



MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURAL WORKS EARMARKED FOR 2025/2026 FISCAL YEAR

PRIME Minister Philip J Pierre has announced that major infrastructural works will be significantly intensified in the 2025/2026 budget year.

PM Pierre, who earlier this week presented to the House of Assembly Saint Lucia's largest-ever annual budget of \$2.58 billion, stated that this aligns with the government's projection of its Infrastructure 2030 agenda.

The prime minister stated in the parliament that the majority of the developmental segment of the budget will be designated for the Department of Infrastructure, Ports, and Roads.

The net capital expenditure is projected to be EC\$325,590,089. "This projected \$325.6 million represents an 8.8 percent increase over the approved amount for the 2024/2025 Estimates," PM Pierre remarked.

"Of the total allocation of \$325.6 million for capital expenditure, EC\$122.8 million, or 27 percent, is earmarked for the Department of Infrastructure, representing the largest share of the developmental budget," he clarified.

The Finance Minister detailed the essential projects slated for funding this year, including the replacement of the Choc Bridge and several renewable energy initiatives.

He specified, "The amount will be utilised as follows:



PM Philip J Pierre delivering the 2025/26 Budget Presentation

design finance construct payments, \$52.4M; the Millennium Highway and West Coast Road Project, \$25.5M; road maintenance and improvement, \$8M; Choc Bridge construction, \$8.2M; renewable energy sector projects, \$4M; and other infrastructural projects, including repairs to government buildings and the desilting of rivers, \$24.7M—totaling \$122.8 million."

The Government of Saint Lucia is dedicated to improving the speed of pothole repairs throughout the island's roadways.

The Prime Minister announced the commissioning of a new pothole patcher truck to accelerate road rehabilitation efforts across the island.

The 2025/2026 Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure, representing PM Pierre's third budget presentation since assuming office in 2021, highlights the nation's economic resilience and the government's commitment to fiscal responsibility.

PM Pierre confidently stated that the budget showcases surpluses essential for supporting the nation's economic growth. He explained that thorough information regarding government policy and strategic direction for the forthcoming year will be presented during the reading of the Appropriations Bill, set for the last Tuesday in April.

The Prime Minister announced that the budget presentation on Tuesday offers a comprehensive examination of the economy's performance for the period spanning from April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025.

He stated, "The country is being managed effectively, and this year, we are implementing significant changes to the Budget process." The Ministry of Finance utilizes advanced software, making information more accessibility for everyone."

Saint Lucia's Agricultural Sector to Implement Innovative Farming Techniques



AQUAPONICS project undertaken at the Babonneau Secondary School

Saint Lucia is poised to establish the National Agriculture Innovation and Technology Center following the recent visit of a technical team from Guyana.

The Guyanese five-member technical team has completed the facility, marking a pivotal advancement in Saint Lucia's agricultural modernization efforts.

This project signifies a collaborative initiative between the Government of Saint Lucia and Guyana, focused on implementing agriculture-technology adaptations and innovations, including greenhouses equipped with nutrient-

filled hydroponic systems.

The Ministry of Agriculture confirms that this initiative will revolutionize Saint Lucia's agricultural sector by merging sustainable practices with state-of-the-art hydroponic technology. This system provides a more efficient farming approach, critical for tackling challenges associated with the dry season.

Hydroponics minimizes water and fertilizer waste while ensuring optimal crop growth, establishing itself as an environmentally friendly and cost-effective alternative to traditional farming. The system is particularly advantageous for farmers with limited land space, enabling maximized productivity in compact areas.

With the completion of this facility, the Ministry of Agriculture is now equipped with a powerful tool to educate and demonstrate the substantial benefits of hydroponic farming to local farmers.

Lead Hydroponic Technician Carljo Benjamin asserts that this innovation will significantly enhance food security and economic resilience within the agricultural sector by utilizing less water and fertilizer while increasing productivity.

"We have completed the project, and it will greatly benefit the Saint Lucian people," he stated.

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15-Year-Old Female, 21-Year-Old Male Arrested in Bois Patat Firearm and Drug Operation

Two Pistols and Submachine Gun Confiscated by Police

ON Tuesday, March 26, 2025, at approximately 7:30 p.m., a police operation led by the Gang, Narcotics, and Firearms Unit, in collaboration with the Special Operations Team and Special Services Unit North, resulted in a significant seizure of illegal firearms, ammunition, and narcotics at a residence in Bois Patat, Castries.

During the operation, officers recovered:

- Three firearms, including a Glock 25 pistol, a 9mm pistol, and a prohibited Submachine Gun
 - 196 rounds of various ammunition
 - 1,071 grams of cannabis
- As a result of the operation, 21-year-old Ashley Nelson and a 15-year-old female, both of Bois Patat, were formally charged with 12 counts each, including:
- Two counts of possession of a firearm
 - One count of possession of a prohibited weapon

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Government Implements D-OHPC to Enhance Digital Technology Tutorship at Schools

THE government is dedicated to promoting the integration of technology within Saint Lucia’s educational framework via the execution of the Digital OECS Harmonized Primary Curriculum (D-OHPC).

A representative from the Ministry of Education has affirmed that the recently introduced digital platform represents a strategic subregional endeavor aimed at providing local educators with an extensive array of multimedia resources, which are poised to enhance teaching methodologies and classroom management practices considerably.

Minister of Education Shawn Edward underscored the imperative for educators to perpetually explore novel approaches to imparting knowledge and improving educational efficacy.

He emphasized that although the government is promoting the incorporation of advancing technology in educational settings, this does not diminish the significance of conventional teaching approaches in conjunction with contemporary digital resources.

Edward articulated that the Digital OECS Harmonized Primary Curriculum will enhance the accessibility, engagement, and efficacy of education, thereby fostering optimal outcomes for each student.

“This is not merely about technology, devices, or equipping schools with laptops,” asserted Minister Edward. “There is a far greater significance to technology integration than simply providing devices.”

He emphasized, “This initiative is about empowering teachers with a modern curricular that is structured and aligned with the skills our students need to succeed in the future.”

Evidence indicates that students achieve superior outcomes when technology is seamlessly incorporated into educational practices.

Rafer Gordon, Project Manager for the OECS Commission, articulated that the function of the digital curriculum guide is to furnish practical and supportive resources for educators, enabling them to tailor the curriculum in accordance with available resources, contextual factors, and the distinct requirements of their students.

“With these technologies, teachers can streamline and accelerate the development of lesson plans, and receive real-time feedback on assessments,” Gordon stated. “In

just minutes, they can create quizzes and other assessment tools, enhancing the efficiency of the teaching and planning processes.”

Chief Education Officer Beverly Dieudonne commended the Ministry of Education and the OECS teams engaged in the development and implementation of the Digital Platform, with particular emphasis on the significant role played by Saint Lucian Preston Emmanuel as the principal architect.

“The expertise of the team ensured that this curriculum not only meets global standards but is also culturally relevant,”

she remarked.

According to Dieudonne the D-OHPC enables educators to design lessons that offer differentiated instruction, ensuring that they meet the distinct needs of each learner.

In conjunction with the initiative's implementation, a plaque was revealed at La Resource Combined School, alongside other pilot institutions participating in the D-OHPC initiative.

The team actively collaborated with educators at Ti Rocher Combined and Dame Pearlette Louisy Primary School to solicit insights regarding the utilization of the platform.

The D-OHPC is a comprehensive five-year initiative designed to fulfil the objectives of the OECS education sector strategy, focusing on enhancing accessibility and elevating student learning outcomes in basic education.

Cont From Page 1

Saint Lucia’s Agricultural Sector to Implement Innovative Farming Techniques

Benjamin emphasized, “Hydroponics is not a new technique; it has been used for over 2,000 to 3,000 years. However, we have refined this technique by implementing what is known as Precision Agriculture. We are eliminating waste in fertilizers and particularly conserving water.”

For instance, he noted that over an area of approximately 22x100 feet, around 40 to 50 gallons of water would typically be needed daily for crops. With the hydroponic system, this requirement drops to every three weeks.

The system ensures that farmers can maintain a consistent production output without interruptions. The 'two-tunnel' greenhouses have a combined capacity to grow over 6,600 plants, with one greenhouse accommodating 1,425 plants and the other 1,200.

This advancement represents a transformative leap towards technology-driven farming in Saint Lucia, fostering increased efficiency, sustainability, and resilience in food production.

Benjamin further described the project as an “energy system” or a Nutrient-film technique, where a thin stream of water runs beneath the plants. It is a recyclable system that spans 30 feet in length, using a pump to circulate water.

This technique generates oxygen for the system, ensuring optimal conditions with every parameter carefully monitored, and features filters to prevent any clogging or detrimental issues.

adopting advanced farming technologies.

As operations commence at the facility, it is set to serve as a benchmark for future agricultural projects in the region, empowering farmers with innovative techniques to boost food production and sustainability.

Additionally, Benjamin noted that this innovative system was effectively introduced to a group of school students.

Last year, the Agricultural Engineering Services Division (AESD) took significant strides in imparting innovative Agricultural Technology to the next generation of agriculturists. Their commitment to fostering the future of agriculture is evident through various educational initiatives, including firsthand experiences for young learners.

Aquaponics, a groundbreaking agricultural approach, integrates two essential components: raising fish in tanks, known as recirculating aquaculture, and cultivating plants without traditional soil through hydroponics.

In this innovative system, the nutrient-rich water produced from fish cultivation serves as a natural fertilizer for the plants, while the plants function as natural filters, purifying the water for the fish.

This captivating method not only introduces students to sustainable and efficient agricultural practices but also emphasizes the significance of interconnected ecosystems and the potential for responsible food production.

Through such engaging educational interactions, AESD is determined to nurture a new generation of agricultural visionaries who will play a pivotal role in the future of farming and environmental stewardship.

[R.A].

15-Year-Old Female, 21-Year-Old Male Arrested in Bois Patat Firearm and Drug Operation

Two counts of possession of component parts of a firearm

Three counts of possession of ammunition

One count of possession of cannabis

One count of possession of cannabis with intent to supply

targeting individuals involved in drug and firearm-related offenses.

Southern Division – March 26, 2025

Operations conducted in Belle Vue, Vieux Fort resulted in the execution of two search warrants, leading to the seizure of:

- 450 grams of cured cannabis
- 325 cannabis plants

Two individuals, Mickael Sealys and Michel Sealys, were taken into custody. Both were formally charged and later granted bail.

Court Proceedings

On Thursday, March 27, 2025, the 15-year-old female of Forgotten Boundary, appeared before a magistrate and was remanded into custody until Thursday, April 3, 2025, on firearm-related charges.

On Friday, March 28, 2025, Ashley Nelson also appeared before a magistrate and was remanded to the Bordelais Correctional Facility until April 29, 2025.

In a decisive effort to combat criminal activities and enhance public safety, law enforcement agencies conducted a series of coordinated joint operations across the island on March 26-27, 2025.

These operations were spearheaded by the Gang, Narcotics, and Firearms Unit (North and South), Special Operations Team, Tactical Response Team (South), Financial Intelligence Agency, and Central Intelligence Unit. The focus was on executing search and arrest warrants

Northern Division – March 27, 2025

A joint operation by the Gang, Narcotics, and Firearms Unit and Special Operations Team targeted locations in Sarrot, Bexon, and Corinth, leading to the apprehension of the following individuals:

- Ruben Cox (Sarrot): Arrested for possession and intent to supply controlled drugs.
- Henson Anthony (Bexon): Taken into custody for failing to pay a \$15,000 fine related to a 2023 firearm offense.
- Benjamin Honora (Reduit): Apprehended for non-payment of a \$50,000 fine stemming from a 2020 firearm conviction.

All recovered evidence remains securely in police custody.

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Editorial

“Am I My Brother’s Keeper?”: A Profound Question for Saint Lucians Today!

THE phrase “Am I my brother’s keeper?” echoes from the ancient story of Cain and Abel in the Bible - a tale steeped in tragedy, denial, and moral responsibility. When God asks Cain about Abel’s whereabouts, Cain’s defiant response resounds not only as an evasion of guilt but as a broader question that reverberates through generations: Do we hold responsibility for the well-being of others?

In the context of Saint Lucia today, this question carries profound weight. With the island facing a concerning rise in homicides—averaging four per month this year—one might wonder if the time has come for us to answer Cain’s rhetorical question with a resounding, “Yes.”

To be one another’s keeper is to care, to be aware, and to take action. It is about cultivating a culture of vigilance, compassion, and collective responsibility. Imagine a Saint Lucia where neighbours look out for each other, where no cry for help goes unnoticed, and where communities unite to address the underlying causes of crime. Such a vision is not just idyllic; it is attainable—if we, as citizens, commit to being our brothers’ and sisters’ keepers.

The challenges we face are rooted in complex social issues—poverty, unemployment, disenfranchisement, and the breakdown of family structures. However, the solution begins with something as simple yet powerful as empathy. When we care for one another, we create a ripple effect. Acts of kindness and understanding have the power to transform lives and build bridges where once there were walls.

Being our brother’s keeper means checking in on each other, mentoring at-risk youth, and fostering open communication within our communities. It means supporting those who struggle with mental health, addiction, or economic hardship, rather than turning a blind eye. It means advocating for justice, standing up against violence, holding ourselves accountable for the part we play in shaping the society we live in and denouncing nepotism, particularly in the public sector creating, for the most part, what we call square pegs in round holds.

Let us not forget that the opposite of love is not hate; it is indifference. Each act of indifference in the face of suffering erodes the bonds that hold our society together. Saint Lucia can no longer afford indifference. With every life lost to violence, with every family torn apart, the fabric of our island nation weakens.

But there is hope. As Saint Lucians, we possess an indomitable spirit and a profound sense of community. By embracing these strengths and reaffirming our shared humanity, we can turn the tide on crime and violence. We can create a Saint Lucia where everyone feels safe, valued, and supported.

The question, “Am I my brother’s keeper?” is not one for theologians alone. It is a question for each of us to answer through our actions. Let us choose to say “Yes,” for in caring for each other, we not only honour the lives lost but also pave the way for a brighter, more harmonious future for all.

Time to depend on ourselves

FREQUENTLY, at this time of year, everyone is glued to the media to assess what the Government will do for them.

The cries of “not enough jobs”, or “lack of good roads”, “absence of proper housing”, etc. are usual.

We hear a lot about the need for better health care, dealing with education, as well as what the government is doing about the growing criminal environment. But at the same time, we are paying no attention to our social behaviour and habits.

For instance, everyone uses the beach for recreational activities, yet cleaning up after they have had their thrill seems to be a no-no.

In the heart of the city, many citizens utilize green spaces such as Derek Walcott Square and Constitution Park, but despite the many bins available, they insist on leaving the premises in a mess.

Jay-walking or walking the streets without care and caution, is a growing problem and despite the many parking spaces available at a reasonably cheap cost, many insist they should utilize roadside parking for extended hours.

On our main roads and highways, it is all about speed and bright lights and since everyone has become an online business person, we have vehicle growth that now causes long lines of traffic and time management is now becoming a problem because we are not cultured to leave home early to get to anywhere.

In addition, there are hundreds of accidents monthly on our roads because of no care and attention and a lot of constant road violations

We have a lot of wayward youth still being defended by their parents -- especially the mothers always claiming that they are “good” boys and girls, “nice” and “pleasant” youths. Yet, despite all the support, our murder rate continues to grow and most of the criminal actions are done by the very youth that the mothers consistently defend.

Another area of concern is those selling... Regardless of what type of commodity, the prices are sky-high and everyone claims it is because “supermarket prices have gone up” that they are forced to jack up their prices. But in doing so, it is the general public that suffers.

Now, let’s deal with eating habits. I can’t tell people what to eat, but junk foods of all types are causing illnesses of all types, the fast food culture that we have adopted is depriving

people of a balanced diet and a healthy lifestyle. And it is simply because people don’t read or recognize that home cooking is the best and they are too busy on their gadgets to take notice.

Law and order are now being looked into, but these days it seems most of the attention is on traffic, it seems only road users are



By
Carlton Ishmael

criminals or break the law, but when it comes to dealing with the root causes or engaging with the crime at a societal level, that is absent.

There are many things we can do to improve our lives and social conditions, but if everyone is dependent on the Government to deal with all these issues we will be caught with our pants down.

I believe in self-help, self-reliance, self-respect and self-consciousness. We have to begin to deal with our reality and see things for what they are. We have to take responsibility for our children’s actions, as well as our own grown-up behaviour.

The government can only do so much.

We also keep blaming foreign influences, but we are equally guilty for having things the way it is.

As the whole world grapples with environmental issues, compounded by global warming and pollution, we have to re-educate ourselves to deal with our growing issues.

The blame game cannot continue. We must accept that we are both the cause and the effect. Despite who is at the helm or is in charge of this country, if we the people do not change our attitude, crappo will smoke our pipe.

And lastly, we have to acknowledge that many who left home seeking a better life elsewhere may have to return to what they think was a God-forsaken Island and some will bring back some bad habits too.

So, we have to look inward and take more responsibility for ourselves instead of falsely believing that we must only depend on governments for our survival. Things can’t get better any other way.

The Toxic Influence of Richard Frederick: A Stain on St. Lucia’s Leadership

By James Stanislaus

AS a prominent figure in Saint Lucia’s government, Richard Frederick, the Minister of Local Government and Housing, has consistently demonstrated a pattern of behaviour that is unbecoming of a public official. His actions and rhetoric have not only damaged his own reputation but have also tarnished the image of Saint Lucia as a whole.

For the past decade, Frederick has used his television talk show, "Can I Help You?", as a platform to launch vicious attacks on private citizens, especially women, and his political opponents, particularly the Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Allen Chastanet. This sustained abuse has had far-reaching consequences, including the erosion of trust in the media and the perpetuation of a repugnant culture of hate and division.

Frederick's vitriolic rhetoric has painted him as a vindictive and bitter individual, who is more interested in character assassination and in scoring cheap political points than in serving the people of Saint Lucia. His repeated lies and reprehensible propaganda have led to numerous lawsuits, further undermining his credibility and integrity as a leader.

Furthermore, Frederick's brash interference in the operations of the Royal St. Lucia Police Force is a grave abuse of power and a threat to the rule of law. He has publicly boasted on his television talk show of receiving damaging information on private citizens from the Police, which raises serious questions about the politicization of law enforcement. This is a clear violation of the principles of fairness, justice, and equality before the law.

What is equally disturbing is the silence of the Minister of National Security, who is also the Prime Minister, in the face of Frederick's improper interference in the Police Force. The Prime Minister's failure to take action or condemn Frederick's actions can be interpreted as an endorsement of his behaviour and suggests that the government is complicit in the politicization of law enforcement.

But perhaps the most disturbing aspect of Frederick's behaviour is his hypocritical stance on race. On the one

hand, he is flagrantly stoking racial discrimination and perpetuating hate against individuals of fair complexion. On the other hand, he has been known to grovel before white Americans in an attempt to regain his revoked, personal US visa, while proudly boasting about his children's education and employment in the US.

In a country like Saint Lucia, where the scourge of racism and colonialism has left deep scars, Frederick's racist rhetoric is particularly deleterious. The island's history is marked by the brutal exploitation of African slaves and the displacement of indigenous peoples. This legacy has left a lingering sense of inferiority and division among the population.

Saint Lucia is a vibrant melting pot of diverse cultures, ethnicities, and races, where people from different backgrounds have come together to build a nation. This diversity should be celebrated and cherished, not vilified and exploited for political gain. Instead of stoking racial division, Frederick should be promoting unity and inclusivity. He should be working to heal the wounds of the past and build a brighter future for all Saint Lucians, regardless of their race, creed, or colour. By perpetuating racism and hate, Frederick is not only harming his political opponents but also undermining the very foundations of Saint Lucia's democracy.

One of the most significant consequences of Frederick's toxic behaviour is the degradation of Saint Lucia's political landscape. He is one of the main reasons why politics has become so dirty and divisive in Saint Lucia, where personal attacks and lies have become the norm. His constant provocations and inflammatory rhetoric have created a poisonous atmosphere, where civil discourse and constructive debate are near impossible.

Saint Lucians must demand better than a leader who embodies such a toxic mix of hatred, hypocrisy, and dishonesty. Richard Frederick's continued presence in public office is a stain on the good name of Fair Helen, and his influence is a poison that must be eradicated if Saint Lucia is to move forward.



Georgia Alexander

By Marvlin Anthony

GEORGIA Alexander was diagnosed with glaucoma when she was about 10 years old; four years later, she'd lose the ability to see, however, she remained hopeful.

"I thought ... I would regain my sight after a couple of years but it never happened," she said to me when I went to her home on Sunday.

There was not a hint of sadness from Georgia. She spoke eagerly throughout our interview.

"I wasn't born blind. I was normal ... until I was about ten. After I became blind, I stayed home for years and then I was enrolled in the Special Education Center in Vieux Fort," she said.

But she grappled with her diagnosis.

According to her, "I did not know exactly what it was. The doctor said it was pressure in the eye, but I did not understand being blind because nobody in my family was blind."

When she lost the ability to see, her life changed dramatically.

"At first, it was hard, I lost all of my friends," she stated.

After being in a funk for a while, Georgia said she had to

Blind Masseuse Seeks Help from the Public to Pursue Course Overseas

choose "whether I was going to stay in [that] state – not going anywhere, [or] doing anything. I said... I may be blind, but I am able to do things."

"It was just me and my family. They took me everywhere they were going," she added.

When she enrolled at the Vieux Fort Special Education Centre, life took a different turn for the 49-year-old.

By then, her situation had improved tremendously.

"It was wonderful. When I started going there, I had to get [to know] the place. Once that was done... I [was] mingling with everybody," she said with glee.

She attended the school for five years.

Her husband, Yohan Alexander, said meeting her was a treat.



Georgia and her husband Yohan Alexander

"It was really wonderful and [it] still is. I have dealt with a lot of blind people in the past but with her it was different. She wasn't like these blind people [who] would have their head down and stay in a corner. She [was] always active [and] adventurous and that was one of the reasons why I

fell in love with her. [She didn't] let her blindness put her down," Yohan said.

The pair (who met at the Blind Welfare Association) will celebrate 20 years of marriage next month.

It hasn't been the easiest journey (her husband is visually impaired) but they make it work. *Moreover*, their fondness for each other remains.

"I was born with congenital cataracts and I had surgery at the age of two. Currently, I don't have lens in my eyes, which makes me low-sighted. I also have, what is called, called nystagmus [rapid and repetitive movement of the eyes]," Yohan explained.

"I... try to educate [people] on not only blindness but low vision as a whole, because there are a lot of us who suffer with low vision and in my view, the stigma that is attached is not being addressed as it should be. People... tend to... ridicule you," and that should not be the case, he added.

Yohan and Georgia have two children (a 19-year-old and a 15-year-old) but at one point it was extremely challenging for the couple.

"At first it was difficult... raising two children who are now teenagers. In terms of raising them and having to buy groceries, especially in the beginning, it was difficult [because] we weren't employed; our daughter has low vision as well," he said.

According to him, it was difficult to get a job "because... who would want to employ you? We literally had to be begging on the streets at one point and that's something I am not ashamed to say."

"We did that for a couple of years... trying whatever... we [could] to assist our family, even forming a band at one point. We used to sing by the road with our box in front of us and people would put money [in it] and that helped [a bit]. It gave us some hope and some means of taking care [of our family]," he said.

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Caribbean Still in Limbo after Rubio: HOPING FOR THE BEST AND PLANING FOR THE WORST!

Chronicles of a Chronic Caribbean Chronicler

By Earl Bousquet



US Secretary of State Marco Rubio’s Caribbean tour drew all the attention the Trump administration wished for his three-nation stop in Jamaica, Guyana and Surinam last week, but he’s left the region in as much limbo as before his arrival.

The region’s leaders wanted clarification in Jamaica on Washington’s announced plan to punish nations host Cuban doctors and nurses in agreed bilateral medical and health assistance programs, which include all Caribbean Community (CARICOM) member-states.

But the top US diplomat’s meeting with Prime Ministers Andrew Holness of Jamaica, Mia Mottley of Barbados, Dr Ralph Gonsalves of St. Vincent & The Grenadines new PM Stewart Young of Trinidad & Tobago, was not the first of its kind.

President Donald Trump, in 2019, invited five Caribbean leaders (from the Bahamas, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica and Saint Lucia) to his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida, in similar circumstances.

Indeed, Venezuela was the major topic then and now.

In 2019, the Florida summit led to the creation of the infamous Lima Group of pro-Washington nations in the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region that hounded the Nicolas Maduro administration at the Washington-based Organization of American States (OAS).

The Caribbean leaders left the Rubio parley told that Washington’s targets for punishment for hosting Cuban medical brigades did not include Jamaica and the Caribbean.

But while they may have breathed deep sighs of relief on the Cuba medical programmes, they left with different perspectives on the effects of Washington’s

shifting attitudes to Caracas.

An earlier Trump Executive Order (on March 24) promised to punish any country importing Venezuelan oil, resulting in an immediate pause on major exports.

But China condemned the moves and indicated it’ll continue importing oil from Caracas.

President Trump had also earlier defied a US federal judge and illegally deported hundreds of detained Venezuelans to outsourced incarceration in El Salvador, accusing Caracas of deploying armed gangs to the US and resurrecting a 1798 law to justify detaining Venezuelans and declaring them gang members.

President Trump had also earlier revoked the temporary protected status afforded hundreds of thousands of Venezuelans who’d sought political asylum in the USA.

A clear message Secretary Rubio brought to the Caribbean, however, was that Washington continues to play political football with Venezuelan lives.

Before Trump’s second coming in January 2025, Caracas was quietly welcoming hundreds of thousands of Venezuelans who’d already opted to return home, including children, assigned to homes and schools.

But soon after entering The White House again, President Trump withdrew permission granted to Chevron by President Joe Biden to help drill and import Venezuelan oil -- for US reserves.

As President Trump did in Mar-a-Lago five years earlier, Secretary Rubio met individually with the Caribbean leaders in Kingston, but all left offering no words on what might have been agreed behind closed doors.

A leaked US State Department document identifying four CARICOM nations with Citizenship by Investment Programs (CIPs) among many worldwide to be punished with visa restrictions had rattled CARICOM’s leaders before Rubio arrived, but he seems to have assured them they shouldn’t worry.

Eight months after the July 28, 2024, Venezuela

election that led to President Maduro being sworn in for a third time for a second six-year term, Washington is again playing the elections trump card against Caracas.

Rubio’s statements in Georgetown also formally inserted the US into the long-standing but peaceful infractions over Venezuela’s ongoing claim to the entire Essequibo Region – including two-thirds of Guyana.

Never mind the Argyle Accord between the two oil-rich neighbouring Caribbean and South American states requiring softer language in cross-border exchanges, the thunderous quarrels keep alive fears about prospects of war in a region that both formally recognize as a Zone of Peace.

Observers unfamiliar with the history of the over-100-year-old Venezuela claim quickly cast careless blame and take sides, speculating about the worst possible outcomes instead of advising against continuing a war of words that only hastens public fears and uncertainties.

It would surely be better for Guyana and Venezuela’s mutual friends in CARICOM and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and the Bolivarian Alliance or Our America (ALBA) to encourage each country to better educate the region’s people about their respective cases in this age-old neighbourly quarrel.

The US Secretary of State has returned home, but the Caribbean’s troubles remain far from over.

Another recent presidential Executive Order imposing excessively heavy fines on ships built in China and using American ports is set to possibly halt normal deliveries of goods to Caribbean ports by the biggest carrier, Tropical Shipping, nine of whose ships are Chinese-built.

No nation anywhere can rest assured of not eventually feeling the inevitable repercussions of President Trump’s hasty efforts to change how the world turns.

While Secretary Rubio was in the Caribbean, Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth was in The Philippines on the first leg of a firefighting mission that included Japan and South Korea, which recently met to discuss regional security issues – but without the US.

Cuba’s international medical brigades will always remain unsafe by Washington’s measure, just as Venezuela’s oil pipelines to the world will continue to be blocked and blockaded until the transactional president discloses what he really wants from Caracas.

As per modern usual, China is the only major nation that’s criticized Washington’s attitude towards Cuba and Venezuela, while Canada – under new Prime Minister Mark Carney – has indicated its historic relationship with the US ‘is now over’.

The equivalent of King Donald II continues speaking about preventing World War III, while starting international trade wars, threatening to take the Panama Canal (and Greenland) by force and to turn Gaza into a modern American crown colony.

President Trump is also ripping the US post-war trans-Atlantic alliance with Europe to pieces and weaponizing US aid.

As such, the LAC region cannot but continue hoping for the best, while also planning for the worst.

Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court (Non-Contentious Probate and Administration of Estates) Rules

FORM P7

ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT (Rule 15)

SLUHPB2025/0136

The Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

SAINT LUCIA

In the Estate of ANTHONY AUGUSTIN JOHNSON also known as TONY JOHNSON late of Vigie, in the Quarter of Castries in the State of Saint Lucia, deceased.

TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by ANDREA JOAN JOHNSON of Vigie, in the Quarter of Castries in the State of Saint Lucia for a Grant of Letters of Administration to the applicant who is the wife of the deceased, the deceased having died intestate on the 21st day of August, 2019.

Any person having an objection to the grant of Letters of Administration to the application shall file an objection within 14 days of the publication of this Notice.

Dated this 17th day of March, 2025

Filed by BRICKSTONE LAW for the Petitioner whose address for service is Place Creole Rodney Bay, Gros Islet Telephone Number, (758) 450-3000, Email: info@brickstonelaw.com

Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court (Non-Contentious Probate and Administration of Estates) Rules

FORM P7

ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT (Rule 15)

SLUHPB2025/0013

The Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

SAINT LUCIA

In the Estate of the late BERTHA ADJODHA of Lanse Road, in the Quarter of Castries in the State of Saint Lucia, deceased.

TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by, MARISE JOSEPHINE MAUREEN SKEETE nee ADJODHA of Monchy in the quarter of Gros Islet in the State of Saint Lucia for a grant of Letters of Administration De Bonis Non to the applicant who is the daughter of the deceased having died intestate on the 4th day of April, 1988.

Any person having an objection to the grant of Letters of Administration to the application shall file an objection within 14 days of the publication of this Notice.

Dated this 20th day of March, 2025.

Filed by BRICKSTONE LAW Legal Practitioner for the Applicant, whose address for service is Place Creole Building, Rodney Bay, Gros Islet, Saint Lucia, Tel. No.450-3000

Piton Malta Partners with Baby Village Foundation and Go Feed My Lamb Ministry



Mrs. Fern Wilson-Jean, Category Manager- Piton Malta (L) with Ms. Sharon Pindar President and Founder of Baby Village Foundation



Mrs. Fern Wilson-Jean Category Manager - Piton Malta with Juanita Bretney-Sexius Director Go Feed My Lamb Ministry Incorporation

PITON Malta is excited to announce its partnership with the Baby Village Foundation and Go Feed My Lamb Ministry as part of the Nourishing Futures Campaign. This

initiative highlights the importance of nourishment, care, and family support for those facing challenging circumstances within our community.

The Baby Village Foundation empowers mothers, babies, and toddlers by providing essential resources and care to help them thrive. Likewise, Go Feed My Lamb Ministry offers meals and necessities to those in need, making a significant impact on the lives of the less fortunate.

As part of this collaboration, through its Nourishing Futures Campaign, Piton Malta has pledged over \$10,000 in value of monthly grocery vouchers, from February to December 2025, ensuring that these organizations can provide critical support to underprivileged families. This effort goes beyond simply offering food—it's about creating a stronger, more connected community and providing families with the

resources they need to build a better future.

Category Manager, Mrs. Fern Wilson-Jean remarked “Through the Piton Malta Nourishing Futures Campaign, we aim to bring hope, sustenance, and vital care to those who need it most. We are committed to supporting initiatives that make a tangible difference. This partnership reflects our core values of nourishment, care, and community support. Through this Campaign, we are dedicated to making a lasting impact, and we encourage others to join us in these efforts.

To learn more about how you can help, we invite you to follow @go_feed_my_lamb and @babyvillagefoundation on social media. Together, we can make an impact—one step at a time.

Blind Masseuse Seeks Help from the Public to Pursue Course Overseas

Cont from Page 5

Yohan is currently unemployed; his wife, however, works as a masseuse at a local resort.

She's been working at the BodyHoliday for the past nine years.

“I was working with a lady... and she was doing reflexology. When my husband went to her— he had sciatica, she did the treatment and it worked. I thought if I could just be able to do that treatment – the lady was already teaching me how to do massages... then I will be able to help my family and other people,” she explained.

Georgia got the opportunity to work at the resort later on.

“A couple of years after, the Saint Lucia Blind Welfare Association told me there was training [and they asked me whether I was interested]. It was a lot of work... but my family [encouraged] me. Whilst I was training the owners offered me a job because they were pleased

with the level of work I was doing,” she stated.

“I don't want to blow my own trumpet, but the guests keep asking for me all the time and it's an honour to be able to treat them. A lot of them would say I saw your reviews on Trip Advisor, etc.,” Georgia added.

She's hoping to improve her skills overseas.

“I would like to do some training in reflexology to treat cancer patients, children [and] women who want to get pregnant. That training is going to be done in England and I have a GoFundMe to help with that,” she said.

So far, a total of \$10,820 Canadian Dollars (CAD) has been raised – more than half of her goal.

She's hoping to raise \$21k.

To assist Georgia, visit <https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-georgia-juliana-for-advanced-reflexology-training>

Support Georgia Juliana for advanced reflexology training



SHARE HAPPINESS TOGETHER

By
Sir Ronald Sanders



wrote in *The Times* on March 23, membership in the Commonwealth “is not in the King’s gift”.

Gaining membership starts with an application by the country desirous of becoming a member. And, as Murphy states, the process is “typically a lengthy one and success depends upon the consent of all existing members.”

This is a fact that is very well known in Buckingham Palace and one that has been respected by the Sovereigns of

The U.S. “Joining” the Commonwealth: an unreasonable expectation

RECENT media stories have suggested that King Charles III could “invite” the United States to join the Commonwealth of Nations. Yet as Professor Philip Murphy, Director of the History and Policy Institute of Historical Research in London,

Great Britain since 1949 when the Modern Commonwealth emerged, and several countries led by India and Pakistan became Republics with their own Heads of State. The Commonwealth is not a formal political or economic union; it is a network of countries that choose to cooperate on shared issues. The British monarch serves in a symbolic role as the Head of the Commonwealth.

This framework arose from a 1949 Declaration of Commonwealth Leaders which formalized the Commonwealth’s structure and recognized the British monarch as “the symbol of the free association of the independent member nations and, as such, Head of the Commonwealth.” In this capacity, King Charles plays an important ceremonial role but cannot commit to the organization. Consequently, it is worth clarifying why these media reports about a supposed “Associate Membership” are mistaken.

No Such Thing as “Associate Membership”

Murphy rightly pointed out that there is no category called “Associate Member” in the Commonwealth. In November 2007, at their meeting in Uganda, the Commonwealth Heads of Government emphatically rejected any idea of “Associate Membership”. They confirmed that the Commonwealth would retain only one class of membership - full membership by sovereign states.

Their stance followed the recommendations of a special committee that was established under the Chairmanship of former Jamaican Prime Minister P.J. Patterson. In its October 2007 report, the Committee was categorical in stating that the idea of “Associate Membership” was “fraught with difficulties”. They reaffirmed their conviction that “the Commonwealth was fundamentally an association of sovereign member states who were equal in all respects”.

On the basis of the 8-person Committee report, the Commonwealth leaders established a four-step process for any nation seeking admission. This process involves: an informal assessment by the Secretary-General following a country’s expression of interest; consultations with existing member governments; a formal application by the interested country, if no objections are raised; evidence of democratic processes in the country and public support for membership, such as a resolution of the applicant’s legislature.

Therefore, no “associate” or partial membership exists, nor is there any procedure for a single leader - monarch, president, or prime minister - to unilaterally invite a nation to join.

Why a U.S. Application Is Unlikely

It is difficult to imagine the U.S. administration choosing to apply for membership in the Commonwealth – or any other organization for that matter. In the case of the Commonwealth’s application process, it would have to subject itself to a potentially contentious review – something that neither the administration nor the U.S. Congress would tolerate.

Further, national sentiment in the U.S. would likely bristle at the idea that its president and legislature must formally acknowledge the British King as the “Head” of an organization in which the United States participates. Even though the King’s position today is purely symbolic, the notion of again recognizing a British monarch - however ceremonial - would surely spark intense debate among a population that first achieved nationhood by breaking away from British rule.

A Voluntary Association of Equals

Furthermore, even if the U.S. were to apply, the Commonwealth’s culture of consensus and egalitarian decision-making stands in stark contrast to the usual role of the U.S. in international affairs. The Commonwealth is a network of 56 sovereign nations, rich and poor, large and small, that have chosen to collaborate on shared values: democracy, human rights, the rule of law, and development. Its informal style - particularly during the “retreat” sessions of the biennial Heads of Government meetings - promotes frank, off-the-record dialogue among leaders who interact on an equal footing.

