



THE OFFICIAL NEWS MAGAZINE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SAINT LUCIA

NationWIDE

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 14, 2015

WEEKLY

PetroCaribe will help strengthen island's energy efficiency!



The PetroCaribe Agreement signed here on Monday is the latest development in the continuing strengthening of relations between Saint Lucia and Venezuela, between Venezuela and its English-speaking Caribbean neighbours and between the Caribbean and Latin America at large. Most CARICOM and OECS member-states belong to the PetroCaribe and ALBA groupings, which are constructing new elements of regional cooperation and integration through their own PetroCaribe Economic Zone (PEZ). After ten years, PetroCaribe has developed into a fruitful cooperation mechanism between the participating states that sees each depend on all others for what all may need. This mechanism also sees Venezuela generously share some of its oil wealth with its Caribbean neighbours, committing itself to deliver on all its promises through PetroCaribe, even in the face of externally generated economic and political challenges facing the Bolivarian regime at home. When the Saint Lucia Prime Minister and the PetroCaribe President affixed their signatures to the agreement earlier this week, therefore, they were simply ensuring continuity of the friendship and cooperation between Saint Lucia and Venezuela, which is already manifested in so many other ways (Story on Page 3). Nationwide is happy to be back after two weeks off the grid. As always, this weekend's issue seeks to update you on all that happened in the past week, as well as other developments before worthy of note. Read on and be informed on as much as we can offer in the following 12 pages. And remember you can also watch NationwideTV on NTN and browse the Nationwide Website at stlucianationwide.com

Happy Reading! Happy Viewing! Happy Browsing!

International Children's Week Being Observed - Page 2

PM Welcomes New Investment - Page 4

Saint Lucia Soars at World Travel Market in London - Page 5

Remembrance Day 2015 Observed - Pages 6 and 7

PAHO Says New Hospitals Will Also Serve OECS - Page 8

The Diplomatic Courier - Pages 9, 10 and 11

WHAT'S INSIDE

PM says there are ‘Serial Rapists’ on the loose!

Prime Minister Dr. Kenny D. Anthony earlier this week expressed utter “outrage” after reports that a 97-year-old woman of Mon Repos, Micoud had been raped by a person or persons unknown. According to the Prime Minister, “This is a despicable act that not only violates an elderly citizen, but the entire community and country.”

He said, “It is unbelievable that someone would even think of committing such an act. This is a heinous and outrageous act. It is inconceivable that a human being would do this.

“I wish to express my sorrow to the family and the community as they grieve over this wicked and despicable act.”

Dr Anthony said, “I commend the community of Mon Repos for its decision to host prayer vigil to share their collective outrage, and to send a message to the perpetrator or perpetrators that this behavior will not be tolerated.” He also said the increased reports of incidents of rape across the island was a worrying trend.

According to the Prime Minister, there must be a collective effort between the Police and the public to deal with this problem. He emphasized that these incidents are not just a security issue. It goes deeper.



Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony

According to the Prime Minister, “For too long we have been silent about sexual violence in our homes and our communities.

“In many instances, we know there are fathers, uncles, step-fathers and others who commit deviant sexual acts in homes and communities and nothing is said or done. Quite often the perpetrators are protected.

“These unreported cases lead to an even greater problem in our society, where these men grow to believe that this is acceptable behaviour. We need to tackle the problems at the root”.

In response to an increase in reports of rape earlier this year, Dr. Anthony says he had recommended to Acting Commissioner, Errol Alexander, that a spe-

cial unit be established within the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force to investigate rape cases.

He recommended that the unit would also build a database that stores DNA evidence to determine whether some of these cases are being committed by repeat offenders. The Prime Minister concluded that, based on the evidence, “We have serial rapists at large!”

But he expressed hope that the intended reopening of the Forensic Laboratory, under new management, would better assist police in conducting investigations and testing DNA samples. He stressed, however, that the first, most important response is that people report known sex offenders.

PM mourns ‘Untimely Death’ of young father of four while trying to save a cow in Bexon River!

Prime Minister Dr. Kenny D. Anthony has expressed deep sorrow and offered condolences to the family of Cletus Estephan, who drowned in the Bexon River during the heavy rains on Friday past.

It was reported that Cletus was attempting to save a cow from drowning.

In a statement issued Monday, November 9, 2015, the Prime Minister said: “I am very saddened by the news that thirty-nine-year-old Cletus Estephan perished in the raging Bexon River as a

result of the weather system on Friday.

“The circumstances surrounding his death are very unfortunate and sad. This is an untimely death that has now left four children without a father. But I wish to express my condolences to his family, especially his children.

“I know this tragic loss will forever change their lives.

“I call on all Saint Lucians to reach out to offer assistance and comfort to the grieving families.”

GThe PM said, “This is also a difficult time for many who

stood on the riverbank, as Estephan struggled to hold on. Some attempted to help him, but unfortunately, he was taken away by the raging waters.

“I applaud the efforts of those who sought to help. In situations like these, onlookers are left traumatized and often blame themselves for the death of the victims.

“Indeed, this is a sad ending to accept.

“I offer my prayers and ask all Saint Lucians to do the same. May you all, with time, be healed from the pain that you now feel.

RISE observing International Child Rights Week

The week of November 13 to 20 is recognized around the world and celebrates the rights of children, as outlined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.



In commemoration of International Child Rights Week, RISE (St. Lucia) Inc. recognizes the rights of children and young people to survive and thrive.

The week is recognized annually around the world as International Child Rights Week—a week during which the world celebrates the rights of children as outlined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and a week which leads up to Universal Children’s Day on November 20.

November 20 marks the day on which the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights

of the Child in 1959, and the UNCRC in 1989.

The UN General Assembly has recommended that all countries observe November 20 as a day of activity devoted to promoting the welfare of children around the world.

During that week, RISE will share information with the general public -- especially children and youth -- on child rights and responsibilities.

On November 19, recognized internationally within that week as Child Abuse Prevention day, RISE will inform the public about child abuse and its prevention.

RISE will also be joining the International Men’s Day fair at Rodney Bay on November 21.

Saint Lucia National Awards 2015

Take part and nominate someone for a National Award.

Details & Nomination Form at:

<http://governorgeneral.govt.lc/honors-and-awards>

Deadline for the nominations is 30 NOVEMBER, 2015



In Touch LIVE

with Jadia JnPierre-Emmanuel

9:00pm
Mondays

CHOICE



Y SPEAK))
with MAUNDY LEWIS

6:30 PM
MONDAYS

4:30 PM
SATURDAYS

NAN
NATIONAL ANTHROPOLOGICAL NETWORK

CHOICE

f <https://www.facebook.com/YSpeakSLU>

Saint Lucia’s first PetroCaribe business will be in asphalt

The Government of Saint Lucia on Monday signed-up to a PetroCaribe Joint Venture Agreement with the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. The signing ceremony took place at the Office of the Prime Minister, in the presence of several representatives from both countries, who witnessed the landmark agreement.

Among other things, the agreement will seek to foster trade between Saint Lucia and Venezuela to facilitate customs, transportation and operations for PetroCaribe projects. It will

also enact the mechanisms to initiate trade in petroleum products between the two countries.

Saint Lucia will start doing business specifically with asphalt – and that’s welcome news to contractors and others with eyes on jobs in the massive road construction program that is on the cards for next year, starting with the \$150 million Choc-to-Gros Islet Highway.

Like all, other nations with PetroCaribe agreements, Saint Lucia too has intentions of doing business with diesel and petrol. But for reasons yet to be explained,

government sources say this could not yet be done at this time.

But the local officials are hoping in the near future, working with the team in Venezuela and the embassy in Saint Lucia, they will be able to overcome some of these ticklish problems.

It was also pointed out that despite the decrease in oil prices on the world market, Venezuela maintains that it will keep its promises to countries that form part of PetroCaribe and ALBA groupings: to ensure continuous delivery of agreed products at agreed prices.

PetroCaribe President Bernardo Alvarez said he was happy the Government of Saint Lucia had agreed to sign the new agreement, which will also pave the way for a greater working relationship with Venezuela.

He said, “We are moving in the direction of finalizing the negotiation for the PetroCaribe agreement to Saint Lucia, which means that Saint Lucia will increase its energy security.

“But at the same time, it will profit from the funds that PetroCaribe is going to put for programmes of social and eco-

nom ic development.”

Alvarez highlighted that Saint Lucia has received significant support from ALBA, explaining that PetroCaribe will also bring the same benefits -- and in some cases even more.

