



THE OFFICIAL NEWS MAGAZINE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SAINT LUCIA

# NationWIDE



SATURDAY OCTOBER 17, 2015

WEEKLY

# Bienvenido!

## Senor Presidente Nicolas Maduro



Today's visit by the Venezuelan President follows quickly on the heels of the recent visit here by 'Simon Bolivar', the colourful flagship that's the Bolivarian Republic's 'Ambassador Without Borders'. During its four days here, the ship and crew shared the message of peace and development with visiting locals, especially students from several schools whose teachers accepted the public invitation to visit aboard. Much is dedicated in this issue to today's visit, which is quite a significant milestone in the relations that have characterized the friendship between Saint Lucia and Venezuela sparked through the intimate bond between Venezuelan Liberator Simon Bolivar and Saint Lucia's Jean Baptiste Bideau (See Pages 2, 7 and 12). This issue also covers the latest developments in the past week, as well as an update on the PM's most recent visit to New York to 'Meet and Greet' Saint Lucians there (Page 6), an update on the Fond Canelles Bridge in Micoud (Page 3), Kweyol Heritage Month and Jounen Kweyol updates from the USA and Canada and other cultural updates (Pages 3 and 11), plus a reminder that over 600 million jobs have been needed around the globe since 2012 -- particularly in developing countries like Saint Lucia and the rest of the Caribbean -- to make the world a better place for all (Page 8). All this and more lies within the following pages, so sit back, relax and enjoy reading this week's update of all the Government of Saint Lucia has been doing, at home and abroad, during the past week. And remember: you can also watch NationwideTV on NTN and browse the Nationwide Website at [stlucianationwide.com](http://stlucianationwide.com)

Happy Reading! Happy Viewing! Happy Browsing!

Soufriere Dishes Out 280 Scholarships and Bursaries - Page 3

Cabinet Approves Use of Force Policy for Police - Page 3

Castries Courthouse Repairs Continuing Day and Night! - Page 3

Saint Lucia Soon To Do Business In Saudi Arabia - Page 5

New \$700,000 La Guerre Wellness Centre Now Open - Page 9

Agriculture Minister's World Food Day Message - Page 11

WHAT'S INSIDE

## Venezuelan President Visits Today

The President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Nicolas Maduro Moros, successor of the late President Hugo Chavez, visits Saint Lucia today, accompanied by Venezuela's Foreign Affairs Minister Delcy Rodriguez and other Government officials.

President Maduro was due to be met and welcomed at GFL Charles Airport by Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony this morning, ahead of a Welcome Ceremony and inspection of a Guard of Honour.

The Entourage would then proceed to Government House for a Courtesy Call on Governor-General Dame Pearlette Louisy. The Official Party then moves on to the Official Residence of the Prime Minister, where President Maduro and Dr. Anthony will hold bilateral discussions on matters of mutual concern



*Bolivarian Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro Moros*

to both leaders and their countries.

Following the discussions, it is expected that President Maduro will meet with some of the beneficiaries of the NICE Program, which received a grant of US\$10 million which enabled the program to con-

tinue and to progress towards its employment target of 5,000.

The Entourage will then proceed to the Parliament Building, where a Special Session of the House is to be convened and addressed by Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony and the President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Nicolás Maduro Moros.

Nicolas Maduro succeeded the late President Hugo Chavez Frias, who died on March 5th 2013, following a long battle with cancer.

President Maduro has not deviated from the path of defending the sovereignty of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, while reaching out, emphasizing the value of Integration to the block of nations comprising CELAC, especially the member-states of the ALBA/TCP and Petrocaribe Agreements. *(More on Page 7)*

## Diplomatic mission visits NICE people!

On Monday (October 12th) the Ambassador of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Leiff Escalona and the First Secretary of the Embassy, Juan Echeverría, accompanied by the Ambassador to ALBA and Petrocaribe Eustace Vitalis and the Coordinator of the National Initiative to Create Employment (NICE) Mr. Perry Thomas, visited several communities throughout the island.

The visits were to observe the progress of the NICE program, which has received funding from the ALBA Solidarity Fund, thanks to the integration scheme of the Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA-TCP), of which St. Lucia is a full member since July 20, 2013.

In January 2015, the Government of Saint Lucia received the first disbursement of funds for the program amounting to US\$5 million - half from a total of US \$10 million -- to ensure the continuity of the program, which employs some 1,200 persons in this important social program.

The aim of the NICE program is to create employment opportunities and enhance the capabilities of people to engage in a trade, gain work experience and offer local job options. The program aims to incorporate 5,000 workers over a period of three years.

Ciceron, located in the outskirts of the city of Castries, was the first community visited. There, 23-year-old entrepreneur Keran Rosemond explained the process of coconut oil production, in which his micro enterprise was engaged.

With the support of the NICE program, Rosemond was able employ two young persons in the production process to consolidate this enterprise.

According to Rosemond, "The NICE Program allowed me to finalize this project. Although I bought the machines with my own capital, it was impossible for me to pay labour..." The program underwrites the training of young people before starting a job.

He added, "These guys (being trained) will soon join this activity and we are already seeing the fruits. We are selling 5,000 packs of 12 units of coconut oil to supermarkets."

The Team then travelled to the farming community of Dennerly,



*The Venezuelan and ALB Ambassadors with the NICE officials and beneficiaries employed through various social programs, thanks to a US \$10 million ALBA-TCP grant that will keep the program going for three years.*

where the visiting delegation met with farmers who inherited this trade from their parents and who have significantly increased their levels of production due to the comprehensive support provided by the NICE program.

NICE underwrites the cost of hiring of workers to perform agricultural tasks in selected areas of production. The program also allows participating farmers to receive full support from the Ministry of Agriculture, including technical advice and support with obtaining inputs. The program is well received and, according to 'Ita', a female farmer speaking in Creole: "I love farming. I teach workers how to work the land, how to produce, how to work and I am happy."

All workers, including women and young people aged 24, said they were very grateful to have been included in the NICE program, which guarantees them a monthly wage that allows them to sustain their households.

Another program involved the training of young people in the care of elderly and sick people. Two cases in the community of Jacmel, were visited - Ms. Anne Marie Raymond (98) and Girard Thomas (85), both of whom are currently receiving home care and monitoring of medical treatment by young people trained in the NICE program.

The training process includes the use of tools for the care of the elderly or people with physical or mental disabilities, as well as the basics for the execution of ongoing medical treatment and first aid.

The program serves people who

live alone, have no families or because of work cannot be cared for by their relatives. It is through the establishment of this program that decent care and improved quality of life for all seniors who require special care is guaranteed.

Additionally, the Odsan Primary School, located in Castries South East was visited to recognize the other areas of the program, such as support for young people to get their first job and support for ministries to fill vacancies or administrative areas. There, the experience of the young people employed as administrative assistants, assistants in the computer field and kitchen assistants was recognized.

Finally, the delegation met with the team of facilitators of the "Support for Health" program, which incorporates into the workplace unemployed women for jobs in communities to improve eating habits and life habits with the objective of raising the quality of life of the people.

The Venezuelan Mission was greatly impressed by the impact of this employment initiative program and the seriousness and discipline in the implementation and monitoring process by the Saint Lucia Government.

Once again, it is evident that the ALBA-TCP integration scheme directly benefits those most in need, which is why -- thanks to this solidarity effort -- the Saint Lucian people today can recognize the importance of structures such as the ALBA-TCP to the process of Integration of the Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean.

### Editorial

## The Maduro Visit

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro's visit here today is both timely and significant. It comes at a time when Venezuela has been offering various forms of generous assistance to several OECS and CARICOM territories. Dominica got 400 homes for families displaced by Tropical Storm Erika. Displaced Saint Kitts and Nevis sugar workers got a whopping \$16 million grant to help sweeten their lives a bit. Besides, most other countries in PetroCaribe continue to receive cheaper oil on a regular basis, as well as scores of projects being undertaken through bilateral and multilateral agreements.

A bilateral agreement will be signed today by Prime Minister Dr. Kenny D. Anthony and President Maduro. No details were released ahead of the visit, but by the time they end their talks today, Prime Minister Anthony will have profusely thanked the visiting leader for Venezuela's generous assistance to Saint Lucia.

Saint Lucia has benefited from its friendship with the Bolivarian Republic. Before his death, President Hugo Chavez had set the stage for a new Caracas engagement with the Caribbean. PetroCaribe was established to make cheaper fuel available to the islands at generous terms. The ALBA-TCP regime was established to promote closer economic, social, cultural and political cooperation between the Caribbean and Latin American states. He also established a multi-million-dollar project aimed at assisting young people in Caribbean islands to carve and achieve careers in music.

Under President Maduro, Venezuela's outreach to the Caribbean intensified. Never mind economic and political pressures at home his socialist party has maintained the commitment to keeping PetroCaribe alive. And like all other CARICOM member-states of the ALBA-TCP grouping, Saint Lucia has benefited from support from Caracas. Petrocaribe oil hasn't started to flow here, but Saint Lucia got three bridges after the 2013 Christmas Eve Trough; and in 2014, we received 7,000 computers, as well as \$27 million to keep the National Initiative to Create Employment (NICE) alive for at least three years. And the Saint Lucia School of Music continues to benefit from generous Venezuelan assistance, including cooperation with Venezuela's legendary El

Sistema national youth symphony.

