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NationWIDE



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Another New Beginning!



Marius Modeste photo

Saint Lucia has started another new beginning. After its third electoral change of government in as many elections, the new administration named after the June 6 poll took office eight days later, with the swearing-in ceremony for the new Cabinet of Ministers in Vieux Fort. The new ministers took office as of Wednesday, each using the opportunity to meet the staff they will work with. Prime Minister Allen M. Chastanet, sworn-in on June 7, promised in Vieux Fort this past Tuesday that his new administration will not govern in any old way, but will instead take new approaches to old problems. Following the brief election campaign, peace has returned. Winners and losers have accepted the irreversible results and it's back to normal. Current regional and global trends offer not many reasons for optimism. But nearly every Saint Lucian will wish the new government well, in pursuit of its pledges to do better. Most will also be heartened by the new Prime Minister's pledge "to make Saint Lucia the best place to live, to invest and to visit." This issue of Nationwide continues the weekly tradition of keeping Saint Lucia, the Caribbean and the rest of the world informed on the works of government. Apart from new news updates, this edition also carries a special package covering the public Cabinet swearing-in ceremony (See Pages 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9). Read on and enjoy another informative package -- and don't forget to watch *Nationwide TV* on NTN and browse the official Nationwide Website at saintlucianationwide.com

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WHAT'S INSIDE

Happy Reading! Happy Viewing! Happy Browsing!

P.M. Congratulates G.G.

Prime Minister Allen Chastanet, in one of his first acts in office, expressed his congratulations and best wishes to Her Excellency, Governor General Dame Calliopa Pearlette Louisy, on the occasion of her 70th birthday.

The accolades came two days after the general elections on Wednesday, June 8, 2016. Her Excellency was the United Kingdom on her birthday, to participate in official celebra-

tions for the 90th birthday of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Dame Pearlette Louisy has been Her Majesty's Vice Regal Representative in Saint Lucia for the past 19 years, the longest anyone has served in that position.

In the United Kingdom, along with other Governors General from the Queen's realms, Dame Pearlette attended several events, including a service of celebration and thanksgiving

at St. Paul's Cathedral on Friday, June 10.

Locally, the Office of the Governor General celebrated these two milestones with a Service of Celebration at the Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception on June 17 and a Charity Event, a Vintage Garden Party on Sunday, July 19.

Her Excellency returned to Saint Lucia on June 13, ahead of the swearing-in of the cabinet of Ministers this week.

The Blind pay tribute to GG on her birthday

President, Officers, Members, Staff and Clients of the Saint Lucia Blind Welfare Association extends best wishes to Patron of the Association Governor General Her Excellency Dame Pearlette Louisy on the occasion of the 70th Birthday, recently celebrated on June 8, 2016.

In a recent press release the Association has paid tribute to the Governor General for her immeasurable commitment, and unwavering passion she has demonstrated in the interest of the blind and visually impaired in Saint Lucia.

Dame Pearlette in May delivered a national message on the occasion of Blindness Awareness Month in which she reiterated the importance of investing in the youth.

Blindness Awareness Month was held under the theme: "Empowering today's youth, tomorrow's leaders, by promoting an inclusive society"



Governor General of Saint Lucia, Her Excellency Dame Pearlette Louisy.

Saint Lucian to receive Queen's Young Leaders Award next week

Her Majesty The Queen will present a Queen's Young Leaders Award to eight exceptional young people from the Eastern Caribbean at a ceremony at Buckingham Palace, London next week. The ceremony will take place on Thursday 23rd June.

The Young Leaders from the Eastern Caribbean are: Regis Burton from Antigua and Barbuda, Firhaana Bulbulia from Barbados, Shamelle Rice also represents Barbados (?), Tina Alfred from Dominica, Ali Dowden from Grenada, Trevis Belle from St Kitts and Nevis, Tevin Shepherd from St Lucia and Dillon Ollivierre St Vincent and the Grenadines.

As the Commonwealth celebrates The Queen's 90th birthday, this year's Award winners, all aged between 18 and 29, are being recognised by The Queen for taking the lead in transforming the lives of others and making a lasting difference in their communities. As Queen's Young Leaders, they will be representing the Eastern Caribbean as they join winners from 45 different Commonwealth countries in London for five days of high-level engagements, all designed to help them further their life-changing work.

Before receiving their Queen's Young Leaders Award at Buckingham Palace, the winners will visit 10 Downing Street and the UK headquarters of global social networking company Twitter, and meet with senior execu-

tives at the BBC World Service. They will also meet the Commonwealth Secretary General, take part in workshops at the University of Cambridge, have meetings with UK business leaders, and visit projects that are changing the lives of vulnerable people in the UK.

Thousands of young people from all over the Commonwealth applied to be a Queen's Young Leader and were selected through a competitive process.

Tina Alfred from Dominica said: "I am looking forward to Residential Week so I can learn new experiences and new Ideas and share my experiences and ideas with the most exceptional people from around the world. I am definitely looking forward to meeting such exceptional young people from around the world!"

Ali Dowden from Grenada said: "I am looking forward most of all to meeting Her Majesty The Queen and receiving

my Award while using the opportunity to network with fellow Queen's Young Leaders. This is a great honour and it will change my life in a very impactful way."

This year's Award winners are working to support others, raise awareness and inspire change on a variety of issues including education, climate change, gender equality, mental health and improving the lives of people with disabilities.

The application process to become a 2017 Queen's Young Leader opens on Friday 24 June 2016. The programme is looking for people aged between 18 and 29 who are dedicated to creating positive changes to the lives of people in the sub-region.

Details about how to apply to become a Queen's Young Leader, together with information about the 2016 Award winners and Highly Commended runners up, is available at www.queensyoungleaders.com.

Saint Lucian selected for International Youth Leadership Forum

Canaries native and youth leader Vernet Longville will soon be taking the trip of a lifetime to Lyon in France to represent Saint Lucia and the Caribbean at a prestigious international youth forum.

Ms. Longville, a young teacher at the Canaries Infant School, has been selected to take part as a Sacred Sports Foundation youth leader and organiser for the street football world International Youth Forum, as part of the massive Festival 16 event.

This all expenses paid unique opportunity is supported by the German Foreign Ministry and the Sacred Sports Foundation (SSF), whom she has, volunteered with for a number of years.

The International Youth Forum kicks off on June 28th to July 7th, 2016, during which time Ms. Longville will learn new organisational skills and jointly help support the implementation of the Festival.

Streetfootballworld's Festival 16 will bring together 500 girls and boys from disadvantaged communities from all over the globe, chosen not for their skills on the pitch but rather their commitment to changing the world through football.

At the core of the event is an exciting football 3 tournament - a unique way of playing the game that incorporates key life lessons into every match. Educational workshops and cultural workshops will also feature prominently, enabling the young participants to develop new skill sets and apply them in their local communities.

The streetfootballworld organisation is headquartered in Berlin and is an international network of non-profit organisations that use football to engage



Vernet Longville

young people and teach them life skills.

It connects grassroots initiatives and amplifies their impact working with 100 organisations from over 60 countries that use football to tackle issues in health, education, gender equality and more.

Sacred Sports Foundation (SSF) was accepted for membership in 2013 and remains the only member of the network in the English speaking Caribbean.

The festival will take place in the heart of Lyon and will be jointly organised by Sport dans la Ville and street football world.

This will be the biggest Youth Forum organised by this global network ever and is a unique lifetime opportunity for the Canaries native, which will see her participate alongside youth leaders from around the world all expenses paid!