Petrocaribe marked its 10th anniversary in June 2015.

The 17-member alliance includes six Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) member-states: Antigua and Barbuda, The Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Governor General and Prime Minister led annual Remembrance Day celebrations



Saint Lucia joined the rest of the world to celebrate Remembrance Day.

Last Sunday, dignitaries and national organizations honored the fallen soldiers as wreaths were laid at the cenotaph on the Derek Walcott Square to pay respects to those who died in the line of duty.

Governor General of Saint Lucia, Her Excellency Dame Pearllette Louisy, emphasized the need to reenergize the observance of Remembrance Day.

“While not forgetting them, let us take a call to action and do what each of us can do, individually and as a nation, and collectively, to ensure that their sacrifice is not in vain.”

Prime Minister and Minister for Finance Dr. Kenny D. An-

thony thanked the French counterparts for their participation in the activities.

“It touches all of us. What the event today is really saying to each and every one of us is that peace is precious. By definition, we should not have to fight for peace. Peace really never ought to be fought for.

“Peace is something we should subscribe to, we should live by and that we should embrace. It should be part of everything that we do, yet it is elusive. But we have to fight for it.”

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. *(More in Centre Pages 6 and 7)*

Parliament approves new law to encourage development of alternative energy

History was made in the island’s parliament Tuesday with passage of a new law opening the way for new suppliers of renewable energy on the island.

To date, the island’s lone electricity LUCELEC has an exclusive 80-year monopoly license to produce and supply electricity generated from fossil fuels, such as petroleum.

It means no other company, public or private, can engage in production of electricity to supply households across Saint Lucia.

However, the new law passed earlier this week opens the way for other private and public companies to develop, produce and supply alternative energy to the island.

Alternative energy sources immediately possible for development on the island include geothermal energy in Soufriere,

wind-farming, solar energy, as well as waste energy.

The new law is one of several amendments to the island’s electricity supply ordinances, including the establishment of a new regulatory commission to replace the recently quashed Public Utilities Commission (PUC).

LUCELEC was publicly praised in the parliament by the Prime Minister and Opposition speakers who congratulated its past and present leadership for managing one of the most efficient electricity companies in the Caribbean.

Several speakers however noted that the company’s character an d ownership has changed considerably over the years, necessitating a revisiting of the laws governing energy supply to ensure the island can start to develop alternative forms of cleaner energy.

The Prime Minister noted that LUCELEC has been understandably resistant to changes that would not be comfortable to its private sector owners, especially the government’s program to replace existing LUCELEC-powered street lights with solar-powered lighting.

Much discussion has also been taking place about the advisability of maintaining the Fuel Surcharge law put in place long ago that ensures that consumers pay the private company’s total fuel bill.

The various discussions on Tuesday took place during this month’s meeting of the House of Assembly.

Bills considered included the Electricity Supply (Amendment), Money Services, Business (Amendment) and another for establishment of the National Utilities Regulatory Commission (NURC).

Spelling Bee making the rounds!



Preliminary rounds of the Colgate National Spelling Bee taking place throughout the month of November.

As part of the oral health education strategy of the Ministry of Health, Wellness, Human Services and Gender Relations, a primary schools spelling bee, spearheaded by the ministry’s dental department, has been organized for schools around the island.

Senior Dental Surgeon at the Ministry of Health, Dr. Sherry Ephraim-Le Compte, said the objective of the activity is to broaden the mindset of the youth on oral care and dentistry.

“It also serves to augment the students vocabulary which allows them to understand the jargon and technical terms used on a day to day basis in the dental field.” Le Compte said.

She indicated a change to this year’s spelling bee booklet, with the inclusion of additional technical terms used in dentistry.

“History has proven time and time again that Saint Lucia has exceptional spellers in the primary schools. Last year’s competition was proof as the students

spelled nearly all of the words correctly. We had to go into our reserve words to serve as tie breakers on more than one occasion. This year we have decided to include the reserve words from the start so the competition can be more competitive.”

Colgate’s Accounts Manager, Elizabeth Cumberbatch, said oral health is the core of Colgate’s business. As such Colgate takes an active role in supporting oral health activities locally, regionally and internationally.

She applauded the efforts of the Ministry of Health in increasing dental knowledge and awareness among school children at such an impressionable age.

“This is our fifth year sponsoring this activity and it has proven year after year that it is getting bigger and better. We can see it in the numbers, we can see it in the participation of the students. We can see how excited the students are.”

“The fact that we keep coming back means the organizers must be doing something very, very right,” said Chanelle Bailey, representative for Peter and Company and Paradise Water.

“Just think about it for a moment - the powerful impact of empowering a young mind, that kind of empowerment is a skill that lasts a lifetime.

“That skill benefits not just the child as a child but the child as they grow up, the schools, potential employers, our island and beyond.

“The importance and obvious connection of these two brands Colgate and Paradise Water to the theme for this year - Celebrating Healthy Smiles - cannot go unnoticed.”

Preliminary rounds of the Colgate National Spelling Bee Competition takes place throughout the month of November with the finals and prize giving ceremony scheduled for early December.

Colgate and Peter and Company are the main sponsors the competition which is now into its 5th year. Le Compte acknowledged the sponsors for their unflinching support.

Statistics from the World Health Organization (WHO) indicate that worldwide, 60-90 percent of school children and nearly 100 percent of adults have dental cavities.

Dental cavities can be prevented by maintaining a constant low level of fluoride in the oral cavity.

Oral disease in children and adults is higher among poor and disadvantaged population groups.

Risk factors for oral diseases include an unhealthy diet, tobacco use, harmful alcohol use, poor oral hygiene, and social determinants.

Severe periodontal (gum) disease, which may result in tooth loss, is found in 15-20 percent of middle-aged (35-44 years) adults.

Local official says December Paris meeting will be ‘an important turning point’ in the ongoing Climate Change battle!

Decisions made at the upcoming COP 21 in Paris in December, will be an important turning point in the Climate Change battle. That’s according to expert observers and competent technical sources.

The representatives from nations worldwide will convene in Paris in December to develop, for the first time, a binding and universal agreement on climate.

Sustainable Development and Environment Officer, Dawn Pierre Nathaniel, said an agreement at COP 21 is just the beginning of the process.

“Even with the adoption of a 2015 agreement in Paris, the regulations won’t come into effect until 2020. The period between 2015 and 2020 is an

important one, work does not stop.”

Nathaniel said there is need to remain focused on the objectives of the climate change movement, post COP 21.

“We will need to have accompanying supplementary decisions at every COP that help to continue the work between 2015 and 2020.

“We would also have to fight that battle every year to push the important issues, depending on what we get out of Paris, to be ready for implementation in 2020.”

Caribbean countries are seeking a legally binding agreement with the aim of keeping global warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Saint Lucia contributes to less than 1 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions.

Prime Minister welcomes new private \$25 Million Meat Processing Facility in Cul de Sac

Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Economic Affairs, Planning and Social Security, Dr. Kenny D. Anthony, last Thursday, welcomed the opening of a new meat processing facility in Cul de Sac.

His comments were made at the official opening of the CPJ Saint Lucia Ltd Distribution Centre and Meat Processing Facility, during which he delivered the feature address.

Dr. Anthony stated that the opening of a new company serves to inspire hope and confidence in the potential of a country.

"It is a reminder that we -- all of us -- should believe in Saint Lucia and in the will of Saint Lucians to adapt, succeed and prosper.

"Given imminent expansion in the island's tourism plant, steady growth in stay-over arrivals and the planned redevelopment of the Hewanorra International Airport in 2016, such developments would lead to growth in the provisioning requirements for the hospitality industry," he said.

The Prime Minister further indicated that the prospects for linkages between tourism, agri-

culture and the fisheries sector are reinforced by collaboration with private partner interests such as CPJ Saint Lucia.

He noted that government's efforts to spur agriculture are beginning to bear fruit, which ventures like CPJ are poised to reap, to the mutual benefit of the company and its local partners.

"The government has spent nearly \$20 million on a national meat processing facility at Beauséjour, Vieux Fort. We must now augment our capacity in livestock production, through a new program to boost livestock production.

"Private investment in the food sector is welcome news for farmers and consumers. To support these efforts, the government enacted an Agricultural Incentives Act.

"This Act has, for the first time, provided farmers with legislative protection for incentives.

"We have also provided assistance to a number of our farmers through the Farm Help Program, under the National Initiative to Create Employment (NICE).

This has empowered young men and women, whilst giving farmers the labor they need to be



The Prime Minister and the investors cut the ribbons to signify that a new local and regional private sector business has officially opened its doors in Saint Lucia.

more productive.

