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GOVERNMENT PROVIDE SHELTER FOR HURRICANE VICTIMS IN FOND ST JACQUES, SOUFRIERE

The Government of Saint Lucia continues efforts to restore normalcy to the lives of victims of last October's Hurricane Tomas, in one of the worst affected areas of Soufriere. Providing housing to displaced persons from the community of Fond St. Jacques remains a priority for the Government which has

been wrestling with the urgent need for shelter alongside safety considerations, in an area that remains vulnerable, a year after the disaster.

The Ministry of Housing, Urban Renewal and Local Government has been an integral part of Government's initial response to the disaster and the ongoing efforts to address the many out of which housing for victims and displaced families surfaced as a major concern.

The National Emergency Housing Act stipulates the formation of a disaster response committee immediately after a natural disaster. The Committee of necessity, comprised members from Ministry of Housing Urban Renewal and Local Government and the Ministry of Physical Development and the Environment. Immediately after Tomas, this Committee was formed and went into action. In the immediate aftermath

of the hurricane The Roteract Club had distributed tents to affected residents in Fond St Jacques, Soufriere and given the potential hazards of this situation, the immediate priorities for the team were identified as two-fold: conducting damage assessments of the housing at Fond St. Jacques and a socio economic survey of the displaced households from that community as well as the relocation of the residents occupying

the tents by the end of 2010. The Committee would face a number of hurdles including the unseasonably high rainfall that rendered the area unsafe for months after the hurricane, but members of the committee and the staff of both Ministries remained resolute.

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Dennery Mabouya Valley Go Back to Roots with Eco-agro Tourism project

A number of groups from the Dennery and Mabouya Valley communities came together to launch a novel project designed to economically empower residents, through various activities, and business enterprises that link agriculture with products, services and experiences in tourism. The Dennery Eco/Agro Tourism Project's aim is to ensure that agriculture remains relevant in the face of the island's growing dependence on tourism.

The project is designed to encourage new and existing rural entities to stay and expand, create and develop new agro/eco-tourism businesses, and improve the rural communities' and market them in the wider national tourism drive. The two communities have been branded to accentuate their cultural uniqueness and strengths. They will get help to develop and upgrade existing products and services.

The project is funded by the European Union and the Government of Saint Lucia, the Government of Saint Lucia's contribution being largely in kind. The 4.4 million Euro project also has as one of its goals the enhancement of a number of existing and potential tourism sites and ventures, operated by community based organisations. These include two look-out points managed by the Dennery Development Foundation; the Fond d'Or Estate; the popular Sea Food Fiesta staged by community seafood vendors on Saturdays; and an organic farm operated by a group of Rastafarians in the community. The Mabouya Valley and Dennery youth and sports councils have also teamed up to operate nature trails which they will use to



promote health and sport tourism in the community.

These groups have in turn teamed up with the existing Local Government Authorities and Credit Unions to form the Dennery Mabouya Valley Development Foundation which will manage the overall brand which has been developed. It will ensure standards are maintained, and that the environment stays pristine and that the wider community benefits from the activities. Managing such a mix of organisations and personalities can be challenging but is not insurmountable.

The overall project is overseen by a steering committee composed of

representatives from the Ministries of Agriculture, Tourism, Physical Development, the National Development Corporation, and the Auditor General's Office.

Beyond creating opportunities for the sale of agricultural products, the Eco-agro Tourism Project attempts to sell the entire agricultural/rural experience. Visitors can actually visit working farms and witness first hand the process involved in food production. They are also exposed to a number of natural and cultural attractions through a combination of activities that are offered under the project. The idea is to allow the visitor to experience truly authen-

tic Saint Lucian rural life, natural and cultural heritage, folklore and cuisine.

Virgil Patrick is a Community Micro Enterprise Specialist with ECEAT – the European Centre for Ecological and Agricultural Tourism. His job is to work with the community groups in Dennery and Mabouya Valley to build capacity in enterprise development. He says, apart from the physical enhancements to the various sites, significant resources have been invested in training, branding, and marketing exercises. He describes the project as "a really full package that ensures there is sufficient capac-

ity built in the community to deliver a world class tourism product." The project which started in 2009 will enter a new phase in the coming months with the official launch of two look out points in Dennery, and a number of changes to the Village fish Fiesta ahead of the opening of the next tourist season. A member of the community along with a Consultant will be visiting the Florida-Caribbean Cruise Association (FCCA) in Miami to promote the sites and activities. This will be accompanied by an intense marketing campaign of the new brand and to raise awareness of the sites and offerings.

The project in Dennery Patrick says should be a model for community development in other regions. It is a perfect example he says of what can happen "when a community takes charge of its destiny by managing its own economic activity."

The Dennery Eco-agro Tourism Project has the potential to be utilized as a model and success story which can be replicated by rural/agricultural communities across the island. The importance of interventions of this nature is no doubt critical given the challenges facing rural agricultural communities in particular the fall-out from a shrinking banana export market. Government is very mindful of this reality hence its commitment and support towards ensuring the success of initiatives like the Dennery Eco-agro Tourism Project. Government recognizes the need to stimulate activity within the rural economy. Government will continue as part of a deliberate policy to facilitate the growth of rural economies throughout Saint Lucia.

Improving National Competitiveness and Productivity

The Government of Saint Lucia as part of continuing efforts to generate economic growth as a means of alleviating poverty and bringing improvement to the lives of people has laid the ground work for the establishment of a National Competitiveness and Productivity Council. According to the Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance, Economic Affairs and National Development, John Calixte, this has been very challenging due to the myriad of constraints, including limited resource financial, natural, and adequately trained human resources. In addition he says the island's small size, vulnerability to natural disasters, susceptibility to economic shocks and the inability to influence undertakings in the global market have not helped.

Whilst the country has recorded modest growth in recent years, he says it is clear that a lot more can be done to generate the kind of sustained growth that is necessary to position Saint Lucia and at the same time build resilience in the wake of an uncertain and dynamic global environment. At the heart of this effort is the recognition that there are many inefficiencies, which currently exist and which limit the island's capacity to achieve the desired results. He says the issues of lack of competitiveness coupled with low productivity are factors that are currently crippling the economy and which must be addressed urgently.

"There is a strong correlation between these two variables as the achievement of the latter will almost

certainly result in the improvement in indicators for the former," he says.