Fortunately, Venezuela and Guyana have so far conducted their territorial row in a manner that will satisfy the rest of CARICOM. Allowing the United Nations to broker an eventual agreement of any kind is much better than even talking about non-peaceful options.

The Saint Lucia Prime Minister has often demonstrated his skills as a broker of peace and negotiator of settlements at the regional level. Perhaps his best known achievement in that regard was brokering the Herdmanston Accord that eventually resulted in a peaceful settlement of the political dispute between warring ethnic-based parties following the death of President Cheddi Jagan and his succession by his Chicago-born wife, Janet in 1997.

Prime Minister Anthony got President Janet Jagan and Opposition leader Desmond Hoyte to shake hands publicly here during the historic CARICOM Summit in July 1998. All the CARICOM leaders were also here with South Africa's Nelson Mandela and Prime Minister Anthony getting the bitter Guyana opponents to smoke the peace pipe publicly was a signal achievement acknowledged by Mandela and the other visiting leaders.

CARICOM and Saint Lucia will continue to support a peaceful approach to a solution to the Venezuela-Guyana dispute and both countries will also continue to understand that neither would gain from a territorial war. It is for CARICOM to now also insist that this matter be allowed to remain as a quarrel between neighbouring Caribbean friends and demand that both sides avoid and prevent any involvement or interference by any external force.

Meanwhile, Saint Lucia continues to support Venezuela right to decide its future on its own, to shape its destiny according to its history and to determine the path it takes in pursuit of its Bolivarian ideals.

In the spirit of the friendship between Venezuela's Independence Hero and Liberator Simon Bolivar and his faithful Saint Lucian friend, Comrade-at-Arms and Captain, Jean Baptiste Bideau and in memory of Commander Hugo Chavez, the Government and People of Saint Lucia welcome President Maduro with open arms. Bienvenido, Senor Presidente!

## 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

**YSPEAK**  
with MAUNDY LEWIS  
6:30 PM MONDAYS  
4:30 PM SATURDAYS  
NAN NATIONAL TELEVISION NETWORK  
CHOICE  
<https://www.facebook.com/YSpeakSLU>

# Soufriere Foundation gives 260 scholarships and bursaries

## \$1.1 million spent to ensure education for 1,618 students

The Soufriere Foundation has announced that 260 deserving students benefited from its annual scholarship/bursary programme this year. The successful scholarship awardees received a monetary contribution towards the purchase of books, school supplies and tuition cost and bursary awardees received school books.

The distribution of bursaries and scholarships by the Foundation has become a customary annual undertaking. The program, which began as a fledgling undertaking in 2007, has gradually grown to become the biggest scholarships program in Saint Lucia with average annual expenditure in the last three years of over \$190,000.

To date, the organization has awarded nearly \$1.1 million to approximately 1,618 students. This year, 260 students at the primary, secondary and tertiary school levels received either bursaries or scholarships.

In a formal ceremony held at the Cool Breeze Conference Room on the September 25th to both recognize outstanding performances of students at the CXC and Common En-

trance levels and the disbursement of scholarship awards and bursaries, the chairman of the Scholarship's Committee, Mr. Kennedy Jean, stressed on the importance of education.

"We the Board of Directors, along with the Management of the Soufriere Foundation, recognize the importance of education in our society. For that reason we will continue to invest in you. In return, we expect you to work diligently towards attaining your academic goals," he stated.

The District Education Officer for District 8, Mrs. Valentia Charlery, in her brief remarks, expressed the Ministry of Education's gratitude for the organization's undying contribution and support for education in the community. "I am privileged to work in a district where so much support is given to the schools. When all seems lost, hope is given by the Soufriere Foundation," she said.

In his summary of the Soufriere Foundation's scholarship program, Project and Operations Manager Mr. Dominic Alexander, spoke about the program's goals and ultimate focus.



Soufriere MP Harold Dalsan and Soufriere Foundation Scholarship Committee Chairman Kennedy Jean (seated in front) with students and parents during the ceremony for distribution and recognition of achievers.

He stated, "For us it is a flagship social program that is designed to create a cadre of skilled persons that are capable of competing on the national market for jobs.

"More specifically, the program was designed to allow students and parents from dis-

advantaged households to be able to obtain education without having to worry about the burden of finances and costs."

The Soufriere Foundation is a non-profit company located in Soufriere. Its mandate is to undertake social, cultural, human resource, tourism and in-

frastructure development in the Soufriere area.

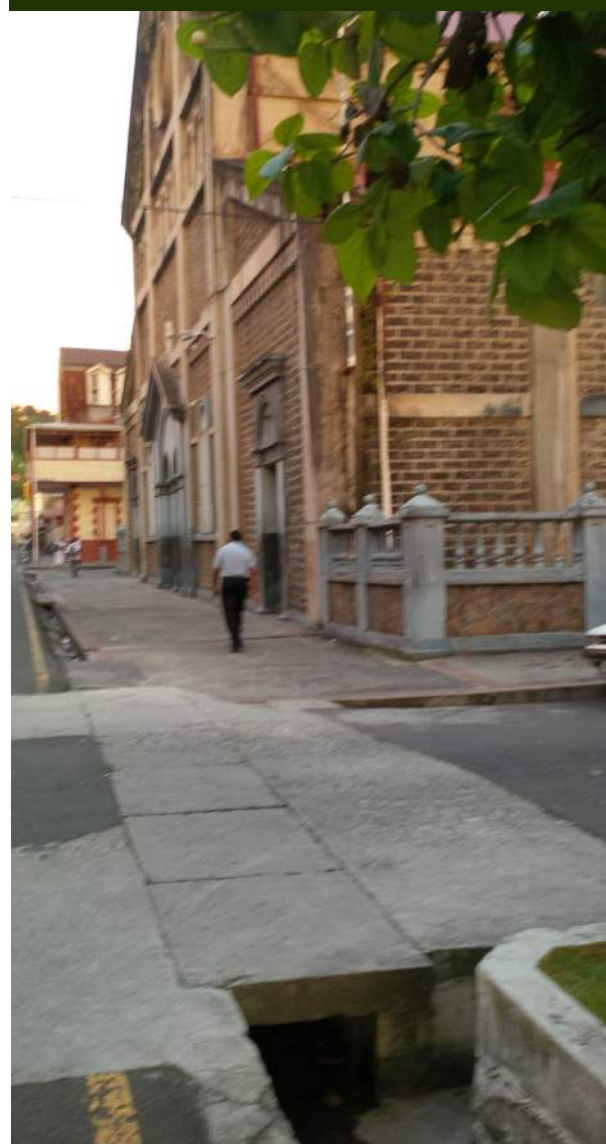
The organization, which was established in 1993, generates revenues from its operational sites: the Sulphur Springs Park, Gros Piton Nature Trail, Comfort Centre, Soufriere jetties and 88.5 Soufriere FM.

## Courthouse repairs continuing day and night!



Long before the Bar Association President announced her members' boycott of the courthouse in Castries, the Minister for Home Affairs and National Security and the Ministry of Justice announced that the government has allocated one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00) to repair the courthouse. Works have been undertaken by day and night to address the very problems being complained of by the lawyers and their President. The works involves roofing as well as other external and internal interventions, including changing doors and windows, changing ceilings and otherwise restoring the building to better serve justice. The striking lawyers have instead opted to delay justice for their clients - which, observers note, is justice denied. Meanwhile, the works continue. (Marius Modeste photo)

## Easing Flooding In The City



Flooding in the City of Castries has been a problem for successive governments and the Castries City Council mainly due to littering by persons doing business in the city and expansion of the surrounding communities on the hillsides, which has caused more water and soil to wash down into the city's drains, clogging the waterway. The Ministry of Infrastructure, Port Services and Transportation addressing drainage expansion and improvement in Castries. The ministry recently repaired a damaged drain in the corner of Laborie and Micoud Streets, enabling a quicker flow of water in front of the Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception. (Photo by Marius Modeste)

## St. Lucians in Toronto to celebrate Jounen Kwéyòl next weekend



The Saint Lucian community in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) will celebrate Creole Day (Jounen Kwéyòl) next Sunday (October 25). Jounen Kwéyòl in Toronto will be a whole day affair, starting with breakfast featuring lots of Creole foods and drinks, cultural performances, fashion show, jokes, storytelling and much more throughout the day. The event is to be hosted by the Saint Lucia Toronto Creole Committee and part proceeds will be donated to the education of children in Saint Lucia and the Disaster Relief Fund for Dominica. (More on Page 10)

## Cabinet approves Use of Force policy for law enforcement officers

The Cabinet of Ministers has approved a 'Use of Force Policy' for Law Enforcement Officers. The Policy is designed to provide parameters and guidance to law enforcement officers in determining the appropriate use of force when discharging their duties. Further, it reinforces the responsibility of law enforcement officers to adhere to proper practices and behavior. The Policy recognizes that law enforcement officers must have the highest regard for the constitution-

al rights and human rights of all persons. Therefore, as far as possible, law enforcement officers should use only that force which is objectively reasonable and necessary to accomplish lawful ends.

The Policy applies to all Gazetted and non-Gazetted Police Officers of the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force, Special Reserve Police, Special Constables and Peace Officers.

The Use of Force Policy will inform the relevant standing orders to be issued by the Commissioner of Police.