"I am also pleased that this investment of over \$25 million is targeted not only at supplying on-island demand, but also at supporting exports to other islands in the Eastern Caribbean.

"Many do not understand that a country largely survives by what it earns from exports. It is simply not enough to produce solely for domestic consumption."

The CPJ Saint Lucia Ltd Distribution Centre and Meat Process-

ing Facility is a joint venture between Du Boulay's Bottling and Caribbean Producers Jamaica.

It represents a \$25 million investment in a new plant, equipment -- and the employment of 40 local staff.

Six Gros Islet roads rehabilitated to give residents better access to homes and properties



BEFORE AND AFTER! These two photographs depict the difference between what was and what now is after the Ministry of Infrastructure intervened to address complaints of residents. Six roads were given similar treatment by the ministry following persistent representation by MP Emma Hippolyte.

In July 2015, the Ministry of Infrastructure, Port Services and Transport embarked on a road rehabilitation project in Beasejour, Gros Islet.

Before the intervention of the Ministry, residents had tremendous difficulty accessing their homes and properties.

A total of six roads were fully rehabilitated with new road pavement surfaces.

This project was estimated to cost almost \$700,000.00.

The six roads rehabilitated are: Damhiel Hill, Vincent Drive, Lake Side View, Conrad Larcher Road, Julian Hunte Drive and Ernest Hilaire Drive.

The Ministry of Infrastructure says it "noted the persistence" of the Parliamentary Representative for Gros Islet Ms. Emma Hippolyte, "who continuously agitated for the relief that the residents have now received."

According to a statement from the Ministry, "While the Government was faced with limited financial resources, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Port Services and Transport felt it was necessary to undertake this project at this time."

It added, "These road repairs in Beausejour Gros Islet form only a small part of road repairs which are being conducted in 2015."

Social Transformation Ministry held successful consultation on Strategic Plan

The Ministry of Social Transformation, Local Government and Community Empowerment held a major consultation for all staff of the core ministry and its allied agencies to formalize the undertaking of a strategic plan to guide national social development.

Consultant to the Ministry of Social Transformation, Yves Renard, said the consultation is another step toward the creation of the plan.

"This is a process that began in April of this year. We have had a series of small meetings, focus group sessions and interviews.

"What we are doing now is to discuss the key issues to see what needs to be added in the

creation of a plan. It also involves the development of a program of work on the basis of that plan," Renard explained.

For many years, the development of a strategic plan has been in discussion.

The assertion from Permanent Secretary Juliana Alfred is that a framework has now been developed with the intention to launch the plan in 2016.

Alfred said the plan is being tied to global Sustainable Development Goals as the ministry aligns its role with Saint Lucia's national commitments and advancement.

Social Transformation and Welfare Officer for Canaries, Soufriere and Choiseul, Darnally Estava, said: "I think it is very pertinent, well-coordinated and

very timely, because we have a ministry and a government that is always changing and it is nice to know that plans are being put in place for continuity, and for the safety and development of our society.

"It is comforting to know that when we have gone, when the ministry is changed and when the political arena changes, that the policies and plans we put in place today will achieve the long term goals we have as a nation."

The feedback and participation of staff in the exercise was stimulating.

This, the Permanent Secretary said, is an indication of genuine commitment and interest in the work of social protection to advance national development.

Another three weeks of lower prices for petroleum products

As prices of petroleum products continue to trend downwards on the international market, a further adjustment in prices on Monday November 9, 2015 resulted in lower prices for local consumers.

Gasoline is now sold for \$0.33 less, at \$10.65 per gallon. The 100lb, 22lb and 20lb cylinders have decreased by \$1.24, \$0.14 and \$0.13 respectively. The new retail prices are \$179.21, \$28.16 and \$25.34 per cylinder, respectively.

Due to a higher import price for the period under review, the only product to register an increase is diesel. Notwithstanding, diesel is being sold for \$10.50 per gallon, \$0.15 cents lower than the retail price for gasoline. Below is a schedule of the retail prices for petroleum products:

Petroleum Product	Existing Price	New Price	Change
Unleaded Gasoline	\$10.98 per gallon	\$10.65 per gallon	Decrease by \$0.33
	\$2.41 per Litre	\$2.34 per Litre	Decrease by \$0.07
Diesel	\$10.23 per gallon	\$10.50 per gallon	Increase by \$0.27
	\$2.25 per Litre	\$2.31 per Litre	Increase by \$0.06
Kerosene	\$7.05 per gallon	\$1.55 per Litre	Unchanged
	\$7.05 per gallon	\$1.55 per Litre	
LPG: 20 Pound	\$25.47 per cylinder	\$25.34 per cylinder	Decrease by \$0.13
22 Pound	\$28.30 per cylinder	\$28.16 per cylinder	Decrease by \$0.14
100 Pound	\$180.45 per cylinder	\$179.21 per cylinder	Decrease by \$1.24
Bulk	\$1.67 per pound	\$1.66 per pound	Decrease by \$0.01
	\$3.69 per kilogram	\$3.66 per kilogram	

Despite the falling prices, Government continues to subsidize the 20lb and 22lb LPG cylinders at a cost of \$10.50 and \$11.27 per cylinder respectively. The next price adjustment will be on November 30, 2015.

Training under way for 50 Youth Policy Volunteer Researchers

The National Youth Policy review being conducted by the Ministry of Youth Development and Sports through the assistance of the Commonwealth Secretariat has identified 50 young volunteers who will undergo 12 hours of training on research techniques/survey methods in order to conduct the research which will be used for the policy.

Trained teams of researchers will be deployed to communities and organized meetings to dialogue with youth and various stakeholders.

The last National Youth Policy (NYP) was completed in 2000 and has served as the primary docu-

ment for youth policy formulation in Saint Lucia.

The consultant, Ms. Dwynette Eversley, is assigned to the Ministry of Youth Development and Sports for a year to facilitate the youth policy review and is supported by ministerial staff.

The research and subsequent formulation of the National Youth Policy (NYP) is to effectively reflect the circumstances and aspirations of Saint Lucian youth. The NYP will have a significant impact on how young people are viewed as well as provide strategies that will promote their development according to their needs

Saint Lucia soars at World Travel Market in London

The 2015 World Travel Market (WTM), which took place at the ExCel Exhibition Centre in London, saw the Saint Lucia Tourist Board (SLTB) and its partners exhibit for four days, in what proved to be a very productive and successful week.

The SLTB, alongside four hotel partners and one destination management company, held meetings with UK and European tour operators, airlines and trade partners, and showcased the island's highlights, recent awards and destination news.

On Monday, double gold Olympic champion, Daley Thompson, promoted the increasingly-popular Tri Saint Lucia which will be held on November 21.

In his capacity as an ambassador for Saint Lucia, Daley took part in radio interviews with top stations including Absolute Radio, BBC Radio Jersey, BBC Radio Northampton, BBC Radio WM and a selection of additional regional outlets.

He also participated in media meetings, photo calls and TV interviews with prolific freelancer Kieran Meeke, TTG, Travelmole TV, and the WTM press office.

Atlyn Forde, SLTB Director of Marketing in the UK and Ireland, inspired trade and consumer media, including Selling Travel, Wanderlust, The Telegraph, The Voice and Breaking Travel News, in a series of one-on-one interviews, during which she updated editors and travel journalists on the latest destination news, trade incentives and editorial angles for 2016.

The destination was also highly successful at the Caribbean Tourism Organization's (CTO) "Host and Reward the Media" event on November 2, held at the Fox @ ExCel, where Saint Lucia triumphed in two out of the eight categories.

Two Saint Lucia features were honored for being the best in their category. "Climbing in Saint Lucia: the Best View in the Caribbean" by Nick Trend for The Telegraph Online won Best Online Feature and the Best Piece of Photo Journalism accolade was awarded to Neil Price for the imagery that accompanied Phoebe Smith's "Caribbean Blend" feature in Wanderlust Magazine.

The SLTB presented the award to Wanderlust.

The CTO event was attended by over 70 UK media journalists from national, trade, consumer and online outlets.

On November 5, Sales and Marketing Executive for the SLTB, Chelcie Lewis, was presented with her own personal award, the 'Supplier Star Award 2015' by luxury tour operator Azure.

Azure Director of Sales, Anna-Maria Baccanello said: "Chelcie has been outstanding in her performance, and the support we receive from the Saint Lucia Tourist Board is exemplary.

