The Government of Saint Lucia launched the St Jude Reconstruction Project earlier this week during a ceremony held at the original site of the St Jude Hospital on Thursday, September 9th, 2010. This development comes as we commemorate the anniversary of the devastating fire of September 9th, 2009, which rendered the hospital dysfunctional.

Following months of deliberations and consideration of various options, the Government has decided on a well thought out and forward looking plan, which gives consideration to the current challenges and futuristic demands. Government along with all patriotic Saint Lucians can now celebrate the commencement of work that will see the St Jude Hospital fully functional within the next eighteen (18) months at its original location. The hospital which has a long history is a key component of the national health development plan.

The history of St Jude Hospital makes a very interesting story. Hogarth Belizaire was asked by Sister Irma to accompany them to visit an abandoned United States military hospital. The Government of St. Lucia led by then Chief Minister John Compton agreed to allow the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother to develop and manage what eventually became known as St. Jude Hospital, named after the Patron Saint of Lost Causes.

On the 5th of September 1966, St. Jude Hospital was formally opened by Sister Irma and the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother on behalf of the Catholic Church Charity hospital, giving care at no charge. In 1992 the St. Jude Hospital was handed over the Government of St. Lucia – ending over two decades of management under the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother who through their network of hospitals, medical professionals and philanthropists made St. Jude a top rate hospital. St. Jude since then has been committed to partnering with individuals and entities in providing the best quality health care services that are accessible, holistic and client focused. The hospital values that these services will contribute to improved quality of life for our citizens and result in greater productivity and development so that continuous improvements can be maintained.

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

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

Continued on page 2
Time has passed by so quickly. The end of the year holidays are over and it is back to school for the new academic year 2010-2011. As we welcome all our Ministry of Education Staff, Principals, teachers and students to this new academic year, we draw attention to the fact that the school atmosphere ought to be formal, and conducive to teaching and learning. Teachers and students must co-exist in an environment where pastoral care is critical.

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

Two major deficiencies have been the problems of Illiteracy and Numeracy. Some students complete Grade 6 without being able to read, write, compute or use problem solving skills. The common Entrance Examination provides much evidence of this. Some students are known to score 0 both in summarizing and problems solving. We also get constant complaints from some of the schools and principals in order to limit teachers, that certain students enter the Secondary School system only able to read and write at the Grade 1 level.

These problems need to be addressed at the Primary School level and Secondary School level simultaneously. The Ministry of Education and Culture will be engaging all major stakeholders on the need for retention of students at the Primary School if they do not acquire the basic proficiency of low self esteem, morale and indiscipline; high turn-over of low or non-skilled achievers who would degenerate into poor and non-productive citizens of society.

We plan on attacking the problem of illiteracy and numeracy with a two-pronged approach. The problems must be addressed at the Primary School level and Secondary School level simultaneously. The Ministry of Education and Culture will be engaging all major stakeholders on the need for retention of students at the Primary School if they do not acquire the basic proficiency of low self esteem, morale and indiscipline; high turn-over of low or non-skilled achievers who would degenerate into poor and non-productive citizens of society.

We have attempted to set the strategic direction for a smooth transition for the re-opening of school. We maintain that ‘The single greatest determinant of learning is not socio-economic factors or funding levels, it is instruction’ (Shcmoker, 2006). The strategic focus for the academic year 2010/11 should include, among other factors: increased supervision, proper planning and preparation, differentiated teaching approach, remediation for struggling students, a learner centered environment and student performance. We will be discussing with all major stakeholders including the SLTU once the data has been gathered and the trends have established.

We must make a difference. The Ministry of Education has met with all Principals and Vice Principals of Secondary Schools and there is general consensus that the school must make a difference. The Ministry will continue to dialogue with the St Lucia Teachers’ Union and the National Principals’ Association on the way forward for the education system.

Having said all of this, let me take the opportunity to wish all our Principals, Teachers and Students a pleasant first week back to school and success for the academic year 2010/2011. I hope that all schools will settle down swiftly to ensure that the teaching/learning process begins promptly. I wish to encourage all students to continue to work hard for improved success and high standards throughout the school year. I also ask for the support of all principals, teachers, parents/guardians and other major stakeholders within the Education system.

We reiterate the words of our Nobel Laureate that the fundamental cure to poverty is not money but education.

