



NationWIDE



SATURDAY NOVEMBER 28, 2015

WEEKLY

Children's Future Looking Bright!

IMF confirms Saint Lucia's economy being steered out of the darkness and in to the light!



The plight of children today and the need to secure their future for tomorrow were key points discussed here this past week. Universal Children's Day was observed in several ways and places – including Vieux Fort where children gathered at the town's sporty square to share stories and experiences, learn more about their rights and tell adults how they see their future. The Vieux Fort children found time too, to talk, play and pose for 'selfies' with Prime Minister Dr Kenny D. Anthony, their District Representative and Member of Parliament for Vieux Fort South, who is also Minister of Finance, Economic Development, Planning and Social Security. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) now confirming what the Prime Minister said during the 2015 Budget Debate in May about the economy beginning to look up, the nation's children can continue to dream of a certainly brighter future. With all that's just been said and is being done here to promote and defend their universal rights, parents of the nation's children know their future too is also assured in the hands of the leader of the team that's been able, despite all odds, to take the economy out of the darkness and into light. This past week, the Government's ability to continue to positively change circumstances in communities island-wide was again enhanced by yet another contribution from Taiwan that will touch more lives. And today, the three-day 8th Annual Saint Lucia-Taiwan Partnership Exhibition continues at Rodney Bay (See Pages 2, 3 and 11). Local exporters are singing high praise to Cuba following successful participation in the 2015 Annual Havana International Trade Fair (See Pages 6 and 7). And all is set for Saint Lucia's participation in the Paris Conference of Parties (CoP 21) starting this month-end, where the world will have its last chance to take necessary immediate action to start to save humankind from the most harmful effects of Climate Change (See Page 4). Yes, it's been another week of continuous government action at home and abroad in the name and interest of people and country. Read on and enjoy this latest version of your weekly round-up of government news. And remember to watch NationwideTV on NTN and browse the Nationwide Website at stlucianationwide.com

Happy Reading! Happy Viewing! Happy Browsing!

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WHAT'S INSIDE

Taiwan donates \$389,789 to boost Government's island-wide electronic documentation network

The Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan) has once again come to the assistance of the Government and People of Saint Lucia by making a donation of \$389,789.00 (US \$145,000.00), towards the Government's island-wide Network (GiNet) and Electronic Document and Records Management System (EDRMS) projects.

Some \$80,646 (US \$30,000) of that amount is allocated for the GiNet Project, while the remainder of \$309,143 (US \$115,000) as the second disbursement will be used for the Electronic Document and Records Management System (EDRMS).

Both projects are under the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan) and the Government of Saint Lucia.

According to the new Taiwanese Ambassador to Saint Lucia, His Excellency Ray Hua-Wei Mou, "My government has taken the initia-

tive to assist with the GiNet Project. We are working on free or low-cost "Wireless Local Area Network, WLAN" in public areas.

"Internet penetration will be enhanced. Also, government and enterprises will be motivated to provide a wide range of innovative applications on this public Internet infrastructure".

The EDRMS primarily includes e-document authoring, online handling and approval, exchange, filing and archive sub-systems.

The aim of this system is to allow the Government of Saint Lucia to create process and manage documents and records electronically.

The technicians have already completed the training of the Second Phase on how to use the system and are now at Phase III, which is the Development of Archives Module.

Archiving will help in reducing the time in processing the documents and improve the organization's internal and external communication efficiency, as well as reduce

the risk of government critical information loss.

The Archive Module will also support the government's records and information management, and compliance with the e-Laws regulation.

"I would like to wish the GiNet team good success as they embark on the consultancy phase and the EDRMS team on the third phase.

"I believe that through the joint effort of the technical personnel from Taiwan and St. Lucia, these two projects will establish a solid foundation for the ICT development in Saint Lucia, H. E. Mou added.

During the brief ceremony on Thursday, Minister for the Public Service, Sustainable Development, Energy Science and Technology, Senator the Honourable Dr. James Fletcher, expressed gratitude to Ambassador Mou, outlining the many ICT-related projects which have been successfully implemented as a result of financial assistance from the Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan).

Choiseul Foundation seeks to boost voluntarism among young St. Lucians



MADE - (Making A Difference Everywhere) is a newly Formed grouped in Choiseul, established on October 10th, 2015.

The group's name was chosen as it relates to the overall aims & objectives of the group which is making a difference everywhere.

The group seeks to bring together and foster understanding about volunteering amongst young people from the diverse communities in St. Lucia; to promote recreational activities, mutual support and joint aid among our members; and to support local voluntary action by local people, working in partnership with other support organizations and with the public and private sectors.

MADE St. Lucia will be embarking on a number of voluntary projects in St. Lucia.

For their first project, six Primary Schools in the South of the Island were selected and a child in need will be receiving a hamper containing school supplies and grocery items.

The hamper distribution is scheduled for Friday 4th December, 2015.

Persons interested in joining the group are required to collect an application form from any of the members. (Notice will be given if your application has been either approved/declined.)

Once you have been approved, prospective members are required to with go on a one-month probationary period beginning effectively on the day of orientation, to ensure they are well equipped to become a member of the group.

This is also done to ensure that serious, hard-working and committed persons are selected to join the group

RENEWING OUR COUNTRY WITH SEEDS OF HOPE!

Following is the full text of an address by The Hon. Dr. Kenny D. Anthony, Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Economic Affairs, Planning & Social Security, on the occasion of a Cheque Presentation Ceremony of Grant Funds from the Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan) to the Government of Saint Lucia, at the Office of the Prime Minister, Waterfront, Castries, on Friday November 20, 2015.

May I recognise the presence of my Cabinet colleagues: The Honourable Robert Lewis, Minister for Education, Human Resource Development & Labour; The Honourable Harold Dalsan, Minister for Social Transformation, Constituency Empowerment & Local Government; and Senator The Honourable Stanley Felix, Minister for Physical Development, Housing & Urban Renewal. His Excellency Mr. Ray Mou, Ambassador of the Republic of China (Taiwan), Officials of the respective recipient ministries, Officials of the Ministry of Finance and the Office of the Prime Minister, Officials of the Taiwanese Embassy, Representatives of the Soufriere Constituency Council and the Soufriere Regional Development Foundation, Representatives of the Saint Lucia National Trust, Members of the media, Ladies and gentlemen, Good morning to all. Thank you for joining us this morning.

SPECIAL UNDERTAKINGS
This morning is an important milestone in the implementation of three special undertakings of this Govern-



Prime Minister Dr Kenny D. Anthony delivered his comprehensive address in the presence of senior Saint Lucian and Taiwan officials at the usual venue (Office of the Prime Minister), during which he again outlined more reasons to make the Taiwanese proud of the level of transparency and accountability involving receipt and use of funds donated to Saint Lucia, to create social transformation in communities around the island.

ment. These are in the areas of urban renewal, heritage conservation and education.

As you've heard from His Excellency, the Ambassador, the Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan) will momentarily be handing over three cheques of grant funding for the Soufriere Square, Walcott Place, and ICT teacher training, respectively. Permit me to provide some context on each of these projects.

HISTORIC SQUARE

Let me begin in Soufriere. The Government gave its commitment to the urban renewal of the town of Soufriere in this year's Budget, starting with the town's historic square.

This square is as old as the town itself, which was laid out in the 1740s. It is even recorded that during the French Revolution, a guillotine was set up at that square, and though no blood was ever shed by it, it is significant that the only one of these devices ever brought into Saint Lucia was placed there at the square to instil fear amongst the populace.

Continued on Page 11

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

\$14.7 million worth of contracts signed for new roads in five communities

The Ministry of Infrastructure, Port Services and Transport has signed four finance/build contracts and a procurement contract to build five new roads on the island. The contracts were signed on November 16.

The brief signing ceremony was attended by representatives of the five contracting firms.

The contracts total \$14,733,507.24 and will cater to rehabilitation works in five communities by the end of February 2016.

The Eau Piquant/Belle Vue Road Project will include rehabilitation of approximately

2,900 metres of road, inclusive of concrete drains, metal grills, chip and spray road surfacing and rubble retaining walls. That contract has been awarded to Francis Chitolie of Master Builders Ltd. at a cost of \$8,350,666.38.

The Ciceron Main Road Project will entail rehabilitation of approximately 2,063 metres of road, inclusive of concrete drains, raised manholes, asphaltic concrete wearing course, road markings and signage. That contract has been awarded to Construction and Industrial Equipment Ltd. at a cost of \$2,883,805.32.

The Fond Cocoa Road Project in Babonneau will see to the rehabilitation of approximately 1,010 metres of road, inclusive of construction of concrete drains, manhole cover adjacents, metal grills, concrete steps and concrete pavements. That contract has been awarded to Alexis Samuel at a cost of \$1,640,487.65.

The Caico/Millet Road Project will involve rehabilitation of approximately 1,273 metres of road, inclusive of concrete drains, headwalls, metal grills (inclusive of double surface dressing) and concrete pavements. That contract has been

awarded to Andrew Jaganath at a cost of \$1,402,285.39.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Infrastructure, Port Services and Transport, Allison Jean, in signing these contracts at Monday's ceremony, expressed the Ministry's thanks to the contractors -- who are undertaking the work at their own cost -- and explained the need for rehabilitating and improving the roads in question especially in the face of climate change.