"Chelcie is very talented at presenting and she brings the destination to life with her unique combination of expertise, enthusiasm and wit."

The 2015 World Travel Market was held from November 2 - 5



Saint Lucia's winning team took centre stage at the WTM earlier this month, where they attracted several accolades as the SLTB showcased the popular vacation destination via a four-day exhibit in the UK.

Saint Lucians abroad gearing-up to take advantage of Christmas Barrel Concessions 2016

Saint Lucians in communities across the island are gearing-up to benefit from the annual Christmas Barrel concessions, on which so many depend at this time every year.

Government earlier this month announced that Cabinet, by Conclusion 632 of October 19, 2015, approved the usual annual concessions for the Christmas Barrel Trade.

Under the concession, there is a 100 percent waiver of import duty on personal items, food, clothing, toys and other household consumables contained in barrels imported between December 1 and February 15.

As per usual, electronic items are explicitly excluded; and the number of barrels that qualify for the concessions is limited to two per household.

There is an upper limit of EC\$2,500 per barrel on the value of items qualifying for the concessions and they must be for personal use only and not for commercial use.

The government has also made it clear that the usual penalties and fines apply if the goods are used for commercial purposes.

Cabinet further approved the transmission of the appropriate legal instrument to Parliament to declare barrels imported during the stipulated period exempt from Value Added Tax (VAT).

Items that qualify for this concession will attract Customs service charges at the rate of six percent



Saint Lucians abroad are gearing-up to take the usual advantage of a 100 percent waiver of import duty on barrels to be sent to family and friends back home between December 1 and February 15 next year

New policies expected to increase production and supply in poultry sector



Following extensive consultations, agreement was reached on an incremental approach to improving the production and supply capacity of the poultry sector

Industry stakeholders have come to consensus on measures that will increase the production and supply capacity of the domestic poultry sector.

The Ministry of Commerce, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, established a working group earlier this year with stakeholders within the poultry industry to jointly formulate a strategy and plan of action to improve the poultry sector.

The stakeholders included hatchers, producers, farmers, processors, distributors and retailers.

Under the guidance of an independent consultant, the working group held a number of meetings and extensive consultations to achieve a three-fold objective:

1. To determine the best approach to achieve industry growth;
2. To minimize any adverse effects on consumers, farmers, processors, retailers and other stakeholders; and
3. To maintain existing regional and international trade obligations.

As a result, an incremental approach to improving the production and supply capacity of the domestic poultry sector was agreed to by all parties.

The approach was considered necessary as it ensured that consumer prices remained as stable as possible.

The Ministry of Commerce said that the Ministry of Agriculture will announce the details of the implementation of the new policy measures to industry stakeholders.

It also expressed gratitude to stakeholders within the industry for their efforts, commitment and sacrifices made to support the development of the domestic poultry sector.

Their collaborative efforts, it said, will help result in the growth of the poultry sector for the benefit of the Saint Lucian people.

Pipe water for Bouton and Colombette

On the heels of a similar undertaking, the Saint Lucia Social Development Fund (SSDF) has initiated a contract with the Water and Sewerage Company (WASCO) Inc., to improve the water supply in deserving communities.

The Bouton Water Enhancement Sub-Project is being funded under the 7th cycle of the Basic Needs Trust Fund (BNTF) to enhance access to basic social and economic infrastructure.

Parliamentary Representative for Soufriere/Fond St. Jacques and Minister for Social Transformation, Local Government and Community Empowerment Harold Dalsan says residents have had to rely on trucked water since the 2013 Christmas Eve trough.

He explains, "Since the trough of 2013, the water catchment area at Quatre Chemin disappeared. Since then, the residents have had to rely on trucked water from WASCO.

"This system was not always dependable, and residents often complained to me that a truck had not come for a while, and they were in need of my intervention.

"I am therefore glad that this will no longer be an issue and the residents will be relieved once this project is completed."

The upgrade and extension of the water supply in Bouton is necessary to provide a reliable and safe water supply to residents.



The SSDF has initiated a contract with WASCO to enhance access to basic infrastructure.

Presently, Belvedere in Canaries is the closest and most reliable water source to Bouton.

"It has been the norm that we receive water once every three months - with some people going as long as seven months with no pipe borne water," Bouton resident Ms. Gifta Jongue said.

"We know very well the challenges associated with having inadequate water. That is why we are here today to support the work of the SSDF and the CDB through the BNTF to give us a consistent water supply."

The Bouton intervention is the largest of all water sub-projects under the BNTF 7.

It includes the installation of ductile-iron pipes inclusive of all fittings, the construction of a glass-fused steel water tank at Quarte Chemin, a pump house and the installation of a water pump at the Belvedere water tank location, and connections in 26 households in Bouton.

To enhance the sustainability of the project, water resource and water/waste maintenance, training will be provided for residents.

The second phase of the project will extend to Colombette - a community which also lacks pipe borne water.

WASCO is the agency retained for implementing the scope of works under the guidance and supervision of the Caribbean Development Bank retained consultant and the SSDF.

Clean safe water is a privilege that is often taken for granted in developed countries and one that is not always accessible in the developing nations

70 years after World War II, the tradition continues!

Fallen Soldiers Remembered at the 11th Hour on the 11th Day of the 11th Month!



Story and Photos by Marius Modeste

Last weekend, St. Lucia remembered those St. Lucians who gave their lives for the peace of the world when over 30 of our sons and daughters died in the two world wars. Governor General Dame Calliopa Pearlette Louisy GCSL GCMG, along with Prime Minister Hon. Dr. Kenny D. Anthony and members of the diplomatic corps paid their respects to our war dead at the Derek Walcott Square, George V Park and at the Commonwealth War Graves at Choc Bay in Castries. Also in attendance were members of the French Legion.

Prime Minister Anthony, in his remarks at his Official Residence, noted the absence of several veteran's from St. Lucia and Martinique who died since the last Remembrance Day and called for a minute of silence in their memory.

Remembrance Day (also known as Poppy Day) is a memorial day observed in the British Commonwealth of Nations member-states since the end of the First World War to remember the members of their armed forces who died in the line of duty.

Following a tradition inaugurated by King George V in 1919, the day is also marked by war remembrances in many non-Commonwealth countries.

Remembrance Day is observed on 11 November in most countries to recall the end of hostilities of World War I on that date in 1918.

Hostilities formally ended "at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month", in accordance with the armistice signed by representatives of Germany and the Entente between 5:12 and

5:20 that morning. ("At the 11th hour" refers to the passing of the 11th hour, or 11:00 am.) The First World War officially ended with the signing of the Treaty of Versailles on 28 June 1919.

The memorial evolved out of Armistice Day, which continues to be marked on the same date. The initial Armistice Day was observed at Buckingham Palace, commencing with King George V hosting a "Banquet in Honour of the President of the French Republic"[3] during the evening hours of 10 November 1919. The first official Armistice Day was subsequently held on the grounds of Buckingham Palace the following morning.

The red remembrance poppy has become a familiar emblem of Remembrance Day due to the poem "In Flanders Fields". These poppies bloomed across some of the worst battlefields of Flanders in World War I; their brilliant red colour became a symbol for the blood spilled in the war.

Also in attendance at last Sunday's ceremony was the new British High Commissioner Annie Mc Gee.

In her brief remarks, she said "In the last two world wars, five million commonwealth nationals joined. They were not called, they didn't have to join, they chose to because they believed in freedom and they wanted to make the world a safer place."

The high commissioner went on to say "The tradition in serving in Her Majesty's forces continues as St. Lucians play a vital role alongside other Commonwealth troops in the service of the crown.

"I am happy to be here to celebrate this Remembrance Day with you!"



@ Marius Modeste Photo

PAHO says new hospitals can offer specialized care to neighbouring countries!

Representatives from the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) recently met here with Ministry of Health officials to discuss transitioning to the Owen King EU Hospital.

PAHO's Advisor on Human Resources for Health, Dr. Erica Wheeler, said the organization will assist Saint Lucia in implementing new commissioning structures.

She explained, "I understand there are two new hospitals to be commissioned. So we are looking at the hospitals' human resources as it relates to health.

"For example: How is it going to be staffed, will there be sufficient staff, how is the staff in relation to other services in the community."

Dr. Peter Cowley, PAHO Health Systems Strengthening Advisor, said Saint Lucia is one of several Caribbean countries with the capacity to offer specialized health care services.

"The new national hospital or other medical facilities in Saint Lucia could offer specialized care not only to its own citizens but also to those from neighboring countries.