## Fond Canelles Bridge inching closer to completion



Work is progressing smoothly on repairs to the broken bridge at Fond Canelles in Micoud, which was damaged by the Christmas Eve Trough, causing havoc to traffic, which had to be diverted to allow for complete reconstruction of a new passageway over the troubled location after the entire road collapsed. Work has been continuing there for quite some time, given the delicate nature of the project. But it's coming closer to completion, as the contractors O.B. Sadoo Engineering work to restore normal traffic. The project is funded by the World Bank and the Government of Saint Lucia, through the Ministry of Infrastructure.

## MP pays 'Respect Due' to Gros Islet teachers



Teachers across Gros Islet are still smiling in appreciation for the goodwill and due respect sent their way by MP for Gros islet Emma Hippolyte. To mark Teachers Week (October 4-10) – and in her capacity as Acting prime Minister -- she delivered an address of congratulations to the nation's teachers. But that was not all. The Acting PM and MP, who is also Minister for Commerce, also made time to visit all of 22 schools across the island's largest and most populated constituency. And still that was not all... She brought teachers together and after showering them with deserved praise, she also showered them with gifts. In photo, the acting PM was all smiles as she handed the teachers their gifts of appreciation and "Respect Due!"

## Seven promoted at Bordelais

The Bordelais Correctional Facility last Thursday held a Briefing Ceremony where seven officers were promoted.

From Correctional Officer Two to Correctional Officer Three, there were three promotions: McLean Emmanuel, Roland Charles and Clinton Edward.

From Correctional Officer One to Correctional Officer Two there

were four promotions: Etheldred James, Yolanda Braville, Kim Lenor Samuel and Sixtus Julien.

The chevrons were presented to the newly promoted officers by the Director of Corrections Mr. Vern Garde.

According to Communications Officer at Facility Clive Jules, the activity was well received and represents a boost to the spirit

du corps of the staff.

The last promotion ceremony was held in 2013.

Meanwhile, the BCF has reiterated its commitment to curbing contraband activity at the Facility, noting that measures which have been put in place to strengthen security in and around the facility have resulted in a decrease in such activity.

## SLTB launches local photo contest ahead of destination website launch



Scenic photos like this from anywhere on the island will qualify for consideration – and bring home the prize bacon!

In the run up to a major launch of its new and highly interactive destination website scheduled for the end of 2015, the island's lead promotions and marketing agency – The Saint Lucia Tourist Board – has initiated an online photo competition.

The six-week competition started October 12 and will continue to November 23, as the organization continues to build a stock of photography that captures the true beauty and story of Simply Beautiful Saint Lucia as an award winning and sought after destination.

Opened exclusively to local photographers, both amateur and professional, the competition will allow for a compilation of a variety of scenic destination imagery which can be used for advertising and promotional purposes. Eligible photos must capture and showcase the splendor and uniqueness of the destination.

"Destination imagery is a powerful influence over a visitor's decision about where to take a vacation", notes Deputy Director of Tourism Tracey Warner-Arnold.

Warner-Arnold who also heads the Tourist Board's Marketing Division, says "Imagery that portrays key aspects of the destination, is a unique marketing tool to achieve a comparable advantage in the highly competitive tourism industry, as it

appeals to the visitors' sense of sight and broadens their imagination and expectations."

Participants are required to submit photos depicting the natural scenery and beauty of Saint Lucia. Images can include, but not be limited to Saint Lucia's greenery and lushness, landscapes, places of interests and attractions, stunning backgrounds, hideaways and panoramic views.

The images should evoke emotion, have a 'wow' factor and be captivating and unique so as to entice visitors to choose Saint Lucia as their vacation destination. Images can also showcase Saint Lucia's Culture and Heritage.

Full details on the competition, including the process of submission of photos, rules, terms and conditions can be accessed online at [www.mysaintlucia.org](http://www.mysaintlucia.org). The competition is being advertised via digital platforms (Facebook, Instagram and Twitter).

At the end of the competition, three winners will be awarded prizes as follows: 1st Prize – 1 Go pro Camera and apple iPad 4; 2nd Prize – An Apple iPhone 6 Plus; 3rd Prize – 1 Apple iPad.

The winners will be announced via social media (Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter) during the 1st week of December 2015.

For more information about the island of Saint Lucia call 1-800 456-3984, or 1-888 4STLUCIA or visit [www.stlucia.org](http://www.stlucia.org).

## Caribbean museums to gather here next week

The Museum Association of the Caribbean (MAC) will host a Saint Lucia Conference and Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Monday.

The Board of the MAC in 2013 awarded the hosting of the 2015 AGM and Conference to Saint Lucia.

The local organizing committee's members, comprising of the Saint Lucia National Trust, Archaeological and Historical Society, Saint Lucia National Archives, Folk Research Centre and Le Pavilion Royal Museum, are all excited to welcome counterparts from twelve Caribbean countries throughout the region, to what we expect to be an engaging and educational event.

This year's AGM and Conference will be held from

October 19-21, 2015 under the theme "Museums Sustainability through Youth Engagement" at the Bay Gardens Hotel.

This theme will give members and participants an opportunity to forge a more meaningful working relationship between our museum organizations and the youth of the Caribbean.

Presentations will focus on the theme and related topics, discussions and workshops capturing the work of MAC in the Caribbean, and the way forward for youth involvement in the preservation of our Caribbean heritage.

The AGM's secretariat is under the stewardship of Mr. Cyril Saltibus of Le Pavilion Royal Museum at Government House.

## Saint Lucia Honorary Consulate to open in Saudi Arabia November 1



The government has appointed Halla Walid Al Juffali (left) as Saint Lucia's representative to promote business and tourism in Saudi Arabia. She met Governor General dame Pearlette Louisy during a recent familiarization visit here.

The Government of Saint Lucia is expanding its business and tourism profile in the Middle East, with the establishment of the Office of the Honorary Consul in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The Government has appointed Halla Walid Al Juffali as Honorary Consul based in Jeddah.

Recently, Ms. Juffali undertook a tour of Saint Lucia and met with government officials, major national institutions and government agencies to familiarize herself with business and life in Saint Lucia in preparation for her responsibilities as the representative of the Government of Saint Lucia in Saudi Arabia.

The Office of the Honorary Consul will commence operations on Nov. 1. A major training workshop with travel agents in Saudi Arabia will be organized as the first activity of the Office. Other activities will include investment and business promotion.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is one of the largest economies in the Middle East and is the largest producer and exporter of oil in the world. It is the only Arab country to be part of the G-20 major economies.

The establishment of the Office of Honorary Consul comes at no cost to the Government of Saint Lucia.

## Minister says exports will depend on conformity to international standards

Standards  
The world's common language



WORLD STANDARDS DAY  
14 OCTOBER 2015

World Standards Day, observed every year on October 14, aims to stress the importance of standardization to the global economy.

The Saint Lucia Bureau of Standards joined the international community on Wednesday to recognize World Standards Day.

The day was observed under the theme "Standards: the World's Common Language."

The observance aims to raise awareness among regulators, industry and consumers, of the importance of standardization to the global economy.

Minister for Commerce, Business Development, Investment and Consumer Affairs, Hon. Emma Hippolyte, noted the salience of standardization.

"It is because of standards that the world in which we live has become known as a global village.

"As the minister responsible for Commerce, Business Development, Investment and Consumer Affairs, I appreciate the fact that the competitiveness of our products, and the success of our exports depend on conformance to international standards.

"This is because conformity to international standards remains critical to promoting and creating consumer confidence in products and services," she said.

The minister continued: "The common language of standards has allowed for a world where your credit card can fit into every cash machine, in any part of the world, and permits that you can just stroll into a shop and find the right light bulb for your lamp.

"Could you imagine a world without telephone codes, country and currency codes and access to the Internet?"

World Standards Day honours the experts who develop voluntary standards within standards development organizations such as the International Organization for Standardization, the International Electrotechnical Commission and the International Organization on Legal Metrology

# PM says Citizenship by Investment has become a viable alternative

Prime Minister Hon. Dr. Kenny D. Anthony delivered a stirring opening address to the Global Citizens Forum in Monaco last Thursday.

During the course of his speech, the Prime Minister announced that Saint Lucia will be accepting applications for citizenship by investment as of Jan. 1, 2016.

While Dr. Anthony described himself as a jealous guardian of Saint Lucian citizenship, he noted that the time had come to think beyond traditional approaches in order to deal with the challenges that small states face.

Citizenship through investment, he said, has become a viable alternative.

The Prime Minister informed the gathering of citizenship lawyers, wealth managers, marketing agents, investors and VIPs that Saint Lucia, by ac-



The Prime Minister told the Forum Saint Lucia will begin accepting applications in the New Year.

cepting new citizens, would not just be offering citizenship but would be offering an identity, a people, and Saint Lucia's place in the world.

He stressed that new citizens must enhance Saint Lucia's global standing and ensure that the country's proud heritage endures.

In his address, the Prime Minister outlined the principles and characteristics of the program to be implemented.

He noted that the legislation establishing the program was supported without political rancor, with the blessing of both the ruling government and opposition parties.

The Prime Minister's address was followed by a performance from Saint Lucia's Ronald "Boo" Hinkson and Haitian superstar Wyclef Jean.

Wyclef, best known for his band 'The Fugees', attended the forum as a special guest and he performed with Boo at the invitation of the Prime Minister.

The event was also attended by lawyers and professionals from Saint Lucia.



