



# NATIONAL REVIEW

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SAINT LUCIA



- FREE -

# SAINT LUCIA'S ECONOMY RECEIVES PASSING GRADE

**PRIME MINISTER KING SAYS MY GOVERNMENT DID BETTER**

St. Lucia's economy is now poised for more robust growth and to provide greater opportunities for all its people.

In the last fiscal year, according to the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank, the St. Lucia economy grew by 4.4% and the inflation rate was 1.9 percent, by far the best performance among islands in the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union which registered an overall economic decline of 2.7% and an inflation rate of 2.9%.

Prime Minister Stephenson King's Government has fought off a range of adverse economic and weather conditions over the past four years, from the international financial and economic crisis in late 2008 to natural disasters like a protracted drought, the Dennery Floods and Hurricanes Dean and Tomas. Yet, many of the island's economic indicators are up this year: Tourism revenue - up 33.7%; Construction - up 20.5%; Airline activity at Hewanorra - up 26.5%; Vehicle registrations - up 4.8%; Electricity consumption - up 4.8%; Commercial sector - up 4.9%; Hotel sector - up 7%.

It is these figures, Prime Minister King told the nation recently that bear eloquent testimony to the resilience and effectiveness of his Government's stewardship through environmental disasters in an uncertain global economic environment.

As the government gets ready to seek a new mandate from the electorate, our nation's leader says the statistics clearly document the ability of his United Workers Party (UWP) Government to deliver, and points the way forward to the next level of balanced human development that, with the approval of another term for his administration, "awaits a deserving Saint Lucia".

Financial institutions like the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU) have given Prime Minister King's Government high marks for the performance of St. Lucia's economy. As recently as August the IMF at the conclusion of another Article IV Consultation on St. Lucia, noted that the island's economy had "recovered rapidly from the global crisis, supported by timely policy action by the authorities and a rebound in construction and tourism".

At a time when most countries around the world, including the Caribbean, were still struggling to recover from the global economic crisis, there was no better endorsement of his Government's performance, the Prime Minister said.

"It has not been an easy road for the Government and people of Saint Lucia, but through caring, visionary, competent leadership, the UWP Government has improved the country's economic management performance and thereby strengthened the country's position as the leading economy in the OECS", he said.

In the last two years, as a result of the effectiveness of the Government's response to the global economic crisis, St. Lucia moved from its long-standing second position to surpass Antigua and Barbuda as the largest economy in the OECS.

The Hon. Prime Minister added: "When we came into office at the end of 2006 we met: average economic growth of 1.6% over the previous five years; an unemployment rate of 16.6% and a national debt of EC\$1.6 billion (approximately 64% of GDP).

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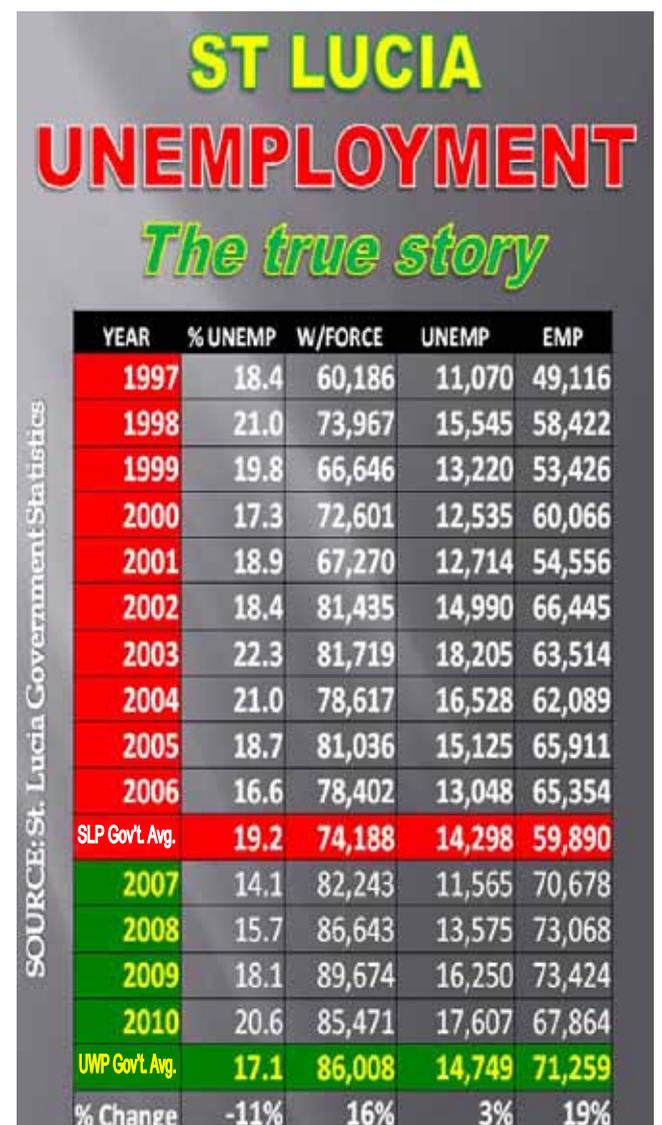
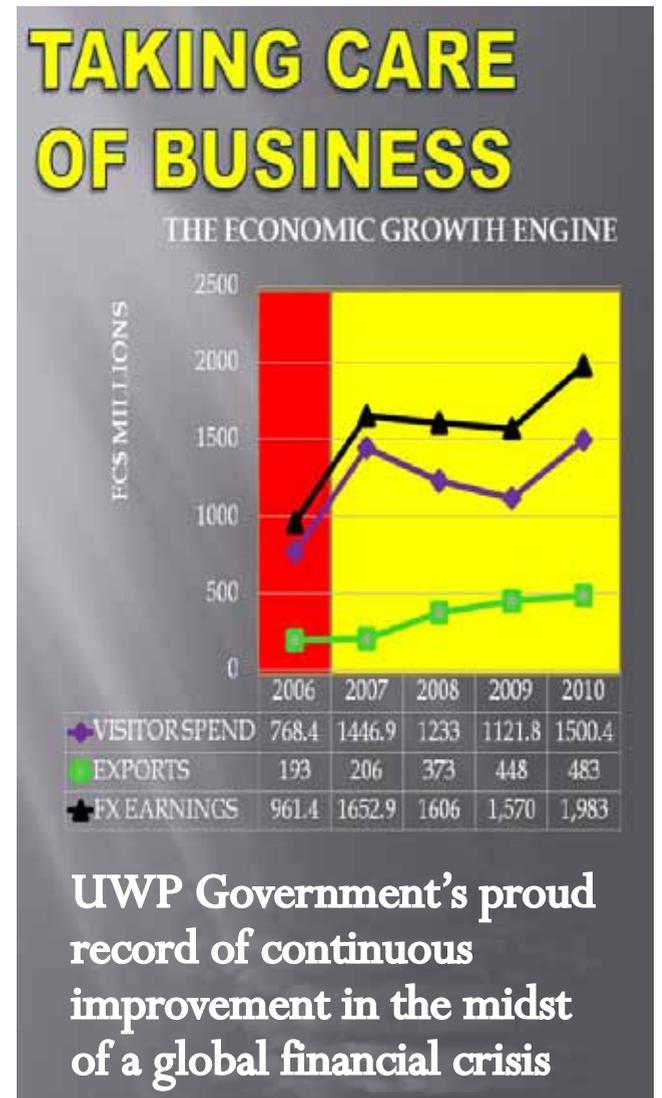
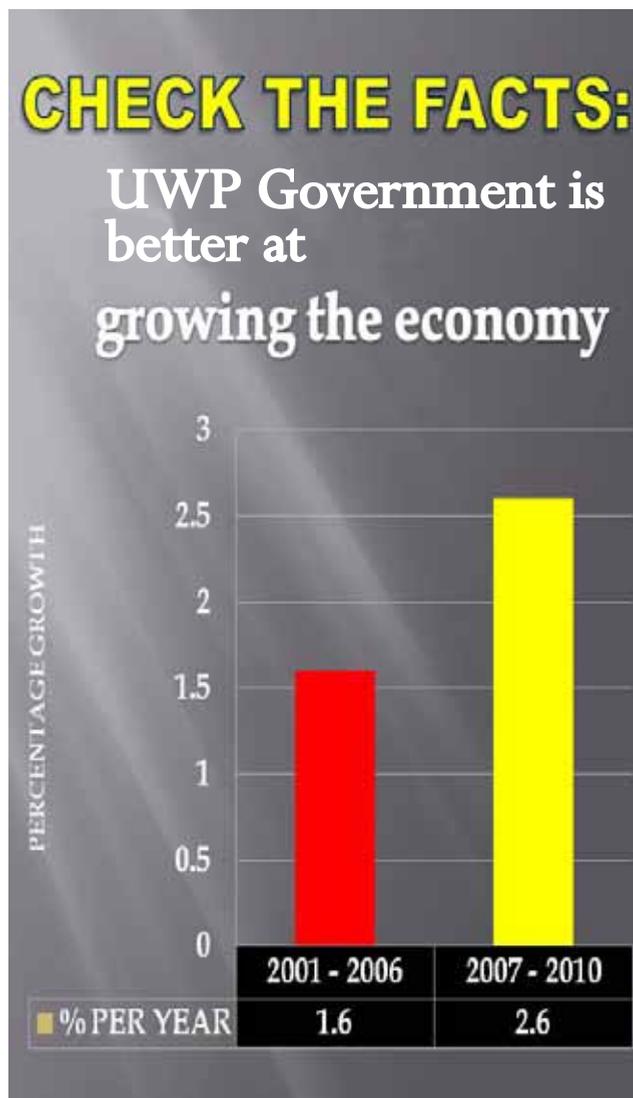
**DISASTERS CAN KILL**