"When you provide these regional specialized centers of care and you have agreements with sister governments, you are in effect providing more services for more people at lesser financial cost.

"It also serves to increase universal health coverage and universal access."

The Dr. Owen King-EU Hospital and the new Saint Jude Hospital in Vieux-Fort represent a combined investment of \$270 million by the Government of Saint Lucia.



PAHO will assist Saint Lucia in implementing new commissioning structures, following which Saint Lucia will also be able to offer specialized care to parients from neighbouring countrie .

Minister says women should be armed against rapists!

Minister for Health, Wellness, Human Services and Gender Relations Alvina Reynolds says local women may need access to self-defense products in order to protect themselves from violent crimes.

Her remarks were made on the heels of a reported gang rape of two young females in an apartment in Rodney Bay.

The Gender Relations Minister said the incident provides an opportunity for broad public discussion on how women can protect themselves.

Since the likelihood of having police protection at the instant when an attack occurs is low, the minister suggested preventing the situation rather than responding after the incident has occurred.

"How can we, as women, fight back in the sense of protection? The conversation must begin. This is the time, because we have had many sessions to sensitize men on their roles in terms of working along with women and respecting women, but that seems to fall on deaf ears," Reynolds said.

"Something else has to happen.

Amidst the talking there must be action. We, as a government, do have to step up in terms of responding to victims of rape. It is time that we, as a Cabinet, have that discussion for pepper spray and mace, for women to begin to arm themselves with something.

"I want to send a strong message out to the perpetrators

of these crimes that enough is enough, that there must be respect for women. We are equal partners. One group cannot be disrespected and violated again and again."

The minister, in condemning the reported rape, also referenced a disturbing increase in the number of reported rape cases on the island

Younger Saint Lucians being diagnosed with Diabetes



According to the International Diabetes Federation, in 2014 there were 10,200 reported cases of diabetes in Saint Lucia. And the Diabetes and Hypertension Association says a hundred persons lost limbs to the disease in the past two years.

Citizens have been placed on alert with the observance that younger Saint Lucians, including g children, are being diagnosed with Diabetes. This disclosure was made as diabetics engage in the annual focus on promotion of healthy lifestyles to combat Diabetes.

In observance of World Diabetes Day (observed annually on November 14), the Saint Lucia Diabetes and Hypertension Association says it will host an entire month of activities to demonstrate how a healthy lifestyle can help prevent diabetes.

President of the Association, George Eugene, says increased sensitization activities may help lessen the prevalence of diabetes in Saint Lucia.

He explained, "Strut for a Cause is a major fundraising activity to be undertaken.

"We will also have a moonlight walk in Castries and Vieux-Fort, as we did last year. We had well over 200 participants last year and we expect well over 600 this time.

"The walk to be held in Castries will end at Vigie, while the other to be held in Vieux-

Fort will end at the Vieux-Fort Square.

"We are encouraging persons to come out and support like they did last year."

Mr Eugene said people need to become more aware of their lifestyles and take the necessary steps to prevent the onset of diabetes.

"We are asking people to take better care of themselves and to exercise more and make more healthy food choices.

"You can prolong the onset of diabetes by diet and exercise."

According to Mr Eugene, "A growing concern now is that 12, 14 and 15 year olds are being diagnosed with Type Two Diabetes which we associate with older people.

"So, when our young people are being diagnosed, then it's a serious problem."

According to the International Diabetes Federation, in 2014 there were 10,200 reported cases of diabetes in Saint Lucia.

Mr Eugene has also disclosed that over 100 Saint Lucians lost limbs to diabetes in the past two years.

Saint Lucia to benefit from technical international trade assistance



Saint Lucia is among OECS countries that will profit from International Trade Centre (ITC) technical assistance to Member States in examining options for negotiating service commitments in bilateral trade agreements.

The OECS Commission has secured technical assistance from the International Trade Centre (ITC) based in Geneva, to review the approach for granting access to the services sector in the OECS to third countries.

The main objective of the technical assistance programme, is to provide OECS Protocol Member States with a Report that clearly outlines the policy implications in considering alternative approaches to the traditional positive listing for scheduling and liberalizing commitments in bilateral and pluri-lateral trade negotiations.

The Technical Assistance will also include the regulatory, legislative and institutional requirements for developing an integrated services market and as a consequence, provide a sound policy basis from which to engage in trade

in services negotiations with third countries.

The Technical Assistance is being provided through Consultancy Services and will involve seven OECS Member States namely Antigua and Barbuda, Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The Ministry of External Affairs, International Trade and Civil Aviation is responsible for this Consultancy and has facilitated a consultative exercise with the stakeholders with the Consultant, Dr. Natasha Ward, and the OECS Commission.

Ms. Shirnaya Stephen who has lead responsibly for trade in services at the Ministry is the focal point for this project during the exercise.

The Director of International Trade, Mr. Nigel Edwin, expressed his full endorsement of this initiative and indicated to the Consultant and the OECS Commission the timeliness of this focus of exploring alternative modalities for scheduling services commitments as this was one of the red line issues encountered during the CARICOM-Canada Trade Negotiations.

The consultancy focused on three priority sectors: Professional services, Health and Wellness Tourism and Educational services. Additional work is also scheduled to be done on the Creative Industries sector.

The Ministry of External Affairs, International Trade and Civil Aviation wishes to express its extreme pleasure with the

active participation of stakeholders in the sectors identified, from both the public and private sectors during the national consultations over the period of November 2 to 4, 2015.

Stakeholders shared their experiences with the legislation governing individual sectors and highlighted gaps and loopholes in the legislation and improvements required.

They also identified steps currently being undertaken to strengthen the governance structure and obstacles being faced in trying export their services as well as challenges in establishing businesses in Saint Lucia.

The stakeholders from the private sector informed of the professional development initiatives that they have undertaken to be more competitive in exporting their services and the support provided by the Saint Lucia Coalition of Service Industries (SLCSI), TVET in the Ministry of Education as well the Saint Lucia Bureau of Standards.

At the conclusion of this Technical Assistance Programme, it is expected that a clear directive would be provided to OECS Member States on the prudent negotiating options that could be considered for granting access to third countries into the services market of the Economic Union whilst safeguarding the objectives of the Revised Treaty of Basseterre

The Diplomatic Courier

Third Taiwan Ambassador fully accredited!

‘Saint Lucia is grateful for Taiwan’s immense contributions!’

Following is the full text of an address by Her Excellency Dame Pearlette Louisy, GCSL, GCMG, D. STJ., Ph.D, Ltd, (Hon.) on the occasion of the Presentation of Credentials Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of China (Taiwan) to Saint Lucia, His Excellency Mr. Ray H.W. Mou on Thursday, October 22nd, 2015



Your Excellency I am pleased to welcome you to Saint Lucia and to accept from you the Letters of Credence by which your President, His Excellency Dr. Ma Ying-jeou accredits you as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of China (Taiwan) to Saint Lucia, and the Letter of Recall of your predecessor, His Excellency James Chang.

Your Excellency Saint Lucia is truly grateful for the immense contribution of the Government and People of Taiwan to its development efforts across such a wide cross-section of its initiatives, and wishes to place on record that gratitude and your appreciation of the challenges that we face as a small island developing state. Indeed Taiwan is ideally positioned to serve as a viable economic development model for small states such as ours, as it has successfully overcome some of the constraints characteristic of small states: in particular scale, isolation and dependence. Your economic success is well known and applauded all over the world and you continue to be a front runner in the global economy. This is further

strengthened by your President’s philosophy of “viable diplomacy” which places emphasis on the principles of compassion, sensitivity, reciprocity and good neighbourliness. Saint Lucia has been at the receiving end of this policy and we thank you for it. We aim to reciprocate in our own modest way, and we hope that the opening of our Embassy in Taiwan will strengthen the already very good relations that exist between our two countries.

I therefore wish you a rewarding tour of duty among us. am heartened by the commitment you have expressed in sparing no effort to further strengthen these relations and I can commit in turn to providing the support and assistance of my government and myself to ensure the success of your mission here among us.

Your Excellency, I thank you for conveying to us the wishes and greetings of your President and the people of Taiwan. I wish to ask, in turn, that you convey our best wishes for his personal well-being, and for the continued peace and prosperity of the Government and People of Taiwan. Your Excellency, welcome once again, and thank you.



‘I will spare no effort to further strengthen and deepen our ties!’

