognising that the island deserves a new start from the failed politics of the past, the Government of Saint Lucia, has embarked on a series of legislative changes designed to promote economic and social wellbeing while enhancing the quality of life of citizens. Catalogued here are a number of these legislative changes undertaken by the Government as solutions to the challenges facing our nation.

Electronic Transactions Act No. 16 of 2011; The Electronic Transactions Act prescribes the legal infrastructure for electronic commerce. The main purpose of the Act is to facilitate electronic communications and reduce the barriers to electronic commerce by validating electronic records and signatures, and to promote the business (and legal) infrastructure necessary to implement a secure environment for electronic commerce. The Act allows individuals and businesses to use electronic communications for personal and commercial purposes while knowing that their communications and transactions will have the same protection in court as paper documents.

Data Protection Act No. 11 of 2011; The Data Protection Act provides a comprehensive framework for the protection of the privacy of personal information on individuals. The Act defines the legal basis for the handling of an individual's personal information and covers any data which may be used to identify an individual, such as: name, birth date, religion, sexual orientation and marital status. This Act is not yet in force.

Computer Misuse Act No. 12 of 2011; This Act provides for the protection of computer systems and the confidentiality, integrity and availability of data. It further provides for the prevention of abuse of computer systems and facilitates the gathering and use of electronic evidence in relation to criminal activities penetrated through computer systems. This Act is not yet in force.

Financial Services Regulatory Authority Act No. 13 of 2011; The Financial Services Regulatory Authority Act provides for the establishment of the Financial Services Regulatory Authority, a single unit that is responsible for the regulation of financial institutions in the ECCB Member countries. The Unit regulates offshore banks, credit unions, building societies, development finance institutions, insurance companies, and all other financial institutions that are not licensed under the uniform Banking Act No. 36 of 2006.

Commercial Code (Bills of Exchange)(Amendment) Act No. 14 of 2011; This forms part of the legislation submitted by the ECCB for the operation of a payment system to complement and merge the financial sector. There has been a rise in the use of electronic methods of transmission of monetary instruments such as Bills of Exchange. It is therefore necessary to authorize cheques and other

Continued on page 3
The Government of Saint Lucia through its Ministry of Health has undertaken a major healthcare information management programme that promises to address a number of gaps in the health infrastructure of the nation's children - tomorrow's leaders with the necessary tools for survival in this twenty-first century and beyond. As in the words of our Nobel Laureate Sir William Arthur Lewis, “The fundamental cure for poverty is not money but knowledge”. Let us all work together in reducing the level of poverty, by taking an active role in educating and developing the nation's children - our children.

The drive towards excellence, as address issues concerning comprehensive protection of personal health information, accountability of individuals and authorities who collect, use and disclose personal health information by establishing and enhancing the necessary tools for survival in this the twenty-first century and beyond.

I take this opportunity to congratulate all personnel who are part of this programme that promises to address gaps in the health infrastructure of the nation's children - tomorrow's leaders with the necessary tools for survival in this twenty-first century and beyond. As in the words of our Nobel Laureate Sir William Arthur Lewis, “The fundamental cure for poverty is not money but knowledge”. Let us all work together in reducing the level of poverty, by taking an active role in educating and developing the nation's children - our children.

I need to highlight the Awards of Excellence Initiative that has been mainly through the Ministry of Education and Culture has the colossal task and responsibility for educating the nation's children - tomorrow's leaders with the necessary tools for survival in this the twenty-first century and beyond. As in the words of our Nobel Laureate Sir William Arthur Lewis, “The fundamental cure for poverty is not money but knowledge”. Let us all work together in reducing the level of poverty, by taking an active role in educating and developing the nation's children - our children.

I need to highlight the Awards of Excellence Initiative that has been
Government’s Legislative Agenda – Towards Good Governance and Standards

Continued from page 1

Consumer Affairs Department approved by Cabinet. Under the new structure the post of Complaints and Investigation Officer was recognized rather than Redress Officer as was identified in the Act.

Micro and Small Scale Business Enterprises (Amendment) Act No. 6 of 2009; An amendment to the Micro and Small Scale Business Enterprises Act, Cap. 13.19 was also passed on April 27, 2009. The amendment makes it possible for a small scale business enterprise to make an electronic application to the Minister for the benefits under the Act. The Ministry is permitted to set up an online register to facilitate the capture, retrieval, analysis and reporting of data as a result of the amendment.

Police (Amendment) Act No. 1 of 2009; The Police (Amendment) Act came into effect on January 19, 2009. The Police Act, Cap. 14.01 was amended to strengthen the search and detention powers of the police by removing the “less lethal” weapons by the police.

The Government of Saint Lucia is extremely proud of its achievements to date with respect to fulfilling its ambitious legislative agenda. There is no doubt that our nation will benefit significantly from these changes, which will contribute towards upgrading and modernising standards in public service and governance.