Rising From The Ashes Fulfilling The Vision
Launch of St Jude Hospital Reconstruction Project

Continued from front page

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

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

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

As a result of the damage to the components of an already aged facility, the Government of Saint Lucia has taken a policy decision to re-construct the Saint Jude Hospital. This is necessary in order to restore the capacity of the southern region to face the healthcare needs of the population in the South as well as clients from the north which includes almost 66,000 patrons.

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

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

The first component is an identification above would entail - the re-construction of the surgical building on the old site as well as the renovation of the other two (2) buildings. The facilities will be made fully functional to allow St. Jude Hospital to relocate from the George Odlum Stadium and operate until the new site is built on the new site. Upon relocation of St. Jude Hospital to the new facility, the old site buildings will be developed as a Medical Research Facility or other medically related use.

With respect to the second component, this will entail - the planning, design & construction of a new 90 bed health care facility for St. Jude Hospital at the new site. This modern, state of the art health care facility will be designed and constructed as a Tropical Sustainable and Affordable Health Care Facility; Innovative, efficient and affordable Health Care Services; Specialized medical care for St. Lucia and the region; Tropical Sustainable design incorporating principles of: Energy Efficiency, Water Conservation and Sustainable Environmental Management; Teaching hospital to facilitate training of health care professionals.

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

The future expansion and re-development of St Jude Hospital itself sets the stage for the National Vision for the south. This vision includes developments in tourism, education, industry. The South, often referred to as the New Frontier is no doubt well placed to receive the New St. Jude Hospital Health Care Facility catering for St. Lucians as well as our Caribbean Family. During that eventful night of September 9th, 2009, Prime Minister Stephenson King boldly proclaimed: “Out of the Ashes a Phœnix will Rise”.

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

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

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

Two subjects recorded 100% pass rate, namely Home Economics Management and Theatre Arts. All other subjects with the exception of Mathematics (41.49%) and Visual Arts (55.68%) recorded pass rates of 63% and above. Despite these positives there are three areas of major concern:

1. The small number of entries in the technical/vocational areas - The technical areas (Agricultural Science, Clothing & Textiles, Food & Nutrition, Home Economics Management, Technical Drawing, Information Technology, Building Technology, Electrical and Electronic Technology and Mechanical Engineering Technology) registered 2291 (14.73%) out of the 15,555 entries. The pass rate for these subjects ranged from 70% to 100%. The business subjects accounted for 19.04% (2963) of the total entries and Creative Arts 1.95%. The TVET subjects accounted for 35.72% of the total entries. Given that the thrust globally towards the combination of traditional and technical subjects to increase marketability and to maintain a competitive advantage, there ought to be an emphasis on increasing the number of entries in these areas.

2. The small number of students graduating with at least five subjects including Mathematics and English Language - Out of 2737 candidates who wrote the examinations only 795 attained passes in at least five subjects including Mathematics and English Language. This means that only 795 or 29% of the cohort can move on immediately into the work place or institutions of higher learning. Most jobs require that applicants possess passes in both Mathematics and English Language and matriculation for higher/tertiary education requires same. It is therefore of great concern that 71% of our students graduated in 2010 after 12 years (7 at Primary and 5 at Secondary) of schooling without passes in at least 5 subjects including Mathematics and English Language.

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

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

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

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

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

2. Create a Home Inventory

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

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

3. Protect Your Property

Hurricane proof your home by keeping wind and water out. Invest in storm shutters. Secure roof sheeting and shingles and seal any openings, cracks and holes.

4. Have an Evacuation Plan

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

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

Source: www.iii.org
INSURANCE INFORMATION INSTITUTE
New York Press Office: (212) 346-5500 (212) 346-5500
media@iii.org
Charlin Bodley was born on the 27th of March 1984 and raised by her mother Veronica Bodley Hyacinth, who later played a vital role in her achievements and success in life thus far. In reflecting on her Mother's role, Charlin notes: “I owe a huge amount of gratitude to my Mom for her unwavering love and support, and I guess it’s true what singing Sandra sang, “Dem woman stronger than a wall.” In relating the indelible role which her Mother played in nurturing her, she stated: “I don’t understand how my Mother was able to do so much with just two hands.”