Following is the full text of an address by Ambassador Ray H. W. Mou on the occasion of the Presentation of Credentials of the Republic of China (Taiwan) to Saint Lucia on Thursday, 22nd October, 2015



Your Excellency Governor General Dame Pearlette Louisy, it is indeed my great honor to present the letter of Credence accrediting me as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of China (Taiwan) to Saint Lucia. I also avail myself of this occasion to present the letter of Recall of my predecessor, Ambassador James Chang.

I have also the honor and distinct pleasure, Your Excellency, to convey to you and to the people of your great nation the cordial greetings and best wishes of the President of the Republic of China (Taiwan), His Excellency Dr. Ma Ying-jeou, and those of the people of Taiwan.

Your Excellency, I wish to highlight the joint efforts for strengthening the ties between our two countries through cooperation programs and various initiatives. Evidences of our expanding and deepening relations have been seen in the close

cooperation between Taiwan and Saint Lucia on areas such as agriculture, aquaculture, medical care, information technology, environmental protection, and community infrastructure construction. The high-level mutual visits, together with the youth training and cultural exchange programs between our two countries, have created an environment of mutual respect and broader understanding.

Your Excellency, as Ambassador of the Republic of China (Taiwan) to Saint Lucia, I wish to solemnly assure you that during my tenure of office, I shall spare no effort in further strengthening the friendly relations between our two countries. On embarking upon my mission, I expressed the hope that, in this endeavour, I will have the privilege to receive assistance and support from Your Excellency and that of your Government. I thank you, Governor General



The Diplomatic Courier

Record 191 Nations voted for lifting U.S. Blockade on Cuba



The vote against the embargo was very clear at the UN this year -- as always!

On Tuesday October 27th, 2015, for the 24th time, the United Nations General Assembly voted on Resolution 69/5 of the United Nations General Assembly entitled "Necessity of ending the Economic, Commercial and Financial Blockade imposed by the United States of America against Cuba."

One hundred and ninety one nations voted for the Removal of the Blockade, with two nations; the United States and Israel voting against the Removal of the Blockade.

The Resolution for the Lifting of the Blockade against Cuba was first brought to the floor of the United Nations General Assembly in 1992. This Resolution has never been defeated and support has increased every year since then.

Despite President Obama's announced intentions to normalize relations with Cuba, the Trade Embargo remains in effect. "The Blockade is obsolete and has failed" - President Obama. The application of measures has been hindered yet the rest of the restrictions remain in effect; commerce/ trade, use of the U.S. Dollar, financing, Financial transactions with the U.S. Dollar are still prohibited. Cuba is required to pay upfront in cash, for any transaction that may be approved. This Blockade has cost the Cuban Economy over 121 billion dollars, over this period.

The removal of Cuba from the List of Countries Sponsoring Terrorism in May 2015 and the Re-opening of Embassies in both

the U.S. and Cuba, from July 20th, 2015 are some benefits so far derived from this engagement.

A number of Heads of Government have recently visited Cuba and we have seen a significant increase in Visitor Arrivals to the island. So far for this year, over 2.6 million tourists have arrived in Cuba.

Business interests from Europe, North America and the Caribbean region continue to increase. Saint Lucia recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Cuba, aimed at expanding trade between the two countries.

The complete Lifting of the Blockade and the Return of Guantanamo Bay remain pre-requisites for the complete normalization of relations between Cuba and the United States.

Maduro says Venezuela leads the world in Home Construction



"Venezuela is the country that builds the most houses in the world, this is the Venezuelan socialism," said President Maduro on Thursday night during an official activity to deliver new houses units, from Yaracuy State, in North-western Venezuela.

A total of 714 houses were delivered in Thursday in Ciudadela Hugo Chávez, which means a total of 2,520 delivered by the government in that neighbourhood.

"We will reach soon 21,481 new houses delivered in Yaracuy", Maduro stated, adding that in Cojedes State, bordering

Yaracuy, the Government will build a total of 156,000 houses.

The Bolivarian Government has built and delivered a total of 400,000 in 2015, stressed Maduro, who has also assured that the government will reach a total of 1 million houses by the end of this year through the Great Mission Vivienda Venezuela (a social mission launched three years ago by the late President Hugo Chávez to build new housing units for the people).

"Attention journalists! If we do not reach to deliver the 1 millionth housing unit by January 1st, I will shave my moustache" joked the President with the media.

10 years ago FTAA was defeated by Latin American leaders

Back in 2005, between the 4th and the 5th of November in the Argentinean city of Mar de Plata, where the Fourth Summit of the Americas was taking place, the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas (ALCA in Spanish) breathed its last. The goal of ALCA, promoted by the US, was nothing but the appropriation of economic surplus produced by the countries of Central and South America, according to the rules of free market imposed by the US.

The continental project saw light for the first time during the First Summit of the Americas that took place in Miami, Florida between the 9th and 11th of December in 1994 with the purpose of starting operations that year, 2005. However, it never happened.

During the Fourth Summit of the Americas, the then presidents: Hugo Chávez (Venezuela), Luis Ignacio "Lula" da Silva (Brazil), and Néstor Kirchner (Argentina), prompted the beginning of a new stage in the integration process of the peoples of Latin America by the introduction of the Bolivarian Alliance of the Peoples of America (ALBA).

What started as a debate focused on the main challenges of the region in the traditional topics of job creation and the strengthening of democratic governability was soon turned into a debate around the issue of ALCA.

The first to step in was the host Nestor Kirchner. He described the crude reality of Latin America's poverty as a consequence of neoliberal policies imposed by the International Monetary Fund, and urged for the creation of a new type of social-economic structure in the world and the region.

The Argentinean daily La Nación quoted Kirchner's opening speech where the head of state pointed out that "any integration



President Hugo Chavez

process is not useful for us", but rather "an integration that recognizes the diversity" of the countries of America.

"An agreement cannot be a one-way path, with prosperity aiming at one single direction," Kirchner added and demanded that a future integration agreement should "contemplate safeguards and compensations for the under-developed nations."

"Our belonging to Mercosur and to the South American community is a priority," Kirchner emphasized.

On the second day of the summit, it was Brazil's "Lula" da Silva's intervention. The Brazilian president also rejected any intention of imposing ALCA because of its hegemonic character. Following da Silva came Venezuela's Hugo Chávez with a detailed explanation on the necessity of the sub-continent developing new forms of integration at all levels; none of which had anything to do with the US' monstrous proposal.

This episode of Latin America history is known as "The burial of ALCA in Mar de Plata".

10 YEARS AFTER THE DEFEAT

A series of events and activities scheduled for this month (November), have been organized with the goal of reminding the youth of the threat of ALCA, its defeat, and what it meant for us now in 2015 as new paths were opened.

That's how President Maduro sees it. In a special interview broadcast by TeleSur last July 24th, Maduro talked about the tenth anniversary of the battle against ALCA. The battle had already begun in the streets and in big popular movements and workers' unions who by the late 90's were already drawing graffiti that read "No Al ALCA" (No to ALCA).

The Venezuelan Head of State said in the interview that "ALCA was, without a doubt, the most audacious and aggressive economic project of the last 40 years."

He added that President Chavez awoke a huge movement back then. Chavez, along with other Latin American leaders defeated neoliberals and by doing so, allowed the birth of unconventional projects within the diversity of Latin America and the Caribbean.

One of these unconventional projects was the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of America (ALBA), which is the response to the proposal creating a Free Trade Area in the Americas.

Contrary to the neoliberal model the US intended to impose, ALBA's integration is grounded in solidarity and mutual help.

The idea of ALBA was first proposed in 2001 by then president Chavez, but it turned into a reality in 2004 when Cuba and Venezuela signed an historical agreement that created a trade model based on co-operation, liberation, and justice - instead of exploitation, domination and oppression.

Venezuela will deliver to Paris COP 21 a Common Proposal to determine causes of Climate Change



Venezuela's Foreign Affairs Minister Nelcy Rodriguez

Ecuador, November 06, 2015.- The Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Delcy Rodríguez, said that Venezuela will bring to the next Conference on Climate Change COP 21 - to be held in Paris from November 30th - a common proposal to determine the causes of global warming, which impede the harmonious development between human beings and nature.

"What we are discussing here is the existence of the human species. We are debating now the present and future [...], we know that global warming can have a destructive impact on the environment. There is a scientific consensus on what can happen if we do not raise awareness; it is something that concerns all" said Rodríguez, speaking to the multistate Telesur, minutes before her speech at the meeting of CELAC on Climate Change.

She also mentioned the impor-

tance of the historical encyclical of Pope Francisco which coincides with many of the doctrines of eco-socialism developed by the Supreme Commander Hugo Chavez and the Bolivarian Revolution.