The Ministry of Health Attacks Dengue From All Fronts

The Ministry of Health says it has adopted a multi-pronged response to the outbreak of Dengue Fever on the island with an emphasis on the prevention of the disease.

According to Wenn Gabriel, Chief Environmental Health Officer, the Ministry is tackling the problem primarily on two fronts; preventing people from being bitten by the vector (the Aedes Aegypti mosquito), and destroying the vector. The first part of the strategy he says, stresses public education, by encouraging the use of repellents, screens, the spraying pesticides, encouraging people to wear long sleeved clothing and to close their homes at the mosquito’s peak active period, which is about an hour and a half before sunset.

The Aedes Aegypti, Gabriel says is adapted to breed around human dwellings and as such hardly ventures beyond 100 metres from any dwelling. It prefers to lay its eggs in clean water which contains no other living species. People not only provide the mosquitoes with blood meals but also water-holding containers like bottles, flower pots, old tires and discarded appliances in and around the home needed to complete their development. Gabriel says, their eggs become adult in about one-and-a-half to two weeks and the Ministry has been encouraging home owners to conduct regular inspections of their surroundings and to destroy any water holding containers. Merely emptying these containers Gabriel says, is not enough, as there is evidence to suggest the ability of the eggs to withstand desiccation (drying) and to survive without water for several months on the inner walls of containers.

The Ministry has forged alliances with several organisations and institutions he says, because it recognizes that both prevention and Dengue will require a wide and collective approach. To this end it has met with and recruited various Governmental and Non-governmental agencies to help combat the spread of the disease. Working with community based organisations it has conducted community clean up activities and has teamed up with the Ministry of Agriculture and enlisted its Extension Officers to reach farmers to conduct training across sectors.

In addition Ministry staff have been conducting random inspections of households and premises to both educate householders, and to treat potential breeding places. That exercise he says targets the mosquito at its aquatic stage of development.

The Ministry of Health is also engaged in fogging activities which target the adult vector, by using a multi-pronged approach involving all departments of the Ministry.

Key to this effort he says is the public awareness aspect to the Ministry’s work which is being spearheaded by its Bureau of Health Education. In addition the Ministry has extended the opening hours at all health centres in order to facilitate persons who may be infected.

The Ministry of Health continues to call on all community organisations and persons to participate with it and take action to reduce and eliminate breeding grounds and conditions for the mosquito and Dengue Fever. At the individual level it is encouraging home owners to continue regular inspections of their homes and surroundings to ensure that they are not contributing to the proliferation of the disease. Let’s make this a national commitment to eradicate Dengue Fever.
NEMO Disaster Preparedness Feature

Early Warning Systems:
Earthquakes and Tsunamis

There is a tendency to throw out the phrase Early Warning System or EWS as if the one plaster fits all. It is part of the Caribbean Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy and it is part of the Hyogo Framework of Action.

- CDM Outcome 4.5 Early Warning Systems for disaster risk reduction enhanced at the community and national levels.
- HFA Priority for Action 2 - Identify, assess, and monitor disaster risks – and enhance early warning.

Yet I have found that a EWS is as unique as the hazard that it is monitoring. By that I mean:

(a) Epidemiological Surveillance for Human Health and Zoonotic Diseases;
(b) River monitoring for flash flood;
(c) Volcano observatories for eruptions;
(d) Seismic and sea level monitoring for Tsunamis.

The World Met Organisation has recognized the uniqueness of hazards and their attendant EWS and expressed it in their Expected Result 36 - Enhanced capabilities of Members in multi hazard early warning and disaster prevention and preparedness.

The Haitian earthquake of 12 January, 2010 has made some of us in the Caribbean take a long hard look at preparations for disasters. Questions remain in the aftermath of this earthquake that focus on Building Codes, Public Education for Quakes and Tsunamis and developmental issues on the whole.

Over and over again it is said that Haiti did not have building codes. Really? Raise your hand, how many of our Caribbean Nations (1) Have Building Codes and (2) If we have them enforce them without fear or favour. Much of the Caribbean, including Haiti, has no building codes.

What has happened in Haiti is a microcosm of what is happening and what will happen to the Caribbean when the 8M Earthquake arrives. 8M?

Historic records indicate that the Caribbean has averaged one 8M earthquake every century. You would be correct to observe that the 1900s didn’t record such a monster. So when is it due?

There remains no way to predict when, where and how large earthquake will occur precisely. Earthquake prediction is still on a research stage, not operational.

This brings us to public education. With the main threat of a local tsunami [less than 60min to arrival] coming from Kick ‘em Jenny. Models show a 5min arrival time to the north coast of Grenada if the Volcano broke the surface and triggered a tsunami – Saint Lucia 43minutes. It MUST be explained to the public with such dramatic time lines that the Official Alert may not arrive in time to warn persons. People must learn to self-evacuate the way they did in Chile on 27 February, 2010. The Earthquake in and of itself must become the Alarm. The receding sea and the roar of the jet engine is the indicator to Get Out of Dodge City!