Panamanian Ambassador to the UK Ana Irene Delgado (left) addressed the Monaco Global Citizens Forum and Saint Lucia's special curtain-raiser for the island's Economic Citizenship Program by Prime Minister Dr. Kenny D. Anthony (at right)

## Construction Industry Professionals benefited from capacity building workshop

Construction Industry professionals here are looking forward to implementation of new ideas and approaches following a capacity building exercise hosted by the Saint Lucia Coalition of Service Industries (SLCSI), in collaboration with the Institute of Construction.

The Coalition and the Institute jointly hosted a capacity building exercise for construction industry professionals on September 30th, during which service providers received training in "Contract Management and Health and Safety."

The program was designed to help industry professionals (practicing contractors) understand the basic requirements



The program will help practicing contractors better understand the basic requirements for

for construction projects and by extension, become successful in the export of services.

It attracted persons from a wide cross section of the construction industry, including engineers, architects, surveyors and building contractors.

The one-day training workshop was conducted by Winsbert Ricky Felix, a Chartered Quantity Surveyor with a strong commercial and project management background.

The workshop was held at the Royal by Rex Resorts.

==== Saint Lucians Meet and Greet with PM and Ministers in New York ====

# Saint Lucians in NYC brought up to date on happenings back home!



Saint Lucians in New York and other parts of the North American Diaspora always look forward to visits by Government Ministers and other top government officials, as they normally make time to take time off to meet and greet Saint Lucians and update them on happenings back home. That was exactly what happened earlier this month when the Prime Minister and two cabinet Ministers took time off their attendance at the 70th United Nations General Assembly, the Sustainable Development Summit and the high-level Major Economic Forum (MEF) to attend a Town hall meeting with Saint Lucians. Exopectedly, it was a full house as Saint Lucians took the opportunity to question the prime Minister, Foreign Affairs Minister Alva Baptiste and Sustainable Development Minister Dr James Fletcher on everything from their concerns about reports of an alleged police plot against the prime Minister to the Economic Citizenship Program and what's being done to combat Climate change. These photographs reflect the speakers and audience in the Town Hall session.



# Saint Lucians in NYC Herald the Heritage and Fly the Flag high!



During the Meet and Greet town hall Meeting attended by the Prime Minister, the Foreign Affairs Minister and the minister for Sustainable development, Saint Lucians exhibited just how much they have held on to their roots and culture and how much pride they have in displaying their natural and national heritage. This group sang and danced, in English and Kweyòl style, while waving the national flag through every song and dance. (Photo Courtesy: Loud Impressions Photography)

# Saint Lucians to display national pride at New York Jounen Kwéyòl fete tomorrow!



In observance of Creole Heritage Month, the New York City-based Saint Lucia Mothers' Day Committee invites nationals living in or visiting the tri-state area, and all those seeking a unique Saint Lucian cultural experience, to attend its annual Jounen Kwéyòl celebration, scheduled for Tomorrow Sunday, October 18. The event will take place in Brooklyn, New York, from Noon until 10pm.

This year's festivities will feature performances by the Saint Lucia American La Rose and Solo Group, a fashion show, storytelling and folk dances, and a host of other cultural attractions.

Samples of traditional Saint Lucian cuisine and beverages will be offered for sale as well.

Jounen Kwéyòl also offers native Saint Lucians the opportunity to reconnect with their homeland, and acquaint themselves with other expatriate members of the community.

Non-natives can also get a taste of the island's rich cultural heritage.

Now in its 20th year, the Saint Lucia Mothers' Day Committee's mission is to keep Saint Lucian identity and history alive in the Diaspora.

The organization's President, Ms. Sherlina Bernard, encourages everyone to attend this year's activity, as a way to reassert their national pride and maintain their association with their homeland, calling it "a must-attend event" for Saint Lucians.

Proceeds from this year's Jounen Kwéyòl will go to support three worthwhile causes, all directly connected to Saint Lucians: the organization's scholarship fund for college students of Saint Lucian heritage, Saint Lucy's Home for the Elderly, and the Cornerstone Humanitarian Society for the Homeless.

## Bienvenido, Señor Presidente!

### Maduro: the voices of the peoples will be heard in the Paris Summit

During the closing ceremony of the II World Conference of the Peoples for the Climate Change and Defense of Life that took place in Quilacollo, Bolivia, Maduro said: "we have to guarantee that the Climate Summit in Paris will be a Summit for the peoples, for all the social movements that defend the planet."

Maduro stressed that the Summit will

be a space "to hear the voice of our people" and to show all the proposals presented in the Quilacollo Conference that started last Saturday 10th. More than 50 social movements, ecologists and environmentalists from different countries attended the conference.

"We have to refine our voices to make our proposals heard, where all the peoples of the world join to defend the environment."

The president also mentioned the Green

Fund's strategy "promoted by the Empire and the development countries, which aims to colonize, once again, the most vulnerable countries."

However, he assured that he would support the proposal if it an uncontaminated and sustainable proposal that respect the peoples of the world. He also stressed the need of creating a system to protect the humanity and the environment.

"We cannot believe in oligarchies and in the



Venezuela's president Nicolás Maduro urged to the Heads of States to transform the World Climate Summit in Paris, France, in a space for the expression of the peoples.

International Monetary Fund; the peoples will save humanity and life

in the planet," Maduro added. The World Climate Sum-

mit in Paris, France, will take place at the end of the year.

## Black Activists Honor Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro In Harlem

By Roque Planas - National Reporter, The Huffington Post

Black intellectuals, activists and political leaders honored Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro at the National Black Theatre in Harlem on Monday, praising his left-wing government's education and health care policies as an alternative and possible remedy to U.S. policies they say foster racism.

Maduro is one of dozens of heads of state who traveled to New York this week to speak before the annual U.N. General Assembly -- and his stop in Harlem carried symbolic weight. Taking the podium in front of a banner displaying his own mustachioed image and raised fist, Maduro excoriated European colonialism and U.S.-led neoliberalism as the twin foundations of racism in the Americas.

"We've suffered with you," Maduro told the crowd of about 200 people. "It hurts us to know that this old structure of

racism continues to haunt our populations like a ghost."

Latin America's left has deep roots in Harlem. When Fidel Castro first addressed the United Nations in 1960, he chose to check in at the Hotel Theresa in Harlem instead of the more luxurious midtown Manhattan hotels where many foreign dignitaries stay when visiting New York. In the neighborhood, Castro met with Malcolm X and poet Langston Hughes.

Venezuelan leaders have kept up the tradition, cultivating economic ties to New York City as well. Through its state oil company, the Venezuelan government provides free home heating oil to 75,000 people in the neighborhood, according to Democratic state Sen. Bill Perkins, who presented the Venezuelan president with a proclamation from the New York Senate praising his leadership.

"We recognize that in the person of Nicolás Maduro, the president of Venezuela, we have an exceptional leader," Perkins said, reading aloud from the document. He applauded Venezuela's government for championing universal health care and developing

an economy that he said "shares its resources instead of exploiting them."

In his speech, Maduro praised the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations last week, calling them "truly extraordinary" and saying they should urge people to rethink the capitalist economic structure.

"We need to create wealth," Maduro said. "But we also must distribute it among the people. This is an important detail. We need to create social and economic models that put people who work front and center ... We have to replace the dictatorship of capital." "Presidents can't get accustomed to only being around elites," he added. "If I have to choose, I'd rather be in Harlem."

While Maduro received a hero's welcome in Harlem -- where the crowd cheered and shouted "¡Viva Chávez!" and "¡Viva Venezuela!" -- he has struggled to find his footing at home after narrowly winning the country's 2013 election.

Maduro faced a months-long protest movement last year that led to dozens of deaths. A Venezuelan court convicted opposition leader Leopoldo López this

month of instigating the violence and sentenced him to 14 years in prison. Critics view his imprisonment as politically motivated, while Venezuelan officials have accused the U.S. of financing the protest movement.

More recently, the Venezuelan government has deported more than 1,400 Colombians and closed off major border crossings. Another 18,000 Colombians have fled the country voluntarily, according to U.N. figures.

Government officials say the crackdown was aimed at containing illegal Colombian armed groups and people hoarding or smuggling scarce consumer goods across the border. Opponents, on the other hand, blame Venezuela's complex system of price controls and multiple currency exchange rates for incentivizing hoarding and smuggling.

Maduro's 30 percent popularity rating is among the lowest in Latin America, according to regional pollster Latinobarómetro's annual survey, which was released last week.

The Venezuelan leader touched on the topic of the deportations in Monday night's speech, saying that

last week he had spoken personally with Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos, who has repeatedly criticized the Venezuelan deportations.

"We looked each other in the eye," Maduro said. "And we managed to at least take a first step."

The event in Harlem provided the leftist Maduro with an opportunity to reach out to American progressives and to share a stage with black thinkers and activists, including actor Danny Glover, Democratic New York state Sen. Bill Perkins, and co-founder of #BlackLivesMatter Opal Tometi.

"We experience the daily effects of the neoliberal agenda that guts the social safety net that was intended to provide some modicum of support and stabilization to marginalized communities," Tometi said. "And instead, we've seen investments in apparatuses and systems that criminalize us and that displace us ... That constitutes state violence. Let's call it what it is."

Glover praised former Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez before introducing Maduro, calling him "my brother, my

comrade and a great leader" and saying that Maduro embodies his legacy.