In recounting her life journey to date, she explains having numerous pacts with her mother including the replacement of her rusty BMX trainer wheelie bike in exchange for an improvement from her drop from 4th to 13th place. At the age of 9, she took up the challenge and placed 2nd, thereby earning herself a brand new 5 speed bike. That early incentivised her as a key factor in her being continuously motivated towards aiming for the best. Upon sitting the common entrance exam in 1996 she achieved the 2nd highest in the area of Environmental Engineering. As Charlin recalls, “My prayers were answered. My strong belief in God has proven yet again that everything good, comes through the Almighty.” She was accepted through a select process by the officials of Universidad Autonoma Metropolitana, for academic excellence presented by Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana, for academic excellence in the second year of the degree program in Environmental Engineering and Award of excellence presented by the Chancellor of Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana, for the highest average in the Natural Sciences and Engineering Division.

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

In the last year of her degree program, Ms. Bodley completed an excellent project with the Environmental Health Institute, (CEHH), as part of the IWCAM project, which saw her able to gain valuable experience in her field.

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

The Government of Saint Lucia proudly salutes this outstanding young Saint Lucian who has succeeded against many odds and merited many accolades. It is hoped that the achievements of this exceptional young Saint Lucian provides a success story that can serve as a motivating factor and inspiration for other young Saint Lucians to excel to new heights of outstanding achievements.
Dame Marie Selipha “Sesenne” Descartes
CLR James, one of the foremost thinkers of the twentieth century, a Caribbean intellectual and writer, has long posited the view in his book Beyond a Boundary (one of the finest books ever written on Cricket), that what happened inside the ‘Boundary Line’ in cricket affected life beyond it, as well as the converse.

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

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

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

For the last ten years the program costs the Sandals Foundation and the Ministry of Youth and Sports EC$3 million. Mindful that there is no other organized academy on the island, the Sandals Cricket Academy has become the premier development program on the island if not the OECS region. Both Sandals and the Ministry of Sport remain committed to the development of the game and the academy as a tool in which to do so.

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

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

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

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

His comments are supported by Keith Charly, who has been the head coach of the development clinic from its inception. Charlery explains, “The Academy has really been a tremendous boost to cricket on the island. It’s the only opportunity that our young cricketers have to rub shoulders with legends of the game. Whenever this happens it creates a remarkable impact on the whole attitude of the young cricketers”. Former West Indies middle order batsman Augustine Logie who played 52 test, and 158 one day internationals for the West Indies, scored 2,479 with an average of 35.79 in test, and 2,809 with an average of 28.9 at the shorter version of the game, was on hand to coach at the 10th annual Sandals Cricket Academy which began on August 14th, 2010 at the Beausejour Cricket Ground.

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

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

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

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

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

Many of the participants are extremely happy with the program and vowed to make the best use of the skills and techniques taught at the academy. The Government salutes Sandals for its philanthropy and its investment in the youth of our nation through the Cricket Academy. We hope that the Sandals Cricket Academy will continue batting for another ten (10) years.
Government embarks on the Establishment of a National Competitiveness and Productivity Council (NCPC)
The main objective of the Rehabilitation Programme of the Bordelais Correctional Facility is to empower inmates by providing them with a compendium of skills and education with a view to enhance their chances of contributing to their economic and social well-being. This reflects a fundamental shift in philosophy from a penal to corrections facility. The programmes in place at the Bordelais Correctional Facility are all geared towards the rehabilitation of inmates with a view to making them productive members of society through the transformation of the total mindset from realization and acceptance of the negativity to a state of reformation through the process of counseling, educational development and employable skills. The goal of Rehabilitation, which is the underlying philosophical outlook of the Institution is thus sustained by three major programme departments, namely: Education, Skills Development and Counseling.

**Education**

Education is an integral part of the rehabilitation programme of the Bordelais Correctional Facility. The education unit became functional in September 2006, with responsibility for the education of inmates as it seeks to meet the diverse educational needs of inmates through the provision of quality academic education whereby inmates can successfully re-integrate into individuals/citizens. The inmates, their welfare and concerns, are most important to the success of the education unit which encourages a working environment based upon the belief that imprisonment, though viewed as justified punishment, should not bring with it additional deprivation of civil rights, which includes education. Moreover, the unit not only discourages physical and mental deterioration of inmates, but also seeks to provide them with opportunities to change and develop. The education unit is committed to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 10 (3). The penitentiary system shall comprise treatment of prisoners the essential aim of which shall be their reformation and social rehabilitation.