"International best practices suggest that the Public Private Dialogue or PPD is the most effective way to achieve consensus on initiatives to stimulate private sector development, enhance competitiveness and increase economic growth over the medium term" he says "PPD forums involve widespread consultations between public sector officials, small and medium size enterprises, business groups, firms, labour unions and civil society. Such forums help to inform government of the likely microeconomic foundations for growth and create a sense of ownership of reform programmes among business owners, making policies more likely to succeed in practice."

According to Calixte few formal opportunities for public private dialogue exist in Saint Lucia. Mindful of the critical need to increase productivity in the economy and to address this lack of formal dialogue, Cabinet has approved the establishment of a National Competitiveness and Productivity Council (NCPC)

which will act as the main forum for the private public dialogue on the country's private sector development, competitiveness and economic growth. In addition Cabinet also approved the formation of a steering committee to oversee the process. The work of this council will be based on the principles of participation and consensus building of multi-sectoral partners because of the multifaceted nature of the is-

sue. The steering committee held its inaugural meeting recently and the Terms of Reference have subsequently been prepared to guide the work of the committee, especially as it relates to the kind of support to be provided by the NCPC.

Government has also sought support from the Inter-American Development Bank through the Compete Caribbean programme to develop and implement a project to support the establishment of the NCPC and a Technical Secretariat to support its work. The launch of the National Productivity and Competitive Council is an initiative which reflects Government's vision to engender greater efficiencies at all levels and maximization of our human resources.

Government Partners with the American International Medical University to Improve Health Services at the Gros Islet Polyclinic

The Government of Saint Lucia has partnered with the American International Medical University (AIM - U) located in Beausejour, Gros Islet, to enhance the services offered by the Gros Islet Polyclinic. AIM-U's Executive Dean, Dr. Raju S. Babu says the partnership involves the expansion of the hours of operation at the Polyclinic as well as the clinic's physical facilities.

Over the years, he says, AIM-U has developed a dynamic working affiliation and partnership with the renowned Washington Adventist University (WAU), one of the oldest educational institutions in the US, under the Seventh Day Adventist Group. Saint Lucia Dr. Babu says is now in a position to benefit from WAU's over one hundred and fifteen years of medical experience as a result of the partnership. A partnership he hopes will allow the island to develop a more specialized, highly technical level of health care that includes diagnosis and treatment of disease and disability, to compliment the existing primary and secondary healthcare services.

As a responsible corporate entity AIM-U is investing money and other resources toward the achievement of that goal.

Dr. Badu says AIM-U is especially concerned about the prevalence of diabetes on the island, the related kidney issues and the need for dialysis for sufferers. For that reason he says AIM-U has invested heavily in the establishment of a URO NEPHRO CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE in the north of the island.

The University believes it is a much needed service in light of its own research which shows that 40% of the people in need of dialysis are from the northern part of the island.

Limited physical space at the Gros-Islet Polyclinic made expansion of the facility impractical, so the University has offered to construct additional labs on its premises, from which it will offer support services to the Polyclinic. Some of the new labs will also be used to provide hands on lab experience for AIM-U students.

The University is also concerned about the need to provide better emergency service to Gros-Islet residents. The size of the constituency and the increase in commercial and other activity Dr. Badu says, makes such a service even more critical, in

light of the resulting heavy traffic encountered when travelling from the north to the capital. In a medical emergency, this can pose serious problems for medical professionals, who must carry out critical life saving measures within what is termed "the golden hour." In emergency medicine, the golden hour refers to a time period lasting from a few minutes to several hours following traumatic injury being sustained by a casualty, during which there is the highest likelihood that prompt medical treatment will prevent death. One solution offered by AIM-U is the extension of the opening hours of the Polyclinic. Because of its proximity to the clinic, the University has offered to provide the staff and support services to make this a reality. The University has established a

doctor's clinic, labs and a radiology centre, which can all be used by the Polyclinic to supplement its existing services.

AIM-U has a staff of high caliber qualified medical and nursing graduates, all at the Master or PhD level in their various disciplines. The team includes five doctors; three nurses, and three allied health professionals. AIM-U has proposed that the Government use these persons some of whom have twenty and thirty years medical experience, to help man the Polyclinic from 4PM until 12AM, initially. The plan is to eventually extend the operating time to twenty four hours. Under the arrangement the University has agreed to pay 50% of the doctors' wages.

The overall project costs US\$1.25 million dollars, including infrastructure development and equipment. The Parliamentary Representative Hon. Lenard Montoute has played an instrumental role in negotiating with the management of AIM-U to bring to the town of Gros Islet the benefits which will be derived from the collaboration and partnership with AIM-U. Work is expected to commence shortly on the implementation of the joint initiative between the Government of Saint Lucia and American International University.

Government Provide Shelter for Hurricane Victims in Fond St Jacques, Soufriere

Continued from page 1

The Ministry of Housing, in conjunction with the Ministry of Physical Development conducted its own assessment of the damage to housing in the Fond St Jacques community. The assessment showed that there were houses which were damaged beyond repair, those that were destroyed altogether and those which found themselves in very unstable and vulnerable areas. As a result of the findings and bearing in mind the objective of removing people out of accommodation within tents, the Ministry had to focus its efforts into identifying alternative housing. Fortunately the Ministry of Housing had, months before the disaster, completed construction of fourteen houses at Cresslands in Soufriere as part of the Baron's Drive Relocation project. Cresslands, although impacted by the hurricane was deemed safe by engineers who conducted preliminary structural examinations of the site. They discovered that even though the site has been impacted by a debris flow from the hills above site it was largely intact and that the debris if removed could make the site suitable for relocating displaced residents.

The Committee was faced with the challenge of providing for occupants of twenty two (22) tents between the St. Phillips school yard and the Fond St. Jacques

playing field, but could only provide a dozen houses in the available area at Cresslands. As a result, the Committee had to determine priority cases to move from the tents into the temporary housing.

The Local Government arm of the Ministry of Housing Urban Renewal and Local Government, working with the Soufriere Regional Development Foundation, the Soufriere Town Council, and the Saint Lucia Electricity Services Limited (LUCELEC) began work to clear the site, erecting electricity poles and reinstating power to the area in preparation for moving displaced families into structures erected at Cresslands, with the understanding that they would remain in those structures, until they could return home or could be accommodated elsewhere.

The Committee relocated ten families (approximately 40 individuals) to the Cresslands site. Working with the Soufriere Regional Development Foundation and Saint Lucia Social Development Fund (SSDF), houses were constructed and rental accommodation was found for two other households affected by the hurricane.