For a superpower accustomed to steering global discussions, consensus decision-making where any member can stall or derail a proposal, would be a difficult fit for the US. The comparable situation is the U.S. membership of the Organization of American States (OAS), which the U.S. helped to shape in 1947 with Latin American and Caribbean countries, and in which it has played a forceful role.

However, the culture of the OAS, fashioned out of concerns only from the nations of the Americas (32 participating states), is different from the Commonwealth’s remarkable diversity – 56 nations, spanning continents, faiths, ethnicities, and political systems. Commonwealth members have fostered an atmosphere of ideological pluralism that has matured over seven decades.




The Bottom Line

All of this explains why the recent media discussion about a “King’s invitation” to the U.S. misrepresents the Commonwealth’s rules and operations.

Membership can only be achieved through a formal application approved by all existing member governments. And as long as those rules stand, the British monarch’s headship is a ceremonial reflection of voluntary association, without the power to grant membership to anyone. Against this background, no “invitation” to the U.S. could truly exist. Significantly, Buckingham Palace has not confirmed the media stories.

For the United States to join the Commonwealth, it would have to follow the established process of its own accord, and that is not only very unlikely, but it would also be an unreasonable expectation.

(The writer is Antigua and Barbuda’s Ambassador to the US and the OAS. The views expressed are entirely his own. He served as a Member and Rapporteur of the Eminent Persons Group commissioned by Heads of Government to recommend reform of the Commonwealth 2010-2011. Responses and previous commentaries: www.sirronaldsanders.com)

<div></div> <div>Sagicor Finance Inc. Statement of Financial Position As of December 31, 2024 (Expressed in Eastern Caribbean Dollars)</div>		
	2024 \$	2023 \$
Assets		
Property, plant, and equipment (Note 5)	1,956,531	264,886
Loans receivable (Note 6)	33,436,631	32,346,698
Finance lease receivables (Note 7)	3,502,338	3,500,658
Other assets and receivables (Note 8)	167,828	276,207
Financial investments (Note 9)	11,304,326	9,506,328
Cash	3,327,618	984,877
Total assets	53,695,272	46,879,654
Liabilities		
Deposit liabilities (Note 10)	24,215,292	22,470,191
Deposit payable to related parties (Note 11)	16,411,275	15,720,925
Lease liability (Note 13)	1,267,376	75,525
Deferred tax liability (Note 12)	3,051	2,642
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (Note 14)	3,108,583	403,503
Total liabilities	45,005,577	38,672,786
Equity		
Share capital (Note 15)	5,000,000	5,000,000
Statutory reserve (Note 16)	1,927,276	1,830,711
Regulatory loss reserve (Note 16)	1,066,057	170,698
Retained earnings	696,362	1,205,459
Total equity	8,689,695	8,206,868
Total liabilities and equity	53,695,272	46,879,654
The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.		
Approved on behalf of the Board of Directors on March 26, 2025		
	Director	 Director
Sagicor Finance Inc. Statement of Comprehensive Income For the year ended December 31, 2024 (Expressed in Eastern Caribbean Dollars)		
	2024 \$	2023 \$
Interest income – loans receivable	2,337,796	2,294,114
Interest income – finance lease	360,398	324,588
Interest income – other	425,387	448,136
Interest expense	(1,119,151)	(1,088,994)
Net interest income	2,004,430	1,977,844
Reversal of impairment/(Impairment of) loans receivable (Note 6)	625,915	(448,215)
Reversal of impairment/(Impairment of) investments (Note 9)	8,343	(3,735)
Reversal of impairment/(Impairment of) finance leases	2,599	(450)
Recoveries of loans receivable	135,469	80,543
Gain on loan modification losses	75,021	82,161
Loss on disposal	(21,415)	(3,029)
Loss on sale of investment	(53,777)	–
Loss on disposal of repossessed stock	–	(1,611)
Miscellaneous income	125,457	183,959
Net other operating income/(loss)	897,612	(110,377)
Employee costs (Note 17)	1,253,722	1,138,040
Depreciation (Note 5)	256,152	215,061
Licenses and permits	164,213	191,944
Rent and utilities	44,058	38,835
Finance cost (Note 13)	32,307	7,405
Other expenses (Note 18)	649,890	648,445
Expenses	2,400,342	2,239,730
Income/(Loss) before taxation	501,700	(372,263)
Taxation (Note 19)	18,873	5,322
Net income/(loss) and other comprehensive income/(loss) for the year	482,827	(366,941)
The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.		

Industrial Dispute Resolved Between NWU and 1st National Bank

LABOUR officials have successfully resolved a protracted industrial dispute between the 1st National Bank and the National Workers Union (NWU).

Labour Minister Dr Virginia Albert-Poyotte has announced that both parties have accepted her recommendations, leading to a decisive resolution of the issue. A few months ago, the situation escalated into significant protests and strike action by employees of the 1st National Bank.

Dr Albert-Poyotte, who facilitated the mediation, emphasised that this was a complex process requiring both parties to reach a mutually agreeable solution regarding specific terms and work conditions.

“The National Workers Union has formally communicated its acceptance of my determination, as has the 1st National Bank,” the Labour Minister stated at a media briefing on Monday.

The dispute originated from the 1st National Bank’s acquisition of the Royal Bank of Canada, which resulted in employees facing “additional responsibilities” in the transition to the new entity.

Dr. Albert-Poyotte acknowledged employee concerns about pay disparities between 1st National Bank and former Royal Bank of Canada employees. The union demanded an additional \$600.00 per month for each employee.

However, the bank claimed this was financially unfeasible given its limited resources. The Labour Commissioner intervened, suggesting an increase of \$400, but the bank still deemed that amount “not affordable” due to its narrow profit margins.

Dr. Albert-Poyotte took charge of the situation and emphasized that productivity would not improve without resolving the underlying issues that led to the dispute. The union insisted on a job evaluation to ensure that their members receive equitable remuneration compared to other bank employees.

After negotiations were stalled, the Labour Minister insisted on a resumption of discussions. She pressed the bank to expedite the job evaluation process and set a deadline for resolution.

Following a thorough review, Dr. Albert-Poyotte reported that the bank has made progress in addressing these concerns, and has personnel dedicated to the job evaluation, and is back at the negotiating table. She announced a \$250.00 compensation award for affected employees, effective from January 2024 to the present date. Ultimately, the bank recognized the necessity of meeting these requests, considering it a manageable agreement. Dr. Albert-Poyotte concluded, “The workers



Labour Minister Dr Virginia Albert-Poyotte

emerge positively from this process, standing firmly in their right to a job evaluation. Those who qualify will be re-classified and may also see a pay increase as part of the negotiations that have been agreed upon by both the bank and the union.” She commended the collaboration of both parties, highlighting that their cooperation is vital for creating a constructive working environment for all.

Significant Amendments Made to NIC Legislation

THE National Insurance Corporation (NIC) has announced significant amendments to its legislation.

The recently enacted National Insurance Corporation (Amendment) Act No. 21 of 2024 allow for a beneficiary to instruct the NIC:

- To pay a short-term benefit directly to his/her employer.
- To pay a long-term benefit to a financial institution, an elderly home or an organization approved by the Board.
- To pay a funeral grant directly to any funeral home provided that a personal representative of the deceased

or the person appearing to have a valid claim gives notice in the prescribed form to the Director.

By virtue of this amendment:

- An employee now has the ability to assign short-term benefits to his/her employer
- NIC Pensioners are now able to instruct the NIC to pay their pension directly to a financial institution, an elderly home or an organization approved by the NIC Board.
- A beneficiary of a funeral grant may instruct that the benefit be paid directly to a funeral home.

The National Insurance Corporation (Amendment) Regulations No. 8 of 2025 provide for new claim forms with respect to certain benefits and other prescribed forms to support the amendments to the Act. In addition, it broadens the manner of payment of contributions to facilitate the inclusion of additional forms, places and methods of payment.

The changes mean that the NIC can now move ahead with plans to introduce online and other forms of electronic payment services.

These recent amendments represent a significant step forward for the National Insurance Corporation as it moves to enhance the efficiency and accessibility of its services to meet the evolving needs of contributors and their families.

Regional Forum on Cetaceans Conservation - A Historic Milestone for the Caribbean

THE Regional Forum on Cetacean Management, organized by the Caribbean Cetacean Society (CCS) and funded and supported by the French Embassy to the Eastern Caribbean States, Barbados, was held on 26th March 2025, at the Harbour Club Hotel, Saint Lucia. This event marks an unprecedented step forward for the Caribbean, bringing together governments and civil society actors from the OECS to work collectively on the management of whales and dolphins in the region.

This forum was the final milestone of the Ti Dolphin An Nou project, funded by the French Embassy. The project aims to strengthen cetacean protection in the southern Lesser Antilles—from Dominica to Grenada—through regional cooperation, education, and standardised scientific research.

The forum opened with remarks from H.E. Mr. Etienne Francis, Ambassador of France to Saint Lucia, and Mr. Thomas Nelson, representing Saint Lucia’s Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Rural Development.

Jeffrey Bernus, Founder and Director of CCS, presented four years of results, including:

- The first comprehensive baseline on regional cetacean scientific knowledge,
- Confirmation of cross-border movements of whales and dolphins,
- And the urgent need for joint management of this shared migratory resource.

His presentation was followed by science-based recommendations, reinforcing that cetaceans are vital to the blue economy and ecosystem health and that protecting them requires regional cooperation, public awareness, and long-term research.

This work has already yielded concrete results: CCS has successfully supported the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in developing the first-ever regulations on small cetacean hunting, a major step forward for both

biodiversity conservation and the development of the island’s blue economy.

The panel discussion that followed highlighted key next steps, such as:

- Focusing on Regional Cetaceans Management
- Engaging local marine stakeholders (fishers, whalers, tour operators...),
- And Integrating social and local context to improve public understanding and support.

This type of regional cooperation on cetacean protection has never been achieved before in the Caribbean. The forum was hailed as a historic milestone, demonstrating the Caribbean’s ability to build a shared conservation vision rooted in science and regional solidarity.

In recognition of the need for continuity, a roadmap will be proposed to all participating states in the coming months. This roadmap will guide the next steps, promote regional coordination, and help mobilise funding to sustain and expand these collaborative efforts.

The forum brought together high-level delegations from the participating countries, including Hon. Minister Jullan Defoe (Dominica) and Mr Javan Williams, Permanent Secretary of Grenada’s new Ministry of Blue Economy, whose leadership was widely commended. Fisheries departments from all delegations were also present and actively engaged in the discussions. The Martinique Collectivity (CTM) was also represented as well as Espace Sud Martinique.

The event also featured contributions from renowned cetacean expert Dr Shane Gero of the Dominica Sperm Whale Project, as well as the local conservation group Ripples to Waves, further enriching the forum with cutting-edge research and grassroots perspectives.

This landmark initiative could serve as a model for other regions globally and will be highlighted during the upcoming United Nations Ocean Conference to be held in Nice, France, in June 2025.

Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court (Non-Contentious Probate and Administration of Estates) Rules

FORM P7

ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT (Rule 15)

The Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

SAINT LUCIA

In the Estate of AMELIA CHARLES late of Summersdale in the Quarter of Castries in State of Saint Lucia, deceased.

TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by MARIE VERONICA EMELDA CHARLES of Summersdale, in the Quarter of Castries in State of Saint Lucia for a Grant of Letters of Administration to the applicant who is the daughter of the deceased, the deceased having died intestate on the 17th day of January 1988.

Any person having an objection to the grant of Letters of Administration to the application shall file an objection within 14 days of the publication of this Notice.

Dated this 20th day of March, 2025

Filed by BRICKSTONE LAW for the Petitioner whose address for service is Place Creole Rodney Bay, Gros Islet Telephone Number, (758) 450-3000. Email: info@brickstonelaw.com

UTC Global Balanced Fund Limited Launched in the Spice Isle, Igniting Investment Opportunities in the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU).

The Trinidad and Tobago Unit Trust Corporation (UTC) has once again demonstrated its commitment to fostering wealth generation across the Caribbean with the launch of the UTC Global Balanced Fund Limited (UTC GBFL) Spice Share Class in Grenada. The official launch event was held on March 20, 2025, at the Radisson Hotel, Grenada.



UTC Executive Director, Nigel Edwards addresses the audience at the launch of the Spice Share Class, UTC GBFL

UTC GBFL is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Trinidad and Tobago Unit Trust Corporation and is an investment company incorporated in Saint Lucia. It operates as a collective investment scheme (CIS) in the ECCU and is licensed and regulated by the Eastern Caribbean Securities Regulatory Commission (ECSRC). The UTC GBFL, which is only available in the OECS, has been launched in Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and now Grenada. Since launching in November 2023, the fund has

notched an impressive 12.44% return as at December 31, 2024 and stands at approximately US\$8.7 million in Funds Under Management.

"We are delighted with the response to the GBFL in Grenada," said Omar Burch-Smith, UTC Regional CIS Manager. "Our goal was not only to introduce the fund but to equip the Grenadian community with the knowledge and tools necessary for financial success."

Addressing launch attendees, UTC GBFL Ambassador and cricket legend Daren Sammy shared, "Growing up in the small community of Dugard in Saint Lucia, I understand what it's like to come from humble beginnings while having big dreams. The journey wasn't always easy, but cricket opened doors for me that shaped my future. Today, I am proud to work with UTC GBFL because they are dedicated to creating opportunities for everyone, regardless of where they start."

UTC remains steadfast in its commitment to fostering a coordinated regional strategy that ensures the responsible evolution of the financial services industry, promoting long-term sustainability and shared prosperity.



Omar Burch-Smith makes a presentation at the Personal Finance and Investing Seminar

Kerri Maharaj, Chief Financial Officer, UTC hands over a prize to a participant at the Business Mixer

UTC Executive Director Nigel Edwards emphasized that this expansion reinforces the Corporation's role as a steadfast partner in the economic progress of the Caribbean. "Our goal with the UTC GBFL is to ensure that Grenadians are not just bystanders in global financial markets but active participants, reaping the rewards of smart investing. We know that prosperity is not built in isolation. It is cultivated through collaboration— through

regional partnerships, through knowledge sharing, and through a shared vision of economic empowerment." Edwards also announced at the launch that investors across the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU) will now have the opportunity to open fund accounts online through the UTC GBFL Digital Onboarding Platform, bringing greater convenience to the investment process.

Financial well-being seminar at St. George's Boys Secondary School



Panel discussion at the launch of the Spice Share Class, UTC GBFL. Panelists (l-r) UTC GBFL Petipha Lewis, Chair of the Network of Caribbean Chambers (CARICHAM); Crystal Rodriguez-Greaves, Chief Investment Officer, UTC; Nigel Edwards, Executive Director, UTC; Omar Burch-Smith, Regional Collective Investment Scheme Manager, UTC GBFL; and Deyson Scott, Chief Sales and Marketing Officer, UTC



l-r: Ashwini Singh, Shoba Ganess, Omar Burch-Smith, Petipha Lewis, Lucia Livingston-Andal, Nigel Edwards, Crystal Rodriguez-Greaves, Deyson Scott, Kerri Maharaj, Hema Ramkissoon and Andrew Maharaj

About the Unit Trust Corporation

The Unit Trust Corporation is the region's largest mutual fund service provider, with Funds Under Management totalling TT\$24.5 billion (approximately US\$3.6 billion) as of December 31, 2023. With a strong risk management framework, consistent investment portfolio performance, and operational efficiency, UTC continues to fulfil its mission of generating wealth for all local and regional communities. In addition to UTC GBFL, UTC has recently introduced three new mutual funds in Jamaica in collaboration with the GraceKennedy Group, with Funds Under Management now reaching US\$33.2 million, as of February 2025. For more details, visit www.ttutc.com

THE VOICE
Special Issue
March 29th, 2025

THE VOICE
OF SAINT LUCIA.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION, FIVE DOLLARS]

Vol. 1]

CASTRIES, SATURDAY, 20

THE VOICE OF SAINT LUCIA.

Printed and Published for the Proprietor and Editor, at the Printing Office of "The Voice of Saint Lucia," 11, Market Street, Castries, St. Lucia.

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A

ANY LETTERS

this paper

except

new

THE VOICE

TUESDAY AUGUST 12, 1980

ALLEN

ESTABLISHED 1885

MOST St. Lucians will by now have had all the sorry details of Hurricane Allen, the few short hours it spent with us on the

night of August 3-4 and the untold havoc which it wreaked on the island with its winds of more than 100 miles per hour.

For those who have had a complete briefing this issue is devoted bringing them up to date although quite



THE VOICE OF ST. LUCIA
Evening Edition

CASTRIES, ST. LUCIA WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18, 1937 PRICE ONE PENNY

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140 years*

1885-2025

THE VOICE
Weekend

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Vol. 136 No. 10,773

NUMBER OF COMMERCE REQUESTS FOR INVOLVEMENT IN DECISION-MAKING

Here, I'm not speaking in a perfunctory, tick-the-box manner. Nor do I mean superficial consultation. I am talking about mutual respect, understanding, research, discussion, and ultimately the involvement of businesses and ultimately the community as a treasury of knowledge.



Celebrating 140 Years of THE VOICE: A Legacy of Resilience and Innovation

A Message from Managing Director Mr Vilan Edward



Vilan Edward

THIS year, we honor the vision of a man whose mission, simply put, was to connect people. Who would have imagined that when our founder purchased this company for just \$2.00 in 1885, 140 years later, its newspaper publications would be sold at the same price per issue?

Today, the objectives of our shareholders remain firmly aligned with the founder's vision: to produce a newspaper that informs and enlightens without persuasion.

Reaching this milestone has not been without challenges. THE VOICE has demonstrated remarkable resilience, overcoming numerous setbacks, including the devastating Castries fire of 1948—which led to the company's relocation to its current home on Darling Roatwo World Wars, the advent of the internet, the rise of social media platforms, and, most recently, the COVID-19 pandemic. Whether in times of prosperity or adversity, The Voice has remained steadfast, evolving alongside the nation's economic and social landscape.

In 1953, the company took a bold step forward, officially registering its business enterprise and expanding into commercial printing. This marked the beginning of a transformative journey, embracing innovation and technological advancements. Over the years, we have witnessed new competitors emerge, some flourishing while others sought revitalization. Through it all, THE VOICE has stood strong, adapting to unprecedented challenges with strategic shifts, new technologies, and innovative solutions. Today, we proudly sit at the forefront of St. Lucia's printing industry, utilizing state-of-the-art technology to better serve our clients.

People often ask, "Why continue publishing a newspaper?" The answer is simple: while newspaper sales may never return to their former peak, print journalism will never become obsolete. The truth is that the media landscape has changed dramatically in keeping with the

advances in technologies of dissemination. THE VOICE has cemented its place not just as the definitive name in local newspapers but also as an essential part of the nation's legislative and historical records. Our archives are a treasure trove for students, researchers, and historians, capturing every chapter of St. Lucia's growth and evolution in black and white. Whilst today's news displaces yesterday's in the electronic world, newspapers not only inform but preserve.

At the heart of our enduring success is our dedicated team. With an average employee tenure of 17 years, our staff has remained a constant pillar of strength, contributing to our growth through continuous learning, professional development, and unwavering commitment.

To our customers, clients, and well-wishers, we extend

our deepest gratitude for your continued support and loyalty. We remain committed to upholding the highest standards in print production and journalistic integrity, whether through our bi-weekly and daily publications or our digital media platforms.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the staff of THE VOICE Publishing, we thank you for being part of this extraordinary 140-year journey. Here's to the future—one where we continue to chronicle the lives of our people and the progress of our nation with the same dedication and integrity that have defined us for over a century and, crucially, provide a medium for the carrying out of extended debate concerning the direction in which our leaders would take us.

Message from the Editor Mr Micah George

OVER the years, first as a reporter and now as the editor of THE VOICE Newspaper, the roles I have played and continue to play were steeped in both challenge and reward. My current role demands a delicate balance of heart and grit, an unwavering commitment to journalistic principles, and an undying passion for the craft. Never for once have I forgotten that the journey is fraught with obstacles, but it is also one of the most rewarding paths for those who believe in the transformative power of the written word. Hence, I am filled with profound gratitude for the small role I have played and continue to play in shaping and guiding THE VOICE Newspaper in recent years.

Therefore, with immense delight and pride, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to THE VOICE Newspaper on the incredible milestone of 140 years of excellence in journalism. This historic achievement is a testament to the unwavering commitment, integrity, and dedication that THE VOICE has consistently demonstrated throughout its illustrious journey, which would not have been possible without its past editors on whose shoulders I now stand.

For 140 years, THE VOICE has been more than just a newspaper; it has been a trusted companion, a source of reliable information, and a beacon of truth for its readers. Through times of triumph and tribulation, THE VOICE has remained steadfast in its mission to inform, educate, and inspire. Its pages have chronicled the stories of our society, captured the essence of our culture, and provided a

platform for diverse voices to be heard.

The longevity of THE VOICE reflects the tireless efforts of its talented past and present journalists, editors, and staff who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to uphold the highest standards of journalism and work ethics. Their dedication to delivering quality content, coupled with their ability to adapt to the ever-evolving media landscape, has ensured that THE VOICE remains relevant and influential in the digital age.

As we celebrate this remarkable anniversary, I wish THE VOICE Newspaper many more years of success and prosperity. May it continue to thrive, innovate, and inspire future generations of journalists and readers alike. Here's to a future filled with new stories, new achievements, and continued excellence.

Congratulations to THE VOICE Newspaper, on 140 years of survival amid economic and other storms, which threaten to disrupt its operations. May your legacy continue to shine brightly for many years to come.



Micah George

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As journalist Malcolm Forbes once said, "The purpose of education is to replace an empty mind with an open one." Over the past 140 years, The VOICE has exemplified this mission, enlightening minds, fostering dialogue, and preserving the stories that define our nation.

We celebrate this incredible milestone with you and commend your dedication to preserving the essence of responsible journalism. **May The VOICE continue to thrive, evolve, and inspire for many more years to come.**

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Congratulatory Messages from our friends, readers and well wishers

AS we at THE VOICE Publishing Company mark 140 years of dedicated service to Saint Lucia, we are overwhelmed with gratitude for the support of our readers, advertisers and community. Your kind words and well wishes remind us of the impact we've made and the journey we continue together.

Here are some heartfelt congratulations from those who have been part of our story.

Delicia Chastanet- Happy anniversary to the team of THE VOICE Newspaper

Daisy St Rose-Kretschmer- Happy birthday to you: 140 years of witnessing history unfold.

Julitta Florent - Happy 140th birthday to The Voice St. Lucia News

Lesley Modest - Happy Anniversary to the management and Staff

Delicia Chastanet - Congratulations

Julitta Florent - Congratulations on 140 years of keeping St Lucia informed "The Voice St. Lucia News"

Mary Jane Knoll - Happy Anniversary The Voice St. Lucia News !!!!!

Joseph Mahy - Happy anniversary The Voice St. Lucia News

Beverley-Ann Devaux Happy Anniversary

Mary Joseph – Castries- Congratulations on this incredible milestone! 140 years of excellence in journalism is truly remarkable. Wishing you continued success!

David Charles – Soufrière- A huge congratulations to The Voice Publishing Company! Your legacy of truth and integrity has shaped our media landscape. Here's to many more years!

Sandra Williams – Gros Islet- Happy 140th Anniversary! Your dedication to keeping St. Lucia

informed and inspired is truly commendable. Best wishes for the future!

Peter Augustin – Vieux Fort- The Voice has been a pillar in our community for generations. Congratulations on 140 years of outstanding journalism!

Lisa Francois – Dennery- Wishing The Voice Publishing Company a happy 140th anniversary! Your commitment to sharing news, stories, and history is deeply appreciated.

Anthony St. Rose – Babonneau- 140 years of service to St. Lucia! What an achievement! Congratulations and keep up the amazing work!

Karen Mathurin – Micoud- From the first edition to today, The Voice has been a source of trusted information. Happy Anniversary and best wishes for the future!

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Long Serving Employees – 30 Years Over



Anne Pierre

Anne Pierre joined The VOICE Publishing Company in April 1991 and gained experience in multiple departments before earning a promotion in the Advertising and Marketing Department.

"Despite the challenges of the industry – The VOICE Newspaper becoming the sole surviving print publication, I have remained steadfast in my role. My focus has always been on delivering exceptional service and ensuring customers' satisfaction, and this, I think, has contributed to the success and longevity of this historic newspaper now celebrating 140 years," Anne told THE VOICE.

She added, "Knowing I'm part of this history, it's unbelievable. In Saint Lucia's newspaper world, The VOICE has been somewhat of a university; a place where employees have the opportunity to be trained in various aspects of the industry. I can say that I have benefitted and grown tremendously during my tenure here."



Rose Felix-Pierre

Rose Felix-Pierre has been with The VOICE for the past 35 years.

"In the beginning, it was a lot of hard work," Rose said to us four years ago.

"We used to work up to 2:00 a.m. (at times). The accountant would bring dinner on production days because we were working all night and the guys on the press helped as well. It was hard work but it was nice," she added.

According to the typesetter, back then "we typed every single thing."

"Thank God for modern technology," she added cheerfully.

This year, when we spoke to Rose she wished the company continued success.

"I'd like to congratulate the company on their remarkable achievements. I'm proud to be a part of the team; here's to many more years of innovation and success," she said.



Eli Parkinson

Eli Parkinson joined us over 30 years ago. According to him, "I like everything about the company... (they've) helped us a lot,"

"When I came here printing wasn't so advanced (but right now, I could travel and work overseas) because of what I've learnt at THE VOICE," he said in an interview with us last week.

When he started working here he didn't know anything about computers he admitted, however, over the years that has been rectified.

"I started working here on November 16, 1992. It was exciting because when I came here, there were about 40-50 employees and they had these old machines," he recalled.

"What I like most about my job is that I run the press and I take care of it. Just knowing that I work at one of the oldest newspaper companies in the Caribbean is incredible," he added.

Happy 140th ANNIVERSARY

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THE VOICE Newspaper Through the Ages

The Founder: Mr. Robert George McHugh

THE inaugural edition of THE VOICE OF SAINT LUCIA was published on Saturday 24th January 1885, by the late Mr Robert George McHugh, on Manoel Street, in the town of Castries. It was a four-page broadsheet and was published every Saturday. It carried four columns to the page and had as its motto, Milton's "Give me the liberty to know, to utter and to argue freely, according to conscience, above all liberties."

Advertisements appeared on the front and back pages, with the editorial, correspondence and other features, allocated to pages two and three.

The price for a single copy was six-pence and the annual subscription was five dollars.

The first ever VOICE Editor Mr. McHugh was an Irishman by birth, who had become one of St. Lucia's most patriotic citizens. He retired early from the civil service for the expressed purpose of entering the field of journalism. At that particular time Federation was the most intense subject of the day and it was to fight against the very concept of confederating St. Lucia with St. Vincent, Grenada and Tobago, that Mr. McHugh started "The Voice of St. Lucia". In the first "VOICE" editorial he was forthright in advancing his reasons for having entered the field of journalism when he wrote:

"We wish to state most emphatically and once and for all, that this newspaper has been started in the interest of no class or clique, but if possible, to unite all classes and destroy all cliques; not to advocate any particular set of opinions, but to allow every man and woman in St. Lucia, of having their say in public matters generally and especially to express their opinion concerning the proposed confederation of St. Lucia with St. Vincent, Grenada and Tobago, under one government who, as well as all the chief officials, is to reside in Grenada...."

"There is another and less important function of a newspaper, which is to inform its readers at home and abroad and to assist them in forming an opinion on such matters of general interest as may from time to time arise."

"Acting up to our duty in this respect, we have to state clearly that, looking at the question of Confederation from whatever point of view, we can see nothing good for us nor anybody else in it..."

From the year 1890, the newspaper carried its first engraved Banner head with the island's motto: "Statio Haud

Malifida Carinis" (A safe anchorage for ships).

Used for over half a century, it was replaced in THE VOICE edition of 4th September 1952. This change was followed by several other versions throughout the century, culminated into 'THE VOICE', "The National Newspaper of St. Lucia" as used today.

Mr. McHugh continued in the editorial chair, bringing the paper successfully, to its twenty-fifth year of publication in 1910. An excerpt of the editorial for the occasion, obviously penned by Mr. McHugh, was published in the issue of 22nd January and read in part:

"With the present number, THE VOICE reaches its twenty-fifth year of publication. The exact date of the first issue was the 24th of January 1885."

"A quarter of a century is much beyond the average life for a newspaper in the colonies, while for St. Lucia, it is a record, a very long way, exceeding the limits of living experience, on the testimony of local annals."

"A good deal of water has flown under the bridges, since that January day of 1885, when we first launched a frail and very speculative venture on the uncertain stream of West Indian Journalism. The colony had been silent long. The finger of reproach was being pointed at her for the apathy from which it could not be roused, to avail ourselves of the only means of voicing our wrong and clamouring for our requirements..."

"The consciousness of duty done according to one's lights sweetens the decline of life; and that we can feel the sympathetic touch of friendly shoulders and hear the approving voices, which stimulate and sustain the effort, is the most gratifying rewards for the best years of our lives, devoted to the furtherance...of our dear little island and of its people." In its subsequent edition on Saturday, January 29, 1910, the editorial content of THE VOICE was a tribute to Mr. McHugh by members of the Castries Club.

Mr. Edwin Bennett, K.C. editor of THE VOICE, a newspaper which was published from 1877-1882 said inter alia.

"We consider the present a fitting occasion to mark our recognition of your unselfish and patriotic labours and to express our regard for you personally, and our admiration of the talent, culture and perseverance which have enabled you to secure for 'The Voice of St. Lucia', not only the attention and admiration of a wide circle of readers in and out of

the colony, but a level of literary excellence for its leading articles, which is not surpassed by any newspaper in the West Indies."

Mr McHugh's interest in the community was reflected in the additional duties which he undertook whilst occupying the editorial chair. He had contributed ably to the existence of the Castries Town Board and was its chairman on several occasions. Through the medium of THE VOICE, he won many issues in favour of the Board's development projects for Castries and its environs. The building and subsequent opening of the Castries Market, the ceremony of which is published in THE VOICE of July 5, 1894, had his unstinting support. So also, did the controversial siting of the Carnegie Library and the granting of two scholarships to St. Mary's College, and to students of the Primary Schools.

The year 1910 saw the passing of one who had for twenty-five years occupied the editorial chair, having always as his slogan, "SAINT LUCIA FIRST".

Second VOICE Editor/Proprietors Ms. Marie McHugh

Following the death of Mr. McHugh, the editorship of THE VOICE was taken over by his daughter Marie. The proprietors of the business then listed were: Ms Marie McHugh, with her sisters Eugenie Plissonneau and Laurence McHugh.

Ms. McHugh occupied the editorial chair for ten years. Readers observed that THE VOICE had become more of a newspaper than the "views" medium it had been under her penmanship.

The news of World War I was adequately covered. In addition to the regular paper, a penny special was published during the week, which kept readers currently informed of the happenings in Europe. With an obviously innate gift of perception, when authentic sources were anticipating that the war would end by Christmas, Ms McHugh wrote in an early September editorial of THE VOICE as follows:

"A struggle on this enormous scale, where each nation is fighting for existence, cannot as was the case in some former campaigns, be decided by the results of one or two pitched battles, but must continue until one or the other, of the opposing sides, is brought to a stage of exhaustion, either through military or economic pressure, or a combination of both."

Ms McHugh retired from the editorship of the paper in the year 1920. In THE VOICE edition of 10th April that year, an appreciation for her services was published and read in part:

"...Miss McHugh who has edited the paper for ten years, retires from the editorial chair which she so ably

Cont on Page 6

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Cont from Page 5

and honourably filled, to enjoy a well-merited rest... We are pleased to note that, along with her sister Ms. Laurence McHugh, the Editor will be remaining in our midst. So that, whilst she retires from the work that has made such great demands upon her, she will abide with us, and give the influence of her great personality to all that make for the welfare of the community. The ex-Editor will still speak to us, out of the silence of her retirement...

“Birds cannot always sing, silence at times they need, to nurse spent feelings.

Third VOICE Editor/Proprietor Mr. GEORGE S.E. GORDON

In March 1920, THE VOICE business was acquired from Miss McHugh by Mr. Gordon and in its issue of 27th March under the caption,” THE CHANGE,” the paper said:

“Mr. Geo. S.E. Gordon, having acquired the business concern of ‘THE VOICE OF ST. LUCIA’, the paper will be published in the future from the premises situated at the corner of Victoria and Corporation Streets, opposite the Castries Club.”

“We are pleased to hand over the interests of the island to Mr. Gordon who is well known and respected by everyone in the community. Mr. Gordon is, first of all, a born St. Lucian, who has at heart, the welfare of his island home and the uplifting of its inhabitants.

“We feel certain that Mr. Gordon will keep up the traditions of THE VOICE and that his criticisms, though fearless, will always be fair and written in a gentlemanly spirit.

CHANGES:

The paper subsequently underwent some changes both in content and presentation. The price was reduced from sixpence to three pence and the publishing frequency was increased from once to twice weekly - Wednesday and Saturday. These changes served to enhance circulation substantially and brought the paper within easier reach of the humbler citizen. A circular letter accompanied the first edition under the new management. It invited readers to subscribe and submit articles for publication, “provided they

THE VOICE Newspaper Through the Ages

be not personal attacks, defamatory, libellous or scurrilous.”

A system of exchanges of THE VOICE with other regional newspapers was introduced. Notably among them was The West Indian of Grenada, where the head of government, the Governor of the Windward Islands with his staff, habits its headquarters, The Port-of-Spain Gazette of Trinidad, the Daily Chronicle of British Guiana, The Barbados Advocate, The Herald of Barbados, The Vincentian of St. Vincent and The Chronicle of Dominica. These papers arrived by the fortnightly mail steamer, whilst the Dailies were sent in mail edition, a fortnightly compilation of news and comments. News gleaned from these publishing sources were captioned “Inter-Colonial News” or “West Indian News and Views” and were an invaluable means of information from the sister islands.

The local content of the newspaper then, comprised primarily, the proceedings of the Legislative Council, the sessions of the Royal Court, as our High Court was then called and of the Magistrates’ Court, meetings of the Castries Town Board, arrivals and departures of passengers by surface travel, whilst weddings and obituaries formed added features as they occurred.

NOTABLE EVENTS:

Some notable events reported in THE VOICE during those years, included the Castries Fire of 1927, the consecration of the Church of the Immaculate Conception, the sinking of the motor vessel ‘St. George’ on the Laborie reefs, with its consequential heavy loss of life; the subsequent trial of the owner, Mr. George Cox and Mr Reece, the Captain; the Roseau Company case, in which two brilliant sons of Saint Lucia clashed at the Bar - Mr Elwin Augustin and Sir Lennox O’Reilly and the leader of the Trinidad Bar, for the Roseau Company, limited and several other topical events of the period under reference.

CONFLAGRATION:

On the night of 14-15 May 1927, Castries suffered its first Great Fire, which involved the total destruction of

supplement.

In January 1928, the normal broadsheet was resumed, a large cylinder printing press having been acquired during the interval.

It was noted that 43 years of bound volumes of THE VOICE had been destroyed by the fire, thus creating a severe handicap to its reference room over a protracted period of time.

MESSAGES:

The holocaust drew cablegrams of sympathy from worldwide sources which included that from His Majesty King George The Fifth, through the Secretary of State: The message read:

‘I have received a Command from the King to inform you that His Majesty has learned with the greatest concern, of the calamitous fire which has inflicted such damage at Castries. His Majesty has the happiest memories of his visit to Saint Lucia and directs you to convey to his people in the island, an expression of his profound sympathies in their present misfortune.”

THE GOVERNOR:

Meanwhile, THE VOICE editorial of January 29, 1927, noted the presence on the island, of Sir Frederick Seton James, then Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Windward Islands and commented: ‘His Excellency showed a keenness of foresight which was appreciated by all classes of the community.

GOLDEN JUBILEE:

In the year 1935 on January 24th, THE VOICE completed its fiftieth anniversary and in the editorial captioned “WE CARRY ON” the paper said;

“By the Grace of God, “THE VOICE of St. Lucia” has completed fifty years of public service to the people of St. Lucia. Service which has been faithfully performed during a period that has been full of vicissitudes for the colony and for the newspaper. During those years we have striven to live up to our motto: “*Give me the liberty to know, to utter and to argue freely, according to conscience, above all Liberties.*”

“First issued on January 24, 1885, by Mr Robert George McHugh of revered memory, THE VOICE battled on the rough seas of journalism against adverse winds and tides, but he kept a firm hand on the helm and through thick and thin, brought out his issues until he was called to his reward in a Better Land. For ten years Miss McHugh held up the torch lighted by their beloved father and then, handed it over to the present Editor, who sent out his first issue in 1920.

“Nothing is hot enough, or cold enough, or flattering enough, or caustic enough, to please all. It is human nature and so, we accept it all, as part of the game and carry on.

“With the completion of our fiftieth year, we are in receipt of many congratulatory letters and messages from our friends and well-wishers... We thank them all, most sincerely for their good wishes.