She said, "We in the ministry have adopted the approach of building back better. Seeing the vulnerabilities that our in-

frastructure has sustained after Hurricane Tomas, then the Christmas Eve Trough and several other rain events, we want to ensure that whatever infrastructure we build is resilient to the various changing patterns in the weather."

The Permanent Secretary also appealed for the patience of communities that may not be receiving attention at this time, noting that the Ministry is aware of some of the difficulties being faced in some of these areas and is working towards redressing deficiencies wherever they may occur.

National potholing exercise underway

The Ministry of Infrastructure, Port Services and Transport has commenced a major potholing exercise that will see roads being potholed in communities across the island. This programme kicked off during the week starting November 16th 2015 with work on the Millennium Highway, immediately followed by extensive paving works on Victoria Street in Castries last Sunday (November 22).

As this potholing programme unfolds, many communities across the island are expected to benefit.

Jacmel is presently receiving attention and the City of Castries and its environs will benefit largely from this exercise.

The ministry says some com-



The national potholing exercise will fix broken roads in several parts of the island. Photo (at right) shows Victoria Street in Castries after it was potholed recently.

munities in the south will also see better roads in the near future.

The largest beneficiary of this programme, however, will be the Saltibus community.

Almost \$500,000 has been set

aside for the purchase of asphalt mix to undertake potholing activities along this road.

This potholing programme will improve road conditions and is a welcomed addition to

the four recently-signed contracts for the rehabilitation of roads from Eau Piquant to Bellevue, as well as in Ciceron, Caico in Millet and Fond Cocoa in Babonneau.

As a result of the exercise, motorists are advised by the ministry to pay attention to road signs and drive with due care and attention in areas where works will be ongoing.

8th annual Taiwan-Saint Lucia Partnership Trade Fair is on at Johnson's Centre this weekend

The 8th Annual Taiwan-Saint Lucia Partnership Trade Fair is on, with Saint Lucian businesses and business-minded persons seeking their chance to do business with or in Taiwan - and Taiwanese businesses seeking local outlets.

The exhibition, sponsored jointly by the Ministry of Commerce and the Taiwan Embassy here, each year brings together local and Taiwanese manufacturers to exhibit their wares for all to see.

It's an annual event much looked forward to by local manufacturers, where the best local products get exposure alongside the best that Taiwan has to offer.

The products range from jams and jellies to comput-

ers and Internet software - and an additional attraction for all exhibitors is that the Governor General, Dame Pearlette Louisy, visits each and every booth or vending table.

The 8th annual exhibition was declared open at a special ceremony yesterday, which was also attended by the several Cabinet Ministers and special invited guests.

The exhibition features a wide range of high quality local and Taiwanese goods.

The 2015 version of the annual event is taking place at the Johnson Centre at Rodney Bay and admission is free.

It runs for three days -- from yesterday to Sunday - each day starting at 9am and ending at 7pm.

PM and Government congratulated for successfully steering economy from instability to recovery!

The ruling Saint Lucia Labour Party has congratulated Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Dr. Kenny D. Anthony, and the Labour Government, on their "control of the economic levers of the country over the last four years, which has now resulted in the return to positive GDP growth in our economy, as announced in the latest report on Saint Lucia by the International Monetary Fund (IMF)."

The SLP statement noted that

according to a recent IMF Report, "on the back of a strong tourism inflow and lower oil prices, the Saint Lucian economy has returned to growth after experiencing a recession in 2012 and close to zero growth in 2013."

The IMF reports that GDP growth reached 0.5 per cent in 2014 and is expected to accelerate to 1.6 per cent in 2015, driven by Tourism and Transportation services.

According to the statement, "The party notes, with great pride, that the country has re-

corded growth in Tourism, Construction, Manufacturing and Agriculture. "Inflation has declined and our fiscal performance has improved."

The statement concluded, "The SLP expresses gratitude to the voters of St. Lucia for the confidence with which they returned the management of the country to the Labour Party in 2011, and remains confident that this Labour Administration will continue to make our country proud."

Babonneau benefits from Benchmark!

The Babonneau Mothers & Fathers group (BMFG) is, once again, a satisfied recipient of donated items coming from the Saint Lucia Diaspora in the US, compliments Benchmark Entertainment.

This marks the fifth occurrence of such an undertaking which commenced in 2013. The barrel of items donated includes children's clothing, toys, books, and adult wear.

As commented by one of Benchmark's directors, Sheldon 'Eggie' Sealy, "The intent is always for the diaspora to give back as much as they can to the needy and indigent in the community."

"We are proud of BMFG's collaboration over the past few years and quite confident that their distribution will meet the needs of those most in need."

Ms. Synthia Thomas - Secretary of the BMFG - expressed sincere thanks to Benchmark Entertain-



Members of the Babonneau Mothers and Fathers group thanked Benchmark for their continuing assistance to the community.

ment who have been ever supportive of the group's work towards assisting the less fortunate in the Babonneau community.

Moreover, she wished them every success in their future endeavours and hope that they continue the good work.

Benchmark Entertainment has

notoriously hosted an annual Diaspora Boatride during the Carnival season dubbed "Carnival Diaspora," but decided this year to expand with an inaugural festive season boat ride.

Branded as 'No Stoosh 758 Edition', the boat ride will take place on Sunday, 20th December 2015.

More British investors coming following Prime Minister's House of Lords dinner

Prime Minister, Dr Kenny D. Anthony was the Special Guest at a Dinner given last week at the House of Lords in London by the British Caribbean Chamber of Commerce. The Dinner was hosted by Lord Howard of Lympne, a member of the Privy Council, former Leader of the Conservative Party and Leader of the Opposition and Home Secretary. John Kennedy, President of the Chamber, Mandish Singh, Chairman and George Alcindor, Deputy Chairman also attended.

Other UK Saint Lucia investors were also present, including An-

gus Thirlwell and Peter Harris, co-founders and directors of Hotel Chocolat.

The dinner was followed by a round-table discussion on the enhancement of bilateral trade and commercial links between the two countries.

Lord Howard announced that he would lead a Trade Mission to Saint Lucia in February, comprising a selection of investors who will benefit from this showcase into what the Island has to offer.

Lord Howard also welcomed the Prime Minister's commitment to promoting business on behalf

of his people and making himself available to those promoting two-way commerce.

The round-table discussion set as a priority the desire to plug new investors into local talent, particularly in the fields of architecture and construction and announced that work would begin on drawing up an inventory of such service providers.

It was also agreed that Lord Howard would write to the British Chancellor of the Exchequer with a view to opening discussions in extending Export Credit Finance to the region.



John Kennedy, President British Caribbean Chamber of Commerce (Saint Lucia) makes a point in the presence of Prime Minister Dr Kenny D. Anthony and Lord Howard of Lympne (Patron of the British Caribbean Chamber of Commerce)

PM highlights importance of protecting SIDS against Climate Change effects

Prime Minister of Saint Lucia, Dr. Kenny D. Anthony has highlighted the tremendous importance of Saint Lucia's participation in COP 21.

The 21st Conference of Parties (COP 21) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), will take place in Paris, France from November 30 to December 11.

Dr. Anthony serves as the CARICOM Lead Head of Government for matters of Climate Change and Sustainable Development. He said the meeting is of great importance to CARICOM member states as they belong to a group of nations called Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

"For Small Island Developing States like ours, the science has shown that any long term global temperature increase above 1.5 degrees Celsius would be catastrophic," Dr. Anthony explained.

"Therefore, unless we can get the countries that are the major emitters of greenhouse gases to commit to more ambitious reductions, the Caribbean will be confronted with more extreme storms and

hurricanes, more frequent and prolonged droughts, dangerous sea level rise that will wash away roads, homes, hotels and ports in every island, greater food insecurity, and more acidic oceans that will kill our corals, damage our fish stocks and negatively impact our tourism industries."

The Prime Minister also acknowledged the hard work of the negotiating team.

He said, "Our Caribbean negotiators have invested a significant amount of time and effort in the several meetings leading up to Paris, articulating the concerns of our region and ensuring that they are addressed in the text of the proposed Paris Agreement."

"We owe them a huge debt of gratitude for their work and their dedication to this cause."

"However, there is still much work to be done over the coming two weeks in Paris to ensure that our region's interests are protected."

Dr. Anthony further articulated the effect of COP 21's outcome on the region's economy, culture and livelihoods.

Two new water projects launched at Millet and in Vieux Fort this week

The Government of Saint Lucia, the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), and the Water and Sewerage Company (WASCO) earlier this week jointly launch the John Compton Dam Rehabilitation Project and a major water supply project in Vieux Fort.

The dam was built with a reservoir design capacity of three million cubic meters of water or 660,000 million gallons of water.

However, following Hurricane Tomas in 2010, the dam's capacity was compromised by 1.1 million cubic meters of silt. The 2013 Christmas Eve trough worsened the situation, bringing the silt levels to 1.5 million cubic meters.

The objective of the project is to restore the reservoir to its original capacity.

At present the John Compton Dam Rehabilitation Project is at the Request for Proposals (RFP) stage, with a December 16 deadline.

The project will involve primarily the dredging of sediments from the reservoir and proper disposal at an engineered site, water augmentation, infrastructural rehabilitation and water shed restoration and management.

Additionally, the government also launched the Vieux Fort Water Supply Redevelopment Project On Wednesday.