"He's a trade unionist," Glover said of Maduro, who began his career as a bus driver. "I come from a family of trade unionists. I really honor that."

Maduro was followed by Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, who urged the audience to support Caribbean countries' efforts to win reparations for colonization and slavery.

"We have a giant movement in the Caribbean seeking reparations for native genocide and African slavery," Gonsalves said. "This conversation does not have to be belligerent... I don't have to raise my voice with [British] Prime Minister [David] Cameron. We had that discussion today. But I told him that the issue of reparations for native genocide and African slavery has to be taken in the context of the post-2015 goals for development."

## Venezuelan President meets with Black Leaders in Harlem

While in New York for the 70th session of the United Nations General Assembly, Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro met with leaders from the Black community in Harlem Monday, discussing various issues including police brutality and structural racism.

During the the People of African Descent Leadership Summit, President Maduro listened to a panel of activists and experts discuss

the current socio-economic challenges faced by Black communities in the United States.

In response, the Venezuelan leader expressed solidarity with the victims of police brutality and discriminatory policing tactics.

"From South America, please believe me when I tell you, that we have also suffered along with you against this old narrative of racism, which continues to afflict our people," Maduro stated.

During his speech, President Maduro highlighted the need to form "a new radical consciousness of

humanism" in efforts to combat racial inequalities.

Foreign Minister Delcy Rodríguez reported that Danny Glover, the actor and chairman of the Trans-Africa Forum, confirmed he remains a "great friend of Venezuela" in his address, by "highlighting the legacy and leadership of Hugo Chavez for the people of the Caribbean."

Also present at the event were Estela Vasquez of the 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers union and Dr. Ron Daniels, president of the Institute of the Black World 21st Century.



# The Diplomatic Courier

## China-Taiwan Cross-strait talks end in agreement

The Director of the State Council Taiwan Affairs Office, Zhang Zhijun, on Wednesday urged the Chinese mainland and Taiwan to choose the right path for development of cross-strait relations.

Zhang was speaking during a meeting with Taiwan's cross-strait affairs chief Andrew Hsia in Guangzhou, capital of south China's Guangdong Province.

Zhang said both sides of the Strait should consider public opinion and take the need to realize the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation into account when making decisions.

He said the mainland and Taiwan are inseparable and share a common destiny.

Zhang called on both sides to adhere to the political basis of upholding the "1992 Consensus" and oppose "Taiwan independence," to get over difficulties and make joint efforts for the Chinese nation's renewal and people's happiness.

He said the cross-strait situation had experienced some choppy times and even reached a perilous brink at one point but, since 2008, both sides had managed to steer cross-strait ties toward the direction of peaceful development, yielding fruitful achievements and bringing about practical benefits for the public.

"It has been proven that the peaceful development of cross-strait ties is a right path and it has been endorsed by the public on both sides and welcomed by the international community," he said.

Hsia said the achievements over the last seven years in cross-strait development must be cherished and protected, noting that the "1992 Consensus" was the foundation for normal exchanges between Taiwan and the mainland.



The director of the State Council Taiwan Affairs Office, Zhang Zhijun (R) shakes hands with Taiwan's cross-strait affairs chief Andrew Hsia in Guangzhou, capital of south China's Guangdong Province on October 14. [Photo/Xinhua]

The core of the "1992 Consensus" is the acknowledgment that the Chinese mainland and Taiwan belong to one and the same China.

Some of the problems existing between the two sides may not be solved in a day, but require both sides to be realistic, accumulate consensus and use rational thinking, patience and perseverance, Hsia said.

He said that despite some outside opinions and guesses on the prospect of Cross-Strait ties, the majority of people in Taiwan entertain the hope for peace and prosperity across the Strait.

"I believe it is also the common wish of all relevant parties in this region," he added.

Hsia called on both sides to continue cross-strait institutional consultations and strengthen exchanges.

The two sides agreed that the mainland and Taiwan should con-

tinue communication between their cross-strait affairs agencies in multiple forms and improve efficiency in handling cross-strait issues.

They also agreed that the two sides should carry on the negotiations of further cross-strait agreements including those regarding a pact on trade in goods and one on environmental protection.

They also pledged to create a more fair and effective investment environment to boost investor confidence, work for the earlier implementation of existing agreements on service trade, taxation and air safety, improve cross-strait tourism and promote cross-strait exchanges for youth, culture and education.

At a press conference held after yesterday's meeting, Ma Xiaoguang, spokesman for the State Council Taiwan Affairs Office, stressed the importance of adhering to the "1992 Consensus" in cross-strait development.

## World faces a 600 million jobs challenge

The world faces the "urgent challenge" of creating 600 million productive jobs over the next decade in order to generate sustainable growth and maintain social cohesion, according to the annual report on global employment by the International Labour Organization (ILO).

The world faces the "urgent challenge" of creating 600 million productive jobs over the next decade in order to generate sustainable growth and maintain social cohesion, according to the annual report on global employment by the International Labour Organization (ILO).

"After three years of continuous crisis conditions in global labour markets and against the prospect of a further deterioration of economic activity, there is a backlog of global unemployment of 200 million," says the ILO in its annual report titled "Global Employment Trends 2012: Preventing a deeper jobs crisis". Moreover, the report says more than 400 million new jobs will be needed over the next decade to absorb the estimated 40 million growth of the labour force each year.

The Global Employment Trends Report also said the world faces the additional challenge of creating decent jobs for the estimated 900 million workers living with their families below the US\$ 2 a day poverty line, mostly in developing countries.

"Despite strenuous government efforts, the jobs crisis continues unabated, with one in three workers worldwide - or an estimated 1.1 billion people - either unemployed or living in poverty", said ILO Director-General Juan Somavia. "What is needed is that job creation in the real economy must become our number one priority".

The report says the recovery that started in 2009 has been short-lived and that there are still 27 million more unemployed workers than at the start of the crisis. The fact that economies are not generating enough employment is reflected in the employment-to-population ratio (the proportion of the working-age population in employment), which suffered the largest decline on record between 2007 (61.2 per cent) and 2010 (60.2 per cent).

At the same time, there are nearly 29 million fewer people in the labour force now than would be expected based on pre-crisis trends. If these discouraged workers were counted as unemployed, then global unemployment would swell from the current 197 million to 225 million, and the unemployment rate would rise from 6 per cent to 6.9 per cent.

The report paints three scenarios for the employment situation in the future. The baseline projection shows an additional 3 million unemployed for 2012, rising to 206 million by 2016. If global growth rates fall below 2 per cent, then unemployment would rise to 204 million in 2012. In a more benign scenario, assuming a quick resolution of the euro debt crisis, global unemployment would be around 1 million lower in 2012.

Young people continue to be among the hardest hit by the jobs crisis. Judging by the present course, the report says, there is little hope for a substantial improvement in their near-term employment prospects.

Global Employment Trends 2012 says 74.8 million youth aged 15-24 were unemployed in 2011, an increase of more than 4 million since 2007. It adds that globally,

young people are nearly three times as likely as adults to be unemployed. The global youth unemployment rate, at 12.7 per cent, remains a full percentage point above the pre-crisis level.

The report's main findings also include:

- There has been a marked slowdown in the rate of progress in reducing the number of working poor. Nearly 30 per cent of all workers in the world - more than 900 million - were living with their families below the US\$2 poverty line in 2011, or about 55 million more than expected on the basis of pre-crisis trends. Of these 900 million working poor, about half were living below the US\$1.25 extreme poverty line.

- The number of workers in vulnerable employment<sup>2</sup> globally in 2011 is estimated at 1.52 billion, an increase of 136 million since 2000 and of nearly 23 million since 2009.

- Among women, 50.5 per cent are in vulnerable employment, a rate that exceeds the corresponding share for men (48.2).

- Favourable economic conditions pushed job creation rates above labour force growth, thereby supporting domestic demand, in particular in larger emerging economies in Latin America and East Asia.

- The labour productivity gap between the developed and the developing world - an important indicator measuring the convergence of income levels across countries - has narrowed over the past two decades, but remains substantial: Output per worker in the Developed Economies and European Union region was US\$ 72,900 in 2011 versus an average of US\$ 13,600 in developing regions.

"These latest figures reflect the increasing inequality and continuous exclusion that millions of workers and their families are facing", said Mr. Somavia. "Whether we recover or not from this crisis will depend on how effective government policies ultimately are. And policies will only be effective as long as they have a positive impact on peoples' lives".

The report calls for targeted measures to support job growth in the real economy, and warns that additional public support measures alone will not be enough to foster a sustainable recovery.

"Policy-makers must act decisively and in a coordinated fashion to reduce the fear and uncertainty that is hindering private investment so that the private sector can restart the main engine of global job creation", says the report.

It also warns that in times of faltering demand further stimulus is important and this can be done in a way that does not put the sustainability of public finances at risk. The report calls for fiscal consolidation efforts to be carried out in a socially responsible manner, with growth and employment prospects as guiding principles.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This article originally appeared on the ILO's website on January 25, 2012. It is reproduced in light of a repetition of a similar gloomy forecast earlier this week by several agencies.)

## CAB calls for removal of Caribbean territories on US Tax Haven blacklist

The Caribbean Association of Banks Inc. (CAB) is once more forced to express its deep concern over yet another "tax-haven" list which includes 15 Commonwealth Caribbean countries.