The Committee continued to meet with the community members along with representatives from the Ministries of Communications and Works and Agriculture to both get a sense of people's issues, and also to keep them abreast of efforts by Government to bring them relief. The

Committee also carried an assessment to identify persons from Fond St Jacques who were displaced by the disaster and who were not living in tents but perhaps living with other people in neighbouring communities such as Choiseul.

Further sites had to be identified as possible locations for temporary or semi permanent housing for those persons. Among the visited sites were Diamond Estate, Delcer in Choiseul, and Belle Plain in Soufriere. Site suitability and other assessments determined that Mocha a site near the Fond St Jacques area was by far the most suitable site because of its proximity to Fond St. Jacques and its relatively flat topography and other favourable characteristics. The Architectural Section of the Ministry of Planning prepared preliminary designs for low cost, (about \$80,000.00 per unit) multi family timber units.

A series of presentations were made to the Prime Minister, the National Emergency Advisory Council NEMAC, and Cabinet of Ministers, but funding was an issue. World Bank and Caribbean Development Funds would take time to approve and disburse. A National Reconstruction Unit was established. The Unit was charged with the implementation of Government's National Vision Plan – a blueprint for the development of the country. Hurricane Tomas brought into sharp focus the need to fast track some of

the developmental plans outlined in the National Vision Plan. It is for that reason, that the National Reconstruction and Development Unit (NRDU) was conceptualized with a view to strengthening the institutional framework necessary to accelerate the implementation of the Vision Plan and related projects.

The Unit was provided with all the information compiled by the Committee including socio-economic surveys, damage assessment surveys and site suitability surveys for Mocha.

The Ministry of Housing, Urban Renewal and Local Government continues to liaise with the Unit and continues to manage those households relocated, through a Baron's Drive Relocation Project Management Team. That team continues to deal with social and other issues, being experienced by the relocated families. It continues working with the Reconstruction Unit to help persons from L'Etan in Fond St Jacques who, although their homes were not damaged by the hurricane, had to be removed because of concerns for their safety. The Reconstruction Unit has contracted experts to conduct further survey of the area to determine its safety and which households if any, can be returned to the area and those which will be moved to Mocha.

The site at Mocha is being developed with a joint investment of approximately EC \$3. Million Dol-

lars. Of this amount the Government of Saint Lucia is making a contribution of EC \$1.2 Million. The Government of Saint Lucia acquired seven (7) acres of land for the purpose of the housing development for Fond St. Jacques victims. The realisation of the project to date has been achieved through intensive negotiations with a Trust Fund entity and the French Red Cross. A total of twenty seven houses will be constructed. To date initial work has been undertaken involving the cutting of access road and site preparation. Actual construction work is expected to begin in mid October. The houses which will be constructed on 3,000 sq feet lot will be sold to affected families at a significantly subsidized cost. Arrangements have been made with two Credit Unions to facilitate financing arrangements for residents.

Personnel within the Ministry of Housing and the National Reconstruction and Development Unit continue to work diligently to bring comfort and stability to the affected residents of Fond St Jacques. Notwithstanding the staggering cost associated with financing relocating and finding permanent housing for affected persons, the Government of Saint Lucia is firmly committed to resolving this issue which is for it a priority concern.

NEMO Disaster Preparedness Feature

Continued from the last issue

Comprehensive Disaster Management - It is understood that the disaster cycle lends itself to a comprehensive approach to disaster management, whether within the Committee or at a National Level. Comprehensive Disaster Management [CDM] was conceptualized by the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency [CDERA] as a new direction for disaster management for the 21st century. It moves away from the relief and response mode to a comprehensive approach which takes disaster and mitigation considerations into account during the planning and development stages. It also expands the partners to include economic, social, and environmental planners, architects, engineers, and health professionals among others. [CDERA Press Release of Feb 27, 2004]

With the main objective being to integrate Comprehensive Disaster Management into the development planning process, it is this committee's intention to weave Comprehensive Disaster.

1.3 Authority

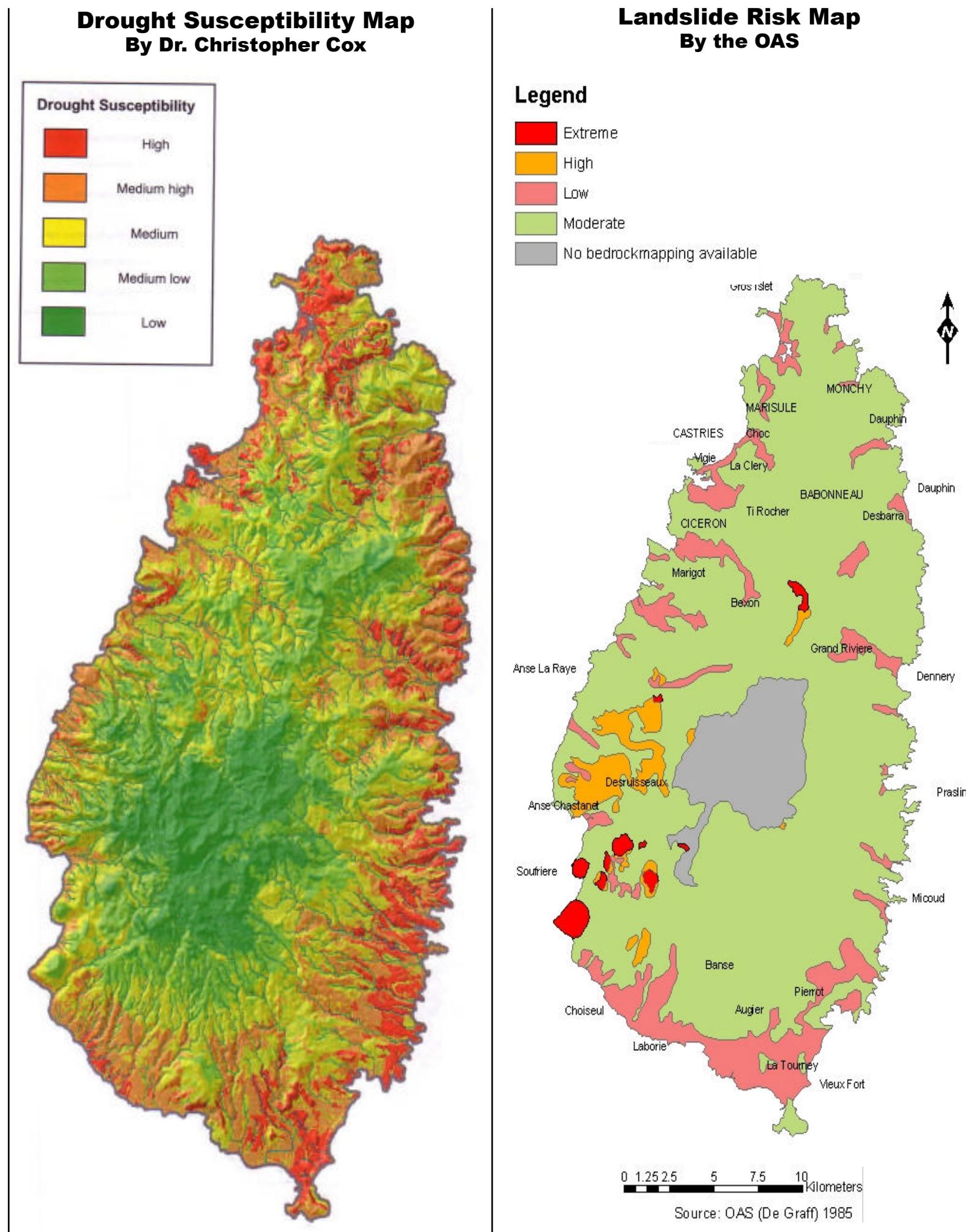
Statutory Authority - Disaster Management Act No 30 of 2006 Section 11(3) -- The National Disaster Response Plan shall include – (a) procedures for, mitigation of, response to and recovery from emergencies and disasters by public officers, Ministries and Departments of Government, statutory bodies, local government units, and persons or organization volunteer or are required by law to perform functions related to the mitigation of, preparedness for response to and recovery and recovery from emergencies and disaster in Saint Lucia.