"What he said is absolutely correct, the result of climate change and the criminal impact it has had on the environment, is closely linked to an immoral, developmental and capitalist model of consumption".

She added that rich countries seek to dilute their responsibility. "There is an ecological debt of the rich countries to the poor nations and we now call on the conscience of the developed nations that boast of the capitalist system"

It is important to highlight that the CELAC meeting, held in Quito, Ecuador, will yield a resolution of the Latin American and Caribbean countries, which will be discussed at the main summit COP 21 in Paris.

The Diplomatic Courier

Annual Japan Day held last Saturday at Castries City Hall



Shoppers, ‘limers’ and tourists in Castries thought last Saturday 7th November was just going to be another ordinary day, but they were wrong. People were delighted to find that the day held a chance to enjoy the culture of Japan, right here at the Castries City Hall.

Whether they were approached by cheerful Japanese handing out fliers in the street, or just happened to pass by on Peynier street that day, all came flocking to participate in the once-a-year event.

Despite its slow start, more and more persons kept coming, intrigued to learn more about Japan. The offerings of the morning; enka singing and music by professionally trained music volunteers, quizzes about Japan, an educational lecture and display of cultural dance served to enervate the crowd.

And in the afternoon, persons got to actually try out some things for themselves. Men, women and children learned how to use chopsticks and then competed against each other in a chopsticks race.

Others chose more sedate activities like sampling various Japanese teas or trying on kimono (yukata) and posing for pictures. And, no matter the age or address, everyone just had to visit the writing booth to have their names written in Japanese.

The Japan Day event is hosted annually by the volunteers of the Japan International Cooperation Agency/ Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JICA/JOCV) in Saint Lucia as a chance to share some of their home’s culture with their host nation. The volunteers live and work among us in various fields and in various activities and use this day as a friendship activity with the public. The event may be held one day out of the year, but the impact is lasting. This year is the 50th anniversary of the founding of JOCV in Japan and it is also the 20th year since the JOCV Saint Lucia branch was established.

JICA/JOCV’s aim is to share the benefits of international cooperation with the host country. The most common approach of this agency is through grant aid assistance and loans, technical cooperation and volunteer activities.

Our volunteers are involved in many sectors on the island. You can find them teaching music, being involved in community development island-wide, assisting in the fisheries sector and in education. They also collaborate on projects with government- and non-government agencies.

If you would like to learn more about the Japan International Cooperation Agency/ Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JICA/JOCV) please call us at 453-6032/3

Paris Ministerial Meeting sought convergence on key Climate Change issues

Saint Lucia’s Minister for Sustainable Development Dr. James Fletcher has been enunciating the region’s perspectives on Climate Change issues at a meeting of ministers with responsibility for Climate Change from over sixty countries around the world held earlier gthis week in Europe.

The meeting opened last Sunday (8th November) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development in Paris, France.

The three-day Pre-COP meeting was the third and final of its kind to be hosted jointly by the Minister of the Environment of Peru, Manuel Vidal who was the President of COP20, and Laurent Fabius, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of France, who will be the President of COP21.

Like the previous two ministerial meetings, this one sought to establish convergence on some of the key issues that are confronting negotiators from over 190 countries who are working on the text of a new climate change agreement that will be signed in Paris at COP21 in December.

Four main subject areas were being discussed by the ministers attending the Pre-COP: (i) Equity and Differentiation, (ii) Finances Post-2020, (iii) Action and Support Pre-2020, and (iv) Ambition.

Saint Lucia’s Minister for Sustainable Development informed the meeting of the perspectives of Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS) on these issues, and on some of the other areas still unresolved, such as the treatment of Loss and Damage in the new Agreement, the legal form of the Agreement, and the need to restrict the global temperature increase to no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius by the end of the Century.

Minister Fletcher recently hosted a meeting of Caribbean ministers of the Environment and regional Climate Change negotiators in Saint Lucia to establish a CARICOM consensus on the issues being debated at the Pre-COP Ministerial meeting.

The 21st Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change will begin in Paris on Monday 30th November with a High Level Leaders Summit. Saint Lucia’s Prime Minister, Hon. Dr. Kenny Anthony, who holds lead responsibility in CARICOM for Sustainable Development and Climate Change, will address the Leaders Summit on the Opening Day of COP21.

Dr. Walid Juffali is eminently suited to perform his diplomatic duties for Saint Lucia at the IMO!

Government assures the public that all necessary due diligence was done prior to the appointment of Dr. Juffali.

The Government of Saint Lucia has noted the concerns of individuals in response to a story carried in the Daily Telegraph, a United Kingdom-based newspaper, on Nov. 9, in relation to Saint Lucia’s Representative to the International Maritime Organization, Dr. Walid Juffali.

Dr. Juffali was appointed in April 2014 as Saint Lucia’s Permanent Representative to the International Maritime Organization, based in London. Dr. Juffali is a highly successful philanthropist and businessman. His record is public and well-known. He has received a number of prestigious awards, including: Knight of the Order of Dannebrog - bestowed by Her Majesty Queen Margarethe II of Denmark; Knight of the Cedars - bestowed by the President of Lebanon; and Knight of Saint Sylvester - bestowed by His Holiness Pope Benedict XV.

Dr. Juffali and his family have a long tradition of serving other countries in diplomatic postings. Dr. Juffali is also the Honorary Counsel of Denmark in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. His brother serves as the Honorary Counsel of Switzerland in Jeddah. His daughter serves as the Saint Lucia Honorary Counsel in Saudi Arabia.

The appointment of Dr. Juffali is consistent with the efforts of the Government to appoint trade and investment envoys to assist in the promotion of Saint Lucia and to attract investment.

The current issue centres around a divorce case involving Dr. Juffali and his former wife. The parties were formally divorced in Saudi Arabia but the former wife decided to launch civil proceedings against her former husband in the United Kingdom seeking additional relief.

The lawyers for the former wife of Dr. Juffali have requested the Government of Saint Lucia to lift the diplomatic immunity of Dr. Juffali to compel Dr. Juffali to testify in the civil suit. The Government of Saint Lucia has expressed the view to the lawyers of the former wife that this is a civil matter in which it does not desire to get involved.

In the view of the Government, this is a private matter and to waive Dr. Juffali’s immunity for the purposes of resolving property disputes arising out of divorce proceedings will create a precedent that could compromise current and future diplomatic personnel in the United Kingdom and elsewhere.

To date, Dr. Juffali has conducted his duties to the highest expectations of the Government of Saint Lucia. In addition to advancing the goals of Saint Lucia in the IMO and sourcing investment for Saint Lucia, Dr. Juffali has initiated his first major project for Saint Lucia - the establishment of a medical research industry. This project was announced in the Throne Speech of 2015 and the legislative framework for establishing such an industry is currently being reviewed by the Attorney General’s Chambers in preparation for enactment. Dr. Juffali’s contacts and influence will be major factors in ensuring success of this initiative.

Dr. Juffali’s second project has been to investigate the establishment of a Global Diabetes Research Centre in Saint Lucia in response to the chronic levels of diabetes in the country. A detailed multidisciplinary investigation has been conducted by some of the world’s leading researchers in diabetes, science and medical business to design a model for the Centre. Numerous meetings were held with clinicians, nurses, and other medical personnel during the months of August and September. A final report will be issued in December with necessary announcements on the way forward to be made in January 2016.

The Government of Saint Lucia assures the public that all necessary due diligence was done prior to the appointment of Dr. Juffali and is satisfied that he is eminently suited to perform his diplomatic duties on behalf of the Government and people of Saint Lucia.

Morocco observed 40th Anniversary of The Green March

By Mohammed Benjilany

Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco in Saint Lucia

I have been asked to explain what The Green march is all about and why my country is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. The following account seeks to respond to the inquiries for information about that significant event in my country’s history.

Forty years ago (on November 6th, 1975) 350,000 Moroccan women and men answered the call of Late King Hassan II and volunteered to take part in the Green March that would immediately become a milestone in the history of the Kingdom.

It is a source of extreme pride for the Kingdom of Morocco to have succeeded in carrying out such an unprecedented enterprise that consisted in bringing to end many decades of Spanish colonialism of the Moroccan Sahara.

Its peculiarity lies in the fact that it ended a long occupation in the most peaceful manner ever adopted in the fight against colonialism.

Indeed, 350,000 Moroccan civilians, from all walks of life, whose sole weapons were the Holy Quran, a vibrant patriotism and an unshakable faith in their cause, marched to recover the Sahara and encounter their brothers from the Saharan Provinces.