The referred list appears within the District of Columbia's 2015 Budget Support Act which expands the definition of "tax haven" (for purposes of the water's-edge combined group rules).

This Act is due for passing by the US Congress in just 18 congressional working days from Sunday 20th September, 2015. While the CAB fully supports the District of Columbia's efforts to combat tax evasion, the CAB feels that the designation of Caribbean territories as "tax havens" is prejudicial. It is noteworthy that:

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes have confirmed that all members of the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) are fully or largely compliant and have committed to Automatic Exchange of Information (AEOI);

None of the CARICOM countries listed in the Act are on the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) AML/CFT Strategic Deficiencies Lists;

All of the CARICOM territories listed in the Act have cooperated with the US Internal Revenue Ser-

vice through the US Foreign Account Tax Compliant Act (FATCA) and (with the exception of one) are listed as either having a signed intergovernmental agreement (IGA) or being treated as having an IGA in effect; and

All CAB member Banks and financial services institutions have mechanisms in place to satisfy FATCA requirements.

Additionally, the CAB as part of its mandate, works very closely with its members to ensure compliance, training and other measures are satisfactorily in place with respect to regulatory, legislative and other matters of such nature.

It must be highlighted that this inaccurate description of Caribbean territories has already had and could have even further-reaching effects on the Caribbean's financial services sector as well as the economies. Indigenous banks in the region are currently being challenged with the threat of loss of correspondent banking relationships which are provided by international banks.

The DC 2015 Budget Support Act's "black list" may serve to exacerbate the perception of our region as a high risk area and consequently, negatively impact the Risk Rating profile of financial institutions by correspondent banks.

As financial intermediaries, banks are highly dependent upon correspondent banking relation-

ships to facilitate critical economic and financial transactions such as, remittances, foreign direct investments and international trade in goods and services.

For example, the value of United States exports to CARICOM countries for the periods 2011-2013 were US\$16.99B, US\$18.6B, US\$17.9B respectively; while US imports from CARICOM countries for the same periods were US\$9.5B, US\$8B, and US\$8.4B respectively (Source: CARICOM Statistics).

These trade flows are derived mainly from key sectors such as Tourism, Manufacturing, Agriculture, Retail, ICT etc. Consequently, this issue impacts the very livelihood of Caribbean people.

Accordingly, the CAB is unable to understand the justification for identifying these countries as tax havens and has written to the District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser (also copied to 13 Council members) and key members of Congress (Chairman and Ranking Members of both the House Appropriations Committee and the Subcommittee on Financial Services) urging them to remove the names of the Caribbean countries from this listing of "tax havens" as defined.

The Caribbean Association of Banks continues to monitor this state of affairs, closely.



# \$700,000 La Guerre Wellness Centre now open!

The Ministry of Health, Wellness, Human Services and Gender Relations officially re-opened the La Guerre Wellness Centre last Wednesday. The newly refurbished and expanded facility is over three times the size of its predecessor. The facility will serve the communities of Plato, Boguis, Monier, La Guerre and environs.

Chair of the Babonneau Constituency Council, Dr. Virginia Albert-Poyotte, said the refurbished wellness centre is a welcome improvement.

"This is a very valuable institution that will play a critical role in ensuring that the people in the community have access [to healthcare]," she said.

Based on reports, the Babonneau Wellness Centre was inundated with persons needing service, in the absence of the La Guerre wellness facility.

Executive Director of the Social Development Fund (SSDF), Joachim Henry, said the La Guerre facility was established in response to the land slippage in Boguis which created a demand for health services, and rendered the wellness centre in Boguis uninhabitable.

The wellness centre was the

last to be constructed under the Basic Needs Trust Fund Program (BNTF) at a cost of approximately \$744,000, he added.

The BNTF now focuses on access, water and sanitation and education.

Henry said that great attention was given to the designing and the acquisition of additional land for the 711 square foot extension, that would enable the provision of additional health services.

The facility now includes a client waiting room, reception records area, a doctor's office and examination room, a treatment clinic, pharmacy and dispensing booth, a multi-purpose usage office, staff facility lounge, a nursing station, laundry, fencing and storage and a state of the art data network to support the ministry's Health Management Information System (HMIS).

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health, Cointha Thomas, said the centre is outfitted with top of the line, modern equipment, and has the one of the most advanced Health Management Information Systems on the island.

Minister for Health, and Parliamentary Representative for Babonneau, Alvina Reynolds



The expanded facility now includes a client waiting room, reception records area, a doctor's office and examination room, a treatment clinic, pharmacy and dispensing booth, and a nursing station. Health Minister Alvina Reynolds (above) cut the ribbon for the expanded centre, one of several being constructed by government through the SSDF with CDB-BNTF funding.

said the health ministry is achieving its goal of improving primary healthcare.

Over the past four years, she noted, the Ministry of Health has re-opened and augmented the services at a number of wellness centres including Entrepot, Etangs, Ti Rocher Micoud, Ti Rocher Castries, the Castries Health Centre, Dennerly Hospital, extended the services at the

Gros Islet Polyclinic, and undertook renovations at the Soufriere Hospital.

"The re-opening of this new, upgraded, well-equipped, comfortable environment which will serve your communities is part of a plan for improving the performance of the healthcare system in Saint Lucia," she said.

"Other centers will follow. The final details are being worked

out with NIPRO for the Anse La Raye centre while the one in Micoud is next on the list."

The services offered at the La Guerre Wellness Centre include, antenatal and post natal care, child health clinics, dressings, urgent care before referral to hospitals, diabetes testing, hypertension clinics, doctor's clinics, nutritional counseling, and health promotion and education.

## Health Ministry supports Pink Friday initiative

In observance of Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October, the Ministry of Health through the Bureau of Health Promotion has started a Pink Friday initiative.

The activity advocates that individuals and companies wear pink in recognition of the victims, survivors and persons affected by breast cancer.

Family Life Educator within the Ministry of Health, Nadiège Smith, said the Ministry of Health has invited key stakeholders to support the fight against breast cancer.

"Part of the Ministry of Health's mandate is to have multi-sector participation. The Ministry of Health cannot fight breast cancer or any other disease on its own. We need the support of private organizations and line ministries," she said.

The telecommunications company Digicel has lent its support to the initiative.

"We all in one way or another have been affected by the disease, if not by having someone in our circle directly affected, or someone we know of, we have seen what it does to fami-

lies; and for us as a corporate citizen we want to ensure that we are part of the movement to fight this disease," Louis Victor, Marketing Executive at Digicel said.

"Digicel has embraced this initiative to help create awareness. By getting the staff involved, we believe that it creates greater sensitization about how we can prevent the disease."

Digicel has also collaborated on other cancer initiatives such as the recently-held "Walk for a Cure," CFL's Yoplait Walk (Nov. 1), and the Wave's "Men in Heels."



The Ministry of Health collaborates with Digicel in the fight against breast cancer for the month of October.

Smith said Digicel demonstrates commitment to society, the community and the population, and added that the Bureau

of Health Promotion looks forward to more corporate partners and individuals supporting the Pink Friday initiative

## Victoria Hospital refutes untrue media reports

Victoria Hospital has responded to reports emanating from both social and mainstream media claiming that clients are denied care due to their inability to pay.

Executive Director of the Victoria Hospital (VH), Jeanette Hughes, has denied the claims and highlighted the expressed policy of the hospital.

"Victoria Hospital has two main policies: to deliver quality care to everyone who comes requesting care, and to give that care with or without the ability to pay," she said. "So we never turn down anybody at Victoria Hospital regardless of their ability to pay."

Hughes explained that persons who access care at VH are normally asked to present their medical exemption card or insurance form, or they are asked to pay out of pocket.

"It means, therefore, that someone who is not able to pay and is exempted by the state, would be given care and would not have to pay or be asked to



Executive Director Hughes says no one is denied care due to inability to pay.

pay anything because that person would be exempted."

She continued: "Persons who have medical insurance would be required to present their insurance documents. However, there may be persons who do not have medical insurance and may be required to pay out of pocket."

Hughes said that the policy at the hospital has not changed. A business office was recently established to work with persons and to provide financial coun-

seling on how they can settle their medical expenses.

She explained further, "We have had instances where persons have brought in goods for sale and we would buy their produce to offset their bills.

"We have had instances where persons are unemployed and we have a need for temporary employment and we would actually employ persons on a temporary basis and they would contribute towards their bills.

"So Victoria Hospital is definitely about giving service and to work with the clients we serve. And I will categorically deny this: we do not turn away anyone at Victoria Hospital because they are unable to pay."

The Executive Director indicated that anyone who has encountered a situation where they have been denied care, should contact her at 758.456.8201 or emailvictoria.hospital@govt.lc, or visit her office to schedule an appointment.

She also appealed to aggrieved clients to first dialogue with hospital administration to find a solution to the situation.

## PM congratulates Culinary Ambassador on latest accolade!



Chef Nina's new restaurant, "Compère Lapin", was named one of the best new restaurants around the world.

Saint Lucia's Culinary Ambassador, Chef Nina Compton, continues to wow the world with her culinary skills and exploits.

In September, Chef Nina's New Orleans restaurant, "Compère Lapin" was named one of the "Best New Restaurants Around the World" by the Huffington Post.

The article states "Compère Lapin marries the flavors of [Chef Nina's] native Saint Lucia, her experience cooking French and Italian cuisine, and ingredients from the surrounding Gulf area."