It must be explained to decision makers that when the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre issues an Advisory, Watch or Warning for the Caribbean informing that an earthquake has occurred with the potential for generating a local or regional tsunami, in some places there will be no time for the traditional pre strike meeting. The National Tsunami Focal Point in this particular scenario is going to have to hit the “Easy Button” issuing a Mandatory Evacuation and head for the hills themselves. Discussions on response and recovery can/ will take place later.

Even more important – the tendency of Caribbean people to not want to evacuate will cost us in lives lost.

The Disaster Management Systems and SOPs of countries must reflect this paradigm shift. National Tsunami Plans for a Local Tsunami can only do so much. Dependence on the Official Alert in such a scenario has the potential for hundreds if not thousands of deaths. Contingency planning as understood in the region has the luxury of focusing on Regional and Distant Tsunamis; that is tsunamis that are over 3 hours away.

People must be empowered as never before.

We MUST understand that tsunamis can be detected using our human senses. Nature gives us the heads up. It is up to us to recognize and react. So if we feel it – see it – hear it? RUN!

- FEEL - Strong local earthquakes may cause tsunamis.
- FEEL the ground shaking severely?
- SEE - A tsunami approaches shorelines, water may recede from the coast, exposing the ocean floor, reefs, and fishes.
- SEE an unusual disappearance of water?

- Abnormal ocean activity, a wall of water, and approaching tsunami create a loud “roaring” sound similar to that of a train or jet aircraft.
- HEAR the roar?
- RUN
- Don't wait for official evacuation orders.
- Immediately leave low-lying coastal areas.
- Move inland to higher ground.
- RUN if you see a tsunami coming!

What has happened with the Haiti Earthquake is an opportunity for the Caribbean to learn and get our act together. It is not a moment of relief and comfort to look in the mirror and say “But there by the grace of God go I.” The 8M lurks out there.

A. L. Dawn French
BSc (Hons.), MA (EPDC), PgD (RCDM)
CDEMA CU Technical Advisor to CPO Haiti and Director of the National Emergency Management Organisation of Saint Lucia
Top CXC Performer says:

Balance is the Key to Success

Jarnikae Wilson a student of St. Mary's College in a household home on the island following his amazing feat. The 16-year-old collected his results and was over the moon to discover he'd been awarded thirteen distinctions. The range of subject areas (Physics, Chemistry, Biology, English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Economics, Human and Social Biology, History, French, Spanish, Information Technology, and Principles of Accounts) give an inkling of the varied interests of this multi-faceted young man, who claims to party as hard as he studies. The ultimate secret of his success, he says is his ability to strike the perfect balance between his studies and extra curricula activities. He plays the cello, and is a member of the St. Mary's College volleyball team. In addition he was a member of the school's debate team, and participated in the National Youth Parliament in his second year in 2008 and again in 2010.

His participation in such a wide range of activities is sparked by a constant desire to challenge himself mentally and physically. He admits to a great passion for knowledge and a constant desire to learn new things which he believes ultimately led to his success at this year's exams. That, and a conscious decision to write exams only in those subjects he was most passionate about. He says he is aware of students who wrote as many as sixteen subjects and while he doesn't pretend to know their reasons for doing so, he speculates that it may be out of a healthy sense of competition. He says however he chose to compete only against himself.

"I could have done more subjects but I felt that it would have been of no use to me, and it wouldn't elevate me in any way. I think because I had that passion for the subjects that I chose, it was not difficult for me at any point, because I enjoyed what I was doing," he explains.

"Definitely I think I am a blessed individual. I'm blessed by God to have the intelligence and yes I'm a determined student. I apply myself to my work but there's never been a point in my life where I've experienced over exertion...where I put so much effort into what I'm doing that I sacrifice the other things that I love. My advice to other students would be just be a balanced individual and do what you love. I never sacrificed going to a fete or hanging out with my friends because I was doing thirteen subjects..." he says.

Balance he insists is key. At the end of the day, he says, the thirteen distinctions and all the accolades that come with them are good, but without the emotional intelligence to match the academic intelligence, it's all for nought. "What good are the thirteen subjects…" he says.

"There are so many brilliant people out there, who do so well throughout Secondary school, but they go up to University and they don't do as well, because it's a whole different ball game. You have to be a balanced individual. The American College system is a perfect example. There are so many people who get perfect scores in the SATs and they don't get admitted to the top schools, because that isn't all that counts. You have to be balanced to be able to function and to manage yourself in the world outside, in order to make a difference." He explains.