Ms. Longville is expected to present a workshop on child safeguarding, an area she has assisted Sacred Sports Foundation with during her programme efforts with the Foundation.

Queen's 2016 Birthday Honours announced

The Queen has been graciously pleased on the occasion of Her Majesty's Birthday -- and on the advice of Her Majesty's Saint Lucia Ministers, to approve of the following Honours in the Birthday Honours List, 2016:

C.B.E./Commander of the British Empire

-- Richard Neville Clairmont PETERKIN (For services to the private sector and sports administration)

O.B.E./To be Ordinary Officers of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire

--Truscott Ronald Georges HINKSON (For services to music)
-- Brian Bartholomew LOUISY (For services to the public and private sectors)

M.B.E./To be Ordinary Members of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire

- Timothy Montgomery MONDESIR (for services to music)
- Denis Telford SAINT CLAIRE (For services to sport)
- Felicia MC. FARLANE (For services to education)
- Deland Jerome ST. JULES (For services to Music)

B.E.M./British Empire Medal (Civil Division)

- Veronique ALEXANDER (For services to young people in education)
- Denis LAURENT (For services to business)
- Rosemary JULES (For public service)
- Agatha FEVRIERE-CHARLERY (For services to education and the community)

New Prime Minister and Cabinet take office after public swearing-in ceremony in Vieux Fort



Prime Minister Allen M. Chastanet last Sunday revealed the new Saint Lucia Cabinet of Ministers during a public swearing-in ceremony at the Philip Marcellin Ground in Vieux Fort. The new Cabinet was sworn-in by Governor General Dame Pearlette Louisy, with the Oaths of Office administered by Cabinet Secretary Darrel Montrope. The Prime Minister addressed the ceremony, during which he revealed, among other things, his immediate plan to seek an update on the state of the national finances from the Finance Ministry, as well as promotion of jobs in the cruise industry and establishment of a cruise port in Vieux Fort. (More on the Special Cabinet Swearing-in ceremony and related events on Pages 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9.)

Saint Lucia voted among Top 3 Most Romantic Honeymoon Destinations in the World!



St. Lucia is no stranger to high placements in travel reviews and blogs as the island's high quality attractions have been attracting an increasing numbers of visitors. Thus, there was no surprise when the island was voted third by well-renowned Brides Magazine in the category of "Most Romantic Destination for Honeymoon Travelers". St. Lucia placed after French French Polynesia and Italy and was voted above Maui (Hawaii), South Africa, the Maldives, Mexico, Fiji, Kauai (Hawaii), Seychelles, Jamaica, Greece, Turks and Caicos, British Virgin Islands, Bali, Thailand, Hawaii (the big island), Nevis, France and the Dominican Republic.

Saint Jude advances surgical techniques with laparoscopic workshop ahead of Caribbean Surgeons Conference

Saint Jude Hospital has been hosting prominent surgeon Professor Dilip Dan here, for a three-day workshop aimed at developing surgical laparoscopic techniques that started earlier this week.

The laparoscopy workshop ran from June 13 - 15, with surgeons from Saint Lucia, Jamaica, Trinidad, and Barbados performing three operations daily. Monday's session was headed by Professor Dan.

The workshop comes ahead of the 14th annual conference of the Caribbean College of Surgeons which will take place from June 16-18 at the Coconut Bay Beach Resort & Spa in Vieux Fort.

The conference will feature a variety of presentations from a cadre of distinguished local, regional and international surgeons, ranging from the management of gastro-intestinal bleeds and updates on the latest technology in cancer diagnosis and management, to advances in trauma and burn management.



The hospital hosted a laparoscopy workshop aimed at developing surgical techniques.

The Premier and Minister of Health of Turks and Caicos, Dr. Rufus W. Ewing, is among those expected to be in attendance.

The annual conferences have enabled the Caribbean College of Surgeons to help increase the quality of surgical care for patients in the Caribbean via a global mix of experiences that continues to raise Caribbean standards and education in the art and practice of surgery.

Laparoscopic surgery, also known as keyhole surgery, allows surgeons to use small incisions guided by a camera to perform operations. The result is more cosmetically appealing since it leaves minimal scarring.

Saint Jude Hospital first began performing laparoscopic surgery in February 2016, affording the treatment to citizens in the south.

Nationwide News Briefs

Pierre to be next Opposition Leader

Hon. Philip J. Pierre has been recommended by elected members of the Saint Lucia Labour Party (SLP), to become Leader of the Parliamentary Opposition. Pierre was unanimously recommended by the SLP's six elected members. The Castries East MP is also the first Deputy Political Leader of the Labour Party. On the night the SLP lost the June 6 general elections, Party Leader and Prime Minister Doctor Kenny Anthony announced he would step down and would not be the next Opposition Leader. Dr. Anthony also formally resigned as SLP leader. The move paved the way for a National Council of the party to endorse Pierre. A formal letter informing the Governor General has already been dispatched.

Former Labour Leader comforts supporters!

Former leader of the SLP, Dr. Kenny Anthony, has urged his supporters to wipe their tears away and remain hopeful their party will return to office in the future. "I ask that you wipe away your tears, dry your eyes and lift your heads. I am at peace with myself, my country and the world. Be calm," he said. Dr. Anthony also congratulated Allen Chastanet and his United Workers Party on the victory at the polls on June 6. "On all accounts, this was a convincing victory. It is clear there was a major national swing against the Saint Lucia Labour Party. I wish the people of Saint Lucia the very best, as we embark on this new journey," he said. The former PM will serve as the Vieux-Fort South MP.

OECS observed 35th Anniversary

The OECS Commission observed the 35th Anniversary of the sub-regional community this week with several activities. On Thursday, it hosted the first-ever OECS Students webinar which was also facilitated by the OECS Commission. The webinar featured the views of students from across the OECS as they shared their views with the OECS Director General, Dr. Didacus Jules. The event took place at the Castries Room of the OECS Commission on Morne Fortune on Thursday morning. On Wednesday, a church Service was also held at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Castries.

Police Commended for Election Day work

The Royal Saint Lucia Police Force says it would like to thank all Police Officers for their dedication and commitment during the 2016 General Elections. Polling day was observed without any serious incidents. The Police Force would also commend the citizens of Saint Lucia for their overall good conduct during the General Elections.

LGBT group reacts to mass shooting at Orlando gay club

A local gay rights group has said the recent mass shooting in a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida, which left dozens of people dead, should encourage law makers in the region to remove existing laws which discriminate. Bennett Charles of United and Strong has said the region must act collectively and remove laws, which promote hate and learn to accept all people, regardless if they are lesbian, gay, bisexual or trans-gender. Charles said the act of terror and hate was not a crime only against Americans or LGBT people, but humanity. The rights activist said gays and lesbians in this region often go to some of these developed countries seeking freedom to express who they are, but noted that this is just one example of things that they are likely to face.

Bus drivers want to discuss transport sector policies

Bus drivers want to discuss policies for their sector with the new Government. The disclosure has come from the President of the National Council on Public Transportation (NCOPT), Godfrey Ferdinand. Ferdinand said there are a number of agreements with the former government that bus drivers would like to see maintained. He revealed that the NCOPT had an agreement with the former administration for an immediate increase in bus fares should the price of fuel go beyond a certain level. He stated that other agreements with bus drivers included the non-payment of route permits for a three year period and a tax amnesty.