Cabinet Approvals - 5 October, 2010 by Cabinet Conclusion No. 911/2010; 24 September, 2009 by Conclusion 1151/2009; 18 May, 2009 by Cabinet Conclusion No. 498/2009; 18 May, 2009 by Cabinet Conclusion No. 497/2009; 2 August, 2007 by Cabinet Decision No. 649/2007; 1 August, 1996 by Cabinet Decision No. 1149/1996.

1.4 Aim of the National Emergency Management Plan

This plan is designed as the Official Guideline for National Coordination of all resources involved in emergency management and is to be referred to in any emergency situation.

The purpose of the National Emergency Management Plan is to outline preparedness, prevention mitigation and response activities to an emergency situation associated with natural/man-made disaster or technological incidents on the island. It provides operational concepts relating to the various emergency situations, describes the overall responsibilities of the National Emergency Management Organisation [NEMO] and the role of all concerned sectors in assisting in minimizing loss of life and suffering.



It also provides for a rapid response to such disasters through maximum use of Local, National, Regional and International resources.

The areas of prevention and mitigation are not fully developed in this Management Plan; however they are referred to in Annexes later in the plan.

The National Disaster Manage-

ment Plan documents Government's commitment to disaster preparedness, prevention, mitigation and effective response. It defines the organisational and functional mechanisms and procedures for carrying out a disaster program.

1.5 Review of the National Emergency Management Plan

In keeping with the Disaster Management Act No 30 of 2006 the

National Emergency Management Plan [NEMP] shall be reviewed annually.

The revisions are done under the co-ordination of the NEMO Secretariat; comments from all the public, private and social organisations involved are included in the new version of the National Plan. The document is then sent to the National Emergency Management

Advisory Committee [NEMAC] for review. Once accepted by NEMAC the plan(s) is sent to the Cabinet of Ministers for final approval.

The National Emergency Management Plan, with its various sections and subsections can be accessed on the Internet at the Government of Saint Lucia official Webpage: <http://stlucia.gov.lc/nemp>



Youth Feature



Garey Mathurin Reaping the Reward of Hard Work

Twenty eight year-old Garey Mathurin made his debut on the West Indies team on September 25th, 2011 during the second Twenty20 international match in the series against England that left England all out for 88 in reply to the West Indies' 113-5. He ended the game with figures of 3 wickets

for 9 runs in four overs, leading the West Indies to a 25 run win over the English team. His exploits on that day included bowling out the likes of Craig Kieswetter, Ravi Bopara and Jonny Bairstow to achieve the feat. A far cry from the little boy from Mon Repos whose brothers refused to let him play street cricket

with them, leaving him instead to fetch dispatched balls from the bush. Those early days he says taught him some hard but valuable lessons about determination, and hard work.

Born September 23rd, 1983, Mathurin grew up in a family in which sports played a very im-

portant role. His five brothers competed in every sport imaginable, from track and field, to soccer and encouraged young Garey to do the same, but it was cricket he says that attracted him the most. From as young as seven he remembers developing a love affair with the game, but his brothers thought he was too young to play. His determination to prove them wrong paid off, and once they recognised his raw talent and love for the game they began encouraging him to play. Coach Marcellus Serieux recognised that same talent in him while a student at the Mon Repos Combined School and Garey was encouraged to play for the school. Even though he participated in other sports, he says cricket had a special appeal. He enjoyed the refinement and skill of the game. To him it was an art form. One he wanted to master.

He got his opportunity when the under fifteen programme began, and he was among the first selected to play at age eleven. He progressed steadily playing in under nineteen competitions at the local and regional level. By age fifteen he was on the Saint Lucia senior team. He admits to having made a lot of sacrifices to get there, and that some of them were not always popular, especially with his mother. She was not happy about how much of her son's precious youthful time was devoted to cricket or the fact that he was constantly travelling representing Saint Lucia and the Windward Islands. She was fearful about what it would mean for his future. Determined not to let her down, he worked as hard at his school work as he did at cricket, and mad her proud on both counts.

That hard work he says had its own rewards. Even if he never made the West Indies team, he says he would still be proud of his accomplishments in the game, because of the lessons it has taught him and the man that it has helped to mould him into.

"I didn't want to do anything apart from playing cricket," he recalls "after school I would rush home to be the first one on the road playing. I would come home from school late many times after playing cricket which upset my mother a lot."

At one time he entertained thoughts of a career in law enforcement but even then cricket won, demanding as it did, more and more of his time. He began getting more opportunities to travel and play overseas. He tried working a regular nine to five job, working first as a Customer Service Representative with the Saint Lucia National Lotteries and then with the Bank

of Saint Lucia in Vieux-Fort but he admits "it really wasn't my thing."

Garey admits that there is a sense of relief that comes with making the West Indies team; a sense that all the hard work and sacrifice has paid off, but in another sense he feels, the real work has just begun. Now he says, he has to ensure that he keeps his place on the team and makes the island and region proud and he is working hard to do just that.