A former student of the St. Aloysius RC Boys' School he says he has always had supportive teachers throughout his school career. At SMC, especially he says, every teacher was supportive of his pursuits. The staff was always willing to assist and there was never any suggestion that he shorten his subject list, even when he decided to study human and social biology on his own.

He says the support of a large and extended family also played a major role in his success. That ring of support and encouragement always do his best and to strive for excellence has been a tremendous boost. Even though he was surprised by his results, he says, there were those in his family who weren't. It is that kind of faith that has contributed to his approach to life and his positive attitude; and of course his faith in God. A strange conclusion from a scientist, one might say, but this budding scientist believes the two (faith and science) are actually closely interrelated.

Wilson is preparing for admittance to the Sir Arthur Lewis Community College's department of Arts and General Science, where he plans to study Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics and Economics with the hope of going to University to study Applied Physics or Nanoscale Engineering with a second major in Economics. His older sister he says is herself a Civil Engineer and that may account for his attraction to the field.

"The truth is that since Form two or so, I've had an amazing passion for Physics. I think it's a fascinating science in terms of Physicists being the only scientists who don't have everything figured out, because there's so much room for growth. Physics is at the avant-garde of the sciences. Physics is really pushing the boundaries of what science can and cannot do..." he says. That statement perhaps explains his constant need to challenge himself and to be challenged.

The Government of Saint Lucia salutes Jarnikae's mark of excellence and his continued fever to excel. He embodies a success story and exemplifies the ideal Saint Lucian youth that this Government continues to facilitate and encourage. Well done Jarnikae.
The approach to community development must be based on an outlook that seeks to integrate economic, social, environmental, and cultural considerations. In the constituency of Choiseul this is well recognized and enshrined in the methodology employed by the current Administration and Parliamentarians. Rufus Bousquet, Minister for External Affairs, International Trade and Investment, and Parliamentarian for Choiseul is one area being considered for installation of street lights.

Over one hundred and fifty street lamps have been installed throughout the constituency and more are to be installed in the coming months as more requests pour in from the constituents. The Soucy Bridge area is one area being considered for installation of lights.

Bus shelters have been built in Delcere, Saltibus, Debreuil and Saltibus. The bus shelters in Bellevue, La Pointe, La Roche, La Mazue and Balca will get shelters this year and consideration is being given to the construction of a shelter at the Raveneau junction.

Achievements in Education

Efforts have been made to ensure that quality educational resources and infrastructural projects have been undertaken in this constituency. However these projects have taken place alongside other social projects. The construction of several footpaths, bridges and driveways constitute a major part of the overall development plan for the constituency of Choiseul.

There can be little doubt that the rehabilitation of the roads in Coco, Mont St. Jean, Doucet, Riou, Debreuil and Francis has improved the lives of residents immensely. The construction of several driveways in Mont St. Jean, Raveneau, Roblot and La Riche has had its impact as well. Footpaths and bridges at La Poine, Industry, Jettine, Pay Jostine Monse, Delcere and Saltibus have been welcomed.

Major drainage projects have been undertaken throughout the length and breadth of the constituency, and as a result the damage by last October’s Hurricane Tomas has been significantly reduced.

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Several students are getting a helping hand from a local credit union to help them move toward their future. The Mon Repos Eastern Cooperative Credit Union 1968 Limited scholarship programme gives young people the ability to acquire funding for their Secondary school education without having to compete with large numbers of applicants in nationwide programs.

The Mon Repos Eastern Cooperative Credit Union 1968 Limited was registered in 22nd May 1968, making it the oldest registered credit union on island. It started operating mainly in the Mon Repos area, slowly expanding to service Mon Repos, Praslin and Margre-toute. Since its merger with the Micoud Credit Union it has embraced Micoud North and Micoud South and the Vigier Community in Vieux Fort North. Currently it has a membership 4,851 but depositors (who are non members) number 2,691. Assets amounted to $21.6 million at the end of 2010.

Manager Priscillus Simeon says the organisation decided to follow the example of many of its fellow credit unions in 2001 and to start giving back to its members through their children. It decided to start a scholarship programme, for outstanding students at the Common Entrance Examinations.

The scholarship programme started off with a single $500.00 annual award. Following the merger with the Micoud Credit Union four years ago, the new entity began offering two $500.00 scholarships. In response to the rising cost of living, Simeon says, another decision was taken to increase the award to $800.00 annually.

Students benefiting from the programme come from an area stretching from Praslin, down to Desruisseaux and even further south to Vigier. So far nine students from Mon Repos and four from Micoud, have benefit from the scholarship programme. The credit union is currently supporting nine students at the Common Entrance Examinations.

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Several beneficiaries of the scholarship programme have graduated from Secondary school and moved on to the Sir Arthur Lewis Community College or have joined the workforce. Other have gone on to University and are reportedly doing very well.