“To the general public, we say support and subscribe to THE VOICE, advertise in it and make use of it... We are out to do the greatest amount of good to the greatest number of the people and, with your assistance, and by God’s help, we carry on.”

Published also in this “special” was an article entitled “HOW THE VOICE OF ST. LUCIA WAS SAVED BY THREE YOUNG GIRLS.”

...” Journalism in St. Lucia, is not a paying concern. The island is small. Subscribers, paying ones, are very few. Helpers and contributors are almost nil; defamers and detractors, numerous critics on every side.

Introducing the article the editor said:

“In all ventures, great and small, there are little great stories, which remain untold. We are able to present one of the early days of “THE VOICE of St. Lucia,” through the courtesy of Miss Laurence McHugh of Castries, the youngest daughter of the late founder and first Editor of the newspaper.

“The article which we are sure will be read with delight, is dedicated to Miss McHugh, who received it by the last mail from her sister Miss Marie McHugh, our founder’s eldest daughter, who edited the newspaper after her father’s death and now resides in Martinique.”

THE STORY

Just fifty years ago, when “THE VOICE OF

Cont on Page 7

Happy 140th Anniversary

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THE VOICE Newspaper Through the Ages

Cont from Page 6

ST. LUCIA" was first started, the Editor who was as much a fighter in those early days, as he was after years, found himself in opposition to a certain magnate, whose interests clashed with the aspirations of the people of the Island. Everyone who remembers the late Editor would understand that he did not spare the magnate. "St. Lucia first and above all" was his motto. The vengeance of his opponent took the form of bribing the printers working at THE VOICE to go on strike and, one Monday morning, at the usual hour, not one printer presented himself for work. In those days, there were few printers on the island, as there had been a lull between the publication of the last paper and the birth of THE VOICE. At this juncture, the editor was in despair. It was not so much the loss on the financial side of the business which worried him - he cared so little for money - but he saw his efforts for the good of the people about to be nipped in the bud, before having the least chance to bloom.

Now, the Editor has three young daughters, aged sixteen, fifteen and thirteen respectively. They could, at that time, scarcely speak English, having been educated in a French Colony; but when they saw their father's distress, they begged him to let them try and help him. And though he knew that the aid the girls could give him was inadequate to the labour required, the father accepted.

Then two staunch patriots, Messrs Leonty Cadette and Nathaniel Phillip who had been employed at the Government Printing Office, came forward and offered to teach the young ladies the intricate work of printing a newspaper. So, every afternoon, after their working hours, they came to the office and never did they accept the smallest recompense for their services. It was hard. Often the young girls shed bitter tears upon the heaps of "pie" (mixed type), all that was ready from a form ready to be printed, which in their experience, they had dropped to the floor, while trying to slide it onto the platform. The hours were long - from 7.00 a.m. to 11.00 p.m. or 12.00 midnight when there was pressing work to do.

The old hand press often got broken and the work was stopped for hours. Very often the girls were disheartened, but their father's cheerful disposition, his optimism, his courage before adversity, his devotedness to duty, which he impressed upon them, and above all, his great love for Saint Lucia, which they shared, made light their hardship when they considered the goal to be attained.

The publication of the paper never stopped.

The youngest of the girls, as brave and as cheerful as you know her now, had a serious breakdown. For weeks she was ill and her father believed he was going to lose her, but God spared her and when she recovered, the strike was over and the little boat carrying THE VOICE and its fortunes, could continue to voyage on smoother waters.

The publication of the paper never stopped. The self-sacrifice of those three young girls was not lost. From it, they had learned that wonderful lesson of unity in misfortune, to which they attributed whatever success they attained in later life. They learnt also to appreciate those "friends indeed", and for their sake, opened their hearts to all and every St. Lucian, whoever he or she was.

After fifty years, it is with pride that they look back at the good work done by THE VOICE. There have been ups and downs in its long existence. It has made many enemies, but has met with a greater number of friends and now, under another Editor who is keeping the old traditions, THE VOICE is still faithful to the motto printed in its first number half a century ago;

"Give me the liberty to know, to utter and to argue freely, according to conscience, above all liberties."

WORLD WAR II:

Approximately four years after its fiftieth anniversary, THE VOICE, in bold headlines, published the outbreak of World War II.

The editorial on that occasion expressed Saint Lucia's continuing loyalty to Britain in the following sentiments.

"We in these parts are quite prepared to do our bit to aid the Empire in her fight for justice and freedom. May God help her in the struggle, to maintain these noble traditions upon which her own Empire has been so solidly founded. If we shall be called upon to play our part, Britain can rest assured, that we shall not be found wanting.

DEMISE:

Within months of the declaration of war, the paper, in its issue of 29th February 1940, announced the passing of its third esteemed Editor/Proprietor, Mr. Geo Gordon.

Resulting from his unflagging zeal and business acumen, the newspaper had attained a daily publishing frequency (except Sunday and Monday) by September 1939 and had compared favourably, with its regional counterparts. The Editor's services extended beyond the confines of the newspaper, he was a member of the Castries Town Board, that body on which many of the public-spirited men of the day had served, he having been regularly returned by the burgess, at the end of each term.

Fourth VOICE Editor/Proprietor Mr. GARNET H. GORDON

After the death of Mr. Gordon, THE VOICE business was taken over by his son Mr. Garnet Gordon. That day's edition bore the imprint of Mr. Gordon and the new editor wrote of his predecessor's services as follows:

"Journalism in a small colony with the limitations of this island is little more than a labour of love, but it supplies a vital need and is a stepping stone to the achievement of higher and better things by a community. The press is an instrument for good or for evil, according to the policy by which it is directed. An extensive knowledge of St. Lucia and Saint Lucians a broad West Indian outlook and a wide human sympathy founded upon a liberal Christian philosophy, enabled our late Editor to contribute to the encouragement and advancement of this community.

Despite his preoccupation with his

legal practice, Mr. Gordon occupied the editorial chair until the year 1954, when he left St. Lucia to take up his new appointment in the United Kingdom, as Trade Commissioner for the British West Indies, British Guiana and British Honduras. It was through his undaunted spirit and profound faith that, THE VOICE continued to serve St. Lucia, after the fire of 1948, thus enabling the paper to attain an uninterrupted centenary year of service to our country.

DIAMOND JUBILEE:

On the 24th of January 1945, THE VOICE reached its sixtieth anniversary and in a concise editorial of equal date, the paper said:

"Today "THE VOICE OF ST. LUCIA" attains its sixtieth milestone, the first issue appearing in 1885. It is proposed to observe the occasion within the next few months, by publishing a handsomely illustrated "Diamond Jubilee Souvenir..."

"Our contemporary, THE WEST INDIAN, also celebrated its birthday this month. It was 30 years old on New Year's Day.

UNBROKEN SERVICE:

Throughout the intervening years, THE VOICE continued its unbroken record of publishing and printing, giving directions through its editorial columns to all situations and events which required such attention, in the best interests of the country's advancement.

Cont on Page 8

Happy 140th Anniversary

THE VOICE PUBLISHING COMPANY 1953 LTD.
FOR ALL YOUR ADVERTISING AND PRINTING NEEDS TEL. 22490/22628

The Board of Directors, Management and Staff of 1st National Bank St. Lucia Limited congratulate you on this momentous achievement! 140 years is no easy feat! We wish you well as you continue to educate and inform the people of Saint Lucia!

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St. Lucia Limited
#21 Bridge Street, P. O. Box 168, Castries, St. Lucia: 1 (758) 455-7000
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Cont from Page 7

There were changes in format, volume, and publishing frequencies of the newspaper from time to time, but these became effective only when they met the exigencies of the day and **ensured the improvement and more particularly, the continuity** of the paper.

During those years the method of printing the newspaper was onerous and protracted. Limited type supplies made it imperative that a news form was printed, to distribute the type to complete the subsequent forms. Printing was done on a press which required dampened newsprint, to obtain an impression. The forme was inked with a hand roller and each sheet of the paper was affixed to the frisket, which held it in place until the printing was completed. It was a time-consuming operation print run at that time. minimized only by the approximately four to five hundred copies, which constituted the

We later moved up into printing on a flat-bed cylinder press which was at first manually operated. Three staffers were required to operate this unit - one fed the blank sheet into the press another turned the wheel and the third kept the printed sheets fixed on the cylinder receiving table. A gas-driven motor was subsequently installed which improved the printing process of the paper. Today however our high-speed automatic cylinder presses turn out thousands of impressions per hour.

THE SECOND HOLOCAUST:

On the night of June 19, 1948, the second great Castries Fire occurred. THE VOICE premises suffered the same fate as in 1927.

The first ever typesetting machine to have come to St. Lucia, the property of THE VOICE, was also completely destroyed in the nearby gutted Customs building. Some cases of hand type and a manual platen press, salvaged by some devoted employees, enabled us to house a miniature printing plant on

THE VOICE Newspaper Through the Ages

the ground floor of the nearby Barnard & Sons Building located on Bridge Street, now the National Commercial Bank.

The immediate reversal of production was reflected in the reduced size of the newspaper although it was a larger version than its counterpart of the 1927 catastrophe.

Publication commenced with a special emergency edition which was issued on the 3rd of 31st July. The paper continued in that size, until the 31" December of the same year.

The editorial assured readers that Castries, though shorn of its property, was very much alive. It will examine itself: it will command, it will denounce, it will pay. It will with resolution, move forward to a better and brighter life."

It is noteworthy that, not only did THE VOICE continue to function under the limited conditions outlined above, but also assisted with a substantial part of the government's routine printing, since their printery was completely destroyed by the fire.

REBUILT PREMISES:

Meanwhile, THE VOICE premises were subsequently rebuilt, the building representing one of Castries' most modern structures at that time.

A well-equipped plant comparable with any of its regional counterparts was established. Here, work of the magnitude of printing and binding of the revised Laws of St. Lucia and Grenada, hitherto done in the United Kingdom, was executed at our plant.

In this booklet pictures of the 1948 post-fire building and technical departments are reproduced for our readers viewing. Business in these departments went on for twenty-six years, prior to removing the existing premises on Darling Road.

ADVANTAGEOUS TRAINING:

Employment at THE VOICE in the early days provided the young apprentice with the opportunity for a varied career in the field of printing. He was assigned to any department as occasion demanded, thus gaining an all-around

knowledge that could not be enjoyed in the more highly specialized printing establishments. The total experience made it more possible for him to gain employment in the larger printing concerns overseas.

Many of these youngsters were eulogistic over their initial training received at THE VOICE, whilst some served commendably in other fields of endeavour both at home and abroad.

The young lady, whose portrait appears at the ruling machine among our 1948 illustrations, currently serves as supervisor of a team of rulers and binders in the United Kingdom.

NEW COMPANY:

In 1953 a new Company was formed under the Commercial Code of St. Lucia and named "The Voice Publishing Company (1953) Limited," under which name, it continues to operate today.

**Managing Director/Editor
Mr. EDWARD L. COZIER**

Mr. E.L. Cozier, formerly managing editor of the Barbados Advocate, was appointed to the above offices of the newly formed Company.

Emphasis on the improvement of the newspaper both in content and typography continued to engage the company's attention as is evidenced by the following note which appeared in a subsequent issue of the paper:

"Seeking to meet the tastes of its growing subscribers, "THE VOICE OF ST. LUCIA" has embarked upon a bold venture of reorganization, which will further ensure our leadership in the St. Lucia newspaper field and maintain our position as a top West Indian newspaper.

The pages of the paper were increased by 32 columns and many new features were introduced, at no added cost to our subscribers or readers. Subsequent to this substantial improvement, the banner head of the paper was printed in blue, enhancing further, the presentation of THE VOICE. This extra colour necessitated an increased print run of approximately thirteen thousand impressions weekly, the company absorbing the extra cost involved.

PRINTING EXPANSION

Meanwhile, as equipped as THE VOICE plant was

Cont on Page 9

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140th Anniversary

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THE VOICE Newspaper Through the Ages

Cont from Page 8

our sight began to focus further afield, to supply the printing needs of the other West Indies territories as well.

During June 1955, agencies were set up in the islands of Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and St. Vincent and the response from our new regional clientele was most gratifying.

We subsequently ventured into the more highly competitive field of Trinidad on a similar mission.

ROYALTY AND THE VOICE

On the occasion of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's visit to the Caribbean, a special commemorative issue of THE VOICE was published on the 24th of November, 1953. That day's editorial under the caption "A LOYAL WELCOME" read in part;

"May it please Your Majesty - we humbly ask you to accept, through the medium of these columns, the loyal and affectionate greetings of Your Majesty's most devoted subjects, the people of Saint Lucia..."

"Our sons and daughters have participated fully in the advance of this great Commonwealth, both in war and in peace. In war, they have given the greatest gift they could, their lives; in peace, their learning and their work. We in St. Lucia are proud of them, for they have seen to it that, in the British scheme of things, St. Lucia's contribution is not an unworthy one.

"We have had our troubles and our misfortunes as Your Majesty well knows Disastrous fires have destroyed our capital town on more than one occasion, and Your Majesty's Government has been generous under these unhappy circumstances. The people of Castries and St. Lucia, are grateful..."

"We wish Your Majesty a pleasant voyage, a safe return, and a long and glorious reign..."

EXHIBITION

THE VOICE participated for the first time in the Agricultural, Industrial and Health Exhibition, which was held at Union Agricultural Station in 1957.

In addition to the regular display of work, two cases of type and printing press were taken to the grounds. Here, many visitors to the booth saw the rudimentary exercises of printing through our demonstration. In was the first experience for many of them and they were extremely gratified with what they had seen.

NEW OWNERSHIPS

In the year 1957, ownership of "The Voice Publishing Company (1953) Limited" changed hands with Overseas Newspapers (Agencies) Limited, The Daily Mirror Group of London, England together with some other regional newspapers.

This ownership continued for approximately nine years when, in September 1966, The Thompson Organization of Canada acquired the business from the Daily Mirror proprietors.

Unlike the Daily Mirror proprietors, the Thomson policy had placed exclusive emphasis on newspaper publishing over job printing activities. However, through the years THE VOICE had ensured catering to the commercial printing needs of its clients and today, specializes in the field.

With the termination of this tenure, the business reverted to local ownership in 1976 and became affiliated with Trinidad Express Newspapers Limited of Port-of-Spain, Trinidad.

Eightieth Milestone

THE VOICE did not record this special occasion in the annals of its history, but gave editorial prominence to the passing of Sir Winston Churchill in its issue of 27th January 1965, because "his life had some effect

on local affairs."

The paper said:

"It is not our policy to deal with international affairs, except this island is directly affected."

"The coverage of international news, as well as comments on them is left to our two West Indian sister papers - The Advocate and the Daily Mirror of Trinidad and Tobago..."

"But the life of Sir Winston Churchill has had some effort on local affairs, so we must join the many who pay tribute to a man who has meant so much to the Free World..."

"We in this island, particularly in Castries, can say that we knew him, for he has visited these shores; and even though he had reached the zenith of his achievements and was slowly moving down the other side of life's slope, when we saw him, the spontaneous greeting which he got, indicated that St. Lucians appreciated all that he had done and wanted him to know it.

...To St. Lucians of this generation and the future, Sir Winston shall be regarded as a saviour of the freedoms which only free men can appreciate..."

A UNIQUE EVENT

In its issue of 25th January 1978, THE VOICE reported what could be regarded as one of the outstanding local events of the 70s - the installation of the Most Reverend Patrick Webster O.S.B., a son of Saint Lucia, as the first Archbishop of Castries. The ceremony took place at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in the City of Castries.

THE VOICE AND OUR CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

Resultant of the unbroken record of its publishing services, the paper kept readers abreast of all the constitutional and other developments of the country as they arose from time to time.

Cont on Page 10

The Board of Directors, Management & Staff of
**Mon Repos Eastern Co-operative Credit Union Ltd. and
 West Coast Community Co-operative Credit Union Ltd.**
 CONGRATULATE THE VOICE PUBLISHING CO LTD ON



140
Years of Excellence
 in journalism in St Lucia. Wishing you continued
 success for many more years to come!




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THE VOICE Newspaper Through the Ages

Cont from Page 9

For almost one hundred years, there had been no new or fundamental constitutional changes up to the year 1924.

In 1936, there was granted LIMITED ADULT SUFFRAGE and QUALIFICATIONS FOR CANDIDATES.

UNIVERSAL ADULT SUFFRAGE came into existence in 1951 and in 1958, approximately seven years later, Saint Lucia formed part of the West Indies Federation. This union, however, became defunct during 1968.

The next advanced constitutional status came into effect in 1967 when ASSOCIATED STATEHOOD WITH INTERNAL SELF-GOVERNMENT was declared.

Twelve years later, in 1979, came the granting of INDEPENDENCE.

THE VOICE monitored these several developments meticulously. This story, however, would be incomplete if, besides our Publishers, special reference was not made to those who played a valiant role in executing the journalistic policy and publishing frequency of the newspaper, throughout the one hundred years of its existence.

RECENT CHANGES

The last decade has seen the most rapid expansion in the history of THE VOICE. This process in fact started early in the 1970's when the plant was shifted from the heat of the city to Odessa Building on Darling Road.

The more spacious Odessa Building seemed tailor-made for the transformation in the activities of the company, which followed. First, the Company invested in the purchase of new equipment to enter into the field of offset printing.

In June 1975, the first issue of the newspaper, printed with the offset process came off the press. In the meantime, the Company continued to use the hot metal process and does a limited amount of this work to this day.

The advent of offset printing also took THE VOICE into the computer age, with electronic typesetting. In 1975, Sir Garnet Gordon, owner and chief executive of the Company passed away. In the following year, Englishman Barrie Hobbs was appointed General Manager and Company Secretary.

A new venture was launched when in October 1975 CANELLES was published, it was produced by senior members of THE VOICE editorial staff, with Mr. Guy Ellis as the Editor. This newspaper was intended to be a monthly edition, but due to uncontrollable circumstances, there were no subsequent publications. It was among the early items produced by our offset process equipment and facilities.

In 1977, the Company decided to increase the frequency of publications of THE VOICE. For over a year, the paper was published on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays, before rising production costs forced a rethinking and the paper reverted to being bi-weekly.

COMPANY is the majority shareholder.

Located in a free tax zone, CPC handles all printing contracts that are available in the region. These include the Telephone Directories for St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Dominica, Montserrat, Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Turks & Caicos Islands and Cayman Islands.

The East Caribbean Directory was published in 1980

The North Caribbean Directory in 1981 and The First Telephone Directory covered the entire Caribbean in 1982.

THE VOICE was the publishers of:

THE SAINT LUCIA VISITOR (a monthly)

ABOUT SAINT LUCIA (an annual) and

THE SAINT LUCIA YEARBOOK (an annual)

We undertake the printing of both letterpress and offset in full colour and are noted for our expertise in these areas, with local personnel having received their training at reputed establishments overseas.

MEMBER OF ABC

THE VOICE is the only local newspaper that holds membership with the Audit Bureau of Circulation (ABC) of the United Kingdom and enjoys overseas subscriptions.

The information to date is but a brief glimpse of THE VOICE at work, during the past century.

It is remarkable to note the oneness of voice with which all our publishers and editors through the years have reiterated the vicissitudes attendant upon the publishing of a newspaper in a small community such as St. Lucia. The obstacles to be faced are manifold and frustrating to the extreme and this view is shared by all concerned.

According to the records approximately forty publications have ventured into the publishing field from the year 1780. Many of these have perished after extremely short periods of service - others have seen the light of day for one edition only.

In light of the above-mentioned circumstances, the zeal, devotion and self-sacrifice of "THE VOICE'S" forbears can better be imagined than

described. That the paper enjoys the status of being the oldest in St. Lucia and the Eastern Caribbean and has today reached its one-hundredth year of continuous service almost staggers the imagination.

At this point, we can do no better than reiterate a quotation used on the occasion of one of THE VOICE'S earlier jubilees.

"What though our humble battle flag was but a tattered rag upon a splintered pole, we have striven to hold it high. We have waved it defiantly in the face of wrong, and though we trailed it in the dust, we never let it fall."

A new associate company came into existence during that period and was named THE CARIBBEAN PUBLISHING COMPANY LIMITED, based in Grand Cayman in which THE VOICE PUBLISHING

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Fax. (758) 724-8268
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THE VOICE newspaper is more than just words and images on a page; it is a meticulous process involving creativity, collaboration, and cutting-edge technology. At The Voice Publishing Company Limited, every edition is crafted with precision and care, ensuring that readers receive timely, accurate, and engaging content. Here's a behind-the-scenes look at how a newspaper comes to life, from the spark of an idea to the moment it rolls off the press.

The process begins in the newsroom, where the editor and journalists brainstorm story ideas. These ideas often stem from current events, community issues, or reader interests. Editorial meetings are held to discuss potential angles, assign stories, and set deadlines.

At this stage, the editorial team considers questions like:

- What are the most pressing topics today?
- How can we provide unique insights into these stories?
- What stories will resonate most with our readers?

Once stories are assigned, reporters hit the ground running. Research involves gathering facts, conducting interviews, and verifying information. Whether it's attending a press conference, speaking with eyewitnesses, or analyzing documents, the goal is to ensure accuracy and depth in every report.

Journalists often work under tight deadlines, juggling multiple sources and ensuring their work adheres to journalistic ethics. Accuracy, fairness, and integrity are the cornerstones of this phase.

With research complete, reporters craft their stories, focusing on clarity, coherence, and engagement. Articles are then submitted to the editorial team, where editors review them for:

- Grammar and style consistency
- Factual accuracy
- Appropriate tone and balance

Editors may suggest revisions or send stories back for additional reporting. This collaborative effort ensures that every article meets the publication's high standards.

Once the content is finalised, it's time to design the newspaper. The Graphic designer and Desktop Publishers work with specialized software to arrange text, images, and advertisements. The goal is to create visually appealing pages that guide readers seamlessly through the content.

Behind the Scenes: How the Newspaper is Made, From Story Idea to Print



Key considerations during this phase include:

- Balancing text with visuals for readability
- Highlighting major stories on the front page
- Ensuring advertisements are integrated without disrupting the flow of content

Before the newspaper goes to print, it undergoes rigorous proofreading. The proofreader checks for:

- Typos and grammatical errors
- Layout inconsistencies
- Proper placement of headlines, captions, and photos

The editorial team gives the final approval once every detail is perfected.

With everything ready, the digital files are sent to the printing press. At THE VOICE, we use advanced printing technology to produce crisp and vibrant pages. The process includes:

- Preparing printing plates for each page.
- Running test prints to ensure quality.
- Printing thousands of copies at high speed.

The presses operate with remarkable precision, producing newspapers in a matter of hours.



WINDWARD

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Heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to the Management and Staff of the Voice Publishing Co Ltd on the observance of their

140th

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A Timeless Partnership: Minvielle and Chastanet and THE VOICE Through the Years

In the vibrant tapestry of Saint Lucia's history, commerce and communication have intertwined in fascinating ways. One particularly significant thread in this narrative is the relationship between Minvielle & Chastanet, a pioneering

ADVERTISEMENT.	
NORTH BRITISH AND MERCANTILE INSURANCE COMPANY.	
Established 1809.	
I. Authorized Capital	£3,000,000
Subscribed Capital	3,500,000
Paid-up Capital	625,000
II. Fire Fund, as at 31st December 1884:	
Reserve	£1,020,000
Premium Reserve	371,356
Balance of Profit and Loss Accounts	55,095
	£1,446,451
III. Life Fund as at 31st December 1884:	
Accumulated Fund of the Life Branch	£3,458,593
Accumulated Fund of Annuity Branch	536,066
	£3,994,659
IV. Revenue for the Year 1884—	
Fire Branch	£1,591,086
Life and Annuity Branches	317,094
	£1,908,180
Agents at St. Lucia: MINVIELLE & CHASTANET	

commercial enterprise, and The Voice Publishing, which was launched in 1885 as the island's first newspaper. Understanding this relationship requires an exploration of socio-economic factors at the time, the importance of advertising, and how these two entities contributed to the evolution of the St. Lucian marketplace.

This article delves into the synergy between Minvielle & Chastanet and THE VOICE, particularly through the lens of advertisement pages that span from 1885 to the present. The findings underscore how this partnership laid a

foundation for modern media and commerce in St. Lucia. THE VOICE is more than just a newspaper; it marked a significant step towards modern communication in Saint Lucia. As the island's first printing press, we provided a platform for local news, public discourse, Commercial



print jobs, and the dissemination of information among residents. The Voice not only served as a mirror reflecting societal issues and events but also laid the groundwork for advertising—a necessity for businesses seeking to reach the growing literate population.

Minvielle & Chastanet, established in the early 19th century, emerged as a prominent commercial force within St. Lucia. Renowned for its variety of goods ranging from Insurance sales, and grocery items to textiles, the company quickly recognized the value of advertising as a means to establish its brand and reach customers. Their strategic partnership with THE VOICE enabled them to capture a broad audience.

During the 1800s, advertising in newspapers was a revolutionary concept. Minvielle & Chastanet was among the first to embrace this medium, providing compelling advertisements that caught the eye of potential buyers. The symbiotic nature of their relationship with THE VOICE unfolded through various dynamics:

- By placing advertisements within THE VOICE,

Minvielle & Chastanet gained crucial visibility in the marketplace. Engaging with THE VOICE allowed the company to build a reputable brand image and foster

- trust within the community.
- The circulation of THE VOICE ensured that individuals were not only informed but also excited about new products, promotions, and events at Minvielle & Chastanet.
- In examining the advertisement pages from 1885 to the present, it becomes clear that Minvielle & Chastanet remained a consistent and impactful advertiser in THE VOICE.
- The sustained partnership reflects a mutual commitment to growth and innovation
- Ads showcased a range of products, emphasizing seasonal goods, sales, and community events, thus engaging the populace effectively.



These advertisements not only sold products but also integrated cultural narratives, touching on local traditions and practices that resonated with Saint Lucians.

The relationship between Minvielle & Chastanet and The Voice Publishing from the 1800s is a testament to the enduring power of effective marketing and communication. As part of the first entity to advertise with THE VOICE, Minvielle & Chastanet helped to shape the commercial landscape of Saint Lucia. Their collaboration not only ushered in a new era of advertising but also contributed significantly to the newspaper's legacy as a pillar of the community.

As we reflect on this historical partnership, it is crucial to acknowledge the foundational role that such relationships play in the evolution of businesses and media. The growth of Saint Lucia's commerce is inherently linked



Ferrands Foods Products Ltd proudly joins in celebrating **140 Years** with the Management and Staff of **The Voice Publishing Co Limited**

Your commitment to journalism and excellence has stood the test of time.

Wishing you continued success throughout the years.

Happy
140th
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Ice Cream
Vanilla

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SDA CREDIT UNION
extend best wishes to **The Voice Publishing Co. Ltd** on this milestone!

140 Years
AND COUNTING

SDA Credit Union

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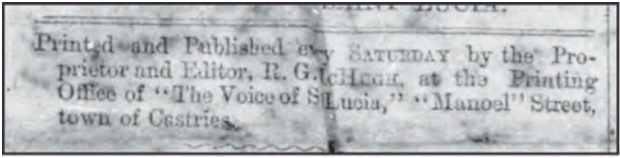
Its membership, comprising only of **Seventh-Day Adventists**, is defined by a core of **beliefs and values** that are situated in the very doctrinal foundation of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church.

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to the vibrant exchange of information that was exemplified through THE VOICE, showcasing how the interplay between commerce and communication remains as relevant today as it was over two centuries ago.

Throughout its 140-year history, The Voice Publishing Co. Ltd. has maintained strong advertising relationships with some of Saint Lucia's most established businesses. In addition to Minvielle & Chastanet, companies like Peter & Company, COURTS now UNICOMER, Du Boulay & Co, Sandals, Automotive art, various Law Firms, SLASPA, many supermarket chains, WASCO and many others have been long-standing advertisers, consistently promoting their goods and services in the newspaper. These businesses, which have been integral to Saint Lucia's economic growth, continue to use THE VOICE as a trusted platform to reach their customers. Their enduring presence in the publication reflects both their legacy and the continued relevance of print media in a changing advertising landscape.

Our Journey Through the Streets of Castries



The history of THE VOICE Publishing Company Limited, the island's oldest newspaper, is more than simply words on paper; it's about mobility, resilience, and growth. Throughout its 140-year history, THE VOICE has migrated across numerous streets in Castries, adjusting to changes in time, technology, and community needs. From its humble beginnings in the late 1800s to its current location, each transfer has opened a new chapter in the newspaper's illustrious history.

- The early years: The 1800s
- In its early years, THE VOICE Publishing Company Limited operated from numerous prominent streets, reflecting the changing topography of Castries and the newspaper's evolving presence:
- THE VOICE began its journey on Manuel Street, which served as a nexus for journalism in the burgeoning town.
 - THE VOICE expanded its reach and became a trusted news source on Bourbon Street, a vibrant area in Castries.



Victoria Street 1938

- Victoria Street heralded a period of growth for the newspaper, establishing it as a key voice for the people of St. Lucia.
- Corporation Street, a crucial stop in the late 1800s, demonstrated the newspaper's need for space and adaptability.
- At the end of the 19th century, THE VOICE was a vital



The present structure is located on Darling Road, Castries

source of information in the thriving community on Brazil Street.

The 1900s: Entering the Modern Era.

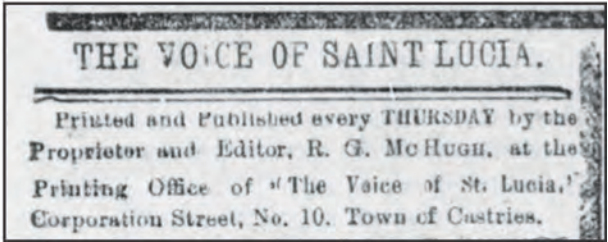
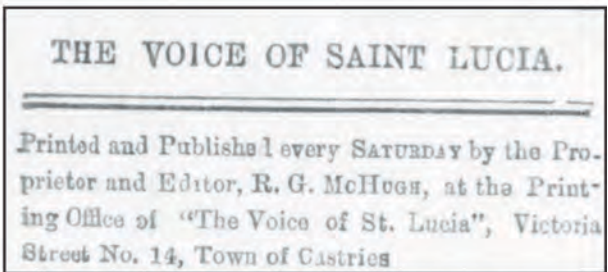
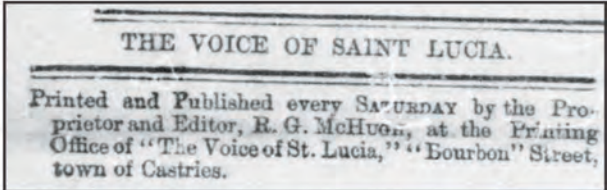
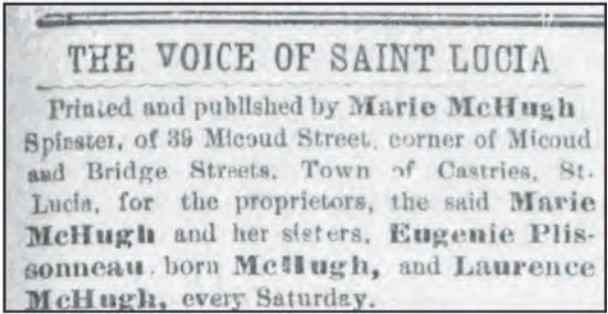
With the turn of the century, THE VOICE continued its journey, navigating times of economic change, technical advancement, and societal growth.

- THE VOICE operated on Bridge Street, a busy commercial street in Castries, for a substantial portion of the 20th century. This site reflected the newspaper's expanding popularity and importance.
- THE VOICE relocated to Darling Road in the mid-20th century and continues to operate there now. This final shift represented stability and growth, signalling the newspaper's transition to a modern media institution.

Each street symbolizes more than simply a physical address. These moves illustrate the tale of a newspaper that changed to its times, ensuring that Saint Lucians always had access to credible information. Whether chronicling local events, worldwide battles, or Saint Lucia's march to

freedom, THE VOICE was a light of truth and communal connection.

As we celebrate 140 years, THE VOICE focuses on its past while looking forward. From Manoel Street to Darling Road, the newspaper's moves reflect its commitment to progress and unrelenting dedication to serving Saint Lucia.



WHAT A POWERFUL MILESTONE!

140 YEARS

Happy 140th Anniversary to the Management and Staff of
The Voice Newspaper

From all of us at Your Power Of Caring, LUCELEC!

Thank You for all you've done to educate and entertain
Telling our stories, triumphs, and tribulations
You are our living history book,
and we couldn't be more proud!

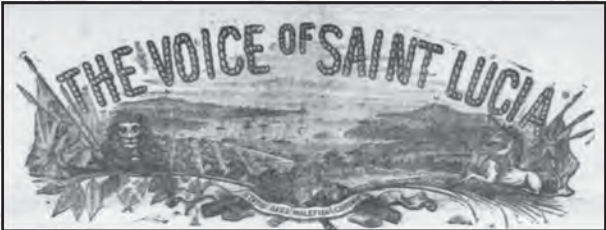
Happy Anniversary!



Early Years in Photos and Illustrations



In October 1887, this Illustration of a steamer was placed in the newspaper alongside an advertisement by Minvielle and Chastanet



1890 - Vintage masthead of The Voice of Saint Lucia, showcasing a scenic coastal view of the island, flanked by symbolic imagery representing strength, pride, and heritage



1891 - Discover the charm of vintage advertisements, this illustration was created for a mosquito repellent



In October of 1886, this Illustration was placed alongside a commentary column published in the newspaper



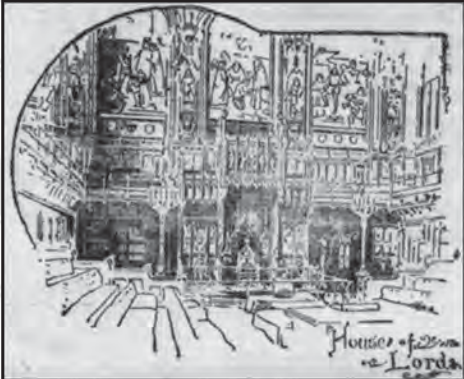
1888 Vintage advertisement for F. Haydock's New Liver Pills, featuring a glowing sunrise and a medicine bottle, symbolizing renewed health and vitality



1892 - Illustration of Mr J Austin Chamberlain, the 141st member of Parliament who followed the footsteps of his father



1889 - An elegant vintage illustration of a woman with a radiant complexion, promoting timeless beauty and grace. This Illustration was placed in a bridal advertisement



1892 - Illustration of Mr J Austin Chamberlain, the 141st member of Parliament who followed the footsteps of his father



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On the occasion of its



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success and longevity
in the industry.

Bringing News to the Nation



1911 - This Vintage illustration was extracted from a tonic advert which read "Saved from the grave by VINO TONICO DE WINTERSMITH" It was used for fever and Malaria. A powerful visual narrative of a salesman's relentless pursuit of a sale. The image evokes a sense of urgency and determination. The product is the focal point, even in a cemetery



1914 - Looks like someone's about to score a touchdown...with a bottle of Usher's! Pure class. A timeless drink for a timeless sport. The dynamic image captures the essence of a bygone era, showcasing the spirit of competition and the allure of Usher's Whisky. A vintage advertisement, perfectly preserved

Adapting to Change: Staying Relevant in a Changing Media Landscape

For 140 years, The Voice Publishing Company Limited has been a cornerstone of information and connection in St. Lucia. As times have changed, so too has the media landscape. Through resilience, innovation, and an unwavering commitment to excellence, THE VOICE navigated the shifting tides of technology, audience preferences, and societal change. Its journey told through the lens of photography, reveals the strategies and moments that have kept it at the forefront of publishing.

In 1885, The Voice began its journey with manual printing presses and a mission to inform and empower. Early photographs show bustling press rooms, where workers carefully set type by hand. The sense of purpose was palpable, as each edition represented a labour of love and dedication to the community.

As printing technology advanced, so did THE VOICE. Black-and-white images from the mid-20th century capture the introduction of steam-powered presses and later offset printing. These innovations allowed THE VOICE to increase efficiency and enhance the quality of its publications, keeping pace with growing readership demands.

Photographs from the 1970s and 1980s reflect THE VOICE's foray into diverse offerings, including special supplements and commercial printing services. The smiles of staff members in these images underscore the pride and camaraderie that powered this period of

growth.

The late 1990s ushered in the digital age, transforming the way news was created and consumed. Vibrant snapshots from this era show THE VOICE team exploring desktop publishing and digital printing technologies. These changes enabled THE VOICE to streamline production while meeting the needs of an increasingly tech-savvy audience.

By the 2000s, the rise of the internet and social media redefined how news was delivered. Photos from this time highlight THE VOICE's transition to online platforms, the launch of its website, and the integration of social media strategies. These steps allowed THE VOICE to reach a global audience while maintaining our strong local presence.

Throughout its history, THE VOICE has celebrated countless milestones with the community. Pictures of anniversary events, special editions, and community outreach initiatives illustrate the deep bond we share with our readers. These moments serve as reminders of why THE VOICE continue to adapt and innovate: to serve the people of St. Lucia.

