



Saint Lucia **GOVERNMENT GAZETTE**

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Quote :

Be such a man, and live such a life, that if every man were such as you, and every life like yours, this earth would be a God's Paradise,

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Advertising Rates

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NATIONAL PRINTING CORPORATION

Gazette Deadline

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Please Note

The annual subscription fees are \$150.00 for hard copies and \$80.00 for electronic copies. All Legislation is available by means of email, CD, diskette and hard copy prints and will be costed according to size. This publication is available on request via email and hard copy.

Government Notices

THE following documents are published with and form part of this *Gazette*.

STATUTORY INSTRUMENT

No. 1 of 2004 — The Money Laundering (Prevention) Act (Commencement) Order.

ASSENTED ACTS

No. 34 of 2003 — The Caribbean Court of Justice (Agreement) Act.

No. 35 of 2003 — The Pensions (Amendment) (No. 2) Act.

No. 36 of 2003 — The Anti-Terrorism Act.

DECLARATION OF FEBRUARY 23, 2004 AS A PUBLIC HOLIDAY

IN view of the fact that February 22, 2004 falls on a Sunday, and in observance of the 25th Anniversary of Saint Lucia's Independence, Cabinet by Conclusion No. 925 of December 15, 2003 has agreed to declare Monday February 23, 2004 a public holiday.

James Fletcher
Permanent Secretary.

Composition of Standing National Awards Committee

PURSUANT to Article 5 of the Constitution of the Order of Saint Lucia a Standing National Awards Committee has been reappointed with effect from January 1, 2004 for a period of three years as follows:

Mr. McDonald Dixon, SLMM
— *Chairperson*

Mrs. Veronica Augustin

Miss Agatha James
The Chairman of the Public and

Teaching Service Commission
The Commissioner of Police
Dr. James Fletcher -Secretary

Government House
SAINT LUCIA

January 5th, 2004

Vacancy Notices

*Ministry of Home Affairs and
Gender Relations*

POST OF MANAGER BOYS' TRAINING CENTRE

Qualifications:

Applicant should possess:

Master's Degree in Social Work, Sociology or Psychology plus two (2) years experience in a post at Grade 12 and above

OR

Master's Degree in Social Work, Sociology or Psychology plus four (4) years experience in a post at Grade 10 and above

OR

Bachelor's Degree or equivalent qualifications in Social Work, Sociology or Psychology plus two (2) years experience in a post at Grade 13 and above

Duties and Responsibilities:

The successful applicant will be required to report and work under the direction of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs and Gender Relations.

The applicant will be required to perform the following duties:

policy initiation and implementation;

be a planning and statistical co-ordinator;

liaise and co-ordinate with Ministries and other departments;

co-ordinate programmes and projects which are geared towards the rehabilita-

tion of wards and development of staff; maintain overall responsibilities for the Boys Training Centre, its staff, wards, buildings, equipment, records and property;

ensure, adherence to and comply with the relevant statutory rules and regulations governing the Centre;

advise the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Legal Affairs, Home Affairs and Labour on matters concerning the administration and operation of the Centre;

assure the responsibility for the purchase and issue of all requirements for the Centre as approved by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs;

submit as requested Annual Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure and adhere to government's approved financial accounting system;

market goods produced at the Centre;

submit to the Management Committee and Ministry, reports on the activities and work in progress at the Centre or such other reports as may be requested from time to time.

Skills, Knowledge and Abilities:

The applicant should have:

good organization and communication skills;

the ability to relate to and work with administrators and staff;

the ability to relate to delinquent boys;

a thorough knowledge of government administrative and accounting procedures.

Salary:

Salary is in the range of \$48,763.03 - \$50,654.67 per annum (Grade 15).

Applications on the prescribed form along with certified copies of all documents, should be addressed to:

The Secretary
Public Service Commission
Block 'A', Waterfront
CASTRIES

to reach her no later than January 31, 2004.

*Ministry of Finance,
International Financial Services
and Economic Affairs*

FINANCIAL ANALYST (PARASTATAL MONITORING)

Qualifications And Experience:

Applicants should possess:-

a Bachelor's degree plus post graduate Diploma in Finance, Business Administration, or Financial Management, or a related field of study, plus three (3) years experience in a post at Grade 15

or

a Master's Degree in Finance, Business Administration, or Financial Management plus, three (3) years experience in a post at Grade 15

or

a Bachelor's Degree in Finance, Business Administration or Financial Management, or a professional accounting qualification (ACCA, plus three (3) years experience in a post at Grade 15.

Applicants with specialized training in Finance, Portfolio Management, Project Management or Financial Management, will be an asset.

Duties And Responsibilities:

The successful applicant will be required to report and work under the direction of the Deputy Director of Finance (Financial Administration, Evaluation and Monitoring), Ministry of Finance, International Financial Services and Economic Affairs. He/she will also be required to respond whenever necessary to the Director of Finance and/or Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance, International Financial Services and Economic Affairs on all matters related to work-in-progress.

The applicant will be required to:

Monitor the financial operations of Parastatal bodies;

Examine and analyze the financial statements of Parastatal bodies and submit reports on their financial performance and prospects;

Work closely with state-owned enterprises with a view to enhancing their accountability to the central Government and Parliament;

Conduct investigations into areas of

financial irregularities as, and when required;

Examine the operations of Parastatal bodies with a view to determining whether appropriate systems exist to support financial management and make recommendations for improvement;

Evaluate financial requests from state owned enterprises and make appropriate recommendations concerning the disbursement of these funds;

Monitor the use of subventions given to Parastatal bodies in order to determine whether they were used for the purpose(s) intended;

Work closely with the Debt & Investment Unit in monitoring Government's contingent liabilities in respect of loans guaranteed by Government on behalf of Parastatal bodies;

Submit monthly reports on work-in-progress to the Deputy Director of Finance (Financial Administration, Evaluation and Monitoring), as well as special purpose reports that may be required from time to time;

Perform any other duties, as may be assigned, from time to time, by the Deputy Director of Finance (Financial Administration, Evaluation and Monitoring) and the Director of Finance.

Skills, Knowledge And Abilities :

The applicant should:

have a working knowledge of, and ability to interpret Public Service rules and regulations and operating and operating procedures, staff orders and collective agreements;

be familiar with the:

- Finance (Administration) Act;
- Financial Regulations
- Procurement and Stores Regulations
- Approved Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure.

be familiar with the Standard Operating Procedures contained in the Ministry's Operations Manual;

have excellent communication skills;

have potential for leadership and scholarship;

be decisive, of soundness judgement and

clarity in issuing directives;

have ability to analyze issues, make interpretations and recommend innovative approaches to solutions;

be competent in the use of information technology.

Conditions:

The successful applicant will be provided with accommodation in a congenial administrative office.

Institutional support will be provided through appropriate Civil Service Regulations, Statutory Instruments and Departmental Guidelines;

Opportunities exist for personal development and career advancement through general and specialized in-service and external training;

He/she will be required to maintain a motor vehicle for the proper performance of duties;

Travelling allowance will be paid in accordance with approved rates established by the Government of Saint Lucia;

This post is pensionable.

Salary:

Salary is in the range \$57,520.69-\$58,921.95 per annum (Grade 18)

Applications on the prescribed form along with references and certified copies of documents pertaining to qualifications should be addressed to:

The Secretary
Public Service Commission
Block "A", Waterfront
CASTRIES

to reach her no later than January 31, 2004.

**Ministry of Health, Human Services
and Family Services**

**SECRETARY
SENIOR CITIZENS' HOME**

Qualification:

Applicants should possess:

A Masters Degree in Sociology, Psychology, Social Administration or Social Work, plus four (4) years experience in a post at grade 10 or post qualifying experience;

or

A Masters Degree in Sociology,

Psychology, Social Administration or Social Work, plus two (2) years experience in a post at grade 12 and above or post qualifying experience;

or

A Bachelor's Degree in Sociology, Psychology, Social Administration or Social Work, plus two (2) years experience at grade 13 and above or post qualifying experience;

A Certificate in Geriatric Education plus five (5) years administrative experience at a Geriatric Institution would be an asset.

Duties and Responsibilities:

The successful applicant will be required to work under the direction of and report to the Director of Human Services and Family Affairs. He/she will also be required to respond whenever necessary to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health on matters related to work in progress.

The applicant will be required to:

manage the activities of the Home and plan its daily programme;

allocate staff duties and co-ordinate training of staff;

prepare the annual budget and manage the quarterly financial allocation;

advise the Director of Human Services on admission and discharge of residents and appointment and evaluation of staff;

co-ordinate the activities of voluntary organizations having an input in the programme of the Home;

foster and maintain effective relationships between relatives and friends and residents of the Home;

advise the Board of Visitors as may be required from time to time;

submit a monthly report on work in progress;

undertake procurement of the daily requirements of the Home;
any other duties that may be assigned from time-to-time.

Skills, Knowledge and Abilities:

The applicant should have:

excellent communication skills in both Creole and English;

a high degree of affinity to elderly people and their needs;

organizational skills and the ability to relate well with staff, administrators and members of the Public.

Salary:

Salary is in the range of \$48,763.03 - \$50,654.67 per annum (grade 15)

Applications on the prescribed form along with references and certified copies of documents pertaining to qualifications should be addressed to:

The Secretary
Public Service Commission
Block A
Waterfront
Castries

to reach no later than January 31, 2004.

UNITED NATIONS
EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC
AND CULTURAL ORGANISATION (UNESCO)

Title: ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Post No.: LA/RP/ECU/BFC/0005

Grade : P-1/P-2

Duty Station : Quito, Ecuador

Organizational Unit: UNESCO Office, Quito

Closing Date: 13 January, 2004.

Title: ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Post No.: LA/RP/COS/BFC/0005

Grade : P-1/P-2

Duty Station: San Jose, Costa Rica

Organizational Unit: UNESCO Office San Jose

Closing Date: 13th January, 2004.

For further information on the above vacancies notices please contact UNESCO

at:

7, Place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris, 07 SP
FRANCE

Tel: (33.1) 45 68 10 00

Fax: (33.1) 45 67 16 90

Website: www.unesco.org/employment

Or National Commission for UNESCO, St. Lucia.

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL
COURT (ICC)

Title: ANALYST

Vacancy No.: 03-ADM-166-PO

Post No.: To be determined later

Grade : P-4

Duty Station : The Hague

Duration: One year initially

Organizational Unit: Office of the Prosecutor

Salary (M.N.A. Single rate): L48.871 plus L19.695 post adjustment (subject to change)

Closing Date: 31 January, 2004.

Title: CHIEF DEFENCE COUNSEL SERVICES

Vacancy No.: 03-LEG-163-RE

Post No.: To be determined later

Grade : P-4

Duty Station : The Hague

Duration: One year initially

Organizational Unit: Defence Counsel Services, Registry

Salary (M.N.A. Single rate): L48.871 plus L19.695 post adjustment (subject to change)

Closing Date: 14 January, 2004.