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Black Bay Senior Citizens Home

A gift of serenity to older persons

Photo of soon to be open Black Bay Senior Citizen Home

A new three block, 8-unit complex for older persons in Saint Lucia, will open its doors this month in Black Bay Vieux-Fort. The Black Bay Senior Citizens Home is part of the Government’s commitment to expand options for senior housing on the island, and to cater for the increasing growth in the average age of the elderly.

This month’s relocation will represent the second time the Home has been relocated. Originally established at Bridge Street in Castries, it was relocated to Malgretoute Soufrière in 1902.

Manager of the Home, Charmaine Hipployte, says the site is appropriate for several reasons not the least of which is its location just off the Soufrière to Vieux Fort (West Coast Road), making it easily accessible for public transportation. In addition it is close to St. Jude’s Hospital and the community of Black Bay, and offers fantastic view of the Atlantic Ocean.

The Home is the only fully Government owned facility on island and falls under the purview of the Ministry of Health, Human Services, Family Affairs and Gender Relations. It has a staff complement of twenty one (21) including the Manager, Clerk, ten (10) Nursing Attendants, four (4) Handy men, two (2) Laundresses, two (2) Cooks, one (1) Volunteer from JOCV and currently houses forty-four (44) persons. Out of this total, twenty-six (26) are males and eighteen (18) females.

The newly constructed Home will likely see the hiring of an Assistant Manager, Secretary, additional cooks, domestic assistants, handy men, caregivers, and nurses.

Charmaine Hipployte says the role of the Home continues to evolve from its original purpose as an asylum and ieper hospice in 1887, to a Nursing Home for elderly persons and finally, an Assisted Living Facility. She explains, that Assisted Living Facilities are designed to assist elderly persons who are able to care for themselves except for a few activities. Much of the stigma and labels attached to the Home over the years remain, but she says efforts are being made to change this and perhaps the relocation to the new premises will help.

The relocation of the Senior Citizens Home to Black Bay Vieux Fort will allow the Government the opportunity to implement significant changes, which would positively impact on the care of, and well being of older persons in residential care. Provision of care for older persons who are no longer able to live independently at home, due to the unavailability of their adult children/family, the natural ageing process or illness, should be regulated and an opportunity be left to chance. Older persons should be able to live out their remaining years in dignity and peace, and with the knowledge that they are valued and respected. For those who are able, they should be afforded every opportunity to live active, independent lives. If successful, this concept of ‘assisted living’ can be a model to be followed by private individuals/non-governmental organizations desirous of providing quality residential care for older persons in Saint Lucia.

The opening of the Black Bay Senior Citizens Home is a strong statement that the current Administration is sensitive to the needs of the social groupings within our society and in particular a special sector of our population. The establishment of the Home is indeed a fulfillment of Government’s policy. In his 2011-2012 Budget address, Prime Minister Stephenson King made a bold pronouncement about the home becoming a reality, when he declared: “In the last fiscal year, Madam Speaker, we commissioned the ‘New Beginnings’ Training Home for children and young people. In this fiscal year, Madam Speaker we will commission the Senior Citizens Home at Black Bay in Vieux Fort, accommodating eighty (80) of our senior citizens. This new facility will ensure that the State provides the necessary residual support to all broad groups in our society, while we continue to emphasize and support families and healthy homes.

Chase Gardens

Residents Get a New Human Resource Development Centre

A new Human Resource Development Centre at Chase Gardens will be the newest addition to the city’s network of Recreation and Human Development Centres when it is completed in 2012.

It think it’s not only a space that the community can use, but I think it will also be a space that the community will be proud of as well, says Chief Architect in the Planning Ministry, Augustine Poyotte.

It is a project, Poyotte says, that has been in the works for more than a year. The construction of the facility he says spells the end of a year of design work for his department. The building design Poyotte says was based on a community wish list and a series of ensuing discussions also involving the Ministry of Social Transformation, all with a view to designing a functional building that reflected all the needs of the community. Several preliminary designs were presented before a final design was settled upon by all. The project costs ECS1.9 million and is locally funded.

Formal documents pertaining to the project have been completed and signed recently with a local Contractor. The project is scheduled for completion within the second quarter of 2012.

The new two story building will feature a daycare; children’s lavatory; staff room; sick bay, post office; computer room; kitchen; male and female washrooms; janitor closets and electrical support rooms on the first floor.

The first floor of the building, Poyotte says will be accessible via a main stairway on the front of the building as a well as a ramp on the north and eastern façades of the building that will facilitate access to both floors by disabled persons. The second floor will house an auditorium, more kitchen facilities, a control room, male and female dressing rooms and male and female washrooms. The second floor will house an auditorium, more kitchen facilities, a control room, male and female dressing rooms and male and female washrooms.

In addition he says the project entails the construction of a retaining wall on the eastern boundary of the construction site.

Poyotte says the Centre fulfills a long time void in the area for a hefty space that could be used for a variety of purposes. Until then, he says space for community activities/events was limited to a handful of smaller venues.