As THE VOICE celebrates 140 years in existence, it remains committed to embracing change. Recent photos capture its adoption of enhanced digital tools and multimedia storytelling techniques. These advancements position it to meet the demands of an ever-evolving media landscape while staying true to its mission.

The photographs that document THE VOICE's 140-year journey tell a story of resilience, growth, and transformation. They remind us of the challenges the company overcame and the innovations it embraced. Most importantly, they celebrate the people—our staff, readers, and community—who have been integral to our success.



From the Kord 64 One Colour Printer (above) THE VOICE has moved to today's Six Colour State of the Art Printer (below)



The VOICE
VP
PUBLISHING co. Ltd.

Congratulations to The Voice Publishing Company on reaching an incredible milestone of 140 years! Your dedication to journalism and commitment to informing and inspiring our community have truly stood the test of time. Wishing you continued success for many more years to come!

Advertising Evolution: How Ad Styles Have Changed in Newspapers Over 140 Years

THE printed word, particularly in newspapers, has been a cornerstone of advertising for over a century and a half. From rudimentary announcements to sophisticated multimedia campaigns, the evolution of ad content reflects societal shifts, technological advancements, and evolving consumer expectations. This article explores the remarkable journey of advertising in newspapers, examining how the content, style, and purpose have transformed over the past 140 years.

Early Days: From Announcements to Simple Persuasion (1880s-1920s)

The late 19th and early 20th centuries saw the nascent stages of newspaper advertising. Early advertisements were primarily focused on announcements – notices for lost items, job postings, and simple product descriptions. The



visual elements were minimal, relying heavily on text-based descriptions. The goal was straightforward: to inform the reader about a product or service. The language used was often straightforward and factual, devoid of the emotional appeals that would become prevalent later.

An example of this era's advertising is a classified ad for a local tailor in an 1890s newspaper. The ad would likely simply state the tailor's name, address, and the services offered – tailoring, alterations, etc. – without any embellishment or imagery. There was little attempt to differentiate one tailor from another. The focus was on basic information dissemination.

The Rise of Visuals and Emotional Appeals (1920s-1950s)

The 1920s marked a turning point. The advent of radio and the growing popularity of print media spurred a shift toward more sophisticated advertising techniques. Visuals started to play a more significant role, with the introduction

of simple illustrations and photographs. Advertisers began to incorporate emotional appeals, attempting to connect with the reader on a more personal level. The emphasis shifted from just informing to persuading.

The rise of cigarette advertising in this period is a prime example. While initially focused on product description, ads increasingly portrayed smoking as a symbol of sophistication, freedom, and social standing. These ads often featured glamorous imagery and aspirational lifestyles, subtly linking the product to desired qualities.

The Era of Mass Consumerism and Sophistication (1950s-1980s)

The post-war era saw a boom in consumerism, and newspaper advertising reflected this shift. Ads became more elaborate, employing a wider range of visuals, including more intricate illustrations and better-quality photographs. The use of colour became more common, adding another layer of visual appeal. The emphasis on brand building and creating a unique identity for products



could potentially achieve through product ownership.

The Digital Age and the Changing Landscape (1990s-Present)

The advent of the internet and digital media profoundly transformed the newspaper advertising landscape. Interactive elements, targeted advertising, and data-driven strategies became integral parts of campaigns. Newspaper ads began incorporating clickable links, interactive games,

grew significantly.

Companies began employing more sophisticated marketing techniques, including the development of brand personas and slogans. The emphasis on emotional connections and storytelling became even more pronounced. The rise of the "aspirational lifestyle" in advertising is evident in ads from this era, portraying a picture of happiness and success that consumers

could potentially achieve through product ownership. The rise of online segments. The ability to collect and analyze data allowed advertisers to tailor their messages to specific demographics and interests. The rise of online

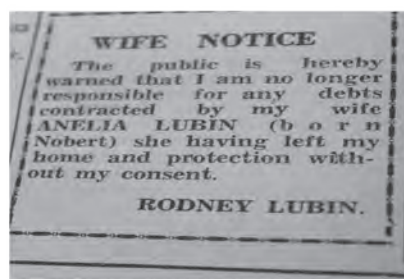
classifieds and the decline of print newspapers also had a significant impact. While newspaper ads are still present, their role has become more specialized, focusing on specific niches and audiences. The digital age has enabled a more fragmented approach to advertising, with businesses targeting consumers through various online channels.

The Future of Newspaper Advertising

Despite the challenges posed by digital media, newspaper advertising is not obsolete. Print newspapers continue to hold value for certain demographics and niche markets. The future of newspaper advertising likely involves a strategic blend of print and digital strategies. Successfully navigating this evolving landscape requires advertisers to understand the unique strengths of print media, while also embracing the opportunities presented by the digital sphere. This includes a renewed focus on high-quality visuals, compelling storytelling, and a deep understanding of the target audience.

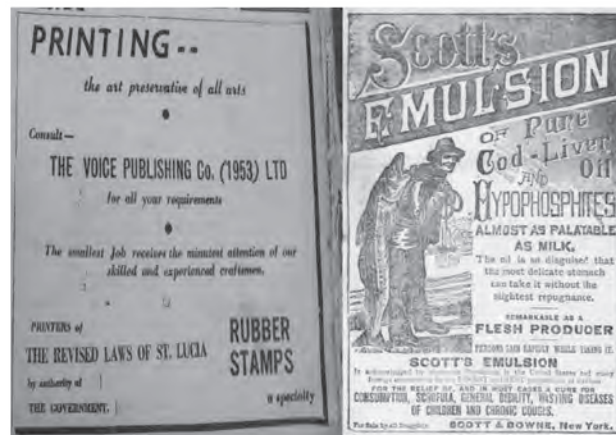
Case Studies: Illustrating the Evolution

The evolution of "The Voice Publishing Co.Ltd." advertising sections demonstrates this shift. From simple classified ads in the late 1800s to sophisticated multi-page spreads in the 1960s, to the integrated digital strategies of today, the VPC reflects the broader trends in newspaper advertising. Similarly, a comparison of text to graphic ads



across different decades reveals the shift from basic product information to aspirational imagery and lifestyle branding.

The evolution of advertising in



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Happy Anniversary to the Management and Staff of The Voice Publishing Company Limited!!

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newspapers over the past 140 years is a fascinating reflection of broader societal changes. From simple announcements to sophisticated multimedia campaigns, the content, style, and purpose of newspaper advertising have undergone a dramatic transformation. The future of advertising in print media likely involves a strategic blend of print and digital strategies, tailored to specific demographics and niche markets. Understanding this evolution is crucial for businesses seeking to effectively reach their target audiences in today's dynamic media landscape.

By A.M.N

Happy 140th Anniversary

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Congratulations to

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Bricha proudly congratulates The Voice Publishing on 140 years of excellence in St. Lucia. Your commitment to quality and integrity has made you a pillar of the nation's story, shaping generations with every print.



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Hot off the press!

A Pressman's Journey - Eli Parkinson



BEHIND every newspaper, magazine, or printed masterpiece lies the dedication of a pressman, often an unsung hero in the world of publishing. These skilled professionals ensure that the words and images we consume daily are brought to life with precision and quality.

Here at THE VOICE Publishing, we have Eli Parkinson, our press operator. Eli is responsible for the technical and mechanical aspects of running a printing press. At the heart of his role is ensuring that printed materials meet the highest standards of accuracy and clarity.

Eli, originally from Jamaica, joined THE VOICE in 1992. However, his printing career started nine years earlier at Total Graphic Printers Limited in Jamaica, where he

worked under the guidance of Author James where he worked for 5 years. He later relocated to St. Lucia, where he worked with Dansville Enterprises for 3.5 years. After the company was sold, Eli embarked on a new chapter with THE VOICE Publishing in November 1992.

Here we dive into a day of being a pressman with Eli, before the first sheet of paper rolls through the press, he meticulously sets up the equipment. This involves installing printing plates, adjusting rollers, and calibrating ink levels to match the specific requirements of each job.

Every detail matters as even the slightest misalignment can impact the final product.

This is where his expertise truly shines. During production, Eli monitors the entire process, checking for colour consistency, alignment, and overall quality. If something isn't right, He makes real-time adjustments to ensure every print is flawless.

Quality control is a critical part of the job. Eli inspects printed sheets for defects, such as smudges, faded ink, or uneven text. His sharp eye for detail ensures that only the best products leave the pressroom.

A pressman's work doesn't end with printing. They are also responsible for the upkeep of the press. Regular cleaning, lubrication, and troubleshooting are necessary

to keep the machinery running smoothly. Their mechanical aptitude ensures that production stays on schedule, even when technical challenges arise.

While the role may sound technical, it's also deeply collaborative. Pressmen work closely with editors, designers, and production managers to bring creative visions to life. They interpret and execute job specifications, ensuring that the final product meets both aesthetic and functional standards.

The printing industry has evolved significantly, and so has the role of the pressman. From traditional offset printing to modern digital methods, in this era, Eli must continuously adapt and learn new technologies to stay at the forefront of his craft.

Pressmen are the backbone of the publishing and printing industry. Their work demands precision, dedication, and a deep understanding of the



From the Kord 64 One Colour Printer (above) THE VOICE has moved to today's Six Colour State of the Art Printer (below)

tools of their trade. Whether it's the daily newspaper you read with your morning coffee or the glossy pages of a magazine, the pressman's touch is evident in every print.

So, the next time you pick up a printed piece of the newspaper or a commercial flyer, remember the pressmen who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to bring it to life. In many ways, they are the artists who transform ideas into tangible, shareable forms.



HAPPY 140TH ANNIVERSARY

to the

Management and Staff of
The VOICE Publishing Co. Ltd

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From Being ‘Arrested’ by Police for an Article I Wrote as a Cub Reporter to Being the Editor

—Micah George—

THERE are times when the place is quiet, other times the newsroom at THE VOICE Newspaper can be compared to the bustling Castries Market, where the hum of conversation rises above the clatter of keyboards and the background noises of the air condition units.

Every working day I have to navigate this landscape in the relentless pursuit of truth.

As the editor, one of the highs I experience is the thrill of shaping public discourse. Every headline, every story curated is a testament to the power of the press. The ability to inform, educate, and sometimes even shift public opinion is a potent reminder of the responsibility that comes with the role. Celebrating the publication of a groundbreaking exposé or a deeply moving human-interest piece are moments of pure triumph. Seeing the community engage with these stories affirms my efforts and dedication to the job.

But the job itself is not a bed of roses. There are lows, such as the weight of the responsibility of being an editor, which can be overwhelming.

Ensuring accuracy in every story, maintaining journalistic integrity, and dealing with the repercussions of a misstep are daunting tasks. When mistakes happen, they are felt deeply – a misspelling, a factual error, or a misquoted source can erode trust and credibility built over years. Additionally, the constant pressure to meet deadlines while balancing the need for thoroughness is a perpetual tightrope walk.

The advent of digital media has transformed the media landscape, demanding a balance between traditional journalism and the immediacy of online news. The competition is fierce, and the pressure to stay relevant in an era of 24-hour news cycles is relentless. I have to grapple with the rise of fake news, and the challenge of monetising content in a world where information is often expected to be free.

But my passion for the job is what is fueling my journey into journalism, despite the highs and lows. The belief in the power of storytelling, the commitment to the public’s right to know, and the unyielding pursuit of truth are what keep pushing me forward. The newsroom has become my second home, filled with a family of reporters, proofreaders, sub-editors, and photographers all working towards a common goal – to tell the stories that matter.

So here is my story, from the early days of 1988, the year I was hired as a reporter, and what I had to endure to be where I am today.

I stress that being editor of The VOICE Newspaper is not an easy job. It requires perseverance, hard labour, sharp vision and thinking, mental fortitude, a grasp of one’s surroundings, and so on. I began my journalism career at The VOICE as a cub reporter, as did many others. I vividly recall the first article for publication I wrote in 1988. It was about a fire that had partially damaged a residence in the Arundel Hill, Marchand, community, my birthplace. The item appeared in the newspaper’s Wednesday issue; at the time, there were only two editions: Wednesdays and Saturdays.

My excitement grew when my byline appeared on the front page of the Saturday edition that same week. My name was prominently displayed. The story was about casinos. My euphoria, however, was fleeting. The same week I started work, I got a taste of what it’s like to be in the guts of newspaper preparation and to meet deadlines.

I used to write long articles of two or more pages. I assumed that was the way to proceed. And, to be honest, it looked good, or so I thought. Mr. Guy Ellis was the editor back then. Imagine my horror when I saw the “surgery” he performed on works I believed were masterpieces. His red pen was all over the articles. That same week, I learnt about story organization, style, the responsibility of an editor, word economy, and concise writing rather than lengthy works. I also realised how crucial advertising is in the life of a newspaper.

I soldiered on, wondering what to do with my \$600 monthly wage, which, even back then, could not have bought much. However, the pay was not a deterrent. Having to move up to the same level as reporters like David Vitalis, Lawrence James, Vincent Lewis, and Ryan O’Brian (sports reporter), as well as Ellis himself, then-head of THE VOICE editorial section, was both a challenge and a humbling experience.

Mc Neil Jn Marie (deceased), a master photographer who was in command of the picture studio at the time, deserves special mention. We, reporters, called it the “Dark Room” not only because the film had to be processed in complete darkness, but also for other reasons. All those who were reporters at THE VOICE during the “Dark Room” era understand exactly what I’m talking about. These were marvellous and wonderful working days at THE VOICE.

Jn Marie taught me the fundamentals of photography,

which came in handy when I joined a newspaper journalism college in Berlin, Germany, which had a photojournalist component.

The aforementioned crew was, in my opinion, the best newspaper reporting team ever assembled under one roof in Saint Lucia.

Working with those guys was the nicest experience I’ve ever had at THE VOICE. We were a team, working together, exchanging assignments and images, occasionally chastising management for its delay in supplying the tools we needed to execute our jobs, such as recorders, cameras, film, photographic paper, batteries for the recorders and cameras, and transportation for assignments. The team disbanded in 1994, when Ellis left, bringing an end to THE VOICE’s dominance in newspaper reporting, according to my understanding.

Another incident worth mentioning, not because it makes me smile today, but because it represented the culture at THE VOICE back then and has had a great impact on my time working there even now. This is how The VOICE values its employees. We’re like family. This was shown when I was ‘arrested’, or so I believed, by two police officers

sent by a High Court judge to do just that. I was at my desk when the police officers entered the editorial department and requested that I join them at the courthouse.

The complaint, well, no charge was read to me, but the argument was that I was in contempt of court because I failed to follow a court direction not to report on a specific exchange between the opposing attorneys and the judge.

As the court reporter for THE VOICE at the time, I was covering a murder case. Foster Sr. was the defendant’s principal attorney. He claimed that the article on the front page of the Saturday edition was going to be detrimental to his client. The VOICE circled their wagons and came to my rescue. As a result, I spent the whole working day in the High Court. I was set free late in the day.

Attorney Alberton Richelieu, who was in court that day, still pokes me anytime he sees me, echoing what the judge said before releasing me: “Mr. George, you are sailing close to the wind.”

But working at The VOICE is more than just reminiscing about the ‘good times’ and laughing at humorous memories. It was also a period of maturation, in which I learnt to think first and speak afterwards, to ask questions first rather than make assumptions. Working at THE VOICE, specifically in the editorial department, surrounded by information from all sectors of the economy and colleagues with insights into several of the issues of the day, as well as being in contact with the movers and shakers of issues that affect citizens both negatively and positively, has deepened and broadened my thought process.

Not only can I manage criticism of my work, which is necessary, especially from those who have been down that path before, but I’ve also realised that my primary responsibility is to inform people so that they may make smart decisions about current issues that affect them.

My experience at The VOICE has taught me not to misuse the role of journalist for selfish or personal gain, nor should I settle for bad work, and that as a journalist, I play a critical role in the general governance of my country.



The Management and Staff of **Johnsons Hardware & Marine Center Ltd.**, extend heartfelt congratulations to the Management and Staff of **The Voice Publishing Co Ltd** on the observance of your **140th Anniversary**.

Your commitment to journalistic excellence and unwavering service to the Nation have made an enduring impact.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!

140 Years

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Johnsons Center, Rodney Bay Tel: 452-0301 • Fax: 452-0302



Memorable Editorials: A Legacy of Impactful Voices

THE editorial voice has power. It shapes opinions, drives action, and influences society. Few have accomplished this as profoundly as The VOICE Publishing Company in the realm of publishing. This article explores how impactful editorials from the company's history resonate through time, highlighting key themes and their significance.

Editorials serve as a platform for expression. They address critical issues, provoke thought, and inspire change. Throughout history, the voice of the editorial has catalyzed movements and rallied communities. The Voice Publishing Company has played a pivotal role in this process.

The Company emerged as a leader in editorial writing. By consistently tackling pressing issues, they set the tone for public conversations. Their work has influenced both local communities and larger societal movements, creating a legacy of impactful voices.

Understanding the history of The Voice Publishing requires a deep dive into its editorial pieces. These editorials frequently touch on themes such as equality, justice, and democracy, showcasing the evolving discourse around them.

In the early days, Voice Publishing Company made its mark through foundational editorials. These pieces laid the groundwork for public opinion on various topics. They not only informed but also inspired action among readers.

Several early editorials sparked significant social movements. Through bold statements and passionate arguments, they encouraged public engagement. The ripple effect of these writings can still be felt today.

One standout editorial focused on civil rights in the 1960s. It called for justice and equality, capturing national attention. This piece not only motivated local protests but also contributed to changes in legislation, demonstrating the far-reaching effects of the written word.

Voice Publishing Company faced numerous crises throughout its history. Each moment called for a strong editorial response. From wars to natural disasters, their editorials provided clarity and guidance.

During critical policy discussions, the editorials served as a voice for the people. By highlighting public sentiments and advocating for change, these pieces shaped policies and decisions at various governmental levels.

For instance, during economic downturns, editorials addressed the impact on local communities. They pushed for accountability and transparency, reminding the public of its power. Such responses are essential, proving the significance of timely and relevant writing.

Voice Publishing Company has been at the forefront of

social justice. Their editorials consistently advocate for civil rights. They celebrate diverse identities, providing a platform for those often silenced.

As technology advanced, so did Voice Publishing Company. They embraced new media, extending their editorial reach. This shift allowed for greater engagement with a broader audience.

The rise of social media has transformed how editorials are shared. Quick responses to current events engage audiences instantaneously. This immediacy amplifies the editorial voice, making it more relevant than ever.

Recent data shows a significant increase in editorial interactions across digital platforms. Readers now seek instant access to impactful voices. This trend highlights the ongoing importance of strong editorial content.

Successful editorials tend to share common traits:

- Clear and concise messaging
- Strong emotional appeal
- Timeliness and relevance

To craft compelling editorials, writers should focus on:

1. Understanding the audience
2. Using relatable language
3. Making a clear argument

By following these guidelines, future editorial writers can create meaningful content.

The editorial voice will always hold significance. It challenges norms, motivates action, and fosters community dialogue. As society continues to evolve, so will the editorial landscape.

Voice Publishing Company has left an indelible mark on the world of editorials. Their powerful pieces remind us of the importance of thoughtful discourse. Current and future generations of writers should draw inspiration from this legacy, knowing the impact they can make through their words.

Embrace the power of the editorial voice and join the conversation. The future of editorial writing is bright, and every voice counts.

Visit our Editorial section on our website www.thevoiceslu.com

Here are two editorials of the many on our website that can stimulate discussion.

BY A.M.N

Editorial

Stop This Madness

November 17, 2014

We've lost count of the actual numbers, but it does appear that every three or four months, a mentally ill man is gunned down by police in our country. It's a matter of serious concern and seems to reflect the widespread disregard for human life that we see all around us.

It also questions the

prevalence of mentally disturbed or ill persons on our streets and in our communities, which itself, is another dangerous occurrence that can have serious consequences for a country which depends on tourism. Not that we have not had in St Lucia, cases of mentally ill persons attacking and injuring visitors, but it appears that we learn nothing from such experiences and this is worrying.

It cannot be that because a person has a mental problem he must be shot down like an animal in full public view. This is barbarism. But we recognize that the killing of mentally ill persons by the forces of law and order has become almost a worldwide phenomenon. A United States report last year estimated that half the people fatally shot by law enforcement officers there suffered from mental illness.

Training law enforcement personnel to handle mental patients is also a problem. In many countries, such training is receiving high-priority attention, yet in a place like the United Kingdom, 61 per cent of police officers felt inadequately trained to handle mental patients. We recognize that some effort has been made in St Lucia in that direction, but not enough, apparently.

Still, it is time for the madness to stop, the madness of shooting down mentally ill persons by the police. It is clear that their approach to confronting such persons is totally wrong. In fact, armed and uniformed police are not the way to go. Experts say that a mentally ill person needs the calm, caring voice of someone who understands the illness; that persons in uniform—and armed with guns at that—can be very frightening to persons in mental crisis. The sight of a police officer shooting to death a mentally ill man armed with two stones, as has happened here in St Lucia should forever haunt us all. Human life, even the life of a mentally disturbed person, should never be made out to be that cheap.

We are not aware of the content of the training programme held in St Lucia last year to equip police officers to deal with mental patients, but the results of the last few months may question the effectiveness of that training. There's a 40-hour Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) being used in the United States that has been touted as the most comprehensive in the area of police officer mental health training. Maybe it's time we took a look at it.

But whatever is done, we cannot continue allowing our policemen to shoot down people-and mental patients are still people-in the streets like dogs. It is uncivilized.

Editorial

Stop the disingenuity

June 25, 2022

We thought that going forward after last year's general elections, talk show hosts and social media influencers aligned to each political party would be less disingenuous and deceitful, and more straightforward in their comments

about the economic situation in the country. How wrong we were.

Those aligned with the party in opposition have since shown that nothing will stop them from saying what they say, while those aligned with the party in power have demonstrated their willingness to over-dramatise current events to make their points.

Finding a middle ground in all of this could be taxing, but we have come to the understanding that in this heavily politicised country, this is how things are. This does not mean we will stay silent, however, when the antics of either side are out of sync with reality.

Take for example the much-repeated hypothesis, by the aforementioned group aligned with the opposition, that the government could do more to lower the cost of food and other household needs. It is all well and good to say so, but saying so without taking into account the Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine,

Cont on Page 21

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extend congratulations to
The Voice Publishing Company Limited
on its remarkable

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Your dedication to journalism and commitment to keeping
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Management and Staff of the Voice Publishing Company
continued success for many more years.

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a milestone that reminds us to keep dreaming,
keep striving, and keep achieving."

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Reflecting on the First Editorial of THE Voice of Saint Lucia (1885)

AS we celebrate 140 years of journalistic excellence, we take a moment to revisit the very first editorial published in 1885. This seminal piece set the tone for what would become a legacy of advocacy, inclusivity, and public service. Below, we reproduce the original editorial, analyze its themes, and reflect on its enduring relevance.

The First Editorial (1885)

We wish to state most emphatically, and once for all, that this newspaper has been started in the interest of no class or clique, but if possible to unite all classes and destroy all cliques; nor to advocate any particular set of opinions, but to give an opportunity to every man and woman in St. Lucia of having their say in public matters generally, and especially to express their opinion with respect to the proposed Confederation of St. Lucia with St. Vincent, Grenada, and Tobago under one Governor who, as well as all the Chief Officials, is to reside at Grenada. The outline of this project is contained in a dispatch of the Secretary of State which we publish in another column. In this despatch, His Lordship says that the Confederation will not take place if the people of these Islands do not want it. Well, by means of this paper, the people of St. Lucia have the opportunity, of which we hope they will largely avail themselves, of saying whether they wish to be confederated, or not, with the other three Islands. Anybody who has anything to say on the subject, for or against, can do so in the columns of this newspaper, which will always be open to all communications in the public interest. But no time must be lost in expressing opinions respecting Confederation because the Governor-in-Chief, coming down from Barbados very shortly to ask us whether we want it or not, and we must be ready to answer him in a manner which he cannot mistake and let him hear strongly and firmly the Voice of St. Lucia.

There is another and not less important function of a newspaper, which is to inform its readers of what is going on at home and abroad and to assist them in forming an opinion on such matters of general interest as may from time to time arise.

Acting up to our duty in this respect, we have to state squarely that, look at the question of Confederation from

whatever point of view we will, we can see nothing good for us nor for anybody else in it. The whole scheme is impracticable and cannot possibly conduce to efficiency or economy as claimed for it. We are to have no Administrator here nor Attorney General, nor Treasurer, nor Auditor, nor Colonial Engineer. In fact, all the higher offices are to be abolished and a new set of even more highly paid officials, to whose salaries we are to contribute, are to live in Grenada. We would have to pay at the same time for a lot of understrappers here, the nominal chief of whom would be a Magistrate who could take action “only in cases of extreme emergency.” Now how can this conduce to efficiency seeing that even under a resident Administrator patent abuses have existed, and notoriously inefficient and work-shirking officials are month after month receiving large salaries wrung from the needy taxpayer, and not doing a week’s honest work during the month for it? How will it be when we shall be abandoned to a lower class of officials who will be subject to no local supervision? Who will restrain the insolence of Jacks-in-office and the tyranny of petty officers, armed with a little brief authority, while the Governor is away at Grenada? Just imagine the owner of an Estate going to live on another island and leaving his property to the care of an overseer who was forbidden to plant a cane, or to dismiss a mule driver, without first consulting him at his distant residence. How long do you think such an Estate would be in going to the dogs? Well, the Colony would, if confederated, be just in the position of that Estate.

Nor has a careful perusal of the Commissioners’ Report at all satisfied us that the saving of Expenditure which it is expected would be effected under certain heads, would not be much more than swallowed up by such items as “Pensions to evicted officers,” “Cost of maintenance and repairs of a Colonial Steamer,” and payments to gentlemen learned in the law for

overhauling and codifying the discordant laws of the several islands.

Perhaps the most convincing argument we can offer against the scheme is to quote the experience of our sister island Dominica after 13

years of Confederation:

“Let every taxpayer remember that the taxes of the island have been raised from £12,000 (when the people-controlled expenditure) to £20,000 by the rule of ignorant and avaricious officials. Let every Dominican, calculating the value of the island’s sugar crop at £8 per hhd., and taking 2,500 hhd., as the base, arrive at the scandalous conclusion that it requires the gross value of the staple product of the country to pay the expenses of the present so-called Government! Let him also bear in mind that this is the work of Federation, and we will have no fear of his determination to do all in his power to rescue his country from that slough of despond into which indifferent Secretaries of State, incapable Governors and self-seeking officials have driven her headlong.”

If this is the kind of economy with efficiency which we are promised, we had better decline the proffered boon at once, as the other three islands are doing. The thing must work for evil all around whether the headquarters of the proposed Confederation be in Grenada or elsewhere. The set-off of having the money of the other islands spent at one of them, would be a compensation equally poor to us, as to any of them, as against the mischief that this Confederation scheme would work us all. We learn that the Governor-in-Chief finding the word “Confederation” distasteful intends to present the objectionable scheme disguised as “Union” and we believe he will succeed in securing the union of all the islands—in opposing Confederation to the uttermost.

In our next issue, we shall commence a paragraph-by-paragraph analysis of that section of the Royal Commissioner’s Report especially devoted to St. Lucia, in which, to use sturdy old Dr. Johnson’s phrase there is much that is true and much that is new, only what is true is not new, and what is new is not true.

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Memorable Editorials: A Legacy of Impactful Voices

Cont from Page 20

COVID-19 and other global events, which have negatively impacted the world’s economy, and still do, is disingenuous, to say the least. If the opposition has a plan for lowering the costs of basic items we all consume, then, as a responsible organization, they have a duty to say how they would fund and implement such a policy. This newspaper offers its columns to responsible debate and suggestions to ameliorate the pain we are all suffering.

The twin shocks of the Russian invasion and COVID (more so the invasion), have led to a surge in prices across a broad set of energy-related and food commodities. In energy-importing economies, like Saint Lucia for example, there will be higher prices on almost everything as a result.

Higher prices will have the effect of reducing real disposable incomes, raising production costs, tightening financial conditions, and constraining policy space, effects Saint Lucia is already experiencing.

What Saint Lucians should now be asking themselves, is whether the current oil crisis can be made to benefit them if they push government to more seriously consider developing or accelerating policies for new sources of energy supply

Will the government see the need to focus more on harnessing energy from the sun, which we have in abundance, and the wind, which we also have?

Truth be told, the economic crises from the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine have worsened Saint Lucia’s vulnerability by further contracting the country’s fiscal ability to execute the economic and social programmes that will bring progress to Saint Lucians.

Saint Lucia’s current economic woes, at least a large chunk, cannot be said to be of our own making.

The June 2022 World Bank report, ‘Global Economic Prospects’, noted that “Supply disruptions of key energy commodities could severely affect a wide range of industries, including food, construction, petrochemicals, transport, and firm-level effects (Lafrogne-Joussier et al. 2022). Concerns about energy security have already prompted public policies aimed at bolstering national self-sufficiency and reducing energy prices for consumers; however, lessons from previous energy price shocks show that these policies are often costly and ineffective, compared with steps to encourage consumers to reduce demand, to substitute for other forms of energy, and to develop alternative energy sources.”

We reiterate our invitation to politicians, economists, and citizens generally to join in the discussion on the way forward. There is no doubt that hard times are upon us and disasters do not discriminate between friend and foe.

We extend Congratulations to the Management and Staff of
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The Art of Newspaper Layout: Then and Now

Newspapers, once the cornerstone of information dissemination, have undergone a dramatic transformation. From meticulously crafted layouts designed to capture attention and convey information efficiently to digital platforms demanding fresh, accessible formats, the art of newspaper layout has evolved significantly. This article explores the fascinating journey of newspaper design, examining the historical approaches and contrasting them with the contemporary strategies employed to maintain relevance in a digital age.

Early newspapers, often focusing on disseminating factual news, prioritized clarity and conciseness. Layout was largely dictated by the limitations of printing technology. The "inverted pyramid" style, where the most important information appeared at the top, was a hallmark of this era. This structure allowed readers to quickly grasp the essence of a story even if they only read the beginning. Typefaces were often simple and straightforward, with a clear hierarchy established through varying sizes and styles. The use of illustrations was minimal, limited by the cost and time involved in creating them. Newspapers like The Times of London, in its early iterations, exemplified this style, with a focus on factual reporting and a straightforward layout. The emphasis was on delivering the news, not on crafting a visually engaging experience.

The mid-20th century witnessed a shift towards more visually engaging layouts. The advent of better printing technologies, coupled with a growing understanding of design principles, allowed designers to experiment with different typographic styles, image placement, and color. Newspapers began to use larger, more impactful headlines, often with bold fonts. Illustrations, photographs, and even simple graphic elements started to be integrated into the design, enhancing the reader's experience and facilitating comprehension. The introduction of color printing further revolutionized layout, allowing for more dynamic presentations of information. Newspapers like the New York Times, during this period, began to incorporate more visual elements, showcasing a growing awareness of the importance of visual storytelling.

The digital revolution has fundamentally altered the landscape of newspaper layout. The internet and mobile devices have created a demand for accessible, interactive, and easily digestible content. Modern layouts prioritize speed and scannability. News websites and apps often employ a modular design, allowing readers to quickly access individual articles and related content. Visual elements, such as infographics, interactive maps, and videos, are increasingly common, aimed at enhancing engagement and providing a more comprehensive

understanding of the news. The use of social media integration has become crucial, allowing readers to share content instantly and engage directly with the newspaper. The New York Times, for instance, now incorporates interactive elements and multimedia features into its online editions, enabling readers to explore stories in a richer, more engaging way.

Typography continues to play a vital role in modern newspaper layout. However, the focus has shifted from elaborate fonts to cleaner, more legible styles that are easily viewable on screens. Image selection and placement are more critical than ever before. High-quality photographs and illustrations, often accompanied by captions and supporting

text, are used to enhance understanding and engagement. The use of infographics and data visualizations further underscores the need for clear and compelling visual representations of complex information.

The challenge for modern newspaper designers is to create layouts that are effective across various platforms and devices. Newspapers must adapt their designs to accommodate smaller screens, different aspect ratios, and varying internet speeds. Responsive design principles are paramount, ensuring that the layout remains aesthetically pleasing and functional regardless of the reader's device. The ability to seamlessly transition between desktop and mobile versions is crucial for maintaining a consistent brand identity and user experience.

In the digital age, user experience (UX) is paramount. A well-designed layout ensures that readers can easily navigate the website or app, access information quickly, and find what they are looking for. Intuitive navigation, clear call-to-actions, and a seamless user interface are essential components of a successful modern newspaper layout. The use of visual hierarchy and clear labeling ensures that readers can easily scan the content and find relevant information.

The future of newspaper layout is likely to involve even greater integration of multimedia content, personalized experiences, and interactive features. AI-powered tools may play a role in optimizing layouts for individual readers, tailoring the presentation of information to their specific interests and preferences. The ability to seamlessly blend text, images, and interactive elements will be crucial in creating compelling and engaging content that resonates with readers. Newspapers need to adapt to the evolving preferences of their audience, balancing the need for in-depth analysis with the demand for quick, accessible information.

The art of newspaper layout has undergone a remarkable transformation from the straightforward, text-heavy designs of the past to the dynamic, multimedia-rich



presentations of the present. While historical layouts prioritized clarity and conciseness, modern layouts emphasize engagement, accessibility, and user experience. The ability to adapt to evolving technologies, platforms, and reader preferences will be critical for newspapers to maintain their relevance and attract a new generation of readers in the digital age. The future of newspaper layout lies in its ability to seamlessly blend the power of storytelling with the immediacy and interactivity of the digital world.



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The Evolution of Newspaper Publishing from the 1800s: Presses at THE VOICE

For 140 years, THE VOICE Publishing Company Limited has remained a cornerstone of journalism in the country, chronicling history as it unfolds. Throughout its existence, the newspaper has witnessed and adapted to tremendous technological advancements in printing. From hand-operated presses to modern digital printing, the evolution of press technology has played a crucial role in shaping the publication's legacy.

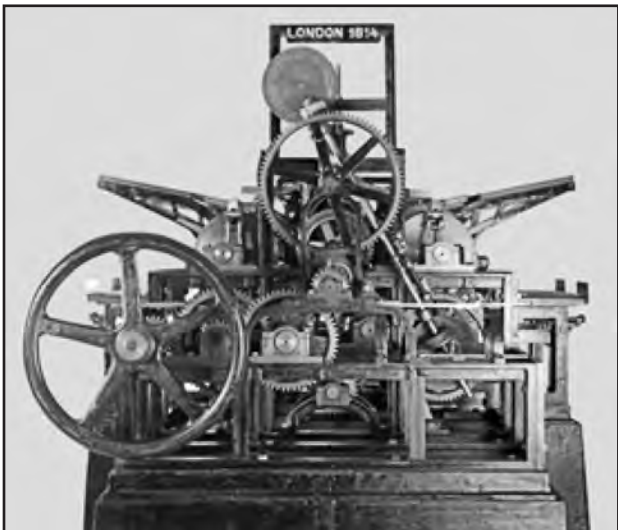
The story of newspaper publishing is a journey through technological revolutions, societal shifts, and the relentless pursuit of information dissemination. From the painstaking hand-press methods of the 1800s to the digital innovations of 2025, newspapers have continually adapted to the changing times while striving to remain a vital source of news and connection.

The 1800s was the Age of the Hand Press and Steam Power. In the early 19th century, newspapers were painstakingly printed using manual hand-operated presses. The movable type, where individual metal alphabets were assembled into text and arranged by skilled composers, and each sheet of paper was printed by hand. This slow process limited output to a few hundred copies per hour, making newspapers a luxury item affordable mainly to the elite.

The mid-1800s saw a dramatic leap forward with the invention of the steam-powered printing press by Friedrich Koenig and Andreas Bauer. Capable of printing thousands of pages per hour, this innovation transformed newspapers into mass-market products. The penny press emerged, providing affordable newspapers that reached the working class. As newspapers became more widely available, they began playing a pivotal role in informing and shaping public opinion.

Despite technological improvements, early newspapers were modest in size and content, often featuring local news, serialized fiction, and advertisements. Distribution relied on foot, horse-drawn carriages, and later railroads, limiting their reach primarily to urban areas.

When THE VOICE was founded in 1885, printing was a labour-intensive process. The newspaper was initially printed using a manually operated letterpress machine. Printers had to arrange metal type by hand, roll ink over the type, and press each page individually. This method, while effective for its time, was slow and required great skill and effort. Despite these challenges, THE VOICE established itself as a reliable news source and set the foundation for future growth.