Title: SENIOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS ADVISER

Vacancy No.: 03-LEG-165-PO

Post No.: To be determined later

Grade : P-5

Duty Station : The Hague

Duration: One year initially

Organizational Unit: Office of the Prosecutor

Salary (M.N.A. Single rate): L58.466 plus L23.562 post adjustment (subject to change)

Closing Date: 31 January, 2004.

Title: CHIEF VICTIMS AND WITNESSES SECTION

Vacancy No.: 03-LEG-162-RE

Post No.: To be determined later

Grade : P-5

Duty Station : The Hague

Duration: One year initially

Organizational Unit: Victims and Witnesses Section, Registry

Salary (M.N.A. Single rate): L58.466 plus L23.562 post adjustment (subject to change)

Closing Date: 14 January, 2004.

Title: SENIOR ADVISER – ORGANIZATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Vacancy No.: 03-ADM-104-PO

Post No.: To be determined later

Grade : P-5

Duty Station : The Hague

Duration: One year initially

Organizational Unit: Office of the Prosecutor

Salary (M.N.A. Single rate): L58.466 plus L23.562 post adjustment (subject to change)

Closing Date: 31 January, 2004.

For further information on the above vacancy notices please contact ICC at:

P.O. Box 19519
2500 CM The Hague
The Netherlands

E-mail: applications@icc-cpi.int

Fax: (applications only): +31 70 515 8553

Website: www.icc-cpi.int

NOTICES

POST OFFICE

Withdrawal of the 200 years of Continuous Mail Service 1803 – 2003 Styam Issue

THE public is informed that the issue of stamps commemorating 200 Years of Continuous Mail Service 1803 - 2003 which was released on 14th July, 2003 will be withdrawn from sale on Wednesday 14th January, 2004.

*Ms. I Charlemagne
Postmaster General
General Post Office
Bridge Street, Castries*

Approval of Customs “examination station” in Passenger Ferry Terminal situated adjacent to berth 6 at Port Castries

IT is notified for public and general information that in the exercise of power conferred by section 16 of the Customs (Control and Management) Act No.23 of 1990, the Comptroller of Customs and Excise has approved an area in the newly built Passenger Ferry Terminal situated adjacent to berth 6 at Port Castries as an “Examination station”.

With effect from January 5, 2004 the area as designated, shall be for the embarkation and disembarkation of passengers and the loading and unloading of goods.

*Herman St. Helen
Comptroller of Customs and Excise (Ag)*

CUSTOMS EXCHANGE RATES

EFFECTIVE MONDAY, 19TH JANUARY, 2004

IT is notified for general information that under the provisions of section 78 (2) of the Customs (Control and Management) Act No. 23 of 1990 as amended that the under-mentioned rates of exchange shall be used for determining their equivalent in E. C. dollars.

U. K. Pound	5.0347
U.S.A	2.7169
Canadian Dollar	2.1539
Swiss Franc	2.3330
D.Krs.(Danish Kroners)	0.4900
Japanese Yen	0.0284
NZ (New Zealand Dollar)	1.9549
Australian Dollar	2.2296
Jamaican Dollar	0.0446
Guyanese Dollar	0.0140
Swedish Kroners	0.3982
Venezuelan Bolivars	0.0017
Barbados Dollar	1.3568
Trinidad Dollar	0.4545
Euro	3.6496

*HERMAN ST. HELEN,
Comptroller of Customs & Excise(Ag.).*

Supply and Installation of a Bio-filtration Sewer Treatment Plant for the Carrieff/Black Mallet Development Project, Castries, St. Lucia

Invitation to Bid

THE Government of St. Lucia (GOSL) has secured a loan from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) towards the cost of the National Disaster Management Rehabilitation Project and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the Contract for the Supply and Installation of a Biofiltration

Sewer Treatment Plant for Carellie/Black Mallet Development Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries specified in the agreement for the financing between CDB and GOSL.

The Ministry of Physical Development, Environment and Housing, which will be the Executing Agency for the Project, invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply and installation of a Biofiltration Sewer Treatment Plant Carellie/Black Mallet Development.

The works include:

The Supply and Installation of a Biofiltration Sewer Treatment Plant to be connected to existing small-bore sewer reticulation network services 80 residential lots.

Civil works specific to the design and construction of foundations to the biofiltration system.

The procurement of goods and services will be limited to firms, or joint ventures of firms which are legally incorporated or otherwise organised in, and have their principal place of business in, one of the member countries of CDB or the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) or the Kingdom of the Netherlands and are either:

- (1) more than 50% beneficially owned by a citizen(s) and/or bona fide resident(s) of one or more of the member countries of CDB or IDB or the Kingdom of the Netherlands, or by body(ies) corporate meeting these requirements, or
- (2) owned or controlled by the government of an eligible country provided that it is legally and financially autonomous and operates under the commercial law of an eligible country.

Eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents at the first address below between 0900 hours and 1600 hours Monday to Friday. The documents may be purchased on the submission of a written application to the same address and upon payment of a 'non-refundable fee of two hundred and seventy Eastern Caribbean Dollars (XCD \$270) or its equivalent in a freely convertible currency for each set, payable by bank draft to the order of the Accountant General. Potential bidders who request that the documents be forwarded to them are required to

submit an account number from a courier agent in St. Lucia, which will accept freight collect charges. The documents will be dispatched by designated courier pending receipt of the fee. However, payment must be received and acknowledged prior to the date set for closing of tenders. Under no circumstances will The Ministry of Physical Development, Environment and Housing be held responsible for late delivery or loss of the documents so dispatched.

Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by security of thirteen thousand, six hundred United States dollars (US\$13,600) its equivalent in a freely convertible currency. Bids must be deposited in the tender box at the Central Tenders Board (Second address below) by 1100 hours local time on January 21, 2004. They will be publicly opened in the Conference Room at the same address at 1400 hours local time on January 21, 2004. Bids will not be received after the tender box is closed. The Government of St. Lucia does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any other bid and will not defray any costs incurred by bidders.

The Project Coordinator
Natural Disaster Management
- Rehabilitation – Landslide Project
Ministry of Physical
Development, Environment &
Housing
Castries Waterfront
Castries, ST. LUCIA

Tel: (758)452-3350
Fax: (758) 452-2506
E-mail: mgitters@planting.gov.lc

The Secretary
Central Tenders Board
Ministry of Finance
Old Government Building
Laborie Street, Castries
ST. LUCIA

Tel. (758)-468.3929

Postal Administration of the United States of America

THE Postal Administration of the United States of America has informed that:

As a result of new regulations issued by the Food and Drug Administration

(FDA) under the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002, as from 12th December, 2003, all shipments of articles of food to the United States must be preceded by a prior notice of shipment.

This applies to articles shipped for commercial purposes or as gifts. Articles of food include (but are not limited to) food for humans or animals, dietary supplements, nutritional supplements, vitamins, food and colour additives.

Articles of food which are non commercially prepared by an individual in his own residence and sent to another individual as a (non-commercial) gift are exempt from submission of this prior notice.

This prior notice may be submitted and a prior notice confirmation number obtained through an internet address which can be acquired from the General Post Office.

Mail Shipments containing food articles for which a prior notice confirmation number has not been entered on the customs declaration may be returned to the sender or (if no return address is included) destroyed.

Please be guided accordingly.

Postmaster General.

Judicial Sale

NOTICE is hereby given that the movable property hereinafter described will be put up for Sale and Adjudication by the Sheriff, or her Officer, at the Court House or at the Registrar's Office in the City of Castries, on the day of Sale hereinafter stated for each property between the hours of ten and eleven o'clock in the forenoon by the Court House clock.

SAINT LUCIA

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
(CIVIL)

Claim No. SLUCHCV2002/0854

Between :

- (1) FREDERICK RAYMOND
- (2) ZENA RAYMOND

Claimants
and
(1) FRANK KELLER
Defendant

Notice is hereby given that by virtue of judgment of the High Court dated **9th July, 2003** against the Defendant herein and writ of Execution returnable on the **23rd day of January 2004**, there will be put up for Sale and Adjudication by the Sheriff or his Officer to the Highest Bidder in the High Court House, on Peynier Street in the City of Castries on Friday the **23rd day of January 2004** at ten o'clock in the forenoon, the following movable property of the Defendant to wit:

SCHEDULE

The ordinary shares of the Defendant in Kentucky Fried Chicken Limited registered in the Company Registry as company number 31 of 1992.

BMW 3201 RHD 4 Door Sedam, Chassis No. WBAAm 12030 FN 07948, Engine No. 31852332, Registration No. PC9000.

TERMS: CASH

Sheriff's Office
Peynier Street, Castries

[Second Publication]

NOTICE is hereby given that the immovable property hereinafter described will be put up for Sale and Adjudication by the Sheriff, or her Officer, at the Court House or at the Registrar's Office in the City of Castries, on the day of Sale hereinafter stated for each property between the hours of ten and eleven o'clock in the forenoon by the Court House clock.

The purchase money shall be payable as follows:

1. The Officer conducting the sale shall require from the Bidder a deposit or a certified banker's cheque in the sum of **THREE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND NINETEEN DOLLARS AND NINETY-SEVEN CENTS (\$3,819.97)** equal to one

tenth of the debt (in principal, interest and costs) due to the seizing party.

2. The Purchaser shall pay the Sheriff the Purchase price less the deposit within six months of the date of sale with interest thereon at the rate of six percent per annum. In default of such payment the deposit paid by the Purchaser shall be forfeited and shall be applied towards the Judgement Debt.

SAINT LUCIA
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
(CIVIL)

No. 652 of 2000

Between :

BARCLAYS BANK PLC

Claimant

and

RUSSELL MCKEENES THOMAS
of La Croix Maingot, Castries

Defendant

Notice is hereby given that by virtue of Judgement of the High Court dated **9th day of April, 2001**, against the Defendant herein and Writ of Execution Returnable on the **18th day of March, 2004**, there will be put up for Sale and Adjudication by the Sheriff or her Officer to the highest bidder in the High Court House, on Peynier Street, in the city of Castries on **Tuesday the 16th day of March, 2004** at ten o'clock in the forenoon the following **immovable** property of the Defendant to wit:

SCHEDULE

BLOCK 1422B PARCEL NO.21

All that piece or parcel of land situate at Savannes Estate in the Quarter of Vieux-Fort in the State of Saint Lucia com-prising approximately **TEN THOUSAND SQUARE FEET (10,000 sq ft)** and bounded as follows **NORTH** by parcel number 22, **SOUTH** and **WEST** by Parcel Number 20, all of Block Number 1422B **EAST** by a main road or howsoever else the same may be bounded or contained, together with all the appurtenances and dependencies thereof.

