



THE OFFICIAL NEWS MAGAZINE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SAINT LUCIA

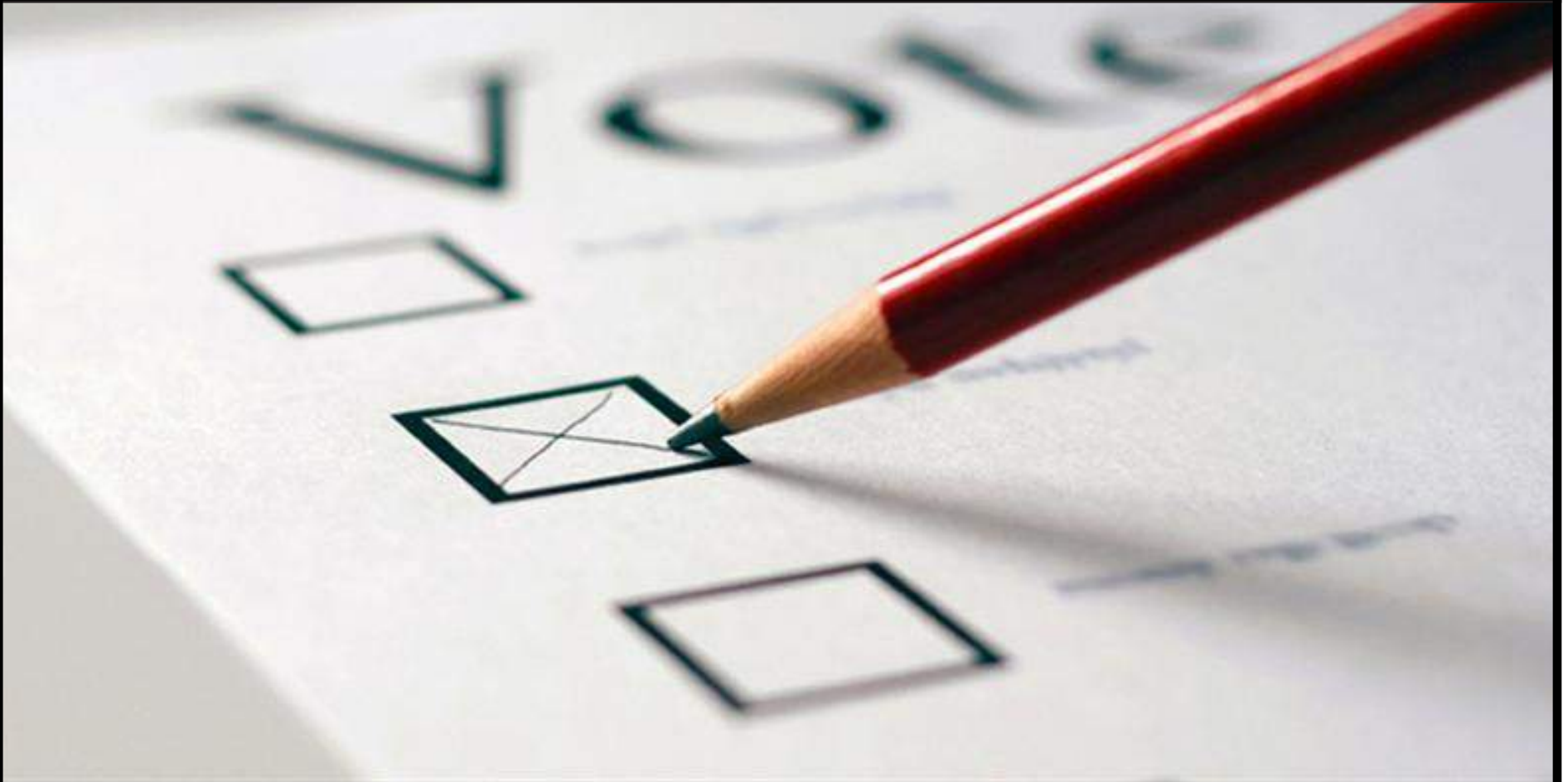
NationWIDE



TUESDAY JUNE 2, 2016

Elections 2016

Advance Poll Tomorrow!



An Advance Poll will take place around the island tomorrow, ahead of the General Election Day on Monday. Voting on June 3 will be police officers, electoral staff and others whose duties will be needed for all of Monday. They will head to designated polling stations to cast their votes at the various polling divisions from 6.30am and the stations will remain open until 6.00pm. Thereafter, those who vote tomorrow will be deployed throughout Election Day on June 6 and their votes cast will be finally counted on June 7 at the said polling stations, in the said Electoral District. Lists of Candidates for each constituency have been published, as well as Notices of Advance Poll and Grant of Poll. There will be a four-cornered fight in Micoud North and three-corner fights will take place in Gros Islet, Castries Central, Dennerly South and Soufriere, featuring mainly independents. There are six women contesting the poll this time around. But all in all, Monday will still be another big battle for the ballots between the two biggest parties, SLP and UWP. Each is claiming victory and both are hitting the hustings hard in this final home stretch to Polling Day. Saint Lucians are being called upon to recognize that this is an important election for more reasons than one, including that the two parties are equally tied (at 8-8) in the number of elections each has won since Independence in 1979. But this is also an election about a choice between continuity and returning to the starting point and a comparison of leadership based on record. On Monday, Saint Lucian voters will all have an equal chance to make that decision for family and country, putting nation before self. So far, while platform offerings have been hot, the campaign has been quite peaceful – and the Police Commissioner urges it be kept that way (See Page 3). Likewise, Nationwide encourages all Saint Lucians to go out and vote on Monday and be part of the democratic process – and to make the right choice! In this special issue, Nationwide again features several pages of voting and other election related articles, including opinions and press releases supportive of both major parties (See Pages 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11 and 12). As always, take time off to read and enjoy the information and images contained in the following pages -- then remember you can also watch **NationwideTV** on NTN and browse the Nationwide Website at stlucianationwide.com

Happy Reading! Happy Viewing! Happy Browsing!

CDB Approves \$25M Street Lighting Project - Page 2

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Jeannine Compton-Antoine Drops a Bombshell! - Page 4

Over 700 Lucians Employed at Royalton - Page 9

More Local Hotels Win World Acclaim - Page 9

Saint Lucia Still Paying Heavily for Operation Restore Confidence! - Pages 4 and 10

WHAT'S INSIDE

CDB approves \$25 Million street lighting project



The project will replace 21,587 street lights throughout the island with high efficiency LED lights.

The project will replace 21,587 street lights throughout the island with high efficiency LED lights. Saint Lucia has received approval for a \$25 Million (US\$9.5 million) LED Street Lighting Project that will replace all street lights on the island with energy-efficient ones.

The project, the first of its kind in the Caribbean, will involve the replacement of 21,587 high-pressure-sodium and mercury-vapour street lights with high efficiency light-emitting diode (LED) street lights.

Currently, the Government of Saint Lucia spends over EC\$11 million annually to illuminate the island's roadways.

This expenditure represents over one third of government's

total annual expenditure on electricity.

It is anticipated that after replacement, government's annual savings will be approximately 60 percent or a little over EC\$6 million.

Therefore, government would have fulfilled its promise to reduce government expenditure on electricity by 20 percent in the Public Service well before the 2020 target, via the LED Street Lighting Project alone.

In addition to significant financial savings, the LED Street Lighting Project will reduce the total quantity of oil imported into Saint Lucia and reduce overall national energy consumption. Saint Lucia's Energy Minister Dr. James Fletcher conceptualized the initiative and

approached the CDB for financial support.

He said the project is a key component of government's sustainable energy program; and indicated that in addition to making more revenue available for other purposes, the reduction in energy demand will help Saint Lucia meet its obligation under the Paris Climate Change Agreement, to reduce the production of greenhouse gases.

He added that the Government of Saint Lucia has shown itself to be a pioneer in sustainable energy initiatives in the Caribbean and that his ministry is pleased to be associated with the project.

The Board of Directors of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) approved the project at a May 16 meeting.

CDB Funding approved to complete Dennery water project

The Government of Saint Lucia has received approval for funding from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) for the Dennery North Water Supply Improvement Project.

The water improvement project aims to resolve the issues of poor water quality and an unreliable supply plaguing the east coast village.

The Ministry of External Affairs initially secured grant funding of \$12.5 million (US\$5 million) from the Government of Mexico. But the funding fell short of the total amount required for a new water supply and distribution system that would meet the needs of Dennery residents for the next 17 years.

As a result, the Ministry of Sustainable Development requested the CDB's assistance and on May 16, the Board of Directors approved a project request from the Government of Saint Lucia for the Dennery Water Supply Improvement Project.

The funds will provide the additional amount needed for the completion of both phases of the project.

Minister with responsibility for water, Dr. James Fletcher, said that of all the projects his ministry has been involved in, this one is among those that give him the greatest satisfaction, because for too long the



The additional funding will allow for the completion of both phases of the Dennery Water Supply Improvement Project.

residents of Dennery North have had to suffer with poor water quality and one of the most unreliable water supplies on the island.

"To have played a part in finally solving one of the most vexing water problems on the island is certainly something that is worth celebrating," the minister said.

The Dennery North Water Supply Improvement Project involves the construction of a new water intake on the Tournesse River, a raw water transmission line, a new water treatment plant, the installation of a water storage tank next to the treatment plant, a pump station and a force main to the existing

Thomazo water storage tank, a new transmission pipeline, pipe connections to the existing Morne Panache pumping station, and pipe connections to the Dernière Riviere distribution network.

Like the Vieux Fort Water Supply Improvement Project, the Dennery Water Supply Project is expected to meet the demands of the residents of the Dennery Valley until 2033, with the capacity to produce 1.4 million gallons of water per day.

In 2011, government promised to resolve the water problems of Vieux Fort and Dennery.

The Vieux Fort Water Supply Development Project has already been initiated.

GOD IS EVERYWHERE AND FOR EVERYONE!



By Stephen Lester Prescott

In 2003, in the lead-up to laying in Parliament of the Revised Criminal Code - the most comprehensive law revision in St. Lucia's history - a member of the then Cabinet latched onto one section of the over 1,000 sections of the code, breached Cabinet confidentiality and parliamentary protocol, and launched one of the most indecent and vitriolic attacks ever witnessed against her Cabinet and Parliamentary colleagues.