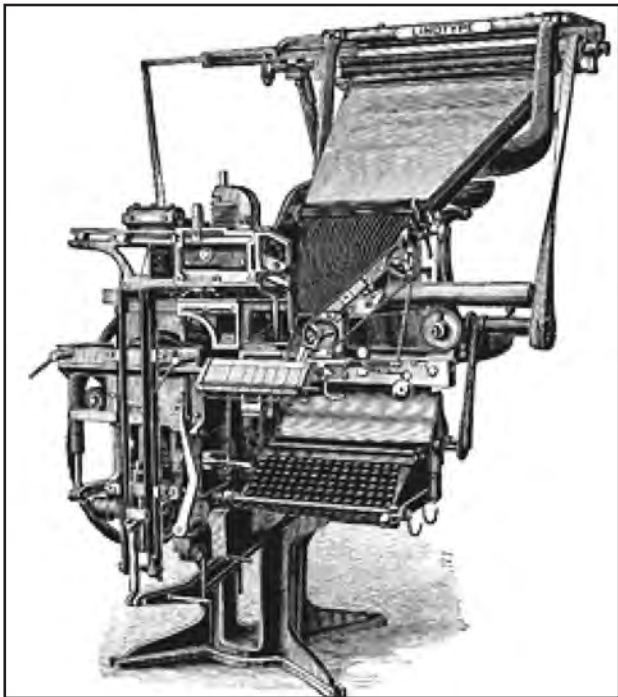
Steam Press

The 20th century brought a wave of automation that revolutionised newspaper publishing. The introduction of the Linotype machine in 1884 allowed for the rapid setting of type. Operators could input text on a keyboard, and the machine would cast entire lines of text in metal, vastly reducing production time and labour.

Meanwhile, the rotary printing press enabled newspapers to be printed on continuous rolls of paper at high speed. Combined with advancements in halftone printing, which allowed for the reproduction of photographs, newspapers became more visually dynamic and engaging. By the early 1900s, they had expanded into large, multi-section publications covering everything from politics to sports and entertainment.

Distribution networks also improved with motorised vehicles and railways, enabling newspapers to reach rural readers. Wire services like the Associated Press (AP) allowed newspapers to share content, ensuring a steady flow of national and international news.

As newspaper demand grew, THE VOICE adopted mechanised printing methods, introducing larger and more efficient letterpress machines. These mechanical



Linotype Press

presses used rotating cylinders to transfer ink onto paper, significantly increasing printing speed and accuracy. This advancement allowed for larger print runs, meeting the growing readership demand while maintaining print quality. The shift from hand-operated to mechanical presses marked a major milestone in the company's history, making newspapers more accessible to the public.

The second half of the 20th century saw newspapers grappling with competition from new media. Television and radio provided immediate access to breaking news, prompting newspapers to focus more on in-depth reporting, analysis, and investigative journalism.

Technological advancements such as offset printing and desktop publishing streamlined production. By the 1990s, computers and the internet began reshaping the industry. Newspapers launched online editions to complement their print versions, providing readers with real-time updates and multimedia content.

By the mid-to-late 20th century, THE VOICE transitioned to offset printing, a groundbreaking innovation that revolutionised the industry. Offset printing used metal plates and rubber rollers to transfer ink onto paper, allowing for faster production and sharper image quality. This method reduced printing costs and enabled colour printing, enhancing the visual appeal of newspapers. With offset technology, THE VOICE was able to expand its content and maintain high circulation numbers, solidifying its status as the island's leading newspaper.

Entering the 21st century, THE VOICE embraced digital technology, incorporating computer-to-plate (CTP) systems and high-speed presses. These advancements streamlined the printing process, eliminating the need for traditional



In 1949, photographs were a rare feature in local newspapers such as THE VOICE of St. Lucia and The West Indian Crusader. When images were published, they typically depicted events from the UK or the USA. However, one notable exception appeared in THE VOICE of St. Lucia that year—a historic photograph capturing a moment of local significance. The image, likely a promotional photograph, documented the installation of two linotype machines imported from the USA. This upgrade was crucial for the newspaper after its printing equipment was destroyed in the devastating Castries fire of 1948. The photograph, published on the front page of THE VOICE on July 16, 1949, features Mr. Willoughby Sayers, a mechanical engineer from Barbados who oversaw the installation, alongside Mr. Cecil O. Byer, the operator-in-charge of the linotype department. This rare and significant photograph stands as a testament to the resilience and progress of local journalism in St. Lucia during that era

film-based plate making and improving efficiency. Digital printing further reduced production time, minimised waste and allowed for more flexible printing options. Today, automation and high-speed digital presses ensure that THE VOICE delivers high-quality newspapers promptly, keeping up with the fast-paced news cycle.

By 2024, the newspaper industry had undergone a complete transformation. Print editions still exist but are often considered supplementary to digital platforms. Here's how newspapers have evolved in the digital-first era:

- Online Publishing:**
- Newspapers now operate robust websites and apps offering 24/7 access to news.
 - Content includes multimedia elements like videos, infographics, and interactive maps.
- Social Media Integration:**
- Platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram serve as key distribution channels.
 - Breaking news often reaches readers through social media before traditional outlets.



The Komori Sprint II 26P is a two-colour offset printing press designed for efficient and high-quality printing. It features a convertible perfecting mechanism, allowing for both single-sided (2/0) and double-sided (1/1) printing. The press accommodates a maximum sheet size of 19 x 26 inches and offers a maximum print area of 18.5 x 25.5 inches. Equipped with Komorimatic dampening, it ensures consistent ink and water balance during printing. Additional accessories may include a Royce dampening solution circulator and an anti-static unit for the feeder

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The Evolution of Newspaper Publishing from the 1800s: Presses at THE VOICE

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The Lotem 400 is a plate setter that uses thermal imaging technology to produce high-resolution images. It was manufactured by Creo, Kodak in Canada

Personalization and AI:

- Algorithms personalise news feeds based on user preferences.
- AI-generated content supports breaking news



A 1950's Vintage Victory-Kidder Printing John Perfecta Guillotine machine. Used for cutting and trimming paper, cardboard, and other print materials with high precision. Still in use here at the Voice.



The Harris Seybold CFB Paper Cutter is a guillotine-style cutter used for making straight cuts through single sheets or stacks of paper. It was manufactured by Charles Seybold starting in 1888 in Dayton, Ohio. Due to their size and strength, these cutters are still used in the printing industry and in manufacturing



The Komori Lithrone 26 press is designed to deliver high-quality, efficient printing for a range of commercial products such as brochures, catalogues, flyers, periodicals, and packaging materials. Their advanced features and automation capabilities make them ideal for high-demand printing environments

publishers seek sustainable revenue streams in a digital age.

Global Reach:

- Digital platforms allow newspapers to reach a global audience instantly.
- Localization tools enable content to be tailored to specific regions or languages.

Environmental Focus:

- The shift to digital has reduced the

environmental impact associated with paper production and distribution.

From hand-pressed sheets in the 1800s to digital-first platforms in 2024, the newspaper industry has demonstrated remarkable resilience. While the medium and methods have changed, the core mission of newspapers—to inform, educate, and connect communities—remains steadfast.

As technology continues to evolve, the future of newspaper publishing promises even more innovation, ensuring that this timeless institution remains a vital force in an ever-changing world.




A Heidelberg Original Cylinder printing press, which is a well-known letterpress machine used for high-quality printing, die-cutting, embossing, and numbering. This type of press is valued for its durability and precision in speciality printing tasks

coverage and data-driven reporting.

Subscription Models:

- Many newspapers have shifted to subscription-based models, offering premium content to paying readers.
- Paywalls are common, as




unesco

The Saint Lucia National Commission for the UNESCO extends congratulations to The Voice Publishing Company Ltd on its

140th Anniversary

As the island's longest standing newspaper, your dedication to preserving and sharing the news aligns with UNESCO's mandate in the field of education, information, communication & press freedom.

Best wishes the Management and Staff of the Voice Publishing Company Limited



Congratulations to The VOICE Publishing Company Limited on their

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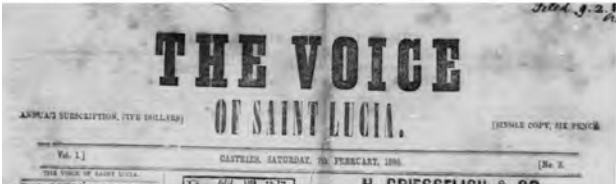
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As THE VOICE continues to evolve, the integration of digital platforms and advanced printing techniques will shape its future. While online media grows, print remains a vital medium for in-depth reporting and historical documentation. By embracing new technology while honouring its rich printing heritage, THE VOICE ensures that it remains at the forefront of news publishing for generations to come.

The journey from hand-operated presses to modern digital printing reflects THE VOICE's resilience and commitment to excellence. As the company celebrates 140 years of service, its history of innovation in printing stands as a testament to its enduring legacy in Saint Lucian media.

The Past, The Present, The Future



The Original VOICE— The first-ever masthead of The VOICE of Saint Lucia, was published on January 24th, 1885. A symbol of history and commitment, priced at six-pence per copy, it marked the beginning of over a century of journalistic excellence. Above a clear view of the masthead

The Evolution of the Masthead

THE masthead of a newspaper is more than just a title—it is a representation of identity, a marker of tradition, and a visual narrative of the publication’s history. For us at The Voice Publishing Company Limited (VPC) formally (The Voice of Saint Lucia), the evolution of our masthead reflects not only the growth of the publication but also the changing times and technologies over our remarkable 140-year journey.

The Early Years: 1885

The inaugural masthead of the VPC was a simple, bold declaration of the paper’s presence. Set against a modest design, the typography was straightforward, with “THE VOICE OF SAINT LUCIA” prominently displayed in large, uppercase serif letters. This simplicity mirrored the early printing techniques of the time, as well as the paper’s mission to be accessible and trustworthy. At just six pence for a single copy, the masthead conveyed the newspaper’s commitment to connecting with the people of Saint Lucia.

Transition and Refinement: 1888

By 1888, the masthead underwent subtle changes. While retaining its serif typeface, the letters took on a more refined and professional appearance. The layout remained clean but demonstrated a growing confidence in design, signalling The Voice’s establishment as a staple in the local community. This iteration hinted at the newspaper’s gradual embrace of new printing methods, which allowed for sharper and more polished visuals.

Modernisation and Branding: 2020

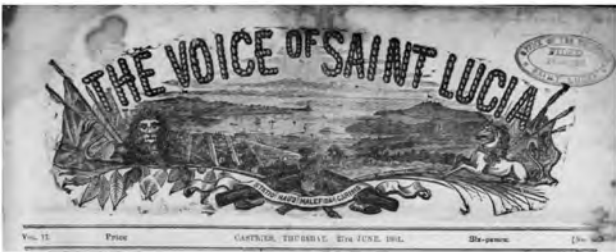
Fast-forward to the 135th anniversary in 2020, the masthead had transformed dramatically to reflect modern design aesthetics. The typography became bolder and more dynamic, with stylized elements that added depth and vibrancy. The addition of the red ribbon, marking the milestone of 135 years, brought a celebratory feel to the masthead, highlighting The Voice’s longevity and resilience. This masthead also underscored the shift to digital design tools, allowing for more intricate details and branding opportunities.

A Legacy Preserved

The progression of VPC mastheads is a testament to the enduring legacy of the publication. Each iteration not only encapsulates the era it was created but also showcases the publication’s ability to adapt and evolve while preserving its core identity. From hand-operated presses to digital media platforms, THE VOICE has remained a steadfast chronicler of Saint Lucian life, culture, and history.

As we celebrate our 140th anniversary, the masthead stands as a proud emblem of the publication’s dedication to storytelling and service. It’s a reminder that while designs may

change, the heart of the newspaper remains the same—a voice for the people, by the people. Today, the masthead represents a blend of tradition and innovation. Its clean lines and contemporary design pay homage to our roots while positioning us as a forward-thinking media powerhouse. As we prepare to celebrate 140 years of service in 2025, the masthead continues to symbolize the Voice Publishing Company’s enduring legacy



1900s -The masthead was developed into a more detailed flag



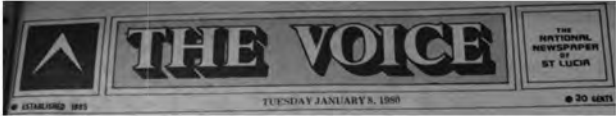
1887-A change has come



1958-This masthead conveys a sense of tradition, authority, and historical significance



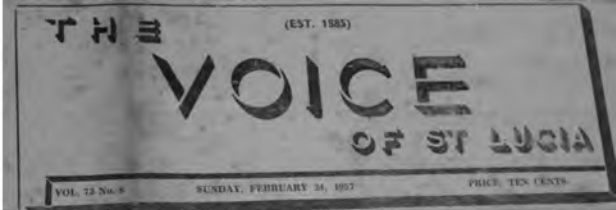
1962-This masthead evokes a sense of history and tradition. The Gothic font gives the newspaper a classic and dignified look



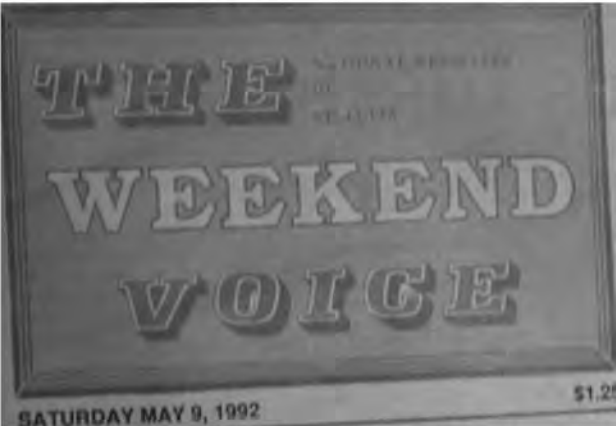
1980-This masthead evokes a sense of authority and professionalism. The title is printed in a bold, sans-serif font with a slight shadow effect

and vision for the future. Through every change, the masthead has remained a reflection of our mission to inform, inspire, and connect our readers, adapting to meet the needs of the communities we serve.

(By: Milan Noel)



1957 - Slight change, adding more contrast, Closeup of the VPC Newspaper masthead shot in a studio setting



Cont on Page 28



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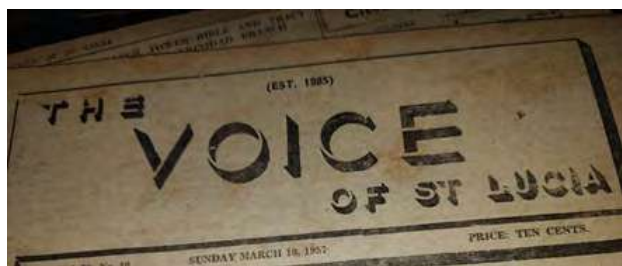


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The Evolution of the Masthead

Cont from Page 27



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Happy 140th Anniversary to
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Our Website

www.thevoiceslu.com is the official website of THE VOICE Newspaper, St. Lucia's #1 newspaper which is synonymous with quality news from Saint Lucia since 1885.

The website offers details about anything that is happening locally, regionally and internationally. It has become an essential staple for all Saint Lucians both here and abroad to stay abreast with the current situation in politics, economics, sports, and so forth.

The Voice's website, since going live, has grown to attract a monthly audience of thousands of unique visitors from all over the globe. Every day, it offers users the primary benefit of a news hub guaranteeing them the latest updates almost instantaneously.

Every day, our news portals are being updated to give our thousands of unique visitors alerts and updates on accurate information that matters to them.



THE year is 1885. Saint Lucia, a vibrant tapestry of cultures and burgeoning commerce, is on the cusp of a new era. News, once disseminated through word of mouth and sporadic correspondence, is about to undergo a significant transformation. The emergence of The Voice of Saint Lucia, the island's first newspaper, marks a pivotal moment in its history, offering a glimpse into the social, political, and economic landscape of the time. This article delves into the inaugural issues of this pioneering publication, exploring its content, format, and the context that shaped its message.

The late 19th century witnessed a global surge in newspaper publishing. Technological advancements, particularly in printing, facilitated the mass production of news, allowing for wider dissemination and greater public engagement. This trend extended to the Caribbean islands, where burgeoning communities sought avenues for information exchange and expression. The Voice of St. Lucia, emerging in this context, represented a significant step forward. While the exact details of its founding and early editors remain somewhat elusive, the newspaper's existence signals a growing desire for local news and commentary.



The early issues of The VOICE of Saint Lucia likely mirrored the concerns and priorities of the community it served. One can infer that the news likely encompassed a broad range of topics. Crucially, it mirrored the social and political realities of the time. This likely included:

Discussions surrounding governance, local elections, and the actions of colonial authorities were prominent. Readers were interested in understanding the workings of the island's administration and the personalities involved.

News regarding trade, agriculture, and the island's burgeoning industries were essential. The success of sugar plantations, the import/export trade, and the development of other industries were closely followed. Reports on the state of crops, market prices, and shipping schedules were crucial for businesses and individuals.

Matters of community interest, such as crime, public health, and social events, were reported. These

details provided a picture of the social fabric and prevalent anxieties of the era.

While local news likely dominated, the newspaper included snippets of international events, reflecting the island's connection to the wider world. These reports were important for understanding broader trends shaping the region and the empire.

The format of the newspaper was relatively straightforward for the time. It employed a style that was common in British newspapers of the period, characterized by straightforward reporting, a relatively small font size, and minimal illustrations. The layout was designed to be easily readable and comprehensible, considering the literacy levels of the readership.

The language used in The Voice of Saint Lucia was deeply influenced by the prevailing social and political norms of the time. The tone reflected the colonial context, with perspectives shaped by the power dynamics between the colonial administration and the local population. The newspaper's tone was crucial in shaping public opinion and fostering a sense of community identity.

The First Headlines: The VOICE of Saint Lucia, 1885



cultural artefact. They offer a valuable window into the past, providing a glimpse into the evolving social, political, and economic landscape of St. Lucia in 1885. The emergence of this newspaper signifies the growing importance of information dissemination and the evolving role of the press in shaping public discourse.

The newspaper's existence also points to the development of a nascent public sphere. The ability to access and share information, even in a limited capacity, enabled the community to engage in discussion and debate. The VOICE of St. Lucia now The Voice Publishing Company Limited, therefore, is more than just a source of news; it is a catalyst for social interaction and a crucial element in the formation of a collective identity.

The VOICE of St. Lucia, first published in 1885, marked a turning point in Saint Lucia's history. It represented a shift from oral tradition to a more formalized means of disseminating information. Its content, format, and tone reflect the social, political, and economic realities of the time, offering a unique lens through which to understand the complexities of colonial life. While the exact content remains elusive, the newspaper's existence stands as a testament to the evolving role of the press in shaping public discourse and fostering community engagement.



A formal language, reflecting the conventions of the era. Influenced by the style of British newspapers and the official communication channels.

The newspaper's perspective was shaped by the colonial presence. This perspective was subtly present in the way news was framed, the topics chosen, or the individuals highlighted.

Despite the colonial context, the newspaper was likely to represent the interests and concerns of the local community. This established a sense of shared identity and fostered community engagement.

The Voice of St. Lucia's inaugural issues, though not readily available today, represent a significant

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on the momentous occasion of its

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ANNIVERSARY

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IN the heart of St. Lucia’s media landscape, stands *The Voice Publishing Company*, a testament to the foresight and dedication of its founder, Sir Garnet Gordon. After his passing, his sons, Lyndell and Michael Gordon, stepped into leadership roles, ensuring the continuation of his legacy. Together, they not only upheld the values Sir Garnet had established but also embraced new challenges and opportunities, leaving an indelible mark on the company and the community.

Lyndell Gordon was known for his visionary leadership and dedication to the company. Taking on the mantle with his brother Michael, he brought a wealth of experience and a keen sense of innovation to the publishing house. Under his stewardship, *THE VOICE* expanded its reach, becoming a cornerstone of St. Lucian journalism.



The late Lyndell Gordon

Lyndell’s approach was deeply rooted in maintaining the integrity of the company while adapting to the changing landscape of media. His focus on quality journalism and the promotion of local issues reflected his commitment to the island’s development. Lyndell also spearheaded initiatives to modernize the company’s operations, introducing new technologies and production methods that allowed *THE VOICE* to remain competitive in the evolving media world.

His leadership was defined by a deep respect for the company’s history and its place in the community. Lyndell was not just a publisher; he was a mentor to many, offering guidance to young journalists and staff members. His untimely passing left a void, but his legacy continues to inspire those who knew him.

The Legacy of the Gordons: Continuing Sir Garnet Gordon’s Vision

Following Lyndell’s passing, Michael Gordon took on the full responsibility of leading *The Voice Publishing Company*. His transition into leadership was marked by a deep sense of duty to continue the family’s tradition while also addressing the new challenges of the digital age. Michael has continued to navigate the company through a media world increasingly dominated by technology, ensuring that *THE VOICE* remained relevant and respected.

Michael’s leadership has been instrumental in modernizing the company’s operations, focusing on expanding the reach of *THE VOICE* through both traditional and digital platforms. He has worked tirelessly to preserve the newspaper’s commitment to local news while embracing new media opportunities, such as social media and online content, to engage a broader audience.

Under Michael’s guidance, the company has continued to thrive, expanding its influence and staying true to the core values that his father and brother instilled in it.

Lyndell and Michael Gordon formed a dynamic partnership that allowed *The Voice Publishing Company* to flourish. Their shared vision for the company was one that blended tradition with innovation, ensuring both stability and growth. While their styles may have differed, their mutual respect for each other’s ideas and strengths created a harmonious leadership dynamic. Together, they navigated the complexities of the publishing world, ensuring that *THE VOICE* maintained its reputation as a trusted source of news and information.

Lyndell’s visionary leadership and Michael’s pragmatic approach created a balanced leadership model that propelled the company forward. Their partnership was built on a foundation of family values, and it was this unity that helped *THE VOICE* weather the storms of changing media trends.

As Michael Gordon continues to lead *The Voice Publishing Company*, the legacy of Sir Garnet and Lyndell Gordon remains firmly intact. The company’s commitment to quality journalism and its role as a pillar of Saint Lucia’s media landscape is a testament to the vision the Gordon family had when they first launched the newspaper.

Looking to the future, Michael has expressed a continued commitment to innovation. Whether it’s through the integration of new technologies or expanding the company’s digital footprint, Michael’s efforts to carry on his family’s legacy are evident.

The Gordons’ dedication to their community and their business is not only reflected in the success of *THE VOICE* but also in the lives they’ve touched. From the pages of the newspaper to the lives of the people who’ve worked at *THE VOICE*, the Gordon families’ impact is undeniable.



Michael Bruce Garnet Gordon C.B.E., K.C., M.A.

Michael Gordon’s Background: A Legal Career of Distinction

Michael Bruce Garnet Gordon’s professional journey is marked by an exceptional legal career that complements his leadership at *The Voice Publishing Company*. Born on April 4, 1941, Michael received his early education at St. Mary’s College in St. Lucia and the prestigious Leys School in Cambridge, England. He went on to study at Trinity Hall, Cambridge University, where he completed his Law Tripos before being called to the English Bar at the Middle Temple in 1967.

His legal career began in earnest when he was called to the St. Lucia Bar in 1967, joining the firm of Gordon, Salles Miquelle McNamara & Co. He quickly rose through the ranks, becoming a partner in 1969. In 1973, Michael, alongside his father and uncle, formed the law firm Gordon, Gordon & Co. His leadership and expertise guided the firm as the Managing Partner from 1975 to 2003. During this time, Michael’s influence extended beyond the legal community when he was appointed as a Judge of the Court of Appeal and acted as Chief Justice on several occasions.

Michael’s return to private practice after his judicial tenure demonstrates his enduring commitment to the legal profession. His career in law has not only shaped his approach to leadership at *THE VOICE* but also bolstered his reputation as a respected figure in St. Lucia’s professional community.

Lyndell Gordon, the late co-owner of *The Voice Publishing Company*, was a key figure in the development and success of the company. Though not as widely known for his career outside of the publishing world, Lyndell’s impact on *THE VOICE* and its place in St. Lucia’s media landscape is significant.

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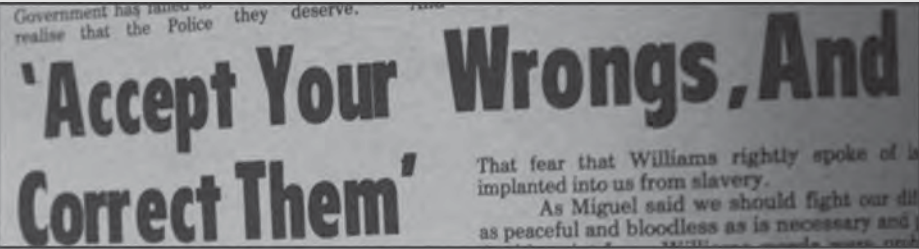


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The Punchy Prose of Headlines: How Newspaper Headlines Craft Memorable Quotes and Sayings



The essence of a good headline lies in its ability to capture attention and convey

meaning in a few short words. This brevity forces writers to prioritize essential information, often resulting in phrases that are both informative and memorable.

Newspapers, in their constant race to inform and engage readers in a fast-paced world, have honed this skill into an art form. A well-crafted headline can instantly communicate the core message of an article, prompting readers to delve deeper into the story.

Headline writers don't just report; they create. They frequently employ figurative language, such as metaphors, similes, and personification, to elevate their work beyond simple summaries. These techniques imbue the headline with a deeper layer of meaning, making it more impactful and engaging.

headline into a memorable one. Clever wordplay often involves puns, double entendres, or unexpected juxtapositions of words. Alliteration, the repetition of consonant sounds, creates a rhythmic and catchy effect, enhancing the headline's memorability.

Consider the headline "Tax Hike Hits Hard." The alliterative "Tax Hike" immediately grabs attention, while "Hits Hard" conveys the severity of the tax increase. This combination of techniques makes the headline both memorable and impactful.

Many headlines, initially serving as simple summaries, evolve into quotable phrases that enter popular consciousness. These phrases often encapsulate broader

contexts to create memorable and impactful statements.

Newspaper headlines, often overlooked, are powerful tools for crafting memorable quotes and sayings. Their concise nature, coupled with clever wordplay and evocative imagery, allows them to distil complex ideas into impactful phrases that resonate with readers long after the news cycle moves on. By understanding the principles of headline writing, we can appreciate the art of concise communication and recognize the lasting impact these concise statements can have on language and culture. The next time you see a headline that grabs your attention, take a moment to appreciate the skill and artistry

become touchstones for broader discussions, reflecting the changing cultural landscape. The principles of headline writing extend beyond the realm of journalism. In literature, effective titles and chapter headings often employ similar techniques to grab attention and provide insight into the narrative. In popular culture, catchy slogans and marketing taglines often borrow from the concise and impactful style of newspaper headlines.

The famous tagline "Just Do It" from Nike is a perfect example. It's a short, punchy phrase that encapsulates the brand's message and encourages action. This exemplifies how the principles of headline writing can be applied in a variety of

behind it. Below are a few headlines from our many years in service, these can be redirected as quotes or saying.

1979 - Accept your wrongs, and correct them. – Clifford Louis

1979 – Who said Politics has to be Dirty – Joe Allain

1979 - We must look back – Ras Robert Lee

1979 - Teachers should not strike – J.E. Mondesir

1979 – Goodness Still brings a blessing – Unknown

1979 – It's the people, Not the System – Jim Magal



contexts to create memorable and impactful statements.

Newspaper headlines, often overlooked, are powerful tools for crafting memorable quotes and sayings. Their concise nature, coupled with clever wordplay and evocative imagery, allows them to distil complex ideas into impactful phrases that resonate with readers long after the news cycle moves on. By understanding the principles of headline writing, we can appreciate the art of concise communication and recognize the lasting impact these concise statements can have on language and culture. The next time you see a headline that grabs your attention, take a moment to appreciate the skill and artistry

1993 - Don't lay off cleaners – CSA

1993 – First class Hypocrites – Unknown

1993 – Together is better – Micah George

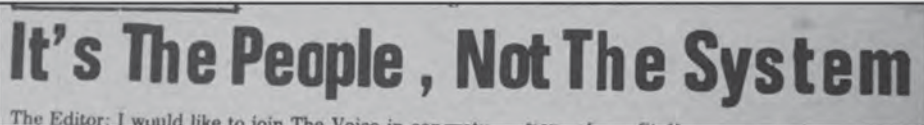
1993 – Women must be more vocal – Edward Innocent

1993- Don't turn a blind eye – Algernon Hemingway

1993 –What are you living for? - Malcolm J. Scholar

1999- If you get a job what else do you need? – Clar Louis

2000 – Employees must be paid for performance – Adrew Piltie



Teachers Should Not Strike

- Metaphors:** A headline like "Saint Lucian Economy Takes a Dive" uses a metaphor to convey the steep decline of economic indicators. The image of a diving object evokes a sense of dramatic change.
- Similes:** A headline like "Inflation Bites Hard on Tourism" uses a simile to emphasize the painful impact of inflation on consumers. The comparison to a physical bite makes the concept more relatable.
- Personification:** Headlines personifying abstract concepts, such as "Market Smiles on Farmer Investors," can create a sense of optimism or hope.

These figurative devices elevate the headline beyond a mere factual statement, adding emotional resonance and lasting impression.

The skillful use of wordplay and alliteration can transform a mundane

societal trends, political events, or cultural phenomena. They can be quoted in speeches, social media posts, or even academic papers, demonstrating their enduring power.

For instance, the headline "The Caribbean Dream is Fading" encapsulates a complex societal issue, serving as a powerful and memorable statement about the changing economic realities of the Caribbean population. Such headlines often

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The World in 1885: A snapshot of global and local events the year The VOICE began Publishing

IN 1885, the world was in the midst of significant social, political, and technological changes. Here's a snapshot of key global and local events during that year:

Global Events:

1. **The Scramble for Africa:** European powers were intensifying their colonization of Africa. In 1885, the **Berlin Conference**'s effects continued as European nations carved up the continent, leading to the establishment of new colonies and the exploitation of resources.
2. **Feb 26** Berlin Conference gives Congo to Belgium and Nigeria to the United Kingdom
3. **Mar 26** 1st modern, legal cremation held in England at Woking, Surrey
4. **May 19** German Chancellor **Otto von Bismarck** takes possession of Cameroon and Togoland
5. **Jun 12** Roof collapse kills 30 at murder trial in France
6. **The Qing Dynasty (China):** In 1885, China's weakened power was evident through internal rebellions such as the **Taiping Rebellion** and the **Dungan Revolt**.

Technology and Invention:

- a. **Karl Benz** was granted a patent for the **Benz Patent-Motorwagen**, the world's first automobile, in 1885, marking the beginning of the modern automobile industry.
 - b. **The electric light bulb** was developed by **Thomas Edison**, changing the way people would live and work worldwide.
7. **The United States:**
 - a. **Grover Cleveland** was serving his first term as President.
 - b. The **Indian Appropriations Act of 1885** was passed, allowing the U.S. government to move Native American tribes onto reservations.
 - c. June 19, **1885**: The disassembled Statue of Liberty arrives in New York aboard a French freighter.
 - d. July 23, **1885**: Former U.S. President and hero of the Civil War Ulysses S. Grant dies at the age of 63.
 8. **India:** British rule continued, and the **Indian National Congress** was formed in 1885, playing a significant role in the future independence movement.

Caribbean and Saint Lucia:

1. **Colonial Rule:** In 1885, Saint Lucia was a British colony, with its economy heavily dependent on sugar production. The impact of colonialism was prominent in all aspects of society, including the labour force, which was largely composed of indentured labourers from India and Africa.
2. **The Sugar Industry:** Sugar was the backbone of the economy in Saint Lucia and other Caribbean nations. The rise of large sugar plantations continued to shape the social and economic landscape.
3. **Cultural Shifts:** The island had a mix of African, European, and Indian influences, with Creole culture beginning to thrive. This period saw the growth of local art, music, and literature, contributing to Saint Lucia's evolving identity.
4. **The Establishment of The VOICE of Saint Lucia Newspaper:** Robert McHugh's launch of *The Voice of Saint Lucia* in 1885 marked a significant moment in the island's history, providing a platform for local news, politics, and social issues. It was a time when the British Empire still had a strong hold on the Caribbean, and the newspaper became an important tool for communication, especially as Saint Lucia began to develop its own sense of identity and self-governance.

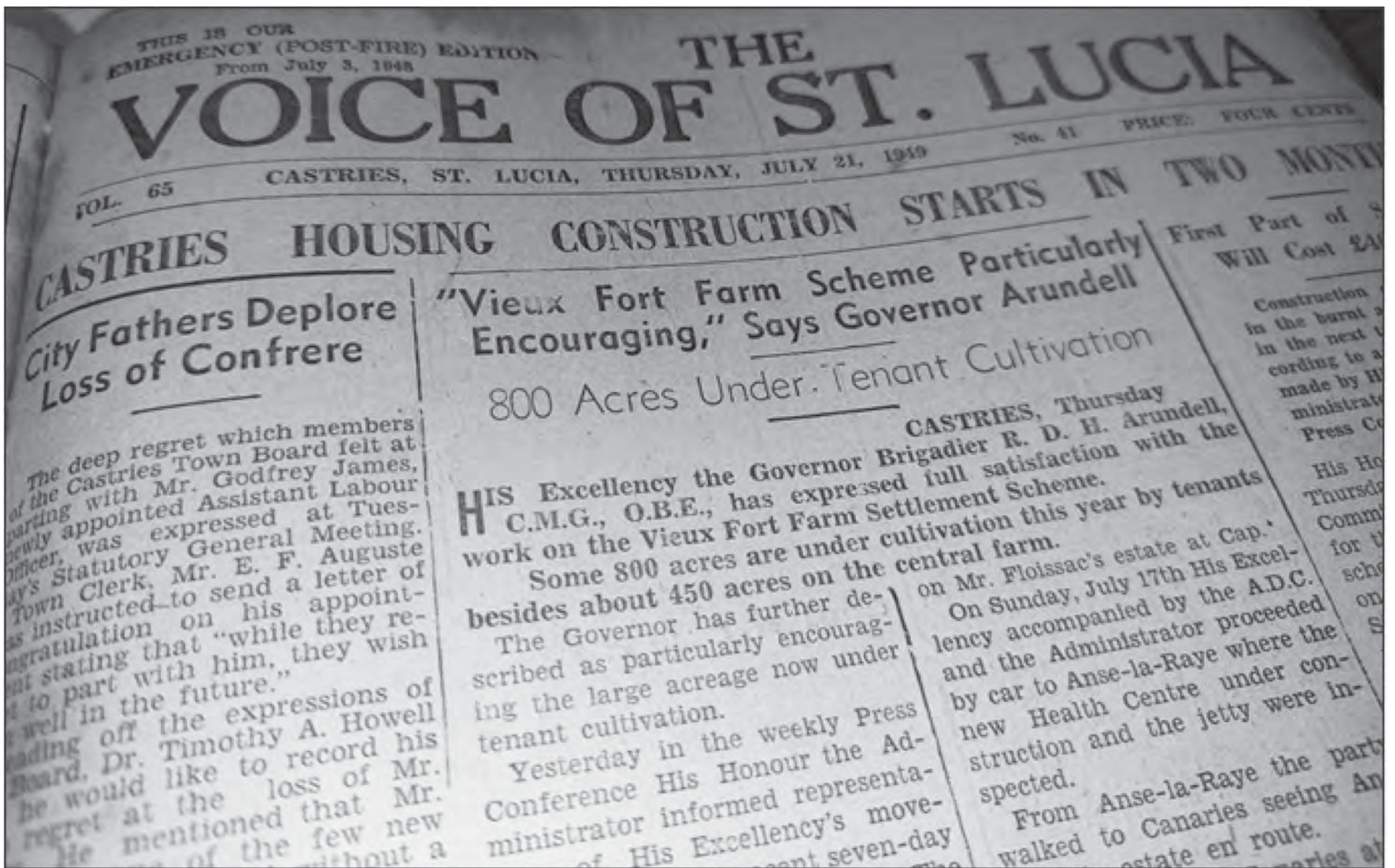
1885 was a year of transformation and upheaval globally, and locally in Saint Lucia, the foundation was laid for a new chapter in the island's history with the establishment of *The VOICE of Saint Lucia*.