That project involves the construction of a new intake, the rehabilitation of an existing intake, the construction of a new, fully-equipped conventional



Dredging and de-silting of the Roseau Dam will soon get underway.

water treatment plant, pump stations, transmission mainlines and treated water storage tanks.

The project is at the stage of recruiting a project manager who will also manage the John Compton Dam Rehabilitation Project.

The John Compton Dam Reha-

bilitation Project and the Vieux Fort Water Supply Redevelopment Project launches took place near the site of the John Compton Dam in Millet and at the Vieux Fort National Skills Development Centre, respectively. Both projects are earmarked to be underway by the first quarter of 2016.

Saint Lucia readying for Paris!



Officials are prepared to make a significant contribution at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held later this month in Paris.

Preparations are at an advanced stage for the climate change conference scheduled from November 30 to December 11.

Saint Lucia and other CARICOM countries have held several meetings aimed at developing common positions on climate change.

Chief Sustainable Development and Environment Officer, Crispin d'Auvergne, said the expectations from the conference are clear and specific.

"Saint Lucia, CARICOM countries and other small island developing states are looking for a robust, legally binding agreement that is applicable to all," he said.

"We are looking for [an agreement on] the 1.5 degree temperature; in fact we're [hoping that we can agree on a temperature that is] well below 1.5 degrees. That's one of the key targets that should be part of the 2015 agreement on cli-

mate change from our perspective."

D'Auvergne said CARICOM countries will also seek redress for impacts from climate change.

"We're also looking to ensure that loss and damage is addressed as a critical part of the agreement separate and apart from anything on its own."

"We're also looking for adequate financing to support adaptation, mitigation and any other action that will be required to address the climate change phenomenon and we're also looking for a recognition of the special circumstances and vulnerabilities of SIDS, and for those to be taken into account."

Saint Lucia submitted its Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC's) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on November 18. The document outlines each country's intentions to reduce carbon emissions.

Annual Gros Islet Health Fiesta Tomorrow

In commemoration of four years in office, the Parliamentary Representative for Gros Islet Emma Hippolyte will be celebrating with a health promotion campaign (Health Fiesta) as a long-standing commitment towards a healthy St. Lucia -- and in particular, a healthy Gros Islet.

The Health Fiesta will be held on the grounds of the Gros Islet Roman Catholic Church tomorrow (Sunday 29th November) and is being organized by the Gros Islet Constituency Group.

The fiesta will be preceded by a church service at the St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church at 7:00 am, after which persons are expected to join the Fiesta on the grounds in front of the Catholic Church.

The Fiesta will offer (among other services) dental services, testing for hypertension and STD's, PSA testing for men over 40 years and nutrition counseling, as well as facilities to donate blood to the Blood Bank.



Some of the participants in the Health Fiesta will be: The Ministry of Health, St. Lucia Planned Parenthood Assoc; St. Lucia Diabetic and Hypertensive Association, Students of the American International Medical University, (AIMU), St.

Lucia Blind Welfare Assoc, the Blood Bank, and United and Strong group.

The entire constituency of Gros Islet is encouraged to participate in the activities and benefit from the free screening available on that day.

St. Lucia Night at Shakespeare Globe Walcott's work is the greatest unifier of Saint Lucians!

by Special London Correspondent - Exclusive to Nationwide

It was a night to remember -- the opening performance of Derek Walcott's epic dramatized poem 'Omeros'. A strong two-hander cast of Joseph Marcell and Joan Iyiola was directed by Bill Burckhurst. The three provided the on stage magic.

JD Douglas had been asked by the Globe to stage a St. Lucia night -- well more a St. Lucia presence, for all the right reasons. As JD reflected "We need to have a St. Lucian presence in as many British institutions and decision making forum as possible, lest we become just passive consumers.

"It's no good saying wonderful things about Walcott if we as St. Lucians do not know his work".

St. Lucians and friends of St. Lucia were able to purchase their tickets at a prior agreed discount rate brokered by Douglas and were allowed to sit in pre-designated ring-fenced area of the Sam Wannamaker theatre.

The play, although inspired by Homer's gigantic saga, is not a translation or a modern version -- more a recast in a temporary West Indian setting. The characters of Achille, Hector and Helen are the embodiment of St. Lucia psyche and temperament.

Philocette with his festering wound is a metaphor of so much that is wrong with St. Lucia. Helen is the maid of retired British Army Office Major Denis Plunkett and his wife Maud.

Set in the Village of Gross Islet historical facts and events are blended into a studied "poetic landscape" The various story lines are narrated and dramatised by the two actors Joseph Marcell and Joan Iyiola, with passion and dexterity.

Their characters' have dreams, desires, soul. There is a reality and a vulnerability. They are you, they are me they are the sum experience of many things.

As one St. Lucian currently serving in her majesty armed forces was overheard to say, "When Marcell cut the roots with his cutlass in anger and he spoke the words, now you know what it's like to be without roots. That really resonated with me. I felt that sentiment over and over."

Yes pure theatre to move the individual as theatre ought to be. The St. Lucians in the audience were on top of the play in more ways than one. They were proud to be associated with something very St. Lucian as the work of Derek Walcott and would go on to demonstrate their approval.

For many this would be the first time they would see the international recognized Joseph Marcell on stage. He, of course is better known the world over as Geoffrey the Butler in The Fresh Prince of Bel Air.

Thespian (from which the word Thespian is derived) is credited as being the first person to introduce dialogue to the stage in 6th century



POETRY IN MOTION! The top class Omeros cast turned Walcott's words into actions that breathed life onstage.



The famed Saint Lucia-born screen and stage actor Joseph Marcel put on a regal show at the Globe with Joan Iyiola as they performed the Nobel-winning epic poem by globally-famed Saint Lucian bard Derek Walcott.



Former veteran Saint Lucia Director of Tourism Hilary Modeste traveled to London from Essex to attend the signal event, which features Saint Lucians in front row seats ringing local tones into the English air and ears...



'Omeros' Director at the Globe, Bill Burckhurst, thanked Saint Lucia's J.D. Douglas for organizing the Saint Lucia night at the famed London venue.

BC. He was also an actor of note. His many disciples' including the Stanislavsky school of acting, pro-

claim that a play is not actors, a play is not a script, it is not a director moving actors on stage. It is but

the synergy of what is happening on stage and the reverberation and reactions of the audience.

Well, by this yardstick, this certain was a magical event and gigantic play. Some of the dialogue incorporates patois or creole, as soon as the actors deliver their words the St. Lucians in the audience were there to respond with laughter and guffaws. What was obvious is that some things just don't translate.

English translations of what was said in patois/creole did not hit the spot. When Marcell uttered the word 'Salop' at his co-actor on stage, the audience were in hysterics. Try explaining to a non-St. Lucian what exactly was meant and the many ways it can be used in conversation and you begin to get the point.

Also forgiven was Joan Iyiola's less-than-convincing patois, in parts. When St. Lucians started looking at each other when they missed her pronunciation with "What did she just say?" you know things can get better. (In her defence, Iyiola is a wonderful actor with lots to offer. These are minor points to be looked at in the future, when the show is next staged.)

Noted in the audience on the night was the celebrated writer Ben Okra. After the play he was more than willing to speak of the impact of the performance. To his tag of being the finest writer in the English language 'Omeros' provides the evidence of the finest "word smith" on the planet.

Walcott's clever interplay of words and phrases had many a clever dick scratching their heads about his intention. A perfect example is the interplay of the words canoe and cannot (canot) while many Looshians nodded in the writer's cleverness at the end, others were asking the St. Lucians why did they laugh/react at that point.

Yes, it was truly a St. Lucian night for all the right reasons. St. Lucians like the Tate Family came from Cambridgeshire, Hilary Modeste, former director of Tourism travelled from Essex, the Gobats, socialite Penny Barnard, the St. Lucian Women Association were all present to play their part.

St. Lucians from all walks of life were on hand to be counted. Final words were from JD Douglas, who organised the evening "The dramatization in many ways is a mirror for all St. Lucians -- Walcott's pronouncement on the tourist product as an example, and his warnings seems to have gone unheeded when you think of the Black Bay fiasco.

"The biggest satisfaction for me was seeing that what unites us as a people is stronger and greater than what sets us apart. In this case, the work of Derek Walcott is certainly one of the strongest unifiers -- if not the greatest unifier for all St. Lucians. "The manifestation is the great success of, St. Lucian Night at the Shakespeare Globe."

Local exporters return from Cuba Trade Fair applauding new opportunities for valuable business partnerships!