PM to address National Workers Union Annual Congress

Hon. Allen Michael Chastanet, recently elected Prime Minister of Saint Lucia, will address over 100 delegates at the upcoming National Workers Union Annual Congress of Delegates.

The Prime Minister will join Hon. Jennifer Baptiste-Primus, Minister of Labour and Small Enterprise Development of

Trinidad and Tobago who will also be addressing the Annual Congress of Delegates at the Royal by Rex Resorts commencing from 9.00 a.m.

The Congress will be held under the theme "Trade Unions must defend social and economic benefits won by the Trade Union Movement".

At the closed session the pre-

sentations will include Portfolio Reports - on industrial relations and mobilization, education, finance and international relations.

Resolutions and election of a new Central Committee to administer the affairs of the NWU for the 2016-2017 period will conclude the day's proceedings.

Chamber of Commerce wants to meet new Prime Minister



Chamber Executive Director Brian Louisy

The Saint Lucia Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture has written a congratulatory letter to Prime Minister, Allen Chastanet, seeking a meeting to discuss issues of mutual interest.

Asked about PM Chastanet's declaration that his ruling party will eventually remove Value Added Tax (VAT), the Chamber's Executive Director, Brian Louisy, said it was an "interesting" proposal.

"We would like to see the details and hear more about it," Louisy stated.

According to him, the Chamber has always felt that there are some issues in the VAT as it exists, that the private sector body found "bothersome."

"We have had an ongoing programme of engagement with the Ministry of Finance to look at addressing these issues and we certainly are interested in seeing and hearing how the government's proposals will unfold," he asserted.

The Chamber Executive Director said the private sector institution looks forward to working with the government and moving the country forward.

He said he did not see the chamber's agenda changing, although the board has not met to discuss the situation.

Louisy noted that the organization will continue pushing for an improvement in the business environment.

He felt that that it was absolutely essential that some of the bottlenecks, administrative hurdles and constraints that affect the economy should be addressed.

Louisy observed that unemployment remains an extremely bothersome issue.

He disclosed that the Chamber of Commerce wants to work with the government to bring minds together to find ways to address the matter.

"We think it is a burning issue," Louisy said.

He noted that another issue of concern related to the process of legislation being enacted, the consultative process and the process of engagement of interested parties.

"We would like to see the procedure of bills being published before, so there is time to view them, make comments and then move forward to the enactment stage," Louisy observed.

Tourism Minister hits the ground running and visits Bevedere Plantation



John Kennedy, Boka Group's CEO and Saint Lucia's new Minister for Tourism, Dominic Fedee at Belvedere Plantation

Saint Lucia's new Minister for Tourism, Dominic Fedee, has hit the ground running by visiting Boka Group's property at Belvedere Plantation, the location of the Island's first CIP Approved Hotel development, near Canaries, as his first task since being named in his new post.

The Minister accompanied Boka CEO, John Kennedy, to the site, which also sits in his new Parliamentary Constituency of Anse La Raye Canaries.

John Kennedy said, "I am pleased that the Minister and I have had occasion to discuss this project on-site and in some detail and am encouraged by the priority that he has pledged to help us deliver new room ca-

capacity for the Island.

We have a common goal of increasing the number of 5* rooms offered to the international market and at the same time creating new local employment.

"Belvedere Plantation will preserve the historic Mahaut Estate, with only 9% low-density build, and 91% of the property remaining as an active Plantation, providing up to 800 jobs for our neighbouring communities in Belvedere, Bouton, Canaries and beyond.

"As the first approved CIP Hotel project in Saint Lucia we want to look at every opportunity to make Belvedere Plantation as attractive as possible to discerning global travellers.

"During my meeting with

Prime Minister Chastanet, last week, I conveyed our commitment to bringing new room capacity into the market as soon as possible and to working together for this common objective, in the interests of both our investors as well as the local work-force".

Tourism Minister, Dominic Fedee said "Our Government has already pledged its support for this project, we need more rooms and this development is going to be one of our prime products in Saint Lucia.

This site gives the developer a tremendous opportunity to create one of the best tourist concepts in the world and this will be a show-case development of Saint Lucian diversity.

King says evaluation will be his first order of business in his new ministry

Infrastructure Minister Stephenson King has said that an evaluation of his new ministry will be the first order of business.

Speaking after he was sworn in as Minister of Infrastructure, Energy and Labour in the new Allen Chastanet led administration, the Castries North MP pointed to the need to settle down and get a true evaluation of the ministry.

Mr King also said there was need to assess infrastructure and conduct an audit to determine what is required to bring the in-



Infrastructure Minister Hon. Stephenson King

rastructure up to standard.

He described as a "novelty", PM Chastanet's announcement of cluster portfolios in the new cabinet of ministers.

Mr King asserted that with a senior and junior minister working together, several ministries have been grouped under one roof.

"It is now to see how the experiment works to produce greater efficiency and increased productivity - that will be the hallmark of the success of the new configuration," the former Prime Minister said.

Taiwan President looks forward to working closely with new government

Following is the full text of a report on the message from Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen to the new government following the 2016 general elections, as released by the Embassy of Taiwan in Saint Lucia..

President of the Republic of China (Taiwan), Dr. Tsai Ing-wen, extends her congratulations to Prime Minister Allen Chastanet on the victory of the United Workers Party at the Saint Lucian general election of June 6, 2016.

In her letter to Prime Minister Chastanet, President Tsai states that Saint Lucia and Taiwan share the same democratic values and many similar experiences with national development, an area in which the two countries have become indispensable partners through close cooperation.

President Tsai looks forward to working closely with the newly-elected government of Saint Lucia to enhance the cordial ties and friendship between the two countries.

Premier Lin Chuen, head of the government's Executive Yuan, also conveys his best wishes to Prime Minister Chastanet, and he expects Taiwan's comprehensive



President. Tsai Ing-wen

bonds with Saint Lucia to be further cemented for the betterment of mutual benefits.

The congratulatory letters were relayed to the new government of Saint Lucia by Ambassador Ray Mou, Embassy of the Republic of China (Taiwan) in Saint Lucia. (More congratulations on Page 9)