Saint Lucia in 1885



Reflecting on Notable Early Articles



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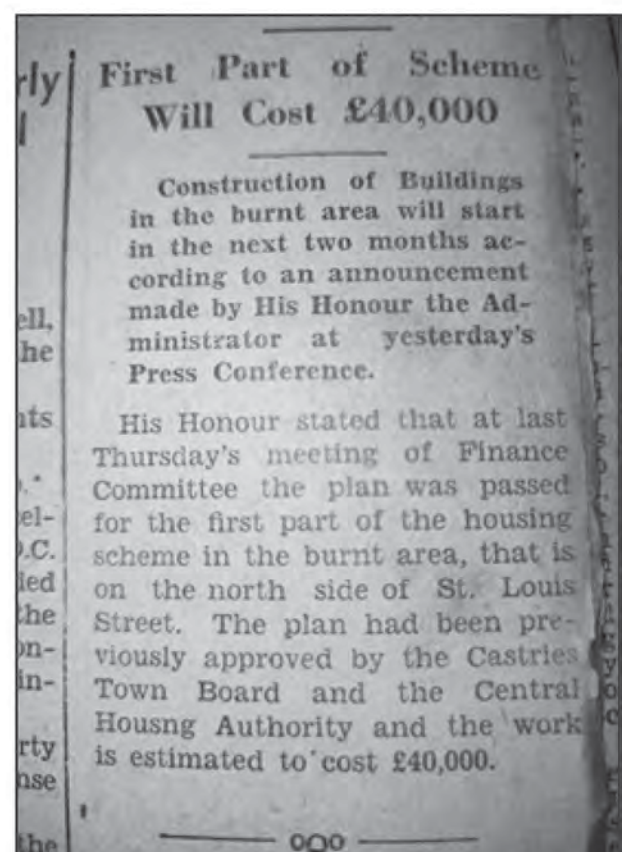
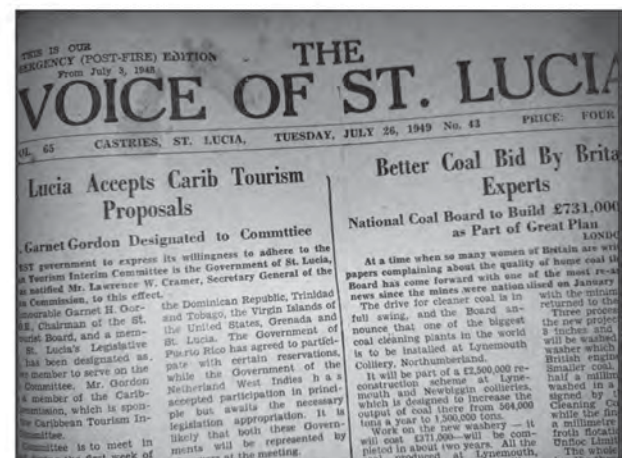
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THE VOICE - A Major Training Institution Over the Years

By Micah George

THERE was a time when it was rare to find someone working in Saint Lucia's news media who had not received training in journalism from THE VOICE of Saint Lucia.

The vast majority of St Lucia's successful journalists will attest to the fact that they all began their careers at THE VOICE.

I remembered Guy Ellis (deceased), a former Editorial Consultant and Managing Editor, explaining how he was trained at THE VOICE to be a journalist.

"I left St Mary's College one day in 1962 and began working for THE VOICE of Saint Lucia the next day. As fate would have it, the publication was reorganizing at the moment, and I stepped right in when I was offered the position of reporter."

Ellis worked under the late Wilfred St-Clair Daniel, who was the editor then, for nine years, quickly moving up the ranks. "The training was all there for the taking, if you had the discipline and the desire to learn and although I had never planned a career as a journalist, once I got a taste of it, I decided that was what I was going to be."

A brief training course at the Trinidad MIRROR in 1966 provided the necessary push for his profession, but Ellis argued that it was THE VOICE's opportunity for self-training that proved most beneficial.

"I learned the simple rule that constant reading of other newspapers was itself a means of training since you get to see how things are done", commented Ellis.

He added, "In those days, we received newspapers in Saint Lucia such as the Trinidad Guardian, The Barbados Advocate, the Daily News, and the Trinidad Mirror, all of which helped me improve my writing skills. Also, I was fortunate to have an Editor who took the time to teach knowledge, and I was constantly looking over his shoulder, seeing how he did things, whether it was laying up pages or editing."

Ellis remembered receiving guidance and teaching from St Clair-Daniel regularly during the workday, a method he said he employed whenever he dealt with younger journalists under his supervision.

"The newsroom itself must be considered a training ground, and at THE VOICE it was and still is very much that," he said before his passing.

Micah George, the current editor, told a similar tale when he first started at THE VOICE Publishing Company.

"Mr Guy Ellis was the editor when I first started as a journalist at THE VOICE. I was seeking a job back then. I used to freelance for the Star Newspaper under Mr Rick Wayne, who taught me my first lessons in journalism. After joining THE VOICE, Mr Ellis introduced me to a new type of journalism. Armed with these two types of journalism, I believed I could make a career out of it. However, it was while working at THE VOICE and rubbing shoulders with fellow journalists such as David Vitalis, Lawrence James (dead), Vincent Lewis, and Ryan O'Brien (sports), who were there at the time, that I truly realized the importance of journalism," George stated.

"I would not be the journalist I am today if not for the training I obtained while working with the journalists mentioned above, led by Mr Ellis. At the time, the editorial section served as a true training ground for young and aspiring journalists," he added.

He said, "This is not to imply that the training I had in Germany, China, Taiwan, UWI, ECCB, and elsewhere does not count. It certainly did. Mr Ellis' at the time provided the ideal mix for a career start, which I believe cannot be found in a classroom setting. Furthermore, under Mr Ellis' tutelage, my journalism development became more sophisticated."

Youth and the Future of News: Wooing Younger Audiences

THE future of THE VOICE, in terms of its news, is inextricably tied to how well we resonate with younger audiences. In a rapidly changing digital era, where information is consumed in seconds and news cycles refresh constantly, traditional media faces an urgent challenge: How can we remain relevant to a generation that grew up with social media and smartphones?

Younger generations, particularly Millennials and Gen Z, consume news differently than their predecessors. Platforms like TikTok, Instagram, and YouTube dominate their daily interactions with information. They prefer short, engaging, and visually dynamic content that can be consumed on the go. Traditional methods of reporting—lengthy articles or televised bulletins—often fail to capture their attention.

This shift in consumption habits is not a rejection of news but a call for innovation. According to recent studies, young people are highly interested in global issues such as climate change, social justice, and mental health. However, they seek content that is relatable, accessible, and presented in a format that aligns with their digital-first lifestyle.

Beyond adapting content, we need to empower young people to critically analyse the news they consume. Media literacy programmes in schools can help them distinguish between credible journalism and misinformation, fostering a lifelong relationship with trustworthy news sources.

Engaging younger audiences isn't just about the survival of our newspapers; it's about shaping informed citizens. The issues facing the world today—climate change, global conflicts, technological advancements—require a generation that is not only informed but also equipped to act.

As we look ahead, the role of the youth in the evolution of news cannot be understated. By embracing innovation and prioritizing authenticity, we can ensure they remain a vital part of young people's lives—and, in turn, secure the future of journalism.

Edinburgh Napier University congratulates
The Voice Publishing Co Ltd on the occasion of its
140th Anniversary.

Your dedication to journalism for the past 140 years has been a vital pillar of information and progress. Wishing you continued success for many year to come!!

140 years

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100% RELEVANT
100% FLEXIBLE



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Looking Back



Celebrating
140
Years

Happy Anniversary

Congratulations to Voice Publishing on celebrating 140 years in Saint Lucia!
Your dedication to journalism and storytelling has made a lasting impact.
Wishing you continued success in the years ahead!
From M&C Group of Companies.



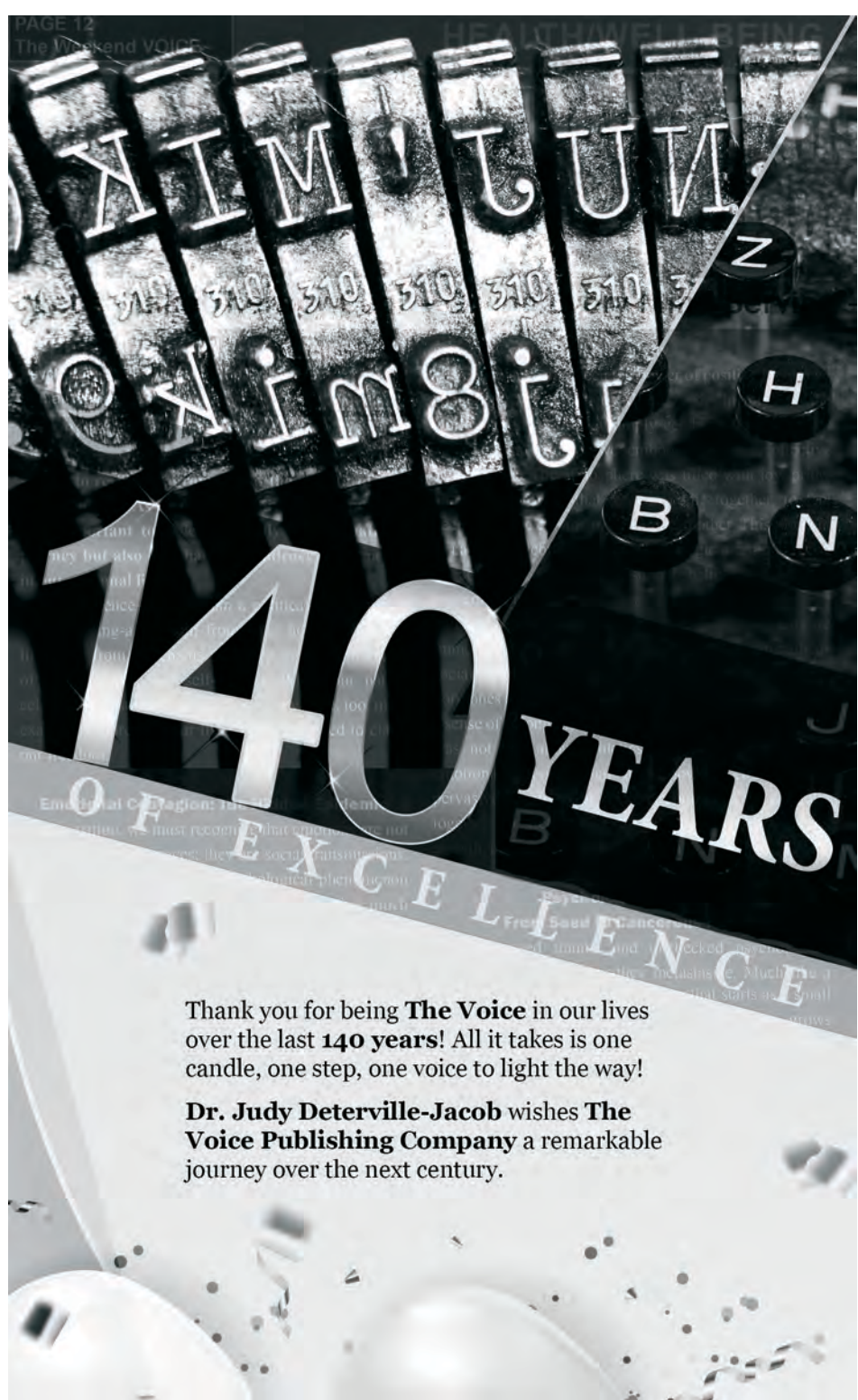
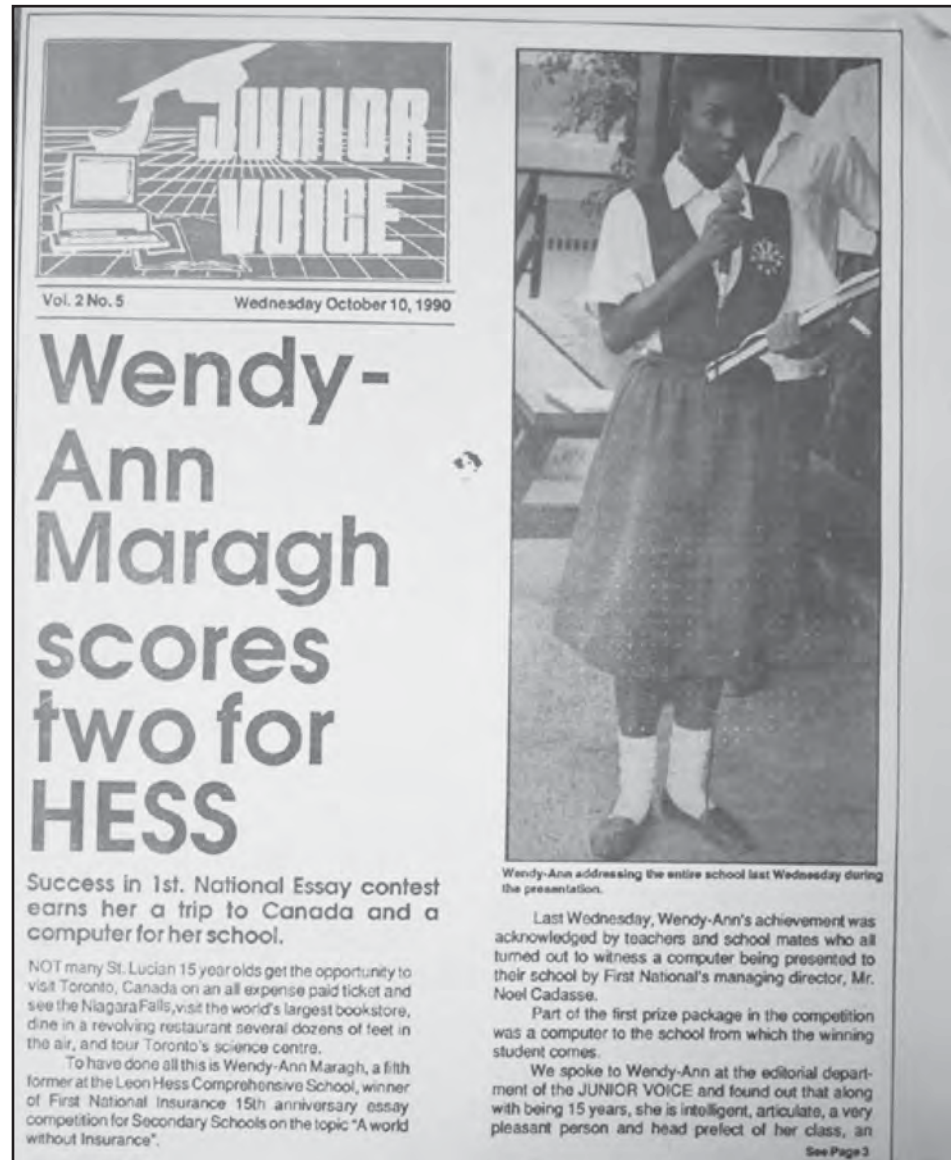
GROUP OF COMPANIES



Looking Back (2)



Happy
140th
Anniversary



Thank you for being **The Voice** in our lives over the last **140 years**! All it takes is one candle, one step, one voice to light the way!

Dr. Judy Deterville-Jacob wishes **The Voice Publishing Company** a remarkable journey over the next century.

Looking Back (3)



As you celebrate this remarkable Milestone, we at St Lucia Distillers Group of Companies recognize your invaluable contribution to St Lucia's Media landscape and wish you continued success, growth in the years ahead.

HAPPY 140th Anniversary

to the Management and Staff of
The Voice Publishing Company Limited



**ST. LUCIA DISTILLERS
GROUP OF COMPANIES**



Taking Sports Seriously

COVERAGE of sporting activities in the country has always been a top priority for THE VOICE Newspaper. One needs to look no further than the archives of the newspaper to understand the importance THE

VOICE places on sports coverage.

From Rupert Brandford to Ryan O'Brien to Lawrence James, Anthony de Beauville and others, THE VOICE coverage of sporting events, island-wide, has been superb.

But these are sports reporters known today. What about coverage of sports in the 1960s, or earlier of teams and players that are no longer around? Here are some headlines that may bring back nostalgia to some who were keen sports fans back in the day.





SLASPA
SAINT LUCIA AIR AND SEA PORTS AUTHORITY

Happy 140 year Anniversary

We wish you continued success and prosperity as you celebrate your 140th anniversary. Thank you for consistently delivering excellent service.

FROM THE PORT COUNCIL, MANAGEMENT AND STAFF OF THE SAINT LUCIA AIR AND SEA PORTS AUTHORITY



[illegible]

The Enduring Influence: How The VOICE Publishing Company Shaped Civic and Cultural Life

ONCE the dominant voice in disseminating information and shaping public opinion, newspapers have seen their role evolve in the digital age. Yet, their historical significance remains undeniable. This article explores the profound impact of newspaper publishing, focusing on the Voice Publishing Company as a case study to illustrate how newspapers fostered civic engagement and cultural development. By examining their contributions to local communities, national discourse, and the arts, we gain a deeper understanding of the vital role newspapers played and continue to play, in shaping societies.

The VOICE Publishing Company, established in 1885, quickly established itself as a cornerstone of Castries community life. Its early publications focused on local news, International port reports, and local, regional and international advertisements, providing readers with vital information about their immediate surroundings. This included reporting on town meetings, business developments, and social events. This localized focus was crucial in fostering community, allowing residents to connect through shared experiences and local narratives. Early editions often featured personal stories, letters to the editor, and community announcements, creating a space for diverse voices to be heard and fostering a sense of civic responsibility.

Beyond simply reporting events, Voice Publishing actively engaged in shaping public discourse. Through editorials, opinion pieces, and investigative journalism, the company encouraged critical thinking and informed decision-making among its readers. For instance, during the COVID-19 era, VOICE Publishing played a crucial role in raising awareness about health and safety. Their in-depth reporting and persuasive editorials mobilised public support for a new environmental initiative. This active participation in public debates solidified the newspaper's position as a vital platform for civic engagement. The newspaper's commitment to factual reporting and ethical standards fostered trust and credibility, allowing it to become a respected voice in the community.

VOICE Publishing Company wasn't solely focused on news and politics. The paper recognised the importance of culture and the arts in shaping a vibrant society. It regularly featured articles on local artists, musicians, and writers, promoting their work and fostering appreciation for the cultural landscape. This support extended to sponsoring local events, such as art exhibitions and music performances, creating a venue for community engagement and cultural enrichment. Through these initiatives, VOICE Publishing fostered a sense of pride and belonging, encouraging the development of local talent and creating a supportive environment for the arts to thrive. The paper often reviewed local performances and exhibitions, providing critical analysis that educated readers and influenced artistic development.

The advent of digital media presented significant challenges and opportunities for VOICE Publishing. While print readership declined, the company adapted by leveraging online platforms to broaden its reach and engage a

younger demographic. The company created a robust website, incorporating interactive content and multimedia features. This digital transformation allowed VOICE Publishing to maintain its commitment to in-depth reporting and insightful analysis, while simultaneously reaching a wider audience. Despite the challenges, the company recognised the importance of maintaining high journalistic standards, commercial printing and ethical practices in the digital realm.

VOICE Publishing Company's impact extended far beyond simply reporting the news. Their

commitment to local communities, civic engagement, and cultural development left an indelible mark on Saint Lucia by fostering a sense of community, shaping public opinion, supporting the arts, and holding power accountable. Voice Publishing demonstrated the vital role newspapers play in fostering a vibrant and informed society. Their legacy serves as a reminder of the enduring power of journalism in shaping public discourse and driving positive change, even in the face of evolving media landscapes. While the format may change, the fundamental role of a committed and ethical press in a democratic society remains unchanged.



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Fax: 453-7671

Email: info@wigslu.com

wiginsurance@gmail.com

From the Broadsheets (Cont)



Congratulatory Messages from our friends, readers and well wishers

Con't from Page 4

Jason Regis – Anse La Raye- Congratulations to The Voice Publishing Company! 140 years of dedication, hard

work, and journalism excellence is no small feat!
Deborah James – Canaries- A legacy worth celebrating! Wishing The VOICE continued success and many more

Brian Ferdinand – Micoud - A historic milestone! 140 years of excellence and service to the people of St. Lucia. Keep the tradition going!

Sylvia Joseph – Gros Islet- Happy anniversary! The Voice has been part of our homes for decades, and we appreciate all you do to keep us informed!

Jonathan Jules – Babonneau - Congratulations to The Voice Publishing Company! A truly remarkable achievement. Wishing you many more years of success!

Michelle Antoine – Canaries - A huge congratulations on your 140th anniversary! Your dedication to journalism has helped shape our country's history.

Winston Daniel – Anse La Raye - The Voice is more than just a newspaper – it's a part of St. Lucia's story. Wishing you continued growth and success!

Lorraine Auguste – Dennerly-140 years and still going strong! Thank you for keeping our stories alive. Congratulations on this milestone!

Kevin Louison – Choiseul - Congratulations to the entire team at The Voice Publishing Company! Your hard work and commitment are truly inspiring!

Patricia St. Clair – Monchy- Happy 140th anniversary! May The Voice continue to be a guiding light in media for many more years to come!

Damian James – Fond St. Jacques-140 years is no small feat! Congratulations to The Voice for your commitment to truth and excellence.

Yvette Regis – La Clery- Happy Anniversary to The Voice! Your impact on journalism and publishing in St. Lucia is remarkable. Keep soaring!

Jerome Francis – Ti Rocher- Wishing The Voice a fantastic 140th anniversary! Your work has helped keep St. Lucia informed and connected for generations.

Paula Mathurin – Castries- A tremendous achievement! Congratulations on 140 years of journalistic excellence!

Alex Prosper – Marigot - From past to present, The Voice has been a trusted source of information. Wishing you many more years of success!

Sharon Didier – Bexon- A proud moment for St. Lucia! The Voice has been a cornerstone of our media industry. Congratulations!

Jason Baptiste – Praslin - 140 years of history, news, and storytelling. Thank you for your dedication, and congratulations on this major milestone!

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Located at Bois D'Orange
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Saturday 9 A.M. – 3 P.M.

Congratulations to the Voice Publishing Co Ltd on the observance of 140th Anniversary. Reaching such a historic milestone speaks to the dedication to journalism, its impact on the community and its commitment to delivering news for generations.

Wishing The Management and Staff continued success in the years ahead!

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Union Industrial Park, Castries

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Tel: 4502924/450-1712/4501365
Union Industrial Park, Castries

Tel: Dry Cleaning: 458-0600
Bois D'Orange, Gros-Islet

Our Archives, A Treasure Trove of Information

THE VOICE Publishing Company archives are indeed a treasure trove, offering a glimpse into the vibrant history and culture of Saint Lucia. Spanning decades, these articles capture the essence of life on the island, from the 1940s through the 1990s and beyond. They document pivotal moments, societal changes, and the resilience of the Saint Lucian people.

The archives showcase the evolution of journalism and storytelling, reflecting the island's

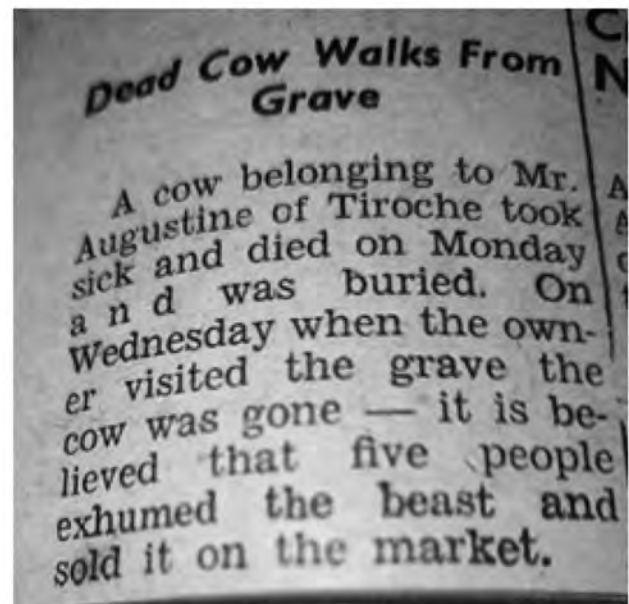
journey through colonial times, independence, and its growth as a nation. They include stories of local heroes, cultural traditions, and the challenges faced by the community. Each article serves as a time capsule, preserving the voices and perspectives of yesteryear.

For example, the archives highlight how The Voice adapted to changes over time, such as transitioning from a weekly to a bi-weekly publication and later

increasing its frequency to five days a week. They also recount events like the devastating fire of 1927, which destroyed 43 years of bound copies, yet the publication's resilience ensured it continued to serve the community.

On the night of May 14, 1927, THE VOICE OF ST. LUCIA premises at the corner of Bridge and Victoria Streets went up in flames in the great fire of that year. But it returned to business on the same spot sometime later in a newly built three-storey building. The fire did not hinder the publication of the paper too long as within three days of the disaster, it was back in circulation in foolscap size format, printed on a manual press retrieved from

Cont on Page 45



The year 1959



Best wishes to the Management and Staff of **The Voice Publishing Co Ltd** on the occasion of your **140th Anniversary**.

We celebrate this remarkable milestone with you and wish you continued success in the years to come.

HAPPY Anniversary

Head Office
Tel: (758) 453-2538
Cell: (758) 720-9731
Email: info@sltccu.com
Corner of Brazil Street and Mongiraud Street

Vieux Fort Branch
Tel: (758) 454-7802
Cell: (758) 719-2012
Email: info@sltccu.com
Suite 19 Vieux Fort Plaza, New Dock Road, Vieux Fort

 **St. Lucia Teachers Credit Co-operative Ltd.**

Happy 140th Anniversary
TO THE MANAGEMENT AND STAFF

CBN St. Lucia Inc extends heartfelt congratulations to **The Voice Publishing Company Ltd** on the remarkable milestone of 140 years in journalism. Your dedication to informing, educating and connecting communities has left an enduring impact.

Changing Lives!
cbn SNT
FROM THE MANAGEMENT AND STAFF OF CBN ST. LUCIA INC. **Saint Lucia National Lottery**



Past Publications

THE VOICE newspaper stands as a hallmark of resilience and journalistic excellence, having embarked on its journey in January 1885. Since the release of its inaugural issue, the publication has persistently printed without interruption, adapting its format, design, and scope of news coverage to reflect the changing times and preferences of its readers. This unwavering commitment to informing and engaging the public has solidified its place as a trusted source of information for generations.

While THE VOICE newspaper has been a cornerstone of print media, its contributions extend beyond the daily headlines. Over the years, it has successfully ventured into other publications, catering to diverse audiences and interests.

We introduce three recent noteworthy creations which were hits at some point in their duration. First the YO! Magazine,

a dynamic and vibrant publication that resonated deeply with pre-teens, teenagers, and individuals in their twenties. Capturing the essence of youth culture, YO! became a sensation, offering relatable and exciting content for its young readers. Although no longer in circulation, its impact on the audience it served remains fondly remembered.

Another standout initiative was the pull-out called LOUD! which turned the spotlight on entertainers and the entertainment industry. This publication gained popularity for its dedication to showcasing creative talents, diving into the world of music, performance, and show business. It became a go-to resource for entertainment enthusiasts seeking the latest buzz and insider stories.

The Voice also recognized the cultural significance of Saint Lucia's carnival celebrations. In line with this, it introduced a glossy, marketable Carnival magazine that

The Past, The Present, The Future

YO! Magazine



Lucian Carnival (carnival magazine)



Lewis Industries Ltd and Lewis Management Consultancy Services extends warm congratulations to The Voice Publishing Company Limited on this remarkable milestone of 140th Anniversary, from you humble beginning in 1885 as

the first newspaper on the island, The Voice has stood the test of time, chronicling the stories of our people, our struggles and triumphs. From traditional print methods to modern technology.

MAY THE VOICE CONTINUE TO BE A TRUSTED SOURCE OF NEWS FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.



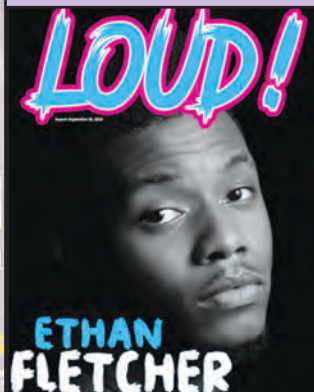
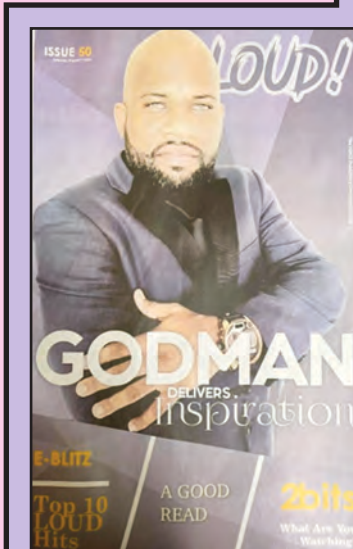
Happy Anniversary



Ministry of Youth Development recognizes YO! Magazine for its contributions (April 2019)

encapsulated the vibrant spirit of carnival events. Packed with high-density photos and exclusive content, the magazine not only documented the annual festivities but also became a cherished keepsake for those celebrating this rich cultural tradition.

Through its diverse portfolio of publications, The Voice has demonstrated an exceptional ability to innovate while preserving its legacy. From the timeless pages of its newspaper to the creative ventures of YO! LOUD, and the Carnival magazine, THE VOICE continues to leave an indelible mark on the media landscape, evolving with the times while staying true to its roots.



CONTACT US

721-7411 / 450-4060 / 450-4067
lewis@candw.lc
www.lewisindustriestd.com



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Email: info@lewisconsulting.org
Phone: 758-485-3900
Mobile: 758-450-4051

Our Archives, A Treasure Trove of Information

Cont from Page 43

Slight Drop Recorded In Population Rise

Estimated 92,090 Persons Living In St. Lucia At End Of Last Year

The upward trend in St. Lucia's Birth Rate recorded a slight drop during last year and at the end of 1958 the number of births registered totalled 3,952, just twenty-eight fewer than the number for the previous year.

Of the number of births registered 1,106 were legitimate and 2,846 illegitimate, as compared to 1957 when the corresponding groups were 1,067 and 2,857 respectively, recording a slight decrease in illegitimate births. However, according to the Report of the Registrar of Civil Status for the Year 1958, Infant Mortality showed a considerable rise above the previous year as shown in the death of 456 infants before com-

the island above those entering. Of the total population, members of the Fairer Sex numbered 46,860, a figure 1,630 more than that of their counterpart.

Deaths

Outside of Diseases of Early Infancy, the main cause of death among adults continued to be Gastro-enteritis and Colitis, which last year claimed 189 of the 1,269 lives lost. On the other hand, Still Births registered a drop and at 125 was twenty-two less than the 1957 total. Overall, Deaths (1,269) during last year were just 1 less than the figure for the previous year.

Fewer To Altar

In Marriages, a decrease was registered for only

Sports Library Opened

Gift made by St. Lucian-Americans to St. Lucia Radio Station

It is said that West India were not aware enough of their history. He was pleased also because the effort displayed in the founding of this library showed what a few people could do when they are united with a determination to help. He commended Dr. Clarke for effort in getting this project started. In conclusion he declared the library open and pledged the support of his Ministry.

A Sports Library was opened last Sunday about mid-day at the Victoria Park in the main pavilion by the Minister of Social Services, the Hon. George Charles.

The ceremony was attended by a large crowd, many of whom were visitors of the Caribbean Flight who had arrived the day before from the United States.

The Assistant Administrator, Mr. E. Gittens, President of the Sports Association, in the opening address, welcomed the visitors to St. Lucia. He went on to speak of the little known Sports Association and asked the public to cooperate with them, and they would be surprised to see how much a contribution of even one shilling from a number of people would do to the upliftment of sport in the island to which the Association is dedicated. He singled out for praise, Mr. Donald James, Mr. Reggie Clarke, Mr. Arthur Warner, Miss Euralis Bouty, Dr. Bristol, Mr. C. Augustine and Dr. Jim Clarke for the work they have been doing for sport in the island. Special mention was made of Mr. Esau Tomich who has been persistently encouraging the Association, and Dr. Clarke who has borne the major burden. Mr. Gittens praised the people who helped with the Library by their work and donations one of whom, Captain Paul, donated 44 volumes on sport.

The Minister of Social Services was asked to open the library and in doing so welcomed the Americans to the island and expressed his pleasure for the idea of the library, for

With the conclusion of the first ceremony at W. E. Valmont St. Lucian born captain of the touring team presented 2 turntables from St. Lucia United Association to the people of Lucia for their radio station. The Minister Social Services received the gift on behalf of the island and thanked the Association for it. In closing he paid tribute to Frank Rojas for being instrumental in getting the gift.

The President of St. Lucia Sports Association, Walter...

the fire, a feat which prompted words of encouragement to the editor from the island's British Governor. By December of the same year, the paper was fully back and in the following month, a new printing press was installed. The reduction to ashes of the 43 years of bound copies of the paper was perhaps the most notable casualty of the fire.

Exploring these archives is like taking a journey through Saint Lucia's past, witnessing the island's transformation and the enduring spirit of its people. It's truly awe-

inspiring to see how history has been preserved through the pages of The VOICE.

We present a brief look at some of the amazing stories of the forties, fifties and sixties.

**Cheers
to
The
VOICE
Publishing
Co. Ltd**



HAPPY 140th ANNIVERSARY

to the
Management and Staff of
The VOICE Publishing Co. Ltd
From all of us at

Business Hours
Mon - Fri:
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
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Lunch Hour

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HAPPY 140th Anniversary

to the Management and Staff of
The Voice Publishing Co. Ltd

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SUN: 8:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

Shining the Spotlight on Staff Members at The VOICE Publishing Company

THE Voice Publishing Company owes its enduring success to the relentless dedication and brilliance of its exceptional staff members. Day after day, week after week, month after month, year after year—they are the heartbeat of the organization, ensuring its thriving presence in the publishing world.

The editorial team, with their sharp eyes and boundless creativity, transform ideas into captivating stories and compelling content. They work tirelessly to ensure every publication reflects the highest standards of excellence, leaving readers informed, inspired, and entertained.

The production and operations team form the backbone of the company, coordinating seamless processes that bring visions to life. From print to digital, they make sure each issue reaches its audience on time and



in pristine quality, overcoming challenges with professionalism and grace.

The sales and marketing team radiates energy and enthusiasm, skillfully connecting The Voice Publishing Company's creations with audiences far and wide. Their innovative strategies not only generate revenue but also strengthen the company's reach and reputation.

Behind the scenes, the administrative staff provide unwavering support. Their expertise in finance, human resources, and logistics keeps the company running like a well-oiled machine. Their attention to detail and dedication often go unnoticed but are indispensable to the company's success.

Together, they embody the spirit of collaboration, resilience, and passion. It's their collective effort that ensures The Voice Publishing Company continues to thrive and evolve, year after year.



Gloria Wray (L) – Customer Service Representative and Rose Felix-Pierre – Sub-Editor



Alice Noel – Creative Arts Executive



Eli Parkinson (sitting) Pressman with Vilan Edward – Managing Director



Providing Financial Solutions to
the Caribbean Since 1891



Demerara Mutual Life Assurance Society Ltd extends its warmest congratulations to **The Voice Publishing Co Ltd.** On this remarkable milestone. We celebrate your legacy and look forward to your continued success.

Best wishes from all of us at Demerara Mutual Life Assurance Society Ltd.!

Demerara Mutual Life Assurance Society Ltd
37 Chisel Street Box 1508, Castries
Tel: 758-452-3979 or 758-453-6626
www.facebook.com/demerara.insurance
www.demeraramutual.net



Matheline Jeremie – Customer Service Representative



Reginald Andrew – Senior Journalist

Cont on Page 47

Shining the Spotlight on Staff Members at The VOICE Publishing Company

Cont from Page 46



Appana P. Gupta - Proofreader



Edith St. Omer – Bindery Clerk



Elsa Prospere – Bindery Clerk

Cont on Page D



Camron Germain - Press Operator



Hayden Murrell - Press Operator



Sharon Fannis – Bindery Clerk



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Congratulates
**The VOICE Publishing
Company Ltd**

On this incredible milestone
From 1885 to date, you have been the pillar
of information and community connection

HAPPY
140th ANNIVERSARY

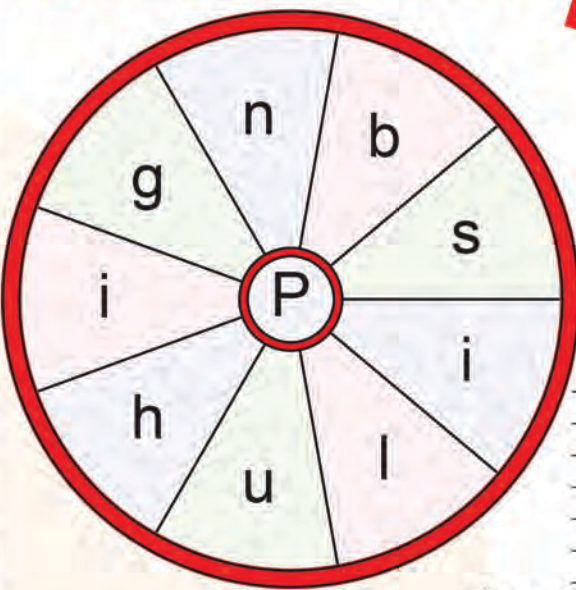
To the Management and Staff

SUDOKU

Fill in the puzzle so that every row across, every column down and every 9 by 9 box contains the numbers 1 to 9.

8		1	7		4	2		
				8	3		9	
9	6					7		
3			5					4
				3		6	7	8
			8		6		2	5
	2	9		5	1			
4		8	3	7			6	9
7		3	9		8	5		

WORDWHEEL PUZZLE



Create as many words possible with the letters in the wordwheel. You can only use each letter once and every word must contain the letter in the center of the wheel.