TITLE: Deed of Sale by CAPITAL MANAGEMENT LTD to Russell McKeenes Thomas executed before Michael P. St. Catherine, Notary Royal on the 10th day of March,

1996 and registered at the land Registry in Saint Lucia on the 27th day of March, 1996 as Instrument No. 1181/96.

UPSET PRICE: \$53,330.00

Sheriff's Office
Peynier Street, Castries

[First Publication]

Trade Mark Applications

**REGISTRY OF
COMPANIES & INTELLECTUAL
PROPERTY**

SAINT LUCIA

NOTICE is hereby given that the following trademark applications have been accepted for registration. Any person who has grounds of Opposition to the registration of any of the Marks advertised herein according to the classes under the heading "Trademarks Applications advertised before Registration", may within three (3) months from the date of this publication, file Notice of Opposition accompanied by a fee of \$30.00.

N. B. All trademarks are published under the **NICE CLASSIFICATION (EIGHTH EDITION) NCL (8)**.

File No (210): TM/2003/ 000258

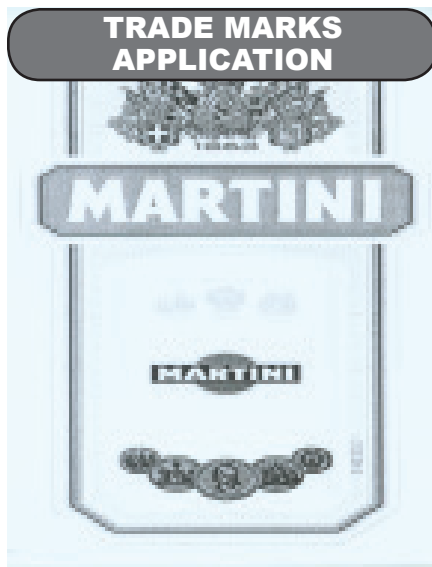
Mark name: MARTINI

Applicant (730): Tradall S.A.

Filing date (220): 27/06/2003

Class (511): 33 (Wines, spirits and liqueurs.)

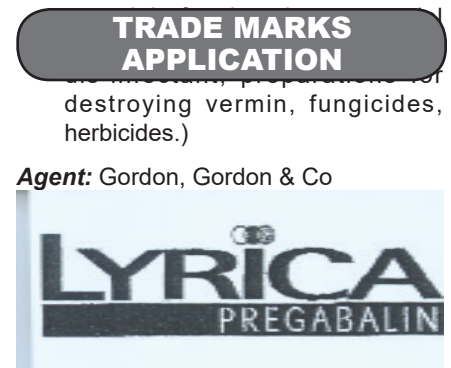
Agent: Gordon, Gordon & Co



File No (210): TM/2003/ 000259
Mark name: MARTINI M&R
Applicant (730): Tradall S.A.
Filing date (220): 27/06/2003
Class (511): 33 (Wines, spirits and liqueurs.)
Agent: Gordon, Gordon & Co



File No (210): TM/2003/ 000426
Mark name: LYRICA PREGABALIN
Applicant (730): C.P. Pharmaceuticas International C. V.
Filing date (220): 12/12/2003
Class (511): 5 (Pharmaceutical and veterinary preparations, sanitary preparations for medical purposes, dietetic substances adapted for medical use, food for babies, plaster for medical purposes,



Notice

Quota Allocation for Importers of Ozone Depleting Substances

15th January 2004 to 14th January 2004

IMPORTER NAME	15 Jan. 04 — 14 Jan. 05	
	ODP KG	LBS
Allied Services Ltd.	516	1199
Lorde's Refrigeration & Air Conditioning Ltd.	295	684
Muff's Refrigeration & Air Conditioning Co. Ltd.	816	1896
Paul's Refrigeration & Air Conditioning Services Ltd.	358	832
Ray's Refrigeration Services Ltd.	1539	3575
Refrigeration SLU	951	2209
Tropical Cooling Ltd.	292	678
Abeyance	1074	2496

Notice

DECLARATION OF ACQUISITION OF LAND

SAINT LUCIA

DECLARATION OF Acquisition Pursuant To Section 3 Of The Land Acquisition Ordinance (Chapter 109)

And

IN THE MATTER of a Declaration by the Governor General acting on the advice of Cabinet that a portion of land situated at Beanfield in the quarter of Vieux Fort in the island of Saint Lucia is likely to be acquired for a public purpose.

DECLARATION OF ACQUISITION OF LAND

WHEREAS, IT IS enacted by Section 3 of the Land Acquisition Ordinance Chapter 109 that if the Governor General acting on the advice of Cabinet considers that any land should be acquired for a public purpose, she may cause a Declaration to that effect to be made;

AND WHEREAS, it is considered by the Governor General acting on the advice of Cabinet that the land mentioned and described in the Schedule hereto should be acquired for a public purpose to wit: **For the Construction of an Access Road and Facilities for Employees of the Hotel.**

NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby declared by the Governor General acting in accordance with the advice of Cabinet, that upon the Second Publication of this Declaration in the Gazette, the lands mentioned in the schedule hereto shall vest absolutely in the Crown for a public purpose, to wit:- **For the Construction of an Access Road and Facilities for Employees of the Hotel.**

SCHEDULE 1

All that piece or parcel of land being Parcel 1418B 4 situated at Beanfield in the quarter of Vieux Fort leased by the Crown to Gildette Camilla Williams and bounded as follows:

North : Partly by Parcel 1418B 66, 68, 69 and 1418B5.

South : By the Vieux Fort/Castries Highway

East : By an access road.

West : By the access road to Club Med.

The whole is shown on the Land Registry Map Sheet 1418B, Parcel No. 4 containing an area of 4 hectares or 10 acres, dated 20 November, 1986.

Dated this 7th day of January, 2004.

JAMES FLETCHER,
Secretary to the Cabinet.

[First Publication]

Notice

The Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court In The High Court of Justice

SAINT LUCIA

Claim No. 53 of 2002

BETWEEN:

THE BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA

Claimant

and

ASHTON JOSEPH of Clarke Street, Vieux Fort

Defendant

BEFORE:

THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE IANTHEA E. LEIGERTWOOD-OCTAVE
(A HIGH COURT JUDGE)

TO:

ASHTON JOSEPH whose last known address was Clarke Street, Vieux Fort.

NOTICE

TAKE NOTICE that an action has been commenced against you in the High Court of Justice (Saint Lucia) No. 53 of 2002 by THE BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA in which the Claimant claims desires to fix an upset price.

AND it has been ordered that service of the Notice of the Claim Form in this action on you be effected by this advertisement in two consecutive issues of the local Newspaper circulating in Saint Lucia and two consecutive issues of the *Official Gazette*.

IF YOU desire to defend the said action you must within 42 days of the last publication of this advertisement file an acknowledgement of service at the Registry of the High Court of Justice in the City of Castries.

IN DEFAULT of such acknowledgement Judgment may be entered in your absence.

BY THE COURT

REGISTRAR.

[First Publication]

Notice

The Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court In The High Court of Justice

SAINT LUCIA

Claim No. SLUHCV 2003/0441

BETWEEN:

THE BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA

Claimant

and

JOHN JEREMIE

ANGELA JEREMIE both of Cabishe, Babonneau, Castries

Defendants

BEFORE: THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE OLA MAE EDWARDS

TO: JOHN JEREMIE and ANGELA JEREMIE whose last known address was Cabishe, Babonneau, Castries

NOTICE

TAKE NOTICE that an action has been commenced against you in the High Court of Justice (Saint Lucia) No. SLUHCV 2003/0441 by THE BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA in which the Claimant claims a specified sum.

AND it has been ordered that service of the Notice of the Claim Form in this action on you be effected by this advertisement in two consecutive issues of the local Newspaper circulating in Saint Lucia and two consecutive issues of the *Official Gazette*.

IF YOU desire to defend the said action you must within 42 days of the last publication of this advertisement file an acknowledgement of service at the Registry of the High Court of Justice in the City of Castries.

IN DEFAULT of such acknowledgement Judgment may be entered in your absence.

BY THE COURT

REGISTRAR.

[First Publication]

Notice

The Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court In The High Court of Justice

SAINT LUCIA

Claim No. SLUHCV2000/0902

BETWEEN:

BARCLAYS BANK PLC

Claimant

and

CLAUDIUS BISCETTE of Garrand, Babonneau

Defendant

BEFORE:

THE HONOURABLE MASTER BRIAN COTTLE
(A JUDGE IN CHAMBERS)

TO:

CLAUDIUS BISCETTE whose last known address was Garrand, Babonneau

NOTICE

TAKE NOTICE that an action has been commenced against you in the High Court of Justice Saint Lucia No.SLUHCV2000/0902 by BARCLAYS BANK PLC in which the Claimant desires to fix an upset price.

AND it has been ordered that service of the Notice of the Application to Fix Upset Price in this action on you be effected by this advertisement in two consecutive issues of the local Newspaper circulating in St. Lucia and two consecutive issues of the *Official Gazette*.

IF YOU desire to defend the said action you must within 42 days of the last publication of this advertisement enter an acknowledgement of service at the Registry of the High Court of Justice in the City of Castries.

IN DEFAULT of such acknowledgement the Application may be heard in your absence.

Dated this 31st day of December, 2003.

BY THE COURT

REGISTRAR.

This Notice was filed by McNamara & Co., Chambers of #20 Micoud Street, Castries for and on behalf of the Claimant in this matter.

[First Publication]

Notice

The Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court (A.D. 2003)

PRACTICE DIRECTION No. 1 of 2003 COURT CONNECTED MEDIATION

This Practice Direction is made pursuant to Part 4.2(2) of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court Civil Procedure Rules 2000 and supplements Part 25.1[h] of the Rules.

1. GENERAL

In this Practice Direction, unless otherwise provided for or the context otherwise requires -

“ADR” - means a collective description of methods of resolving disputes otherwise than through the trial process including, in particular, mediation;

“Court” - means the High Court and, where the context so admits and in Part 62, the Court of Appeal

“court-connected mediation services” - means mediation services provided as the result of a referral by the court;

“court office” – refers to –

- (a) the place where documents are to be filed, etc. and includes a Registry of the High Court and of the Court of Appeal; and
- (b) members of the court staff who carry out work of a formal or administrative nature under rule 2.6 (1) of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court Civil Procedure Rules 2000;

“ECSC regional mediation coordinator” means the person appointed by the Chief Justice to coordinate the development of court-connected mediation in the Member States and Territories;

“Judicial Education Institute” – means the Judicial Education Institute of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court;

“mediation” - means a flexible dispute resolution procedure in which a neutral third party, the mediator, facilitates negotiations between the parties to help them settle their dispute;

“mediation coordinator” – means the person appointed to be responsible for the management of court connected mediation in each of the Member States;

“mediation session” - refers to a mediation including continuations and adjournments of the same matter held with a mediator and attended by parties and or their lawyers to a dispute to which this Practice Direction applies;

“mediator” - means an individual engaged as a neutral third party to provide mediation services and whose name appears on the Roster of Mediators for the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court;

“Member States” means –

- [1] Antigua and Barbuda;
- [2] Commonwealth of Dominica;
- [3] Grenada;
- [4] Saint Christopher and Nevis;
- [5] Saint Lucia; and
- [6] St. Vincent and the Grenadines;

“party” – includes both the party to the claim and any legal practitioner on record for that party unless any rule specifies or it is clear from the context that it relates to the client or to the legal practitioner only;

“referral order” - means an order to attend mediation as a result of a referral by a master or judge;

“Rules” – means Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court Civil Procedure Rules 2000;

“statement of case” – means -

- (a) a claim form, statement of claim, defence, counterclaim, ancillary claim form or defence and a reply; and
- (b) any further information given in relation to any statement of case under Part 34 of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court Civil Procedure Rules 2000 either voluntarily or by order of the court;

“Territories” means –

- [1] Anguilla;
- [2] Montserrat; and
- [3] the British Virgin Islands

“To refer” - means to provide a party to a case with the name of one or more mediators for the purpose of selecting a mediator.