That member chose to go to war on the so-called abortion clause which sought to clarify and enhance what was already law, by prescribing the cases in which abortion was permissible. These were when the mother's life/health was at risk, the unborn child's life/health at

leagues "murderers and baby killers" in the process.

She could have taken a different route and requested a conscience view and vote on the matter, as SLP Senator Agatha Jn. Panel did in the Senate. She would then have been able to voice her disagreement with abortion and even vote against the criminal code on that basis, but without vilifying and insulting her colleagues. Instead, she ganged-up with some of her religious friends and other opportunistic persons in opposition to her own government.

After Sarah's grossly insulting characterization of her Cabinet colleagues, her position became untenable and her continuation in the Cabinet had to be curtailed. Somehow, in her mind though, Sarah thought she could publicly "curse up" and insult her Cabinet colleagues, and then return to Cabinet the following week as if nothing had happened. However, her Cabinet colleagues thought differently and persuaded the Prime Minister that such erratic, insulting, intolerant and untrustworthy behavior had no place in a Cabinet of St. Lucia.

So, Sarah was fired from the Cabinet because of a breach of trust and a loss of confidence in her as a team player. Later, she resigned



The writer wants the former government minister to stop playing more Godly than all, as if she is the biggest Poto Legliz in Saint Lucia and wishes to see voters reject her at the polls to avoid repetition of past problems...

risk and when conception due to rape or incest.

The law revision also stipulated that two doctors (instead of one under the previous law), had to independently certify that any of these conditions existed before an abortion was lawfully permissible.

It should be noted that whether any of us agreed with it or not, abortion was already legal before the revised criminal code, but without these new safeguards.

Sarah Flood-Beaubrun nonetheless chose this occasion to renew her religious opposition to all forms of abortion, whether legally and humanely justifiable or not. And she did so in the most vile and vulgar manner, calling her Cabinet col-

her seat in Parliament, causing the ensuing bye-election and the SLP to lose to Richard Frederick, who ran then as an Independent candidate, but with the support of the UWP Constituency group (the UWP did not contest the poll). During the bye election campaign and subsequently, she has made pronouncements on the godliness of Kenny Anthony and the Labour Party Government.

The crux of Sarah Flood-Beaubrun's claim is a false allegation that Kenny Anthony is ungodly, because according to her, "he kicked God out of Cabinet."

And exactly how did Sarah come to this patently false conclusion?

Continued on Page 12

Police Commissioner urges Unity for the Good of Saint Lucia on Election Day!

Like Her Excellency the Governor General did during her 2016 Throne Speech, Commissioner of Police Severin Moncherry has also called on Saint Lucians to show the world how we can unite for the sake of our country on Monday. This was the main message in the message from the Commissioner to the general public, issued yesterday, ahead of Election Day on Monday. After congratulating his police officers for a job well done during

the 2016 Jazz and Arts festival, Commissioner Moncherry said

As we continue into the Electioneering Period I wish to thank members of the public for their conduct thus far.

You have shown maturity and respect for the rights of others.

I implore you members of the public in the coming days, and particularly on Election Day, that you continue to act responsibly and respect the rights of others.

Everyone in Saint Lucia has a

right to choose whatever party or candidate he/she wishes to support. However, in exerting this right, you need to respect the right of others.

Let us, during this period and beyond, be more tolerant, manage our anger and use amicable ways to resolve conflict.

I call on every Saint Lucian to show the rest of the world that we can agree or disagree -- and when it matters most, we can unite for the good of Saint Lucia."



New telephone system to save taxpayers \$2M annually

The Government of Saint Lucia has launched a state-of-the-art Unified Communications System (UCS). The Unified Communications System replaces government's present archaic telephone system (which has been in operation for almost two decades) and is expected to result in annual savings of close to \$2 million in recurrent expenditure.

The system will facilitate improved collaboration between ministries and departments, and also enhance government-

citizen engagement and other operational efficiencies.

The system connects all major government departments (from Gros Islet in the North to Vieux Fort in the south) to a high capacity fiber optic backbone which allows information transfers at the speed of light.

With this system, government foreign offices will also connect to the telephone system as if they were present locally.

This feature is expected to significantly reduce the expendi-

ture on overseas calls, in addition to enhancing desktop and video conferencing capabilities that will enable government officials to engage actively at meetings held in Saint Lucia while being present at their overseas posts.

The interactive video collaboration capability is anticipated to significantly reduce overseas travel costs and improve accessibility and teamwork between foreign missions and the government.

The implementation of the



The Unified Communications System will save government close to EC\$2 million annually.

Unified Communications System will redound to greater effectiveness and efficiency in the

public service that translates to not only improved productivity but greater economic gains.

SLASPA has new crew certification training program

The Saint Lucia Air and Sea Ports Authority (SLASPA), through the Division of Maritime Affairs, will be commencing the certification of crew onboard commercial vessels, operating within Saint Lucian waters.

The program started yesterday (Wednesday, 1st June 2016) and will be targeting an estimated four hundred (400) crew members working on board nationally registered vessels.

The Director of Maritime Affairs, Mr. Christopher Alexander indicated that, "This initiative is another step by the Authority in the holistic approach of increasing overall boating safety on Saint Lucian flagged vessels. The crew invariably needs to interface with other craft or equipment and therefore requires technical skills for the safety of the vessel, crew and passengers alike."

The manual "Basic Seamanship Crew Training" has been developed by the Division of Maritime Affairs and follows the standards set by the International Maritime Organiza-

tion (IMO). It is expected that by 2017, this certification, will become a mandatory requirement for crew employed on commercial vessels (Plying for Hire).

The objective of the crew training program is to allow crew members to acquire the knowledge and skills required to perform safely and manage emergency situations on vessels.

This manual prescribes policy, standards, instructions, procedures, and guidance for the purpose of training, qualifying and certifying crew members working on commercial vessels operating within the waters of Saint Lucia.

The course covers theoretical and practical "hands on" training on equipment with classroom and mock up sessions delivered by qualified instructors.

The syllabus includes: Rules of the Road, Communications, Basic Navigation, Marlinspike Seamanship, Anchoring, Towing, Man Overboard and Fire-fighting.

It is anticipated that this hu-



The new certification mechanism will be monitored and piloted by the Marine Unit of the Police Force.

man resource capacity building will mitigate against risk and optimize the use of all available resources - equipment, procedures and people - to promote safety and enhance the efficiency of boating operations.

The training is expected to take place over a four-week period where in the end participants are expected to receive a certificate of completion as well as a crew identification card.

For further information and

collection of forms, contact the Division of Maritime Affairs at 457-6151, email at communications@slaspa.com or go our website at www.slaspa.com and visit the Media Room under Press Releases

PROUD addressing unplanned developments with Piaye residents

The Ministry of Physical Development, Housing and Urban Renewal (through the PROUD) is continuing interventions aimed at regularizing the occupation of Crown Lands, this time in the community of Piaye. All beneficiaries of PROUD in this community were invited to a meeting yesterday Wednesday, 1 June 2016 at 5:30 p.m. at the Piaye Secondary, to discuss matters pertaining to the PROUD. The meeting follows several similar ones held in various unplanned communities around the island where residents occupy Crown Lands, with a view to regularizing their unplanned developments.



The program enables those squatting on Government lands to become legitimate land owners, and improves infrastructure in those communities.

Saint Lucian Elections 2016

Jeannine drops a bomb!

SOS for Jeannine!



Former Agriculture Minister Ezekiel Joseph (left) says he knows nothing about the allegations by former cabinet colleague Jeannine Compton-Antoine.

Former Micoud North MP, Jeannine Compton-Antoine has whipped-up a storm here ahead of polling day, accusing former Agriculture Minister, Ezekiel Joseph of sexually assaulting her in his office.

Compton-Antoine, who is contesting the election as an Independent candidate for Micoud North for the second time, made the accusation last Sunday night while outlining reasons why she left the United Workers Party (UWP).

"Let me tell you about some of the reasons why I resigned -- and I have never spoken about it except to my husband and a few other people -- and I am telling you this here tonight because I am tired of people saying that I left and abandoned the people," the former MP told supporters.

Compton-Antoine said she had gone to see the then Agriculture Minister about projects in the Micoud North constituency, which is a farming community, and which she represented in parliament at the time.

She also disclosed that she knew Joseph long before, as they had both attended the same university.

Compton-Antoine said she also thought the former Babonneau MP was her friend.

"I am talking to the man and the man is chatting me, so I am wondering what is going on," she said.

Compton-Antoine said she kept telling Joseph to let them talk about Micoud North, the farmers and the problems they were having. But she stated that

he kept returning to the same topic.

"When I saw that nothing was happening, I said I would leave now," the former Micoud North MP recounted.

She told supporters that as she got up to leave, Joseph grabbed her.

Compton-Antoine said: "He tried to take off my shirt and kiss me, and you are telling me that I must stay with people like that?"

She said the alleged sexual assault happened in the Ministry of Agriculture at the government buildings on the Castries Waterfront.

Contacted by the local media for comment, Joseph denied that the incident ever occurred.

He also said he was seeking legal advice on the matter.

Relatives of victims of Operation Restore Confidence (ORC) can seek compensation

The Saint Lucia Government could end-up being sued sooner than later for compensation by families of victims of alleged extra-judicial police killings.

Family members of three men killed in Vieux Fort during the ill-fated Operation Restore Confidence (ORC) now stand a chance of obtaining compensation, if the case proceeds to the High Court.

Human Rights Activist, Mary Francis, said there are now sufficient grounds to proceed, following a Coroner's inquest which found that three of the so-called "Vieux Fort Five" were unlawfully killed.

They include: Jn Baptiste Mc Farlene, Mitchel Cadette and Allan Lenny Louisy.

The inquest ruled death by misadventure and returned an open verdict in the case of the other two men, and the verdict was delivered on Friday, May 27, 2016.

This means further evi-

dence can be presented in dealing with the police killings during ORC.

The Attorney-at-Law who is representing the Louisy family said the criminal aspect of the matter has to be pursued and vowed to continue working to ensure justice is served in the matter.

Between 2010 and 2011, 12 persons died during encounters with officers of the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force. The alleged extra-judicial killings occurred during ORC.

The police operation was undertaken under the UWP administration with then Senator Guy Mayers as Minister of Home Affairs and National Security.

However, the shootings resulted in a backlash for St. Lucia with the United States (US), citing human rights concerns, taking punitive action against the island, including sanctions against the Police Force.