Everyday without fail he says he is up by 5:00 am and hits the road to jog from Mon Repos to Praslin. He visits the gym from 10:00 am, gets some practice in on afternoons, and then is off to bed early, to start the regime all over the next day.

"There's no time to fool around, you must always be on the go maintaining your fitness; staying in good shape and ensuring that whenever you're called you can deliver the goods."

Garey is enjoying the ride he says, but he is not losing sight of the big picture.

"I don't want to be seen as just a twenty20 cricketer. I want to take it one step at a time and go on to the one day international team and then the test team," he says "As to how I'm going to accomplish that I'm just going to keep doing what I've been doing - working hard, staying focussed, finding ways and means to enhance my art, sticking to it and staying grounded at all times...because it could all be taken away in a flash. I'm mindful of that so I want to stay humble and take as much advice as I can... and make sure when I retire that I'm remembered for something and not just being on the West Indies team".

The Government and people of Saint Lucia are proud of the achievements of Garey Mathurin and stands ready to support him and other aspiring young sports men and women. During a recent reception at the Official Residents of the Prime Minister to welcome Garey back home, the nation's leader made the following remarks which captures Goverment's commitment: "Many times parents are called upon to respond to the love of their sons and daughters who see an area that they can make a contribution to the country—a social and economic contribution. Therefore I want to join the minister in assuring you of the full support and commitment of the Government of Saint Lucia—my personal support in fact. We will do what is necessary, we will make the necessary investments and we will continue to make that investment!" CONGRATULATIONS TO GAREY!

Eye on the Constituencies

Community infrastructure investment is a key component of community development in the Soufriere constituency. Funds have been allocated to build and renew local infrastructure such as roads and bridges much of which was damaged by Hurricane Tomas in October last year.

Heavy rain and sustained winds of 75mph (120km/h) struck St Lucia leaving the normally lush green Soufriere area looking like a war zone.

The roads leading into town were either washed away or covered by landslides or mudslides. Entire homes were covered by mountainsides collapsing. A year later recovery efforts continue, with the priority being the construction of housing for displaced residents. A number of projects that suit the needs and priorities of residents have been identified and planned for implementation. This unique approach ensures that community interests are first and foremost in the planning and design of the various projects.

Recognising the significant contribution sports make to individual wellbeing, and to the development of the economy, environment and society, attention has been given to a number of sporting facilities in the community. Upgrades have been made to the Soufriere & Fond St. Jacques playing fields as well as to the Soufriere basketball court.

Significant road repairs have been undertaken in the constituency along with the construction of a retaining wall in Palmiste. Major works have been undertaken on the road at Esperance leading to Diamond.

The main bridge in Fond St. Jacques has been replaced and public facilities at Palmiste have also been upgraded.



Soufriere Playing Field before



Construction of Bridge at Fond St.Jacques



Walkway to provide comfort to residents



Construction of Laundry Room in Palmiste



Work in Progress Footpaths and Drains in Migny



Upgrade & Lights Soufriere Basketball Court



Work in Progress Humming Bird Beach



Soufriere Hospital Enhancement Project



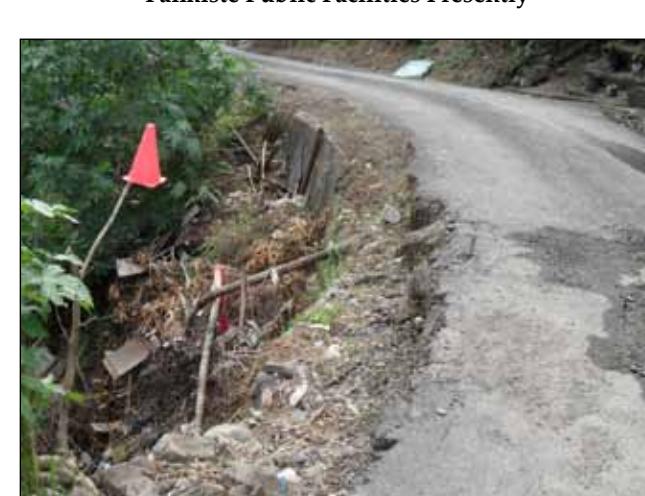
Palmiste Public Facilities Before



Palmiste Public Facilities Presently



Work in Progress Soufriere Playing Field Upgrade



Palmiste road before Retaining wall



Palmiste road after construction of Retaining



Reconstruction of Hospital Road



Community/Citizens Action

Labowi Promotions Community Development through Arts and Culture

Just over twenty years ago, a small group of Laborians got together, with a commitment to promote cultural activities in their communities. What began as a small local initiative has become a unique experience in linking arts and culture with community development, and in connecting community action with regional and international cultural networks.

Labowi Promotions is a not-for-profit community-based organisation and its main objective is to promote genuine community development through arts and culture, by bringing quality cultural performances to the south of Saint Lucia and by improving the skills and visibility of local artists and performers. Ultimately, the goal of Labowi Promotions is to enhance social togetherness and harmony and to promote economic development through cultural events and expression.

Since its creation, this group has organised more than 300 events and activities, in music, education, dance, drama and visual arts. Its main production is Jazz in the South, which started in 1997 and has since featured over 140 bands from all over the Caribbean, with performers from many countries in the region, including Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Cuba, Dominica, Guadeloupe, Haiti, Jamaica, Martinique, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago, and with guests from Africa.

After fifteen years, Jazz in the South has established itself as a Festival in its own right, with the objectives of promoting and supporting Caribbean music and musicians and supporting economic activity, business opportunities and social cohesion in host communities. In the past fifteen years, Jazz in the South has brought to Saint Lucia many of the most talented and creative musicians from our region, and is now recognised by jazz experts and others as a major date on the Caribbean cultural calendar.

While the Festival is indeed above all a cultural event, it is also an instrument of community development, as community festivals are also good for the local economy. In the past few years, for example,



Laborie Pan Project



Seminar on constitutional reform, Nobel Laureate Week 2008



Jazz in the South 2008 - Rudy John Beach Park

two surveys of local vendors have been carried out in the South of the island, and they have both indicated that vendors from Laborie place Jazz in the South as their most important activity in terms of revenue. And it is not only the vendors who benefit, especially since Labowi Promotions ensures that all the services needed are provided locally when available. An event like Jazz in the South therefore means business opportunities for vendors, but it also means additional income for taxi drivers, restaurants and caterers in Laborie, hotels in Vieux Fort, and many others.