2. INTRODUCTORY NOTE

Court-connected Mediation was introduced in St. Lucia by Practice Direction No. 2 of 2002. Practice Direction No. 1 of 2003 extends court-connected mediation to all Member States and makes provision for the referral to mediation of civil actions filed in the Court.

Under Part 25.1(h) of the Rules, the Court must actively manage cases, by “encouraging the parties to use any appropriate form of dispute resolution including, in particular, mediation, if the court considers it appropriate and facilitating the use of such procedures”. In order to facilitate the use of such procedures and to provide litigants with a timely and cost-effective method to the conventional way of resolving civil disputes, the Court is instituting Court-connected mediation in the Member States.

Practice Direction No. 1 of 2003 does not provide for court-connected mediation in family proceedings, insolvency (including winding up of companies), non-contentious probate proceedings, proceedings when the High Court is acting as a prize court and any other proceedings in the Supreme Court instituted under any enactment, in so far as rules made under that enactment regulate those proceedings.

3. ADMINISTRATION

Court-connected mediation will be managed on a regional and national basis. In each Member State and Territory there will be a national court-connected Mediation committee which may include:

- Members of the Judiciary
- Registrar of the High Court
- Representatives from:
 - o The Ministry responsible for Legal Affairs
 - o The Bar Association
 - o The private sector
 - o Trade Unions
 - o Religious Organisations
- Such other persons as may be selected by the Chief Justice

These Committees shall be responsible for selecting mediators, who have been certified by the Judicial Education Institute, to be placed on the Roster of Mediators. The committees will also deal with complaints, assess the effectiveness of the process and make recommendations.

The Roster of Mediators from which litigants can choose a mediator will be available at the High Court Office and at the office of the Mediation Co-ordinator. Mediators on the roster will be paid on a fee basis established by the Court.

The Regional Court-connected Mediation committee shall be comprised of:

- Representatives of the national court-connected Mediation committees
- Such other persons as may be selected by the Chief Justice

This committee will serve as an advisory body to the Chief Justice.

4. REFERRAL TO MEDIATION

At any stage of the proceedings:

- A Master or Judge may make an order referring any civil action filed in the Court to mediation.
- The parties may by consent notify the court that they wish to have their case referred to mediation and in such case, the Master or Judge shall make a referral order.

Parties will not be allowed to opt out of the Referral Order to mediation except by order of a Master or Judge and upon adducing good and substantial reasons.

5. SELECTION OF MEDIATOR AND DATE FOR MEDIATION

It is the joint responsibility of the parties to select a Mediator mutually agreed to by them. If the parties cannot agree upon a mutually acceptable mediator, a Master or Judge shall make an order appointing a mediator from the Roster of Mediators.

The Mediation Co-ordinator shall be responsible for the scheduling of mediation sessions, which will be conducted on facilities under the management and control of the Court. Parties will be required to attend a mediation session of up to three hours but they may choose to go beyond that period if they so desire.

After the holding of a mediation session, the following cases will be returned to case management:

- Cases in which a Certificate of Non-compliance has been filed;
- Cases in which a Notice of Outcome of Mediation indicates that the parties have not settled.

6. PRE-MEDIATION REQUIREMENTS

After an order has been made referring a matter to mediation, the parties are required to:

- Submit a copy of the Statement of Case to the Mediator at least 7 days prior to the mediation session;
- Sign a Confidentiality Agreement prior to the mediation session.

If the parties have agreed to settle or have settled the claim prior to the scheduled mediation session, they must cancel the session and provide the Mediation Coordinator with the details of the terms of the agreement or settlement.

7. ATTENDANCE AT MEDIATION SESSION

All parties to the litigation are required to attend the mediation session. The Mediator shall lodge with the Mediation Co-ordinator a Certificate of Non-compliance if a party to the claim fails to attend the mediation session whether or not their legal practitioners attend.

8. PROCEDURES

The Procedures to be followed in relation to court-connected mediation are prescribed in the First Schedule.

9. PRACTICE FORMS

The Practice Forms are contained in the Second Schedule.

10. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Practice Direction will come into effect on the 1st day of December 2003 and will be applicable to all civil actions filed in the Court.

Dated this 22nd day of December 2003.

Sir Dennis Byron
Chief Justice

FIRST SCHEDULE

PROCEDURES

1. REFERRAL OF CASES TO MEDIATION

- 1.1 At any stage of the proceedings:
- a. A Master or Judge may make an order in Form M1 referring any civil action filed in the Court to mediation; or
 - b. The parties may by consent notify the Court in Form M8 that they wish to have their case referred to mediation, and in such case, the Master or Judge may make a Referral Order.
- 1.2 This Practice Direction does not apply to the following matters as excluded by Part 2.2 (3) of the Civil Procedure Rules 2000:
- Family proceedings
 - Insolvency (including winding up of companies)
 - Non-contentious probate proceedings
 - Proceedings when the High Court is acting as a prize court; and
 - Any other proceedings in the Supreme Court instituted under any enactment, in so far as rules made under that enactment regulate those proceedings.
- 1.3 After the Referral Order has been made, the court office shall send a copy to the Mediation Co-ordinator.

2. CRITERIA FOR REFERRAL OF CASES

- 2.1 In considering whether to refer a case to mediation, the master or judge shall take into account all relevant circumstances including the following:
- a) the relationship between the parties;
 - b) the willingness of the parties to resolve their dispute by a collaborative process;
 - c) opportunities for joint gains not available through litigation in the court; or
 - d) any other criteria considered appropriate by the master or judge.

3. APPLICATION TO DISPENSE WITH MEDIATION

Within 15 days after the Referral Order, a party may apply to the court to vacate the Referral Order if good and substantial reason is shown to the master or judge.

4. TIME FOR CONDUCTING THE MEDIATION SESSION

The mediation session hearing shall be held within 45 days of the Referral Order unless otherwise ordered by the master or judge, on application by any party.

5. EXTENSION OF TIME FOR MEDIATION

- 5.1 In considering whether to extend the time within which the mediation is to be conducted the master or judge shall take into account all circumstances, including:
- a) the number of parties and the complexity of the issues in the action; and
 - b) whether the mediation will be more likely to succeed if it is postponed to allow the parties to acquire more information.

6. ROSTER OF MEDIATORS

- 6.1 The Mediation Co-ordinator shall maintain a Roster of Mediators for that Member State, as selected by the Court-connected Mediation Committee.
- 6.2 The Roster of Mediators shall be exhibited at the High Court Office and at the office of the Mediation Co-ordinator.

7. SELECTION OF MEDIATOR BY THE PARTIES

- 7.1 All court-connected mediations shall be conducted by a mediator from the Roster of Mediators, who is:
- a) mutually agreed to by the parties; or
 - b) assigned by the master or judge, where the parties fail to agree.
- 7.2 The parties may select the mediator:

- a) at the time of filing the Notice for Referral to Mediation;
- b) at the time the Referral Order is made; or
- c) within 10 days of the Referral Order, by filing a Notice of Selection of Mediator in Form M2.

7.3 If the parties fail to select a mediator, the Mediation Coordinator shall request:

- a) That the master or judge assign a mediator from the Roster of Mediators; and
- b) Issue a Notice of Selection of Mediator in Form M3, to the parties.

8. SCHEDULED DATE FOR MEDIATION

When the Notice of Selection of Mediator is filed in Form M2 and M3, the Mediation Co-ordinator shall:

- a) in consultation with the parties and the mediator, fix a date for the mediation session; and
- b) serve on every party a Notice of Scheduled Mediation (Form M4) stating the place, date and time of the mediation.

9. PROCEDURE BEFORE THE MEDIATION SESSION

9.1 Parties are required to:

- a) Submit a copy of the Statement of Case to the Mediator at least 7 days prior to the mediation session;
- b) Sign a Confidentiality Agreement prior to the mediation session.

9.2 If the parties have agreed to settle or have settled the matter prior to the scheduled mediation session, they must cancel the session and provide the Mediation Coordinator with the details of the terms of the agreement or settlement.

10. ATTENDANCE AT THE MEDIATION SESSION

- 10.1 The parties are required to attend a three-hour mediation session. After the first three hours, the mediation may be continued if the parties and the mediator agree to do so and the parties agree to pay the scheduled additional hourly rate.
- 10.2 A party who requires another person's approval before agreeing to a settlement shall, before the mediation session, arrange to have ready access to the other person throughout the session.
- 10.3 Where a party is not a natural person, the person attending on behalf of that party must be authorized to settle the dispute or be in a position to be able to obtain such authority during the mediation.
- 10.4 With the consent of all parties and the mediator, a mediation session may be adjourned at any time. In the event of an adjournment, the parties must reschedule the mediation session within the time limits set out in the Practice Direction.

11. FAILURE TO ATTEND

- 11.1 If a party fails to attend the mediation session within half an hour of the appointed time or attends the mediation session without having authority to settle the mediator shall:
 - a) cancel the session; and
 - b) immediately lodge with the Mediation Co-ordinator a Certificate of Non-compliance (Form M 5) for filing at the Court Office.

12. NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THE REFERRAL ORDER

When a Certificate of Non-compliance is filed with the Court Office, the Registrar shall refer the matter to the master or judge who may make an order under Part 26 (case management- the court's powers) or under Part 64 (costs- general) of the Rules against a party who fails to comply with the Practice Direction.

13. CONFIDENTIALITY

Prior to commencement of the mediation session the parties shall sign a Confidentiality Agreement (Form M6).

14. MEDIATOR'S REPORT

At the end of the mediation session, the mediator shall complete and lodge the Notice of Outcome of Mediation (Form M 7) with the Mediation Co-ordinator, for filing at the Court Office.