Prime Minister, Hon. Dr. Kenny D. Anthony has extended congratulations to the Ambassador on her achievement.

Dr. Anthony said: "Congratulations to Chef Nina on such a remarkable achievement. Nina continues to make us proud. I am especially impressed with how deliberate she is in incorporating Saint Lucian living and our unique experiences in her endeavors. Her love for our country and pride in her heritage is all over her work. From the name of her restaurant to the offerings at her tables, she is a proud Saint Lucian and represents us well. I wish her continued success. This is but the beginning of great achievements."

Nina's restaurant, Compère Lapin, was opened in New Orleans in June, after emerging as a fan favorite and coming in second in Season 11 of Top Chef.

## First Lady in the Chair at FRC

The Folk Research Centre (FRC) made history last Wednesday, during a meeting of the new Board of Directors when it elected its first female chairperson. Floreta Nicholas, a retired senior magistrate, cultural activist, actress and playwright, is expected to lend her knowledge and experience to the development of the objectives of the FRC.

Nicholas was elected on Oct. 7, days after the FRC elected a new Board of Directors for the biennial 2015 to 2017, at its annual general meeting held on Saturday, Oct. 3. The new Directors are Dr. Joycelyne Fletcher, Laurine

Louis, Shirley Ann Edward, Juliana Prospere, Floreta Nicholas, Sylvester Dickson, Hubert James and Leslie Charles.

Leslie Charles, who is the outgoing chairman of the Board of Directors was retained as an ex-officio member of the Board for purposes of continuity; while the ninth Director, Msgr Dr. Patrick Anthony, is a Founding Director of the Folk Research Centre and is not elected.

The Deputy Chairman of the FRC, Sylvester Dickson, is a retired civil servant who worked in the Ministry of Finance. He is also a Credit Union expert.



Floreta Nicholas (left) is a retired senior magistrate, cultural activist, actress and playwright. At right is FRC Founder-member, Monsignor Dr. Patrick Anthony.

## FRC promoting cultural education for children

The Folk Research Centre (FRC) on Tuesday launched a cultural education program, as one of the activities planned for Kwéyòl Heritage Month.

FRC's Executive Director, Hilary La Force, said the program enables students to understand and appreciate their cultural heritage.

He explained, "We run a program for the entire month of October where we bring in schools from all over the island, usually primary schools.

"They apply to come to the FRC and we instruct them on the culture of the country as it relates to dance, music, the history of Saint Lucia, various cultural icons, their contributions



The program, hosted by the Folk Research Centre, enables students to understand and appreciate their cultural heritage

to the country's economy and the importance of culture."

Curriculum Specialist for Music, Jason Joseph, is one of the many instructors. His focus is on the development of music and culture in Saint Lucia.

He said, "I will speak about the importance of music in our society. It can be found practically in all aspects of society, in our celebrations, in our relaxation activities. I will also be looking at how culture affects the music that we produce and how the music we produce affects our culture."

The program addresses the arts, history and culture as well as traditional art forms such as the masquerade and has existed for well over six years.

## Ministry launched 'stay alive' campaign!



The media, artistes and young people are called to amplify the peculiar vulnerabilities, risks and devastating impacts of climate change on Small Island Developing States.

Clarion call is being made for media workers, young people and artistes to join a regional movement to amplify the peculiar vulnerabilities, risks and devastating impacts of climate change on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) like Saint Lucia.

On October 8, Saint Lucia launched a Regional Climate Justice Campaign titled "1point5to5stayalive" which calls for a temperature increase allowance of no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius.

If global temperatures continue to rise beyond 1.5 degrees Celsius, Saint Lucia and other Caribbean countries will be devastated by an increase in extreme weather events like hurricanes, intense heat and sea level rise, putting coastal

communities at risk due to the flooding.

The regional campaign was developed with the intention to spur urgent action and advocate to the industrial capitals of the world - the main drivers of climate change - to keep global temperature rise below 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Saint Lucia's Minister for Sustainable Development, Energy, Science and Technology Sen. Hon. Dr. James Fletcher said history has chronicled the influential power of Caribbean artistes and musicians in communicating the climate justice message from the smallest villages to the widest global audience.

Local artiste and climate change advocate Kendall Hipployte said the time for action is now. He warned that the fail-

ure to speak out may result in a destructive future for younger generations.

The 1point5to5stayalive campaign will provide support to artistes, young people and the media who support individual productions and linkages with global initiatives, via a dedicated website [www.1point5.info](http://www.1point5.info), and grant funding provided by the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP).

The website will include music videos, multimedia packs, media support, live blogging petitions and rallies with the goal of demanding a legally-binding climate change agreement at the 21st United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of Parties (UNFCCC COP 21) slated for Paris in December 2015.

## Floreta Marquis honored by Folk Research Centre and Alliance Francaise

Floreta Marquis, the late 'chant-welle' from Canaries, was honored when the FRC and Alliance Francaise stage their annual Music, Story-telling and Kwéyòl Poetry Fiesta on Wednesday (21st October) at the Alliance Francaise's Pyramid at Point Seraphine.

The music of Floreta Marquis was presented by the James Brothers (led by Martin James and including violinist Yannick James) and her songs sung by local calypsonian Ready.

The FRC and Alliance have been collaborating from 2009 on this programme.

The event has presented local musicians, some well-known, others new; story tellers and Kwéyòl poetry. It has become a popular, standing-room only event during Creole Heritage Month in October.

From 2011 the Kwéyòl language

committee of the FRC, led by Laurent JnPierre, produced a Kwéyòl poetry competition which was very successful. This ran for three years. In 2014, excerpted readings of a Kwéyòl translation of Derek Walcott's *Ti Jean* and his brothers by Allan Weekes, was produced by Travis Weekes, replacing the poetry competition.

This year, the Kwéyòl language committee produced the poetry section of the evening's programme under the theme of 'Mango'. Poets and singers included Nintus and Ready, with writers Dr. Adrian Augier, Ashanti Prescott, Alass Ismael, Ras Isley and George 'Fish' Alphonse.

This year, excerpted readings of Allan Weekes' translation of the Greek play *Antigone* into Kwéyòl was also produced by Travis Weekes.

The popular Pin Jook was the featured Kwéyòl story teller.

## Jacmel Birthday Memorial Service for Sir Dunstan

The newly formed Dunstan St. Omer Art Foundation and the Hon Derek Walcott have teamed up to celebrate the memory of the late Hon Sir Dunstan St. Omer who died on the 5th May this year.

On his birthday, Saturday, October 24th 2015, St. Lucians are being invited to a memorial service and pre-Jounen Kwéyòl mini-fiesta at the Jacmel Church and grounds from 9.00a.m. to 2.00pm.

Plans are to make this an annual Kwéyòl Heritage Month event at the Jacmel R.C. Church which houses one of St. Omer's most famous murals.

The day will begin with a memorial service at 9.00am which includes performances by Natannia St. Omer (dancing to "O Paradis"), Ronald "Boo" Hinkson, Derek Walcott, Yan-

nick James and Anwar Leonty.

During the JounenKwéyòl - style mini-fiesta following the service there will be dance performances by students of the Marigot Secondary School and the Claralight Quadrille & Traditional Dance Group of Choiseul, songs by the students of the Anse la Raye Infant School and Ethan Fletcher, Story telling by Pin Jo'k and music by the Roseau Combined School Band and the Jacmel Community Band.

The Folk Research Centre encourages the public to support this new event on the Kwéyòl Heritage Month calendar.

The Folk Research Centre had declared Sir Dunstan St. Omer a National Cultural Hero in 2007 at a ceremony held at the Jacmel R.C. Church.

## TEPA Chairman to attend Agribusiness Conference in Italy

Fresh from addressing government and business leaders at a Business Symposium and Innovation Forum held on October 8, 2015, in St. Kitts, the CEO of Baron Foods Limited, Mr. Ronald Ramjattan, has been invited by the European Commission to participate in an Agribusiness forum in Milan, Italy.

Mr. Ramjattan left Saint Lucia today for the event.

The October 14-15, 2015 conference has as its theme: "Agribusiness investments in partnership with farmers' organisations in ACP countries".

It has been organized by the European Commission, in partnership with the African Union Commission, the ACP Secretariat, the Pan African Farmers' Organization (PAFO), the European Investment Bank, the COLEACP and the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA).



Baron Foods CEO and TEPA Chairman Ronald Ramjattan

The aim of the conference is to engage stakeholders and partners to work on a common vision for agribusiness investments in ACP countries in partnership with farmers' organisations.

Mr. Ramjattan, along with other participants, are expect-

ed to discuss the best ways to promote investments that seize the opportunities offered by regional and international trade, and how to best tackle the challenges ahead.

The Baron Foods Limited CEO will take part in the first part of the conference, the Workshops, on October 14, 2015, at NH Milano Congress Centre.

The conclusions of the Workshops will be presented at a high level political seminar on the following day at the EU pavilion at the World Expo.

The high level seminar will be web-streamed and recorded and will be available on the webpage of the conference.

Mr. Ramjattan has also been invited to the cocktail reception hosted by the European Commissioner for agriculture and rural development, Mr. Phil Hogan, on 14 October, 2015, at NH Milano Congress Centre.