(Photos courtesy: Seaton Poyotte)

Saint Lucian exporters recently returned from a five-day trade fair in Cuba reporting clear prospects upon which they can build. Most exhibitors report that they have secured invaluable contacts, open access to the trade agency PRO-Cuba, through the Ministry of Com-

merce and TEPA -- and in the case of Chemico, a prospective buyer. FIHAV is one of the most significant regional trade shows in Latin America, which showcases the latest technological achievements from numerous countries. The 33rd edition of the FIHAV

2015 Trade Fair, the biggest recorded in 15 years, attracted the hundreds of international companies seeking to do business in the Cuban market. This year FIHAV registered 300 Cuban companies and 600 from 70 other countries, including Saint Lucia. Caribbean Awnings, Harris

Paints, Viking Traders, Natmed, Chemical Manufacturing and Investments Co. Ltd, Saint Lu Metal and Plastic Manufacturers Ltd and Baron Foods Limited participated in the week-long celebration of commerce in Havana, which ran from November 2 - 7, 2015. TEPA's Marketing & Promo-

tions Officer Andrena Simon says that the Havana Showcase proved an ideal platform to introduce Saint Lucian products to the Cuban and Latin American and other markets, and a valuable opportunity for the manufacturers to assess the market and evaluate foreign competition

and create new business opportunities. Key Cuban decision-makers and purchasers from industrial and commercial state entities were on hand, as well as import enterprises. This, Ms. Simon lauded as "a huge advantage", as decision-makers use this one-week event

to negotiate contracts with foreign suppliers, learn about new technologies and products, meet new exporters/importers and strengthen relationships with established suppliers. The Saint Lucia Trade Export Promotion Agency (TEPA) has come in for high praise for its strategy to pro-

pel Saint Lucia exporters into the Cuban market. TEPA CEO Jacqueline Emmanuel Flood, referred to a "pencil point" strategy that necessitated the use of a pilot brand that was already meeting the rigors of international trade. Given Baron Foods' success in that regard, TEPA negotiated an

agreement with the brand to be so used -- and in exchange, Baron would pave the way for other export-ready producers. Validation of TEPA's report has come from some of the exhibitors. Harris Paints' Cathy Charles described the experience as "very rewarding" not just for her company -- which came away with

prospects for follow up -- but also for the entire delegation as a result of TEPA's pro-activity in securing business to business meetings with prospective buyers. Paula Calderon, CEO of Caribbean Awnings, expressed hope in a new connection established with the PRO CUBA trade facilitation agency.



Baron Foods CEO Ronald Ramjattan distributed numerous business cards after patrons saw, felt and tasted the effect of his internationally award-winning 100% Saint Lucian products.



Chemico CEO Thomas Roserie and Baron CEO Ramjattan were among several local entrepreneurs who returned home with good vibes about business prospects in Cuba.



Commerce Minister Emma Hippolyte let the business persons at the Havana international fair know, quite clearly, that Saint Lucia's doors are wide open to do business with Cuba.



Saint Lucia's Ambassador to Cuba Dr Charles Isaac (right) explained to business persons gathered at the fair that his office remains open for any further in queries about how to do business with Saint Lucia.



TASTY TASTINGS! All who tasted Saint Lucia's tasty tastings had much to say about the fine quality of the island's products.



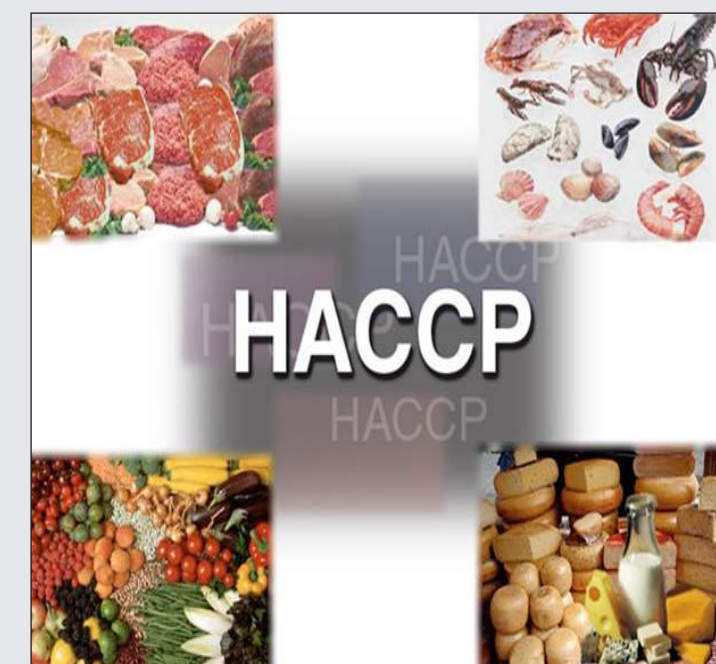
Baron Foods product display also drew commendations from all who saw it, leading to inquiries about other local products as well.

TEPA and SMA hosted HACCP top quality workshop

The Trade Export Promotion Agency (TEPA) in collaboration with the St. Lucia Manufacturers Association (SMA) jointly hosted a training workshop on Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) facilitated by the St. Lucia Bureau of Standards (SLBS). The objectives of the training workshop were: To expose participants to the principles of HACCP and increase awareness and understanding of the concepts in developing the HACCP System; and to provide participants with the knowledge and skills required for implementing a HACCP System. The workshop was held over two days -- November 17 and 18 -- and were con-

ducted from 9am-4:30pm at the Conference room of the SLBS at Bisee. The training included PowerPoint presentations, discussions and group activities. Certificates of Participation were awarded to all participants who completed both days of training and a workshop evaluation was sought via survey feedback form completed by participants at the end of the training session. This workshop was held in keeping with TEPA's mandate and aims to build capacity within the local manufacturing sector by preparing exporters and potential exporters for markets which have very stringent rules, regulations and standards especially for products which are to be consumed by humans and even animals.

Who is TEPA? The Saint Lucia Trade Export Promotion Agency (TEPA) is the Saint Lucian Government's National Trade Export and Promotion Agency, and is the lead agency mandated to spearhead the island's National Export Development Effort. The overall objective is to increase aggregate volume and value of exports from Saint Lucia. TEPA provides a range of information and support to local businesses and international buyers. Saint Lucia's TEPA works to promote and expand business in export markets around the world. TEPA also aspires to increase local exports, to assist local businesses improve profitability and long term sustainability, thus making a direct and valuable contribution to the Saint Lucian economy.



Former Top Cop calls for action on IMPACS Report to bring those to be held accountable to heel



The alleged extrajudicial killings were investigated by the IMPACS and now that the report is in and with the DPP, the former Commissioner insists that action be taken to ensure those who have questions to answer be made to, so that the rest of the force can continue to carry on with its work.

Former Police Commissioner Ausbert Regis is calling for quick action on the IMPACS Report to put outstanding issues relating to the ill-famed Operation restore Confidence (ORC) to final rest.

Noting that the Director of Public Prosecutions Victoria Charles-Clarke has been silent on the matter, Regis has called for a resolution of the outstanding.

The allegations prompted the IMPACS report based on an investigation into the killings.

Regis recalled that since the report, Prime Minister Dr Kenny Anthony has submitted the document to the DPP.

"The DPP is very silent on the issue and that's that," the ex-commissioner said.

The former Police Chief asserted that in spite of all of the challenges faced by the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force, the island's police officers are still rising to the occasion.

"This thing is hanging over and affecting everybody," Regis asserted, adding that all Police Officers want is for who needs to be held accountable to be held accountable, so that the rest of the members of the force can move forward and serve this country.

"The Prime Minister has indicated that the report has been handed to the DPP; the DPP has said nothing on the matter; so everything else you and I can say on the matter would be speculative," said Regis, who is also a former National Security Advisor.

Former Police Commissioner says ex-tourism minister's policy decision contributed to Canada's visa requirement

Ex-Police Commissioner Ausbert Regis says a policy decision by the previous government contributed to the Canadian government re-imposing a need for Saint Lucians to need visas to travel to Canada.

Regis -- who was also the island's Chief Immigration Officer -- says former Tourism Minister Allen Chastanet had in 2007 proposed the removal of outgoing immigration checks as a means of facilitating 'hassle free tourism'.

According to the former Top Cop, he argued that then Minister's proposal was not the best way to go, since the government had taken a multi-million dollar loan from the World Bank to put a Border Security Unit in place for Cricket World Cup 2007.

Regis recalled that when he was asked to go on leave, British national, John Broughton -- one of several British Officers imported from London to try to change the course for the Police Force -- complied with the Minister's request.

According to the former commissioner, "Immediately upon that happening, persons from far and wide started coming to Saint Lucia with genuine documents, obtained fraudulent Saint Lucian passports and travelled to Canada."

According to Regis, normally, persons caught with a fraudulent passport entering the United States would be arrested, jailed and deported.

However, he asserted, because of Canadian law, such an individual can claim political asylum.



Ex-Police Commissioner Ausbert Regis was also the island's Chief Immigration Officer.

Regis disclosed that as a result of the situation here -- with no outgoing immigration checks at the airports -- several holders of Saint Lucian passports were travelling to Canada; and by the time he returned to work one year later and reinstated the checks, Canadian Security Agencies were saying that 'Saint Lucia had a problem'.

In 2012, Canada imposed a visa requirement on holders of Saint Lucian passports.

Chastanet, currently the unelected leader of the major opposition UWP, has not denied the allegation. He has simply stated that he was not the one in charge of the government at the time.

Meanwhile, Regis says the accuracy of his statement can be verified by several persons, including former Prime Minister Stephenson King and current Director of Tourism Louis Lewis.

Volunteer Saint Lucia to host Fundamentals Exposé

The recently-launched Vieux Fort Chapter of Volunteer Saint Lucia has a self-proclaimed mandate to foster positive change in the southern town, by implementing projects which promote education and youth development.

In keeping with this objective, the group will host a FUNdamental Numeracy and Music Exposé on Wednesday November 25, from 10am at Independence Square.

The Exposé is intended as homage to Mathematics Month and as a catalyst to rekindle an interest in numeracy among students ranging in age from 5 to 16 years.