This commitment to community development actually characterises all the activities of Labowi Promotions, including regular events such as the commemoration of Nobel Laureate Week or occasional activities. This is why, in addition to the cultural performances that it stages, Labowi Promotions coordinates and supports the Laborie Pan Project.

which started in 2006, thanks to the support of the Cultural Development Foundation and the Poverty Reduction Fund. The vision was to provide a range of social, economic and cultural benefits to the participants, with enhanced social cohesion, economic opportunities, and a source of community pride, empowerment and cultural identity.

In 2011, the Project reached new heights thanks to its collaboration with world-renowned composer, band leader and performer Andy Narell, who provided two weeks of coaching to the band members in February, and returned to Saint Lucia to perform with the Project as part of Jazz in the South 2011. This collaboration, which was sponsored by Labowi Promotions and its partners in Jazz in the South, has greatly enhanced the musical standards of the group, and has given its members additional pride and willingness to sustain and expand the Project.

As it enters its third decade, Labowi Promotions is busy planning and preparing for several events and activities. In December, it will participate in a meeting of a newly-formed network of Caribbean jazz festivals in Guadeloupe. In January 2012, as part of Nobel Laureate Week and as one of the activities planned to mark its 20th anniversary, Labowi Promotions will host a retrospective of the work of painter Jonathan Gladding, who has over the past twelve years captured the vibrancy and pride of Laborian life and culture. And preparations for Jazz in the South 2012 are well advanced, with an exciting programme already drawn up.

Labowi Promotions has lived and grown largely to the efforts of its three voluntary Directors (Augustin Barthelmy, Len Leonce and Yves Renard), but it is also very much the product of the support and collaboration of many partners in and outside Laborie. This

includes co-founders Grelle Joyeux and Moses Peters, a dedicated team of young professionals coordinated by Andy Simeon and Rohan Joyeux, and several community organisations, including the Laborie Development Foundation and the Laborie Co-operative Credit Union.

Twenty years after the first concert of Labowi Promotions at the Laborie cinema, the vision of arts and culture as vehicles of community development has been largely realised.

Government recognizes the work and achievements of Labowi Promotions. This entity stands out as a success story which shows what can be achieved when community people show dedication and commitment towards advancing and managing the development of their own communities. The Government of Saint Lucia salutes the Directors of Labowi Promotions for their efforts in advancing community development through Arts and Culture.

PROFILE OF THE HOTEL SECTOR JANUARY – JUNE 2011

OVERVIEW

This report provides a summary of various attributes of the hotel sector in Saint Lucia.

Visitors to the island have a range of accommodation establishments to choose from, including hotels, villas/cottages, guest houses and apartments. At the time of reporting, there were just fewer than 50 hotels, providing just under 4,000 rooms.

The island hosted just over 1 million bed nights to 157,401 visitors.

SUPPLY IN THE SECTOR

How big is the accommodation sector?

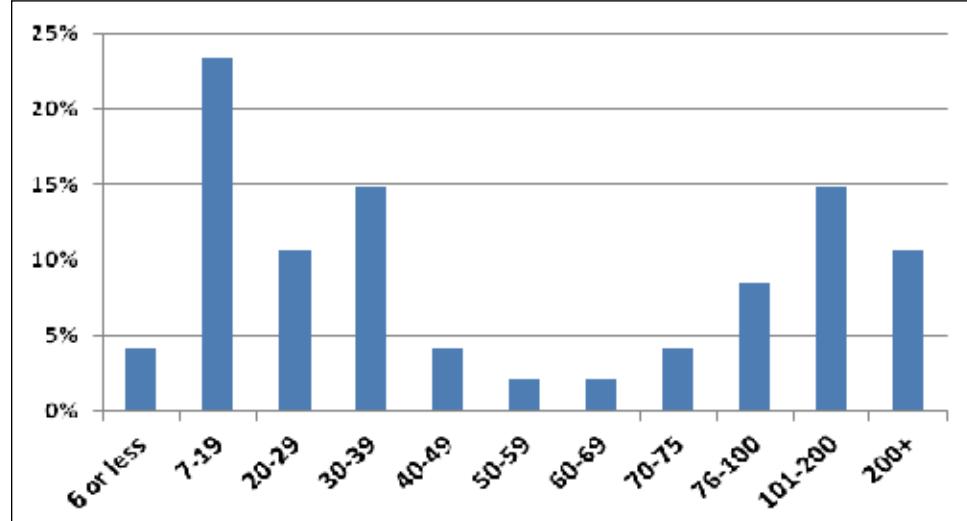
As at June 2011, there were 47 hotels in the Ministry of Tourism & Civil Aviation database¹. This figure does not include villas/cottages, apartments, or guest houses. Those 47 businesses accounted for 3,770 rooms on the island. All Inclusive hotels supplied over 50% of total capacity.

	Number of Hotels	Share of Rooms
All Inclusive	9	54%
Other Hotels	38	56%

How is capacity spread in the sector?

Of the 47 hotels mentioned above, 53% had less than forty rooms, with 23% between 7 – 19 rooms, 15% between 30 – 39 rooms, and 11% between 20 – 29 rooms. Fifteen percent of the remaining establishments had 101 – 200 rooms, while 11% had over 200 rooms.

Chart I: Hotels by number of rooms



How many persons are employed² in the accommodation sector?

For the period January to June, a total of 6,632 persons were employed in the category 'Hotels, Camping Sites and Other Provision of Short-Stay Accommodation'. This comprised 3,150 males and 3,482 females.

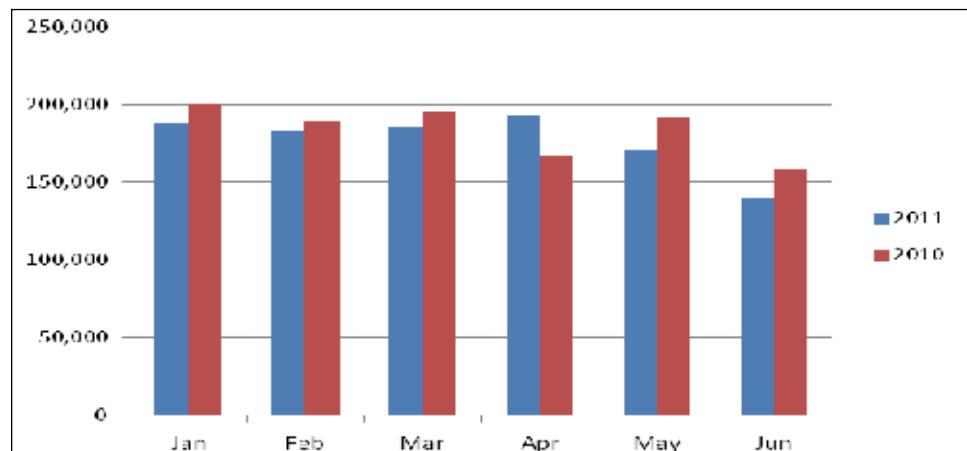
DEMAND IN THE SECTOR

How many bed nights³ were spent?