15. AGREEMENT

- 15.1 If there is an agreement resolving some or all of the issues in the dispute:
 - a) it shall be signed by the parties and the mediator and lodged with the Mediation Co-ordinator for filing at the Court Office; and
 - b) within 7 days after the agreement is signed the parties shall apply to the court for an order in terms of the agreement and the master or judge shall make an order in Form M9;
- 15.2 If the parties fail to make an application to the court for an order in terms of the signed agreement within 7 days after the agreement is signed, the master or judge shall make an order under Part 26.2 of the Rules.

16. NO AGREEMENT

If no agreement is reached that resolves all the issues in dispute, the matter shall be returned to case management.

SECOND SCHEDULE

PRACTICE FORMS

Form M 1: Mediation Referral Order

[Rule 1.1(a)]

The Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court

In the High Court of Justice

[State/Territory]

Claim No.

Between

A.B.

Claimant

and

C.D.

Defendant

Mediation Referral Order

Made the day of 20 ...

Upon this matter coming on before:

The Honourable Justice/Master

[And Upon Hearing Counsel for the Claimant and

Counsel for the Defendant]

[And Upon the Claimant and/or Defendant being present]

IT IS ORDERED THAT:

The parties to these proceedings are required to attend a mediation session with a mediator within 45 days from today's date. Parties shall select a mediator from the Roster of Mediators and advise the Mediation Co-ordinator of the name of the mediator within 10 days of the receipt of this notice. If parties fail to select a mediator, one will be appointed by the Court.

By the Court

[SEAL]

Registrar

Form M 2: Notice of Selection of Mediator

[Rule 7.2]

Heading: same as in Form M 1

Notice of Selection of Mediator

TAKE NOTICE that the parties have selected (Name of Mediator)
from the Roster of Mediators.

Dated:

Signed:

Claimant/ Claimant's Legal Practitioner
(Name, address, telephone number, email)

To: Mediation Co-ordinator
(Name, address, telephone number, email)

Form M3: Notice of Selection of Mediator by Judge or Master

[Rule 7.3]

Heading: same as in Form M1

Notice of Selection of Mediator by Judge or Master

TAKE NOTICE that a Notice of Selection of Mediator by the parties has not been filed in this action. Accordingly, I have assigned
..... (Name of Mediator) to conduct the mediation session in these proceedings.

Unless the court orders otherwise, you are required to attend this mediation session. If you have a lawyer representing you in
this action, he is also required to attend.

YOU MAY BE PENALIZED IF YOU FAIL TO ATTEND THE MEDIATION SESSION.

(Dated)

By the Court
[SEAL]
Registrar

To: Claimant's Legal Practitioner/ Claimant
(Name, address, telephone number, email)

And To: Defendant's Legal Practitioner/ Defendant
(Name, address, telephone number, email)

And To: Mediation Co-ordinator
(Name, address, telephone number, email)

Form M4: Notice of Scheduled Mediation

[Rule 8(b)]

Heading: same as in Form M1

Notice of Scheduled Mediation

TAKE NOTICE that the parties/the Master or Judge have/has selected. (Name of Mediator) from the Roster of Mediators. The mediation is scheduled to take place on the.....day, of.....(date) from to (time) at the Office of the Mediation Co-ordinator at (address).

You are required to attend a three-hour mediation session. If you have a lawyer representing you in this proceeding, he is also required to attend. Any party attending the mediation must be authorized to settle the dispute or be in a position to be able to obtain such authority during the mediation.

When you attend the mediation session, you should bring with you any documents that you consider of central importance to your case. You should plan to remain throughout the scheduled time.

Dated:

Signed: Mediation Co-ordinator
(Name, address, telephone number, email)

To: The Mediator
(Name, address, telephone number, email)

To: Claimant's Legal Practitioner/ Claimant
(Name, address, telephone number, email)

And To: Defendant's Legal Practitioner/ Defendant
(Name, address, telephone number, email)

Form M5: Certificate of Non-Compliance

[Rule 11.1(b)]

Heading: same as in Form M1

Certificate of Non-Compliance

TAKE NOTICE that

- The claimant failed to attend the mediation session.
- The defendant failed to attend the mediation session
- The claimant or his representative attended the mediation but had no authority to settle.
- The defendant or his representative attended the mediation but had no authority to settle.

Dated:

Signed:

Mediator

(Name, address, telephone number, email)

To: Mediation Co-ordinator
(Name, address, telephone number, email)

And to: The Registrar
(Name, address, telephone number, email)

Form M6: Confidentiality Agreement

[Rule 13]

Heading: same as in Form M 1

Confidentiality Agreement

Notice for Referral to Mediation

TAKE NOTICE that:

1. I(name) of(address) the Claimant herein consent to have the Court refer this matter to mediation.

2. I(name) of(address) the Defendant herein consent to have the Court refer this matter to mediation.

3. We have selected.....(name of mediator) from the Roster of Mediators.

Dated

Signed

Claimant/ Claimant's Legal Practitioner
(name, address, telephone number, email)

Defendant/ Defendant's Legal Practitioner
(name, address, telephone number, email)

To: The Registrar

Form M9 : Order subsequent to Mediation Agreement

[Rule 15.1(b)]

Heading: same as in Form M1

Order subsequent to Mediation Agreement

Made the day of 20 ...

Upon this matter coming on before:

The Honourable Justice/Master

[And Upon Hearing Counsel for the Claimant and

Counsel for the Defendant]

[And Upon the Claimant and/or Defendant being present]

Upon this matter having been referred to mediation

And upon the parties having agreed to the terms set out in the signed agreement annexed hereto;

IT IS ORDERED THAT

All further proceedings in this matter are stayed except for the purpose of carrying into effect the terms of the said agreement;

For that purpose the parties have permission to apply to the court.

BY THE COURT

REGISTRAR

Press Releases

A BASIS FOR OPTIMISM

NEW YEAR'S ADDRESS TO THE NATION

By

THE HONOURABLE DR. KENNY D. ANTHONY
PRIME MINISTER

AND MINISTER FOR FINANCE, ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL SERVICES AND INFORMATION

JANUARY 11, 2004

A MIXED YEAR

FELLOW Saint Lucians, as we reflect upon the year just concluded, we will find that there were tales of commendable achievements, and disappointments, echoes of praise and criticism, and demonstrations of pain and mourning. The challenges of the past year, though formidable, provided the government with the opportunity to fortify its will, character, resolve, courage and commitment in working towards the betterment of all Saint Lucians. We continued to work assiduously over the past year to lay the foundation for our country's economic recovery and to address the social needs of our island. In the process we have made great strides in the areas of health and housing, education and sports, diplomacy, tourism and fisheries, parliamentary democracy, prison reform, telecommunications reform and law reform.

As we endeavour to create a better society, individual Saint Lucians are also playing their part in bringing recognition and pride to their homeland. They continue to excel on both the regional and international stage. The election of Senator Julian Hunte to the Presidency of the United Nations General Assembly was Saint Lucia's biggest achievement on the world stage. This was a signal honour bestowed on us, making ours the smallest country ever to hold that important international diplomatic position. This should make the Saint Lucian nation and indeed the wider CARICOM region proud.

The election of Mrs. Berthia Parle as Caribbean Hotelier of the Year and later as President of the Caribbean Hotel Association, and the conferring of the awards of Local Manufacturer of the Year and Caribbean Entrepreneur of the Year on Mr. Laurie Barnard are commendable achievements by two of our citizens. Their successes and achievements should, once again, illustrate to every Saint Lucian that we are as good as anyone, anywhere in this region and indeed, the wider world.

SIGNS OF ECONOMIC RECOVERY

The economy has, over the last two years, been a cause of much concern, anxiety and debate, especially following the global recession and the events of September 11, 2001. However, after a period of negative and then marginal growth, the economy is once again showing signs of recovery. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has estimated that the economy is likely to grow by 2.3 percent in 2003. We believe, however, that the growth rate will be closer to 2.03%

Growth within the economy was propelled largely by renewed robustness within the tourism sector. For the period ending November 2003, Saint Lucia registered an increase in stay-over tourist arrivals of 8.7 percent, while the overall projected increase in stay-over arrivals for the year is estimated at 10 percent. Although cruise ship arrivals registered a 2.4 percent decline in the earlier part of the year, increases of forty percent and eighty three percent were registered in the past two months. These increases signal a positive turn-around in the cruise ship sector.

The other critical sectors within the economy also showed signs of recovery and contributed in a meaningful manner to overall improvement in economic performance in 2003. It was estimated that Private Sector construction activity grew in every quarter during the year 2003. The manufacturing sector also showed signs of improvement and registered a growth rate of 1 percent. Of greater significance perhaps are the strides made in increasing the volume of manufactured goods exported to regional and international markets. In 2003, Saint Lucia's export of manufactured goods to foreign markets was valued at an estimated \$35.6 million dollars. This figure represents a 4.9 percent increase over the previous year.

The liberalization of the telecommunications sector is also beginning to bear dividends, with consumers being the major bene-

ficiaries. Overall reduction in fixed line and cellular rates and general improvements in the quality of service have given rise to a significant expansion of that sector.

The agricultural sector however, remains a source of concern. Growth within that sector remained sluggish for most of the year. Overall agricultural production, which is by and large contingent on banana output, suffered setbacks due to declining prices and reduction in output, particularly during the first half of the year. However, indications are that there is a resurgence in banana production. New fields are coming into production, with high yielding tissue culture plants. In the past two weeks, exports have crossed the 1,000 ton mark for the first time in the past twelve months, and we expect shortly to reap the benefits of our substantial investments in drainage and irrigation.

A good indication of confidence in our economic recovery is the increase in commercial lending by domestic banks. Liquidity remains buoyant and banks have become more competitive as they seek new clients. There is evidence of increases in loans for housing - a key indicator of social progress - tourism, manufacturing, entertainment and the distributive trades.

In general, given the encouraging performance of the lead economic sectors in 2003, the prospects for growth and development in the New Year look promising. However, the economy continues to face many challenges and its sustainability and viability will, in large measure, depend on how these challenges are met. In order to safeguard the economic gains made in 2003, it is imperative that we check any further deterioration of the fiscal balances, continue efforts to invigorate Private Sector growth, preserve the macroeconomic stability that we have achieved and contain public debt. These will be issues for us in the 2004/2005 Budget.

NEW INVESTMENTS

There is another reason why we ought to be optimistic. This year we should see new and significant investments in the Public and Private Sectors.

On the Public Sector side, the Government's emphasis will be on road rehabilitation and development. Work continues on the construction of the highway linking Vieux Fort and Soufriere. New roads are under construction from La Ressource to Derniere Riviere, Deglos to Trois Piton and Grand Riviere to Trois Piton. In March 2004, the Tertiary Roads Rehabilitation Project commences. Twenty-seven roads from Gros-Islet to Anse La Raye, thirteen roads from Canaries to Choiseul and sixteen roads from Dennery to Vieux Fort are targeted for reconstruction.