Students will participate in a variety of fun numeracy activities including a Mental Math Competition, Scavenger Hunt, and Math Jingle Contest.



The Governor General is a patron for the local volunteer movement and has participated in several induction ceremonies.

These fun numeracy activities will be accompanied by lots of fun entertainment including musical presentations by several popular entertainers from the south.

All schools in District 6 (Vieux Fort South) from preschool, infant, primary, secondary, tertiary and university level are expected to be in attendance.

Commerce Minister to address New York National Day Gala

Internationally acclaimed jazz musician, Saint Lucian Ronald "Boo" Hinkson, will be the featured performing headliner at the New York City Saint Lucia National Day Gala, where a Cabinet Minister will present the main address.

The event, slated for Sunday, December 13, 2015, will be held at the Restoration Plaza, located at 1368 Fulton Street, Brooklyn,

New York, beginning at 6pm.

Also to attend will be Saint Lucia's Minister for Commerce, Business Development, Investment, and Consumer Affairs Emma Hippolyte, who will deliver the keynote address.

Ms. Hippolyte also serves as parliamentary representative for Gros-Islet, one of the island's most popular tourist destinations.

The gala will include a charity raffle.

First prize is a five-night stay at Saint Lucia's luxurious Bay Gardens Hotel. Second prize is dinner for two at Saint Lucian-owned Brooklyn restaurant Suede.

All proceeds will benefit a variety of worthy causes directly associated with the island of Saint Lucia.

Crown Lands Rectification Policy Launched

During the 2015/16 Budget debate, Hon Stanley Felix, Minister for Physical Development, Housing and Urban Renewal referred to a government initiative to be introduced within the upcoming financial year.

The initiative would result in the return of lands currently owned by the Crown to a number of previous private landowners.

The basis for the new initiative is founded upon the Land Registration and Titling Project (LRTP) undertaken by the Government of Saint Lucia in the mid-1980's.

The LRTP project involved the identification of all lands, provided for the demarcation of

land boundaries, determined and recorded ownership titles and interests in all lands in Saint Lucia.

During this project, all lands that were unclaimed, unoccupied or unaccounted for in terms of private ownership were declared as Crown lands, until the contrary was proved.

Over the years, there has been a haphazard and irregular approach to the processing of rectification applications for lands owned by the Crown.

As a result, in 2011 the processing of all rectifications application for Crown lands was suspended pending the establishment and adoption of a formal Crown Lands Rectification Policy.

In that regard, the Government of Saint Lucia, through the Ministry of Physical Development, Housing and Urban Renewal will be launching the Crown Lands Rectification Policy.

This policy establishes the guidelines for approving rectification applications as it pertains to lands owned by the Crown.

Most importantly, this policy will ensure a unified, transparent and fair approach to the processing of all rectification applications.

The Crown Lands Rectification Policy launch took place on Tuesday 24th November 2015 at 2:00 p.m. at the Orchid Gardens Conference Room, Union.

Saint Lucian United Association Inc. celebrated record 95 years of doing good in NYC!

The St. Lucian United Association Inc. -- New York State's oldest registered club on record -- has celebrated its 895th birthday.

The association was formed in 1920 on 125th Street in Harlem, New York, as a friendly society where newly arrived St. Lucians could meet. Since then, it has simply continued to do good for Saint Lucians in every possible way.

With a motto of Friendship, Love, and Charity, the Association's primary obligation is to provide aid in time of adversity (sickness, death, natural disaster) as it did following the Fire at St. Jude's, the Dennery Flood, Hurricane Tomas, etc.

The association's members say they are strongly committed to continue the tradi-

tion of improvement of their brothers and sisters socially and physically and to extend the hand of goodwill to their larger community.

This year, the Association celebrated its 95th Anniversary in the form of a Gala on November 14, 2015 at the elegant Riccardo's By The Bridge in Astoria Queens.

The 95th Anniversary Gala featured entertainment by "Inferno Band" accompanied by "Trinity" and the night's music from DJ Eryk Natural Sounds.

Traditionally, the association awards a scholarship for new students at the Gala. However, in recognition of his contribution to Saint Lucians in the Diaspora, this year The St. Lucian United Association has agreed to donate the funds towards the Dr. Donatus St. Aimee Schol-

arship Fund, which will be presented by The Saint Lucia House Foundation at the 37th Independence Anniversary Gala on February 27, 2016.

This year, the Association will be honoring New York-based organizations: The Saint Lucia Mothers' Day Committee for celebrating 20 years of serving and assisting the elderly, homeless and children who are in pursuit of their higher education; and also Iyanola Marathoners on their 32nd year Anniversary for their dedication to promoting excellence within St. Lucia's sports Arena.

President Neva Jean said it best "Having a desire to do well is not enough. Our desires and good intent must be supported by hard work, perseverance and dedication."

Ministry of Health launches 'The Clothes Line Project'

The Ministry of Health has organized an event to be held during the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence observed annually from November 25 International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women to December 10 World Human Rights Day, to raise public awareness and mobilize people everywhere to bring about change.

Saint Lucians were earlier this week invited to "express solidarity with victims of all forms of violence against women and children, stamp your disapproval of this abhorrent behavior, encourage the youth to make a difference, to break the cycle -- all in an atmosphere filled with music, solidarity greetings and health related information and services."

Participants were also invited to "Travel on this journey through the lives of persons who were once victims. Hear their success stories and learn how to overcome such hardships."

"Take along your entire family to create and walk through lines



of T-shirts containing words, commitments and promises to wipe out the scourge of crime and violence, as we attempt to save our country and the next generation."

The Shirts on the 'Clothesline' represent a wide spectrum of abuse.

According to the organizers, although each shirt is unique, a common color coding is generally used to represent the different dimensions of violence against women and children:

- WHITE for women and chil-

dren who have died as a result of domestic violence

- YELLOW or BEIGE for women and children who have been battered or assaulted
- RED, PINK or ORANGE for women and children who have been raped or sexually assaulted
- BLUE or GREEN for women and children survivors of incest
- PURPLE or LAVENDER for women and children attacked because of their sexual orientation/identification

Women urged to fight violence and discrimination every day!



As women and concerned citizens around the world prepared to observe Orange Day on November 25 and 16 days of activism against gender-based violence, United and Strong Inc. lent its voice to the island-wide plea for action on this front.

The organization says this appeal was made even more urgent with the recent increase in reports of rape and child molestation on the island.

Secretary to the Board of Directors, Jessica St Rose says, "The numbers are alarming and we as women should raise our voices more on the increase of rape on the island."

"Everyone should play a role and most importantly the police and justice system should do

on other Civil Society and faith-based organizations to raise their voices in unison to demand action against all violations including rapes, incest and personal depression which has and continues to lead to suicide.

Executive Director Kenita Placide says, "It is unfortunate that the organization needs to add its voice, yet again, to a call to end all forms of violence, violations, stigma and discrimination in our Sweet Helen."

"Despite the horrific circumstance, we are thankful that women are empowered and brave enough to make these reports rights now. As part of an evolving society we must recognize that the rights and dignity of women is not a request."

Placide further urges the com-

Row erupts in London over auctioned Pitons artifacts, as local archeologists and historians demand key pieces be returned!

By Colin Maximin

He was the flamboyant aristocrat whose outrageous parties attracted royalty and rock stars to his Caribbean estate on St Lucia.

But when Lord Glenconner died in 2010, an auction more than 4,000 miles away in London disposed of the colourful peer's belongings, including priceless archaeological treasures unearthed on the island.

Now, five years on, a row has erupted over ownership of the items, with heritage organisations on St Lucia demanding that key pieces be returned and placed in a new national museum.

They have warned auctioneers Bonhams that those responsible for the sale in 2011, which raised around £1 million, 'had no right' to dispose of the heritage items.

They have also written to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to seek help.

Yet the exclusive London auction house denies any wrongdoing, saying many of the items were not from St Lucia and that 'St Lucian customs officials were involved at all stages of the export of the items and cleared all the consignments to be sent to the UK. The reception for the sale itself was attended by the High Commissioner for St Lucia. The sale was well publicized and attended.'

Items which went under the hammer include a root wood tray dating back to the 1600s, which sold for £3,750, a rare mahogany desk chair which

fetched £6,000 and a collection of 12 hand-coloured engravings of Caribbean scenes from 1837, which went for £15,000.

Colin Tennant, Lord Glenconner, was a close friend and confidant of Princess Margaret and lived out his final years on the tropical island where he amassed a collection of valuable antiques, art and historic artifacts.

But officials on the island now insist some of the items are of national cultural significance, 'plundered from a UNESCO world heritage site' around the Pitons volcanic peaks, and have demanded they be repatriated.

St Lucia landowner Peter Altnor, of the Pitons Historical Artifacts Society, told The Scottish Mail on Sunday: 'Most of the items were taken out of the soil here in the Pitons when a hotel was being built and handed over to the estate owner. They are relics of our past and belong to us here in St Lucia.'

'We need this auction house to return the treasures and artifacts of the Pitons in St Lucia back to the people. We are about to build a new museum to put these items on display.'

'People should not be trying to profit from national treasures. They belong to the state. Quite a lot of ancient relics were unearthed and given over to Lord Glenconner and his estate while he was developing a hotel on the island. We are aware of this and have been trying to get these items back.'