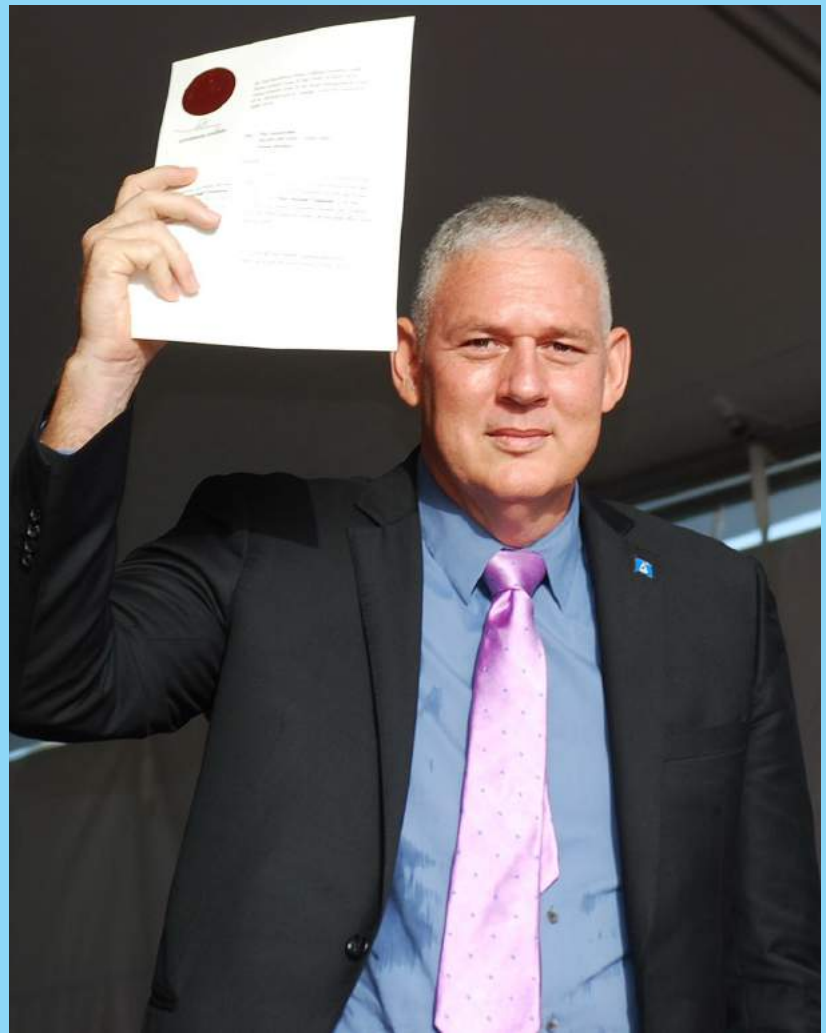
New Cabinet Takes Office!

Prime Minister Allen Chastanet on Tuesday named the members of his Cabinet at a swearing in at the Phillip Marcellin Grounds in Vieux Fort.

The ceremony confirmed the executive arm of the Government of Saint Lucia that will manage the affairs of the nation for the next five years, or until such time as the Prime Minister deems necessary.

The new Cabinet of Ministers

1. **Allen M. Chastanet** - Prime Minister, Minister for Finance, Economic Growth, Job Creation, External Affairs and Public Service
2. **Dr Gale Rigobert** - Minister for Education, Innovation, Gender Relations and Sustainable Development
3. **Ezechiel Joseph** - Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries, Physical Planning, Natural Resources and Cooperatives
4. **Stephenson King** - Minister for Infrastructure, Ports, Energy and Labour
5. **Guy Joseph** - Minister of Economic Development, Housing, Urban Renewal, Transport and Civil Aviation
6. **Lenard Montoute** - Minister for Equity, Social Justice, Empowerment, Youth Development, Sports, Culture and Local Government
7. **Edmund Estephane** - Minister within the Ministry for Equity, Social Justice, Empowerment, Youth Development, Sports, Culture and Local Government
8. **Senator Hermangild Francis** - Minister for Home Affairs, Justice and National Security
9. **Senator Mary Isaac** - Minister for Health and Wellness
10. **Bradley Felix** - Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister with responsibility for Commerce, Industry, Investment, Enterprise Development and Consumer Affairs
11. **Dominic Fedee** - Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister with responsibility for Tourism, Information and Broadcasting
12. **Jimmy Henry** - Minister within the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Physical Planning, Natural Resources and Cooperatives



Prime Minister Allen Chastanet leads the new Cabinet of Minister

13. **Senator Fortuna Belrose** - Minister within the Ministry for Equity, Social Justice, Empowerment, Youth Development, Sports, Culture and Local Government
14. **Senator Ubaldus Raymond** - Minister in the Ministry of Finance
15. **Herod Stanislas** - Minister within the Ministry of Economic Development, Housing, Urban Renewal, Transport and Civil Aviation



New PM and Cabinet sworn-in with one objective: Making Saint Lucia The Best Place to Live, Invest and Visit!

— Story and Photos by Marius Modeste —



The official swearing-in ceremony for the new Cabinet of Ministers took place Tuesday afternoon in Vieux Fort.

The historic ceremony, the first held outdoors, was attended by local and foreign dignitaries, including Grenada Prime Minister Keith Mitchell, St Kitts and Nevis Prime Minister Timothy Harris and former St. Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister Sir James Mitchell.

Also present was Monsieur Yan Monplaisir, Vice President of the Martinique Regional Council and President of the Florida Caribbean Cruise Association (FCCA) Michelle Paige.

Several religious ministers said prayers at the event, including Pastor Sherwin Griffith of Wesleyan Holiness Church, who opened the ceremony, and Catholic priest Fr Lambert St Rose, who said prayer for new PM and Cabinet, calling on God to bless them to govern properly.

That was followed by a prayer for government and people by Pastor Lewis Paul, a song by Shirley Ann Cyril for the new Cabinet and a special thanksgiving prayer by Mrs Leonne Theodore John.

The Oath of Allegiance was taken by the new Cabinet, followed by the swearing in of the new Cabinet ministers, in their respective portfolios.

The Governor General issued warrants of appointment for Senators, welcomed the crowd and outlined the provisions for appointment of the new PM, his ministers and senators.

Five Senators were appointed in the persons of Me Ubaldo Raymond, Mrs Fortuna Belrose, Mr Hermangild Francis, Mr Jimmy Henry and Mrs Mary Isaac.

Among the new Cabinet ministers were seven previous government

ministers and three newcomers and several ministries were re-configured, with many also renamed. Several of the new ministers have also been attached to ministries.

Prime Minister Allen Chastanet, who had earlier been sworn-in on June 7, addressed the ceremony, which was broadcast live.

He described the event as a very important milestone and step for his new government.

He said it was continuing something started months ago when his party held a People's Parliament, by way of a public meeting in the William Peter Boulevard in Castries, to debate the budget.

He said that was seen as the beginning of the new disposition and quickly became a people-oriented campaign, so he felt it would be wrong for the government to forget it evolved from the people.

The new PM said his new Cabinet ministers would not have been standing there taking oath of allegiance if not for the voters, so it was also important to hold ceremony in the south.

He said the country faced the highest level of unemployment at present, but it was also the greatest opportunity for growth, so he and his new government are committed to make that change.

The new PM said he was also deeply touched by the overall outpouring of support and thankful for the opportunity to serve.

He said he was eager and excited too, to get to task of building a new nation.

He admitted that the challenge is hard, but said that with support of people, he will get to rebuild the Saint Lucia brand, depending on the qualities that made this island a unique Caribbean nation.

Mr Chastanet said he wants to be remembered as the PM who brought back a sense of pride to Saint Lucia and assured that the confidence in his party was well placed.

The new PM said his administration will pursue cooperation and collaboration with social partners, including the labour and business sectors.

He offered special thanks to his wife and children, his father and mother, for all blessings, as well as his two sisters and brother.

He also thanked friends who lent a help hand and offered support.

Prime Minister Chastanet said his administration will not govern in the same way, with too many people going to bed hungry and to have to struggle and survive.

He said his administration will instead govern with focus and indicated he had cut the overall number of ministries from 14 to 8 and created clusters of teams to focus on issues facing the country.

The PM said Competitiveness, Productivity and Capacity must be three major buzz words that must guide all his ministers.

He emphasized his government was interested in introducing new and innovative ways of encouragement for Saint Lucians -- and indicated that while Bob Marley was the greatest Caribbean innovation, he was of the strong view that the next one will come from Saint Lucia.

He said the new change began that night with the ceremony planned for the South, also sending a loud message that his government intended to make Saint Lucia the best place to live, to invest and to visit.

The new PM said he will meet FCCA President Michelle Paige to show her where the new administration wants to locate the new cruise ship pier in Vieux Fort and to revive a program for jobs on cruise ships.