It is anticipated that like other existing centres, the new Chase Gardens Human Resource Centre will offer basic adult education activities and various developmental opportunities for residents, as well as a venue where local social and other activities can take place.

Prime Minister Stephenson King has expressed great pleasure at the construction of a modern Human Resource Development Centre at Chase Gardens. As the only community centre type structure in the area he says, the facility will become a cornerstone of community activity that will bring people closer to one another for various events such as fundraisers, seminars, meetings, family occasions, and other gatherings. The project will create immediate job opportunities during construction, while also providing long-term benefits for the local economy while providing a state of the art facility that would facilitate the hosting of larger events and attract more visitors to the community.

The Chase Gardens Human Resource Development Centre when completed will stand as a demonstration of the current Government’s policy in providing such centres as focal points for overall community development. Similar centres have also been established in Belle Vue, Vieux Fort; Monchy, Gros Islet; Grand Riviere, Dennery and Desrameaux, Gros Islet.
Important Information on the Rectification Process

The Rectification Process

In order to rectify a civil status or vital record (e.g., a Birth Certificate, Baptism Certificate or Marriage Certificate), one should take the following steps:

Step 1: Book an interview with the Adjudicator’s Office. This can be done by either calling 451-9957 or by visiting the office between 9:00 am and 12:00 noon, Monday to Friday. The office is located upstair of the Y De Lima Building in the William Peter Boulevard in Castries.

Step 2: Prepare for your interview by ensuring that you have all the documents you will need (please refer to the section below headed “What must I bring to my appointment?”).

Step 3: Arrive for your interview at least 15 minutes early. You will be given an application form and affidavit to complete. You may refer to the sample application form and sample affidavit posted on the office wall should you require any assistance with filling these out. If you have made any previous rectification applications or have had any rectification applications made on your behalf in the past, you must let the interviewer know this.

Step 4: After your interview which should last no longer than 20 minutes, you must pay the EC$50.00 rectification fee at the High Court Registry on Peynier Street. Please ensure that you keep your receipt – you will need to present it at the Adjudicator’s Office when you return your completed application for processing and when you subsequently return to the office to follow up on your application. Any affidavits that form part of your application must be sworn before a Notary Royal or Justice of the Peace.

Step 5: Return your completed application to the Adjudicator’s Office for processing. There, your application will be filed and a unique application number will be recorded on your receipt before it is returned to you.

Once your application has been approved, the Adjudicator’s Office will produce a Rectification Order in respect of your application and you will receive a call confirming that your Order is ready.

Step 6: Return to the Adjudicator’s Office (with appropriate ID) to collect your Rectification Order when you are called to do so. Before leaving the office, make a thorough check of your Order to ensure that it covers all the rectifications you requested. You will then be required to take your Order to the Registry of Civil Status and apply for your rectified record. The Registry of Civil Status is located on Brazil Street opposite the Derek Walcott Square.

Step 7: The Registry of Civil Status will advise you as to when you should go to the Collections Department on High Street to collect your rectified record. You will also receive a call confirming that your certificate has been delivered there, once this has been done. Please ensure that you take your original Rectification Order with you to the Collections Department, as well as some appropriate form of ID. If the person collecting the rectified record is neither the applicant nor the record holder, he will also need to bring a letter authorising him to collect the certificate. After receiving your certificate, it is important that you check to ensure that your record has been properly rectified.

“What must I bring to my appointment?”

1. The original civil status record you are to be rectified (a copy or certified copy will not suffice);
2. Certified copies of your supporting documents. You must however ensure that your supporting documents do not have errors; if they do, you will be required to submit the originals of these records so that these also can be rectified. (See the next section for the documents you will need depending on your rectification issue);
3. Your ID card, passport or driver’s license;
4. Unless you are the mother of the record holder who is a minor (i.e. under 18), you will need a letter from the record holder signed by him before a Notary Royal or Justice of the Peace, authorising you to request the rectification on his behalf. A standard authorisation letter may be obtained from the Adjudicator’s Office. You will also need a copy of some appropriate form of ID for the record holder that bears his signature. For a mother rectifying her child’s record (where the child is under 18), the mother-son link must be evident from the vital record being rectified.

Frequently Asked Questions

“What should I do if on my Birth Certificate…”

1. …my birth-date is incorrect or incomplete?” Submit: (a) Your Birth Certificate; (b) Your Baptism Certificate; (c) The record of your birth from the hospital where you were born or if you were not born at a hospital, a letter from your mother or father stating the birth date you consider to be correct; (d) If you do not have the documents listed at either (c) or (b) above you may submit an affidavit from your mother, father or a sibling attesting to the birth date you consider to be correct.

2. …my gender is incorrectly stated?” Submit: (a) Your Birth Certificate; (b) Your Baptism Certificate; (c) Some form of ID that shows your gender.