In a letter to Bonhams, the society has demanded that the auctioneers retrieve specific items, stating: 'These items should not have been taken out of the coun-

try as they are owned by the people of St Lucia. The Estate of Lord Glenconner, which is responsible for passing on the relics to your auction house for sale, had no right to do so.'

The letter adds: 'We look after any object of an archaeological interest. During the years, many relics of the past have been taken out of the soil surrounding the Pitons, never to be seen again. We are in the process of tracking down these. The Pitons Historical Artifacts Society would implore you to kindly return the items to the people of Saint Lucia.'

The island's heritage body, the St Lucia Archaeological and Historical Society, has also contacted the auctioneers, as well as calling for Interpol to track down the artifacts.

Eric Branford, a UNESCO conservation adviser, claimed the artifacts should never have been auctioned in London: 'These items tell the story of St Lucian history and they should not have been taken out of the country and sold.'

A spokesman for the Glenconner estate said: 'The sale enabled the estate Colin spent so much time developing to be maintained, and ensured it continues to provide a livelihood for many local people.'

The aristocrat caused a scandal when it emerged he had left his entire estate, not to Lady Anne, his wife of 54 years, but to Kent Adonai, his St Lucian manservant.

(Article featured in the Mail On Sunday last weekend.)



U&S Secretary Jessica St. Rose



U&S Executive Director Kenita Placide

what is necessary to capture the criminals.

"We as a nation should rally and not be afraid to demand what must be done. We should not sit back and let this pass."

"There is support out there so women should not be afraid to come out and tell their stories. When we raise our voices more we can get criminals to face the full force of justice."

U&S Operation Manager D. Williams joins the call noting, "There is great concern relating to the inflation of rape and violence against women in Saint Lucia."

"Our men and boys need to be more tolerant and respectful of women. They need to realize that women deserve the right to their dignity without fear of discrimination."

"More focus needs to be applied to policing mechanisms where rights-violations are acknowledged, leading to protection and empowerment of marginalised groups, especially vulnerable women and young girls. Law enforcers are true custodians of human rights and so they too play a major role in combating this issue within our communities."

The organization calls on government to strengthen legal measures to penalize perpetrators of this violation, to amend the laws to ensure the punishment fits the crime and reform the justice system to ensure that swift action within due process is implemented.

United and Strong also calls

munity to play its very vital role in ensuring the full recognition of the human rights of all people.

She says, "We ask that mothers, fathers, god-parents, aunts, uncles and community members help by guiding young persons and helping to steer them away from crime and actions that hurt others."

As a human rights organization, United and Strong says it has done its part to reduce violence, stigma and discrimination.

A series of awareness exercises for law enforcement and civil society has been staged throughout the sub-region in the past two years to sensitize police and Civil Society to human rights related issues in the society and improve their responses.

In addition, U&S continues to collaborate with civil society partners in Saint Lucia, the region and globally.

Through outreach at the United Nations, United and Strong also engages state parties to press home the issue of Saint Lucia's obligations under UN treaties such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, to reduce rights violations.

St Rose urges that November 25 always be fully acknowledged, especially by women.

"We as a nation should get together, to march take some form of action on that day. We call on all women to wear orange to bring attention to Orange Day."

The Diplomatic Courier

Commonwealth Summit under way in Malta

The 2015 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting officially started yesterday (Friday, November 27) in Malta.

The theme for this year's meeting is "The Commonwealth: Adding Global Value."

The summit follows several related events in Malta.

The Commonwealth Youth Forum opened last Saturday in Malta, attended by over 200 young people from across the Commonwealth.

The Youth Forum, which ended Wednesday, was the first of four events that preceded the 2015 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.

The other three events included a People's Forum, a Business Forum and the first-ever Women's Forum.

The Youth Forum was opened by the Prime Minister of Malta, Joseph Muscat.

With 60 percent of the Commonwealth's population of 2.3 billion under the age of 30, youth affairs were a major fo-

cus of this meeting as a force for change.

Key themes included security (in light of the recent terrorist attacks), climate change and gender equality.

Last Sunday (November 22), the second day of side events, Civil Society groups met to discuss justice and the new 2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with the main emphasis on access to justice and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

The event highlighted the similarities with the core values of the modern Commonwealth.

The Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, CIVICUS, Integra Foundation and The Royal Commonwealth Society have been discussing how Goal 16 of the newly agreed SDGs can be achieved by civil society and governments working collaboratively.

Goal 16 of the Global Goals commits all governments to effectively combine development and justice.

Pan Caribbean partnership aims for HIV/AIDS elimination by 2030

The Pan Caribbean Partnership against HIV and AIDS (PANCAP) initiated a Justice for All program in September 2013 that was designed to achieve broad based goals for ending AIDS in the region.

The goals included: enhancing family life and focusing on those in need; increasing access to treatments and affordable medicines; reducing gender inequality and violence against women and girls; promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights and age appropriate education; and achieving legislative reforms for modifying and repealing AIDS-related discriminatory laws.

At the end of the first round of national engagements, a regional consultation held in Jamaica in April 2014 produced a PANCAP declaration, which CARICOM Heads of Government at a July 2014 conference deferred due to objections to some of its elements by a group of faith-based organizations.

Consequently, the 19th Special Council for Human and Social Development (COHSOD) agreed that the declaration should be revised based on a new round of consultations that should identify the recommendations that can be implemented immediately and by the end of 2015; and also in the medium (2015-2018) and long (after 2018) terms.

The UN Special Envoy for HIV in the Caribbean has been requested to lead a series of engagements that would seek to adopt a phased implementation of the actionable



PANCAP hopes to end the AIDS epidemic by reducing viral loads to levels low enough to prevent transmission.

recommendations of the PANCAP Declaration taking into consideration the new 90-90-90 targets.

The aim is to get 90% of people with HIV tested; 90% of those tested on treatment and 90% of those on treatment with viral loads low enough to prevent transmission, all by the year 2030.

The discussions will also have to take into consideration the targets established in the 2030 sustainable development goals approved by 192 nations at the UN in September 2015 with special reference to Goal 3: ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all ages.

This universal health goal with complementary components includes ending the epidemics of AIDS, TB, Malaria, other neglected tropical diseases and preventable deaths of newborns and children Under 5 years of age by 2030; reduc-

ing maternal mortality and mortality from non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

In this regard, the emphasis will have to be placed on universal health coverage, health systems strengthening, building capability and increasing financial sustainability. Achieving these objectives means placing emphasis on shared responsibility among government, private sector and civil society.

Under these circumstances, the Justice for All program, while retaining its original elements, will focus on: What will it take to end AIDS by 2030? What role can stakeholders - parliamentarians, faith leaders, civil society, private sector, youth and media - play to achieve the goal of ending the AIDS epidemic? What would a road map look like with immediate, medium and long term actions to end AIDS?

Ex-Service League exhibit ends



The Saint Lucia Ex-Service League marked the 70th Anniversary of the end of the Second World War and commemorated Remembrance Day 2015 with an exhibition titled "Saint Lucians at War." The exhibition also served to honor those who volunteered in the two world wars and to remember those who died. The display was well received by attendees, who said it made them more aware of Saint Lucian history. The exhibition served to honor those who volunteered in the two world wars and to remember those who have died. Meanwhile, the First World War Committee has an ongoing exhibition portraying West Indian and Saint Lucian participation in that war at the Alliance Française.

Workshop taught developing discipline within children, instead of applying

The Foundation for the Development of Caribbean Children (FDCC) earlier this week hosted a workshop in Conscious Discipline for parents, early childhood practitioners and social workers from Canaries and Anse La Raye. The Workshop was held Monday and Tuesday (November 23 and 24).

Conscious Discipline® is built on the premise of developing discipline within children rather than applying discipline.

The workshop covered topics such as how the brain develops and functions, the seven powers of an adult, new ways to connect a family, classroom or team and use of the seven skills of discipline to respond to events in new ways.

The program provided participants with the capacity to manage their emotions and behavior so that they can help create a safe and positive learning environment for their children.

The FDCC saw this workshop as an opportunity to support the reduction of corporal punishment

in schools and homes and -- in the long-term -- reduce the abuse of children in the name of discipline.

This approach to discipline has been introduced in over 40 countries around the world, including other Caribbean states and territories such as Grenada, Suriname, Aruba, Bonaire, and Trinidad and Tobago.

The Presenter, Dr. Barbara Landon, is a certified instructor for the curriculum, as well as a neuro-psychologist and professor at St. George's University School of Medicine. Dr. Landon administers several programs aimed at reducing violence against children.

The work of the Foundation for the Development of Caribbean Children, a regional nonprofit organization, is aimed at helping children in the Caribbean to reach their full potential through early childhood development (ECD) outreach programs.

This week's workshop was held with the support of the United Nations Development Program for Barbados and the OECS and North-west Limited.

New Asset Recovery Unit to help tackle organized crime and corruption

A new unit of the RSS will help Caribbean countries confiscate criminals' assets, reducing their influence and power.

The Regional Security System (RSS) and the UK have joined forces to set up an Asset Recovery Unit to tackle organized crime and corruption.

The Asset Recovery Unit will be based at the RSS headquarters in Barbados, and will support the RSS in building sustainable regional capacity in asset recovery.