He also indicated NICE resources will be used to pay tuition for training for jobs on cruise ships and the plan is to use the empty factory shells to provide the training so Vieux Fort people will not have to go up to Castries for such training.

PM Chastanet ended his address reiterating that it is the intention of his party to make Saint Lucia the best place to live in the Caribbean.



Ruling party victory rally was 'Grateful and Gratifying!'

For the ruling United Workers Party, last Sunday's victory rally was an historic celebration of joy and gratitude. According to a UWP Press release, thousands of members, supporters and well wishers journeyed across the island to Micoud to receive thanks from their candidates, as the UWP brought the curtain down on the 2016 election campaign.

After a heated political season, the United Workers Party said it was thankful that its message was embraced by so many Saint Lucians.

The statement said, We look forward to working with all Saint Lucians to bring about the change that so many of you told us you desired.

The United Workers ran because we care about the nation, the working class, the poor, the vulnerable and the forgotten. Our message has always been about working for the people and helping everyone of this nation.

We now have a huge responsibility ahead. Our job is not done. Our job has just begun, with thousands waiting for our policies and programmes to come on stream.

When a country votes for healthcare for every man, woman and child, for employment, for empowerment, for education and for a better economy, it signals that a political sea change has occurred. We look forward to making a decisive difference in the lives of all Saint Lucians.



Celebrations were bright and alight in Micoud last Sunday.

New PM says he will never forget who put him there...

Prime Minister, Allen Chastanet, has paid tribute to the people's campaign which resulted in his party's 11-6 election victory.

"We were only following you and we said that we will be your servants," Chastanet told a huge crowd at last Sunday's victory rally in Micoud North.

He said he was reminded of a man from his constituency who told him: "Mr. Chastanet, I put you there and don't forget that!" The Prime Minister declared that he will not forget.

Chastanet recalled meeting some people opposition supporters who asked his opinion as to why the party lost the election. He said he told them that the people of this country were tired



New Prime Minister Allen Chastanet

and wanted something fresh.

Chastanet told the rally that the opposition never had a message for the people of this country, except to say that the UWP

and its leader are bad.

"The people of Saint Lucia said they were not going to eat that anymore," the new Prime Minister declared.

King says new government will deal with VAT

Former Prime Minister, Stephenson King, has declared that the ruling United Workers Party (UWP) will deal with Value Added Tax (VAT).

The party had promised during the last election campaign to eventually remove the measure.

King, who reclaimed his Castries North seat by a huge margin in the last elections, acknowledged that the UWP has made promises to the electorate.

"We have said to you that we will do certain things; we said we will deal with the VAT and we will deal with the VAT," he told a victory rally last night in Micoud North.

King said that he was committed to working with the political leader of the UWP, Allen Chastanet and the party team to deal with the problems Saint Lucia is faced with, including VAT.

He told the audience that already rumours were being spread about infighting within the UWP.

But he asserted that as long as he is within the party, there will be no infighting because the political group is committed to serving the people of this country.

"The mandate which you have given us, we cannot squander," the former Prime Minister stated.

He said the mandate given to



Infrastructure Minister Stephenson King addressing the UWP victory rally last week.

the UWP says to the party to go out and work with and in the interest of people of Saint Lucia.

King expressed thanks to the people of his Castries North Constituency, whom he observed had come out with a vengeance on the day of the general elections.

"They said that there was no one who can come in King Country and hope to win any election," he told the massive crowd.

The former Saint Lucia Prime Minister said not only had his constituents set a record of a margin of victory of 2,292 votes,

but also a record of the biggest margin ever in the history of Saint Lucia.

King acknowledged that people tend to lose hope very quickly.

But he said that tomorrow he starts the process of building on their hopes.

Prime Minister, Allen Chastanet, will then officially announce the composition of the new cabinet of ministers.

King disclosed that his philosophy is that if one wins by one hundred votes, the next time around the margin must be two hundred.

LPM Leader Backs Cabinet

— By Samuel Sukhnandan —



Therold Prudent, LPM Political Leader

Now that Prime Minister Allen Chastanet has named his cabinet, persons have been coming forward to critique his decision to reconfigure the various government ministries.

Adding his voice to this is Lucian Peoples Movement (LPM) Leader, Therold Prudent, who said it may be too early to state whether the reconfiguration will be effective or not, explaining that Chastanet and his team should be allowed to work first.

"If it is meant to help the country then i'm saying yes to it. And one should not be quick to try to judge what is happening here. Until they have gone to work and we are able to assess how things are shaping up, then...but its premature to try to judge what he is trying to do here," Prudent said.

The LPM leader continued, "I know there are those in the Saint Lucia Labour Party, who would still believe that they should be able to dictate to Allen Chastanet what his government should look like, but its his house."

While he admitted that the appointment is a bit different and it may be viewed as a bit puzzling, Prudent told St. Lu-

cia News Online (SNO) that it would be wise if Chastanet explain to the nation his rationale for the decision.

"It seems that basically he has hogged or taken on every single ministry there is. It may be that he has someone for the External Affairs Ministry. Like other countries in the world, we don't see a sitting prime minister holding that ministry because most prime ministers would require to be home, to see that things are going right," he added.

The LPM leader feels that Sarah Flood-Beaubrun may be appointed Minister of External Affairs.

As it relates to the Ministry for Equity, Social Justice, Empowerment, Youth Development, Sport, Culture and Local Government, Prudent said he believes that this ministry is basically the Ministry of Sport and he finds it a bit strange that three ministers have been appointed to this one department.

The LPM, he said, will be a major voice in the next five years and will have zero tolerance for any form of corruption and victimization. Prudent said he hopes that the new government will work for all Saint Lucians. (Courtesy StLuciaNewsOnline)

The Diplomatic Courier

PM to pursue better transport links with Martinique

Prime Minister Allen Chastanet wants to improve transport links between this country and Martinique.

Mr Chastanet told reporters shortly after being sworn in as Saint Lucia's new Prime Minister, that he is not happy with the standard of the ferry service, in terms of the terminal here.

"It is going to be one of the first things that we are going to be addressing," he disclosed.

The new Prime Minister revealed that he also intends to address the issue of air transportation between Saint Lucia and Martinique.

"The cost of flying between Martinique and Saint Lucia is prohibitive," Chastanet observed, adding that there is cur-



Prime Minister Allen Chastanet

rently only one flight daily.

He said he will be moving quickly to deal with the situation.

Grenada congratulates new Saint Lucia government

Grenada's Prime Minister, Dr. Keith Mitchell, has extended congratulations to the new Prime Minister of Saint Lucia, Hon. Allen Chastanet and the United Worker's Party for their victory at the polls in last Monday's general elections.

In what Prime Minister Mitchell referred to as a "convincing victory," he urged the incoming prime minister to use the considerable confidence that the people have placed in his party "to chart the course toward a new era of governance and growth."

Prime Minister Mitchell assured the new leader that Saint Lucia has the continued commitment of the government and people of Grenada to further



Dr. Keith Mitchell urged the incoming prime minister to chart the course toward a new era of governance and growth.

deepen the traditionally close relationship that exists between the two countries, as they work together for the betterment of the two nations, and the region as a whole.

According to Dr. Mitchell, the leaders of CARICOM today are "serving at a defining moment, as each of the individual countries face severe economic challenges.

"We have a unique opportunity to forge a new path for our countries' futures; and even while we work to do so within our own borders, the spirit of regional collaboration must prevail."