**BE PREPARED!**

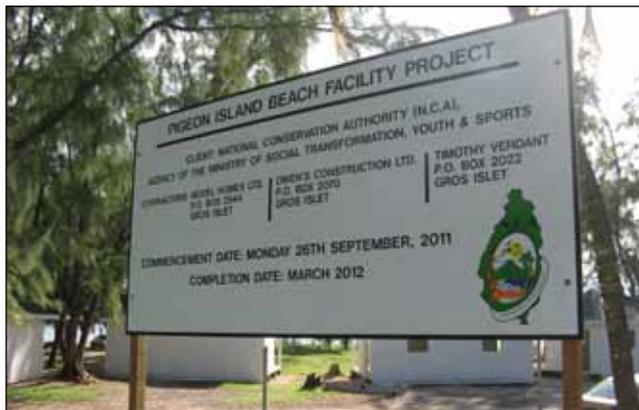
# SAINT LUCIA'S ECONOMY RECEIVES A PASSING GRADE

Saint Lucia's Prime Minister Hon. Stephenson King presented information during his October 24th, 2011 "At Your Service" Address to the Nation, which confirmed the healthy state of our nation's economy. In painting this picture, Prime Minister King drew on information from reputable local and international organisations/institutions and authorities on economic and

financial matters. These entities included: the International Monetary Fund (IMF); the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU); the World Bank, the Government Statistics Department and the Eastern Caribbean Development Bank (ECDB). On this page is a display of the statistics and data presented in Prime Minister's recent address and derived from the sources above:



# Pigeon Island Beach facility



For years, various attempts have been made to provide beach parks and facilities for locals and visitors alike but the effort has not been sustained.

Now the National Conservation Authority (NCA), a division of the Ministry of Social Transformation, is undertaking a pilot project at the Pigeon Island Causeway that could be replicated at other beaches around the island, if successful.

The project hopes to enhance the experience of locals and visitors using the popular Pigeon Island

Beach by establishing beach park facilities at suitable locations along the site. It will improve availability and access to needed facilities and services and also establish safety and regulatory mechanisms. Additionally, there will be systems to take care of waste management and pollution and to mitigate against erosion of the coast.

The project is designed to create safe leisure and bathing environments for local people and visitors by instituting safety measures and to provide employment opportunities as well.

Construction of a Public Park(s) and Beach Access Facility on what is identified as Block No. 1257B; Parcel No. 251 on the Pigeon Island Causeway is for local people to use the resource for environmental appreciation, recreational, historical, aesthetic, ecological, and cultural activities.

According to the NCA, the original submission was made for three such projects around the island. When completed, the Pigeon Island causeway project will include signage indicating access areas and fa-

ilities and directional and instructional signs; restroom facilities with proper waste disposal mechanisms; relaxation areas and playground for children and concession stands.

There will also be facilities for parking, and office and information centre for Beach Wardens and lifeguard towers with a functioning life guard service. Clearly demarcated bathing areas and watercraft exclusion zones will be provided to ensure protection from watercraft operations and to prevent or minimize conflict

between user groups and accidents in the bathing areas.

NCA General Manager Denise Collymore said the project is being undertaken at a cost of \$1.7 million with funds provided by the European Union and subsidized by the St. Lucia Government.

Construction on this project which started in October, 2011 is expected to last six months. Once completed and evaluated, the Government intends to support the replication of this project model in other parts of the island

## Saint Lucia's Economy Recieves Passing Grade

### Prime Minister King Says My Government Did Better

*Continued from page 1*

"These numbers from the Government's Statistics Department and the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank are extremely important in setting the record straight about economic activity in Saint Lucia since 1997".

He noted though that in the six years of the decade ending 2010 when the world economy was buoyant and when the St Lucia Labour Party held the reins of Government, it was only able to achieve an average economic growth rate of 1.6% per year. In three of those six years, while the global economy blossomed and the Dow Jones indicator of wealth creation was cruising above 15,000, the last Administration came up with negative growth. He explained: "In other words, the St. Lucia Labour Party sent St. Lucia into reverse gear three out of six

times (50%) in the six years of the decade when the (world) economy was doing well."

While much was made of unemployment numbers, official Government Statistics confirm that the 2006 unemployment figure of 16.6% was the best achieved in two consecutive terms during the St. Lucia Labour Party's term in Government during which the average annual unemployment rate was 19.2%. The current UWP Government on the other hand, drove the average annual unemployment rate down to 17.1% since it assumed office in 2006.

The Prime Minister added: "While we acknowledge a reduction in employment opportunities as a casualty of these challenging times, no other Government has done a better job of providing more jobs for more people. We did it in the toughest of times and we will continue to do it. There was no need

for any clumsy STEP and no need for any blind LEAP either. All we relied on was the basic common sense that jobs are created by the increased consumption of goods and services and sound investment in an economy on the move."

According to Prime Minister Stephenson King, in 2006, the last SLP Administration left behind a national debt of EC\$1.6 billion (approximately 64% of GDP). In the five years prior, the debt stock grew by EC\$677 million under the SLP and in the last five years under the current UWP it has increased by a further EC\$532.1 million.

He added: "There can be no question that debt financing was a more critical need to keep the economy afloat in the last five years of natural disasters at home and financial market disasters abroad. Side by side with the economic performance results, the debt comparison numbers allow an easy assessment

of the superiority of UWP economic management talent and ability over that of the SLP".

