

**Saint Lucia**  
**National Emergency**  
**Management Organisation**  
**Annual Report for 2006/2007**



*Office of the  
National Emergency Management Organisation  
Prime Minister's Office*

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**NEMO Staff List**

	<b>NAME</b>	<b>POST</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITIES</b>
1.	Dawn French	<b>Director</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall Management</li> <li>• Coordination</li> <li>• Operations</li> <li>• Finance</li> <li>• Training</li> </ul>
2.	Julian Du Bois	Deputy Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Preparedness</li> <li>• Public Education and Information</li> <li>• Training</li> <li>• Establishment of MOUs</li> </ul>
3.	Fay Albert	Inventories Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Preparedness</li> <li>• Monitoring of Stocks</li> <li>• Training</li> <li>• Establishment of MOUs</li> </ul>
4.	Maria Mombelli	Secretary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administration</li> <li>• Documentation and Information</li> </ul>

	<b>NAME</b>	<b>POST</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITIES</b>
5.	Andrew George	Human Resource Development Officer <i>(Seconded from National Printing Corporation)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of Continuity of Operations Plans for Ministries, Private Sector, NGOs, Faith Based Organisations etc.</li> </ul>
6.	Anne Noel / Milda Narcisse	Cleaner/Office Assistant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cleaning</li> <li>• Collating documents</li> <li>• Delivery of Mail</li> </ul>
7.	Daniel Isimbert	Driver/Office Assistant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collating documents</li> <li>• Delivery of Mail</li> </ul>

Part 1  
Annual Report of the  
Office of the National Emergency  
Management Organisation  
**April 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007**

## **INTRODUCTION**

In a year that yielded a mild hurricane season, the year in review was dominated by preparations for Cricket World Cup 2007. Saint Lucia's regional position in Disaster Management was elevated as the Country accepted the nomination of Barbados to be the Chair of the CARICOM Sub Committee on Disaster Management for Cricket World Cup. The Director of NEMO was given the task of actual Chair.

Eventually the specter of Avian Influenza reared its ugly head and the focus of NEMO became spilt between the three.

The dedicated work over the years on the revision of the Policies, Plans and Protocols that make up the Saint Lucia Emergency Management plan came to fruition as the National Emergency Management Advisory Committee [NEMAC] tackled the Herculean task of reviewing the documents for forwarding to Cabinet. The documents were submitted to the Cabinet of Ministers in November 2006.

The thrust to have the private sector prepared became even more important as the Continuity of Operations Program linked with Mass Events Guidelines and Avian Influenza preparedness intensified. The traditional mandate of Disaster Management to be prepared for the Hurricane Season is well and truly over.

### **The key responsibilities of the Organisation are:**

- Widen the Network of Disaster Management with new partners
- Increase the mitigation activities of the District Committees
- Increase the planning activities of National and District Committees
- Strengthen response capabilities of National and District Committees
- Strengthen the planning and response capabilities of the Office of NEMO
- Review Disaster Plans for Saint Lucia
- Assist with Disaster Plans for Government Ministries
- Advise on Disaster Plans for Private Sector
- Research and documentation
- Disaster response and recovery
- Conduct Public Education
- Conduct Volunteer Training
- Conduct Simulation Exercises



Director, Ms. Dawn French at the GIS Studio recording a Public Education Announcement

**OVERVIEW**

As increasingly Saint Lucia moves to embrace the Comprehensive Disaster Management [CDM] Strategy; the work of NEMO continues to reflect the intermediate results [IRs] that assist the attainment of the Strategy. [See Section 5 for work program]. The Work of NEMO dovetails into CDM under the following Intermediate Results of the Strategic Framework.

<i><b>NEMO Program:</b></i>	<i><b>ADMINISTRATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING</b></i>	<i><b>PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE</b></i>	<i><b>MITIGATION AND RESEARCH</b></i>	<i><b>INFORMATION AND EDUCATION</b></i>
<i><b>Comprehensive Disaster Management:</b></i>	<i><b>IR -1: Stronger regional and national institutions to promote CDM</b></i>	<i><b>IR-2: Research and training to support CDM.</b></i>	<i><b>IR-4: Preparedness, response and mitigation capacity is enhanced and integrated.</b></i>	<i><b>IR-5: Hazard information is incorporated into development planning and decision-making.</b></i>

Thus it is that the Director's annual report has been reconfigured to reflect. NEMO's programs are administered under the following areas:

- Finance and Administration [IR 1 & 2]
- Preparedness [IR 4 & 5]
- Mitigation and Research [IR 4 & 5]
- Public Information [IR 3]
- Information Technology [IR 3]
- Emergency Responses [IR 4]



Artist's Impression of the new Emergency Response Center

**FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

**FINANCE**

The second phase of the OECS Disaster and Recovery Project, with funding from the World Bank moved into its second year.

The project, called the Second Disaster Management Project (DMP-II), continued to utilize a number of Governmental Agencies to achieve its objectives.

The DMP II focuses on:

- the strengthening of the Shelters and Shelter Management program,
- the continuation of the Vulnerability Assessment and Hazard Mapping,
- the harmonization of the Hazard Mitigation Policy and Plan,
- the provision of a new Emergency Response Center [to house the Office of NEMO & the National EOC] and
- additional Satellite Warehouses.

Partnerships continued and a number of agencies assisted NEMO in the period under review:

- National Printing Corporation – Public Information, Annual Report

### **ADMINISTRATION**

The post of Inventory Officer was filled.

Increasingly the NEMO Secretariat is providing apprentice training to a number of young people through programs such as the National Skills Training Program, the National Conservation Authority and Centre for Adolescence Rehabilitation and Education [CARE].

Discussions were initiated with the Japanese Volunteer Program in the hope of having a Training Officer stationed with the Secretariat.

### **PREPAREDNESS**

In May 2006 the House sat to debate the new Disaster Management Act. The Disaster Management Act No 30 of 2006 replaces the Disaster Preparedness and Response Act No 13 of 2000. Chief among the amendments is the addition of the powers for enforced evacuation, the Declaration of a Disaster and the Code Alert for Volcanic Situations.

For volcanic eruptions in neighbouring countries Saint Lucia has instituted an additional Alert level: the blue alert level, which will involve a blue level meeting; that is, a volcanic eruption is likely to occur or has occurred in a neighbouring island that may have effects in Saint Lucia. The warning of a blue alert will not be given to the NEMO by the Seismic Research Unit [SRU], since the SRU only issues a change in an alert level status to the relevant government (e.g., to the Government of Grenada if the activity is at Kick 'em Jenny). NEMO will only receive information from the SRU in the form of a Scientific Advisory. The SRU does not have a blue alert level; so it is a decision of the NEMO to declare a blue alert level when there is volcanic activity in a neighbouring island, thus triggering a meeting of NEMAC.

The legislation shall also provide support to the cadre of Evacuation Plans in development. The Saint Lucia Evacuation Plan is a collection of Documents and is supported by the Saint Lucia National Emergency Plans, Policies, Legislation and Standard Operating Procedures. The documents are:

#### Volume

1. Concept of Operations
2. Emergency Shelters [Annual List]
3. Special Needs Evacuation Plan
4. Animal Evacuation and Recovery Plan
5. Traffic Management Plan
6. Community Evacuation Plans

The annual SLASPA Simulation for its airports took place November 2006. The airport tested was the Hewanorra International Airport and NEMO was commissioned to plan and execute the exercise. Planning proved to be a challenge as the agencies mandated to plan the event was



placed in doubt by the National Civil Aviation Security Programme. The DRAFT document removes the responsibility from NEMO. In compliance with the requirement NEMO relinquished the role to the Agencies identified, until the Ministry responsible for Civil Aviation requested that for 2006 NEMO plan the simulation.

Work continued with the various Disaster Committees. A number of District Committees held one day consultations where the disaster management and mandate was reviewed, while others held simulation exercises.

NEMO conducted tests of three communications media:

- VHF Radios with the District Committees,
- Telephone Hotlines with all the Radio Stations and a
- Hurricane season Emergency Broadcast Signal by the GIS.

All the tests have proved to be a challenge as on many an occasion the signal was either not acknowledged or not relayed. NEMO continues to conduct the tests and hold discussions with its partners.