The sanctions have included a boycott on provision of ammunition for US-made arms in the

hands of the police force, as well as a boycott of provision of parts for the US-supplied coast guard vessels belonging to the Police Force Marine Unit.

The UWP has said that if it wins the election, it will -- within 100 days -- scrap the current IMPACS Report and appoint a new commission to re-start the entire process.

The Labour Government insisted that due process must be allowed to take its course through the courts and has expressed hope that the next Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) here, when appointed, will take steps to allow for the judicial aspects of the IMPACS Report to be handled in a court of law.

The UWP, however, insists on another approach that can result in families of the victims having to wait much longer for justice and the accused police officers never having their day in court to prove their innocence or face punishment if found guilty.

In light of accusations of sexual assault made by the Independent Candidate for Micoud North, Jeannine Compton-Antoine against former Agriculture Minister Ezekiel Joseph on Sunday May 29, 2016, the local rights group entitles Speak Out St. Lucia (SOS) says it is every victim's right to speak out in their own time, regardless of the persons involved.

In a statement following the disclosure of the allegations, SOS said this incident highlights the need for issues affecting women to be placed at the top of the agenda of the candidates now vying to form the next government.

The group said the public must be assured that governments will have zero tolerance for crimes against women, and there should be no hesitation to advance the cause for women's issues.

Additionally, there should be

absolutely no fear or reservation by victims to tell their stories.

According to SOS, it must be noted that currently we have an unprecedented number of seven women vying for political office who have not seized the opportunity to champion the cause for women.

SOS noted that throughout this political campaign there has been little to no attempt, save for innuendoes and accusations, to put women's issues at the top of the development agenda.

It said it is unfortunate that neither the Five-Point Plan nor the Fifteen Pledges address women's and children's issues which are extremely critical at this time.

SOS appealed to all Saint Lucians to put an end to victim bashing and demanded that women's issues form part of the continuous debate and discussion by our representatives

Women Rights campaigner supports Jeannine Compton

— by Catherine Sealys —



Statistics obtained from the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force indicates that out of 161 cases of rape and attempted rape, reported from 2013-2015 only 15 proved false.

"Services for Survivors of Sexual Assault in St. Lucia", a research paper by Professor Lori K. Sudderth, Ph.D. Quinnipiac University, October 3, 2013 speaks on the ingrained culture of victim blaming and recommended public education by social services agencies and women rights groups to educate the public on this very dangerous trend.

We call on both political parties to strongly condemn this extremely dangerous and demeaning practice of re-victimizing and bullying of victims of sexual violence by their supporters and further that the women of the UWP and the SLP stand with Jeannine Compton at this time.

I offer Jeannine Compton every support in this very traumatic situation.

As an individual who has supported a number of victims of sexual violence, I see how traumatic it can be for them to be confronted, victimized, bullied and vilified by victim blaming trolls on social media, particularly women and those who are offended by the timing of her allegation.

Victims struggle to find the space they need to rebuild their lives if they are constantly subjected to abuse or intimidation by their peers.

Sarah says Ezekiel innocent until proven guilty!

Opposition UWP candidate for Castries Central, former government minister Sarah Flood-Beaubrun, says the allegation of sexual assault against former Agriculture Minister, Ezekiel Joseph, must not be taken lightly.

The accusation against Joseph, who is the UWP candidate for Babonneau in the upcoming elections, was made Sunday night at a public meeting by former Micoud North MP, Jeannine Compton-Antoine. "This is a very serious allegation," Flood-

Beaubrun said.

However, she asserted that just because an allegation of sexual assault has been made, guilt should not be automatically assumed.

"The other party is innocent until proven guilty," she said.

Flood-Beaubrun said she was sorry that the matter had to come up at this point. But she stated that an allegation has been made and it needs to be taken seriously.

Ezekiel Joseph has flatly denied the sexual assault claim and says he is seeking legal advice.

Saint Lucian Elections 2016

38 candidates contesting!

Six women included

The nomination process for the 2016 is complete and the Electoral Department has finalized the list of candidates for the June 6th 2016 poll.

The list represents a range of professions from auditor to probation officer, mini-bus operator, sports therapist, banker, lawyer, retiree and educator.

Four have listed Farmer as their profession and five say they are Educators.

There is one legislator, a quantity surveyor and a self-employed artist. Four candidates are running as Independents, two of them in Micoud North.

Four parties are contesting the June 6th Poll – they are the United Workers Party, the St.

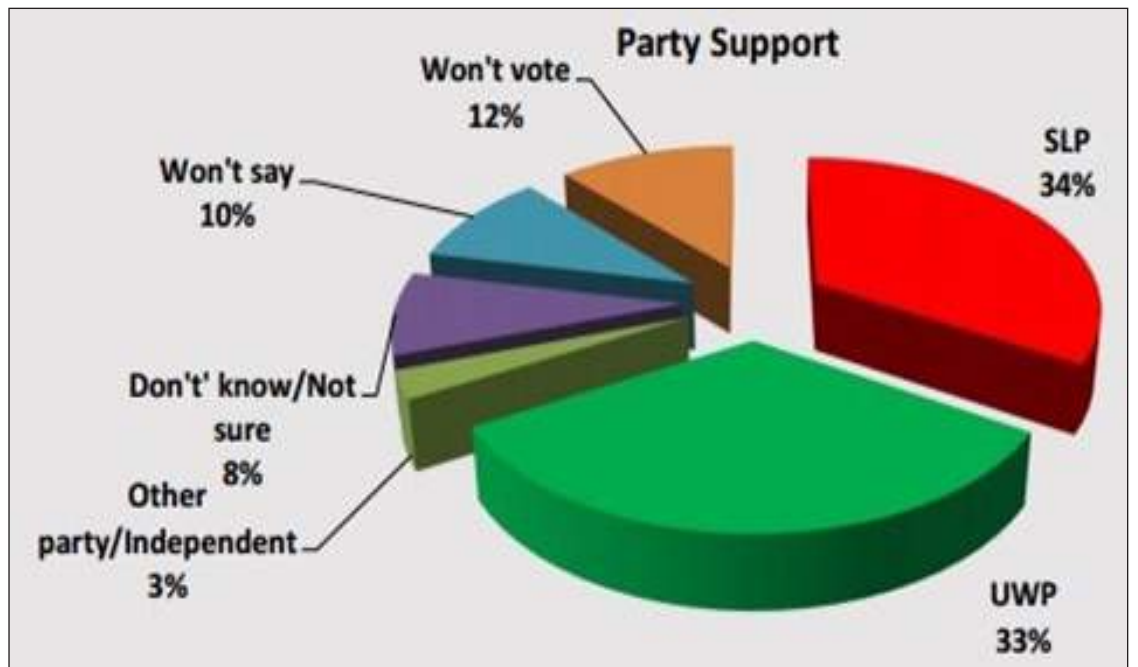
Lucia Labour Party, the Lucian Greens Party and the Lucian Peoples Movement.

The party symbols include a Saw, Scale, Hand, Head, Cow, Shoe and the traditional Star and Torch.

The Party leaders are Therold Prudent for the Lucian Peoples Movement, Andre Decaires of the Lucian Greens Party, Allen Chastanet of the United Workers Party and Dr. Kenny D. Anthony of the St. Lucia Labour Party.

Andre Decaires is not contesting this time around. The LPM is contesting one seat -- that of Gros Islet -- and the Green Party has one candidate contesting in Soufriere.

PM takes issue with CADRES claim that election is too close to call



The SLP has a serious problem with the disproportionate manner in which the CADRES poll sliced the election cake ahead of the party.

Independent candidate for Soufriere



Simon "Zaka" Gajadhar

Businessman, Simon "Zaka" Gajadhar has been nominated to contest for the Soufriere District standing as an independent candidate in the 2016 election.

Simon has been a resident of Soufriere for the past 14 years and is the owner of The Zaka Art Cafe on Bay Street on Soufriere Waterfront.

He is a family man with his wife Lea and two children they reside in the village of Belfond, Soufriere.

Gajadhar is encouraging all Saint Lucians to make an effort to get to their local polling station on the June 6 and exercise their right to say "Go" to these other parties!

Prime Minister Dr Kenny D. Anthony says he has a serious problem with the results of a poll that gives encouragement to the opposition and claims the ruling party has been losing ground.

Besides, Dr Anthony, whom is also Political leader of the ruling SLP, says he has misgivings about the political intent of the pollster, bearing in mind that he has refused to indicate who paid for the poll.

Dr Anthony in fact told a public meeting in Gros Islet that he has reason to believe the opposition UWP is behind the poll, as he had been around long

enough to understand how the polling business works.

The Barbados-based Caribbean Development Research Services INC (CADRES) on Monday predicted a "statistical dead heat" between the two major political parties contesting the June 6 general elections here.

CADRES said that an opinion poll conducted between May 20 and 23 in all 17 constituencies, showed a close race between the ruling St. Lucia Labour Party (SLP) and the main opposition United Workers Party (UWP).

It said that the poll with a margin of plus or minus 5%, found that "at this time a statistical

dead-heat between the governing SLP and the opposition UWP with the SLP recording 34% and the UWP securing 33% of the committed vote share".

It said that "some 3% of respondents promised to support independent candidates; however, it should be noted that this survey was conducted one-week ago when there was an anticipation of greater independent participation than that which materialized on nomination day.

The remaining 30 per cent of respondents were categorized as "Uncertain Voters". (See SLP Response on Page 9)

Observer Missions coming from UK, EU USA

Observer missions from the United States, the United Kingdom and the European Union will be here for the June 6, 2016 general elections, Cabinet Secretary, Darrel Montrope has said.

He says the US, the UK

and the EU have all requested observer status and have been granted approval.

The Cabinet Secretary said he did not yet know when the delegations will arrive here.

However, he disclosed that the Electoral Department and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are

expected to accommodate them.

It is also expected the CARICOM and the Organization of American States (OAS) will send missions as they habitually do for elections in every CARICOM member-state.

LPM wants election spending curbs

Lucian Peoples Movement (LPM) Leader, Therold Prudent, has called for curbs on election spending.

Prudent says Saint Lucia would be well served if half of the money that is spent on election paraphernalia by both main political parties, is used to help the poor people of this country.

The LPM leader said that election spending is a source of concern for him.

He asserted that it should not only worry him but the entire population of Saint Lucia as well.