St. Lucia's official debt at the end of December last, stood at approximately EC\$ 2 billion and the debt to GDP ratio of 64.8% was the second lowest in the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union, Prime Minister King said, explaining that it was actually smaller than those of St Kitts, Grenada, Antigua and Barbuda, and Dominica. It was also substantially lower than the debt ratios of Barbados and Jamaica.

Said the Prime Minister: "We approach the end of this five year term with the encouraging news that in the worst of times around the world your UWP Government was able to lead St. Lucia to become the largest economy in the OECS while at the same time ensuring that it has one of the smallest debt burdens in the grouping".

In May, the Caribbean Information and Credit Rating Services Ltd. retained St. Lucia's rank of "positive creditworthiness" based on exchange rate stability, a relatively diversified economic base, moderate balance of payments performance and relatively low external debt and adequate import cover.

There can be no doubt of the positive economic management record and stewardship of the current Government. This was bolstered by the recent vote of confidence in the island by the World Bank and the International Finance Corporation that ranked St Lucia first in the Caribbean for doing business. The prospects for the future are therefore quite encouraging under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Stephenson King.

# How We Build - Planning For Disasters



The experience of Hurricane Tomas has brought into sharp focus the need to re-examine our planning and building construction practices. Based on the extensive destruction unleashed by Tomas in October of 2010, Saint Lucians are perhaps more aware and open to the need to exercise best practices and disaster sensitive methods in construction both at the house-hold and commercial levels. Government too has responsibility as it executes public sector projects and infrastructure. How we build any sort of development will eventually determine its integrity and how it holds up in times of crisis, like a natural disaster, earthquake or hurricane. The phenomenon of climate change demands that we make the necessary adjustments in order to minimize reconstruction and repair after disasters and to enhance sustainability.

During his address to the nation in November 2010 on the passing of Hurricane Tomas, Prime Minister Stephenson King noted the following: "We cannot continue to do things as before. Tomas has taught us the necessity to change our lifestyles, the way we live, the way we

build, the way we farm, the way we manage our resources, the way we treat our environment and the way we deal with our waste. It cannot be business as usual; we have to set new standards and abide by them. Adaptation, mitigation and resilience must underscore everything that we do from now on".

For as long as we can remember, many St. Lucians have opted for the quick fix sort of housing, beaming their satisfaction with what they have achieved once construction is done, unconcerned that by bypassing standard and even basic building regulations, they are setting themselves up for even greater challenges in the future.

So in a 80 mile per hour hurricane, for instance, these structures fail to hold and the island finds itself suddenly with scores of people, homeless and needing a new roof over their heads.

The Development Control Authority (DCA) continues to urge St Lucians to heed warnings about employing best practices in any kind of construction. Physical Planning Officer at the DCA Margaret St Louis says under the DCA Act, every building or development

project must first receive the approval of her department. What's more, every project approved by the DCA must be undertaken according to international standards.

"Persons sometimes build haphazardly, and not in conformity with those standards", she said.

It is for this reason that the Authority on occasions has to move in and stop certain projects, even the most modest of homes. But stopping a project is certainly not the DCA's first line of action. They first draw the attention of the defaulter to the fact that he or she is breaching the law. When that doesn't work—and there are developers in St Lucia who have blatantly defied the DCA—stop notices are issued.

In some cases, the DCA has been known to flex its muscles and put the offender in court. St. Louis said: "We do not like to do this because most times considerable sums have already been spent on such projects, but the law is the law and its stipulations must be observed".

Two of the biggest problems with some developments in St Lucia are the bad construction practices used by builders, and the lack of proper drainage.

St Louis says the lack of proper drainage systems, including proper guttering, is one of the main causes why some houses collapse in a disaster. Some times even where there are drains, there are problems with their maintenance. The result is the same: in rainy weather, water accumulates and begins to erode the soil where the development has gone up.

Earthen drains are not acceptable, St Louis said, because they too can be easily washed away after sustained rainfall. Roads too come under attack from running water.

"It is time we look at proper drainage systems because it makes no sense the government builds roads, to have them washed away", she said.

Proper roofing is also critical in coping with disasters such as hurricanes. St Louis said that hurricane straps bolted onto rafters offer the best protection.

New building guidelines for St Lucia and the other OECS territories and the wider Caribbean Community have been prepared based primarily on the reports of construction industry workshops held in 1985 and 1986. The latest

edition of these guidelines makes the point that the impact of hurricanes on small buildings showed the importance of careful construction of the building frame and of the installation of firm holding down mechanisms for the roof and especially for light timber buildings, many of which are over turned by high winds.

It is noted that in some OECS countries houses are constructed with concrete roofs. The experts point out, however, that while such roofs should not fail under hurricane winds, they are vulnerable to earthquake forces and very vulnerable to bad construction.

Steel framed buildings for small houses was another option under consideration because it offers speed of construction and cost savings over more traditional methods. But such systems must be designed to resist hurricane force winds and also to be resistant to corrosion.

So prospective home owners and builders both have to adhere to laws and guidelines if construction projects are to withstand the effects of disasters. The DCA says it stands ready to offer its advice to anyone who needs it.

# Port Castries Redevelopment

## Government Signs US\$25 M. Project With Royal Caribbean

Castries is about to be transformed into one of the most, modern attractive and tourism-oriented cities in the Eastern Caribbean, according to Chairman of the St Lucia Air and Sea Ports Authority Isaac Anthony.

He was speaking at the signing ceremony of an agreement for the first phase of the Castries redevelopment project which will involve the rebuilding of the northern wharf. Anthony said the project will likely kick off in the first quarter of 2012. It will be financed by Royal Caribbean International to the tune of US\$25 million.

Prime Minister Stephenson King, SLASPA General Manager Sean Matthews and John Tercek, Royal Caribbean's Commercial Development Vice President, signed the agreement at the Sandals Grande on Tuesday, 15th, November, 2011. The Castries City Council is also involved in the project.

Royal Caribbean is a Miami-based Norwegian and American cruise line. It has 42 ships in service under different brands and more under construction. It currently controls 25 percent of the world cruise market. Royal Caribbean ships have been coming to St. Lucia for several years and are distinguishable by all ships' names ending with "of the seas".

In addition to bringing thousands of visitors to St. Lucia every year, Royal Caribbean ships also employ several St. Lucians in various capacities.

Minister of Communications and Works Guy Joseph, speaking at the signing ceremony, did not believe St. Lucia could have chosen a better partner to do the port project because of what Royal Caribbean brings to the table. He explained: "The persons who have been responsible for bringing some of the cruise ships into St. Lucia (now) become our partner in this development. As a result, I expect many more (Royal Caribbean) ships to call here because there will be a vested interest (of the company) in being part of this development. I think this will be a winning combination for us as a country".

Anthony, who is also the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance, described the project as "much anticipated", saying it signals the beginning of a new phase of development of Port Castries. He said the port currently comprises seven berths for both cruise and cargo ships totaling 3,086 feet. "We have welcomed as many as five cruise ships simultaneously with over 300 calls carrying more than 700,000 passengers annually. This represents significant growth when one considers that as recently as the early 1980s cruise ship passen-

ger arrivals was less than 50,000", Anthony said, adding: "We are positioning ourselves to become the cruise capital of the southern Caribbean".

Phase one of the project will comprise a vendors craft market, a waterfront pedestrian zone, a new ferry terminal with shops, restaurants and car park, commercial office space and a boutique hotel.

Anthony was particularly pleased with the funding arrangements for the project, which he said, would not require any financial outlay by the government at this time, "neither would it adversely impact on our debt to GDP ratio. In fact, I am encouraged by the IMF when it recently endorsed the government's decision to pursue public-private partnership as a strategy for creating investment, permitting growth, while keeping the national debt within manageable limits".