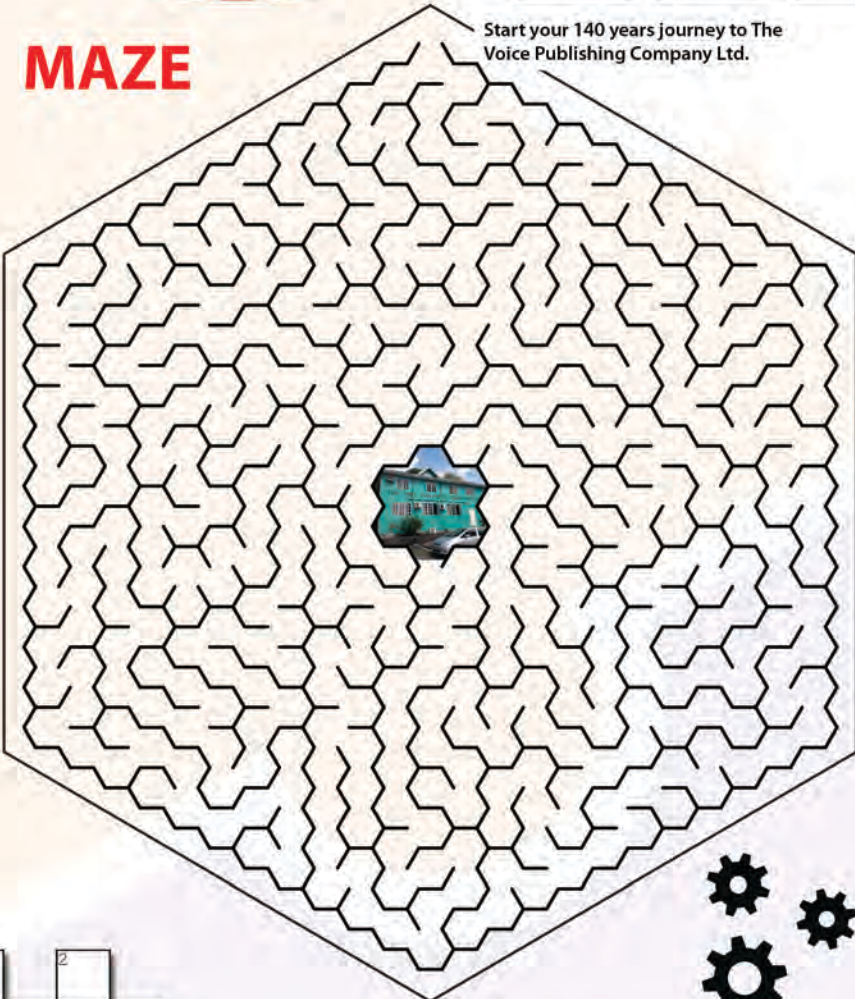
COFFEE BREAK

WORD SEARCH

A	Y	O	C	J	O	U	R	N	A	L	I	S	M
N	S	I	E	S	O	O	N	N	A	E	B	R	O
N	T	N	L	S	E	T	T	O	E	N	R	E	U
I	L	N	E	E	D	I	R	D	N	O	E	K	S
V	U	O	B	R	I	M	A	R	E	T	A	C	T
E	C	V	R	G	T	E	D	O	W	S	K	S	O
R	I	A	A	O	O	L	I	G	S	E	T	R	R
S	A	T	T	R	R	I	T	N	P	L	H	E	I
A	L	I	I	P	I	N	I	R	A	I	R	D	E
R	E	O	O	U	A	E	O	E	P	M	O	A	S
Y	G	N	N	I	L	R	N	A	E	R	U	E	S
R	A	R	T	I	C	L	E	S	R	I	G	R	E
S	C	O	T	Y	P	O	G	R	A	P	H	Y	O
D	Y	G	R	E	G	A	T	I	R	E	H	N	E

JOURNALISM
INNOVATION
NEWSPAPER
TIMELINE
HERITAGE
ARTICLES
GORDON
TYPOGRAPHY
BREAKTHROUGH
ANNIVERSARY
MILESTONE
STORIES
PROGRESS
TRADITION
STLUCIA
READERS
CELEBRATION
LEGACY
EDITORIAL

MAZE



Start your 140 years journey to The Voice Publishing Company Ltd.

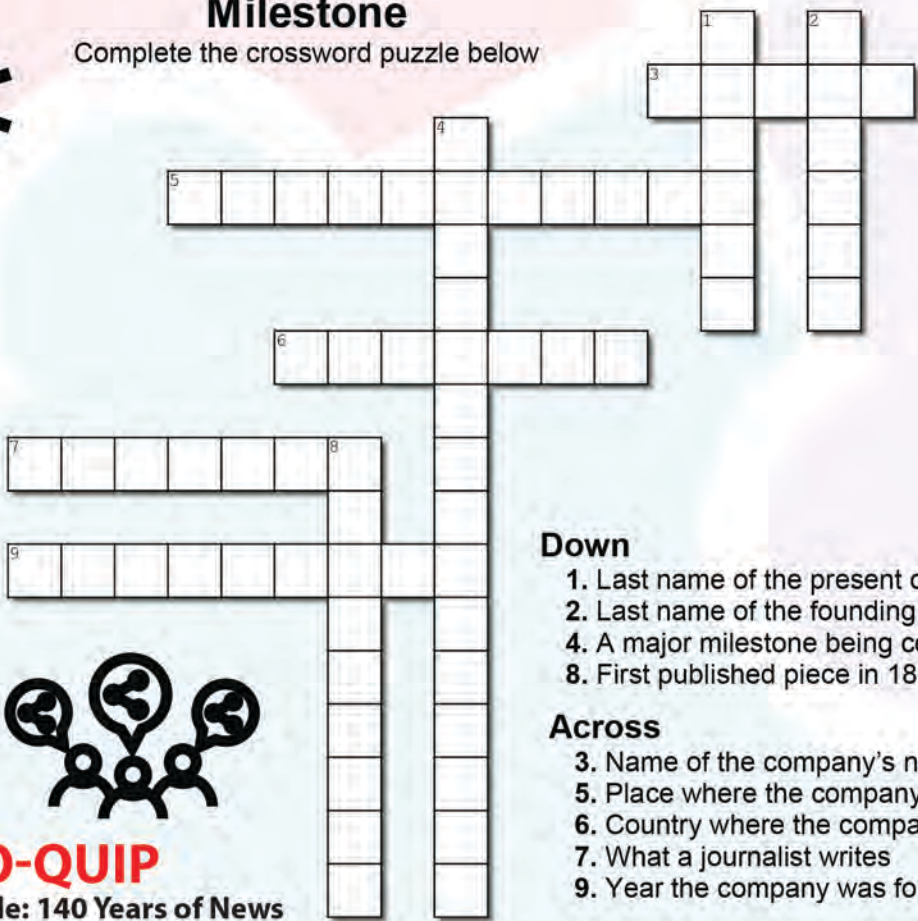


CROSS WORD



Milestone

Complete the crossword puzzle below



Down

1. Last name of the present owners
2. Last name of the founding family
4. A major milestone being celebrated
8. First published piece in 1885

Across

3. Name of the company's newspaper
5. Place where the company's office is l
6. Country where the company operates
7. What a journalist writes
9. Year the company was founded

Word Scramble

YSERNIRAAVN

GCYAEL

PGNTIIRN

SWENRAPPE

SLBIUHGPN

OLRMIUNSAJ

AELSIRTC

OONRGD

DELRAOIIT

ERPSAMSN

MSNTLEIOE

AIRTTONID

SEOOMRNW

AYPHYOPTGR

NNNIOAVTIO

ETLEMINI

MTCYONIUM

EINRLOEBACT

HEEIRAGT

OEICV

CRYPTO-QUIP

Crack the Code: 140 Years of News

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
				17																					

E			E					E							E					
9	2	17	22	7	6	10	17	15	20	17	23	15	10	13	7	14	12	17	19	18
															E					
15	12	26	10	7	16	16	8	12	6	9	13	18	6	12	10	17				

Decode the message.

Each letter in the phrase has been replaced with a random letter or number. Try to decode the message.

Past Publications CON'T



28 Nov 2015 · 🌐
Somehow, I seem to have appeared on the cover of our popular Yo Magazine. Honored to have been interviewed by the charismatic Rae. Much thanks to everyone around the world who's supported and guided me through out my travels.... See more



La burger joint · Follow
5 Sep 2022 · 🌐
This one will be around for a long time to come... See more



Percy Charles – The VOICE Was His Life

OVER the years, The Voice Publishing Company has been fortunate to have had in its employ persons who stayed around for considerably long periods. One of these was Percy Elwinston Charles.

Charles began his career at THE VOICE in 1927. After several years of study and involvement with the printing craft he was appointed Superintendent of the Commercial Printing Department in 1938. Six years later he was made General Superintendent.

In 1958, he became Managing Director

of the company. After 50 years of unbroken service, Charles retired but continued to serve the company as Marketing Director responsible for Advertising and Sales. In March 1981 he was appointed a non executive director.

Charles died in 1995. For more than 60 years he was associated with The VOICE Publishing Company, a



Percy Charles

record of service to the company that remains unmatched.

According to his eldest son, Malcolm: “Apart from his family and his Church, ‘The VOICE’ was his life.”

In 1985, it was Charles who was invited to prepare the text for a booklet printed by the company to mark its centenary.

VOICE Family Says Adieu to Long-Serving Employee

THE VOICE Publishing Company is known not only for its longevity in St. Lucia’s business community and in its untiring efforts at presenting factual information for public consumption, but also for making employees feel safe, anchored in the knowledge that their job is secured – well, almost... That much could be

proven time and time again as, over the years, many employees — well past the fully-stipulated retirement age — continue to serve the company with pride and industry.

Such persons are highly-cherished by the company. They serve as role models to the younger generation entering the family-type work environment adopted by the company over the decades, which has served to develop exceptional talents in different areas.

Therefore, it is heart-breaking when a member of staff has to leave this ‘family’ circle — for whatever reason. And it

becomes even more heart-wrenching when that ‘family’ member leaves after serving the company for more than half his/her life.

June 27, 2018 was one such moment, when members of The Voice family gathered to say goodbye to Mrs. Marie Joy Fanus, after 46 years of unbroken service.

A special space was created for this momentous occasion, decorated with all the trappings of a party bash. Farewells and best wishes were extended, eliciting tears that came and went as the champagne was popped and poured.

Mrs. Fanus gave what one staffer said – to the agreement of others – was her first public speech – or so it was thought – and then opened her many gift packages.

Then the cooler was opened, the finger-foods were un-wrapped and the party began.

Here it is – some of it — and for your eyes only!



A Walk Down Memory Lane

Rubis, VOICE IN Reading Project



Etienne (right) presents a copy of The VOICE to a customer

THE island’s leading petroleum dealership, Rubis, teamed up with The Voice in 2016 to reward customers with up to date news, features and entertainment from the island’s leading newspaper.

The first 30 customers at the 16 stations island wide received a free newspaper once they’d spent \$50 or more.

Speaking from Cyril’s Service Station along Chaussee Road, Rubis County Representative Chad Etienne said in this

day of technology, this was not only their attempt to reward customers but most importantly to get people back into the habit of reading actual papers.

“We realised that people are migrating to electronic media but people still need to read books etc. So we figured if we hand out newspapers, then people will get reintroduced to the feel of reading a paper as opposed to reading from a phone. Everybody has a phone or a tablet or an iPad reading from, but we want them to be out there reading physical papers and

FOR decades THE VOICE has been chronicling carnival events but never being the subject of any portrayal itself.

2015 was an exception. As a sponsor of a section of Barry George’s multi awarding winning band, Just Us Kids portraying “Commercial Break: Tribute to our Sponsors”, THE VOICE was thrust into the spotlight winning a second prize (Individual) through Amelia Charlemagne portraying “Spreading the News” in Sunday’s Junior Carnival.

VOICE Plays Mas



(c) Anthony De Beauville Photography

books hence the decision to have this offer,” Etienne said in 2016.

The County Rep said there was a lot of skepticism surrounding the idea but they decided to push through with it: “I remember when I discussed the idea with the dealers, they were reluctant and felt that Saint Lucians don’t read, but we want the people to read so that they know what’s happening around them,” he added.



In 2017, RUBiS teamed up with The VOICE yet again to give customers a free copy of the newspaper for every \$50.00 of fuel purchased (L-R: RUBiS Marketing Assistant Chriselda Norbal presenting a copy of The VOICE to a customer.)



YEARS OF TELLING ST. LUCIA'S STORY

A Legacy of Journalism. A Future of Possibilities.

Since 1885, **The Voice Newspaper** has been a trusted companion, a national record and a champion of truth.

For 140 years, you have informed and united the people of St. Lucia with powerful storytelling and journalistic excellence.

Here’s to 140 years of excellence and many more ahead!



‘Women of the Week’ and ‘Inspiring Women’

PAGE 14
The Weekend VOICE

WOMEN'S FEATURE

Saturday
4 JUNE, 2016

ALL Women

Woman Of The Week
— Jonelle Antune Thomas —

Jonelle Antune Thomas is a dedicated Primary School Teacher at the St. Lucia Girls' School. She is also a mother of two beautiful girls, a wife, and a community member. She is currently leading the team of the 'Women of the Week' feature in the VOICE newspaper.

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Bright Bouquet Inspiration


June Weddings

Dress Details

Over-the-shoulder gown of white tulle, accented with sweetheart neckline and draped over shoulder sleeves. Tulle skirt with crystal applique and a full skirt. A full skirt. A full skirt.

Woman of the Week (WOTC) was started by Rochelle Gonzales during her stint at The Voice. The column highlighted women across Saint Lucia and served as an inspiration for many. From the regular woman on the street, to former Governor General Dame Pearlette Louisy, WOTC focused on extraordinary

women everywhere. A similar column ('Inspirational Women') emerged not long after, with a similar goal: to highlight the remarkable achievements of women throughout the length and breadths of Saint Lucia with the hope that it would inspire our readers. Today, we look back on these two columns with fondness.



I met her at Constitution Park last week Friday. Three days later, she came to our studio with her daughters for a Mother's Day photoshoot. Her girls are wonderful. By the way, I think my heart melted a little bit that day.

Justin has been self-employed for a long time and she wants to keep it that way. In 2017, she started making coconut milk to sell and eventually her small idea blossomed into something bigger.

"My middle child got a skin irritation from her baby formula. When I stopped using the formula I realized that her skin cleared up. I decided to start making coconut milk so I could use it in her porridge because I wasn't satisfied with what I was getting on the shelf."

Share

f t in s e m

“The official beginning”

— By Stan Bishop —
THIRTEEN years ago today, I stepped into The VOICE Publishing Company as its newest reporter. It was the official beginning of a dream I had long had since my secondary school years: to be a journalist. After about six weeks of freelancing for free, I finally got a call from the editor, Victor Marquis, who told me he needed a temp for two weeks while his lead reporter was away on an

overseas trip. Long story short, a fortnight became ten years, with me serving as Editor for a year before I resigned in February 2018. While there, I got the opportunity to explore the craft, meet so many people from various geographies and travel the world. The VOICE family was my extended family and every story I filed was equally theirs as it was mine. When I registered my new company, Definition Media in February this year,

Francheska Franny Solomon via The Voice St. Lucia News
April 4, 2016 - 21

I was fortunate to be the Woman of the Week in the Voice newspaper. Have a read if you like... or just watch the pictures. Whatever lol
♥♥♥♥♥ to Rochelle and her extra beautiful daughter!



THEVOICESTLUCIA.COM
Francheska Solomon - St. Lucia News From The Voice St. Lucia
Share this story Our WOTW is a hot one...so much so that her nickname is "Franny". Franch...
You and 78 others 16 comments 3 shares

Sherwin Dupes Brice
September 22, 2017 - 13

<http://goa.gl/mkQ6nr>

As the week comes to a close, check out this great article from the The Voice Newspaper St. Lucia featuring the team leader of Dupes Did It Music - Jonelle F James. Learn more about her background, her views on the industry and more in this WOMAN OF THE WEEK feature. And remember Team Work Makes the Dream Work, Thanks Rochelle. #teamdupes #music #stlucia #womeninmusic



Cabbages? Kings? Oases?

— By Victor Marquis —
TWENTY-TWO years ago, I approached the then-editor of the VOICE newspaper, Harry Baptiste with an idea. At the time, St Lucia was extremely divided along political lines and in addition, just about every news story was replete with negativity: crime, disasters both natural and man-made ... the whole situation was one of constant doom and gloom. So, here was my idea: would he consider a column geared at uplifting readers' spirits, a page to which they could go and relax and for a short while at least, put a smile on their faces, even better a chuckle or laugh, and momentary forgetfulness of the turmoil and unpleasantness that was so strongly threatening to dominate their day to day existence? To achieve this end, I decided that,

at no time would any of my articles reflect or deal with any of the following controversial subjects: politics, religion, race or gender issues. No one would feel attacked, discriminated against or offended in any way. This was going to be an oasis where one came to refresh the spirit before going back to face the scorching desert sands of discord and unhappiness reflected in the stark news stories stretching out in every direction in the newspapers. If you wanted serious stuff and a place to vent your weighty opinion, there was other space for that purpose. Not on page 8 of the VOICE! It worked! The column took off and, for 18 years (at 52 Saturdays a year, that means 900 articles) the public would not accept that I stop. Until 4 years ago, when I retired from my post as VOICE editor. – August 30, 2018 (Excerpt)

I'm most thankful for: the people who have made my journey both a learning experience and a dream come true. – April 23, 2021

Shining the Spotlight on Staff Members at The VOICE Publishing Company

Cont from Page 47



Raymond Auguiste – Driver



Voice team members greeting a retired staff member Ms Joyce Fanis (centre)



Jakes Anzie – Gardener



Loretta Evarist (L) and Wray enjoying a moment of relaxation

A graphic illustration of a computer monitor on a desk. The monitor displays the front page of 'THE VOICE' newspaper. Several newspaper pages are shown flying out of the screen into the air. On the desk, there is a keyboard, a mouse, and a pen holder with pens.

On this momentous occasion, the Management and Staff of **The Computer Store** extend congratulations to **The Voice Publishing Company** on its **140th anniversary**

Your dedication to keeping our community informed, enlightened and empowered with the news is truly commendable.

Just as we at The Computer Store strive to bring innovation and quality to our customers, The Voice continues to bring integrity and reliability to the stories that shape our lives.

We celebrate this milestone with you and look forward to many more years of your invaluable contribution to our society.

Happy

140th

ANNIVERSARY,

THE VOICE!!

PM Drew Commits to Leading CARICOM-Africa Connection in 2026

THE curtains closed Thursday, March 27th, on the landmark Afri-Caribbean Investment Summit 2025 (AACIS 25) in Abuja, Nigeria, with a powerful address by Prime Minister of St. Kitts and Nevis, Dr. Terrance M. Drew. Over the past three days, the summit has brought together government leaders, business executives, cultural icons, and development partners from across Africa and the Caribbean in a united mission to strengthen ties and shape a shared economic future.

Delivering the summit’s closing remarks, Prime Minister Drew reflected on the significance of the moment and reaffirmed his commitment to turning dialogue into development. “This was no ordinary summit,” he declared. “It was a declaration of purpose.”

The Prime Minister expressed deep gratitude to the host country, the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and to Ms Aisha Maina and the Aquarian Consult team for creating a space of meaningful exchange and collaboration. He also acknowledged the Afreximbank for its role in championing Afro-Caribbean partnerships.

A key highlight of his closing message was the announcement of his intention to bring Caribbean leadership back to Abuja in 2026 during his tenure as Chairman of the CARICOM Heads of Government.

“In February of 2026, I shall be the Chairman of the CARICOM Group of Nations, and I will use that platform to connect Africa and the Caribbean at a summit that will be grandeur in Abuja,” the Prime Minister announced. “I intend in 2026 not to return alone, but to bring with me fellow leaders from other CARICOM countries.”

Framing this move as part of a broader legacy of bold, nation-shaping decisions, Prime Minister Drew shared his motivation. “Some might ask why I chose to embark on an event like this... It is because deep in my heart and understanding my own personal history, I know that at times, one has to take bold steps and set the path afire so that others can tread.”

Over the course of the summit, the Prime Minister engaged in critical conversations on finance, climate resilience, and access to capital, and observed strong representation from St. Kitts and Nevis across a wide range of sessions—from agriculture and tourism to sustainable development and the creative economy.

The final day of the summit also featured well-crafted presentations from key members of the St. Kitts and Nevis delegation. Dr. Natta Nelson, Cabinet Secretary and Head of the ASPIRE Programme, delivered an insightful presentation on the transformative goals

of the initiative, while, His Excellency Larry Vaughan, Ambassador to CARICOM and OECS, spoke compellingly on the importance of both acknowledging and leveraging the similarities and differences between Africa and the Caribbean—not as divisions, but as powerful tools to foster meaningful collaboration, mutual growth, and a stronger collective identity.

US Secretary of State promises equipment, technology, and other assistance for Jamaica’s anti-crime fight

SINCE the start of this year, Jamaica has recorded a 34 per cent decline in murders compared to the corresponding period last year, with a 19 per cent decline in all major crimes, which Rubio noted and described as impressive.

But with the fear of crime remaining high across the island, Rubio emerged from bilateral talks with Prime Minister Dr Andrew Holness in Kingston on Wednesday to announce that the US wants to do more to assist in the fight against crime.

According to Rubio, it is acknowledged that many of the guns used to commit crimes in Jamaica are purchased in the US and shipped here.

“We want to commit to doing more to stop that flow at the same time as we commit to increasing the capacity [of Jamaica].

“What we are talking about here when we talk about American assistance is America helping Jamaica build its own capacity, its own ability to confront these challenges and solve these problems, because security is a baseline for everything,” said Rubio.

The secretary of state also announced that the Joint Operations Linked to Telemarketing Fusion Centre — a collaborative effort between US and Jamaican law enforcement agencies which tackles lottery scamming and cybercrime — will be strengthened.

“We can announce synthetics detection equipment for Jamaica’s forensic labs, a counter-gang recruitment programme that we seek to launch as a result of our visit here today. And I will announce something that I think is very important — software for law enforcement [agencies] here in Jamaica to combat gangs. Things like night vision goggles technology, and we look to do more,” declared Rubio after earlier saying that the US is committed to strengthening ties with Jamaica, one of Washington’s most

steadfast partners in the Caribbean.

“The ties between the people of the United States and Jamaica don’t need to be explained — they’re incredibly strong,” added Rubio.

In welcoming Rubio to Jamaica, Holness said the two countries have long been united by a common commitment to freedom, prosperity, and security, “and your visit today reaffirms that bond”.

According to Holness, the discussion with Rubio was productive, constructive, and focused on strengthening the partnership between the two countries while expanding opportunities for collaboration.

On the vexing security issue, Holness said, “We reaffirmed our commitment to enhancing cooperation in combating transnational crime, ensuring the collective safety of our citizens and mutually secured borders.

“We discussed a global war on gangs and there is already significant policy alignment with both countries in this regard.”

The prime minister added, “The United States has been instrumental in supporting Jamaica’s efforts to bolster its marine domain awareness and intelligence surveillance capacities, which are crucial in our fight against organised criminal networks.”

Holness also said the talks covered expanding and repurposing development assistance towards both countries’ shared goals, including security.

“This will exponentially expand our cooperation in fighting lottery scammers, transnational organised crime, trafficking in guns, and building safer communities. We are committed to ensuring our partnership delivers results in driving down criminality and trafficking in this hemisphere,” said Holness.

Trinidadian soldier among suspects detained with fake US currency

POLICE on Wednesday said that they had detained two suspects, including a member of the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force, and seized a quantity of United States and Trinidad and Tobago currencies.

The police said that “a victim” had reported to them that he met a man at the Hilton Hotel on the outskirts of the capital on Tuesday evening to purchase US\$10,000.

“He said he first purchased US\$6 000 paying a sum of TT\$42 600, and then made an additional purchase of US\$4 000, paying a sum of TT\$28 400,” the police said in a

statement, adding that “after the seller left, the victim made checks of the currency with a UV light and found the bills to be fake”

The police said that the victim, contacted the seller to make an additional purchase and upon his arrival at the hotel, the suspect, a 24- year-old soldier, was arrested by officers.

“Based on inquiries, officers arrested another suspect, aged 45, who was found in possession of US\$1 750. A subsequent search of his house resulted in the discovery of US\$3 800 and TT\$14 000 in a bedroom,” the statement added. (CMC)

DLP slams government as Barbados records 12 murders in 13 weeks

TWELVE murders in thirteen weeks!

That is the “grim statistic” to which Barbados awoke this morning with the death of 13-year-old Shawnoton Chase, said Democratic Labour Party (DLP) spokesperson on Home Affairs and The Office of the Attorney General, Verla De Peiza.

Chase was shot multiple times in the abdomen and chest around 7:48 p.m. while watching a netball match at the hard courts next to the Chesterfield Brewster Youth Empowerment Centre at Silver Hill, Christ Church. He was taken to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital by private vehicle, but succumbed to those injuries while undergoing treatment.

“We are distressed though that the blood-letting in our streets continues without pause and without comment or accountability by government. How much more can our people take without demanding the firing of the Attorney General?” De Peiza asked in a statement.

“It is evident that a changing of the guard is required and the Democratic Labour Party challenges the government to show firm leadership in the fight against crime by demanding the resignation of the Attorney General.”

The DLP also offered condolences to Chase’s family and The Lodge School, of which Chase was a student. (PR/SAT)

University of Antigua and Barbuda legislation set for Parliament

LEGISLATION to establish The University of Antigua and Barbuda-College of Advanced Studies will be presented to Parliament when it next meets on April 8, 2025.

Ambassador Hurst confirmed that the act aims to consolidate all tertiary institutions currently operating under separate boards and management structures, including the

Antigua State College, Antigua and Barbuda International Institute of Technology, Antigua and Barbuda Hospitality Training Institute, and the Harrison Center.

The consolidation is intended to reduce administrative costs and increase efficiency, while maintaining the existing physical facilities of each institution.

“The idea is to somehow combine them in a way that makes

it easier for students to access them and for the students to learn these new technologies that are proliferating around the world,” Hurst said.

While the legislation will receive its first reading next month, the ambassador could not provide a specific timeline for the complete integration of the institutions.

US suspends financial contributions to WTO, trade sources say



A red light is pictured at a pedestrian crossing in front of the World Trade Organization headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, December 9, 2019. Picture taken December 9, 2019. REUTERS/Denis Balibouse

By Emma Farge

GENEVA, March 27 (Reuters) - The United States has paused contributions to the World Trade Organization, three trade sources told Reuters, as U.S. President Donald Trump's administration ramps up efforts to cut government spending.

The Trump administration is retreating from global institutions it sees as at odds with his "America First" economic policies. It plans to quit some, such as the World Health

Organization, and has cut contributions to others as part of a broad review of federal spending.

The WTO has already been hobbled by a U.S. move in 2019 during Trump's first term to block new judge appointments to its top appeals court, which left its key dispute settlement system only partially functional. Washington had accused the WTO Appellate Body of judicial overreach in trade disputes.

The Geneva-based trade watchdog had an annual budget of 205 million Swiss francs

(\$232.06 million) in 2024. The United States was due to contribute about 11% of that based on a fees system that is proportionate to its share of global trade, according to public WTO documents.

A U.S. delegate told a March 4 WTO budget meeting that its payments to the 2024 and 2025 budgets were on hold pending a review of contributions to international organisations and that it would inform the WTO of the outcome at an unspecified date, two trade sources with direct knowledge of the meeting said.

A third trade source confirmed their account and said the WTO was coming up with a "Plan B" in case of a prolonged funding pause, without elaborating.

All three sources asked for confidentiality because the budget meeting was private and the U.S. funding pause has not been formally announced.

The White House did not immediately respond to requests for comment. A spokesperson for the U.S. mission to the WTO in Geneva did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

In the nuclear medicine department of London's University College Hospital,00:2702:33

WTO spokesperson Ismaila Dieng referred questions to U.S. authorities.

"Generally, arrears can impact the operational capacity of the WTO Secretariat. But the Secretariat continues

to manage its resources prudently and has plans in place to enable it to operate within the financial limitations imposed by any arrears," he said.

As of end-December 2024, the United States had arrears of 22.7 million Swiss francs (\$25.70 million), according to a WTO document obtained by Reuters marked "RESTRICTED" and dated February 21.

Under WTO rules, any member that fails to pay its dues after more than a year is subject to "administrative measures" - a series of punitive steps that get progressively stricter the longer the fees go unpaid.

The country is now classified as being in the first of three such categories, two of the trade sources confirmed to Reuters, which means its representatives can no longer preside over WTO bodies nor receive formal documentation.

Reuters could not immediately establish if the WTO was already applying these measures to the United States.

WTO spokesperson Dieng confirmed that the chair of the budget committee had informed WTO members that the United States was currently in "Category 1 arrears", along with other countries.

"It remains the responsibility of WTO Members to implement the consequences associated with arrears," he said.

As of end-2024, five other member countries - Bolivia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Gabon and Gambia - were in that category, the WTO restricted document showed.

A total of 38.4 million Swiss francs (\$43.47 million) of contributions were outstanding, including unpaid fees from 2024 and prior, it showed.

Germany leads defiance to Trump car tariffs, saying it 'will not give in'

Megan Fisher

GERMANY has said it "will not give in" and that Europe must "respond firmly" as US President Donald Trump targets imported cars and car parts with a 25% tax in his latest tariffs.

Other major world economies have vowed to retaliate, with France's president branding the move "a waste of time" and "incoherent", Canada calling it a "direct attack", and China accusing Washington of violating international trade rules.

Carmaker stocks from Japan to Germany dipped. In the US, General Motors dropped 7%, while Ford fell more than 2%.

Trump has threatened to impose "far larger" tariffs if Europe works with Canada to do what he describes as "economic harm" to the US.

The fresh car tariffs will come into effect on 2 April, with charges on businesses importing vehicles starting the next day. Taxes on parts are set to start in May or later.

Trump has long maintained the tariffs are part of a drive to help US manufacturing and says if cars are made in America there will be "absolutely no tariff".

Tariffs are taxes charged on goods imported from other countries.

While the measures can protect domestic businesses, they also raise costs for companies reliant on parts from abroad.

The firms that bring foreign goods into the country pay the tax to the government. Firms may choose to pass on some or all of the cost of tariffs to customers.

The US imported about eight million cars last year - accounting for about \$240bn (£186bn) in trade and roughly half of overall sales.

Mexico is the top supplier of cars to the US, followed by South Korea, Japan, Canada and Germany.

Analysts have estimated that tariffs on parts just from Canada and Mexico could lead to costs rising by \$4,000-\$10,000 depending on the vehicle, according to the Anderson Economic Group.

German Economy Minister Robert Habeck said the European Union must "respond firmly".

"It must be clear that we will not give in to the US. We need to show strength and self-confidence," he added.

France backed this joint approach, with its finance minister saying Europe must retaliate with tariffs on US products.

At a press conference on Thursday, French President Emmanuel Macron said it was "not the time" for the US to be imposing tariffs.

"Imposing tariffs means breaking value chains, it means creating in the short term an inflationary effect and destroying jobs," he said in Paris.

"All of this is rather a waste of time and will create a lot of worry," he added, urging Trump to reconsider.

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney called the tariffs a "direct attack" on his country and its car industry, adding it "will hurt us", but trade options were being discussed.

In the UK, car industry body the SMMT said the car tariffs announcement was "not surprising but disappointing".

Uniparts founder John Neill said the Trump tariffs were "a gift to the Chinese" because international consumers would respond to a trade war by buying Chinese alternatives.

Meanwhile, China accused Trump of violating World Trade Organization rules.

"There are no winners in a trade war or a tariff war. No country's development and prosperity has been achieved by imposing tariffs," a spokesman for the foreign ministry said.

There are warnings from Japan that there will be a "significant impact" on the economic relationship it shares with the US. A government spokesman described the measures as "extremely regrettable" and said officials had asked the US for an exemption.

In South Korea, a day before the latest levy, Hyundai announced it would invest \$21bn (£16.3bn) in the US and build a new steel plant in Louisiana.

Trump hailed the investment as a "clear demonstration that tariffs very strongly work".

Bosch - based in Germany - said it had confidence in the "long-term potential" of the North American market and would continue to expand its business there.

The International Monetary Fund said it was not projecting a US recession, but warned a trade war could have a "significant adverse effect" on Canada and Mexico's economic outlooks.

HIV and AIDS deaths could increase globally amid US aid freeze, UN says



A man puts up a banner at the Wits Reproductive Health and HIV Institute in Johannesburg, South Africa (EPA/STR)

THERE could be 2,000 new HIV infections a day across the world and a tenfold increase in related deaths, possibly in the millions in the years to come, if funding frozen by the United States is not restored or replaced, the United Nations AIDS agency has said.

US President Donald Trump put almost all US foreign aid on hold upon taking office on January 20. Days later, the US Department of State said life-saving HIV work under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) would continue.

But the disruption to health funding and the impact on broader services were having a devastating impact on people living with HIV/AIDS, UNAIDS executive director Winnie Byanyima told reporters in Geneva on Monday.

"This sudden withdrawal of US funding has been shutting down many clinics, laying off thousands of health workers ... All this means that we expect to see new infections rising. UNAIDS has estimated that we could see 2,000 new infections every day," she said.

She added that if funding from the US Agency for International Development (USAID) did not resume at the end of the 90-day pause, in April, or was not replaced

by another government, "there will be, in the next four years, an additional 6.3 million AIDS deaths."

"We'll see it come back, and we'll see people die the way we saw them in the '90s and in the 2000s," she said.

Byanyima said the figures were based on UN modelling, but did not give more details on how the estimates had been reached.

According to the latest data, there were 600,000 AIDS-related deaths globally in 2023.

UNAIDS, which coordinates the global response to preventing and treating HIV/AIDS, received \$50m in core funding last year from the US, representing 35 per cent of the UN agency's budget.

The Trump administration has said the funding was frozen to ensure it was in line with the president's "America First" policy. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has dismissed concerns that Washington is ending foreign aid, saying waivers had been provided for life-saving services.

Trump's team members say they have saved US taxpayers tens of billions of dollars through rapid-fire moves to cancel contracts, fire workers and root out fraud and waste in the government, although they have offered little evidence to support that assertion.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE SUMMARY CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

To the Shareholders of East Caribbean Financial Holding Company Limited

Our opinion

In our opinion, the accompanying summary consolidated financial statements of East Caribbean Financial Holding Company Limited (the Company) and its subsidiary (together 'the Group') are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited consolidated financial statements, on the basis described in note 1.

The summary consolidated financial statements

The Group's summary consolidated financial statements derived from the audited consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2024 comprise:

- the summary consolidated statement of financial position as at December 31, 2024;
- the summary consolidated statement of profit or loss for the year then ended;
- the summary consolidated statement of comprehensive income for the year then ended;
- the summary consolidated statement of changes in equity for the year then ended;
- the summary consolidated statement of cash flows for the year then ended; and
- the related notes to the summary consolidated financial statements.

The summary consolidated financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by IFRS Accounting Standards. Reading the consolidated summary financial statements and the auditors' report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited consolidated financial statements and the auditors' report thereon.

The audited consolidated financial statements and our report thereon

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the audited consolidated financial statements in our report dated March 28, 2025. That report also includes:

- The communication of key audit matters. Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgement, were of most significance in our audit of the audited consolidated financial statements of the current period.

Management's responsibility for the summary consolidated financial statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of the summary consolidated financial statements on the basis described in note 1.

Auditors' responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary consolidated financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited consolidated financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with International Standard on Auditing 810 (Revised), 'Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements'.

PricewaterhouseCoopers

Chartered Accountants
Castries, St. Lucia
March 28, 2025

SUMMARY CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS
December 31, 2024
(Expressed in Eastern Caribbean dollars)

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Net interest income	93,972	75,665
Other operating income	91,911	78,094
Impairment recovery	8,918	10,831
Operating expenses	(99,206)	(87,998)
Share of profit of associates	16,371	10,229
Dividends on preference shares	(291)	(291)
Profit for the year before income tax	111,675	86,530
Income tax expense	(19,291)	(11,867)
Profit for the year	92,384	74,663
- basic	3.78	3.05
- diluted	3.65	2.95

SUMMARY CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
December 31, 2024
(Expressed in Eastern Caribbean dollars)

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Net cash from operating activities	543,102	245,901
Net cash used in investing activities	(309,672)	(83,563)
Net cash used in financing activities	(41,139)	(25,275)
Increase in cash and cash equivalents	192,291	137,063
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	371,220	234,157
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	563,511	371,220

SUMMARY CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
December 31, 2024
(Expressed in Eastern Caribbean dollars)

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Assets		
Cash, balances with Central Bank and deposits with other banks and non-bank financial institutions	1,041,993	799,849
Investment securities	1,256,041	950,447
Loans and advances to customers	909,020	859,465
Property and equipment	73,903	71,317
Investment properties	31,463	31,282
Other assets	312,210	273,690
Total assets	3,624,630	2,986,050
Liabilities		
Due to customers and deposits from banks	2,979,134	2,412,429
Borrowings	-	26,293
Other liabilities	205,334	191,490
Total liabilities	3,184,468	2,630,212
Equity		
Share capital	170,081	170,081
Reserves	270,081	185,757
Total equity	440,162	355,838
Total liabilities and equity	3,624,630	2,986,050

Approved by the Board of Directors on:



Director



Director

SUMMARY CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
December 31, 2024
(Expressed in Eastern Caribbean dollars)

	Ordinary shares \$'000	Reserves \$'000	Total equity \$'000
Balance at January 1, 2023	170,081	104,647	274,728
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	93,298	93,298
Contributions to student loan guarantee fund	-	45	45
Dividends paid	-	(12,233)	(12,233)
Balance at December 31, 2023	170,081	185,757	355,838
Balance at January 1, 2024	170,081	185,757	355,838
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	99,003	99,003
Dividends paid	-	(14,679)	(14,679)
Balance at December 31, 2024	170,081	270,081	440,162

SUMMARY CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
December 31, 2024
(Expressed in Eastern Caribbean dollars)

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Profit for the year	92,384	74,663
Other comprehensive income		
OCI reserve	7,465	19,043
Re-measurement loss on defined benefit pension plan (net of tax)	(846)	(408)
Total comprehensive income for the year	99,003	93,298

NOTES TO THE SUMMARY CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
Note 1. Basis of presentation

The consolidated audited financial statements are prepared in accordance with IFRS Accounting Standards. The summary consolidated financial statements are prepared in accordance with criteria developed by management. Under management's established criteria, management discloses the summary consolidated statement of financial position, summary consolidated statement of profit or loss, summary consolidated statement of comprehensive income, summary consolidated statement of changes in equity and summary consolidated statement of cash flows. These summary consolidated financial statements are derived from the audited consolidated financial statements of East Caribbean Financial Holding Company Limited and its subsidiary for the year ended 31 December 2024.