In the Tourism Sector, all of the hotels which were closed following September 11, 2001, should be fully operational by the end of the year. Renovations are in progress at the Orange Grove and the former Club Med in Vieux Fort. Construction within the next few weeks should commence on the Discovery Bay hotel complex, in Marigot. Plans for the construction of the new hotel at Praslin are on course. The promoters of the Beaches Hotel in Vieux Fort are finalizing the design of that hotel. Like all of you, I await the sod turning ceremonies to confirm these investments.

On the manufacturing and industrial front, two new investments are expected in the next six months. On January 08, the National Development Corporation signed a lease agreement with Display Creations Limited for the establishment of a major manufacturing operation at Union concentrating on the manufacture of display units for retail outlets. The company is expected to commence operations later this month. This investment will initially employ approximately 120 persons, increasing to 280 within three years.

The Government, through the National Development Corporation, has also facilitated investment in the Information Technology Sector. From an investment perspective, our focus involves taking advantage of the opportunities which presently exist in Business Process Outsourcing (BPO). The Government will soon be in a position to announce the entry of a major contact centre, which is expected to create as many as 400 jobs within two years.

DEVELOPMENTS IN GOVERNANCE

Our past experiences should confirm by now that advances in economic development must be matched by advances in the social and political spheres. In this regard, the Government will continue to create an enabling environment for the operation of Civil Society organizations. Our Constitution is now twenty-five years old, and while it has generally served us well, it has become clear that the time has come to make it more relevant to our developmental needs as a society. The Constitution is the foundation upon which our society is based and it is, therefore, essential that at all times it truly reflects and represents the aspirations of the people it is supposed to serve.

Accordingly, late last year, the government and the opposition announced their joint intention to undertake a review of the Constitution. A Constitutional Review Commission will be appointed jointly by the Government and the Opposition to undertake this sensitive assignment. The Commission will be mandated with the task of engaging in the widest form of consultation throughout

the island and with Saint Lucians living abroad, so that every one who wishes to contribute can be heard. I urge every citizen to participate in this exercise. Let all ideas contend; let the Commission hear your views; make a contribution to the future good governance of our society as we all seek to make Saint Lucia a better place for ourselves and for future generations.

This government is committed to upholding the political and civil liberties of its citizens. The commitment is manifested in our proud record on free expression. While we do not lay claim to the introduction of free speech, this government has certainly created the atmosphere where every citizen now feels sufficiently empowered to speak freely on any matter, whether or not it involves the government. The proliferation of talk shows is but one manifestation of our government's commitment to such free speech.

We have been in the vanguard of encouraging citizens to speak out freely without fear of sanction, so long as such speech remains within the confines of the law.

But freedom of expression is a double-edged sword. While it affords citizens an avenue to freely comment on matters of concern, it also allows the unscrupulous among us to make the most vile and baseless accusations against the innocent.

Many would have heard allegations emanating from the opposition about corruption in government. Not surprisingly these allegations are made in the broadest and vaguest terms possible and once accusers are confronted to specifically identify areas of corruption, none can be produced. There are those who believe that if you say something often enough and loudly enough, however untrue, people will believe it. I know because I am a victim.

When we first entered into office, we found an Integrity Act without teeth. We repealed and replaced it with stronger, more encompassing legislation. The Act clearly defines corruption. Allegations of corruption can be reported to the Integrity Commission for investigation. Mechanisms are also available to all citizens to report misdeeds and acts of corruption. If there is evidence of corruption, take it to the Police or take it to the Integrity Commission. It is your duty and responsibility.

SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

Twenty-five years ago, our country took the decision to sever its umbilical cord with England and ventured into the international community on its own.

This year, we celebrate the Silver Jubilee of our independence under the theme "Taking Responsibility for Our Country's Development". We have achieved much during our relatively short life as an independent nation. Therefore, this year should be about a celebration of these achievements and a recommitment to working for the continued growth and development of our nation.

The activities that have been planned by the Cabinet-appointed Standing National Independence Anniversary Committee reflect a balance between celebration and introspection; between reflection on the achievements of the past and anticipation of a future laden with possibilities and potential; and between a commitment to utilize the tools and technology of the present to go boldly into the future and a reaffirmation of our intention to uphold the values of respect, civility, justice and equality that have always characterized our interactions with each other.

During this Silver Jubilee year, I want to urge all Saint Lucians to do as our theme implores – take responsibility for our country's development. This translates into each of us playing our part in not just our economic development, but also our social and spiritual growth. I will have more to say on the observance of this important achievement, in a few weeks, but in the meantime I wish to encourage everyone to join in the celebration of this milestone.

MAJOR DECISIONS IN THE NEW YEAR

As I stated earlier, our nation turns twenty-five years old this year, and we believe that at this stage it is fitting that we squarely confront some of our more pressing economic and social needs. As a society and government we have four major decisions to make in the course of this year.

Universal Health Care

First on the priority list is Health Care. We are a small country with limited resources, and one of the disadvantages of our resource constraints is that necessities such as health care may find themselves priced out of the reach of many of our citizens. Too often, we hear of persons who are not able to receive health care because they cannot afford it.

In the first quarter of 2002, the Cabinet of Ministers appointed a Task Force to consider the feasibility of introducing a System of Universal Health Care. There has been extensive background research, and the Task Force has held several consultations, which have now culminated in a report on the implementation of a Universal Health Care System in Saint Lucia. Cabinet has deliberated on the recommendations of the Report and has agreed on an approach for the operationalization of a system of Universal Health Care. Later this year, the Task Force will take the first steps towards explaining the proposed system of Health Care to the public at large. In these discussions, the fundamental issue we have to resolve is this: how do we finance health care to ensure that all citizens get access?

While significant changes and strides have been made in the health sector over the past years, we will all admit that there are areas in need of attention and improvement.

If Universal Health Care is to succeed we have to move purposefully and deliberately towards the implementation of Health Sector Reform so as to allow this critical sector to operate more efficiently and to make better use of the human, physical and financial resources allocated to it. As you are aware, we have finalized the financing arrangements for the new General Hospital and the new Psychiatric Hospital. But, these facilities will not operate optimally if the environment within which they are managed remains unchanged.

Government has therefore decided to appoint a Commission to undertake a comprehensive review of the structure of the medical services and the terms and conditions of employment of medical personnel. The Commission will be chaired by Sir. Richie Haynes, a former government minister and a distinguished medical practitioner from Barbados.

I must sound a warning here, however, about the need for all of us and that includes me, to adopt healthier lifestyles. Some of the health conditions that cause the most serious problems for our nation and place the greatest burdens on our system and resources are the result of poor lifestyle choices. Ailments such as Diabetes, Hypertension and HIV/AIDS can all be prevented or minimized by more sensible and responsible behaviour and habits. While I intend to increase the pressure on the Minister of Health to step up the Health Awareness and Education Program of his Ministry, I want to implore everyone to pay closer attention to their diets, to embark on a sustainable exercise and fitness program, and to reduce or eliminate the intake of products that can damage your health. A healthy nation is a productive nation, and in this area we can and must all play our part.

Unemployment Insurance

The next issue we must address is whether our country can afford Unemployment Insurance. Although almost all industrialized countries have in place some level of Unemployment Insurance, the only Caribbean country with Unemployment Insurance benefit is Barbados. Recognising the need to provide a partial income replacement to eligible covered workers for short periods following involuntary unemployment, our Government commissioned a Task Force to investigate the feasibility of implementing an Unemployment Insurance Programme in Saint Lucia. With assistance from the International Labour Organisation, and following consultations, research and data analysis, a draft report has been submitted for Government's consideration.

During the coming year, Government intends to finalize discussions on the introduction of unemployment insurance benefits to provide much needed support to our work force, while at the same time promote economic efficiency and stability.

Review of the Indirect Tax System

The third challenge we have to face is the reform of the indirect tax system. The Tax Reform and Administration Commission appointed by the Monetary Council of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank has recommended to all OECS countries that they replace all indirect taxes, except import duties, with a Value Added Tax or as it commonly known, a VAT. It is recommended that OECS countries take a collective decision on this matter.

The Commissioners argued that the OECS had no choice but to adopt a VAT since the WTO and the proposed Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) will force Governments to abolish the existing regime of indirect taxes. They claim that VAT "will replace a number of nuisance and other taxes such as consumption and travel taxes." (See Report, page 6).

I have invited the Social Partners and the Opposition to review and comment on the report. The Government of Saint Lucia is itself reviewing the Report and hopes to formulate a position in the course of the year. The Report is available at the Government Printery for those who wish to peruse it. It will also be available on the Government Website, www.stlucia.gov.lc.

Enactment of the Labour Code

The fourth issue we must resolve is the enactment of the Labour Code. Finality must be brought to this exercise.

The Government maintains its position that the Labour Code must spring from and reflect the shared consensus of all parties. We must agree on a Code that is adapted to our needs and circumstances, that protects the rights of workers and employers, and does not frighten investors, whether local or foreign. I believe we can achieve this provided that we approach the final phase of the exercise with trust, goodwill and a shared understanding of our collective future.

CONTINUED ASSAULT ON CRIME

The vexing question of crime continues to have the government's attention and we remain committed to empowering the police in their fight against lawlessness. Our efforts have, thankfully, began to pay some dividends as statistically, criminal activity in 2003 showed a marginal reduction over the previous year's figures.

According to police records, crimes against lawful authority reduced from 835 in 2002 to 768 in 2003; sexual offences were reduced from 191 to 165 and firearm offences from 182 to 156, murders too were down twelve percent.

While the foregoing figures represent some good news, neither my Government nor I take comfort in these. As far as we are concerned the current level of criminal activity in Saint Lucia is unacceptably high and must be lowered significantly.

We cannot ignore the fact that violent crime, drug trafficking and terrorism are creating havoc throughout the world, even in countries and communities that once existed in peace and tranquillity. In Saint Lucia the upsurge in violent crime is testimony to the fact that we too are not removed from the whirlwind of negative change sweeping the world. Fortunately in Saint Lucia, we have not been exposed directly to any act of terrorism, but we cannot remain passive; we must be prepared.

The primary guardian of our freedom, our peace and safety as individuals and as a community is the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force. We are therefore obliged to take all necessary steps to ensure that it can effectively protect us in our homes and in our communities as we go about our daily activities. The Government has over the past six years invested significantly in the transformation of the Police Force in all areas including accommodation, training, recruitment and new vehicles. New legislation to further modernize the force is now in its final stages. The Force must now begin to deliver to the people of this country the kind of quality service citizens demand and expect.

For the past six years the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force has formed part of a larger Ministry, as a department within such a Ministry. For some years it was a department within the Ministry of Legal Affairs, then later, within the Ministry of Justice. This has meant that the Police department has had to compete with other departments for ministerial attention and time. Too often ministerial oversight could not be dedicated to the Police Force as the relevant minister sought to confront other important challenges within another section of an assigned Ministry.