The period January to June recorded 1,061,354 bed nights, down from 1,103,987 for the same period in 2010. This was a reduction of 3.9% or 42,633 bed nights.

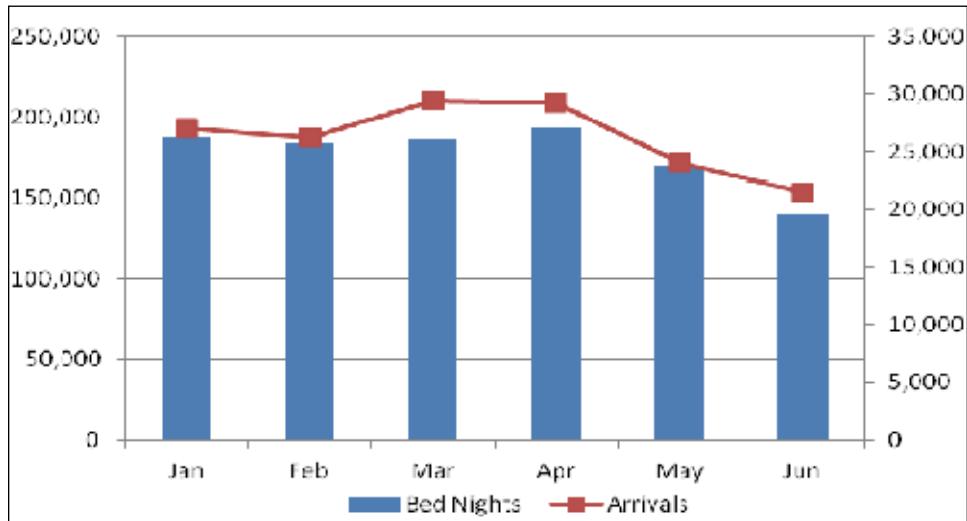
The month of April had the highest total bed nights – 193,168, while June had the lowest – 139,981.

Chart II: Bed Nights by Month



There was a positive relationship observed between bed nights and arrivals.

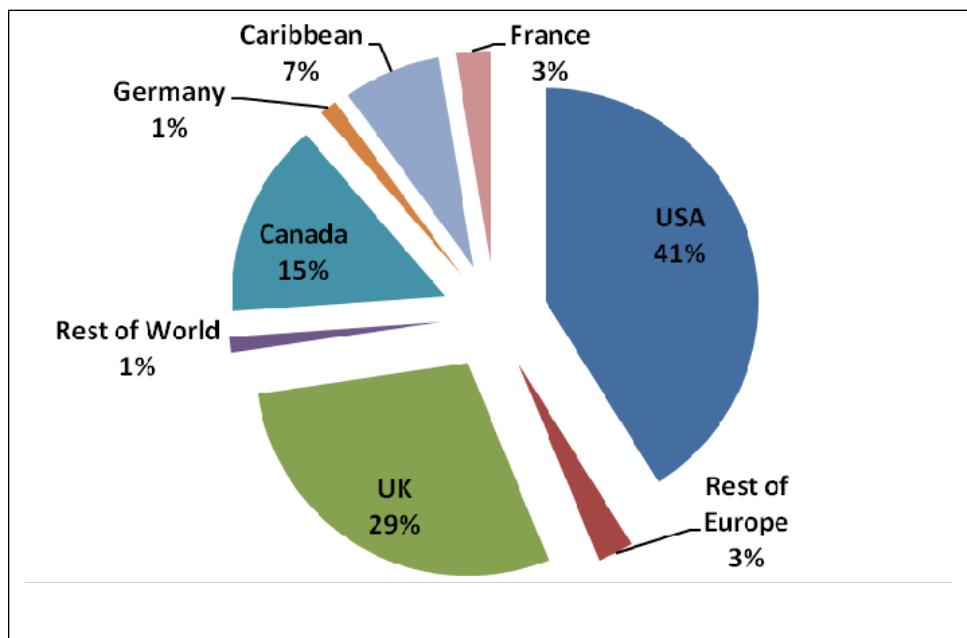
Chart III: Bed Nights and Arrivals



Bed nights by market

Of the total bed nights on the island during January to June 2011, the USA accounted for 41%, followed by the UK (29%) and Canada (15%).

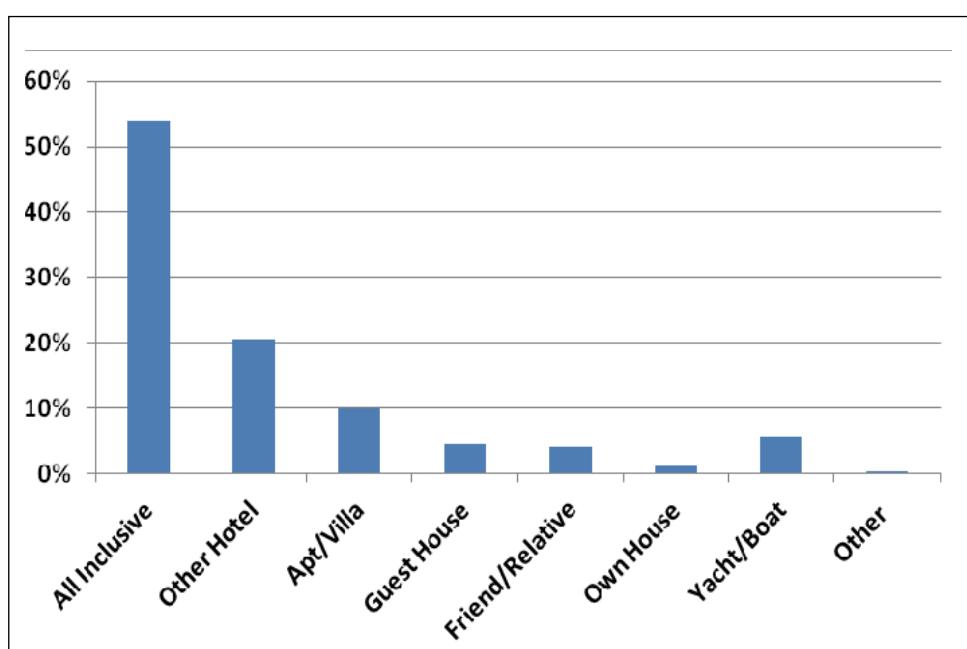
Chart IV: Bed nights by Country of Origin



What types of establishments are used⁴?