Council of CDERA

The 14th Meeting of the Council of CDERA was held in St Kitts. Saint Lucia was represented by Dr. James Fletcher, Permanent Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister.

Region Rap is a simulation tool used by CDERA to test the telecommunications of Member States. The 2006 Region Rap was centered on a Cricket World Cup theme. Saint Lucia took the opportunity to review its telecom system. There is a need for the NTRC to become part of the NEMO as is the need for private radio operators to recommit again Region Rap served to highlight the continued weakness in this area of Disaster Management.

The Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance [OFDA] continued its support of the Disaster Management Program in Saint Lucia with a series of workshops in

- Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis [DANA]
- Initial Damage Assessment [IDA]
- Training of Instructors [TFI]

Though the Shelters and Shelter Management [SSM] program is a product of OFDA, Saint Lucia has progressed to the point where the Country can sustain the training with minimal support from OFDA.

Two additional satellite warehouses were constructed in Dennery North and Micoud South, while the Castries North warehouse has started.

*Training Attended*

- 5-day 'Meeting Management & Facilitation Course' in Panama sponsored and facilitated by USAID-OFDA (March-April 2006).

- FAHUM-06, a 7-day training and simulation exercise in Honduras sponsored by US-SOUTHCOM. (April 2006)
- 2-day training workshop on 'Climate Change and Disaster Response' in Antigua. (June 2006)
- 3-day Warehouse Management training Course sponsored by CDERA.
- Communication Skills Program.
- EOC Management sponsored by CWC-2007 Saint Lucia Inc.
- ICS sponsored by CWC-2007 Saint Lucia Inc.
- Command Level Incident Management sponsored by CWC-2007 Saint Lucia Inc.
- Critical Incident Stress De-briefing sponsored by CWC-2007 Saint Lucia Inc.

*Training conducted/coordinated*

- Vulnerability Assessment (VA) 3-day training activity coordinated under the Caribbean Hazard Mitigation Capacity Building Program (CHAMP). (June 2006)
- District Committee Orientation Workshop for Micoud North.
- Initial Disaster Assessment (IDA) training – 2 activities. (September 2006)
- Shelters & Shelters Management – 4 training activities organized for the District Committees.
- First Aid/CPR under the Disaster Management Project II – Twelve persons per committee (Vieux Fort South, Laborie, Choiseul, Micoud North, Soufriere, Castries North, Castries South, Castries East, Castries Central, Dennery South, Dennery North, Anse La Raye).
- Shelter and Shelters Management under the Disaster Management Project II – fifteen Shelter Managers (Laborie, Soufriere, Babonneau)
- Initial Damage Assessment funded by the USAID/OFDA – thirty-five persons from the following committees (Canaries, Soufriere, Choiseul, Laborie, Vieux Fort South, Micoud North and South)
- Vulnerability Assessment – Members of the Hazard Mitigation and Vulnerability Assessment Core Committee (May 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>, 2007)
- National Hazard Mitigation Plan Actions Workshop (June 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2006)
- Saint Lucia Hazard Mitigation Policy and Plan Harmonization Meeting (May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2006)
- Triage Training – District Disaster Committees (Canaries, Soufriere, Choiseul, Laborie, Viuex Fort South, Micoud North and South) – October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2006
- CWC-2007
  - Emergency Operations Centre (October 30<sup>th</sup> to November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006)
  - Incident Command System (April 26<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>, 2007)
  - Mass Casualty Management (April 24<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>, 2006)
  - Command Level Response to Critical Incidents – Venue Operations Centre personnel (January 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007)
  - CISD Supervisory & CISD Team Development – volunteers (November 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>, 2006)
  - Emergency Medical Operations for Large Scale Events – volunteers (November 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, 2007)
  - Train the Trainers – volunteers (November 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, 2006)

- Critical Incident Stress Debriefing – volunteers (January 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 2007)
- Emergency Medical Operations for large scale events – volunteers (January 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>, 2007)
- Safety Officers – volunteers (January 29<sup>th</sup> to March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2007)
- Basic Telecoms Training
- Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis funded by USAID/OFDA – members of District Disaster Committees (April 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>, 2006)

### *Simulation Exercises*

- Explosion and fire in a Cruise Ship; ‘Freewinds Cruiseline’ simulation exercise.
- Airplane Crash; Hewanorra International Airport simulation exercise.

NEMO and the Saint Lucia Fire Service recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding that would assist both Agencies in the delivery of their mandate of preparedness and response. The accord confirms that NEMO will compliment the Saint Lucia Fire Services in volunteers trained in areas such as but not limited to areas such as Stress Management and Emergency Care and Treatment. The new arrangement shall be used to monitor and provide support for events such as the various Weekend Fish Fries, the Kalalu Music Festival, Saint Lucia Jazz, the Atlantic Rally for Cruisers and of course Cricket World Cup; to ensure that the selected venues meet the basic safety requirements

### **MITIGATION AND RESEARCH**

As NEMAC was unable to meet, the NEMO Secretariat adopted the round robin strategy and began circulating the response documents needed for approval. The list proved to be a long one and documents were sent to the members every two weeks with a ballot attached for approval or non approval. The deadline for responses was set for October 27, with a lack of response from a member indicating tacit assent.

The plans approved by NEMAC and taken to Cabinet were:

While work continued on a new set of plans and policies to include:

1. Policy on Emergency Housing
2. Policy Guidelines on Mass Crowd Events
3. National Plan on Ambulance Services
4. Policy on Displaced Persons
5. Policy Guidelines on Debris Management
6. Emergency Shelter Program
7. Mass Causality Plan

The full list may be seen at [http://www.geocities.com/slunemo/response\\_plans/memo.html](http://www.geocities.com/slunemo/response_plans/memo.html)

Disaster Management found itself at the forefront of the Sporting World as Saint Lucia prepared to host the **2007 Cricket World Cup [CWC 2007]**. The main challenge was one of communications as the LOC, Ministers, Ambassadors and CARICOM turned increasingly to the

Secretariat to fill in information gaps. To address the weakness the Secretariat began including the requesting agencies in its communications as a carbon copy; a strategy that was appreciated by some agencies more than others.

Through the **Caribbean Hazard Mitigation Capacity Building Programme (CHAMP)**, the National Hazard Mitigation Policy was completed and taken through the various approval processes; namely to the National Hazard Mitigation Council [NHMC] and the National Emergency Management Advisory Committee [NEMAC]. The final stage is for the Policy to be taken to the Cabinet of Ministers.

A national committee has been created to strengthen collaboration in the area of Vulnerability Assessment and Hazard Mapping. The committee is composed of both public and private sector agencies. The Committee shall also ensure that all activities undertaken by this project sub-component are complimented and not duplicated.

Though the **OECS Emergency Recovery and Disaster Management Project**, the Disaster Preparedness and Response Act No. 13 of 2000 was reviewed. The recommended amendments were sent to the Attorney General's Chambers to commence the process of adoption.

The **Disaster Mitigation Facility for the Caribbean (DMFC)** is a Caribbean Development Bank [CDB] initiative. The objectives for the facility are:

1. to assist CDB's BMCs with the adoption and institutionalisation of successful disaster mitigation plans and policies; and
2. to strengthen CDB's institutional capacity to effectively implement its 1998 Natural Disaster Management Strategy, focusing on mitigation, to modify this Strategy as appropriate, and to integrate the revised Strategy into all of CDB's policies, projects and programmes.

NEMO represented Saint Lucia at a number of sessions. This included:

- Trade winds 2006 – Jamaica
- CWC 2007 Meetings – Antigua, Barbados, Jamaica
- United Nations Disaster Assessment Coordination [UNDAC] Team Training – Panama
- Seminar for Disaster Managers - China Consultation on St. Georges' Declaration coordinated by OECS Secretariat.
- Consultation on the National Environment Management Strategy (NEMS) Legislative Review. (June 2006)
- Workshop on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs).
- Water Resources Management Workshop.
- Coastal Zone Management Advisory Committee (CZMAC) – 3 workshops.
- Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) Project Advisory Committee.
- Disaster Mitigation Facility (DMFC) Technical Advisory Committee Meeting (Barbados July 2006)
- Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) workshop sponsored by CDERA (Barbados)

- Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) ProVention Consortium Regional Seminar on Disaster Management in the Caribbean sponsored by the CDB. (Barbados)
- Hazard Mitigation Action Plan development sponsored by CDERA. (June 2006)

**PUBLIC INFORMATION**

The Annual Report will be distributed to a list of over 200 persons and agencies, including public libraries. It was also available via the Internet. Challenges remain to having the report reproduced in the Saint Lucia Gazette. However with the enactment of the 2006 Disaster Management Act a solution will be needed for it shall be a requirement of law to publish in the Gazett.