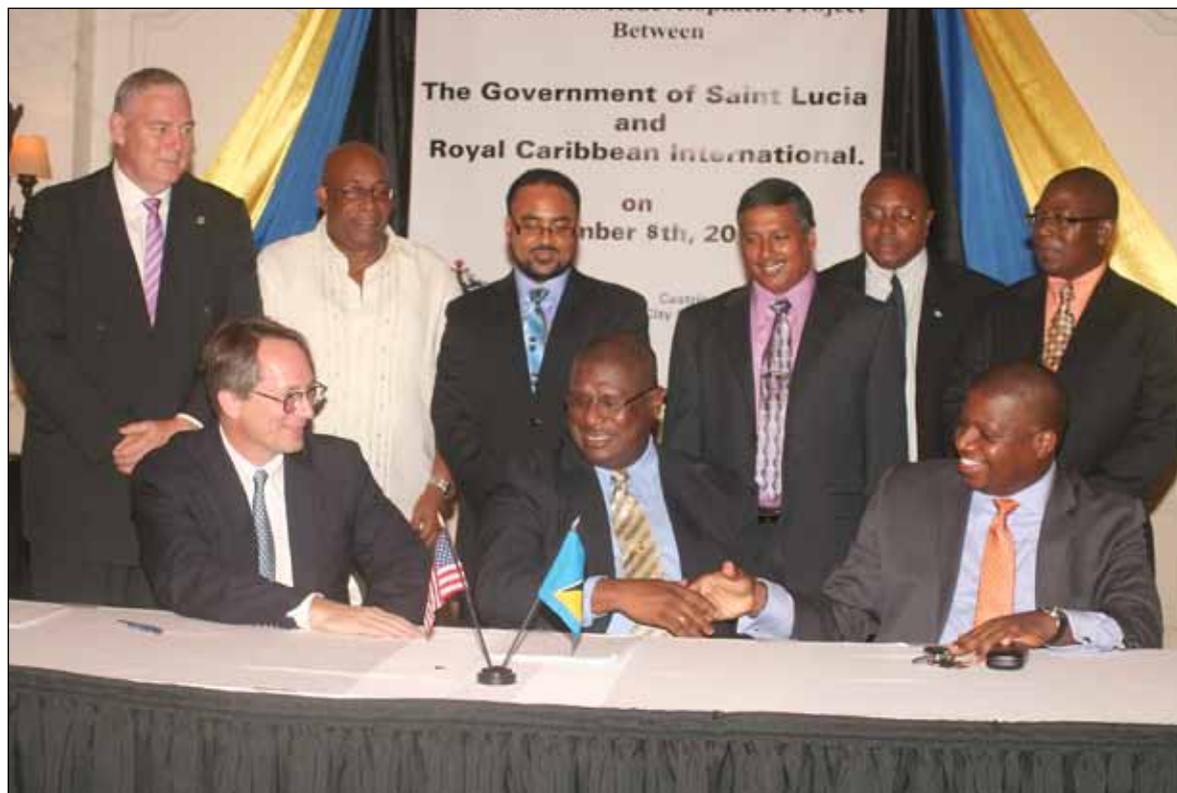
In this regard, Anthony said, St. Lucia welcomed the participation of Royal Caribbean as a key partner in this initiative, given that with the ongoing negative impact of the global economic crisis and the consequential fiscal constraints, "foreign direct investment will be critical for promoting growth and creating employment in our country".

Tourism Minister Senator Allen Chastanet told the signing ceremony that world competition in tourism was fierce and the recent recession and uncertainty in the market had caused people to go back to the basics. St. Lucia had been extremely fortunate, Chastanet said, because in absolute terms what the island needed for growth was not an insurmountable number.

He added: "The Caribbean has a competitive advantage when it comes to tourism but.....the only way we ..... are going to retain our competitive advantage is by improving our product. We have three and a half miles of waterfront and when we calculate the amount of revenue it is generating, the number of jobs it is generating, it is a pittance compared to the opportunity that it affords".

But the Minister acknowledged that St. Lucia's reception for visitors left a lot to be desired. "We have to be able to do things in a more disciplined way and I think this project will afford many of those people who have ample access to the visitors coming off the ships to do it in a more professional way", he said.

Royal Caribbean's Tercek, described in his introduction as "a friend of St. Lucia", said the project had been under consideration for about five years and was presented to former Prime Minister John Compton before he passed on.



"Our goal is to make this as attractive a destination as possible. The project will cost \$25 million and will be the first phase of a broader development of Castries which will not only be appealing and marketable to visitors but equally to the people of St. Lucia who will benefit from it".

The project received an immediate endorsement from one of the interested parties. Peter Isaac, President of the Craft Vendors Association said he believed it would better serve the interests of his members than the present arcade.

Isaac said: "We are very clustered where we are now. The new project will give us more space. It

will make special allocation for us and that is one of the things I appreciate about it. Because we were not part of the consultations when the project was being conceived, we actually thought that we would have been out and not in and when we looked at the designs of the new project we didn't see ourselves in the mix. Now we are seeing that we are part of the mix"

Isaac said his Association currently had about 115 people in the arcade and about 70 percent of them would be relocated when the new facility is built. He added: "They have also taken into account the financial status of the vendors and we have now been told that

the new accommodation will not be anything that we cannot afford.

"These plans that SLASPA have put forward there, in my opinion, will be a good thing for us and we will go with it".

The Government of Saint Lucia is looking forward to the implementation of this project in the New Year, 2012. The partnership with Royal Caribbean and the implementation of this project will mark exciting times ahead for Castries and Saint Lucia's tourism industry. Execution of this project will represent a major step forward in fulfilling the vision of the current Administration for the overall re-development of the city of Castries.

# A Review of Taiwan's Assistance to Saint Lucia

It would be difficult to itemize or quantify all the areas in which St. Lucia has been assisted by the Republic of China on Taiwan, in the four and a half years in

which the two countries have shared diplomatic relations. Suffice it to say that Taiwanese assistance has been phenomenal and all-embracing. The assistance granted to Saint

Lucia under the current Administration has compensated in a major way for the dwindling of grant aid and general assistance from traditional friends like the United States,

Britain and Canada. The St. Lucia government remains grateful for the continued contributions from these "traditional friends", but there is little doubt that thanks to

Taiwanese generosity, a brand new era in the island's development is underway. The assistance provided by the Republic of China on Taiwan covers a wide range of

areas relevant to Saint Lucia's overall development. Below we present a pictorial display of only a small fraction of the Thousands of projects implemented to date.



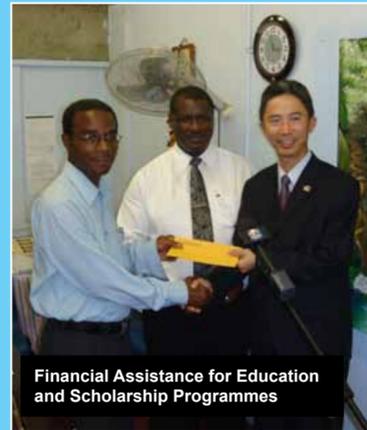
Financing of 5 new Vehicles for Police



Opening of Aqua-culture Facility



Sponsorship for Annual Childrens' Children's Party & Toys



Financial Assistance for Education and Scholarship Programmes



Computer Labs for Schools throughout Saint Lucia



Drainage Projects throughout Constituencies



Equipping & Refurbishment of Home Ec Room at La Clery Sec. Sch.