By Prudent's estimate, millions

of dollars are being poured into the current election campaign.

Prudent noted that there is a great level of poverty in Saint Lucia.

He suggested that money used to fund election campaign could be used to better the lot of poor Saint Lucians.

The LPM candidate called for a cap on campaign spending and the introduction of campaign finance laws, to allow political organizations to declare where they are getting money from and who are contributors to their campaign.

He also said there should be a limit for election spending.

WASCO announces Election Day closing hours

Customers are advised that Cashiers and Customer Services Department of the Water and Sewerage Company Inc. Castries branch will be closed from 2pm on Monday June 6th, 2016 and regular business hours resume the following day Tuesday June 7th, 2016. The company sincerely apologizes for any inconvenience which this may cause and thanks customers in advance for their usual co-operation.



Saint Lucian Elections 2016

Did You Know?**First Elections here were in 1925**

by Anselma Aimable

Did you know the first elections were held in St. Lucia on March 9, 1925? Little campaigning took place, two of the candidates were unopposed, there was high income and property qualifications for mem-

bership of the Legislature and Universal Suffrage was still three decades away. But it was a start.

Thomas Hull was elected in district West, Thomas Westall in district North and George Palmer in district East.

All three were re-elected again in 1928, with no opposi-

tion and no campaigning, but the 1931 election saw more action when Belmar and DuBoulay conducted a heated campaign in district West.

It was when the modest middle class political aspirations of the 1920s joined forces with the more radical working class agitation of the 1930s that the new

notions of race and color were brought into play.

British Secretary of State for the Colonies, Malcolm MacDonald, realized this very well when he wrote that "Modern ideas had been spreading amongst the colored people -- with great rapidity. Discontent was being fanned

by an increase of racial animosity, which was being stirred by various causes and which was likely to become really dangerous over the next few years unless something was done to remove the other causes of discontent." (Source: *A History of St. Lucia* by Harmsen, Ellis & Devaux - 2012)

Monday is Judgement Day!

by Christopher Jones

Our fair Helen is at its Crossroads. On June 6th 2016, WE shall exercise our RIGHT (which our forefathers fought so valiantly for) and we as a people shall decide our future.

We are faced with two options, either we continue to drive forward on a familiar path, or we take a risk and journey via an alternative route for which we have no idea what lies ahead.

It is our responsibility as citizens of this country to exercise our franchise; but we must do it RIGHTLY! Now some may argue that neither Political party is the right choice, however with every decision there is always a better choice! The question is which one is it, 5 to stay alive, or 15 Pledges to move forward.

Now, since this may be rather long, and we as St. Lucians don't enjoy reading, you simply skip to the last paragraph to get my point. Frankly, any administration whose number 1 policy is to reduce and eventually remove VAT is Ludicrous!



In addition to this if this 5 point plan is their main focus, then it begs one to question whether are youth are a priority since to my knowledge we weren't included in this 5 TO STAY ALIVE fantasy.

IT would simply be a waste of time to dwell on or analyze the 4 other points brought forward, because frankly they're not worthy for a discussion, hence ONE reason why we simply CANNOT afford to allow this Flambeau administration led by Pope Allen the II to run our country.

I have been left embarrassed trying to come up with logical or rather practical reasons as to why any young person should vote for this made up coalition. I CHALLENGE anyone to come up with another 3, needless to ask for FIVE (5) valid reasons why one should vote UWP this election.

However, I've been able to

come up with 3 main reasons why anyone would vote UWP this election:

- You've been promised some high end position if the UWP were to win the next general election or have some connection or relation with one of the candidates and would therefore be fortunate enough to receive a few personal contracts. By the way I'm still trying to contact this A&M Company, because apparently since after the last election they've disappeared.
- You're one of those who simply HATE Dr Kenny Anthony and simply want to see the back of him at whatever means necessary.
- And the third reason is rather simply, you're plain INSANE! In that case, kudos to the Kenny Anthony administration for opening the mental hospital, because there's no way Golden hope would have been able to accommodate these folks.

On the other hand, coming up with reasons to vote for this labour government, if I were to list the countless reasons, no one would read this article because it would seem rather too long.

Since 15 would seem too much here's my FIVE (5) to STAY ALIVE WITH LABOUR:

- 1) VOTE LABOUR for a stable government, which kept our country from the hands of the IMF and shows signs of continuing to stabilize and grow

our economy, which is already becoming a model in the Caribbean, hence the reason why other regional leaders praise this government for their management of the economy #FACT

2) VOTE LABOUR for government which foreign investors have confidence in and not one who seeks their personal gain from every potential FDI, which restricted investment during 2006-2011. #Fact

1) VOTE LABOUR for a government who despite the propaganda DO care about the health of our people by building wellness centers all over the island and will continue to seek to implement UHC to ensure equal health care for all, and not a government who uses hospital rehabilitation funds for "other" purposes. #Fact

2) VOTE LABOUR for a government who has contributed significantly to the development of Sports in this country, hence the reason why so many playing fields can now become alive at night and communities such as Micoud are now able to thrive even more on the national football stage; and not a government which allowed LUCELEC to disconnect electricity from our international cricket stadium. #Fact

VOTE LABOUR for a government that is actually visionary and has made our environment and the sustainable development of our country a priority, in a bid to give our

children and grandchildren a chance to survive

1) the impacts of climate change on SIDS such as us; and is well on their way to meeting that objective of complete energy independence by 2035. Sadly I can't say anything about the other guys on that point since that was never a priority of theirs #Fact

I could go on and on, but I Believe my point has been brought across clear and concisely.

Certainly the Labour government has its flaws, because indeed there are certain policies which I disagree with, such as CIP, however, who do I trust more to run the CIP, a man who has already promised a prominent hotelier numerous concessions to facilitate to smooth expansion of his hotel chain in return for campaign financing, which would cripple others in the industry locally, or a man who has attracted new investments, and doesn't seek part ownership of the project. #Fact

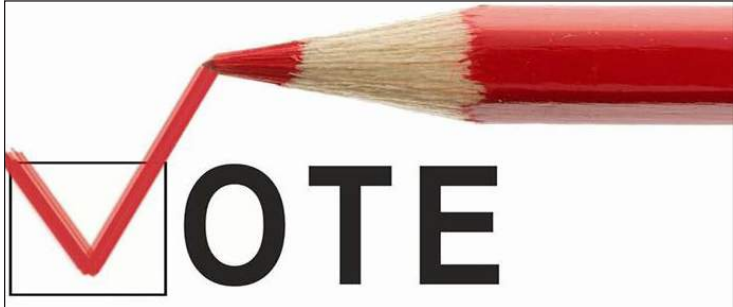
Simply put, Labour is not perfect, but with the options we have they are simple better, and I encourage all Saint Lucians especially our young people, to go out and let their vote be heard, because it is our responsibility to ensure that HURRICAN ALLEN doesn't hit our beloved fair Helen again, because this time the damage done will be beyond repair!



Saint Lucian Elections 2016

VALUE YOUR VOTE!

Be a Boss and not a used and discarded commodity!



By Maryanna Williams

Many young St. Lucians seem to have been disappointed by the apparent failure of the political process to service their needs. Some want further education, jobs, entrepreneurship opportunities, creative talent management and opportunities to participate in the development of their communities and country.

Consequently, these young St. Lucians have developed a deep distrust of dishonest politicians, to the point of withdrawing from the democratic process. They want to register their displeasure and also to penalize those politicians who use them at election time to get into power and then forget them until the next election.

While this is an understandable reaction against those politicians who come with false promises leading to shattered dreams; its application to every situation, politician or political candidate can cause serious problems for our democracy, and a shift of power from the voter to the representative.

The beauty of our democracy, is that it gives the voter, regardless of race, class, economic means and position; the power over the candidate for election. In other words, our democracy makes the voter the boss even if he is unemployed or a vagrant; and it makes the election candidate the beggar, even if he is the biggest businessman in the country.

Although many of us take it for granted, the right to be the boss at election time regardless of your station in life, did not just fall from the sky as a gift from God, or from the rich and powerful persons of this world.

So we must go back to our history to learn from whence this right came and what is its importance or significance. Indeed, History is a very important teacher and as Lord Bingo sang in his Emancipation calypso Hit in 1984: "a people without a history is like a ship without a sail and when the wind is blowing they'll surely fail." We have also heard the famous quotation that: "those who forget their history are doomed to repeat the mistakes of the past."

From the earliest historical times, those who had more money, more property, more might, more influence and more affluence, "run tings" and demonstrated dominance

and power over us lesser mortals who had to endure slavery, indentured servanthood, apartheid, racial segregation and oppressive systems of immigration.

So the move from the propertied elite controlling things to the dispossessed poor being empowered, was a long and difficult struggle.

In St. Lucia, we achieved adult suffrage (one man/woman; one vote) in 1951 due to the struggles of persons like our first Chief Minister - Sir George F.L. Charles, Martin "Oleo" Jn. Baptiste and others who pioneered the struggle for liberation. Imagine that: before 1951, the majority of adult St. Lucians could not vote to elect a government or put themselves up as candidates to be elected.

That is why the elderly persons among us go out to vote at every opportunity: because they experienced the time when they were denied the opportunity to vote, and then the empowerment of being able to vote. Many of us did not experience the two contrasts and we have not learned from our history, so we are busy taking the right to vote for granted and thinking it is cool not to vote!

But nothing can be more wrong and dangerous for the future of our democracy. Not voting is not cool! It is simply stupid and disrespectful of freedom fighters like Sir George Charles, who won us the right to vote through an intense and sustained struggle.

So while Sir George made us the boss, we are now busy making ourselves mendicant by begging politicians at election time asking, "Boss man drop something uh." In South

Africa - one of the most prosperous countries in the world - the majority black population could not vote until 1994 after the great Nelson Mandela was released from prison and blacks were allowed to be candidates and vote in elections in South Africa! And this did not happen because of the generosity of whites.

There was actually an armed struggle in South Africa and an international isolation campaign against the racist South African regime, which eventually forced the government to give the members of the black majority their democratic rights. So South African blacks will cherish their right to vote, but they may forget its importance if over the next 35 years, the history of the struggle is not recorded, brought alive and taught in its glory and splendor.

So young people of St. Lucia, I want you to stop and reconsider the wisdom of your non participation. Is it fair for you to penalize those who have been honest and have not betrayed you? It is said that "a lot of bad leaders are elected by good people who do not vote." Do you want to be responsible for saddling St. Lucia with bad leaders? Is it fair to your country and your fellow St. Lucians to endanger their future by not voting?