Website: Available at [www.geocities.com/slunemo](http://www.geocities.com/slunemo) the NEMO website is maintained in an adhoc manner. Discussions have begun with the webmaster at the GIS to acquire the domain name of NEMO.GOV.LC

NEMO continued to develop in collaboration with numerous agencies public information flyers, all of which carry credit. There are presently 80 in the series. The catalogue is reproduced annually for Committees based on their requests. Many are now available online.

Press Releases: Utilizing the Yahoo! eGroups, NEMO distributes its Press Releases via emails to the media, the GIS and a number of interested individuals. The matrix below gives an idea of production trends. The archives are public and may be accessed online at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/slunemo>

Press Releases by Month and Year *[as of March 1, 2007]*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2007	12	11	11	13								
2006	1	2	6	3	6	4	3	2	1	2	9	5
2005	14	17	8	8	3	11	18	15	4	18	11	2
2004	5	19	9	8	10	19	9	17	13	8	8	14
2003	5	6	15	12	9	21	23	19	12	10	10	3
2002										2	15	18

Source: NEMO News Archives

The CDERA/CU continued to supply Saint Lucia with material this has been in the form of flyers, Radio and TV announcements.

As disaster management increasingly becomes a discipline it is necessary that the office publishes. As such NEMO submitted articles and was published in a number of publications. The annual collaboration with the newspapers again produced the Disaster Supplement, while the articles, were published in the IAEM Bulletin.

Traditions methods continued with:

*Appearances*

- Guest on Think Caribbean Television (TCT) Program.
- Guest on Helen 100FM Radio Program.
- Guest on Helen Television Service (HTS) Program.
- Guest on Police Vibes
- Interviews on Radio and TV

*Town Hall Meetings*

- Community Presentations made to Choiseul, La Pointe, Desruisseaux and Augier.
- Presentations made to Min. of Social Transformation and Choiseul DARE Program.

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

NEMO continues to produce CD-ROMs on its workshops both for the NEMO archive and for dissemination among participants.

Using the online distribution network a 24 week Family Disaster Supplies Calendar was started in January with a completion date of June just as the 2007 hurricane season starts. In collaboration with the Saint Lucia Postal Services a hard copy of the Calendar shall be distributed through the private post box system. Unfortunately the newspapers did not reproduce the weekly information.

**EMERGENCY RESPONSES**

The National Response Mechanism was activated for a request from the Fire Department for support in responding to an accident involving a container truck falling over a minibus with persons trapped. NEMO facilitated the After Action Review (AAR) of the response to the accident.

A false alarm required an investigation into alleged cracks at the Sulphur Springs. An inspection team conducted an aerial inspection of the site, the team comprised representatives from the Government Information Service, Ministry of Works and NEMO Secretariat. Eventually the Seismic Research Unit was called in.



“Crack” at the Sulphur Springs

In May 2006 the National Disaster Coordinators of CDERA developed a threat analysis for CWC 2007, with the primary threat being the 2006 Hurricane Season. Fortunately the threat did not manifest, however new threats have emerged such as the Avian Influenza, the resurgence of the Montserrat Volcano and the February 2007 swarm of earthquakes in the Caribbean.

It is therefore incumbent upon Governments their Agencies and Personnel to continue to be vigilant.

**CONCLUSION**

The hosting of Cricket World Cup 2007 has emphasized the need to have written protocols. Far too often the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) of an agency are known but not written down and often lost when the officer with the knowledge moves on.

Cricket World Cup 2007 has provided an opportunity to capture in a written form the Disaster Management protocols. It is hoped that the need for written SOPs become a legacy item and not just an exercise for the games.

.....  
**A. L. DAWN FRENCH**  
***Director - NEMO***

## **Part 2**

# **Government Liaison Officers**



**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES**

**REPORT FOR 2007/ 2008**

The year April 2006 to March 2007 was an uneventful one. All safety relating to disasters had been put in place. However, at the Stanislaus James Building on the Waterfront, the accidental triggering off of the fire alarm created a response that reflected that occupants were alert to the evacuation procedures.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in its agenda for 2007/2008 is seeking the following:

- A fire drill for M.A.F.F. along with the other agencies housed in the building (Sir Stanislaus James Building)
- Ensure that above all fire escapes and emergency exits are properly labeled (there is still a delay by N.I.P.R.O).
- Continue the Disaster plans for all the Ministry's Regional offices.
- Ensure that the Continuity of Operations plan for the whole Ministry is completed.
- Finalise the Emergency Action Plan for crops, pest and animal diseases.

The opportunity is taken to thank N.E.M.O. for the assistance that it has given during the past year.

**Anthony Thomas**

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Anthony Thomas  
Liaison Officer

## **Ministry of Education and Culture**

### **Annual Report**

In July 2006 the Ministry of Education, Human Resource Development Youth and Sports nominated Mrs. Ann Jean Baptiste, Acting Planning Officer of the Corporate Planning Unit as the Liaison officer for the said Ministry. The nomination of a liaison officer was a request from NEMO to all government agencies as a means of ensuring the presence of a focal point for managing and coordinating disaster preparedness activities at an agency level.

#### **Continuity of Operations Plan**

In March 2006, the then Ministry of Education, Human Resource Development, Youth and Sports submitted to NEMO its emergency Standing Operating Procedures (SOP) for the evacuation of personnel in the event of an emergency at its central location, in the National Insurance Building, at the Waterfront. NEMO examined the SOP and indicated that the document was inadequate in responding to and continuing operations in the event of an emergency.

In light of this, the liaison officer attended two workshops for liaison officers facilitated by NEMO. The main objective of the workshop was to familiarize participants with the template for developing the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) for their respective agency/ministry. The COOP outlines the steps necessary for an orderly and efficient transition to emergency operations in the event of a natural or manmade disaster.

In accordance with the prescribed template, the liaison officer sought to commence work on the development of a draft COOP, detailing activities in response to any emergency that may occur at the central location of the Ministry of Education and Culture. The plan includes information on emergency evacuation procedures, disaster response and emergency delegation of authority, assignment of responsibilities, assurance of continuity of operations, prevention and preparedness measures as well as lists of external material and technical assistance.

#### **Simulation Exercise**

In an attempt to generate national awareness to disaster preparedness, NEMO issued a bulletin requesting the entire nation to participate in a five minute National Simulation exercise scheduled for August 3, 2006 to mark the anniversary of Hurricane Allen. The simulation exercise was based on the premise that at midday on August 3, 2006 the whole country would stop and check the level of preparedness throughout the island in the event of an earthquake.

The Ministry of Education felt this was an opportune time to assess the level of preparedness and knowledge of staff members on disaster management. Consequently, all staff members were asked to assemble at midday on August 3, 2006. At that meeting the liaison officer used the Standing Operating Procedures to familiarise staff with evacuation procedures in the event of an emergency at the central location.

Further, a staff survey on disaster preparedness developed in concert with the five minute assessment proposed by NEMO was distributed to all staff for completion. The main objective of

the survey was to sensitise staff and assess the Ministry's level of preparedness in the event of an emergency.

### **Analysis of Data**

The data collated from the survey clearly indicated that more than 50% of staff practice routine measures such as, turning off all appliances and ensuring that everyone leaves the building at the end of the working day. However, the majority of staff (85% -92%) indicated that they have little or no knowledge of measures/procedures in place at the central office in the event of an emergency.

In that respect, it is imperative that the Ministry of Education institute the necessary measures to ensure that all members of staff are sufficiently informed of mechanisms at the central location for managing any emergency.

### **The Way Forward**

The Ministry of Education and Culture, within the next three months will attempt to complete the draft Continuity of Operations Plan. With the change in nomenclature to Ministry of Education and Culture, it is now necessary to bring on board the Department of Culture and in consultation, assess the level of planning undertaken to address any emergencies at the department's location at Barnard Hill.