**The Curriculum**

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

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

**Current enrollment**

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

**Skills Training - Industries**

The main objective of the Industries Unit is to empower inmates by providing them with a compendium of skills from which they can acquire training with a view to enhance their chances of contributing to their economic and social well-being. Currently the unit has three (full-time) instructors for training in Agriculture, Carpentry and Joinery and Tailoring/Sewing. Volunteers provided training in the areas of Small Engine Repair and Electrical Installation. Apart from the training programmes, inmates are hired as apprentices in each of the programmes.

**Agriculture**

The Bordelais Correctional Facility (BCF) operates a five (5) acre plot with a mixed farming system of production. The objectives of the Agriculture programme are to reduce expenditure, generate revenue and train inmates in agriculture through the adoption of improved and appropriate technology with a view to engaging in agricultural production upon the release.

**Crop Production** - A variety of crops are grown to generate revenue and for use in the preparation of meals for inmates. The current markets for the produce are Consolidated Foods Limited (CFL), St. Lucia Marketing Board (SLMB), Staff and the general public. The following crops are grown – root crops (sweet potato, cassava, dasheen), vegetables (beans, sweet pepper, cucumber, ocho, eggplant, pumpkin, broccoli, cabbage, Chinese cabbage, spinach, corn, seasoning pepper), fruits (watermelon, cantaloupe, carambola, cherry, citrus, avocado, pineapple), breadfruit, bananas, plantain, macadamia, sorrel, yams and herbs (chives, celery, parsley, celery, rosemary).

During the current fiscal year 2010/11, the Government of St.
Lucia provided funding for the purchase of two (2) 100 ft greenhouses. Through this project, the Agriculture Skills Programme will promote the modernization of agriculture through the adoption of improved and appropriate technology.

**Livestock** - Through Livestock production, inmates are trained in the management of:

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

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

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

**Carpentry & Joinery**

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

**Garment Construction/Tailoring**

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

**Counseling/Social Interventions**

The Programmes Unit undertakes various social intervention and Counseling initiatives. These are all geared towards the psychosocial aspect of the rehabilitation of inmates. Among some of the activities undertaken are the institutionalization of the Duke of Edinburgh Programme, a football competition among units, religious education from various denominations, Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) and some level of counseling.
the Government of Saint Lucia views community infrastructure as a key element of critical social intervention that promotes integrated social, cultural, economic and community development. The Bwa Patat Human Resources Center was therefore conceived and conceptualized as part of a key strategic policy outlook which aims to provide service centres for rural as well as urban communities.

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

Consequently the Member of Parliament Hon. Richard Frederick and the community got together to discuss the idea and to conduct a thorough assessment of the property, which was followed by a survey and subsequent land acquisition. Following the establishment of consensus among residents about the need for the project and the suitability of the location, the Taiwanese Embassy was approached with a proposal for funding. The Embassy provided its approval and the construction of the Human Resource Centre was underway in earnest.

The approach in construction of the Centre was one in which all members of the community, that led to the completion of the Centre. The Parliamentary Representative for Castries Central, which includes the Bwa Patat area stated during this address: “I am particularly proud that this Centre was conceived by the guys on the block who had the good sense and wisdom to do something constructive in their neighborhood, by turning an old abandoned building into something so wonderful that would benefit the entire community”.

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

Part of the opening ceremony for the EC$320,000 Bwa Patat Human Resource Centre involved the official handing over of the facility to the Ministry of Social Transformation which will assume overall responsibility for its management. The day’s event was attended by Prime Minister Stephenson King who also addressed the ceremony to state: “I want to thank Ambassador Tom Chou of the Republic of China/Taiwan, for his understanding of the needs of the community of Bwa Patat. We are indeed appreciative of his Government’s continued support for local community projects, island wide that make a significant difference in the lives of all Saint Lucians”. He urged residents to take great pride and community ownership of the HR Center by keeping it clean and avoid vandalism of such a vital community resource.

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

Prime Minister King expressed his gratitude and appreciation to the Government and people of the Republic of China/Taiwan, for their cooperation programme and work done towards the holistic development of Saint Lucia. He also announced some major projects which are schedule to come on stream in the surrounding communities of Bois Patat. These include a Multi-Purpose Court and Human Resource Centres at Sunbuilt, Agard and Chase Gardens.

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

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