Given what has happened in the local political arena over the last ten (10) to twenty (20) years, every St. Lucian, young, middle-aged or old, must take responsibility for securing the future of our country by seriously analyzing the performance and record of the respective candidates and Governments and casting their votes on the basis of that record.

The SLP was in power from 1951 to 1964, 1979 to 1982, 1997 to 2006 and from 2011 to 2016. The SLP headed by Sir George F.L. Charles presided over the decolonization of St. Lucia and passed legislation to guarantee benefits and protection for workers. Even at its low point from around 1980 to 1982.

The SLP presided over some of the most progressive and

enduring national investments such as the formation of the National Commercial Bank (NCB) and the St. Lucia Development Bank (SLDB).

In 1997, the SLP under the leadership of Dr. Kenny D. Anthony rescued St. Lucia from the ravages of upheaval in the Banana industry and expanded the St. Lucian economy with opportunities for all, into a billion dollar economy, introducing Universal Secondary education and bringing unemployment to a low of 12.7% when it left office in 2006.

When it returned to office in 2011, the SLP found an economy with no foreign investment, unemployment at 24.9% and St. Lucia's international reputation and human rights record in tatters - due to widespread allegations of corruption with Taiwanese funds and road contracts, as well as unlawful killings by police during Operation Restore Confidence.

The SLP has worked hard to restore investor confidence in the St. Lucian economy with several hotel projects now underway and some soon to commence.

Vulnerable groups such as the poor, the elderly and the unemployed have been supported through NICE, SMILES, the Home Help for the Elderly and other progressive programmes.

The SLP Government continues to tackle unemployment and has brought down the rate to 20% with a pledge to bring it down to 15% by the end of its next term, if re-elected.

The UWP was in power from 1964 to 1979, 1982 to 1997 and 2006 to 2011. Its founder - Sir John Compton - presided over the transition from decolonization to Independence and over time developed the road and ports infrastructure to position St. Lucia for further development.

Necessary investments were made in health, education and physical infrastructure so as to address the basic needs of the people. The banana industry was also organized to benefit small and large farmers and give them a regular income during the days of plenty.

However, Compton's conservatism led to criticisms of not doing enough for the poor in the times of plenty while pandering to the demands of the economic elite in the country.

Hence, despite ruling St. Lucia for over 30 years previously, in 1997 when the SLP came to power, it was left to Kenny Anthony to reform the banana industry and give every child of school age the opportunity of a secondary education.

Nonetheless, after ten years of SLP rule, the UWP was returned to office in 2006 under the leadership of Sir John - then 82 years old. There was bitter division and infighting in the UWP government with Sir John paying with his life in September 2007.

Stephenson King took over as Prime Minister after Sir John's death and several scandals involving the Party's current leader - Mr. Allen Chastanet and others like Messrs Guy Joseph - plagued his government. The economy went into a tail-spin, investment dried up and unemployment rose from 12.7% to 24.9%

As a voter therefore, you have the opportunity to assess the parties as well as the individual candidates in your constituency and you must use your vote to demonstrate that you are the boss.

If you believe that one party has a better record of governance, then vote for that Party and its candidate. If you believe that one Party has a more credible and reputable leader, then vote for that party and its candidate. If you believe that one party is addressing the issues like unemployment and universal health care which matter to you, then vote for that party and its candidate. If you believe that one party is more honest in its pledges and promises to you, then vote for that party and its candidate.

And if you believe that one party will provide a more stable and secure future, then vote for that party and its candidate. The indisputable fact is that we must have a government and we all want the best government possible for our country. If we stay out of the process, then we cannot guarantee the best government or its accountability to "we the people."

Yes, we may each have only one vote, but one vote can make a difference as every vote counts. So use your vote and use it wisely and responsibly. Worry not about those making wild and false promises for if you fall prey to their lies, you will be disappointed and demoralized afterwards.

On June 6, 2016 let God and your conscience and your guide, and vote for a party and Government which has a proven record of working for all the people of St. Lucia, especially the poor, the unemployed and the dispossessed.



Saint Lucian Elections 2016



SLP Responds to CADRES Poll

The Saint Lucia Labour Party takes the results of Election Polls seriously. We note that in the CADRES poll released by Mr. Peter Wickham yesterday, the lead of the Saint Lucia Labour Party over the United Workers Party was confirmed.

The Saint Lucia Labour Party recently conducted two of its own polls with two different reputable pollsters and both of these polls indicate that the Labour Party is firmly in sight of an election victory on 6th June, 2016.

In our analysis of the CADRES poll, we observed some interesting findings that require further explanation.

For example, the CADRES poll sampled 1,000 persons, of which only 14% said they do not intend to vote. However, voter turnout in Saint Lucia is traditionally 55%, which means that roughly 45% of our voting population does not vote.

This puts Mr. Wickham's figures at variance with historical trends, because it suggests an 86% voter turnout.

The best voter turnout in the

last thirty years took place in the 1997 General Election, and even then, voter turnout did not hit the 70% mark.

If the CADRES sample is only of likely voters and not total voters, then the 14% figure should not exist. So there clearly is a major discrepancy in the CADRES poll results and Mr. Wickham needs to explain whether his figures are based on likely voters or all respondents.

Secondly, in Mr. Wickham's analysis, after he has taken the SLP, UWP and Other/Independent Voters into account, he refers to the remaining group of 30% as 'uncertain voters'. However, in this category is a 10% group which the survey categorized as 'Won't Say'.

This 'Won't Say' category is not uncertain; it is certain but will not reveal its voting choice. Therefore, to use the 30% figure as his predictive is faulty and the results from that predictive are not accurate.

From a statistical perspective, even if the 'Won't Vote' category is accepted, even when it should not be part of the analy-

General Elections are won on Election Day and we will continue our unrelenting campaign to convince Saint Lucians that the Saint Lucia Labour Party is the only choice for continued growth, stability and progress in our country.

sis, then it should be removed from any further predictive analysis (since these people will not be voting), as should the 10% who know where they will vote but have declined to reveal this to the pollster.

Therefore, the prediction of uncertain voters should be on an 8% sample and not 30% as Mr. Wickham claims.

Another curious part of Mr Wickham's analysis is his conclusion on the change in support for the various political leaders.

The CADRES poll states that presently, Dr. Kenny Anthony enjoys a 31% favourability rating, which is the same rating he enjoyed in October 2015.

It goes on to reveal that Al-

len Chastanet currently trails Prime Minister Anthony, with a 28% favourability rating, compared to a 19% favourability rating nine months ago.

Mr. Wickham's shocking conclusion is that Dr. Anthony has lost more than half of his support, while Mr. Chastanet has doubled his support. However, this is not substantiated by the results.

First of all, it indicates that Prime Minister Kenny Anthony's support is unchanged from nine months ago, not diminished as suggested by Peter Wickham.

Secondly, Mr. Wickham has not indicated whether the support that Allen Chastanet has appeared to have picked up in

the current poll is support that, nine months ago, was going to Stephenson King.

Finally, Mr. Peter Wickham declined to discuss his predictive tool and how it is based, except to state that it is highly successful.

This assertion, however, is not supported by Mr. Wickham's recent track record.

These findings notwithstanding, The Saint Lucia Labour Party is very much aware of the fact that General Elections are won on Election Day and we will continue our unrelenting campaign to convince Saint Lucians that the Saint Lucia Labour Party is the only choice for continued growth, stability and progress in our country.



Five to Revive and Thrive!

Ten new initiatives that will reform not just the economy in the south, but the entire economy of St. Lucia, were announced on Sunday as the United Workers' Party held a mass rally in the Choiseul/Saltibus constituency.

It is an area that has begun turning yellow behind the leadership of candidate Bradley Felix. Between the promises of new jobs, reduced taxes and renewed hope, UWP supporters, among them thousands of youths, were treated to a musical feast.

The candidate for Soufriere/Fond St. Jacques Herod Stanislas as well as the candidate for Anse la Raye/Canaries Dominique Fedee, both spoke of the UWP's intention, once elected into government, to create new economic spaces by focusing on the development of cottage industries and the revival of the tourism, agriculture and manufacturing sectors in these areas.

According to Stanislas, the people of the south needed to free themselves of the 'Labour' pains they have suffered over the past five years, and to give birth to a bright new tomorrow.

UWP Babonneau Candidate and Deputy Political Leader Ezechiel Joseph went on to

announce the party's 'Five to Revive' strategy for the agriculture sector to bring about growth and economic independence for the south and west. According to Joseph the UWP will:

1. Rationalize all available arable lands and ensure they are used for agriculture.
2. Revitalize the banana industry and implement a programme to assist banana farmers with inputs including land preparation, drainage, financing, and the development of downstream industries. Evaluate the possibilities of introducing value added products that can be manufactured from bananas.
3. Introduce new technology to make agriculture more attractive in the areas of vegetable production, livestock production and fisheries.
4. Establish a new marketing hub for farmers.
5. Provide support to farmers by injecting resources into the St. Lucia Development Bank with a mandate to support the agriculture sector through the increased provision of soft loans to farmers.

Mr. Joseph says a UWP government will develop the Coconut Growers' Factory in Soufriere and will establish linkages

between agriculture and tourism. There are also plans to restructure the Ministry of Agriculture to provide necessary services to assist farmers.

For his part, the candidate for the Choiseul/Saltibus Bradley Felix says all the Labour Government left in his area was a legacy of failed promises and dashed hope.

He dismissed Labour Party promises of a \$200 Million hotel in the area as being empty, saying there is no evidence of environmental clearance or community consultations, nor has the source of funds for construction been identified. Rather, he says, the UWP will empower people by the development of cottage industries such as arts and craft and which can provide souvenirs for tourists.

He also says Choiseul was the only village without a jetty and with one street, promising that he will change all of that once elected.

Felix was warmly supported by his political leader Allen Chastanet, who promised the people of Choiseul/Saltibus that they were getting a candidate with a heart, and with a proven track record of service.

Mr. Chastanet once more vowed that the 'Five to Stay

Alive' initiative will indeed be implemented under a UWP government. This includes a reduction in VAT and vehicle license fees, a waiver of hospital fees for those in need, a doubling of subsidies for the school feeding and transportation programmes and a 3-year moratorium on property taxes.