The Ministry of Education recognises the need to consult with other tenants of the NIC Building before finalising the COOP. In this regard; the Ministry will attempt to facilitate a meeting with representatives of the Attorney General/s Office, NIPRO, National Community Foundation and the National Insurance Corporation. This is necessary to ensure consistency in evacuation procedures in the event of an emergency.

On completion of the draft COOP the liaison officer will deliver the plan to the Permanent Secretary for review and acceptance. As soon as the plan is accepted by the Permanent Secretary, the process of dissemination proposed by NEMO will guide the Ministry's effort in familiarizing all staff members with the contents of the plan.

In an effort to sensitise principals to disaster preparedness, the Education Officers of Districts 7 & 8 invited NEMO to deliver a presentation on the subject. At that meeting the principals were familiarised with the template for developing disaster plans for their individual districts. To date, those education officers have submitted to the Chief Education Officer, plans developed for schools in their districts. The Ministry of Education proposes to make the necessary arrangements with NEMO so that other education officers can facilitate the development of similar plans for their respective schools.

**Ann Jean Baptiste (Mrs.)**  
**Liaison Officer**

## ROYAL ST LUCIA POLICE FORCE

### REPORT 2006

#### **ACTIVITIES FOR 2006**

1. In preparation for CWC 2007, officers of the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force attended several training programmes and participated in exercises dealing with Mass Casualty Management and Incident Command System.
2. The Police Force conducted a major simulation exercise during the year on the cruise ship *Free Winds*, simulating a bomb explosion which results in serious injuries and loss of life to many passengers. Many lessons were learnt from this exercise.
3. The Marine Police Unit participated in a Major Oil Spill table top exercise at the
4. Hess Oil Terminal.
5. The Deputy Marine Commander attended an Oil Spill Response training programme with CCA (Clean Caribbean and Americas) in Florida.
6. The Police Stations of Gros Islet, Central, Marigot, Soufriere, were fitted with new standby generators.
7. Members of the Force participated in a major exercise in Honduras called FAHUM (Fuerzas Aliadas Humanitarian). The exercise was aimed at preparing the region to adequately respond to forms of disasters likely to affect Cricket World Cup 2007.
8. Several new generators were purchased and installed at various Police Stations.

#### **PLANS FOR 2007**

1. Canaries Police Station and the Police Control Room will be fitted with new standby generators.
2. Ensure that all Police Stations are adequately prepared for storms and disaster.
3. Review the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force Disaster Plan.
4. Endeavour to participate in all local disaster exercises and training programmes.
5. Ensure the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force has a team on standby for CDERA deployment.

Andre Cox  
Superintendent

# Part 3

## Reports of the Standing Committees of

### NEMO



2004 NEMAC Meeting

# DISTRICT COMMITTEES

## **Babonneau Disaster Preparedness Committee Annual Report for the period 2006/2007**

### Preparedness

The committee recognizes the need for constant development, as such a shelter management workshop was held in January of 2006. Training took place over a two day period and a total of fifteen (15) members attended. Trainees were instructed on the protocol and department required as shelter managers. The management of persons during a disaster was another focal point of the workshop.

In August of 2006, N.E.M.O conducted a summer library programme where members of the committee were educated regarding the role and purpose of N.E.M.O and general concerns of the organization.

In February of 2007, Two (2) committee members attended a N.E.M.O consultation where pertinent matters regarding Cricket World Cup (CWC) were discussed. The role of the disaster committee during this mega-event was addressed. Persons were also sensitized on the significance of their contribution to the success of the C.W.C. The director communicated the restrictions and compliances of the various committees and voiced her anticipation of the cooperation of all members.

### Public Information

Dissemination of information to the public is an area of paramount importance to the committee. Efforts were made to inform committee members of the recent developments of the committee and N.E.M.O. A new executive was elected by the general committee to undertake duties of the committee for the next period April 2006-2007. The new executive met a week later to discuss plans and activities which the committee hoped to embark on for the next year.

In July of 2006, a general meeting was conducted to inform members of their role during a disaster. Mr. Dubois did a presentation on the impact of disasters on communities and did a synopsis of disasters which had occurred in the Caribbean over the past decade.

In September 2006, Mr Ellis, was invited to a general committee meeting where he focused on communication within the disaster community. He emphasized the significance of communication and reminded members of their role and commitment to the committee.

An executive meeting was held in November 2006, where plans for the remainder of the year were outlined. The year in review was the focus of this meeting. The executive discussed the strengths and weaknesses of the committee and looked to address the short comings.

Plans for the period 2007 – 2008

The committee hopes to establish the various subcommittees to take effect within the committee. Training is also anticipated for members undertaking the various duties.

More ventures geared at the sensitization of community members is another focal point which the committee seeks to fill. Committee meetings are also planned on a year round basis before, during and after the hurricane season.

Plans are made to address the renewal of contracts for shelter activation. These contracts will be revived and modified to include all the requirements deemed necessary by the committee.

The shelter management sub-committee will revise the emergency shelters and conduct an assessment to establish its suitability as a shelter. This will be evaluated using a detailed checklist to verify its appropriateness.

The Babonneau Disaster Preparedness Committee is committed to the education to the education of its members to allow them to effectively undertake their role. As such, it is imperative that workshops are attended, research is carried out and information is communicated to the community. The committee strives to create a safe environment and commit to preparedness for any disaster which the community may encounter.

**Annual Report 2005/2006  
Castries South Disaster Preparedness Committee**

**ACTIVITIES OF 2005/2006**

Revitalization

- Revamping of the Core Committee
- Revamping of Ciceron Sub-committee

Training

- Introduction to Disaster Management – 15 persons trained
- First Aid/CPR – 13 persons trained

Satellite Warehouse

- Identification of Site
- Approval of site

Equipment and Supplies

- Five kerosene lamps
- Five Radios

**PLANS FOR 2006/2007**

Institutional Strengthening

- Strengthen Core and Sub-committees
- Establish new Community sub-committees

Training

- Community Disaster Management Planning
- First Aid/CPR
- Hazard Identification and Mitigation

Satellite Warehouse

- Construction of Warehouse
- Equip Warehouse

**Pearl Mangal  
SECRETARY**



**Soufriere Disaster Response Committee Annual Report For the Year  
April 2006 to March 2007**

Activities 2006

The year 2006, The Soufriere Disaster committee was able to ensure that most of the requirements for the safety of Soufriere and its environs, in the event of a disaster, had been put in place. However St. Lucia was again spared by last year's hurricane sea

A series of training courses were conducted by NEMO. Fifteen (15) persons were trained in First Aid, CPR, Mass Casualty and Triage.

Members participated in a community tour which took the form of hazard mapping, identifying and recording of elderly and disabled persons that would require evacuation in an emergency.

- Committee members attended workshop consultations and received training hosted by NEMO.

**Projections for 2007-2008**

1. Membership mobilization Drive
2. Public Awareness Campaign
3. Training communication exercises
4. Revision of Community Evacuation Plan
5. Conduct Simulation exercise
6. In collaboration with the Fire Dept, conduct fire drill at schools
7. Fencing of the satellite warehouse.
8. Review sub-committees
9. Review of Emergency Shelters.
10. Formation of Disaster Sub-committee in Bouton
11. Exhibition : (1) Family Disaster Plan, (2) Disaster Supply Kit

Simone Mondesir  
Chair – Soufriere Committee

**Dennery South Disaster Preparedness Committee  
Report for the Period April 2006 to March 2007**

Dennery South Committee is pleased to present its Annual Report from its thirty (30) man membership. The Committee holds its monthly meetings every first Monday of the month at the Dennery Public Library.

**Preparedness**

1. Monthly general meetings held.
2. Formation of Dennery Volunteer Fire Fighting Unit. The Volunteer Group will assist the Committee and the Dennery Fire Service in all disaster related matters.
3. Discussions held on disaster related matters with Volunteer Unit.
4. Revision of Disaster Plan and preparations for 2007 hurricane season.
5. Tour of Village and La Caye – to assess vulnerable areas.
6. Three (3) members from the Dennery Fire Fighting Unit and one (1) from the Committee participated in a training workshop on Damage Assessment at the Skyway Hotel, Vieux Fort
7. Members of the Volunteer Fire Fighting Unit received training in First Aid, Fire Prevention and Radio Telecommunications.