3. …my name has not been entered on the certificate?” Submit: (a) Your Birth Certificate; (b) Your Baptism Certificate; (c) If you do not have a Baptism Certificate, you may submit an affidavit from your mother, father or a sibling attesting to the omission of your name and of the correct details to be entered. You must also submit some form of ID that bears your name. The submission of a health card for a minor (which clearly shows the child’s full name) is acceptable.

4. …my name has not been correctly spelt?” Submit: (a) Your Birth Certificate; (b) Your Baptism Certificate (showing the correct spelling of your name); (c) Some form of ID that bears the correct spelling of your name.

5. …my father’s/mother’s name is incorrectly spelt?” Submit: (a) Your Birth Certificate; (b) Your Baptism Certificate; (c) An affidavit from the individual whose name was wrongly inserted on your Birth Certificate attesting that he was wrongly named as your father on your certificate; (d) A paternity test for your true father;

6. …my birth-date is incorrect or incomplete?” Submit: (a) Your Birth Certificate; (b) Your Baptism Certificate; (c) An affidavit from your mother setting out the particulars of the situation; (d) An affidavit from your true father attesting that you are his child; (e) An affidavit from the individual whose name was wrongly inserted on your Birth Certificate attesting that he was wrongly named as your father on your certificate; (f) A High Court Judge, due to its sensitive nature.

The following section is only meant to serve as a guide. Depending on your case, you may be required to submit additional supporting documents in order that your rectification can be properly processed.

Applications involving the re-registration of one or more persons

Some applications involve the re-registration of one or more persons. An individual must be re-registered if this person was born before his parents were married. The re-regist- ration process allows one to legitimately carry one’s father’s surname, mother’s married name. Please be advised that having to do a re-registration may lengthen the rectification process since for certain applications, re-registrations...
must be carried out before rectification can be approved. Re-registrations are handled by the Registry of Civil Status.

Other important things to note:

- Office opening hours: The Adjudicator’s Office is open to the public between the hours of 9:00 AM and 12:00 noon only. Closing this early is essential if the office is to operate efficiently, as office staff must be given time to process the rectification applications which have been received. Therefore, please ensure that you arrive at the office in good time if you are visiting the office to:
- (a) Submit your completed application after having paid the rectification fee;
- (b) Submit further documents in support of your application;
- (c) Request a document which was submitted with an application that is currently being processed;
- (d) Follow up on an application that is currently being processed;
- (e) Collect a completed Rectification Order;
- (f) Book an appointment;
- (g) Prepare a statutory declaration;
- (h) Enquire about the rectification process or any other matter.

Please note that office staff will not entertain any enquiries after 12 noon.

- Applicants are entitled to one noon. Therefore even if someone applies only to correct a specific mistake on his vital record, should another mistake be revealed, the office will proceed to correct the second mistake as well.

- Rectification processing times cannot be guaranteed: The Adjudicator’s Office and Registry of Civil Status will continue to make every effort to process all rectification applications as efficiently as possible. However, due to the nature of the rectification process, it is simply not possible for applicants to be guaranteed that they will receive their rectified civil status records by specific dates; only estimated processing times can be given. It is therefore not advisable for an applicant, for instance, to prematurely make travel plans in the hope that this will hasten the rectification process.

- The function of the Adjudicator: The Adjudicator is responsible for making a determination on all rectification applications that are submitted to the Adjudicator’s Office. His decisions must have a clear evidential basis. The Adjudicator does not, therefore, make name changes on civil status records of his own volition. Neither can he simply accept, for instance, an applicant’s word on how a particular name should be spelt in the absence of supporting documents which can be made available to confirm the correct spelling of the name.

- The importance of conducting reasonably thorough rectifications: We aim in our work to conduct reasonably thorough rectifications for all rectification applicants. While the Adjudicator’s Office will always give due consideration to an applicant’s personal circumstances the quality of work produced by the office cannot be sacrificed for the sake of completing a rectification speedily. The name carried by an individual is of extreme importance as it provides him with a unique identity. This will in turn affect the name carried by future generations of his family. It will also affect his ability to travel, receive employment, get paid a salary, receive a pension, receive an inheritance, reside in a foreign country and much more.

- Several persons may be affected by a rectification that is applied for: Please be advised that a given rectification may ultimately affect several members of your family, perhaps even your entire family. In such cases it is important that you notify all affected persons of the implications of the rectification, as soon as possible.

Prepared by the Adjudicator, under the authority of the Registrar of the High Court.