Mr. Chastanet went further to propose a "Five to Thrive" initiative to help young people in St. Lucia.

The plan will include:

1. Establishing a \$10 million loan facility at the St. Lucia Development Bank for young persons who want to purchase a home, study or startup a business.
2. Funding an annual youth forum to identify priorities for youth, and which will allow them to plan the way forward for the following year. All ministries and statutory bodies are mandated to participate.
3. Establishing a Youth Coordination Agency to bring together various youth and sports councils, Non-Government Organizations, International Donors and public and private sector agencies charged with implementing the recommendations coming out of youth forum.

4. Establishing a National Youth Employment Agency with a database of youth and their various skills in order to manage the entrepreneurial and apprenticeship programmes including the cruise ship employment programme and farm workers programme. These are to better plan and develop job creation initiatives. The Party predicts a reduction in youth unemployment by 5% per year.

5. A UWP government will mandate the Education Ministry to reform the curriculum for schools to encompass a wider variety of academic pursuits to position youths for the best available jobs whether they are technical skills, in the arts or entertainment.

The UWP Political Leader says it was all part of an economic strategy called 'Constituencies Without Borders', which will allow for constituencies in the south to develop synergies to enhance their specific economic initiatives.

He also announced the establishment of an economic council for the south which will be an overarching body charged with monitoring and implementing development activities in these areas.

NH International responds to sub-contractor

Over 700 Saint Lucians employed on Royalton Hotel Site

The Management of NH International (Caribbean) Ltd (NH) wishes to clarify several erroneous and misleading statements made by a disgruntled sub-contractor in an interview with the media last week. The comments were made despite the contractor being paid a sum of \$ 56,760.00 on that day.

NH has worked in Saint Lucia and the Caribbean for over twenty five years and has always adopted an approach of maximization of local staff and materials in our projects.

We have employed over those years several young Saint Lucian engineers, quantity surveyors, construction managers, supervisors, and tradesmen who have joined our team and have

also moved on and worked with us on several projects in Trinidad and the wider Caribbean.

On the Royalton project, which is the single largest investment in tourism ever in Saint Lucia, NH has at present over 436 Saint Lucians working directly on the project.

We will be pouring over 25,000 cu.m of concrete, which has created many jobs for truckers, drivers, plant operators, quarry workers with the concrete supplier.

We purchase all reinforcement steel for the project locally, we purchase from the local hardware stores.

We have engaged many pieces of equipment on site which has also contributed to the creation of employment. All these activi-

ties have resulted in more than 700 St Lucians being gainfully employed through NH.

The Developer has a very tight schedule to open the Hotel and thus for a project of this size, there will be need to bring in a very limited amount of specialist workers.

They have been drawn from member states of the OECS where there is free movement and also from other CARICOM neighbours. All are paid at the same rate as the St Lucian workers.

NH is most pleased to be part of this very important tourism investment in Saint Lucia which when combined with the other construction activities on site being executed by others has generated jobs for



over 1,200 St Lucians.

On completion, this Royalton will generate approximately

1,000 new permanent jobs directly and indirectly when opened at the end of this year.

SLTB promotes weddings and romance across US

The Saint Lucia Tourist Board (SLTB) southeast office exhibited at the "Your Wedding Experience" Bridal Show, by David Tuterra in Fort Lauderdale last week.

Over 1100 brides registered and attended the popular bridal show, with Saint Lucia hosting one of the busies booths.

"I have showcased at many bridal shows for over 12 years, and this is the best quality brides that I have seen said Andrea Williams of Exquisite Vacations, one of the SLTB's PASS agents in Florida, who assisted with the showcase. "The couples showed interest about the destination, asked lots of questions about the destination and we showcased package pricing as well." All couples received a copy of Saint Lucia Honeymoon Specials.

Meanwhile in New York, the SLTB sponsored annual fundraiser of the 41-74 Travel Club of lead-



The Saint Lucia Tourist Board showcases in Florida, Pennsylvania, New York, Iowa and Missouri.

ing New York based travel professionals. The benefit was held at the NY Hudson River on May 19. This is the first time that SLTB has participated as a sponsor.

Promoting at a different venue under a different ambiance, the SLTB sought to woo travel

partners to the Caribbean island highlighting attributes for those who favored luxury and romance.

Over 120 sponsors and agents were in attendance originating from the greater NY area.

The program began with a

mini trade-show followed by individual one on one networking sessions between agents and suppliers ending with a dinner and prize giveaway.

In Pennsylvania, Saint Lucia and British Virgin Islands were the only two Caribbean islands represented at the Enquirer Show, which was held at the Oats area of Pennsylvania.

The show attracted at least 1500 attendees. There was a wine and beer tasting session, culinary demonstrations and food tasting.

Many of the attendees had visited Saint Lucia on a one-day cruise and expressed their intention to revisit the island by taking advantage of the non-stop flights out of Newark NJ and Philadelphia, PA.

In Iowa, the SLTB Midwest participated at the Midwest Travel Suppliers roundtable series. The series was held from

May 17 - 19 in Des Moines, IA; and Overland Park and St. Louis, MO to promote summer travel to the island.

Twenty Caribbean and international suppliers presented to the 265 travel agents attending the three shows.

Agents informed that the improved air service to Saint Lucia has made the destination more attractive to clients.

At least a third confirmed that they had booked or provided a quote for one of the properties on the island within the last year.

All agents were provided information on the "Summer Rocks" promotion, destination and hotel updates.

In addition to Delta, American Airlines now has same day connections from these cities to Saint Lucia.

The United winter service will also connect from these Midwest states.

Rainforest Hideaway Restaurant and Mango Beach Inn earn 2016 TripAdvisor Certificates of Excellence

Both Rainforest and Mango Beach Inn were inducted into the TripAdvisor "Hall of Fame" last year - having both been awarded Certificates of Excellence in the previous five years - and the great reviews have continued into 2006!

TripAdvisor® is the world's largest travel site, publishing real feedback and advice from millions of travelers. TripAdvisor branded sites (like Mango Beach Inn and the Rainforest Hideaway restaurant in Marigot) become a part of a travel community of 340 million monthly visitors and 350 million reviews. That's high visibility and great for St Lucian tourism!

The Certificate of Excellence is awarded for the quality, quantity and consistency of travellers' reviews over a 12-month period. To qualify, a business must maintain an overall TripAdvisor rating of at least four out of five stars.

"With the Certificate of Excellence, TripAdvisor honors hospitality businesses that have consistently received strong praise and ratings from travelers," said Heather Leisman, Vice President of Industry Marketing.

Mango Beach Inn and Rainforest Hideaway are directly on the



waterfront of the famous Marigot Harbour, just a one minute walk from the beach.

Rainforest Hideaway has been popular for the past twelve years with visitors from all over the world including visiting celebrities on their superyachts and it's also a great favourite with local visitors who come to Marigot from all over the island for celebrations, business meetings, romantic evenings and fun nights out with family and friends.

Rainforest has always featured live jazz as well as sophisticated Caribbean cuisine at reasonable prices.

This year the restaurant was an official venue on the Jazz and Arts Festival programme and featured NINE JAZZY NIGHTS with some amazing local artists.

But it's not just one week in the year - Rainforest features live local jazz four nights a week (Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays) all year round.

From May through November, Rainforest Hideaway and Mango Beach invite St Lucians to take advantage of their combined Summerlicious and Staycation offer: a half price dinner for two with bed and breakfast included. Take a break without paying an airfare!

Habitat Terrace also a TripAdvisor winner

Habitat Terrace Hotel, one of the HIDDEN GEMS OF SAINT LUCIA, with all of its 12 rooms & Self-catering Suites, has received a TripAdvisor® Certificate of Excellence.

Now in its tenth year, the achievement celebrates hospitality businesses that have earned great traveller reviews on TripAdvisor over the past year.

Certificate of Excellence recipients include accommodations, eateries and attractions located all over the world that have continually delivered a quality customer experience.

Cheryl Skeete, the Owner/Manager says "I am ecstatic to receive yet another TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence. I want to say a sincere Thank You to all our guests who have taken the time to write about us. Heartfelt thanks also, to my dedicated

and hard-working team, most of whom have been with me from the inception".

"With the Certificate of Excellence, TripAdvisor honours hospitality businesses that have consistently received strong praise and ratings from travellers," said Heather Leisman, Vice President of Industry Marketing, TripAdvisor.

"This recognition helps travellers identify and book properties that regularly deliver great service."

The Certificate of Excellence accounts for the quality and quantity of reviews submitted by travellers on TripAdvisor over a 12-month period.

To qualify, a business must maintain an overall TripAdvisor bubble rating of at least four out of five, have a minimum number of reviews and must have been listed on TripAdvisor for at least 12 months.

The Diplomatic Courier

Exercise Tradewinds 2016 starts tomorrow in Grenada – but without Saint Lucia, thanks to IMPACS!



St. Vincent and the Grenadines and St. Lucia coast guard interceptors pass each other near Castries, St. Lucia, during training as part of Tradewinds 2013 May 28, 2013.

Thanks to the IMPACS Report coming out of Operation Restore Confidence (ORC) initiated by the last UWP Administration, Saint Lucia has been excluded – yet again -- again from a list of countries due to participate in this year's multi-national "Tradewinds" military exercise that start tomorrow in Grenada.

Beginning Sunday, June 5, military and security forces from Caribbean nations will join the United States, Canada, France, and the United Kingdom for maritime and internal security and disaster response training in Grenada as part of Exercise Tradewinds 2016.

Military and security person-

nel from 13 Caribbean Community (CARICOM) member states – Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, Suriname, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago – will join military personnel from the United States, Canada, France, and the United Kingdom for Phase I of Exercise Tradewinds 2016.

Participating regional organizations include the Regional Security System (RSS), Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), and CARICOM.

In 2017, Tradewinds will be hosted by Barbados

Alliance Francaise hosts local artist

As part of the Latin America and Caribbean Week, the Alliance Française de Sainte Lucie invites the public to visit the exhibition "Saint Lucia: its landscapes, its people, and their way of living", a series of beautiful watercolor paintings created

by Saint-Lucian-US based artist Gregory Jules. The exhibition was launched yesterday, Wednesday June 1st, at Alliance française of Saint Lucia -The Pyramid, Pointe Seraphine, Castries and will continue until June 15.