Grenada's New National Party, which is led by Dr. Keith Mitchell, is a sister party to the United Worker's Party, under the Caribbean Democratic Union.

OECS Commission welcomed and congratulated new government



The OECS Commission warmly welcomed the newly-elected Government of Saint Lucia into the OECS family.

The OECS Commission earlier this week extended heartiest congratulations to the newly-elected Government of Saint Lucia and Prime Minister Allen Chastanet, following the electoral victory of the United Workers Party at the June 6 general election. In a statement, the Commission said

The Commission is heartened by the peaceful conduct of the elections and commends the electorate and the political parties for the restraint and high level of maturity which was manifested throughout the process.

The OECS Commission looks forward to welcoming the newly elected Government of Saint Lucia into the OECS family, and assures

the government and people of its continued commitment to service and to the promotion of the country's interests as a member of the OECS Economic Union regionally and internationally.

In this regard, the Commission recommits to working closely with the Government of Saint Lucia in furtherance of the objectives of the country and of the organization.

The OECS Commission takes the opportunity to express sincere thanks to the outgoing Prime Minister of Saint Lucia Dr. Kenny D. Anthony for his contribution to the work of the organization, and for the guidance and support extended to the Commission during his tenure as Head of Government.

Venezuelan President congratulated Saint Lucia following General Elections

Following is the full text of the message from Venezuelan president Nicolas Maduro, following the 2016 general elections.

President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Nicolás Maduro Moros, on behalf of the Venezuelan people, congratulates the People of Saint Lucia for the holding of a peaceful and fair General Election on June 06, 2016.

In the same way, we congratulate the United Workers Party (UWP) and its leader, Mr. Allen Chastanet, on the support and trust received from the people of Saint Lucia.

The Bolivarian Government reaffirms to the new Government of Saint Lucia its unquestionable willingness to continue working together in order to deepen the already excellent relations of friendship and brotherhood, relations based on the principles of mutual respect and solidarity that exists between our Nations.



President Nicolas Madura Moros

This time is propitious to reassure the worthy people of Saint Lucia that our country will always extend a friendly hand, without condition, to our Ca-

ribbean brothers, as this is part of the indispensable historical legacy left to us by our Commander Hugo Chávez. Long live the people of Saint Lucia!

Former UK Conservative Leader Congratulates New Government

The Patron of the British Caribbean Chamber of Commerce, Lord Howard, former leader of the UK Conservative Party and British Home Secretary, today congratulated Saint Lucia's new Prime Minister, The Honourable Allen Chastanet upon being elected to lead the country for the next five years, following Monday's election.

Lord Howard told the Saint Lucia media that he "congratulates the Island's Prime Minister upon his election result and on taking office on Tuesday. It was a decisive result and part of a democratic process that all of us in the free world cherish. The BCCCSL looks forward to continuing its work in Saint Lucia and to building stronger economic and commercial ties between our nations, throughout the term of this new Government.



Former leader of the UK Conservative Party Lord Howard

"I have already had the opportunity of talking of our common goals with Prime Minister Chastanet some months ago; as I did at that time with the former Prime Minister Dr Anthony. Yesterday I sent Dr Anthony a message expressing my appreciation for the work and cooperation that he extended to the Chamber during his term in office."

New York Consulate of Saint Lucia hosted successful Immigration Forum



On Thursday (June 16, 2016), the Consulate General of Saint Lucia in New York hosted a forum on the complex and timely issue of immigration. The discussion was held at Saint Lucia House, 438 E 49th Street, Brooklyn, New York and was led by Saint Lucian attorney Janice S. Edwards, Esq., who focused on two main topics: "Everything You Need to Know About Obtaining US Permanent Residency (Green Card) Through Marriage," and "The Legal Implications of Overstaying on a Temporary US Visa." The floor was opened to questions of general interest to attendees as well. Earlier, the Consulate General of Saint Lucia in New York had urged all Saint Lucian nationals and interested parties in the tri-state region to avail themselves of that unique opportunity to become more informed on US immigration policy, and how it affects them, their families and their friends.

New Health Minister to hasten transition to new hospitals

Newly sworn in Minister for Health and Wellness Senator Mary Isaac wasted no time in getting down to business as she reported to work on Wednesday June 15th just hours after being officially sworn in.

The Minister while not yet being officially introduced to staff exchanged pleasantries with a number of familiar faces having herself worked in the public services for quite some time.

Senator Isaac spoke about some of her expectations for her

new portfolio. "Well I am very excited about it. I think it's going to be very challenging and I love a challenge. I have seen a lot of familiar faces and that makes me feel right at home." She also outlined a few of the major plans and projects she will tackle during her stint.

"I am hoping we will be able to finalize a lot of the projects that have already started. We have for instance the new hospital. I am hoping we will be able to move to the new hospital because I know that the Victoria

Hospital is in a deplorable state. I also hope that we can bring St. Jude Hospital on board so that we can move out of the stadium and give the stadium back to the sports people and a few of those things that are already in the pipeline that we really need to conclude."

Senator Isaac hopes for a very amicable relationship with staff of the Ministry of Health and Wellness as they get to know her, her personality and plans for the ministry.

"I am a very down to earth

person. I am a people person. I like the one on one. As I said I already know a lot of the staff and I hope we can just continue the type of relationship that I already have with them. I don't really like this stuck up Minister, Minister sought of thing. So I think as we get more comfortable with each other then we will decide on the way forward, even how I am called an that sought of thing."

The Minister met with her Deputy and Permanent Secretary for a brief overview of the



Minister for health and Wellness, Senator Mary Isaac

work currently being undertaken by the Ministry.

Equipment and furniture arrive for new Owen King-EU National Hospital

Activity has intensified at the Owen King EU Hospital with the arrival and installation of state-of-the-art equipment and furniture. Up to six containers were recently unloaded on the grounds of the hospital, with up to 15 more containers scheduled to arrive on island in the coming weeks.

"All the cupboards and everything that has to be hung on the walls has arrived. All the tools for the maintenance team have also arrived, and over the next few weeks we will also receive clinical furniture, surgical tables, delivery beds, hospital beds as well as specialized equipment. We will also receive EMT and ophthalmology equipment next month," Claudio



Technical teams have been busy ensuring that equipment is correctly placed within the respective departments.

Meirovich, Technical Assistance Supervisor, said.

"Right now it's a very interesting time because everything is

coming in, we're starting to install things, and we're starting to move really fast."

Meirovich explained that preparatory work such as the testing of medical gases and water lines which are required for some of the medical equipment will also be completed in coming weeks.

"We have been working on this for the past five years. It's been a long time and we had several challenges but we can see light at the end of the tunnel already."

Project Engineer at the hospital, Wendell Bernard said technical teams have been busy ensuring that the equipment is correctly placed within the respective departments in the massive facility, while taking

care that minimal damage is done.

"Walls will be scratched as you move with equipment and boxes about the place. So on a daily basis the maintenance team monitors the contractors moving the equipment and helps to coordinate things to a minimum. We've been telling them to protect our floors, protect our walls, and keep doors opened so we won't get pallet jacks and trolleys jamming into doors," Bernard said.

The EU hospital is expected to be opened later this year. As Saint Lucia eagerly awaits the official opening, detailed planning, procuring, installing, testing, and training has been ongoing at the facility.

Upgrades continuing at EU hospital



A staff and visitor cafeteria, kitchen, laundry and car park are being built.