In order to effectively combat the incidents of violent crimes and lawless behaviour on our streets, to curb and cripple the cancerous drugs business and to place ourselves in a stronger position to counter terrorism, I have concluded that along with all the other steps that Government has taken, and is taking in relation to the Police, we need to provide more focus and dedicated ministerial oversight. This will permit more rapid decision-making on matters of importance to the operations of the Force and assure the Police of the committed, consistent and strong governmental support for the tough actions necessary to ensure law and order.

I have therefore decided to reconfigure the Ministry which will now be called the Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security. This Ministry, will now comprise the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force and the departments of Immigration, Fire and Corrections. I shall indicate later in this address the Minister who will be assigned to this Ministry.

Measures to combat crime must obviously go beyond ministerial adjustments. In the course of this year, the Government will recruit for training a further sixty (60) Police Officers, twenty-eight (28) of whom will replace officers who have retired or resigned. Of the thirty two (32) other officers, twenty-one will be specially trained for service in the Special Services Unit and assigned permanently to Vieux Fort some time later this year to lend support to the regular Police in the southern section of our island.

RESPECTING YOUNG PEOPLE

As a society we must continue to display in very tangible ways, our tremendous admiration for the young people of Saint Lucia who continue to engage all of us in their efforts to find new ways of addressing recurring challenges.

The extensive network of youth and student organisations must be encouraged to use very creative methods to address the issues of governance, economic and community development, HIV/AIDS and sports development.

Government recognises the role of sports in the growth of children, students and young people, and will continue to provide

facilities and playing fields that are safe and accessible, with the additional administrative support for organised competitions. We have to reinvigorate our club structure to not only facilitate high quality competitive engagement, but also provide our youth with an avenue to develop administrative and organizational skills.

A strong platform for job creation among young people has been the National Skills Development Centre which, in the past year, trained 550 persons in the areas of hospitality studies, information technology and building trades and small appliance repairs. Six hundred persons are projected to receive new skills in 2004.

As we participate in activities to observe the Year of the Child, young people must, together with the adults in our society, present themselves as positive role models for our children. In many situations, young people spend extensive periods with children and are charged with providing safety and guidance while they work and play.

We will continue to provide support for youth and students, whether organised or unattached. We encourage the youth to continue to engage government and the private sector in sober reflection on our vision for a truly democratic society, in critical appraisal of policies and practical approaches to implementation of programmes and projects.

Young people have an important role to play in pulling adults out of the rolling dusk of callousness and cynicism, to an emerging spirit of vibrant family and community living, and care for each other at school, work and play.

MINISTERIAL ADJUSTMENTS

I now turn finally, to the issue which has generated intense interest and discussion, the much talked about Cabinet Reshuffle. Some, for their own purposes have exaggerated intent and expectations.

Earlier in my statement, I indicated that I would establish a Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security. In this configuration, Home Affairs will be reunited with the Police. In effect, Internal Security which essentially deals with Police matters will be added to the existing Ministry of Home Affairs. The Department of Gender Relations will be reassigned to its former home the Ministry of Health, Human Services and Family Affairs. This Ministry will once again be styled, the Ministry of Health, Human Services, Family Affairs and Gender Relations. Senator Calixte George, will be reassigned from the Ministry of Agriculture to head the Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security.

Senator Petrus Compton will be required to focus exclusively on the work of the Office of the Attorney General and the usual matters pertaining to the courts. He will continue to hold the Office of Attorney General and Minister for Justice, but as indicated, will no longer be responsible for the Police.

The vacancy in the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries will be filled by Honourable Ignatius Jean who will be reassigned from the Ministry of Physical Development, Environment and Housing.

Consequent on the reassignment of Honourable Ignatius Jean, I propose to appoint Honourable Fergerson John, the member for Choiseul and Saltibus to his first Cabinet post as Minister of Physical Development, Environment and Housing.

I have carefully reviewed the position of Senator Julian Hunte, President of the General Assembly and Minister for External Affairs, International Trade and Civil Aviation. Saint Lucia, like the rest of CARICOM, is engaged in delicate negotiations over the treaty to establish the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), the ongoing negotiations in the World Trade Organization, and the efforts to implement the CARICOM Single Market and Economy. These negotiations require focus and continuous dialogue, particularly with our Private Sector. A Parliamentary Secretary will be appointed to that Ministry to oversee the work of the Ministry in the absence of Senator Hunte.

In the ministerial configuration just indicated, it will be observed that Honourable Sarah Flood Beaubrun has not been assigned to a Ministry. I have decided to relieve her of Ministerial Office and its accompanying responsibilities. The principles of Collective Responsibility are enshrined in our Constitution. In the operation of these principles it is understood that there will be differences but there is no room for insult, disrespect, invective and calumny no matter how powerful the passion and conviction one holds. If there is no respect for and among colleagues, then Collective Responsibility will not survive.

The other Ministers will, for the time being continue in their respective portfolios. The adjustments just announced will take effect as of Monday, January 12, 2004.

CONCLUSION

Fellow Saint Lucians, like each and every one of you, I pray for a better year, economically and otherwise, for our people and

our nation. I thank you and wish you God's blessings.



Prime Minister Anthony reshuffles his Cabinet

A number of changes within the Cabinet of Ministers takes effect on Monday January 12, 2004. Delivering his New Year's message Sunday January 11, 2004, Prime Minister Honourable Dr. Kenny Anthony indicated that with the reshuffling of his Cabinet a Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security will be established.

"In This configuration, Home Affairs will be reunited with the Police. In effect, Internal Security which essentially deals with police matters will be added to the existing Ministry of Home Affairs. The Department of Gender Relations will be reassigned to its former home - the Ministry of Health, Human Services and Family Affairs. This Ministry will once again be styled, the Ministry of Health, Human Services, Family Affairs and Gender Relations. Senator Calixte George will be reassigned from the Ministry of Agriculture to head the Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security."

According to Dr. Anthony Senator Petrus Compton will be required to focus exclusively on the work of the Office of the Attorney General and the other matters pertaining to the courts. He will continue to hold the Office of Attorney General and Minister for Justice but Senator Compton will no longer be responsible for the police.



The vacancy created in the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries with the reassignment of Senator Calixte George will be filled by Honourable Ignatius Jean. Prime Minister Anthony says the Hon. Ferguson John, the Parliamentary Representative for Choiseul and Saltibus will be appointed to his first ever Cabinet post as Minister for Physical Development, Environment and Housing.

"In the ministerial configuration just indicated, it will be observed that Honourable Sarah Flood Beaubrun has not been assigned to a Ministry. I have decided to relieve her of ministerial office and its accompanying responsibilities. The principles of Collective Responsibility are enshrined in our Constitution. In the operation of these principles it is understood that there will be differences but there is no room for insult, disrespect, invective and calumny no matter how powerful the passion and conviction one holds. If there is no respect for and among colleagues then Collective Responsibility will not survive."

A Parliamentary Secretary will be appointed to the Ministry of External Affairs, International Trade and Civil Aviation to oversee the work of that Ministry in the absence of Senator Julian Hunte who is now chairman of the 58th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Saint Lucians called upon to take up Four Challenges in 2004

As Saint Lucia turns twenty five on February 22, 2004, the nation must confront a number of pressing economic and social needs. It is with this in mind that Prime Minister Honourable Dr. Kenny explains that four major decisions must be made in the course of 2004.

High on the priority list is Health Care. A Task Force appointed in 2002 with the mandate to consider the feasibility of introducing a system of universal health care has now produced a report on the implementation of a universal health care system for the island.

“Later this year the Task Force will take the first step towards explaining the proposed system of health care to the public at large. In these discussions, the fundamental issue we have to resolve is this: how do we finance health care to ensure that all citizens get access? If universal health care is to succeed we have to move purposefully and deliberately towards the implementation of health sector reform so as to allow this critical sector to operate more efficiently and to make better use of the human, physical and financial resources allocated to it.”

Can Saint Lucia afford unemployment insurance? This is the second major decision that the government and people of Saint Lucia will have to make this year.

“Although almost all industrialised countries have in place some level of unemployment insurance, the only Caribbean country with unemployment insurance benefit is Barbados. Recognising the need to provide a partial income replacement to eligible covered workers for short periods following involuntary unemployment, our government commissioned a Task Force to investigate the feasibility of implementing an Unemployment Insurance Programme in Saint Lucia.”

According to Dr. Anthony the third challenge facing the nation is the reform of the Indirect Tax System. The Task Reform and Administrative Commission appointed by the Monetary Council of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank has recommended to all OECS countries that they replace all indirect taxes, except import duties, with a value added tax.

The final challenge for the year 2004 is to resolve the enactment of the Labour Code. In the words of the Prime Minister “finality must be brought to this exercise.”

“The government maintains its position that the Labour Code must spring from and reflect the shared consensus of all parties. We must agree on a code that is adapted to our needs and circumstances; that protects the rights of workers and employers and does not frighten investors, whether local or foreign. I believe we can achieve this provided that we approach the final phase of the exercise with trust, goodwill and a shared understanding of our collective future.”

The Prime Minister outlined the four challenges as he delivered his New Year’s message on Sunday January 11, 2004.

P.M. Anthony mourns the loss of his Dominica counterpart

A courageous, dedicated and competent leader – that’s how St. Lucia’s Prime Minister Honourable Dr. Kenny Anthony says he will remember his dear friend and colleague Prime Minister - the late Pierre Charles of the Commonwealth of Dominica who passed away late Tuesday, January 6, 2004 from heart complications.

According to Prime Minister Anthony, the late Mr. Charles willingly accepted the daunting task of leader, following the death of another Dominica Prime Minister Roosevelt “Rosie” Douglas at a difficult time in his nation’s history.

“His courageous decision to enter into a necessary but locally painful agreement with the International Monetary Fund proved beyond a shadow of a doubt his absolute disdain for “politics as usual. He accepted that he had to pay a political price for the greater good of his people and country,” said Prime Minister Anthony.

In a nationally televised statement Dr. Anthony said, “It cannot be easy for any leader to embrace IMF-inspired policies and prescriptions. Former Prime Minister Pierre Charles did, confident that it was in the best interest of his country. The high office of Prime Minister did not change Pierre Charles. Throughout his tenure, he remained the same humble, sincere and self-effacing individual who had entered politics more than 20 years ago.”

Dr. Anthony says despite Mr. Charles’ health problems, he did not shirk from his responsibilities of service to nation. He says the deceased Prime Minister, who was 49 years, was well thought of throughout the Caribbean and wider world. Prime Minister Anthony has expressed condolences to the people of Dominica on behalf of his Government and people of St. Lucia.



New Health Facilities to Occupy One Site

Key among the many changes that will occur in the public health care system when the new general and psychiatric hospitals come into being, is that for the first time in the nation’s history, the two new hospitals will share the same address on the 15.3 acres of land on the Millennium highway, that government has allocated for the projects.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health Fidelis Williams says there will be a demarcation between the two hospitals but the physical proximity of the two will allow for shared services. The site will therefore be known as a Medical Complex.