The Unit is being funded by the UK's development agency, the Department for International Development (DFID). DFID has committed 2.4 million pounds as part of its 17 million anti-corruption program for the region.

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the RSS and DFID was signed on 19 November.

Grantley Watson, executive director of the RSS, and Colleen Wainwright, head of DFID Caribbean were signatories to the agreement.

Watson said the region is negatively impacted by violence arising from drug trafficking and the asset recovery unit will help countries confiscate criminals' assets, reducing their influence and power.

Wainwright said the UK recognizes the importance of security and the rule of law in helping the countries of the region to develop.

The unit, which opens on December 1, will take over from the DFID-funded Caribbean criminal assets recovery program (CCARP), based

within the British High Commission.

CCARP was engaged in raising the capacity and capability of practitioners including financial investigators, prosecutors, magistrates and judges, by providing them with the knowledge and skills to recover the assets from those engaged in serious crimes.

The asset recovery unit will continue CCARP's work of promoting and strengthening legislation throughout the region to tackle the proceeds of crime.

It will lobby for the establishment of a dedicated forfeiture fund to provide additional resources for law enforcement agencies, for the criminal justice system, for victim compensation and for community projects keeping youngsters off the streets.

Dr Juffali is helping establish region's first Diabetic Research Unit and funding local feature film

Prime Minister Doctor Kenny Anthony has taken the leader of the opposition UWP to task over his opposition to the appointment of Dr Walid Juffali.

The PM says Dr Juffali, one of the richest men in Saudi Arabia, "fell in love with this country" and he "intends to invest here".

In addition, the PM said, Dr Juffali is already assisting to address the diabetes situation, which is near-epidemic in Saint Lucia.

Speaking at a public meeting of his ruling Saint Lucia Labour Party (SLP) on the Castries market Steps on Tuesday evening, the PM noted that Dr Juffali has been under intense attack by the opposition ever since it learned he was this country's Permanent Representative to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in London.

Prime Minister Anthony says Dr Juffali has decided to establish a diabetes research facility here -- the first of its kind in the

Caribbean -- plans for which were outlined in the Governor General's 2015 Throne Speech.

Dr Anthony questioned why Mr Chastanet "would not accept an investment that will touch the life of every Saint Lucian."

He recalled that Saint Lucia has the highest per capita rate of diabetes in the world -- and also that his brother and mother had died from the disease.

The prime minister argued that nearly every Saint Lucian "has a relative or a loved one would have been suffering from the disease."

The Saudi national is facing legal action from his former wife and the opposition party leader here wants the government to get involved in the case by effectively firing Dr Juffali.

But the government has declined to waive Dr Juffali's diplomatic immunity as being demanded by his ex-wife's lawyers -- and local opposition critics.

Dr Anthony explained that the Saudi billionaire's ex-wife's divorce

case against him is "a civil matter that does not involve the government and people Saint Lucia."

The Saint Lucia Prime Minister, a former University of the West Indies law lecturer, said it was "a private matter, which is different from a criminal matter."

He assured that "If any diplomatic official commits a criminal offence, then the government is duty bound to lift their diplomatic protection."

But in Dr Juffali's case, the Government of Saint Lucia argues that it will not establish a precedent in the world of diplomacy by lifting a married diplomat's immunity to force him (or her) to attend a divorce case filed by an ex-wife.

The government also points to the fact that one of Dr Juffali's companies have agreed as well to finance a film on diabetes in Saint Lucia, to help address the cause in the country with the highest rate per capita in the world. Filming is expected to begin in 2016.

RENEWING OUR COUNTRY WITH SEEDS OF HOPE!

Continued from Page 2

CENTRE OF LIFE

And even up to today, anyone who is familiar with Soufriere – and aware of the habits of its residents – knows that the square is the centre of life in the town.

Sadly, however, over the years, the square has lost its lustre, its charm, its character. I think we would all want Soufriere to become a high quality resort town.

The current situation – where the town is surrounded by high-end hotel properties all around it, while the centre is left unappealing, must be corrected.

The town must accentuate the entire experience. And so, we need to raise the bar for the town so as to entice the visitor to stay there a while, to discover the charm of the space, a space that celebrates the history and character of Soufriere and its people.

The designer and contractor, Inter-Island Architects, have developed a very appealing concept for the redevelopment of the square so that it can better serve residents and visitors alike.

And they came up with a design, which we can now realise in the coming months, thanks to today's cheque from the Republic of China (Taiwan).

RECENT INFERNO

Sadly, Soufriere was again visited by the face of fire, and the heat of devastation burned right along this very square only a few weeks ago. Soufriere is no stranger to the wrath of devastation in the past. 60 years ago, the Soufriere fire of 1955 lay waste to half the town. The structures that lay victim to this recent inferno had escaped that earlier blaze, which had spared the south-eastern side of the town.

It is said that a calamity is a terrible thing to waste, and I concur with this. There lies within such loss an opportunity to build better, and redevelop the area around the Soufriere Square into a cluster that celebrates Soufriere's historic and architectural legacy while injecting new life into the town.

There are some who may think we should not go ahead with the square project and await the replacement of the buildings consumed by the fire. However, I sincerely think it must go right ahead, because the reconstruction of the square signals that very rebirth I spoke of, at the heart of the town.

And like the phoenix, Soufriere has the opportunity to rise out of this stronger and more vibrant. So, this worthy embellishment is not only a matter of pride for the people of Soufriere. It also signals the seeds of a rejuvenation for the town which was once the economic centre of Saint Lucia.

HONOURING CULTURAL ICONS

If we are to now focus on the city, another urban renewal project which benefits today from an injection of cash is Walcott Place, in the lower Chaussee Road area of Castries.

This project is seeking to develop a museum and arts education centre in the heart of the city, honouring the achievements of cultural icons, the twin brothers Roderick Walcott, of blessed memory, and the Honourable Derek Walcott, our living Nobel Laureate.

The project is currently



The Prime Minister assured Taiwan Ambassador Ray Mou that his government much appreciates the financial assistance from Taiwan, which always goes a long way to create employment and solve community problems in all 17 constituencies.



Minister of Social Transformation Harold Dalsan (at right) and engineer Mark Hennecart with documents that will ensure continuity in the Grass Street project to build Walcott Place into an appropriate national cultural and historic shrine in homage to Derek Walcott's family, to be appreciated by Saint Lucians and visitors alike..

benefitting from a grant of EC\$7.5 million from the Republic of China (Taiwan) over a period of three years. Of this, about \$1.4 million was disbursed at the end of 2013 and the reconstruction of the childhood home of Derek and Roderick in its original architectural style commenced in January 2014. This is now nearly complete and should be handed over to the Government by the end of this month. Nearly twenty persons were regularly employed on site during that period.

SOFT LAUNCH

It is my understanding that the Saint Lucia National Trust hopes to have a soft launch of this first phase of the project in time for Nobel Laureate Week in January 2016.

It would then mean the population will begin to get a more visual sense of what the overall project entails by taking steps into the house and beginning to understand the legacy and richness of Saint Lucia's cultural genius.

PHASE TWO

Detailed designs for Phase Two of the project are ongoing by the Ministry of Physical Development, Housing & Urban Renewal and it is expected that this next phase will commence before the end of the financial year. Today's cheque of a little over EC\$2 million will assist in getting that off the ground.

It is envisaged that Phase Two will incorporate a three-level structure adjacent to Walcott House. It will include interpretation spaces, gallery, back-of-house curatorial space and artists' training workshops. Also, at ground level, a gift shop and bistro café are proposed around an internal courtyard.

GRASS STREET
Additionally, work is expected to commence by the end of January 2016 on the eastward extension of Grass Street to connect it with Leslie Land Road. No longer will Grass Street be a dead end, and a new vehicular bridge will be constructed across the Leslie Land canal to facilitate this. The road surface will be of a cobblestone form with brick sidewalks, and will greatly enhance the aesthetic of the area. Importantly, it will also increase activity on the street and make it feel safer.

This road extension will not affect any buildings which are occupied, as the structures in the path of the expansion are unused or abandoned. The properties have already been acquired by Government.

The Grass Street extension is being undertaken as an access project through the Basic Needs Trust Fund, financed by the Caribbean Development Bank. This is an integral part of improving the environment of Grass Street and promoting it as a safe thoroughfare, as a place of character and distinction.

May I publicly thank the people of Grass Street for their patience and commitment towards this Walcott Place Project.

It places the community front and centre as part of an urban renewal of Castries. And I implore that every effort must continue to be made to ensure that the community benefits directly from this investment.

RECLAIMING OUR DIGNITY

In very many ways, this undertaking by the Government is emblematic of us reclaiming our dignity as a people. The dignity of the building is nearly restored. The dignity of the street shall be restored.

The heart and soul of the people must also be restored: by honouring our architectural heritage, by celebrating our heroes, by affirming the lives, struggles and achievements of everyday working-class people of the past, present and future generations.

LAPTOPS PROGRAMME

Much of this will require a motivated, educated workforce. And today's third and final cheque is geared towards a hallmark project of this Labour Administration, and that is the Laptops Programme.

Based on a special appeal which I made on my last visit to Taiwan this year, the Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan) generously agreed to support our Secondary Schools Laptops Programme.

The Government will in January receive 3,840 laptops from the Taiwanese manufacturer, Asus. This will ensure that every single child in Form Three receives a notebook PC running on Windows 10 and offering Microsoft Office among other software.