Between January and March⁵, 54% of respondents stayed at All Inclusive hotels. This was followed by Other Hotels (21%) and Apartments/Villas (10%).

Chart V: Type of Accommodation Used



St Jude Reconstruction Project Progressing Smoothly – Update Report

Work in the restoration of the St Jude Hospital began in earnest following the unfortunate events of September 9th, 2009. The St Jude Reconstruction Project was launched on September 9th, 2010. The project components include: (a) demolition works in relation to surgical building, (b) reconstruction of the surgical building, (c) demolition and replacement of roof structure for east & west wings, (d) renovation of east & west wings and ancillary building; and (e) installation of support services (water storage, sewage treatment, inventory management).

Renovation of the East & West Wings are extensive undertakings due to the need to replace asbestos roofing as well as the electrical, water and wastewater infrastructure. Quite apart from general refurbishment and reconstruction work, internal configuration is being modified to improve the efficiency of the hospital operations and satisfy modern health sector standards. Below is a chronological representation of progress and work carried out to date.



The dreadful night of September 9th, 2009



Officials at the Launch of the SJH Reconstruction Project



Members of the media being briefed. Media tour, March 2011



Arrival of Materials, Feb. 2011



Foundation of burnt out Surgical Unit – Press Tour, March 2011



Work in Progress, Eastern Wing - Press Tour, March 2011



Interior Work – Eastern Wing



Work in Progress, Western Wing - Press Tour, March 2011



Prime Minister Tour of SJH – September 2011



Initial Roofing Work – Media Tour, March 2011



Prime Minister Tour of SJH – September 2011



Western Wing – Sept. 2011



Work in Progress. Expanded Surgical Unit, Sept. 2011



Eastern Wing – Sept. 2011



Work in Progress. Expanded Surgical Unit, Sept. 2011

Work Begins on New Police Station for Babonneau

The community of Babonneau will soon have its own Police Station. According to Acting Police Commissioner Vernon Francois, the new facility when constructed will play a critical role in the Department's crime fighting efforts. For that reason he says the Police Department was integrally involved from the onset in the design process. Because of the nature of the facility, the views of the Police would be critical in terms of ensuring relevance from a functional standpoint. Towards this end there was constant communication with the Ministry of Planning's Architects along with representatives from The National Insurance Property Development and Management Company (NIPRO). This helped set the stage for the design of a modern and dynamic facility that would, in turn, shape and support police operations in the wider Babonneau area.

The design for the new facility Acting Commissioner Francois says, reflects the way the Police Department wants to be able to operate. With a strong focus on community policing already in place, the department wants the new facility to be open and inviting to the public. At the same time, the facility needs to be zoned and defined with unobtrusive, but absolutely effective, security perimeters to prevent unauthorized access to law enforcement operations areas.

Originally planned for construction near the Babonneau playing field, it has been relocated to a more central location in the community, near the Roman Catholic Church and Community Centre. The new facility will replace the site of the community square. Acting Commissioner Francois says this is a more strategic location, if only for the simple reason that it places the station at the main entrance to the community, and allows for better interception and other enforcement activity.

The new police station will serve a number of satellite communities that make up the Babonneau constituency, including; Cacao Girard; Hill Twenty; Fond Assau; Des Vollieres; Talvern; Cabiche; Balata; Resinard; La Croix Chabourg; Garrand;



Computer generated model of the Babonneau Police Station when completed

Boguis; Des Barras; Upper Monier; Chassin; La Guerre; Plateau; Morne Citon; Desrameaux; Grande Anse and others.

According to Obrien Richards, Planning and Project Manager at NIPRO the site originally proposed was adjacent to the Primary School. NIPRO made a counter proposal. It involved the location of the proposed facility away from the school but in the general vicinity. The challenge he said, was that the new location would involve the use of three plots of land, some of which was privately owned. It would also involve the closure of one road and the widening of another, to accommodate the station, while allowing for the free flow of traffic in the area. In fact Richards says, the new arrangement will simplify the flow of traffic in the area. In addition to realigning the road, thought had to be given to parking, service relocation, retaining walls and drains and a host of other considerations.

The original plans were altered following a series of meetings with

police officials, to come up with a final product that met their requirements, within the available space.

The construction of the new station forms part of a plan to make Gros-Islet into a new Police Division. Babonneau was identified as an area to be policed by that division. Currently the Police Department has two Divisions-a Northern Division based in Castries, and Southern Division based in Vieux-Fort. At present Babonneau and Gros-Islet are parts of the northern Division. Over the years Acting Commissioner Francois says, Gros-Islet has "outgrown its policing" because of the rapidly growing populations and the increase in commercial and tourism activity in the community.

In order for the Department to police both regions properly and effectively, the Commissioner says a wider policing structure is an imperative. At this stage he says Gros-Islet needs its own Special Services Unit (SSU) base; its own Traffic Department and Criminal Investigation

Department (CID) which would in turn service the Babonneau region.

This would necessitate the recruitment of additional manpower and Acting Commissioner Francois says the Police Department has made a case to Government for that additional manpower for the new Babonneau station but they've done so with the understanding that employing more officers at the recruit or Constable level will put strain on the supervisory staff of the Police Department. This he says will require some internal restructuring or re organisation to provide proper supervision for the new officers.

The new Police Station is expected to be completed in one year which Francois says ought to be enough time to undertake the required changes and preparations within the Department.

Parliamentary Representative for Babonneau Hon. Ezechiel Joseph says he is very excited about this next stage in the community's growth, saying that "the new build-

ing is located at an increasingly important corner of the community that also allows it to blend in with the exciting development happening all around us."

Mr. Joseph praised the new station's location and the visibility it will give to law enforcement. He thinks that when the new Police Station is completed is will result in an improvement in response times and services from the Police Department in the community.

The construction of the Babonneau Police Station marks a major milestone in the policy of the current Government to enhance and establish key administrative components of Government in key population centres. As part of this process a decision was taken in 2010 to establish a Rural Council for the district. These developments are expected to eventually lead to the elevation of Babonneau to a full-fledged town. The new Babonneau Police Station will be constructed at an estimated cost of EC\$3.1 million.

Rising from the Ashes

St. Jude Hospital Reconstruction Project
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