Sponsorship of Sports and Sporting Events in all Constituencies



Completion of Saint Lucia's Wellness Centre



Orchid Farm Project in Union



Construction of Bridges in many Constituencies



Construction of Bus Shelters



Rehabilitation and Construction of Roads in Constituencies



Construction of footpaths in constituencies



Construction of retaining walls in constituencies



Construction of Meat Processing Facility in Vieux Fort



Construction of multi-purpose courts in constituencies



Construction of Parks & Recreational Areas



Installation of flood lights on many courts



Construction of Human Resource Centre in constituencies



Rehabilitation of Health Centres



Construction of ICT Centres

# MEET YOUR MINISTERS

Stephenson King was born on the 13th November 1958, son of Grafton King; a renowned seaman, from Canouan, St. Vincent and Marie Bernadette Satney, a seamstress from the village of Choiseul. He has one daughter, Ashelle Bianca, aged 16 years. In November 2008 he wedded his long time love Rosella.

An avid Roman Catholic, he continues his weekly Sunday worship at the Lady of Fatima Catholic Church in the Parish of La Clery, Castries North.

His early infant and primary education was attained at the Methodist Infant and Primary Schools. Later he gained entry into the Seventh Day Adventist Academy, where he pursued his secondary level studies, and graduated with Cambridge G.C.E. O Levels in Mathematics,

English Language, Commerce, Geography and Biology. He claims that the Academy contributed positively to molding him, instilling strong Christian values, and the principles of hard work, dedication and honesty.

Following the completion of his secondary education, Stephenson gained employment at the former St. Lucia Co-operative Bank Ltd; now 1st National Bank St. Lucia Ltd., where he served for two and a half years. He resigned in 1981 to accept an offer from the law firm of Floissac and Giraudy, where he served for seven years as Accountant, Trade Marks Clerk/Paralegal. He dreamed of becoming an attorney-at-law, as he yearned to assist and defend those who he encountered on a daily basis in the community, who were less able to help themselves. However, that dream was derailed, as he was later persuaded to enter elective politics at an early age.

The core values of humility, love for others and service above self were the fundamental guidelines that nurtured him from an early age and have stood him in good stead. His deep desire to serve his country today no doubt stems from his strict upbringing and the forthright values of his parents; particularly his mother. Stephenson; from an early age, always demonstrated a strong passion and devotion to service, reaching out to those in need, to assist neighbours, friends and particularly the elderly.

It was a natural progression into politics, driven by his values of service.

In 1981; following the successful inaugural youth conference of the United Workers Party, Stephenson was elected the President of the Party's Youth Arm. In 1982, having actively participated in the election campaign of that year, to cause a resounding victory by the UWP at the polls, he was appointed a City Councillor of the Castries City Council and a Board Member of the St. Lucia Housing Authority, serving in both capacities for 5 years. During that period he also formed and became the founding President of the Rotaract Club of Saint Lucia, resigning in 1987 when he entered elective politics.

In 1984 Stephenson was elected to the prominent position of Chairman of the Caribbean Youth Conference, serving in that capacity until 1992 when the organization was transformed to Caribbean Federation of Youth. During his 8 years at the helm he used his conciliatory personality to smooth over often deep divides and create a vibrant unit contributing to political stability and development in the region. Through his visionary leadership, the CYC became a moderating force that influenced the then new generation of Young Caribbean politicians. Many of those young politicians who; together with Stephenson received their political initiation through the CYC, have today

## PRIME MINISTER HON. STEPHENSON KING



impacted their own parties and risen to political leadership, either as Ministers or Parliamentarians in their own countries.

Having proven his leadership abilities, and urged by his peers, Stephenson entered the political fray on the island when he was nominated as the candidate for the Castries North-East Constituency. His victory for the United Workers Party was a resounding one. He was then appointed as a Cabinet Minister, serving as the Minister for Community Development, Social Affairs, Youth, Sports, and local Government. His success at this Ministry is legendary. Again, in 1992 he was re-elected with a resounding victory. Following the election he was appointed to the Cabinet as the Minister for Health, Local Government, Information and Broadcasting, and was further challenged with the responsibility for the establishment of the proposed National Health Insurance.

He was appointed as Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Economic Affairs, Economic Planning and National Development in September of 2007. He has led the Country through an extremely difficult period of global recession and major national challenges, however recorded economic growth in 2010, despite an unprecedented drought and hurricane in that year.

In spite of wild and unfounded predictions from the main opposition party concerning his impending demise as Prime Minister which, supposedly, was always just about to happen, Stephenson King has weathered every storm and remained at the helm of the government as Prime Minister and head of his party. Any objective analyst would have to conclude that King must be a very astute leader indeed, to have remained firmly in charge of both party and government and to have achieved success as politician, Prime Minister, Finance Minister and manager of an economy which is widely acknowledged by the international community to have outperformed virtually every other economy in the Caribbean community.

Speaking of the endorsement of King's stewardship of the country by the international community, an objective observer would also be perplexed by the apparent lack of understanding on the part of the main opposition, of how agencies like the IMF, World Bank and Caribbean Development Bank operate. Such agencies receive the statistics and information given to them by the countries concerned. However, they check and re-check the information given to them and perform their own analysis. The National Review has verified that they never simply accept what countries tell them, otherwise their reputations, carefully built up over many years, would have been destroyed by now.

King's achievements as Prime Minister and particularly as Minister for Finance, are commendable by any standard. He successfully maneuvered the minefield of the global recession and natural disasters to achieve a record of successes for Saint Lucia.

## HON. LENARD MONTOUTE



Minister for Social Transformation, Public Service, Human Resource Development and Youth and Sports.

Member of Parliament for Gros Islet.

Won the Gros Islet seat in the December 2006 general election. Also deputy leader of the United Workers Party. Began political career in 2001 when he lost bid for Gros Islet seat. In 2006 he triumphed over former St. Lucia Labour Party political leader and former U.N. General Assembly President Julian Hunte. Studied sports medicine.

### SOME ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Establishment of HOPE as a follow up to STEP.
- Increased support to Boys Training Centre (BTC) through increased investment in infrastructure and staffing to facilitate more programming and rehabilitation focus
- Construction of Adult Day Care Center (La Clery) – BNTF Project
- Implementation of over 300 community projects through SSDF
- Construction of 5 new HRDCs at: Grande Riviere (Dennerly); Monchy; Belle Vue (Vieux Fort); Gros Islet (under construction); Chase Gardens (under construction)
- Establishment of After School Programmes in nine Communities and one Secondary School.
- Establishment of an Elite Athlete and Talent Identification Programme
- Increased support to National Associations for hosting and participating in major regional and international events
- Over \$9 million spent on refurbishment of Sports Facilities inherited from previous administration:
- Establishment of National Tennis Centre – EC\$4 million
- Re-establishment of Gardens/Kenneth Wrigler King Court – EC\$1.2 million
- Rehabilitation of Vigie Field/Sab Sporting Facility – EC\$800,000.00
- Lighting of Playing Fields in six communities.
- Change Rooms constructed on 3 playing facilities
- Over 20 multi purpose courts established / renovated

## HON. KEITH MONDESIR



Minister for Health, Wellness, Family Affairs, National Mobilization, Human Services and Gender Relations.

Member of Parliament for Anse la Raye and Canaries.

Entered politics in 2001 unsuccessfully contesting the Anse la Raye/Canaries seat for the National Alliance. Five years later he ran again and won and was immediately brought into the Cabinet. Graduated from George Brown College in Canada and earned Bachelor of Science degree from University of Waterloo, Bachelor of Science degree of Optometry from the University of Aston in Birmingham, and Doctor of Optometry from University of Houston in Texas. Worked as an optometrist in Winnipeg, Canada for 26 years before returning home.