Construction upgrades at the Owen King EU Hospital are underway.

Project Engineer at the hospital, Wendell Bernard, said a staff and visitor cafeteria is being built, in addition to a kitchen, laundry and car park.

The upgrades, he said, are not expected to significantly affect the opening of the hospital.

"We expect the cafeteria to be completed in the next three to

four months, and the car park to be finished within the next two months. But with respect to the kitchen and laundry, which affects the opening, we earmark that it will be completed in the next three months."

Mr. Bernard added that equipment and furniture for the hospital have been shipped, and will be installed over the next few months.

World Blood Donor Day observed here



Blood Donor Day was established to raise awareness of the need for safe blood and blood products.

In observance of World Blood Donor Day last week, the Saint Lucia Blood Bank has heightened the appeal for donations to help replenish its constantly depleting blood supply.

Medical Technologist at the Saint Lucia Blood Bank, Karen Louis, explained the procedure a donor goes through before blood can be accepted.

Giving blood is safe, simple, and it saves lives. We've coined the term '3S'. When you come in, we make note of your name, age, and date of birth. Then we check to see if you have enough blood to give.

We slightly prick your finger, take a drop of blood and drop it in our solution. If it sinks to the bottom in 10 seconds or less that means you're eligible to become a blood donor.

Then we go into the most crucial part - the interview, where we ask a few questions about your health and lifestyle.

We need to get an overall picture of the blood donor. If you're accepted then we go into the fun part which is when you save a life.

You sit in a chair surrounded by professional staff in a clean, well-ventilated environment, and we withdraw a unit of blood."

The Blood Bank hopes to motivate those who have never donated blood.

"If someone donates blood from age 17 -70, one would have donated 159 times," Louis said. "These units of blood separated into three components could actually save 477 lives. The need

for blood is year-round, and we definitely encourage Saint Lucians to donate especially during this time. Carnival is coming up and this is our low period. So we want persons to deposit their gift of life before the Carnival festivities. We need to ensure that we have all blood types so that if the situation arises we have an adequate, safe blood supply to provide to patients in need."

World Blood Donor Day was established in 2004 and serves to raise awareness of the need for safe blood and blood products, and to thank blood donors for their voluntary life saving gifts of blood.

This year's theme is "Blood Connects Us All: Share Life, Give Blood."

Free HIV tests for Micoud

As part of regional HIV testing day activities the Ministry of Health will be conducting free HIV testing on Thursday 23rd June, at River Bank Bar in Micoud 5pm - 9am. Residents are urged to use this opportunity to know your HIV Status, get educated on the subject and take control of your life. Condoms will be available free of charge.



Top Travel Agents and Agencies Honored at 2nd Annual Piton Awards



SLHTA President S. Destang handed prizes and plaques to winning travel agents.

Top performing booking travel agents and agencies who aced the Preferred Agent Saint Lucia Specialist [PASS] education and training programme have been presented with their Piton Awards. The winning agents successfully completed a four-step programme to become part of the Piton Awards programme. The top sellers were recognized monthly and at the end of the year the greatest scoring agents and agencies qualified for the Piton Awards.

They were flown to Saint Lucia from June 9th to 13th to experience Saint Lucia's adventurous side through a variety of land and sea based excursions. The agents also receive a real taste of the island through planned culinary activities at leading island resorts. The top winners from across Canada and the United States were honored at the second annual Piton Award Creole Carnival Gala which took place at on Saturday June 11th at Sandals Halcyon.

Saint Lucia to defend championships in culinary competition



Team Saint Lucia readies for Taste of the Caribbean competition in Miami

The nine-member Team Saint Lucia to the Taste of the Caribbean culinary competition is currently in Miami to take on more than 10 other countries in the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association's annual competition for Caribbean chefs. Saint Lucia's participation in the regional Taste of the Caribbean competition is organized by the Saint Lucia Hotel and Tourism Association (SLHTA). As part of its preparations, the SLHTA hosted a series of practice dinners where patrons paid to taste the culinary delights of Team Saint Lucia as part of the training to fine tune their respective specialties ahead of their food battles. The revenue from the practice dinners together with sponsorship from corporate entities helped cover the costs associated with the team's participation in the competition. Saint Lucia Electricity Services Limited (LUCELEC) has consistently supported Saint Lucia's participation in the culinary competition.

Corporate Communications Manager Roger Joseph said the competition helps to turn the spotlight on a unique aspect of the island's tourism product. "The global attention that Saint Lucia gets from its participation in the competition, especially when our team does well, is phenomenal. We believe our support contributes in a very tangible way to promoting another excellent reason to visit Saint Lucia. This positive exposure eventually converts into tourists coming to Saint Lucia and the resultant positive impacts on the economy," he explained. Team Saint Lucia is managed by Rodroy Thomas and includes the Taste of the Caribbean 2015 Junior Chef of the Year Edna Butcher, who will defend her title. Last year, Team Saint Lucia captured two gold medals and five silver medals in addition to the Overall Cheesecake of the Year Award. Taste of the Caribbean 2016 is being held under the theme "Island Pride 2016" from June 6-10.

Tourism bodies partner to improve yachting sector



Agencies collaborate with a view to making the sector more competitive within the Caribbean region.

The Ministry of Tourism, Heritage, and Creative Industrie, and the Saint Lucia Tourist Board (SLTB) have partnered to enhance the island's yachting sector. The two agencies convened a meeting on June 1 with officials from the Saint Lucia Air and Sea Ports Authority (SLASPA), the Soufriere Marine Management Association (SMMA) and the customs and immigration departments to discuss issues specific to yachting facilitation. Many issues facing the yachting industry were highlighted and discussed with a view to making the sector more competitive within the Caribbean region. As a first step to address issues relating to the sector and in particular, product enhancement, yachting facilitation, and data collection, the parties agreed to reactivate the yachting committee to serve as the mechanism to pull all related agencies together with the objective of growing the yachting sector. The first meeting of the yachting committee is slated for the first week of July.

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Saint Lucia targets Martinique this summer

The Saint Lucia Tourist Board (SLTB) has launched a summer promotion in Martinique titled "Vacances Magiques Saint Lucia." Saint Lucia records the majority of visitors from Martinique and the other Caribbean islands during the summer months; as such, the promotion will highlight the variety of things that Saint Lucia has to offer. Research in Martinique suggests that beyond the Pitons, the Saint Lucia Jazz and Arts Festival, and Gros Islet Friday night, the majority of visitors from Martinique are not aware of the variety of hotels, restaurants and activities that can be found in Saint Lucia. As a result, the promotion will highlight exciting family, group and couples activities. The SLTB will also promote excellent pricing and value for money packages through partnerships with local tour operators. The promotional campaign starts June 1, and will include digital advertising, direct mail to relevant databases in Martinique, television, radio, print and cinema advertising. The launch will be held on June 3 and 4 at the Galleria Travel Show in Martinique.



The majority of visitors from Martinique and the Caribbean come to Saint Lucia for summer.

US arrivals climb 15% higher

On the heels of United Airlines' December 2015 launch of non-stop service from Chicago O'Hare International Airport (ORD) to Saint Lucia's Hewanorra International Airport (UVF), visitor arrivals from the United States Midwest region have increased by a record-breaking 15 percent between January and April of 2016. Overall travel from the United States experienced a 4.9 percent increase January through April, maintaining its position as Saint Lucia's key source market, with more than 56,000 visitors. The month of April led the first four months of the year with a nearly nine percent (8.6%) increase in American tourist arrivals compared to 2015. "It is exciting to see the direct correlation between United Airline's new service from Chicago and the increase of American visitors from the Midwest region," said Director of Tourism Louis Lewis. "Combined with the ongoing hotel development projects and new direct flights, Saint Lucia is primed to welcome new and repeat visitors."