Far from being an end in itself, the Green March was, actually, the beginning of a new era for the Moroccan Sahara.

Indeed, after Spain’s withdrawal, the Kingdom of Morocco was faced with the immense challenge of developing this region where the infrastructure, schools, hospitals and other facilities left by the occupier was close to nothing despite almost a century-old occupation.

Since 1976, the Kingdom of Morocco has invested over 2 billion US dollars to make the Sahara a region one where the level of development, in only 40 years, is definitely remarkable.

Morocco’s firm commitment to bring its Southern Provinces to the same level of the other regions bears no doubt and stems from the principle that Morocco is one from Tangiers to Lagouira.

Moreover, the voter turn-out in the Sahara during the regional elections of September 2015 was a clear response from the population to anyone, individual, group, or country that seeks to shed doubt and challenge Morocco’s territorial integrity.

It is noteworthy to remind that achieving independence for Morocco was not an easy task since it had to negotiate with the two colonial powers of the day then, France and Spain -- and end the international status of the city of Tangiers.

The celebration on November 6th, 2015 of the 40th Anniversary of the Green March by a whole Nation is the expression that His Majesty King Mohammed 6 and all Moroccan citizens hold the Sahara dear to their hearts and will spare neither effort nor sacrifice to continue to contribute to further develop the Southern Provinces.

On the occasion of His speech in commemorating this anniversary, His Majesty announced the launching of numerous projects in the field of infrastructure, health, education, railways, airports, desalination plants etc, thus reaffirming Morocco’s firm commitment to guarantee the citizens from the Sahara a dignified life from which their brothers are deprived in the Tindouf camps.

Together with the Autonomy Plan presented by the Kingdom of Morocco aiming at granting the citizens of the Sahara an enlarged autonomy within its sovereignty, Morocco sends a clear message to the international community that, as a country that delivers, it will continue on the path of development and regional and local democracy allowing the citizens to participate in the decision-making process via its vision towards advanced regionalization. The Development Model for Morocco’s Southern Provinces fits exactly in this vision.

All Aboard to welcome ARC 30 next week

Over 1,200 participants joined the 30th Atlantic Rally for Cruisers when it recently set sail last Sunday from the Canary Islands, heading to Saint Lucia. Now the island is waiting to welcome a record number of yachts when they end their grueling cross-Atlantic race in a few days time.

Over 260 boats and 1,250 people, including 40 children aged under-16, are taking part in the 30th Atlantic Rally for Cruisers, which set sail from Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, heading 2,700 nautical miles across the Atlantic to Saint Lucia.

The Saint Lucia Tourist Board (SLTB) and the Ministry of Tourism have all in place to welcome the first yacht across the finishing line, which is always a spectacular event.

There will also be another record number of yachts, sailors

and other participants taking part in the race this year.

ARC sailors normally have a choice of routes with the introduction of ARC+ Cape Verde and two starts were planned: 64 boats sailing ARC+ departed from Las Palmas marina on Sunday, November 8, followed by the larger ARC fleet of 204 boats that will on Sunday, November 22.

As always, the ARC fleet represents almost every principal sailing nation.

This year, boats are registered in Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Hong Kong, UK, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, the USA and 12 other nations --30 in total.

Crews have also come from far and wide to take part, with 41 different nationalities represented.



The first yachts are expected to arrive at Rodney Bay between the end of November and the start of December.

Saint Lucia hosts Olympians for Triathlon

The Digicel Saint Lucia Triathlon will be the culmination of a week-long festival of fun activities hosted by Tri St Lucia. For the third time in its history, the beautiful island of Saint Lucia will stage the Digicel Saint Lucia International Triathlon on Nov. 21. In addition to event ambassador and Double Gold Olympic champion Daley Thompson, the event is pleased to welcome Olympic Silver medalist, World Champion, mile record holder, running legend and BBC commentator Steve Cram, who will join the team on Nov. 21.

"We are delighted to have Steve and Daley at the Digicel Saint Lucia Triathlon," said John Lunt, event director and former Olympian

competition manager for the Olympic triathlon in London. "It's great for the event and great for sport awareness on the island. Their presence will make a fabulous addition to the offering."

"It's wonderful to be back in Saint Lucia and I'm immensely proud of the fact that we are invited back each year to your wonderful island," DaleyThompson said.

The Saint Lucia Triathlon will be the culmination of a week-long festival of fun activities hosted by Tri St Lucia. These include a 5 p.m. beach run on Wednesday, an aquathlon (swim and run) at 8a.m. Thursday, and a 2kilometre ocean swim at 8a.m. on Friday.

Designed with all ages and fitness levels in mind, these activities

will provide holidaymakers and Saint Lucians with a taste of the overall triathlon event, offering families, couples and single people the opportunity to take part.

In addition there are free master classes taken by Steve and Daley each morning held on the beautiful beaches of the Landings Hotel. With three separate competitive distances available, the course includes a swim in the beautiful clear waters of Rodney Bay, then a tough hilly and a challenging bike ride and finally the run loop to Pigeon Island and back. These distances can be done individually or as a relay team of two or three.

Event distances include:

- The Dagger: 200m swim, 6.6km bike, 2.5km run



- The Pistol: 750m swim, 13.2km bike, 5km run
 - The Cutlass: 1500m swim, 26.4km bike, 10km run
 - Children's multi-sport events:
 - 11a.m. 5-9yr olds triathlon: 100m swim/800m bike /800m run
 - 11:30 a.m. 9-15yrs Aquathlon: swim 200m and then run 800m
 - 12 noon special needs event: 100m swim and 800m run/ wheelchair push
- For further information please contact John Lunt on: johnlunt-personal@gmail.com
Tel: +44 7885 964 664 or point your web browser to www.tristlucia.com for details.

Russia will be Visa Free for FIFA World Cup 2018

The countdown clock has been launched on Manezhnaya Square in Moscow, marking a 1,000-day countdown to the 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia.

Russia promises to make a it a planetary scale event -- the most spectacular in its history.

The whole country will indeed be the territory of football. The world championship will be held at 12 stadiums in 11 Russian cities: Moscow, Saint Petersburg, Kazan, Nizhny Novgorod, Saransk, Kaliningrad, Volgograd, Ekaterinburg, Samara, Sochi and Rostov-on-Don.

Hundreds of fans and professional players from different countries came to watch, with their own eyes, the ceremony for the countdown.

"I believe that the forthcoming championship will be just fine. I am sure that Russia will have a warm and familiar welcome [for] participants and guests of the championship.

"And the remaining thousand days will be enough [time] for the Russian national team to prepare and adequately address the domestic championship," said Lottar Matthaus, 1991 FIFA World Player.

Russia won the right to host the FIFA World Cup in 2018, in fair competition, by offering the preferred modalities of world sports forums, both technical and organizational, defending the idea of de-politicization of sports in the international arena.



The country promises that the event will be the most spectacular in its history.

Twelve modern stadiums will be reconstructed, 110 training fields will be built. We have proposed a framework for the accommodation of 64 teams. For the World Cup the country will upgrade 13 airports.

Russia for the first time in history has made a commitment to provide foreign fans not only the right to visa-free entry into the country, but also to free rail travel between cities that will host matches at the tournament, subject to the availability of tickets for respective matches.

In the coming years Russia will have more than two dozen large-scale sporting events - world level championships and World Cup events including Formula 1 car racing and the World Winter Universiade Games.

We are waiting for the Caribbean guests at the 2018 World Cup and other sporting events in Russia!

Renovations to upgrade Vigie to a premiere sports facility

The Ministry of Youth Development and Sports has plans to make the Vigie Sports Complex a premiere sporting facility in Castries via several renovation projects.

The Saint Lucia Amateur Boxing Association (SLABA) will expand and renovate its boxing gymnasium at Vigie, "The Sab" playing field is to be re-fenced, while the courts at the complex are to be resurfaced.

Already, the ministry has

begun the construction of the foundation for the gym.

According to SLABA President David "Shakes" Christopher, because the renovations are being undertaken "koudmen-style", there is need for public support.

Contractor Martin Renee has submitted drawings and will provide free technical assistance for the construction, while Caribbean Metals Limited has pledged the donation of a roof.

Christopher made an appeal to the public to "donate-a-block" in order to fully undertake the work at the gymnasium.

The renovations are necessary, he said, in order to provide a safe space for youth and athletes.

The entire project has been estimated at a cost of \$95,000 and is being undertaken via assistance from corporate Saint Lucia and the Ministry of Youth Development and Sports.