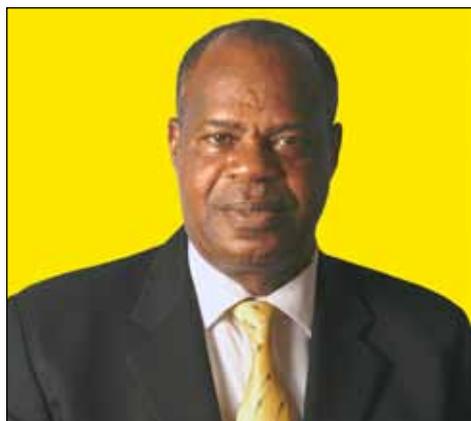
### SOME ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Cuban Eye Center opened
- Ti Rocher gets state-of-the-art Wellness facility
- New home for senior citizens opened in Vieux Fort
- Increased the public assistance budget from \$3,404,156 in the FY 2006/7 to \$4,656,840 in the FY 2011/12 in an effort to expand the safety net and to provide an increase to individual recipients from \$ 85.00 in 2006/7 to \$135.00 monthly in 2008.
- Increased the medical assistance budget from \$300,000.00 in the FY 2006/7 to \$400,000.00.
- Substance Abuse Advisory Council was re-established

- National Policy on Mental Health was developed
- Mental Health Legislation completed
- Evaluation of the Health Information System pilot and project progress to date
- Revision of the Health Promotion Policy was undertaken
- Implementation of Physical Fitness Programme in the regions to reduce the negative effects of chronic non communicable diseases.
- Improved and increased access to treatment and care for persons living with HIV/AIDS through increased accessibility to services and commodities
- Expansion of dialysis at St Jude Hospital (national Stadium)
- Commissioning of New Beginnings Transit Home for children
- STI site at the Victoria Hospital was upgraded and renovated
- Renovations were completed on fourteen (14) Health Care facilities under the Clinic Refurbishment programme funded by the CDB. The health centers which were completed are: Belle Vue Health, Grande Riviere, Fond Assau, Fond St Jacques, La Resource, Mongouge, Grace, Desruisseaux, Richfond, La Croix Maingot, Bexon, Mon Repos, Micoud, La Clery and Canaries
- Retrofitting and Commissioning of the Varnard, Laborie, Ti Rocher, Canaries and Vieux Fort Health facilities
- Completion of the Pediatric Ward at Victoria Hospital
- Complete renovation of Ward 6 at the Victoria Hospital
- Commissioning of the New Mental Health Wellness Facility.
- Construction of the Home for the Aged in Black Bay, Vieux Fort is nearing completion.
- New National Hospital currently being constructed
- Reconstruction of the St Jude Hospital is currently ongoing
- Dennery Hospital reconstruction –US\$ 1.7m
- Dennery Hospital Rehabilitation and equipment - US\$160,000.
- Rehabilitation of Pediatric Roof – US\$70,000.
- Repairs to Soufriere Hospital – US\$130,000.00
- Repairs to HC, Entrepot – US\$90,000
- Repairs to Jacmel – US\$110,000
- Repairs to Etangs – US\$110,000

# MEET YOUR MINISTERS

## HON. ARSENE JAMES



Minister for Education and Culture.

Member of Parliament for Micoud South

Won the Micoud South seat in 2001 and two years later became Leader of the Opposition in the House of Assembly. Re-elected in December 2006 and joined the Cabinet.

Teacher by profession. Holds Bachelor of Education degree from University of

the West Indies and Master of Education degree from Bristol University. Bachelor of Laws degree with honours via Distance Learning from the University of Wolverhampton. Was President of the Student body of the Faculty of Education at the Mona, UWI and represented students on the Academic Board.

He served as Principal of the Micoud Junior Secondary School from 1973 to 1981, Principal of the Vieux Fort Secondary School from 1981 to 1985, Principal of the Micoud Secondary from 1985 to 1987. Mr. James was also President of the Principals Association from 1995 to 1997. He has been a Justice of the Peace since 1985.

### SOME ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Extension bloc at Odsan Combined School  
OPSR and Ministry join to expand information computer technology in education system. Presently, several schools are equipped with computer labs. In addition, a number of Infor-

mation Communication Technology (ICT) and Education initiatives have been undertaken.

- 104 additional security guards to ensure safety at our schools;
- The take-home pay of all cooks on the school feeding programme was doubled
- Support for disadvantaged students in the form of school feeding, transportation subsidy, book bursaries and rental.
- Teachers' College scholarships: Over the past two years at least 50 teachers from the Certificate Programme as well as 16 teachers from the Bachelor of Education Programme received study leave with full-pay for their study period.
- In an attempt to increase access to and enhance quality education, the Ministry of Education completed a number of subprojects under the St Lucia OECS Education Development Project and the ERP. The successful completion of the projects facilitated the realization

of Universal Secondary Education and improved the learning environment at several of our primary schools.

- Rehabilitation work at the following Schools: Fond St. Jacques Primary, Desruisseaux Primary, Ti Rocher (Castries) Primary, Marchand Primary, La Croix Maingot Primary, Forestiere Primary and Balata Primary.
- Investment in young people through the expansion of the National Skills Development Programme. To date, there are four centres on serving approximately 886 young persons. After conducting 32 Community Outreach Meetings in all districts across St Lucia and evaluating over 1400 applications from unemployed individuals requesting training in various occupational areas within the sectors of Hospitality, Construction, Agriculture and Information Communication and Technology 136 participants were selected to participate in the first training cycle towards certification.

## HON. EZEKIEL JOSEPH



Minister of Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries and Forestry.

Member of Parliament for Babonneau.

First contested and won the seat in December 2006, then became Minister. Long career in the field of agriculture, including representation on various producer associations. Was Chairman of St. Lucia Coconut Growers Association.

### SOME ACHIEVEMENTS:

- \$3 million in post-Hurricane Dean assistance to farmers for rehabilitation
- Revitalization of Union Agricultural Station with assistance of Taiwanese

- Training of pig farmers to better manage their operations and importation of pigs from Canada for Beausejour farm
- Agro processing centre opened in Babonneau and another started at Anse Ger
- Meat processing plant constructed at Vieux Fort with Taiwanese assistance.
- Tilapia and shrimp projects underway at Union. Orchid seedlings project also started.
- Irrigation system for Choiseul
- Fishing complex in Anse la Raye with Japanese assistance

- Establishment of Eco-tourism Park at Union
- Introduction of Dragon fruit and other cash crops
- New egg handling machine and facility at Odsan
- Relocation of St Lucia Marketing Board to Odsan
- Establishing of national clearing house for agricultural products at Odsan
- Introduction of biogas technology from Costa Rica
- Establishment of tissue culture and aqua culture facilities by Taiwanese at Union

## HON. GUY MAYERS



(Minister of Home Affairs and National Security).

Member of the Senate.

Unsuccessfully contested the Castries East seat in 2006 but was named a Senator, brought into the Cabinet and appointed Minister of Trade, Industry, Commerce and Consumer Affairs in January 2007. In a cabinet reshuffle in June the following year he was given the portfolios of Home Affairs and National Security.

Printer by profession. He studied Printing Management at the London College of Printing in the United Kingdom. In 1985 he was appointed General Manager of the Voice Publishing Company. Left to form his own company. Managing Director of Mayers Printing Company and Mirror Publishing Company. Former President of St. Lucia Chamber of Commerce. Founding Chairman of the Junior Achievement Programme in St Lucia. Was Vice Chairman of the Caribbean Association of Industry and

Commerce for eight years.