## Small and medium business leaders met in St. Lucia

Entrepreneurs, owners, operators and managers of small to medium firms from across the region will meet here from Wednesday to adopt a strategy aimed at strengthening entrepreneurship and boost job creation across 14 Caribbean Community (CARICOM) countries.

The three-day Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Development Workshop and Business Incubator Management (BIM) Training forms part of a series of training sessions, designed to build an integrated ecosystem of support for early-stage entrepreneurs in the region.

The workshop is part of the Accelerate Caribbean regional incubation support programme designed by the World Bank Group, InfoDev, to strengthen innovation, entrepreneurship and job creation across CARICOM.

The workshop will bring together incubator managers, entrepreneurs, academics, government officials, the media, donors and investors.

Team Leader of Accelerate Caribbean, Natalia Pipia, said the



Financial accounting stock market graphs analysis

"Caribbean demonstrates a natural inclination towards innovation and entrepreneurship.

"People here work hard to build products, design new technology and offer services very attractive to even overseas markets, yet so many small businesses do not survive more than a few years," she noted.

Pipia said Accelerate Caribbean is offering training in incubation management to qualified professionals and business support companies in the Eastern Caribbean "to mitigate against this low business survival rate, which is critical to job creation and development in the region".

The highlight of the workshop will be a panel discussion on "Building a Strong Interconnected Start-up Community in St. Lucia".

Panelists will discuss a collaborative approach to building a sustainable ecosystem for entrepreneurship and innovation in Saint Lucia. Participants will discuss principles and good practices of business incubation, business incubator models, as well as components of a successful incubator.

Following the workshop, the Accelerate Caribbean team will deliver a Business Incubation Management (BIM) Training on October 15 & 16

## Accelerate Caribbean jumpstarts business incubators in St. Lucia

Accelerate Caribbean, the regional entrepreneurship development programme of infodev (The World Bank group) launched its second regional Business Incubation Management (BIM) Training and Entrepreneurial Development Workshop at The Royal by Rex Resorts in Rodney Bay, St. Lucia on Wednesday.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, St. Lucia's Commerce Minister, Hon. Emma Hippolyte, described the Accelerate Caribbean Project as timely and necessary for the island's emerging economy, especially the small business sector.

She called for a significant 'culture change' from competition based entrepreneurship to collaboration based entrepreneurship, so that small and medium enterprises (SMEs) on the island and the region can strengthen their capacity, access capital and business opportunities.

Noting that "the small business of today is the mega company of

tomorrow" she identified the J.Q. Charles Group, Bay Gardens Resorts and the CIE Group of Companies as exemplifying this ideal.

Underscoring the importance of government support for the growth of the business sector, Minister Hippolyte said the time has come for us to move away from the myth of the "self-made entrepreneur".

She cited the need for policy and legislative reform and the nurturing of an entrepreneurial culture among our youth. She also called for the elimination of silos and the need to create greater synergies among public sector agencies in particular.

The Minister's impassioned message resonated with the diverse audience of business enablers, government officials, representatives of business support organizations, and entrepreneurs - some of whom travelled to St. Lucia for the event. The 3-day exercise brings together participants from Barbados, Belize, Jamaica, Dominica

and host country St. Lucia.

Steven Koltai, Lead Mentor for the Accelerate Caribbean Project, echoed the Minister's sentiments. He told the gathering: "There is no single thing you can do to spur entrepreneurship. All activities must be woven together to create programmes that move the needle in bolstering the entrepreneurship ecosystem."

Koltai went on to clarify that this often doesn't mean more funding, but rather, deliberate planning and greater coordination to grow start-ups. He noted that most entrepreneurs are self-funding and the traditional banking system is not designed, nor inclined to provide funding to start-ups.

Noting that Entrepreneurship is not viewed favourably - especially in developing countries - Koltai said it is imperative that successful entrepreneurs tell their stories, in order to inspire others to explore their own business ideas and pursue their dreams.

## Social Protection and Agriculture: Breaking the Cycle of Rural Poverty

(Following is the full text of the Message to the Nation by Agriculture Minister Moses Jn Baptiste to commemorate World Food Day on October 16, 2015)

World Food Day (WFD) is observed in more than 150 countries around the globe and is celebrated on October 16 every year. The date coincides with the founding anniversary of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) - the UN's leading group battling the eternal struggle against hunger and malnutrition.

This global event is designed to increase awareness, understanding and informed year-around action to alleviate hunger. Issues relating to poverty, nutrition and unemployment are usually highlighted during a week of consultations and review worldwide.

The theme for this year's World Food Day celebration is "Social Protection and Agriculture: breaking the cycle of rural poverty".

Social protection is a blend of policies, programmes and interventions that aim at protecting poor and food-insecure people and to lift them out of poverty and hunger.

Being food-secure means that we must always be able to get the food we need for an active and healthy life.

This year's WFD puts the spotlight on the connection between hunger and enhancing agriculture through social protection towards zero poverty.

In Saint Lucia, social protection programmes have been established for many years and continue to benefit those who require support.

Our On-Farm Labour Support Programme continues to provide farmers with assistance at the farm management and production levels.

As a result of that intervention, farmers who have received support recorded increase in yields and accompanying increase incomes. Their families benefit from the impact of the assistance by way of availability of financial resources to purchase household necessities, materials for school and food.

A significant number of farmers, fishers and members of our cooperatives receive assistance through programmes that target the vulnerable. Parents of children who are challenged receive assistance for the purchase of school books, uniforms and for the payment of school fees.

All those programmes allow our people to manage the risks involved as they navigate their roles pro-



Hon. Moses Jn Baptiste

ducing food, maintaining rural stability and reducing poverty.

The Government of Saint Lucia will continue to provide social protection to our vulnerable citizens. Agricultural producers, who reside in the rural communities and inner city areas, will continue to be specifically targeted as they will be required to continue to produce food.

Schools will continue to receive special attention through our Improved School Feeding Programme where schools are being connected to farmers in a more sustainable relationship.

Aside from all the social protection programs, this year's celebration seeks to gather multi-sector support towards agricultural food production; encourage co-operation among developing countries towards food security; increase the participation of rural residents in policies that directly affect their lives; and further strengthen international solidarity against food insecurity.

We must continue to work together to make sure hunger is recognized as a critical problem, and to ensure that our beloved country will be able to face all the challenges and be victorious.

I wish our most valued farmers, fishers and agriculturists in general, a productive World Food Day 2015.

To all our beloved citizens and visitors, I hope you had a fun-filled day, as you joined the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Production, Fisheries, Cooperatives and Rural Development and the international community in celebrating World Food Day 2015.

All the best for success in all your endeavors and let's continue to highlight the importance of social protection in ending poverty and food insecurity around the world.

# Simon Bolivar in Saint Lucia!

When the Venezuelan Navy's 'Ambassador Without Borders' paid its recent visit to Saint Lucia, it was more than just a call by another beautiful vessel. This one was quite different. Its cargo was a full complement of messengers of world peace and solidarity, taking the Bolivarian message of Caribbean and Latin American unity and integration to the rest of the world. It was its 27th overseas training course for the 170 cadets, officers and sailors of the Bolivarian Navy on board. On its four-month Caribbean tour it had been to through the Caribbean Sea, visiting Barbados, Belize, Jamaica, Honduras, Bahamas and Cuba before St. Lucia became its final port of call. While here they played football against local cadets, visited Pigeon island and climbed the Gros Piton. The ship was visited by the Governor general and Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers and government officials, diplomats and members of the public. But the most enjoyable time was always had by the several groups of students from various schools. And for the visiting Venezuelan navy sailors aboard the 'Simon Bolivar' was when they joined the Mayor of Castries Shirley Lewis and a brigade from the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force at Place Bideau in Castries to pay tribute to the Liberator Simon Bolivar and his Saint Lucian friend and captain Jean Baptiste Bideau. The photos on this page recall the visit by 'Simon Bolivar' before the Bolivarian President arrived here today.



'Simon Bolivar' berthed majestically alongside The Pyramid at the Pointe Seraphine cruise ship complex during its four-day stay.



Students from Carmen Renee Memorial School waved the crew of 'Simon Bolivar' on arrival and departure at Pointe Seraphine.



Her Excellency the Governor General Dame Pearlette Louisy visited the visiting ship and was welcomed by the Captain, Chief Officer and the Venezuelan Ambassador to Saint Lucia Leiff Escalona (2nd from left).



Prime Minister Dr Kenny D. Anthony (centre) and Saint Lucia's Ambassador to ALBA and PetroCaribe Eustace Vitalis (at left) also visited the 'Simon Bolivar' while berthed at Pointe Seraphine.



The Venezuelan sailors, soldiers, officers and cadets of the 'Simon Bolivar' took time off while here to join local cadets and staff of the Venezuelan Embassy to climb the Gros Piton and fly the two friendly nations' flags.



The visiting Venezuelans joined their local counterparts and friends for a refreshing bath at Torelle Waterfall at the Botanical Gardens in Soufriere.



Castries Mayor Shirley Lewis (right) and Venezuelan Ambassador Leiff Escalona (and from right) joined Venezuelan naval officers and the Saint Lucia Cadet Corps to pay floral tribute at the busts of Liberator Simon Bolivar and Saint Lucian Jean Baptiste Bideau at Place Bideau (Bideau park) in the city.



The captain and crew of the visiting Bolivarian 'Ambassador without Borders' performed voluntary work while here, including cleaning-up an area of overgrown grass.