ENTIRE SCHOOL BENEFITS

However, we have gone even further this year with this programme. The Government of the Republic of China has also agreed to the procurement of 550 desktop PCs.

These will be used to replace the aging machines currently in use at the IT labs of secondary schools and to further augment computer access where there is the capacity to do so.

So, in addition to those who have already got laptops through this programme, the entire secondary school population will be benefitting from this year's ICT intervention through enhancement of the computer labs in schools. And we

have gone even further: each secondary school will also be receiving about five projectors to enable enhanced instruction.

TEACHER TRAINING

And we have gone even further. This project is also securing the training of over 500 teachers in ICT teacher training courses.

We have recognised that our teachers must be equipped with the skills and techniques to implement ICT-enabled instruction. This training is being done collaboratively through an existing programme of the Organisation of American States (OAS), and the first batch of over 250 teachers should have already commenced the programme.

And while it is not currently included, I am also keen to ensure that principals and managers of the education system also get specialised ICT training so that they too can realise the possibilities that are available through ICT and thereby champion its use in their schools and education districts.

CHERISH THIS GIFT

Today's cheque of over EC\$250,000 is largely to enable the training components of this ICT roll-out for secondary schools. The hardware components have already been paid for and are thus not part of this cheque.

The total investment being made in this Laptops Programme this year – that is the 3,840 laptops, the 550 desktops, 125 projectors and the training of over 500 teachers – is valued at nearly EC\$3.8 million.

Barring any shipment issues, the target date for the commencement of distribution of laptops is February 1st. My salutary advice is this: that our students, teachers, principals, parents and staff of the Ministry need to cherish this gift being made by the Government and people of the Republic of China (Taiwan), and to make the absolute best use of these powerful tools.

And I am sure, Ambassador, that while you will not be able to visit every school once the laptops are here, that you would be able to visit at least a few to witness the gratitude and appreciation of the students who are benefitting.

We as a Government are seeking to develop the entire gamut of resources necessary to ensure that ICT revolutionises the education sector and places our students on a sound footing now and for the future.

STARTED THE DAY RIGHT

Ladies and gentlemen, I think there is no doubt that we have started the day right with good news for the people of Saint Lucia, thanks for the generosity of the people of the Republic of China (Taiwan).

The total disbursement today of about EC\$4.6 million will make a positive difference in Soufriere, in Castries. We will be making a positive difference in every secondary school across the country. We will be renewing some of our urban spaces. We will be celebrating our heritage, affirming our dignity and stirring the hearts of our people. We will be investing in the minds of our young people, giving them the chance to excel. We are renewing our country with seeds of hope. Let us all resolve to make the best of these resources. Ladies and gentlemen, I thank you.

Mango Bowl 2015 hits the water today and tomorrow!

The fourth Saint Lucia Mango Bowl Regatta takes place this weekend in the waters off Reduit Beach. The news from the organising committee is that Mango Bowl 2015 will be a bigger and better event this year and boats are still registering to take part in the island's premier competitive yacht race slated for Rodney Bay today and tomorrow (November 28 and 29).

Six classes of vessels will participate in the racing on Saturday and Sunday and before the weekend started, over 28 teams had already signed-up from Martinique, Barbados, Grenada, UK and Saint Lucia.

Racing and Cruising Yachts, J24 and Surprise Classes will participate in a series of races over two and this year a sixth category was added on request of Melges owners in Martinique.

Saint Lucia Mango Bowl could not continue to grow without its valued partners, including main sponsors IGY Rodney Bay Marina, Massy United Insurance and Dive Saint Lucia, who will once again provide the VIP and Media boat during the weekend competition.

Other sponsors include: Island Water World, Blue Waters, KP Marine/Yamaha, Harmony Ma-

rina Suites, BodyHoliday, Delirius, Crown Foods and Johnsons Hardware.

The free Spectator Boat is back this year, sponsored once again by Endless Summer Cruises and everyone is welcome to join on a first-come, first-served basis.

Following another popular ARC Flotilla last weekend, Mango Bowl 2015 organisers are hoping that more local sailing enthusiasts will join in Saint Lucia's largest local regatta.

An open invitation is extended to the public to come and enjoy the spectacle of sailing from the free Spectator Boat Endless Summer, which departs at 8.30am on both days from J-Dock at IGY Rodney Bay Marina.

Along with local media and specially invited guests, a TV crew from Martinique will be filming Mango Bowl 2015 for a program about a Saint Lucian J24 boat, which will be televised in early 2016.

Mango Bowl 2015 also promises to raise the social bar with a Saturday night BBQ Beach Party on the sand in front of the St. Lucia Yacht Club clubhouse, barbecue and cocktails by the team from Delirius, steel pan music and a late night DJ to provide the oldie-goldie atmosphere.



With Mango Bowl 2015 kicking off the regional regatta season, Saint Lucia has good reason to be proud of its local sailing community's continuing achievements and SLYC looks forward to celebrating with fair winds and fast racing on the last weekend of November.

Tomorrow, a Pig Roast will provide the post-racing menu, with Saint Lucia's favourite "other white meat" cooked long and slow on a spit by the Delirius 'Que Crew.'

Prizegiving will be at 4.00pm on Sunday and organisers are hoping to welcome interested

potential sailors from all over the island to enjoy the Mango Bowl weekend activities at the St. Lucia Yacht Club on Reduit Beach.

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For the full itinerary, Notice of Race and entry forms for Mango Bowl 2015, check: www.stluciayachtclub.com or email slycsecretary@gmail.com.

ARC 30 Rallying Across the Atlantic to Rodney Bay



Local yachts and sailing boats floated their way from the Castries Harbor to Rodney Bay in the 2015 Flotilla that set sail at the same standard time as the international fleet left Las Palmas.

The 30th edition of the Atlantic Rally for Cruisers started in spectacular style, as the yachts taking part in the 2015 Atlantic Rally for Cruisers made their way out of Muelle Deportivo in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria Sunday morning, en route to Saint Lucia.

There was an air of excitement as the ocean adventure began for the 1,125 sailors. The boats, split into divisions according to size, type and competition, identified themselves before making their way to the start line.

The first catamaran across the line was the only Mexican-flagged boat in the fleet, a Lagoon 450 named "El Viajero" skippered by Eduardo Torres. Twenty other multi-hulls with reefed white sails followed. A Neel 45 trimaran, "La Caravelle," was thriving in the strong breeze and was soon leading the way to Saint Lucia's shores.

At a Skippers Briefing on Saturday, Chris Tibbs remarked that since the rally began in 1986: "the boats are bigger, the boats are faster; communications have changed and so has navigation. But the wind and the waves are still the same."

The departure of the ARC fleet to Saint Lucia means that a combined total of 254 yachts are sailing the Atlantic under the ARC banner in 2015 - a record number in the 30 year history of the rally.

All ARC boats are fitted with YB Tracking satellite trackers, allowing family and friends to follow the fleet from the comfort of home.

The online fleet viewer displays the position, direction, speed and boat information. Wind direction and speed is also shown. Follow the fleet online at <http://bit.ly/1QChnDr>

or via the YB Races app.

The majority of boats will take 18 to 21 days to make the 2700 nautical mile Atlantic crossing to the Rodney Bay Marina in Saint Lucia. Each boat will be met at the dock by Saint Lucia Tourist Board and World Cruising Club staff bearing a welcome rum punch and cold drinks.

There is a full schedule of events in Rodney Bay for all ARC crews and their friends and families, culminating in the ARC prize giving on December 19.



The ARC 30 fleet after leaving Las Palmas last Sunday

'Pedi Gwes' weight-loss competition closed-off with heavy results for many!



The final challenge, an obstacle course, was held on Vigie Beach last Sunday and the final weigh-in was held yesterday.

Pedi Gwés Sent Lisi - Bon Santé Pou Lavi, is a weight loss competition organized by the Ministry of Health, Wellness, Human Services and Gender Relations. It is geared at assisting competitors to manage their weight by making lifestyle changes through proper eating habits and exercise.

The competition began on August 27 and brought together 90 competitors from nine health regions, to participate in five core activities: two health and nutrition workshops, a walk/hike to Moule-a-Chique, a dance-a-thon at the CSA Centre and an obstacle course held last Sunday, November 22.

Competitors were engaged in a 15-minute self defense session with Sensi Timothy Francis, 8th degree black belt, as a precursor to the grueling obstacle course.

The obstacle course, coordinated by Andrew Felix, Life Coach and Fitness Instructor at Fitness Freaks, saw participants jumping through and flipping over tires, weight lifting, leap-

ing over steps, testing their endurance in rope exercises and then sprinting to the finishing line.

The course was the final group activity in the competition.

At the final weigh-in yesterday, participants learned about the total weight each had lost over the three-month competition.

Organizers expressed extreme satisfaction with the commitment of participants, their dedication to training and their commitment to meal plans. Some participants lost as much as 31 pounds.

The organizers also thanked fitness instructors Tennile Wolff of Zumba Fitness, Andrew Felix of Fitness Freaks and Sensi Timothy Francis, who worked tirelessly with the participants throughout the competition free of charge.

The Pedi Gwes Competition was the brain child of Minister for Health, Wellness, Human Services and Gender Relations, Hon. Alvina Reynolds.