### SOME ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Introduction of ICT programme at Bordelais Correctional Facility
- Construction of new police stations at Richfond and Dennery, sub station at Rodney Bay. Sod turning for Babonneau station.
- Machine readable passport and automated finger print identification systems introduced.
- Replacement and procurement of vessels for Marine Police
- Acquisition generators for Police Headquarters, Chesterfield Building, Marine base and SSU (Vieux Fort), Police Training Academy, Telecommunications Unit and barracks at La Toc
- Provision of 14 land vehicles for Police Force
- Commencement of work on the installation of CCTV at selected areas islandwide

- Addition of 147 recruits into Police Force along with 45 Beach rangers and 10 CCTV monitors
- \$509,000 spent on training police recruits
- 40 new Correctional Recruits for Bordelais
- Establishment of working relationships with National Skills Development Center for young offender skills training
- Establishment of working relationship with Centre for Adolescent Renewal and Education to provide life skills training for young offenders
- Construction of piggery, chicken pen, abattoir, irrigation pond, CCTV, security fencing, biogas system, baggage screening system and other facilities for Bordelais.
- Expansion of education services at Bordelais to provide CXC qualifications (29 inmates wrote CXC)
- New firefighting and equipment and vehicles for Fire Service and filling of 34 vacancies.

# MEET YOUR MINISTERS

## HON. GUY JOSEPH



(Minister of Communications, Works, Transport and Public Utilities).

Member of Parliament for Castries South East. Entered politics in 2006 and was credited with undertaking much community work in the constituency.

### SOME ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Undertaking the improvements to the Praslin to Canelles Road.
- The Kuwaiti farm roads programme.
- Resurfacing of the Allan Bousquet highway.
- Major drainage improvements island-wide
- Resurfacing of the Gros Islet highway from Choc to Gros Islet town and from the town to Pigeon Island
- Construction of a new Ministry office in Vieux Fort,
- Building concrete roads in various communities

- Introducing the new Atlas system.
- Transportation subsidies to minibuses and concessions for the public transportation sector
- Work on the West Coast road.
- Pilot energy saving project in Anse la Raye with distribution of light bulbs

## SENATOR THE HON. ALLEN CHASTANET



Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation.

Appointed to the Senate following UWP victory in 2006 and given a Cabinet posting.

An hotelier by profession, he was Director of Tourism in St Lucia, Director of Sales North America) and later Vice President for Sales and Marketing at Air Jamaica and served as Chairman of the Caribbean Tourism Organisation.

Relinquished his post as Chairman of his own company, Coco Resorts, when he became Minister.

Had extensive experience in tourism and hotel sectors and served on various committees locally and regionally. Was Chairman of the Caribbean Hotel Association's Advocacy Committee. Started the legendary Saint Lucia Jazz festival and the Air Jamaica Jazz and Blues Festival as well as signature events and projects in North America and the Caribbean, which continue to flourish.

His national and international successes were preceded by an early career in which he helped entrepreneur Chris Blackwell of Island Records convert his properties into highly sought after boutique hotels for the savvy traveler. He also positioned a 100-plus roomed family-owned Coco Palm property as a high quality boutique resort.

Among his many distinctions, Allen Chastanet's unerring instincts for promotion and marketing led to his being named Travel Agent Magazine's "Caribbean Destination Person of the Year". On the international stage he received Counterpart International's "World Leadership Award" in the distinguished company of the President of the Dominican Republic.

Charities and non-profit organizations look to Allen Chastanet for guidance and support. He was instrumental in the launching of Air Jamaica's Lovebird Kids' Club as well as the Caribbean

Media Exchange, CMEx, the region's premier non-profit forum for the examination and design of sustainable tourism as a community development tool. He has also arranged, without fanfare, to steer humanitarian and development assistance to many Caribbean nations in their times of need.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Economics and Political Science and a Master of Science in Development Banking from Bishops University in Quebec and American University in Washington D.C. respectively.

Will be contesting general elections in 2011 for the first time, in the constituency of Soufriere.

### SOME ACHIEVEMENTS:

- St Lucia passes 500,000 mark in cruise ship arrivals for first time
- Greater airlift during summer with increased flights by American Airlines, British Airways, Delta. Return of Condor, Jet Blue and West Jet begin service. St Lucia no longer has a "high" and "low" season for visitor arrivals
- Local organizers move towards ownership of St Lucia Jazz
- Participation in local festivals like Carnival, Jounen Kweyol and Oktoberfest.
- St Lucia Tourist Board strengthens partnerships like the airlines.
- Development of new brand for St. Lucia's tourism promotion

## HON. RUFUS BOUSQUET



(Minister of External Affairs, International Trade and Investment).

Member of Parliament for Choiseul.

Won the seat in 1992 and was Minister of Financial Services. Captured the seat again in 2006 and became Minister for External Affairs, International Financial Services, Information and Broadcasting. Later dismissed from the Cabinet over the issue of diplomatic relations with Taiwan but in June 2008 Bousquet was reinstated as Minister for Industry, Trade, Commerce, Investment and Consumer Affairs. The portfolio of External Affairs was added later and he was relieved of the portfolios of Commerce, Industry and Consumer Affairs.

### SOME ACHIEVEMENTS

- Negotiated return of Taiwanese to St Lucia

- Expanded St Lucia's diplomatic representation abroad and attracted new friends for St. Lucia in the international community.
- Saint Lucia on the whole has benefited from a number of training opportunities identified and negotiated by the Ministry. Working with the diaspora (through its overseas Offices), school/educational items have been provided to communities around Saint Lucia. Equipment has also been presented to the Ministry of Education for distribution within the school system.
- Identifying sources of technology for improving productivity; identifying and obtaining opportunities to improve the skills of agriculture officers, and identifying niche markets for our products. Also collaborated with partner countries towards identifying

and obtaining technical assistance for the agriculture sector.

- Secure funding for the purchase of dialysis machines, critical to addressing the diabetes problem in our society. The Ministry has also facilitated collaboration between groups of professionals within the Health Sector in Saint Lucia and similar arrangements in other countries in order to enhance the services provided.
- Towards the reconstruction effort in the aftermath of Hurricane Tomas, the Ministry sought and obtained funding particularly for urgent projects especially at the community level in various parts of the country.
- Negotiated/facilitated opportunities for improving linkages with the business sector in other countries so as to increase the export of goods and services.

# MEET YOUR MINISTERS

## SENATOR THE HON. CHARLOTTE TESSA MANGAL



Minister for Commerce, Industry and Consumer Affairs. Member of the Senate.

Attorney by profession. Unsuccessfully contested Castries South seat in 2006 for the United Workers Party, but was appointed

Senator and Junior Minister in charge of the Ministry of Social Transformation, Human Services, Family AFFAIRS, National Security and Labour, Information and Broadcasting, with responsibility for the latter two portfolios. Between 2007 and 2009 she was Minister in the Prime Minister's Office and in February of 2009 she became Minister of Commerce, Industry and Consumer Affairs.

Also served as Senator in St. Lucia Labour Party administration following 1997 elections, but was dismissed after she refused, along with two others, to support a controversial government money motion which came before the chamber.

### SOME ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Championing the causes of the private sector, the manufacturing sector and consumers
- Presided over new initiatives targeted at the development and growth of the private sector and consumer welfare .
- Providing support for private sector expansion and development initiatives and in particular to encourage new and buffer

old micro, small and medium business through the administration of the Fiscal Incentives Regime and the Micro Small Enterprise Act.