Saint Lucia experiences a surge in Midwestern visitors resulting from non-stop flight service from Chicago.

Saint Lucian hoteliers have embarked on a series of development and renovation projects across the island including Rex Resorts, Royalton Luxury Resorts, and the Harbor Club on the Rodney Bay Marina, which will result in the addition of more than 700 new rooms by the end of 2016. "Together with our hotel partners we strive to provide visitors with an unforgettable experience, which begins before they even step on the island," said Tracey Warner-Arnold, Deputy Director of Tourism. "The recent launch of a new destination website gives visitors access to a dynamic and responsive site with a map explorer component that highlights hotels, local restaurants, and a variety of activities throughout the island, including special markets such as weddings." Warner-Arnold noted that the Tourist Board has developed specialized campaigns designed to grow niche markets such as "Saint Lucia Rocks This Summer" for families; and Chocolate Heritage Month in August to spotlight the island's cocoa history and culinary strengths.

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Nationwide Sports

Jeanelle Scheper places third in Jamaica



Jeanelle Scheper has steadily held her own as one of the two best world-class women high jumpers in Saint Lucia, usually ranking above the competition in contests in the rest of the Caribbean and Latin America -- and worldwide.

Usain Bolt was the main attraction at last weekend's inaugural JN Racers Grand Prix in Kingston, Jamaica. The multiple World and Olympic champion won the men's 100m in 9.88 seconds, despite running a very poor race, from a technical standpoint.

More than 100 of the world's top athletes, representing 10 nations, were in attendance at Jamaica's National Stadium.

That number included Jeanelle Scheper, turning 22 this year and already qualified for the Summer Olympics in women's High Jump.

Scheper went up against a small but strong field in Jamaica, including the second-best jumper for the year, Chaunté Lowe of the United States of America, and Elizabeth Patterson, also of the USA.

The University of South Caro-

lina and St Joseph's Convent alumna has been battling an ankle injury for some time now, so she was reasonably satisfied with her third-place finish in Jamaica, clearing 1.84m to 1.87 for Patterson, and 1.93 for Lowe.

Scheper is presently ranked 33rd in the world, with a best clearance of just 1.89m for the season, well short of her 1.96m career-best clearance.

Sports Academy participated in successful Developmental Swim Meet



On Saturday, June 11th, Rodney Heights Aquatic Centre hosted the 10th Developmental Swim Meet.

This meet, designed specifically for swimmers who are learning to swim and never participating in a SLASA sanctioned event, hosted 139 swimmers from the various swim clubs.

During this event, Sports Academy - St Lucia entered 9 swimmers consisting of 8 males and one female.

Chenia Hosam, 12, the only girl who participated for Sports Academy, performed well in all 3 events.

Showing the courage she entered the 25M Breast, 25M Freestyle, and 25M Backstroke.

Her mother, Sheri Hosam, stated "This was her first time taking part in such an event. I knew she would do well because she likes this sport. Even if she didn't do well, the experience is great for her."

Regarding the other 8 entrants by Sports Academy, the majority come from disadvantaged backgrounds and is part of The Academy's "Sports for All" program.

Working with groups such as C.A.R.E., Crisis Centre, BTC and individual families, Sports Academy teaches life skills through sporting disciplines.

The group of 8 boys -- from age groups 11-12, 13-14, and 15 and over -- demonstrated great discipline.

The development of all of them, especially Vernon King and Stefan Theodore who have been part of the program since 2015 was phenomenal.

Vernon finished the 25 M Freestyle and 25 M Breast stroke at the top of his age group with 18.78s and 24.19s respectively. Stefan finished the 25M Freestyle with 17.57s.

While these numbers may not be Olympic or International Standard, their coach, Tobias Mastrocola, always motivates them by saying "It's the little details that are vital. Little things make BIG things happen."

He was overwhelmingly pleased with not only their results but their disposition at the event.

According to Sue Dyson, Sports Academy Trustee - PRO/Marketing, it would be a sad day if this program doesn't continue.

Unfortunately, with current economic times, Sports Academy is having difficulty receiving funding and sponsorship for their "Sports for ALL" program which assists its members from various agencies - Crisis Centre, CARE, Boys Training Centre, Transit Home, Upton Girls Garden.

Without necessary funding, the Academy will have to selectively continue its various programs not only in swimming but golf, tennis, martial arts, and the coming Summer Performance Camp (set to begin July 11, 2016).

"Our aim is to utilize various sporting disciplines to teach life skills to youth around the entire island of St Lucia.

Providing these disciplines at nominal fees, encourages and allows participants to grow into beneficial members of society.

Our country needs opportunities like this to continue so we can see growth as a country," stated Dyson.

If you would like to volunteer in the various activities, sporting disciplines or provide financial assistance/donation to Sports Academy please call 285-8894 or 460-8894.

You can also email sportsacademysla@gmail.com.

Saint Lucian athletes attending Caribbean Hoops Exposure Camp

Two Saint Lucians are in Trinidad and Tobago for the Caribbean Hoops Exposure Camp. The 25/8 camp (one extra hour, one extra day) is an annual event hosted by the Caribbean Hoops organization, where athletes from the Caribbean have the opportunity to showcase their talent to earn college and university scholarships to the United States and North America.

The 2015 edition was a success with several athletes receiving offers to attend school in the United States on basketball scholarships. The third edition of 25/8 brings together athletes from six Caribbean territories, along with coaches and scouts from schools in North America.

In attendance, with support from the Saint Lucia Basketball Federation (SLBF) and the Ministry of Youth Development and Sports, are Pakel Gumbs and Joel Polius.

Both young forwards, Pakel was



The camp connects athletes from Caribbean territories to coaches and scouts from schools in North America.

the Most Valuable Player for Saint Lucia in the Windward Islands School Games in 2015.

Joel, an employee at Le Sport, was one of the outstanding players in the KFC Commercial League last year. A member of five-time defending champions Courts Jets, he is also the defending SLBF Slam Dunk champion.

Prior to their departure, Gumbs and Polius met with acting Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Youth Development and Sports, Dr. Anthony George.

Caribbean Hoops is a non-profit organisation based in Trinidad and Tobago, working to aid in the growth and development of athletes throughout the region.

Saint Lucia beat Turks and Caicos to open CFU Under-20 with smiles!

Saint Lucia beat Turks and Caicos Islands 2-0 on Wednesday evening to start their Caribbean Football Union Under-20 campaign on a good footing. The game was played at the Ato Boldon Stadium in Trinidad and Tobago. TCI did much better than the last time they met Saint Lucia at this level. In 2014, Saint Lucia thrashed TCI 17-0, leading 11-0 at halftime. This time it was 0-0 at the interval, until Canaries midfielder Antoine Wilfred scored a header to give Saint Lucia the lead in the 57th minute. 18-year-old Micoud goalkeeper Noah Didier says: "I feel with the ability of our team we have what it takes to advance to Round 2 of the Qualifiers in October. We worked on finishing and possession in training and



I have been working on my agility between the sticks in goal too so I am looking forward to it." Yesterday's fixture against Guadeloupe promised to be a tough one.