Bank of Saint Lucia
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BANK OF SAINT LUCIA LIMITED
SUMMARY CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE SUMMARY CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

To the Shareholder of Bank of Saint Lucia Limited

Our opinion

In our opinion, the accompanying summary consolidated financial statements of Bank of Saint Lucia Limited (the Company) and its subsidiaries (together 'the Group') are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited consolidated financial statements, on the basis described in note 1.

The summary consolidated financial statements

The Group's summary consolidated financial statements derived from the audited consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2024 comprise:

- the summary consolidated statement of financial position as at December 31, 2024;
- the summary consolidated statement of profit or loss and comprehensive income for the year then ended;
- the summary consolidated statement of changes in equity for the year then ended;
- the summary consolidated statement of cash flows for the year then ended; and
- the related notes to the summary consolidated financial statements.

The summary consolidated financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by IFRS Accounting Standards. Reading the consolidated summary financial statements and the auditors' report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited consolidated financial statements and the auditors' report thereon.

The audited consolidated financial statements and our report thereon

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the audited consolidated financial statements in our report dated March 28, 2025.

Management's responsibility for the summary consolidated financial statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of the summary consolidated financial statements on the basis described in note 1.

Auditors' responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary consolidated financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited consolidated financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with International Standard on Auditing 810 (Revised), 'Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements'.

PricewaterhouseCoopers

Chartered Accountants
Castries, St. Lucia
March 28, 2025

SUMMARY CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

December 31, 2024
(Expressed in Eastern Caribbean dollars)

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Net interest income	93,972	75,665
Other operating income	101,043	83,915
Impairment recovery	8,918	10,831
Operating expenses	(99,205)	(87,998)
Dividends on preference shares	(291)	(291)
Profit for the year before income tax	104,437	82,122
Income tax expense	(19,291)	(11,867)
Profit for the year	85,146	70,255
Other comprehensive income:		
OCI reserve	6,898	18,835
Re-measurement loss on defined benefit pension plan (net of tax)	(846)	(408)
Total comprehensive income for the year	91,198	88,682

NOTES TO THE SUMMARY CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
Note 1. Basis of presentation

The consolidated audited financial statements are prepared in accordance with IFRS Accounting Standards. The summary consolidated financial statements are prepared in accordance with criteria developed by management. Under management's established criteria, management discloses the summary consolidated statement of financial position, summary consolidated statement of profit or loss

and comprehensive income, summary consolidated statement of changes in equity and summary consolidated statement of cash flows. These summary consolidated financial statements are derived from the audited consolidated financial statements of Bank of Saint Lucia Limited and its subsidiaries for the year ended 31 December 2024.

SUMMARY CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
December 31, 2024
(Expressed in Eastern Caribbean dollars)

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Assets		
Cash, balances with Central Bank and deposits with other banks and non-bank financial institutions	1,041,993	799,849
Investment securities	1,256,833	951,239
Loans and advances to customers	909,020	859,465
Property and equipment	73,903	71,317
Investment properties	31,463	31,282
Due from related parties	62,254	71,534
Other assets	268,867	235,841
Total assets	3,644,333	3,020,527
Liabilities		
Due to customers and deposits from banks	2,982,140	2,415,435
Borrowings	-	26,293
Other liabilities	205,547	191,701
Total liabilities	3,187,687	2,633,429
Equity		
Share capital	265,103	265,103
Reserves	191,543	121,995
Total equity	456,646	387,098
Total liabilities and equity	3,644,333	3,020,527

Forster Innes

Director

[Signature]

Director

SUMMARY CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
December 31, 2024
(Expressed in Eastern Caribbean dollars)

	Share Capital \$'000	Reserves \$'000	Total \$'000
Balance at January 1, 2023	265,103	49,975	315,078
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	88,682	88,682
Dividends paid	-	(16,662)	(16,662)
Balance at December 31, 2023	265,103	121,995	387,098
Balance at January 1, 2024	265,103	121,995	387,098
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	91,198	91,198
Dividends paid	-	(21,650)	(21,650)
Balance at December 31, 2024	265,103	191,543	456,646

SUMMARY CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
December 31, 2024
(Expressed in Eastern Caribbean dollars)

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Net cash generated from operating activities	543,102	245,947
Net cash used in investing activities	(309,672)	(83,564)
Net cash used in financing activities	(41,139)	(25,320)
Increase in cash and cash equivalents	192,291	137,063
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	371,220	234,157
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	563,511	371,220



Bank of Saint Lucia
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Leveraging National Sovereignty to Build Resilience

SOVEREIGNTY implies that Independent countries can self-govern free from external control.

Saint Lucia is self-governing to the extent that 46 years ago, it ceased being a British colony. Over this time, it has managed its internal affairs (passed its own laws, policies, and Budgets, etc.), and its external affairs (determined the countries with whom it would seek to build friendly relations). However, the sobering reality is that with their inherent vulnerabilities, including their small size, open economies, and heavy dependence on strategic imports, SIDS, like Saint Lucia, cannot claim to be truly independent. At some stage, they have had to bow to the dictates of powerful countries, exercised directly or through multilateral organizations, such as the World Bank and the IMF on issues, such as capital punishment, economic incentives, structural adjustment and loan conditionalities.

Even so, I have argued for some time that SIDS should stop treating vulnerability and dependence as fatal illnesses and urgently do all they can to build social, economic and environmental resilience and to strengthen their de facto Independence.

Against this background, it was deeply pleasing to note that on March 14, 2025, Saint Lucia’s House of Assembly debated and passed a Sovereign Wealth Fund (SWF) Bill, to support investments in climate change adaptation, mitigation and sustainable economic development. It’s not clear why sustainable economic development is treated as a separate area, as it is not achievable in the absence of effective climate change adaptation and mitigation. However, this observation in no way diminishes the laudatory intentions and likely positive benefits of the proposed SWF.

There isn’t one SIDS leader over the past 30 years or so, who hasn’t flagged climate change as an existential threat to the sustainable development of SIDS. While nearly all SIDS have developed policies and strategies to adapt to and mitigate climate change, not many have taken deliberate steps to

self-finance the implementation of these instruments. Many SIDS appear to be awaiting funding promised by developed countries, which have yet to be fulfilled.

The inclusion of climate change mitigation as a focus area of the SWF is noteworthy. I readily confess to being among the early critics of the Paris Accord (PA) who argued that because SIDS generate a minuscule amount of greenhouse gases (GHGs) that cause climate change, mitigation is not their responsibility. In hindsight, I accepted that committing all countries to reduce their carbon footprint should benefit SIDS. If they rely more on renewable energy and use traditional forms of energy more efficiently, SIDS will save precious foreign exchange and national income which they can use to pursue climate-resilient development.

Provided it is well managed, Saint Lucia’s SWF can achieve its intended purpose. Some 90 countries around the world have their own SWFs, with total assets of more than \$8 trillion. The largest of these are in Norway and China, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Abu Dhabi, and Singapore. Nearly half of US states have set up SWFs, with those owned by Alaska, North Dakota, and Texas being among the biggest of the lot. President Trump plans to establish an SWF with more than \$2 trillion in assets.

Most global SWFs are based on surplus revenues from: the sale of commodities; foreign exchange reserves derived from exports; and tax revenue. According to the Bill, Saint Lucia’s SWF will be financed primarily from: monies from the Saint Lucia National Economic Fund; capital from privatization proceeds; dividends received on investment; and funds from other sources approved by the Board of the SWF. If surpluses are to ‘energise’ the SWF, wasteful expenditure will have to be curbed and underutilized public assets put to more productive use, or transferred to the private sector, if this is determined to be in the national interest.

Much of the Bill aims at ensuring the SWF is prudently managed. This emphasis is justified by the role that

corruption, nepotism, political partisanship and interference have played in the collapse of some large SWFs. These failures prompted the adoption in 2008 of “The Santiago Principles” which emphasize transparency, accountability, and sound investment practices and aim to: (a) maintain a stable global financial system and free flow of capital and investment; (b) promote compliance with all applicable regulatory and disclosure requirements in the countries in which SWFs invest; (c) ensure that SWFs investments are based on economic and financial risk and return-related considerations; and (d) ensure that SWFs have in place a transparent and sound governance structure that provides adequate operational controls, risk management, and accountability.

In short order, the Board of Saint Lucia’s SWF will have to develop clear rules to determine what portion of revenue can be spent/saved; when withdrawals can be made from the fund; and where revenue can be invested in foreign or domestic assets.

While these imperatives help to explain the emphasis on people with sound backgrounds in economics, finance, accounting and law on the SWF’s Board, it is hoped that ultimately, people with a background in climate change adaptation and mitigation will be included. This recommendation is easily justified, not only by the fact that climate change is the *raison d’être* for the creation of the SWF, but also because of the link that the Bill establishes between the SWF and Saint Lucia’s Climate Change Adaptation Policy (CCAP), and by extension to Saint Lucia’s Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), which outlines the efforts it will take to reduce its carbon emissions.

However, merely linking the SWF with the CCAP and NDC will not automatically produce climate-resilient development. The plans in both documents will have to be converted into fungible projects that are designed with climate risk in mind. In addition to “process risk” and “people risk” the SWF Board must always include climate risk in its investment decisions. Here, it should be guided by the behaviour of insurance companies and “think twice” before investing in any country or region where these companies do not have a strong presence.

WASCO to Saint Lucians – Safeguard the Island’s Water Resources

By Reginald Andrew

THE Water and Sewerage Company (WASCO) is calling on Saint Lucians to safeguard the island’s water resources in the face of a looming drought threat.

The water company said that together, citizens can adopt effective adaptation strategies to tackle this pressing issue.

WASCO, in a recent interactive workshop was clear that “we must conserve water now more than ever.”

The alarming rise in greenhouse gas emissions is not just a global crisis; it continues to wreak havoc on the island’s local climate. These emissions trap the sun’s heat, leading to longer droughts and extreme weather patterns that endanger the country’s water supply.

Particularly concerning is the condition of WASCO’s Roseau dam, the island’s largest water reservoir, which highlights the stark realities of climate change. This critical resource, responsible for supplying the northern region of Saint Lucia, is under tight surveillance as the impending water crisis looms.

Currently, the water level at the dam stands at 317.6 feet, which is lower than the optimal capacity needed to meet the population’s demands. A WASCO technician stated, “If we don’t change our approach, we risk losing about 6 inches of water capacity. We’re not sustaining our production levels.”

He said that to adequately serve the population, WASCO needs to provide between 8.5 to 10 million gallons daily, but right now, they are only supplying about 65% of the required amount.

WASCO reminds its clientele that as a nation, citizens hold the power and responsibility to protect homes, livelihoods, and heritage from the undeniable impacts of climate change, noting that, “We must embrace adaptation to build our climate resilience.”

Building climate resilience entails a comprehensive assessment of risks and actionable steps to mitigate them. So, what is Saint Lucia doing to enhance its climate resilience?

“Saint Lucia is committed to strengthening its climate resilience through a multi-faceted approach,” a WASCO team member explained. This includes policy initiatives, legislative reforms, raising awareness, and bolstering

community capacity.

Additionally, tangible, on-the-ground actions are being identified to directly combat climate change. Central to these efforts is the National Adaptation Plan (NAP), a forward-looking strategy extending from 2018 to 2028.

This key initiative is designed to bolster the island’s resilience and guide the implementation of Saint Lucia’s Climate Change Adaptation Policy. The NAP delineates eight priority sectors for Adaptation Action and is complemented by Sectoral Adaptation Strategies and Action Plan Strategies (SASAPS).

These frameworks provide a roadmap for action across various sectors, including water management, agriculture, fisheries, ecosystems, infrastructure, health, education, and tourism. The SASAPS framework outlines immediate to long-term measures to address current and future climate challenges.

One vital focus area is the preservation of Saint Lucia’s coral reefs, which serve as critical habitats for marine life and help protect the coastlines against erosion as they thrive.

Climate Adaptation is about taking deliberate steps to respond to inevitable climate changes. Beginning with simple actions can make a significant difference—like planting a tree, which enhances the environment by providing shade, and food, and supporting the island’s forest ecosystems.

“We can adapt to these changes by planting trees and managing our existing flora and fauna responsibly,” WASCO emphasized.

By nurturing the island’s biodiversity, citizens can significantly enhance their resilience against climate disruption.

WASCO’s Chief Operations Officer, Aly Anthony, has highlighted the essential ongoing assessments being conducted. He urged that the “deteriorating old infrastructure” must be urgently replaced to prevent further water loss.

He highlighted the detrimental impact of heavy-duty vehicles on these aging pipelines, which leads to leaks that compromise the water supply.

SLCFA urges Saint Lucians to oppose efforts to end the Cuban medical programme

THE Saint Lucia-Cuba Friendship Association (SLCFA) is urging Saint Lucians to join other Caribbean and Latin American citizens in voicing opposition to US efforts to bring an end to a long-lasting Cuban medical assistance programme that’s treated over 10,000 citizens with free eye care and hundreds more for ailments needing specialised medical care in Havana.

The SLCFA hosted a protest event in Constitution Park in Castries last Saturday, March 22, calling on Saint Lucians who’ve benefitted from Cuban medical care to support the association’s opposition to the threat by the US State Department to impose sanctions against government officials and citizens – including Cubans – involved in the Henry reeve Medical Brigade.

The brigade has sent thousands of Cuban doctors, nurses and medical professionals to over 160 countries worldwide and there are scores pf Cuban doctors, nurses and medical professionals providing ongoing service at the former Victoria Hospital in Castries.

Th brigade also dispatched thousands of Cuban caregivers to Saint Lucia and all CARICOM member-states to combat the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

Cuban doctors and other medical professionals are also offering services at all public hospitals and medical centers, as well as private services at local clinics.

Saturday’s even was also attended by some Saint Lucian medical professionals who graduated from Cuba, as well as citizens who benefitted from Cuban medical care over the past four decades.

SLCFA President Marlene Alexander says: “Saint Lucians know the value of Cuba’s medical assistance and we expect them to make their voices heard while this discussion continues.”

She adds: “This is just the beginning and we look forward to Saint Lucians showing their appreciation and gratitude to Cuba for all the assistance it continues to give Saint Lucia and the Caribbean through the Henry Reeve medical brigade.”

‘Cat and mouse game’: Zimbabwe gov’t workers moonlight as street vendors

With high inflation and a struggling economy, civil servants say they need secret side hustles to make ends meet



A vendor sells food items from a cart in Harare's central business district [Calvin Manika/Al Jazeera]

By Calvin Manika

HARARE, Zimbabwe – Every morning, Dumisani Ngara* gets up at dawn to catch a 6:30am bus to work at Zimbabwe’s Ministry of National Housing and Social Amenities. The government-provided bus is free for civil servants in Harare, and on his \$250 monthly salary, he tries to save every cent he can.

Once at work, Ngara – dressed neatly in a suit and tie – makes sure the day’s files are all in order before the office opens at 8:30 am. In between paperwork and meetings, he takes breaks. At 1 pm, he opens a lunchbox packed with rice and meat he prepared at home.

“Most of us here, we work to the best of our ability. It is a profession I love. It comes also with job security,” said the 48-year-old husband and father of three.

But by 5 pm, as the end of the workday arrives, instead of heading home, Ngara rushes to a restroom in the pub across the street, where he changes into sweatpants and a T-shirt before walking four blocks to join his oldest son at a pavement stall in the city centre. From there, they sell groceries to passers-by.

Ngara’s side hustle is a secret, as Zimbabwean government



By day, Ngara is a government worker at the Ministry of National Housing and Social Amenities. After hours, he sets up shop vending groceries on the streets [Calvin Manika/Al Jazeera]

workers are restricted from holding other jobs. But he says life is tough on a single-source income.

Ngara has been a government worker since 2010, but making ends meet has been especially difficult since 2019, when inflation shot up to 300 percent and the value of his salary eroded.

To afford rent and other expenses, his family had to make a plan.

“My wife is into vending of fruits and vegetables at home while I do the same after work here in the CBD,” Ngara said, referring to the central business district.

‘Salaries are pathetic’

The Ngaras are not alone. Out on Harare’s streets, a growing number of civil servants are turning to vending once their official workday ends.

Most work until 9 or 10 pm, although Ngara heads home at about 8 pm.

Many of those turning to vending work are teachers. Takavafira Zhou is the president of the Progressive Teachers Union of Zimbabwe and says teachers are taking on these extra, informal jobs because “salaries are pathetic” and “families cannot make ends meet”.

People are “failing to pay school fees, to feed their families, to pay medical bills, to pay rentals,” he explained. “Therefore, government workers have designed methods of survival.”

According to Zhou, “the majority of government workers” have now turned to some sort of vending, although there is no data to confirm this.

According to ZimStats, the government statistics agency, the informal sector in Zimbabwe contributes 18 percent to the country’s gross domestic product (GDP) and 20 percent of employment. But experts say the government downplays the numbers and that a majority of Zimbabweans work in the informal sector.

“It is a situation where you have a choice to starve or to find survival methods, bearing in mind that the employer is uncaring,” Zhou added, accusing the state of offering unreasonable salaries and not improving working conditions for teachers.

Before November 2018, most Zimbabwean civil servants, including teachers, earned a basic monthly salary of about \$540.

However, since the economic downturn in 2019, the government stopped offering full US dollar-pegged payments. Salaries are now split into two portions: a US dollar (USD) component – \$160 for most civil servants – and an amount in local currency, which equals less than \$100 when converted.

‘We are in a jungle’

Late one afternoon, Ngara and his 21-year-old son spread out their wares on the pavement in front of registered supermarkets and stores selling the same goods they do.

Last year, in a bid to tackle hyperinflation, the government introduced a new gold-backed currency, the ZiG, and imposed stricter regulations on the use of foreign currency. As a result, registered stores must trade in the local currency or use official USD exchange rates.

Informal vendors, meanwhile, use black market exchange rates, meaning their products are cheaper for customers. They also trade in hard USD currency. Most Zimbabweans keep USD notes instead of local bills, as it is more stable, and prefer buying from vendors.

“We do not accept the local currency,” explained Tariro Musekiwa, a street vendor sitting on a cardboard box, who only trades in USD.

Currently, the official exchange rate is \$1 to 26.4 ZiG, while the unofficial black-market rate ranges from 36 to 40 ZiG per USD, giving consumers more for less on the informal market.

People need to buy goods at a lower cost, said Musekiwa, who sells soaps, cordial drinks and yoghurts. Because the same products are more expensive in stores, he believes the vendors are offering an important service.

Ngara agreed. “If you look in the streets, all pavements and corners are filled with people selling something. So I try to sell goods which sell quickly at lower prices,” he said.

“We are in a jungle, and it is the survival of the fittest.”

For registered store owners, though, the influx of vendors has not been a blessing.

Trymore Chirozva, the manager at Food World, a supermarket retailer in Harare, expressed dismay that vendors sell similar products outside on the pavement.

“Unlike before, when vendors would sell fruits and vegetables only, of recent they have become mini-stores, affecting our business,” he said.

Harare’s CBD has just five official vending sites, which accommodate fewer than 200 vendors. Yet, thousands of informal vendors flock to the streets every day.

Ngara and many others admit they operate without official permits but say they find ways around the rules. “The officers just demand some bribes, or sometimes just pass [us by].”

Big business closing shop

Chirozva believes stores like his are negatively affected because vendors are not regulated as strictly as big businesses.

Patience Maodza, an economist, believes vendors are leveraging on the regulation gap.

“The government overregulates shops but not vendors, creating [an] unfair business environment for the registered entities which are tax compliant.”

In the past 12 months, Zimbabwe has witnessed the closure of leading regional chain stores and clothing lines,



Vendors in Harare’s CBD block the entire width of the street with their informal stalls [Calvin Manika/Al Jazeera]



Street vendor Portia Mbano, centre, quit her government job and works full-time, selling groceries on the street [Calvin Manika/Al Jazeera]

most citing two reasons: the restrictions on the use of USD and an influx of vendors taking over their business without government intervention.

One of Zimbabwe’s largest wholesale hardware companies, N Richards Group, has closed two branches.

Speaking to Zimbabwe’s parliament, Archie Dongo, the director of the N Richards Group, said the government is overburdening those who already pay tax.

“Reduce the taxation level and the tax heads, but collect that tax from as many players as possible. In that way, we will not have a problem of fiscal mobilisation in the economy; we actually believe we’ll get more tax that way,” Dongo said.

OK Zimbabwe, the country’s top supermarket retailer, has struggled to restock its branches over the past year – a challenge compounded by the introduction of the ZiG, which disrupted supply chains and pricing structures. The retailer closed five of its supermarkets in January.

Economist Kajiva believes that the government’s economic policies have played “a significant role” in the business sector’s struggles.

“The policy has resulted in a sharp reduction in money supply, placing considerable pressure on businesses, including major retailers like OK Zimbabwe and N Richards,” he said.

“These companies have been forced to downsize in response to a challenging economic climate driven by tight fiscal conditions.”

‘Something tangible’

As traditional businesses struggle, so do traditional workers.

While many like Ngara are embracing side hustles, some have abandoned their government jobs altogether.

Portia Mbano, 39, left her job as a civil servant to become a full-time vendor.

At first, she started as a small-time seller after office hours. But she soon realised she was “ageing and needs something tangible”.

“I realised that I was losing a lot by spending time at the offices [rather] than to take this as a full-time job,” she said.

She now sells a variety of groceries and small household items from a pavement stall in the CBD.

Samuel Mangoma, the director of Vendors Initiative for Social and Economic Transformation (VISET), an organisation advancing the rights of informal economy workers across Africa, told Al Jazeera there has been a “sharp rise” in street vendors in central Harare.

“This is as a result of limited opportunities in the formal job market,” he said, with many people now “finding refuge in the informal sector”.

However, he frowns on vendors operating in front of stores, selling the same goods for cheaper prices.

“People are trying to survive in this very difficult economic environment. But, we don’t encourage our members to go and occupy spaces in front of grocery shops and big retailers. We encourage our members to operate from spaces where we don’t create conflict unnecessarily with other business players,” he said.

Nevertheless, out on the streets, government workers continue to set up their informal shops, with Ngara saying he plans to continue until his family is stable enough to survive without it.

“I need my son to go to university and at least own a property for my family, so I need both jobs until such a time,” Ngara said.

“Despite challenges we face in the streets, including the government through the council and police trying to remove us from the CBD, we continue the cat and mouse game – at least for now.”

**Name changed to protect privacy*

SOURCE: AL JAZEERA

Riddle Me This

What goes up
and down but
still remains in
the same place?



- How many sides does a circle have?
- What five letter word can you take away two letters from and have one remaining?
- I am a seed with three letters in my name. Take away the last two and I still sound the same. What am I?

Rebus Brainteasers

A 'rebus' is a visual puzzle that uses the positioning of words, letters, and/or symbols to represent a common phrase, sometimes in an indirect or tricky manner.


Here's an example: For this one, the answer's head over heels.



Can you figure out the rest?



Got It?



Spot Zero in
Six Seconds

CROSSWORD

1		2		3		4		5		6		7
8						9						
10								11				
12		13						14	15			16
18						19		20			21	
22												
24								25				

ACROSS

1 Female singing voice (7)
5 Embellish (5)
8 Requirements (5)
9 Seemliness (7)
10 Aerial (7)
11 Faint-hearted (5)
12 Figure of speech (6)
14 Health centre (6)
18 Toy bear (5)
20 Eastern (anag) (7)
22 Make bigger (7)
23 Hospital worker (5)
24 Mountain lakes (5)
25 Rather old (7)

DOWN

1 Open-toed shoes (7)
2 Fold in fabric (5)
3 Armoury (7)
4 Severe trial (6)
5 Racecourse near Windsor (5)
6 Rower (7)
7 Wanderer (5)
13 Interfering person (7)
15 Erudite (7)
16 Implements for eating (7)
17 Cold symptom (6)
18 Larceny (5)
19 Tales (5)
21 Mistake (5)

Old West 3

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid.
The remaining 46 letters spell a John Wayne quotation.

A	T	R	A	I	N	S	T	A	T	I	O	N	S	T	A	B	L	E	C
O	L	R	A	W	H	I	D	E	S	E	M	A	J	E	S	S	E	J	U
R	A	L	G	P	G	A	B	E	L	D	D	A	S	E	L	T	T	A	C
E	Y	I	I	S	O	B	E	R	I	D	A	L	T	O	N	G	A	N	G
N	H	D	H	R	S	T	O	C	K	A	D	E	R	E	T	S	L	O	H
H	A	E	O	G	A	Y	H	S	O	C	O	A	L	M	I	N	E	B	C
O	Y	S	R	C	A	P	A	E	P	M	R	R	E	L	G	N	A	R	W
R	L	U	S	M	L	E	S	A	C	N	I	R	D	T	Y	L	O	I	D
S	O	O	E	S	E	L	S	A	I	A	C	N	R	A	T	I	R	D	S
E	F	H	S	T	I	T	I	A	S	A	R	E	O	H	I	V	O	L	E
T	T	G	H	A	U	L	R	B	N	Y	T	Y	T	R	C	N	T	E	T
R	P	N	O	R	H	T	V	T	O	N	T	R	N	P	E	A	C	R	T
O	D	I	E	K	N	S	I	E	U	L	A	U	R	S	G	G	E	E	L
U	Y	D	G	O	E	L	U	H	R	I	A	A	P	O	D	A	P	I	E
G	T	R	G	F	E	R	Y	R	L	D	E	F	L	E	O	H	S	T	R
H	O	A	E	D	E	T	O	B	B	T	O	D	F	E	D	C	O	N	S
D	W	O	L	V	N	E	O	S	T	E	R	L	G	U	K	R	R	O	J
I	N	B	N	U	I	S	D	A	E	U	G	N	L	N	B	U	P	R	A
G	P	L	O	W	S	L	Y	U	S	N	A	A	A	A	P	H	A	F	I
R	E	B	R	A	B	W	N	H	Y	R	E	B	S	W	R	C	A	Y	L

WORD SEARCH

ANVIL
APOTHECARY
BANK
BARBER
BOARDING HOUSE
BOUNTY HUNTER
BRIDLE
BUFFALO BILL CODY
CATTLE
CHURCH
COAL MINE
DALTON GANG
DEPUTY
DODGE CITY
FRONTIER
GERONIMO
GOLD RUSH
HAYLOFT
HOLSTER
HORSE TROUGH
HORSESHOE
JAIL
JESSE JAMES
KEROSENE
LIVERY
MAYOR
MERCANTILE
PASTURE
PIG FEED
PLOW
PROSPECTOR
RANGE
RAWHIDE
SADDLEBAG
SAGEBRUSH
SASPARILLA
SETTLERS
SILVER DOLLAR
STABLE
STOCKADE
TOWN
TRAIL BOSS
TRAIN STATION
WAGON TRAIN
WRANGLER
WYATT EARP

Crossword puzzle
answers for March 22

1	L	A	N	C	E	D		4	A	M	E	N	D	S	
	O		O	V					O		A		K		
8	W	A	S	T	E			5	A	P	O	S	T	L	E
	E		T	N	B				R		A		W		
10	S	T	R	E	T	C	H		11	H	A	L	V	E	
	T		I						O		E		R		
			12	L	A	B	Y	R	I	N	T	H			
15	B				A			R			O		16	D	
17	R	U	L	E	S			19	E	M	P	O	W	E	R
	I		E		H			N		A		E		I	
21	B	E	N	E	F	I	T		22	G	I	V	E	N	
	E		T	U						A		E		K	
23	S	P	O	I	L	S			24	S	N	A	R	E	S


CARTOON
CORNER

Poker is not a popular
game among chameleons

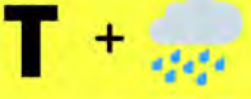


GUESS WHAT


GUESS THE COUNTRY



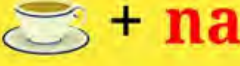
GUESS THE VEHICLE!



Guess The App.



Guess The Girl's Name



Turn page upside
down for answers

Riddle Me This
Stairs
Two sides: The inside and the outside.
Alone
Pea

Rebus Brainteasers
Behalf
Lesson (Less on)
Guidance (Guy Dance)
Knight
Surface

Got It
Bottom right (under 9)

Guess What
Iran
Train
YouTube
Tina

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Castries
(GREEN AREA ON MAP)

BUILDING FOR SALE

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Map not drawn
to scale

NEWS

India-UN Fund Supports 15 Caribbean Countries in Eliminating Mother-to-Child Transmission of Diseases

IN an ambitious move to combat mother-to-child transmission of diseases like HIV, Syphilis, Hepatitis B, and Chagas disease, 15 Caribbean nations are coming together under a project funded by the India-United Nations Development Partnership Fund and implemented by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

This initiative is focused on strengthening the Elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission (EMTCT) Plus Framework within maternal and child health services and aims to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of infectious diseases in the Caribbean Member States.

Despite the significant progress made in eliminating the mother-to-child transmission of HIV and syphilis, challenges remain. For HIV, the global goal is to reduce the mother-to-child transmission rate to two per cent (2%) or less. However, in some regions of the world, rates continue to surpass this target, indicating a need for intensified efforts. Similarly, in the Caribbean, strides towards eliminating congenital syphilis are evident, yet in some countries the reported rates are as high as 1.8 cases per 1,000 live births, significantly above the global elimination target of less than or equal to 0.5 new cases of mother-to-child transmission of syphilis per 1,000 live births.

"The Caribbean has a history of sharing and learning from each other," Dr Rhonda Sealey-Thomas, PAHO Assistant Director said. "Through south-south cooperation, we hope that the CARICOM Member States that have achieved disease elimination certification and those working toward

the attainment will share their experiences and lessons learned as part of our efforts to strengthen the EMTCT strategy and support other countries to achieve this important goal."

At the heart of the project's strategy is a commitment to enhancing maternal and child health services. By focusing on strengthening leadership within these services, improving diagnostic capabilities and upgrading surveillance systems, the initiative aims to address the gaps that have hindered progress toward disease elimination.

Knowledge sharing stands out as a key component, creating a comprehensive community of practice for Caribbean countries to discuss successes, challenges, and innovations through peer-to-peer country support.

"The project will enhance elimination efforts among 15 Caribbean countries, supporting them in moving as one, while ensuring the right of every child to be born and remain free of HIV and syphilis and other perinatal transmitted infections," noted Dr. Julio Sabido, Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Health and Wellness Belize which successfully submitted the project on behalf of CARICOM Member States.

"Together, as Caribbean nations, we acquire knowledge, share experiences and enhance the competencies of health care providers for an efficient and sustainable EMTCT Plus program. This approach accelerates the adoption of effective health strategies across the region and fosters a sense of solidarity and collective responsibility. Infectious diseases do not know national boundaries, so only collective action will be truly effective," Dr Sabido added.

This project will place emphasis on technical systems, particularly in enhancing laboratory services and data collection systems. Reliable diagnostics and effective surveillance are foundational to the achievement of the project objectives. Aiming to leverage the collective experience and resources of the region to ensure future generations are born free from these transmissible diseases, the project seeks to ensure the availability of quality diagnostics, primary prevention, treatment services, and a robust health information system to monitor cases, demonstrating a comprehensive and sustainable approach to achieving EMTCT Plus certification.

The project which commenced in 2025 is expected to emphasize the sharing of good practices, experiences and lessons learned from the EMTCT of HIV and syphilis. The PAHO Disease Elimination Initiative seeks to end more than 30 communicable diseases and related conditions by 2030 in the Region of the Americas, including the mother-to-child transmission of HIV and syphilis.

PAHO Director, Dr. Jarbas Barbosa, welcomed the initiative and its impact on improving the health of women and children in the Caribbean. "Ensuring high-quality, integrated health services is a crucial part of PAHO's Disease Elimination Initiative, which seeks to eliminate 30 diseases and related conditions from the Region of the Americas by 2030," he said.

Essential Support for the Saint Lucia Jazz & Arts Festival Provided

THANKS to the steadfast support of corporate sponsors who handed over their sponsorship cheques at a media event on Thursday, the Saint Lucia Jazz & Arts Festival is expected to flourish this year.

Corporate support has been essential to the festival's strategic placement on the international scene over the years.

Respected speakers underlined how crucial this assistance is to the success of the event. The 33-year-old event is well known for bringing a vibrant energy to the island and bringing together music, culture, and community in a way that has a profound impact.

It is a movement that brings generations together, showcases artistic brilliance, and solidifies Saint Lucia as a centre for top-tier talent. It is more than just a festival.

The Saint Lucia Jazz & Arts Festival (SLAJ) is the region's finest cultural and musical event, according to Thaddeus Antoine, Chair of the Saint Lucia Tourism Authority (SLTA).

He said, "The festival is pivotal to our identity as a people and for future generations."

Antoine underlined that one of the most important tactics used by SLTA to increase the destination's exposure and

visibility through dynamic worldwide promotions is effective marketing. He pointed out that an artistic direction that showcases a wide variety of artists for different age groups and musical tastes is an essential component of preparation.

Additionally, the SLAJ spectacular guarantees that local artists receive priceless exposure to further improve their skills. He revealed a brand-new, intriguing feature: a Festival Village with local crafts and a lavish Culinary Village.

Antoine emphasized the festival's substantial financial advantages for nearby companies and entrepreneurs that serve attendees throughout the course of the two to three-week event.

Dr. Ernest Hilaire, Minister of Tourism and Creative Industry, acknowledged the importance of the corporate partners in ensuring the festival's success and conveyed his sincere gratitude for their support. He confirms that the festival's expansion is intrinsically linked to the backing of these vital partners, which helps it reach even higher levels.

He described the festival as a potent economic engine that supports community impact and elevates artistic excellence.

Louis Lewis, the CEO of SLTA, celebrated the festival's 33-year history with pride and emphasized the value of private sector participation in its international marketing. He noted that the Saint Lucia Jazz & Arts Festival was renamed in 2013 to incorporate the arts component.

The tourist minister, who envisioned Saint Lucia as the "green heart" of the Caribbean, fervently promoted an eco-friendly festival setting.

Julien Alfred, Saint Lucia's first Olympic Gold Medalist and Tourism Ambassador, praised the festival's influence and urged tourists to take in the island's breathtaking scenery and revel in its grandeur.

The Cultural Development Foundation's (CDF) Executive Director, Raymona Henry-Wynn, gave a lively summary of the Arts and the City initiative and the related performances, emphasizing the diverse artistic expressions of the island's gifted craftspeople and artists.

She claimed that the CDF's program transcends the arts and offers a life-changing training and development platform



BOSL representative presents sponsors' cheque flanked by SLAJ Chair Thaddeus Antoine and SLTA's CEO Louis Lewis (left) and Tourism Minister Dr Ernest Hilaire (right)

while creating a legacy for future generations.

The CDF's clarion call: Feel the rhythm, see the art, and live the culture!

The corporate sponsors making this all possible include:

- Presenting Partner: Bank of Saint Lucia Ltd.
- Platinum Sponsors: LUCELEC (Music & The Arts), Republic Bank (Presenting Sponsor of the Arts)
- Corporate Partner: WASCO
- Airfreight Logistics Partner: DHL
- Gold Sponsors: King Ocean Shipping Services, Unicomer Saint Lucia, MCE Sound LTD
- Silver Sponsors: ACADO, St. Lucia Distillers, Heineken Saint Lucia, Digicel Saint Lucia, Antigua and Barbuda Festivals
- Bronze Sponsors: Sagicor General, ECGC, SIXT Car Rental, SOL, KFC (Music & The Arts)
- Collateral Sponsors: Berkeley Bank and Trust, Blue Waters Ltd, Massy Stores (Supporting the CDF's Arts Component).



Officials at the event held at Sandals Halcyon