Mexican Embassy launches children drawing contest

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, through the Institute for Mexicans Abroad (IME), is hosting the 20th edition of the children's drawing contest entitled "Este es mi México" (This is my Mexico) with the theme entitled "Let's Draw about Mexican Music and Traditions".

This contest allows children between 6 and 14 years old, who identify themselves with Mexico, to express themselves through their drawings.

This edition's theme was

chosen to promote knowledge about Mexico, among children interested in drawing about sceneries, histories, characters, culture or whatever they learn about Mexico, its music and traditions.

The deadline for the submission of drawings to the Embassy of Mexico at Vigie, Castries, will be the 30th of September 2016.

For further details, please contact the Embassy at Tel.: 451-4254, 451-4257, 453-1250 and email address: mexicanembassy@candw.lc

WHO advises 8 weeks of safe sex after return from Zika areas!

People returning from areas with transmission of the Zika virus have been advised that they should follow safer sex practices or abstain from sex for at least eight weeks. The advice came from the World Health Organization on Tuesday, doubling the four weeks it had previously recommended. The WHO advised that women wanting to get pregnant should wait for six months if their male partner had symptoms of the virus, the WHO's revised guidance said. Photo (above) shows a trap holds mosquitoes at the Dallas County Mosquito Lab in Hutchins, Texas.



Caribbean Hotel Association to assist Cuba



Cuba asks CHTA for help in establishing Cuban hotel association.

Cuba has requested assistance from the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA) to launch its own hotel association.

CHTA president, Karolin Troubetzkoy, has said that during a recent visit to Havana, CHTA executives met with Luis

Miguel Diaz Sanchez, Cuba's Vice Minister of Tourism.

"Even though our trip was full of important meetings and pleasant experiences, that specific request indicates progressive-minded regional leadership from Cuba," Troubetzkoy said.

Other matters discussed during the visit, which coincided with the Cuba International Tourism Fair (FITCuba), included the development of sustainable tourism and the need for regional cooperation to build a stronger Caribbean brand.

FRC to host 6th Saint Lucia Studies Conference

The theme was "A critical path to St. Lucia's development." Visitors attended from Vienna and St. Lucian students at universities abroad presented their findings.

The late Manfred Kremser, a long standing friend of the FRC from the University of Vienna, was also here and made a presentation.

The opening ceremony was held at the FRC while other meetings were held at the CDF Conference room. Other Conferences were held in 2007, 2010, 2012 and 2014.

The aim of the Saint Lucia Studies Conference is the presentation of research by persons investigating various areas of St. Lucian life and culture. The FRC endeavours to publish the presentations in print and digital format.

The theme for the 2016 Conference is "Discovering St. Lucian life and culture through ongoing research." The Venue Conference is the Folk Research Centre.

The 2016 Conference will again provide a forum to lecturers and students doing research



The first Saint Lucia Studies Conference was organised by the Folk Research Centre in March 2004.

at St. Lucia's Tertiary level institutions.

Every effort has been made to identify and invite overseas scholars engaged in research into St. Lucian life and culture to attend.

The aim is to make this growing Conference an important one to all those interested in investigating the life and culture of St. Lucia in all areas.

The re-established Harold Simmons Memorial Lecture is the keynote lecture of the 2016 Conference.

The lecture had first been

launched by the Cultural Department of the Julian R. Hunte group of Companies in 1979.

The inaugural lecture was delivered by Derek Walcott on 24th January 1979. Other lecturers in later years included St. Lucian Patricia Ismond and Trinidadians Kenneth Ramchand and Merle Hodge.

The 2016 Harold Simmons Memorial Lecture will be delivered by Professor Hazel Simmons-McDonald, Professor Emerita, UWI. It will be presented in association with the Sir Julian Hunte group of Companies.

What the UWP will do!

Party Leader Allen Chastanet outlines Opposition plans for Government

Representatives from both the private sector and civil society have been updated on initiatives proposed by the Opposition United Workers' Party (UWP), to revive the economy and create sustainable jobs for the people of St. Lucia, should it win the Monday poll.

UWP Political Leader Allen Chastanet said at the Golden Palm conference centre in Rodney Bay Monday that the party will stick with its promise of reducing the tax burden for the people of St. Lucia, and went on to explain why this was important.

First, he said the bureaucracy it creates makes it harder for the business community.

He said, "Many of the businesses are struggling here with the administration, and as a businessman, when you are operating in an environment in which the amount of taxes that you owe is unclear, and you have to continuously go to the VAT office to seek an interpretation, and in an environment in which you believe you are being victimized, that is a horrible position to be in, and makes the business community extremely uncomfortable."

Mr. Chastanet told business leaders that the reality in St. Lucia is that unemployment stands at 25%, being as high as 47% among the youth population alone.

Added to this he reminded them that 35% of the population was living below the poverty line. It is in an environment like this, he chastised, that Prime Minister Kenny Anthony and the Labour government sought to impose VAT and reduce subsidies.

He added, "We believe that VAT is not designed to deal with the social programmes or the fabric of our economy at this point, and we believe that there are other alternatives that can be more skewed towards helping the economy grow as well as being mindful of the standard of living of many of our St. Lucian citizens."

Building on that, Mr. Chastanet revealed that a UWP government will establish five economic zones, which will be run by regional economic boards

manned by persons from within the area.

He said this was important because the party wants persons to have a say in the development of

their communities since they are the ones who will know best, and because it helps decentralize government.

"It is not only because of their democratic right, but the fact is they have to have a say in their future, and there has to be a priority in terms of making sure that those areas are transformed."

The areas identified by the UWP include Rodney Bay/Gros Islet, Castries, Soufriere, Vieux Fort, and Dennery.

Rodney Bay/Gros Islet is where a UWP government intends to focus on expanding the tourism base, including mixed-use properties, boutique properties, the marina, duty-free shopping and basically making it an entertainment hub that will include the town of Gros Islet, where the waterfront area is developed in conjunction with the locals who presently own the land.

Mr. Chastanet says this will help enhance the town beyond its usual Friday night party. The UWP intends to put ordinances in place to allow the development of small properties and to develop more restaurants to cater to visitors seven days a week.

Castries will be zoned as a special economic zone, making it a municipality.

Mr. Chastanet said the aim of this was so Castries could get its own credit-rating independent of the rest of the country.

Once this has improved, the UWP wants Castries to become the home of regional businesses.

"We believe what has happened is that many of the regional companies are struggling to find a place to put as their home headquarters. So, for instance, companies that were in Barbados have had to move because of the downgrading of Barbados' credit rating, and recently in Trinidad where a lot of people moved to, they've now found the same problem."

Mr. Chastanet says St. Lucia is also the only country where its



The UWP Leader, a former Tourism Minister, says his party will turn Soufriere into a Caribbean Wellness Centre if elected on Monday. In addition, it will make Castries a municipality by itself, make Dennery an agricultural belt, make Vieux Fort a new frontier -- and double the GDP in ten years!

capital is just five minutes away from a major airport.

In Soufriere the plan is to make this a wellness center, or as Mr. Chastanet dubbed it, "the Eden of the Caribbean!"

He added that the number-one reason that people were visiting the area was to take advantage of the Sulphur Springs and the mud baths that are available.

The goal of the UWP in government would be to continue to expand it and make it into a world class spa.

He says this will make Soufriere the closest location in the world for Americans who would like to get an equivalent product.

"The water value we have in Soufriere has been tested, and its equivalent to the level of Baden Baden in Germany. So we have both clear water and we have the mud baths. So we believe that people (will no longer come to Soufriere) just to go to the beach, people will be coming to Soufriere for wellness."

Chastanet says the waterfront will also be developed, and village tourism will be encouraged to allow residents to benefit from the process.

There are also plans to reopen the copra factory to capitalize on the growing global interest in coconut oil as a health product.

In Vieux Fort, Mr. Chastanet said the UWP will take the promise of a new frontier and make it a reality. He said the UWP will immediately begin construction of the airport, in addition to which he says the party does not believe in outsourcing the running of the airport to a third party.

There are also plans to develop IT centers in the unused free zones in Vieux Fort.

There will also be incentives to encourage offshore universities to place their facilities in Vieux Fort, further developing the area as a knowledge zone.

A Cruise Ship Terminal will also be established, and homeporting will be encouraged to drive business in the south.

"We're also looking at three major hotel companies we've been in discussion with, and we believe we can announced pretty quickly that we are going to be able to get at least 750 more hotel rooms, starting construction within the first year."

In terms of Dennery and the

valley, the UWP intends to focus on agriculture.

The plan is to develop an agricultural hub which will eliminate uncertainty among farmers about what crops they need to grow for local consumption.

It will also allow focus on produce that can be exported throughout the region, for which a dedicated boat will be provided.

This will be supported by an aggressive marketing campaign branding St. Lucia's organic products.

"Within the region people must start seeing St. Lucia's agricultural produce as being a premium product. We believe that we can be substantially more competitive in this region that we can in trying to compete in Canada, America and Europe."

The ultimate goal of a UWP government Mr. Chastanet says, is to create more job opportunities, and to double the GDP of St. Lucia in 10 years.

He added that government will put enabling policies and structures in place to allow businesses in the country to become competitive.

SLP says UWP VAT rumours are absolute fabrications!

Rumours that the Saint Lucia Labour Party (SLP) will increase VAT to 17% if re-elected have been staunchly denied by the ruling party, which says they are an absolute fabrication from the United Workers Party (UWP), designed solely to paint the SLP in a negative light.

The SLP says that as a responsible party in Government, it is only right that we squash this untruth now.

It says this scaremongering by the UWP is not unexpected and typical of a party which is bereft of ideas and solutions.

The SLP says that pushing deliberately misleading information into the public domain is both underhand and irresponsible campaigning. Clearly, it says, the UWP is trying to distract from their complete lack of a sound economic policy.

The ruling party says UWP Leader Allen Chastanet should instead explain how he intends to replace VAT, but he has stoutly refused, despite repeated calls to do so.

The SLP said it can only assume that this is because he does not have an answer to this

very straight forward question.

In fact, the SLP says, Mr. Chastanet, despite his public pronouncements, just last week at a private indoor meeting Chastanet pronounced VAT as the best possible tax.

This is yet more evidence, the ruling party says, that Chastanet's irresponsible approach to the tax system will put our nation's economic recovery at risk.

The SLP said the people of St Lucia deserve better - a stable economic future with opportunities for the many, and not only for the few.