**General**

1. Fund raising activities
2. Church Service and activities to commemorate the Committee's 24<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
3. Presentation of certificates and award ceremony – Dennery Volunteer Fire Fighting Unit.
4. Presentation of hamper to home for the elderly.

**Plans for 2007-2008**

1. General review of Disaster Plan.
2. Formation of Sub-disaster preparedness committee for La Caye..
3. Village tour to include La Caye.
4. Identification of hazards.
5. Public and fund raising activities.
6. Participation in workshops.
7. Public lectures, meetings, community development and self-help.

.....  
IVAN GASPARD  
Chairman

# Part 4

## Work program



***National Emergency Management Office***

**Prime Minister's Office**

Telephone (758) 452-3802 / (758)-468-2126  
Fax (758) 453-2152  
Telex 0398 6272 LC

Weather Hotline (758) 454-3452

P O Box 1517  
Red Cross Building  
Vigie, Castries  
Saint Lucia  
West Indies

E-mail [eoc@candw.lc](mailto:eoc@candw.lc)  
URL <http://www.geocities.com/slunemo>

**WORK PROGRAMME – 2006/2007**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

1. Introduction
2. Critical Assumptions
3. Objectives
4. Outputs
  
5. Programme Areas
  
6. Comprehensive Disaster Management

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Hazard analysis and experience have confirmed that Saint Lucia is at risk from numerous hazards, both natural and technological, these include:

- ❖ Metrological Hazards: hurricanes, tropical storms, tornadoes, storm-surge, floods and drought.
- ❖ Geological Hazards: earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, landslides.
- ❖ Environmental Hazards: marine pollution, oil and hazardous material spills.
- ❖ Transportation Accidents: air – aircraft; land – vehicular; marine – ships.

The role of the National Emergency Management Organisation [NEMO] is to develop, test and implement adequate measures to protect the population of Saint Lucia from the physical, social, environmental and economic effects of both natural and man-made disasters.

Its responsibility is to ensure the efficient functioning of preparedness, prevention, mitigation and response actions.

This Work Programme therefore seeks to promote a comprehensive integrated approach to disaster management by bringing about greater partnership between government, the private sector, non-governmental organisations, donor agencies and regional organisations in an effort to enhance the institutional and human resource capacity, improve national coordination of comprehensive disaster management programmes and activities and provide for the incremental acquisition of the necessary resources.

## 2.0 CRITICAL ASSUMPTIONS

In order to successfully implement this programme, the following critical assumptions have been made:

- (1) That emergencies in Saint Lucia may be categorised in two ways. Those that are preceded by a build-up [slow onset] period, which can provide the National Emergency Management Office with advance warnings, which is used to facilitate timely and effective activation of national arrangements.
- (2) That other emergencies occur with little or no advance warning thus requiring mobilization and almost instant commitment of National resources. That the event may require prompt support from Regional and International assistance just prior to or after the onset of such emergencies.

- (3) That the Government of Saint Lucia will endorse the programme and seek to provide the financial and human resources and administrative facilitation required for its implementation
- (4) That the private sectors, non-governmental organisations and other donors will provide support in a spirit of partnership.
- (5) That the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency will endeavour to provide technical support, wherever possible, for the programme.
- (6) That key government and private sector agencies will continue to develop their individual disaster management plans, support the development of sectoral disaster management plans and provide tangible support to the Director and National Emergency Management Office.
- (7) That community disaster management planning will become an integral part of the national effort so as to empower communities to take greater responsibility for their protection and safety.
- (8) That the lessons learnt from past hazard impacts would influence the review and updating of disaster management plans and procedures.

### **3.0 OBJECTIVES**

- (1) To strengthen the administration of the National Emergency Management Office to provide leadership and coordination in disaster management in Saint Lucia.
- (2) To provide specialised training in Disaster Management for local committees.
- (3) To provide specialised training in Disaster Management for relevant sectors and agencies.
- (4) To educate and inform the population about the hazards facing the island by improving the public education and awareness programmes.
- (5) To improve and strengthen the shelter management programme.
- (6) To develop and implement a system of Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis following a major hazard impact.
- (7) Increase the level of preparedness of the response organisations and the population of Saint Lucia.
- (8) Promote the reduction of vulnerability of infrastructure in Saint Lucia.
- (9) Strengthen the links with academic and research institutes.

### **4.0 OUTPUTS**

At the end of this programme it is expected that the following would have been accomplished:

- (1) A cadre of trained personnel in specialised areas of disaster management including membership of the Council of and for persons with disabilities.
- (2) Complete the National Response Plan for final sign off by the Cabinet of Ministers
- (3) Establish Community Disaster Management System within each constituency with personnel trained to adequately manage disaster/emergency events in their community.
- (4) Improved Public Education and Information Programmes about all hazards.
- (5) Commence a Natural Hazard Mitigation Program
- (6) Heighten awareness of the Avian Influenza
- (7) Greater cooperation, coordination and information sharing at the national and regional level.
- (8) Commence preparations for the 2008 ICC Championship Trophy

## 5.0 WORK PROGRAMME AREAS

<b><i>ADMINISTRATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING</i></b>	<b><i>PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE</i></b>	<b><i>MITIGATION AND RESEARCH</i></b>	<b><i>INFORMATION AND EDUCATION</i></b>
Imbed continuity of operations into the public and private sector, NGOs etc.	Review of the National Emergency Management Response Plan as required by Law.	Creation of After Action Reports for Past Disaster Events that NEMO has responded to.	Distribution of Annual Report.
Annual Renewal of supply contracts for emergency response supplies.	Collaborate with Agencies for increased Safety Protocols at Mass Crowd Events.	Creation of After Action Reports on future Disaster Events that NEMO must respond to.	Attendance at Local, Regional and International meetings.
Annual Awards Night.	Convene the Bi-Annual Meetings of NEMO.	Collate and distribute resource information to District Committees.	Collaborate with private sector to distribute information brochures.
Staff to learn a second language.	Collaborate with the Government Liaison Officers to review the Ministry's Continuity Response Plans.	Preparation of NEMO Annual Report.	Planning and production of a regular newsletter.
Provision of material resources for the NEMO through programmes like the HAP	Collaborate with regional and international agencies to conduct training of response organisations and volunteers.	Annual Inspection of Emergency Shelters	Publication of National Emergency Response Plan.

	Collaborate with regional and international agencies to implement projects.	Improvement of collection at NEMO Documentation Center.
Construction of a National EOC	Planning and participation in simulation exercises.	Collaborate with Media Houses to produce the annual Newspaper supplements
Introduction of the resource monitoring computer program SUMA to the Public and Private Sector.	National Consultation on Avian Influenza	Meet with National and District Committees
		Distribution of information to partner agencies.

## 6.0 COMPREHENSIVE DISASTER MANAGEMENT

The development objective of the project is to begin to effectively realize and embed comprehensive disaster management (CDM) into the development process of the Caribbean countries and to strengthen CDERA to help achieve this. Achievement of the development objective of the project will be measured by the number of countries in the region that begin the process of incorporating CDM into their overall development strategies. (CDERA – May 2002)

The Work Plan of NEMO dove-tails into CDM under the following Intermediate Results of the Strategic Framework.

<i><b>NEMO Work Programme:</b></i>	<i><b>ADMINISTRATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING</b></i>	<i><b>PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE</b></i>	<i><b>MITIGATION AND RESEARCH</b></i>	<i><b>INFORMATION AND EDUCATION</b></i>
<i><b>Comprehensive Disaster Management:</b></i>	<i><b>IR -1: Stronger regional and national institutions to promote CDM</b></i>	<i><b>IR-2: Research and training to support CDM.</b></i>	<i><b>IR-4: Preparedness, response and mitigation capacity is enhanced and integrated.</b></i>	<i><b>IR-5: Hazard information is incorporated into development planning and decision-making.</b></i>

.....  
**A. L. DAWN FRENCH**  
*Director - NEMO*



## Part 5 – Appendices

## The National Emergency Management Organisation

### **HISTORY**

Disaster Management, though called by numerous names over the years has manifested itself constantly in Saint Lucia. As far back as June 10 – 20, 1979 Saint Lucia was host to the Caribbean Disaster Preparedness Seminar, where over one hundred and fifty delegates from the Caribbean, North and Latin America assembled to discuss the concerns of the day. Of course it was the following year that Hurricane Allen blasted Saint Lucia.