- Providing entrepreneurial training through the Small Enterprise Development Unit to support business skill enhancement.
- Providing legal support for small businesses wishing to incorporate at no cost to them.
- Various other initiatives including Seminars, Consultancies and consultations targeted at improving the environment for private Sector Development Initiatives are ongoing with milestones achieved by groups including the Textile Cooperative and Construction Sector.
- Launching the newly established Textile Cooperative--a collaborative effort between the members, the Cooperatives Department and the Ministry. The cooperative will strengthen the capacity of the group to pursue a developmental agenda on behalf of their members.
- Training in quality construction methods

for persons in the construction sector. Since then meetings have been held with a view to forming themselves into a cooperative.

- Successes in the area of quality enhancement initiatives by the Saint Lucia Bureau of Standards (SLBS) and in pursuing the conversion to metric as the primary unit of measure within the country. The Office of Private Sector Relations through its Private Sector Development Programme records many successes in its quest to improve the lives of rural women, build community entrepreneurship capacity and provide the support for Private Sector initiatives. A successful savings and investment programme launched to introduce young persons to value the savings concept as a fundamental pillar for wealth accumulation.

## HON. EDMUND ESTEPHANE



Minister of Labour Information and Broadcasting. Former national athlete. Won the Dennery South seat in the 2006 general elections and was named Minister in the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce.

In early June 2007 he became Minister of Health, and in the next Cabinet reshuffle on September 12, 2007, following the death of Sir John Compton, he became Minister for Labour, Information and Broadcasting.

### SOME ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Passage of Labour Code
- Establishment of Minimum Wage Commission which has deliberated and reported
- Sourcing of equipment for Radio St Lucia from Taiwanese government
- The GIS produced a record number of 30-minute features highlighting the achievements of key ministries in addition to focussing on post Hurricane Tomas infrastructural redevelopment.
- The GIS obtained nearly one million dollars courtesy the Embassy of the Republic of China on Taiwan. The monies were directed towards the purchase of cutting-edge audiovisual equipment that will make the GIS arguably the most updated government information unit in the wider region.
- Coupled with the purchase of the equipment, the department moved to brand new quarters in November, characterised by more work-friendly atmosphere and a

long yearned for improvement in space.

- As a result of the adoption of the Decent Work Country Programme by the Government of St Lucia, the Department is in the process of establishing a Labour Market Information System. The ILO is providing technical support to ensure the proper roll-off of the system. This meant that the Department: (a) reconfigured the offices of its Employment Unit; (b) trained its Employment Officers in Labour Market Information Systems at the Cyprianni Labour College (c) upgraded its existing hardware and software to manage the programme.
- The Department also provided training for all Labour Officers in Occupational Safety and Health to enhance their skills in the area. This training facilitated by the ILO was conducted in Antigua and focused on

hazard identification, accident investigation, inspection and techniques in writing reports.

- Also the Department's training programme is currently organizing workshops scheduled for December 2011 in conjunction with the ILO. This will mean new training for two Labour Officers and refresher courses for another 5 in conflict resolution and conciliation/mediation. This will augment the Department's capacity in facilitating dispute resolution between employers and trade unions so as to settle industrial impasses and avert industrial action. Tripartite workshops in the same area is schedule to follow that training.
- The Department rekindled its relationship with the Vermax Works Group, a recruiting agency in Canada. After some negotia-

tions the Department was able to procure employment for trailer drivers to work for Canadian business. This year the Ministry started with 6 truck drivers, which seem small. However wages are very favourable as this is a lucrative programme and it is hoped that more drivers will be recruited in the coming year.

- Also the Canadian Farm Programme is continuing to pay dividends. The Department continued to ensure that this year we had the highest number of recruits from the OECS (144) and has set the ground work for recruits for next year. It is expected that 53 farmers will leave for Canada in January 2012. Judging by the remittances to St Lucia for the past years (2008: \$399,025.00; 2009: \$783,380.00; 2010: \$984,417.00) it is anticipated that this year's figures will top the million dollar mark.

## SENATOR THE HON. LORENZO RUDOLPH FRANCIS



An attorney by profession, he is Attorney General, Minister of Justice in the government and a member of the Senate.

A member of the Rotary Club of St. Lucia since 1992, he rose to become its President after serving on various committees. Appointed to the Senate in August 2010 and became Attorney General and Minister of Justice.

In 2011, Francis will be the United Workers Party's candidate to contest the constituency of Castries South.

### SOME ACHIEVEMENTS:

- State of the art Forensic Laboratory was commissioned. The Laboratory has been equipped with specialized equipment to undertake DNA analysis to assist in the crime fighting efforts.
- Replacing of Preliminary Injury process with Sufficiency Hearing before the Presiding Judge, to reduce on the time taken for disposition of criminal matters.
- Introduction of the new Birth Application Computer System, which was developed by the Taiwan International Cooperation and Development Fund (ICDF), with the assistance of the Republic of China (Taiwan).
- Implementation and introduction of the new Civil Status Act which allowed for the creation of an Adjudicator's Office and the appointment of an Adjudicator. This initiative allows for persons to be able to rectify anomalies in their records for a small fee of \$50.00.
- Refurbishment of Court Building (Court rooms, Law library/Attorneys' lounge)

The Attorney General's Chambers facilitated the enactment of fifteen (90) Acts of Parliament and eight hundred and seventeen (817) Statutory Instruments. These main enactment included the International Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora Act, the Oil Refinery (Amendment) Act, Criminal Code (Amendment) Act No. 2 of 2010, Proceeds of Crime (Amendment) Act No. 4 of 2010, Financial Services Regulatory Authority Act No. 13 of 2011

- Litigation is on the increase and we have long passed the stage when there were only about thirty (30) lawyers on roll. Today there are over one hundred and sixty (160) practicing lawyers, each of whom creates his own body of work. The Attorney General is frequently party in a number of suits and our legal council is increasingly involved. We are pleased to say that Chambers continues to maintain an excellent success record in litigious matters and, at the same time has developed a more conciliatory approach in matters when settlement has been possible.

## The Government of Saint Lucia Extends Condolences to the Families of those who lost their lives in the Morne Sion Tragedy



The Prime Minister, the Cabinet and the entire Government extends heartfelt condolences to the families, relatives and friends of all those who lost their lives as a result of the tragic vehicular accident which occurred on November 10th, 2011 in Morne Sion, Choiseul.

We ask our Dear Lord, to hear the cries of our deeply sadden hearts as we mourn the death of seventeen (17) of our brothers and sisters who lost their lives on that day. News of this fatal accident shocked us all into the kind of pain and suffering for which we are never prepared. There are few words that can adequately capture or convey the fullness of our collective wish for strength, comfort and encouragement to

the bereaved, whilst we grieve with them, kneel with them and pray with them. Their most unfortunate loss is the loss of one people and one proud St Lucian nation.

Our departed brothers and sisters are mainly from the community of Dugard in Micoud the majority of them belonging to four (4) households. One family alone lost six (6) members. Twin babies, just over a year old are also counted among the dead.

On behalf of the people of St Lucia, Government is committed to doing everything humanly possible to ease the pain of the bereaved and ensure their well-being, safety and comfort in the days ahead. All burial expenses will be met by the state and the families,

households and communities affected by this tragedy will receive all the counseling, financial and other support they will need from the various agencies of government at this time of trial and tribulation.

As sorrow clutches at our nation's soul, we ask Lord for your Countenance to shine upon those families in the torment of this great loss that they may be illuminated by your love and tender mercies. Radiate your love upon them O Lord as they knock at Your door seeking shelter in Your Sacred Heart whilst the souls of their faithfully departed loved ones, rest in peace.

This is indeed a dark day in our nation's history.



SAINT LUCIA **UNITED**

**AGAINST CRIME**

**Lets Fight Crime Together !!**

Please email your comments or questions to: [nationalreview@pm.gov.lc](mailto:nationalreview@pm.gov.lc)