The SLP insists that there must be a reason why the UWP Leader refuses to say how he will replace the \$364 million that VAT generated in tax collections last year.

The Belrose Factor For Fame or Fortune?



By

Stephen Lester Prescott

The advent of Fortuna Belrose on the political scene as a candidate for the UWP, epitomizes everything that is wrong with some of the persons seeking elective office in this country. This is a lady who has worked for the government of St. Lucia for practically her entire working life. In her 34 years in the Government service, she received a full salary from the Government, yet she speaks of volunteerism.

During the last 5-10 years in particular, Ms. Belrose behaved in a manner inconsistent and incompatible with public office. This was highlighted by her selfish coveting of the positions of Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Youth and Sports and President of the St. Lucia Olympic Committee (SLOC) at the same time - a clear case of conflict of interest.

But those who encouraged her in her selfish and unethical endeavours would want us to believe that she is volunteering on the SLOC! Well, if that is the case, now that she is going up for political office, why doesn't she let go of the SLOC presidency, so that others who want to serve there can take-over? But "Hell no!" she won't resign from the SLOC unless forced to do so, because, among other things, the presidential perks are very lucrative, and she is not about to give these up so easily.

The SLP government, in trying to steer clear of a victimization label, did not pursue disciplinary cases against Fortuna Belrose for openly campaigning for Guy Meyers and Ezekiel Joseph in the 2011 General elections. (I will also argue that the Labour govern-

ment also lapsed in appointing her as Permanent Secretary when she clearly should not have been so appointed, given these provable allegations against her.)

Further, the government inadvertently created an even bigger monster in Fortuna, by not insisting that she could not hold the positions of Permanent Secretary for Sports and President of the SLOC simultaneously, as this was a clear conflict of interest case.

So while Fortuna was being allowed to go unchecked, her long knives were being sharpened for a brutish betrayal. The hands of Kenny Anthony, Jimmy Fletcher, Shawn Edwards and Ernest Hilaire have now been viciously bitten by an ungrateful mouth they helped to feed so well; and they must feel a sense of deep disappointment and hurt. I empathize with them because I know and understand that they tried to do the right thing, although ill-advisedly.

However, we cannot condone such behavior by Fortuna. We must be mercilessly critical and we must come down hard in condemnation of any human being who so viciously bites the hands that feed it. If she was such a great volunteer, why did she snuggle her way to a cozy and comfortable retirement pension at the Permanent Secretary level before plunging into politics? Did Philip Pierre, Alva Baptiste, Kenny Anthony or any of the leading candidates in the Labour Party wait to retire before entering politics? So what foolishness is Fortuna talking about being an accomplished volunteer?

Fortuna Belrose was done no wrong by the Labour government and she clearly received preferential treatment where none was deserving. Therefore, her actions now in attacking Labour are symptomatic of the type of political treachery and treason that is not trusted by the St. Lucian electorate.

It is bewildering that someone who was favoured with a Permanent Secretary (PS) position (instead of being pursued to answer charges of partisan political campaigning) would so blatantly betray the Government which appointed her. The ingratitude is further accentuated by the fact that the UWP on whose "white horse" she now rides, never saw it fit to appoint her as PS, even though it had the

opportunity to do so.

But maybe the so-called "public service history" of the lady would help elucidate her selfishness and ingratitude. In 1985, when the St. Lucia National Youth Council (NYC) was formed under the leadership of Mario Michel, Fortuna Belrose (then Emmanuel) - a Youth & Sports Officer - was part of the UWP Government's failed attempts to destroy the NYC. Despite individual officers like Andrew Maglore and others, disagreeing with the Minister and Ministry's position, persons like Fortuna helped in perpetuating the war with the NYC, until the SLP was elected to the seat of Government by a landslide margin on May 23, 1997.

Significantly, following that victory, the NYC's founding President Mario Michel, was appointed Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Human Resource Development, Youth & Sports. In charting the way forward for Youth and Sports, Michel was able to elevate Youth and Sports to Department status and to give it, its first Director of Youth and Sports and later its first Permanent Secretary for Youth & Sports, in the persons of Armstrong Alexis and Ernest Hilaire.

When Armstrong Alexis was appointed Director of Youth & Sports, Fortuna Belrose left the Ministry of Youth and Sports and got a transfer to the Ministry of Social Transformation. She never returned to the Ministry of Sports during the rest of the tenure of the SLP in office from 1997 to December 11, 2006. (So, never mind Fortuna's convenient and hypocritical praise of Mario Michel at her launching last Sunday; given her seething hatred for Labour, Mario Michel who did not see her as the new face of Youth and Sports in 1997, must be very near the top of her "most hated persons list.")

Instead, she took every opportunity to privately and publicly criticize the Labour Government's progressive sports policy. Despite this, she was given the opportunity to work with Cricket World Cup St. Lucia to prepare for St. Lucia's hosting of the ICC Cricket World Cup in 2007, with Dr. Jimmy Fletcher as Chairman and Dr. Ernest Hilaire as CEO. Her performance was nothing spectacular on the positive side, but she suffered the distinction of wrecking in the middle of the city, a brand new Cricket World Cup



Sports Minister Shawn Edward (left) has done much during his tenure to reach out to his political detractors in and out of government. Here he is seen sharing the limelight with fellow Dennery MP Edmund Estephane for renovation of a playing field that will benefit both constituencies represented by them. But soon after the job was completed, Estephane would accuse Edward of siphoning so-called Lotto Money into his re-election campaign. Mr Edward also worked with Mrs Belrose as his PS, but never expected the day would come when she would oppose him -- and the works of the administration she was part of.

St. Lucia BMW, which she had no business driving on a Saturday morning.

Upon Labour's loss of the 2006 General Elections, the goodly lady became "the right hand man" of new Minister of Youth & Sports, Lenard Spider Montoute and they marginalized and undermined the CEO Dr. Ernest Hilaire, even though they publicly gave him an award. They also

engineered Fortuna's own selfish re-entry into the Ministry of Youth & Sports, by abolishing the post of Permanent Secretary and re-instating the Post of Director of Youth & Sports.

As Director of Youth & Sports, Fortuna Belrose resumed the old UWP war against the NYC, and we can all remember the noise that then President, Marvin Edgar had to make for the NYC's subvention, while some favoured persons got shoes, socks and the works, sometimes without even asking.

But even worse, is that Fortuna Belrose again left the Ministry of Youth & Sports when she got the opportunity to be Deputy PS in Guy Meyers' Ministry.

And she did not restrict her activities to just ministerial matters! Minister Philip J Pierre and other constituents of Castries East can attest to the lady's activities in the UWP campaign of 2011 to try to get Guy Meyers elected in Castries East. Minister Alvina Reynolds and constituents of Babonneau can also testify to her political activities to try to get Ezekiel Joseph re-elected as Parliamentary Representative for Babonneau.

While serving as PS, Fortuna Belrose took official government time-off with full pay and benefits to attend private meetings and conferences of the National Olympic Committee overseas, for which she also received expansive financial benefits from the NOC.

So effectively, the Labour government gave full pay and benefits, including duty free vehicle and the works, to a part-time PS who also milked additional benefits from the SLOC. Are these the actions of an ethical person or of someone who is a volunteer at heart?

Let no one fool you because I am not fooled. Fortuna Belrose is not about public service, but rather about self-service, using the public to achieve her selfish desires.

However, the people of Castries East are a well-grounded and discerning people and come the next general elections they will choose wisely between the proven Philip Pierre who is all about people, community and country; and the fake Fortuna Belrose whose claims of voluntary service are disproved by her record of selfishness, covetousness, untrustworthiness and ingratitude.

GOD IS EVERYWHERE AND FOR EVERYONE!

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According to her, Dr. Anthony declared one Cabinet morning that "There would be no prayers in Cabinet today."

Obviously there were prayers in Cabinet before that day and there should have been a continuation of prayers after that day, but Sarah prefers to paint an anti-God picture of Kenny Anthony. All Kenny Anthony did was to stop Sarah from turning Cabinet into a church service, but she would have us believe that he is ungodly!

By his words, actions and decisions, Kenny Anthony has demonstrated that he is unquestionably a man of God. On the other hand, Sarah talks a good godly talk, but her actions and

deeds display a totally different message.

However, I will not delve into the details of Sarah Flood Beau-brun's indiscretions, as God has said to us that "judgment is mine."

So it is not for Sara to determine who is godly and who is not; neither is it for me to pronounce on her godliness. However, I am duty bound to point out the flaws and inconsistencies in her positions on the godliness of those she chooses to judge.

So in Sarah's eyes, Kenny Anthony who provides opportunities for the poor and dispossessed (blessed are the poor for they will inherit the earth) is ungodly, while Sir John Compton (who once told the church

to see about the people's souls while he sees after their bellies) is godly! But you see how nonsensical things can get, when we allow Sarah to define the godliness by where we pray? So, in the gospel according to Sarah, Kenny Anthony and the SLP are ungodly because they stopped Sarah from turning Cabinet into a church service, but the UWP is godly because they organize a prayer service and Allen Chastanet READS a prayer!

God does not discriminate in who he calls to serve him or who he chooses to bless, because he is the God of all who seek him. There is also no VIP order in God's eyes based on who goes to church more often, who says more prayers, whether in Cabi-

net, Parliament, in Church or at home. The Bible is littered with examples of persons who many like Sarah would consider unworthy, but who were called by God. These include from Saul the mercenary tax collector, to the leper, the adulteress and even the thief who was crucified along with Jesus. All of them were forgiven and granted the promise of eternal life by Jesus.

The leadership and membership of the SLP are unquestionably Christian and so Sarah should stop her dishonest arguments against Kenny Anthony and the SLP, before it backfires against her and the UWP bunch she has conveniently associated with once again.

If Sarah believes that she is the only "poto leglise" on St. Lucia's

political landscape, then we need to remind her that the SLP has Emma Hippolyte, Alvina Reynolds and countless other prayer warriors who keep our party grounded in the Christian faith through social teachings, mutual respect and religious tolerance.

We do not believe that we have any monopoly on Christianity in the politics of St. Lucia, and we certainly do not believe that anyone, especially Sarah and the UWP, have any authority or legitimacy to claim that they are more Godly than us.

God is everywhere and belongs to every one of us who chooses to call his name. So Sarah - stop behaving as if you own God -- and as if you are more Godly than anyone else.