The actual date for the creation of the an office to deal with disasters is not clear, however by 1990 there was an established office being run by a National Disaster Coordinator.

A year later in 1991 Saint Lucia together with fifteen other Caribbean States signed the Articles that created the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency [CDERA]. Prior to that there had been the Pan Caribbean Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Project [PCDPP], which ran from 1980 to 1991 with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNDRO, PAHO/WHO, Red Cross and other international agencies and had serviced the Caribbean including Saint Lucia.

In February 1995 the Office of Disaster Preparedness had its staff increase from two to three when the post of Deputy Disaster Coordinator was created. The next major step in Disaster Management for Saint Lucia occurred when in March 2000 the Office of Disaster Preparedness was renamed the National Emergency Management Office (NEMO) and the resident Disaster Coordinator and Deputy Disaster Coordinator became the Director and Deputy Director respectively.

NEMO is responsible for having the Nation in a state of preparedness for an event, also for responding to the needs of the Nation after an event and coordinating this response at local, regional and international levels.

### **NEMO's MISSION STATEMENT...**

*The role of the National Emergency Management Organisation [NEMO] is to develop, test and implement adequate measures to protect the population of Saint Lucia from the physical, social, environmental and economic effects of both natural and man-made disasters. Its responsibility is to ensure the efficient functioning of preparedness, prevention, mitigation and response actions.*

### **HAZARDS**

Severe weather systems are not the only threat that NEMO must plan and respond to; hazard analysis and experience have confirmed that Saint Lucia is at risk from numerous hazards, both natural and technological:

- Meteorological Hazard: Hurricanes, Tropical Wave, Tropical Storm, Storm Surge, Flooding, Land Slides, Drought
- Seismic/Volcanic Hazard: Volcanic Eruption, Earthquake, Tsunami [Marine and land based]
- Technological: Fire, Explosion, Hazardous Material Spill, Mass Poisoning, Pollution, Civil Unrest
- Other: Plague, Mass Causality, Epidemic Outbreak, Dam Failure, Office Violence, Terrorism, Bomb Threat/Explosion, Utility Failure

## OPERATIONS

During “peacetime” the Office of the National Emergency Management Organisation acts as a secretariat assisting the eighteen local communities with various public awareness campaigns as well as training sessions. One area of constant activity is providing advice to companies and service groups on action that can be taken before, during and after a disaster. The Office also takes part in activities that will heighten awareness with the public e.g. Radio and Television programs, summer school talks, production of telephone cards and the creation of an Internet website at <http://www.geocities.com/slunemo> where certain sections of the National Plan are available.

Disaster Management in Saint Lucia is executed on a voluntary basis and during an event NEMO is part of a larger network that comes into existence to respond to a disaster. There are various Ministries that are essential to a response action. There are also eighteen (18) District Committees that are composed similarly to the national committees, which are composed of representatives of various Ministries and Social Groups. For a response action the national personnel contact his/her local counterpart and together execute an action.

During an event NEMO transforms into the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC). The NEOC is the center from which all commands are issued and to which all demands are made. It is the seat of control for the Prime Minister as Chairman of the NEOC and as Leader of the State. All heads of essential services locate at the NEOC e.g. Commissioner of Police, Chief Fire Officer, Chief Medical Officer, etc.

With the permission of the Cabinet of Ministers; NEMO has the responsibility of the majority of Government’s resources during a crisis. These resources are coordinated by NEMO/NEOC but are utilized by various agencies. With the cooperation of the private sector NEMO also has access to the resources of individuals and companies.

Finally the **Emergency Powers Act 5 of 1995** provides the office with the ability to commandeer DURING A STATE OF EMERGENCY ONLY. Therefore NEMO/NEOC has access and control of the resources of the Nation when faced with a disaster. In 2006 the **Disaster Management Act No 30 of 2006** replaced the **Disaster Preparedness and Response**

**Act 13 of 2000.** It consolidated and placed in law the actions of NEMO while making legal mandatory evacuations.

The NEOC has one final responsibility, and that is to the Tourism Industry. The sector has created the Crisis Management Unit (CMU) which functions out of the Ministry of Tourism. Once the National EOC is activated the CMU is also activated.

## **REGIONAL LINKS**

Saint Lucia is a member state of CDERA. The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA), which is an inter- governmental regional disaster management organisation established in 1991 by an Agreement of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). Its headquarters are located in Barbados.

CDERA has three (3) principle organs:

- The Council is the supreme policy making body and is comprised of the Heads of Government of the Participating States or their designated representatives. It meets annually to review the work of the Agency, approve its Work Programme and Administrative Budget and make any other major policy decisions required.
- The Board of Directors is made up of the National Disaster Coordinators of Participating States, with the Coordinator (see below) as Chairman. The Board serves in a technical advisory capacity and makes recommendations to Council on matters such as those mentioned above.
- The Coordinating Unit is the administrative headquarters of the Agency and is located in Barbados. It is responsible for executing the activities of the Agency and conducting its day-to-day business. Source: CDERA 2001

## **RESPONSE PLANS**

Disaster Management is not conducted on an ad hoc manner. There are plans and procedures to be followed and no two hazards are responded to in the same manner. As such in August 1996, the Cabinet of Ministers accepted and authorized the Saint Lucia National Emergency Response Plan.

In 2002/2003 with the assistance of the OECS Emergency Recovery and Disaster Management Project, NEMO reviewed the 1996 Response Plan and commissioned new plans to address other hazards.

- Once the Cabinet of Ministers has accepted and authorized the new plan the completed National Emergency Response Plan for Saint Lucia will comprise of a number of Policies, Guidelines, Operating Procedures and Plans.

NEMO's partners continue to work on the:

- Health Sector Response Plan
- Ministry of Works Response Plan
- Borderlais Correctional Facility Response Plan

- Cruise Ship Response Plan
- Hospitality Industry Crisis Response Plan

While NEMO works on:

- Policy Guidelines on Mass Crowds Events
- Policy on Hazard Mitigation
- Policy on Displaced Persons
- Natural Hazard Mitigation Program

NEMO's Homepage: <http://www.geocities.com/slunemo>

NEMO's Press Releases Archive: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/slunemo/>

## Saint Lucia 2006/2007 – Disaster Diary

February 1, 1996	Victoria Fire	10 years
February 11, 1996	Patterson Gap Fire	10 years
February 13, 1937	May Rose Disaster	70 years
March 25, 1972	Floor Collapse	35 years

### NEMO Remembers ... the MAY ROSE DISASTER

*February 13, 2007* -- Even as the Nation gears up for Valentine's Day, the National Emergency Management Organisation brings another disaster moment to the attention of all.

This date in history: February 13, 2007; it is 70 years since the May Rose Disaster.

*The following is taken from the Voice Newspaper and supplied by the Saint Lucia National Archives Authority:*

*The "May Rose No. 349" was a canoe which was owned and captained by Mr. Alphonse St. Juste of Choiseul. It acted as a ferry, serving the towns and villages along Saint Lucia's west coast. The May Rose was licensed to carry twenty passengers, in addition to a crew of three.*

*On February 13th, 1937, at about 7:30 p.m., the May Rose left Roseau Bay and headed southward for the towns of Soufrière and Choiseul. There were eleven passengers. Most of whom were fish vendors, returning to their homes.*

*According to an account given by one of the crew members, Mr. Albertin Frederick, the trip was proceeding well, up until about two miles from Soufrière, near a spot called Pointe Grand Caille. There, Captain St. Juste made the decision to turn the canoe seaward and travel outside a nearby reef, rather than inside it, as was the custom for canoes. Yet, unknown to him, there was a strong tide running in a north-westerly direction with contrary waves meeting at the point and breaking across the reef. As related, by Mr. Frederick, it was too dark to see any danger ahead and as soon as the Captain realized the danger he shouted, "Pull fast for the current is strong!" The crew pulled fast as they were told, and in doing so, the canoe encountered one of the waves and capsized throwing everyone into the water.*

*Mr. Frederick, an experienced seaman, was able to swim to shore at Anse Jambon and then make his way to Soufrière on foot. When the incident was reported, a small motor launch was sent out to search for other survivors. Two were found at Anse Mahaut. However, because of the prevailing rough weather the small boat could not venture out to sea so as to search for others. The team returned to Soufrière and in the morning*

*recommenced the search effort but no other survivor was found. None of the bodies of the twelve victims was ever recovered. Two days later, fishermen found the May Rose drifting out to sea off Canaries and towed her to the Canaries Bay.*

*An investigation into the cause of the mishap concluded that, based on the evidence of the survivors, it was a tragic accident and no one could have been blamed.*

~\*~\*~\*~\*~

## **NEMO Remembers... 1972 - Floor Collapse at Teacher's Training College**

March 23, 2006 -- The headlines of the Voice Newspaper of March 25, 1972 said it all:  
*Disaster At Teachers' College*

It was thirty five years ago today that two hundred and fifty people plummeted fifteen feet to the ground that Thursday evening, when the auditorium floor of the Saint Lucia Teachers' Training College suddenly collapsed during a Miss Complex Beauty Contest staged by the students.