Williams says the \$6.5 million psychiatric facility will be completed before the \$67million new general hospital. The new hospital will contain 180 beds and include new medical equipment that is expected to raise the level of health care provided to the public.

National Symbols Awareness Campaign

ANational Symbols Awareness Campaign will begin here as part of activities to mark the 25th year of St. Lucia's Independence.

The primary goal of the campaign is for the development of a comprehensive awareness of all that is St. Lucian. The yearlong calendar of events is packed with activities geared towards highlighting key institutions of St. Lucia's political, social and economic development. On such activity is the awareness campaign of national symbols.

St. Lucia has a total of eight (8) national symbols - the Coat of Arms, the National Flag the national bird the Saint Lucia Parrot - Amazona Versicolor, the National Anthem, national flowers of La Margarite and La Rose, the national tree the Bamboo, the national plant the Calabash.

The other symbol is the national dress represented by the Wobe Dwiette and Madras. While these symbols are significant to St. Lucian identity and pride, the quality of the response to these symbols is largely dependent on the public's awareness and knowledge of the symbols.

This year will begin the process of giving these symbols more than just ceremonial value. An extensive media campaign to involve radio, television, and the press will begin on Friday 23rd January to Monday 23rd February 2004.

Coordinator of the campaign the Standing Independence Anniversary Steering Committee is hoping for the cooperation of the private media as well as schools in the effort to spread the message throughout the length and breadth of St. Lucia.

The Committee says the application of this campaign is expected to be relatively easy since some of the symbols are incorporated into a number of publications, chief among those the St. Lucia Directory which is widely distributed to all households.

For more information visit www.saintluciasilver.org and <http://stluciagovernmenthouse.com/>



UK Engineers win Bid to design and build New Hospital

AUK team of engineers has won the bid to design the new general hospital which will be located on the Millennium Highway. National Authorising Officer in the Office of the European Union Wilfred Pierre on Thursday January 08, 2004, met with Sir Frederick Snow and Partners to discuss contractual arrangements, which he says, will be concluded with a formal signing next week.

"The idea is to get into a contractual arrangement very early next week with them so we're just discussing matters relating to the contractual arrangements, such as payment procedures and reporting procedures."

This step in the estimated four year project sets the stage for immediate commencement of the planning and design phase which is expected to take a period of four months.

The Managing Director of the contracting firm, Philip J R Martin says his company has a particular background in hospital planning and engineering.

"I think what we can promise the St. Lucian people is to assist the Ministry of Health in developing a new hospital that will be funded by the European Union and we will assist in providing a plan that will work, and we will give you the best up to date facility that one can expect," remarked Martin.

Pierre disclosed that a compulsory criterion was that bidders have an existing working relationship with a local engineering firm. Sir Frederick Snow and Partners Limited will work alongside local architects NBLA and the Halcrow Group Ltd during the planning and design stage of the hospital

PIERRE CHARLES SACRIFICED HIS LIFE FOR DOMINICA, SAYS ST.

DOMINICA has lost another of its cherished sons who was not only a colleague in terms of Caribbean leadership, but a personal friend of mine and a friend of St. Kitts and Nevis," said Prime Minister Dr. the Hon. Denzil L. Douglas, Wednesday, reacting to the sudden death Tuesday night of his Dominica counterpart, the Hon. Pierre Charles.

"It is very unfortunate, because Prime Minister Charles was so young. He was only 49 years old and I am sure that this must have a devastating effect on his wife and family and of course, the people of Dominica, whom he led for the last three years," said Dr. Douglas in an interview with VON Radio's Marcellus Lee.

Dr. Douglas said the Caribbean Community leaders would miss Prime Minister Charles "mainly because he was so much of a gentleman."

"If there was anyone of us who can be described as not capable of even killing a fly, that would go to him. He was very quiet, very reserved and a real gentleman and to see him pass in this way is really sad," said the St. Kitts and Nevis Prime Minister



in the telephone interview from his residence in St. Paul's, St. Kitts.

"When after the September 11th crisis triggered by the terrorist attack and we met to look at the effects of the terrorist activity on the economies of the Caribbean, and we looked specifically at the situation in Dominica, when he said then and openly that he was prepared to put in place the necessary adjustment mechanisms and structures in Dominica that would reverse the economy, even though it meant being out of power," responded Prime Minister Douglas, when asked of the fond memories he would recall at CARICOM Meetings.

"I myself at that time challenged him and he meant what he said. He put the Country first. And really his life has been a sacrifice, because despite his own physical limitations, despite the ailments which were obvious, he still persevered in carrying out his public tasks," said Prime Minister Douglas, who stressed the need for leaders to "look after ourselves as well in the sense that we must make sure that we do not sacrifice our own lives."

"He definitely put that country first and even if it meant losing power. And here it is, not even losing power, it is losing his life and I have the utmost respect for him," said Prime Minister Douglas, whose St. Kitts-Nevis Labour Party and Charles' Dominica Labour Party are fraternal parties.



Pesticides Survey to Cover Last Three Years

THE Pesticides Control Board, and the Ministries for Health and Agriculture will form an integral part of a pesticides survey to be undertaken by the Occupational Health and Safety Unit of the Ministry of Labour, Public Service and Cooperatives. With eighty percent of all imported chemicals reportedly directed into the agricultural sector, farmers will also be expected to provide information related to the substances that they utilise for farming.

According to Senior Occupational Health and Safety Officer Lesmond Magloire information will be sourced from certain key agencies." With the pesticides survey we will be looking at or survey pesticide distributors, persons who sell pesticides, the farm owner, how many acres they farm, and what they cultivate. We would also look at the graphic location of the farms - we would also want to find out for instance the pesticides sold to the farmers during the last three years."

This data will be used to qualitatively identify the products used in terms of names, active ingredients and the quantity sold to farmers. Data collection will be obtained from the year 2000 to 2002. The survey is one of the components under the "Prevention and Management of Agricultural Pesticide Related Illness" Project. The survey should commence on January 12, 2004.

Statement by Organisation Of Eastern Caribbean States on the Death of Prime Minister Pierre Charles of Dominica

It was with great regret and deep sorrow that we at the OECS Secretariat learnt on the evening of Tuesday, 6th January of the untimely death of the Honourable Pierre Charles, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Dominica. We join all Dominicans in mourning his passing.

The Hon. Pierre Charles died at the relatively young age of 49. He acceded to the Prime Ministership of Dominica some three years ago, following a similarly tragic and unexpected event, the passing of then Prime Minister, Hon. Rosie Douglas.

As Prime Minister, the Hon. Pierre Charles assumed the leadership of Dominica at a most critical juncture in the development and history of that country. His quiet fortitude, strength of character, forthrightness, commitment and dedication, yet personal gentleness and gentility were all features that marked his approach to the tasks with which he was entrusted. He was able to shepherd his country through some of its most perilous economic challenges, and although circumstances are still difficult, he was able to lay down the groundwork for stabilizing the situation and create the basis for eventual return to sustainable growth. In this process, his personal attributes were able to win the confidence of his people, as shown by their willingness to make the sacrifices required to achieve the national objectives.

Prime Minister Charles exhibited not only great political courage, but also personal courage in his leadership efforts. Notwithstanding his awareness of his sensitive health condition, he led by example, and soldiered on in the face of the threat to his continued good health. His was the ultimate sacrifice.

We applaud the courage and dedication which he demonstrated in his lifelong commitment to the service of his people and his country. Personal goals and gains took second place to service, and no potential price was too great to pay for the good of his country. In his own words - "if it is for the good of the country, it must be done." This was the motto by which he lived, and died.

He was firmly committed to the processes and goals of regional integration, especially the initiative to establish an OECS Economic Union. His vision on this was clear, and was reinforced by his country's economic experiences. As a Member of the Prime Ministerial Sub-Committee on Economic Union, he provided significant guidance to the process.

His early passing is therefore a loss not only to his family and the people of Dominica, but to the OECS as well as the wider Caribbean. He shall be sadly missed.

May he rest in the peace he so richly deserves.



National Independence Charity Golf Tournament

THE National Independence Charity Golf Tournament is set for Saturday 21st February 2004.. The tournament now into its tenth year is part of the year long activities to mark the 25th anniversary of St. Lucia's Independence. The Charity Golf Tournament is a project of the Gros-Islet Lions Club. Chairman of the organising committee Gregory Monplaisir says the tournament is the premier revenue earner to finance projects in the north.

Among the projects undertaken by the service club are the upgrading of schools, scholarships for secondary school students and the provision of food packages and meals for the poor. Monplaisir says this milestone is not only recognition of the work of the club but also the contribution of the many business persons who have supported over the years.

Teams taking part in the tournament are sponsored by the business community. The organisers are hoping for wider participation especially this anniversary year and in particular as St. Lucia celebrates 25 years of development.

St. Lucia leads Caribbean ranking in E-Government readiness

ST. LUCIA is leading other Caribbean islands in E-Government readiness and is preparing to host a top meeting on the subject later this month.

E-Government is a concept aimed at encouraging governments to use less ink and paper and more electronic information technology in their day-to-day affairs.

At the just concluded World Summit on the Information Society held in Geneva, Switzerland in December 2003, St. Lucia out-ranked the rest of the Caribbean placing first ahead of the Dominican Republic, Jamaica and the Bahamas, Trinidad & Tobago, St. Kitts and Nevis, Barbados, Cuba, Antigua & Barbuda, Grenada and St. Vincent & The Grenadines in that order.

Deputy Director of Public Sector Reform in the office of the Prime Minister Dr. Cletus Bertin says the ranking was “based on a global study by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.”

He says the indicators used in the ranking “take into account the progress made as a result of the liberalization of telecommunications, especially the wide use and availability of cell phones.”

According to Dr. Bertin, with some 50 percent of the population having access to cell phones and other forms of modern telecommunications, the ability of persons to use the technology as well as the kind of infrastructure that exists here all contributed to the island’s ranked readiness for e-government.”

He says the island’s cell phone penetration was significant to the ranking, “as it indicates we are a society that is receptive to and can be ready for the transition to e-government.”

According to Dr. Bertin, “besides the enabling environment, government has created to foster access to and use of the latest information technology, government has also taken steps to ensure e-government becomes a major plank in its efforts to reform the Public Service.”

To this end, Dr. Bertin was appointed to his new post and given special responsibility for E- Government. Since his appointment last year Dr. Bertin, has represented St. Lucia at several Information Technology conferences abroad including a two week seminar in China and Washington prior to the Geneva conference where St. Lucia was declared a leader in E-Government readiness in the Caribbean.

Meanwhile, Dr. Bertin says that as a follow-up to St. Lucia’s top ranking in e-government readiness, St. Lucia will later this month host the 5th Ministerial Consultation and High Level Workshop on E-Government. This meeting will take place in Castries on January 20 and 21, 2004 and will bring together some of the top government officials from around the world involved in E-government.