The Dame Sesenne Descartes National Endowment for Cultural Industries

Enabling Viability and Sustainability

During his budget address for the period 2009 to 2010, Prime Minister Stephenson King highlighted the importance of cultural industries and identified it as a major growth sector globally. He noted that many progressive countries recognizing this potential had instituted policies to enable growth of that sector and its contribution to GDP. The Prime Minister then pointed to the “significant economic linkages” with other sectors particularly tourism. The observation was made then that the direct success of creative industries along with the linkages created could result in the generation of significant demands for related goods and services in areas such as: travel, accommodation, food, beverage, media, communications, financial services and transport, travel, accommodation, food, beverage, media, communications, financial services and transport.

As a demonstration of his Government’s commitment to facilitating the growth of the creative industries, Prime Minister announced in the 2009-2010 budget the creation of fund of EC $1.5 million to assist local artiste. This fund has been maintained in successive budget since. The fund which has been administered by the Office of the Prime Minister has over the past three years provided financial support to a number of Saint Lucian artiste. This assistance has covered areas ranging from photography, music recording productions, training, purchase of musical instruments/equipment, production of music videos, production of magazines, enhancement of recording studios, etc. This assistance has been greatly appreciated by the numerous beneficiaries who have been able to enhance their products and solidify their position as viable stakeholders within the field of cultural industries.

During his address at the funeral service of the late Queen of Culture, Sesenne Descartes, Prime Minister King announced a decision to rename the endowment fund to The Dame Sesenne Descartes National Endowment for Creative Industries. Work is now being finalized towards instituting a Board of Management whose responsibility it will be to manage the fund. A ceremony will soon be staged at which time the fund along with the Board of Management will be officially launched.

Meetings of the Board of Management should be held at least once a month and must be held within a three month period. To date over the past 2½ years a total of EC $1.5 Million has been disbursed to local artiste/practitioners. This support has certainly helped to transform lives and provided impetus towards the fulfillment of the dreams and aspirations of many cultural entrepreneurs/practitioners. The Government of Saint Lucia is committed towards a supporting and partnership role in facilitating the growth and development of our local cultural industries. The formalization of the Dame Sesenne Descartes National Endowment for Creative Industries and the allocation and disbursement of significant funds over the past 2½ years is a clear demonstration of that commitment. No doubt local artiste will one day join in an orchestra and chorus in paying tribute and appreciation to foresight and support of Prime Minister King and the Government of Saint Lucia. The stage has been created. Let the show begin.

Hon. Prime Minister Stephenson King

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The Reconstruction of the St Jude Hospital commenced in September 2009 soon after the unfortunate events of September 9th, 2009. This included the mobilization of support in various forms, both financial and technical. On September 9th, 2010, the Implementation Phase of the Project was launched during an official ceremony at the original site of the Hospital. The current works at the original site involved extensive renovation to the damaged as well as existing buildings to deal with fire damaged, as well as a generally aged, infrastructure.

During the implementation of the Project, various updates have been provided to the public. A Press Tour was conducted on March 30th, 2011 in order to provide the Press and the public with an opportunity to gain an insight into the progress of the Project at that stage. During that exercise members of the media were taken on a tour of the Hospital footprint and provided with information on work in progress as well as planned.

Following the physical tour, a Press Conference was conducted with key members of the project team at which time a general projection for completion of the Hospital was given as the final quarter of 2011. It was anticipated then that this completion could have been advanced to early September. However the early completion of the facility in September has been delayed due to a number of unforeseen circumstances.

Despite this however all measures are being taken to meet the original projected completion within the last quarter of 2011. The Project Components are as follows:

1. Demolition of the Surgical Building – Complete
2. Reconstruction of the Surgical Building (Damaged in the fire) – In Progress
3. Demolition and Replacement of the Roof Structure for the East and West Wings (Aged Infrastructure) – Complete
4. Renovation of the East and West Wings (Aged Infrastructure) – In Progress
5. Renovation of Ancillary Buildings (Aged Infrastructure) – In Progress

It should be noted that the renovation of the East & West Wings are as extensive as the reconstruction of the surgical building due to the need to replace the asbestos roof as well as the electrical, water and wastewater infrastructure. As in the case of the East Wing, especially the internal configuration is being modified to improve the efficiency of the hospital operations. In this regard the management and staff have been integrally involved in the reconfiguration of the facility.

While construction works are underway to ensure a high quality renovated facility at the original site, it must be noted that the management and staff continue to function commendably and satisfactorily at the George Odlum Stadium. The extensive facility at the George Odlum Stadium which included as many as forty four (44) Large Rooms have made a comfortable home for the services of the St. Jude Hospital which operation at a 66 bed capacity and offers its full complement of services with a Dialysis Unit being added after Hurricane Tomas.

September 9th, 2011 remains a day of significance the St Jude Hospital and various options are currently under consideration for an appropriate way to remember those who lost their lives in this fire. A second Press Tour will be conducted shortly to update members of the media and by extension the public with progress on the St Jude Hospital Reconstruction Project. The St Jude Hospital Reconstruction Project is being coordinated by a Project Management Unit in the Ministry of Finance, Economic Affairs & National Development.