The Voice Newspaper described the event:

*It was a gruesome sight as the victims landed on top of each other, their desperate screams for help renting the air. Many lay helpless under a massive pile of smashed lumber, broken chairs and other debris. There was blood everywhere.*

*Those students who were in another part of the building when the tragedy occurred saved the day. Had it not been for their quick action in rushing to the rescue, the result might have been much worse.*

*Mr. Vernon Warner, one of the judges of the beauty contest, worked like a real-life hero. Car-owners who were able to drive soon started transporting the injured to Victoria Hospital.*

Within half an hour of the accident all the victims had been transported to the Victoria Hospital where of the two hundred and fifty only six were hospitalized, among them was Mrs. Marjorie Thomas, wife of Mr. Leyton Thomas the then Minister of Education. Ironically the same building is now called the Leyton Thomas Building and houses the renamed Division of Teacher Education and Management Studies.

The Crusader Newspaper issue of March 25, 1972 also reported on the disaster but added this:

*This disaster precipitates the need for establishing an Authority or Committee for the prevention of accidents in public places or places of assembly.*

Thirty five years later the National Emergency Management Organisation commenced moves to improve public safety at large events. Because of the size of the audience that are drawn to such facilities the generic term used is MASS CROWD EVENT. Though there are mechanisms for the Licensing of such events, there is an increasing need to coordinate the

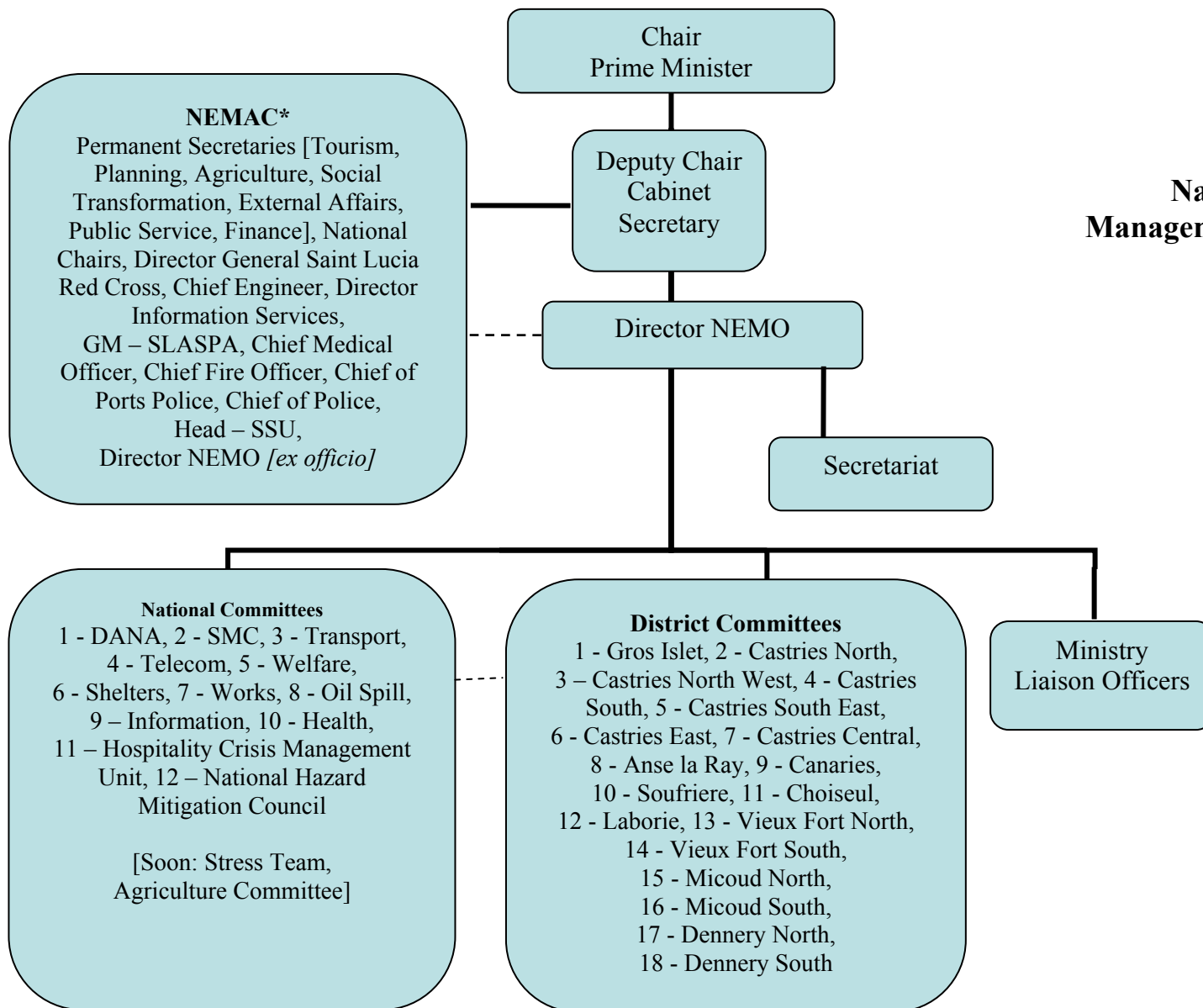
Licensing of such Shows, and so the Government of Saint Lucia through the Membership of NEMO began circulating the Guidelines in 2005.

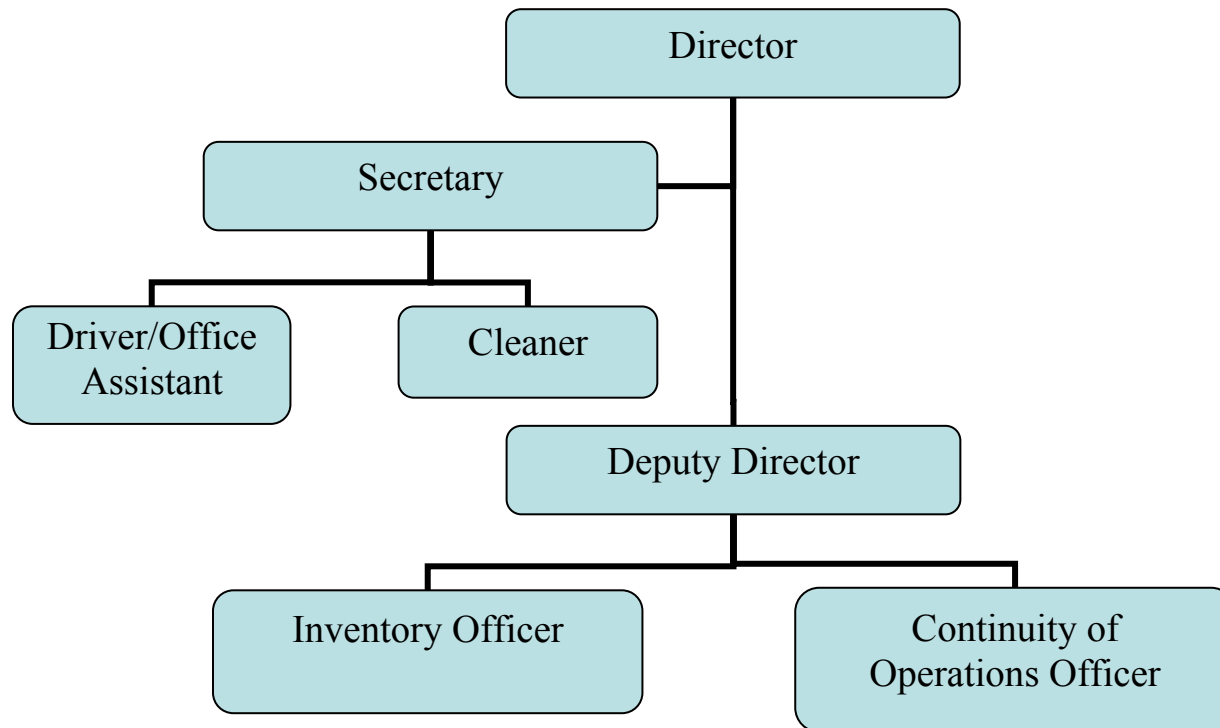
As we remember the events of March 23, 1972 and express relief that there was no loss of life, the NEMO Secretariat repeats its call for Saint Lucians to read the Mass Events Guide to ensure that such incidents don't repeat.

The Mass Crowd Events Guide is still available for comment at the Official Documents Section of the Government of Saint Lucia Website or from the NEMO Secretariat at Biseé.

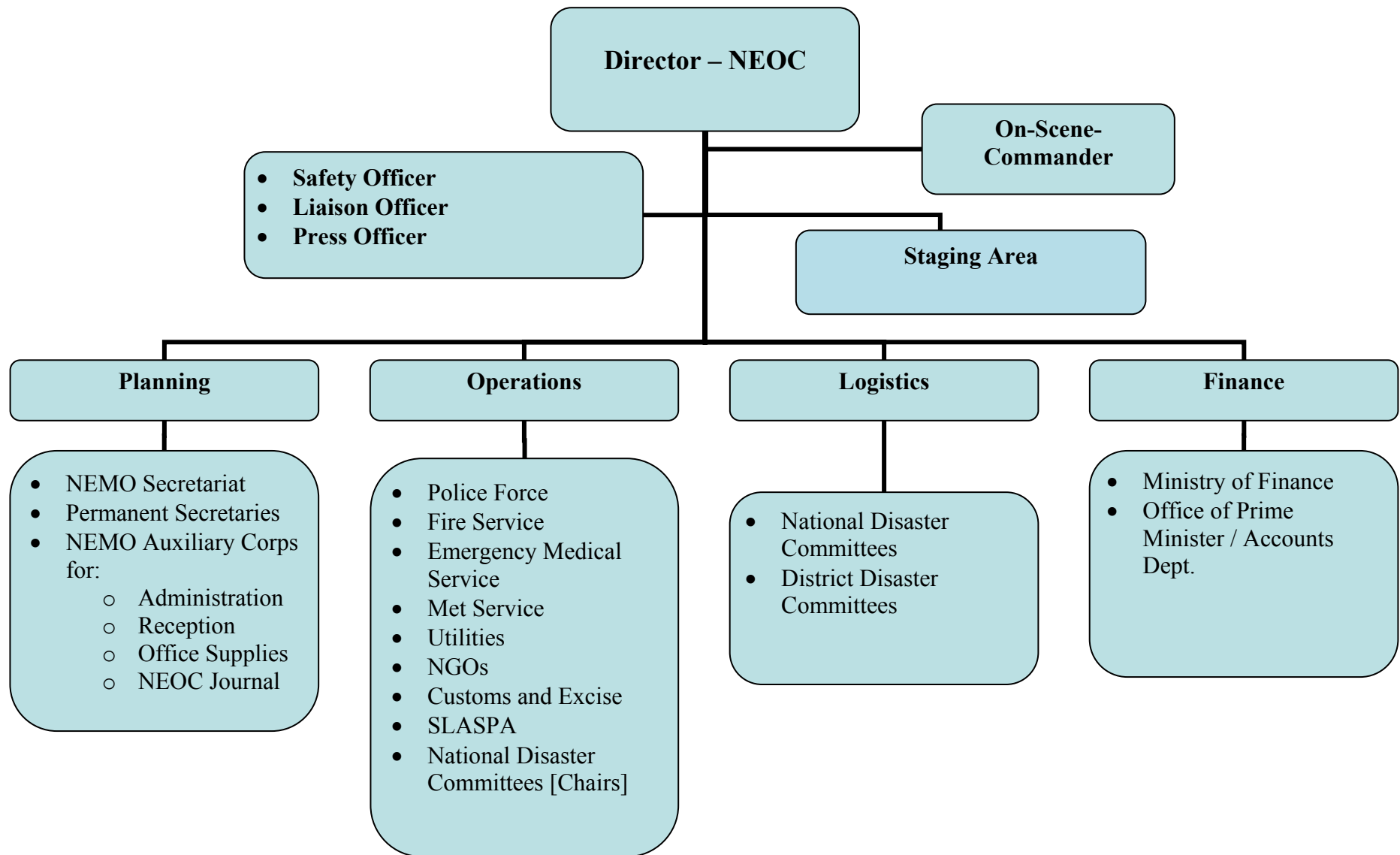


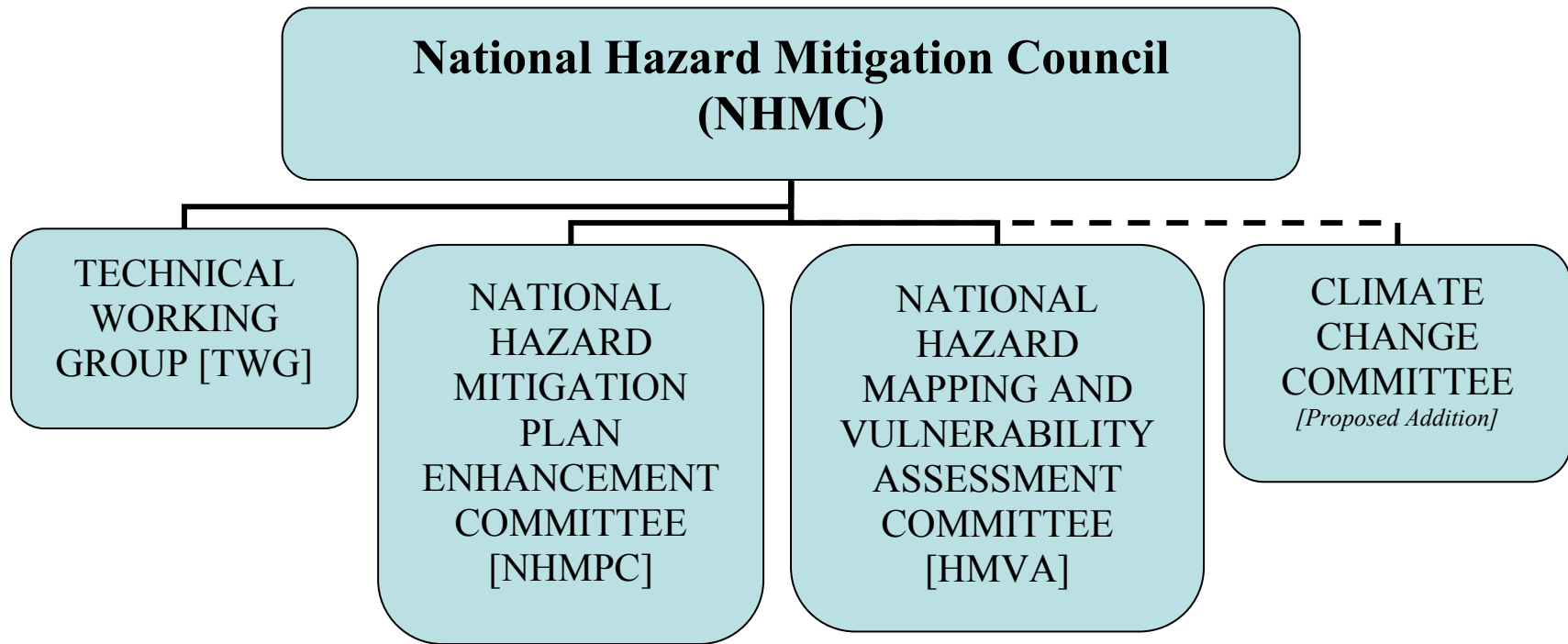
**National Emergency Management Organisation**  
*Updated March 12, 2007*



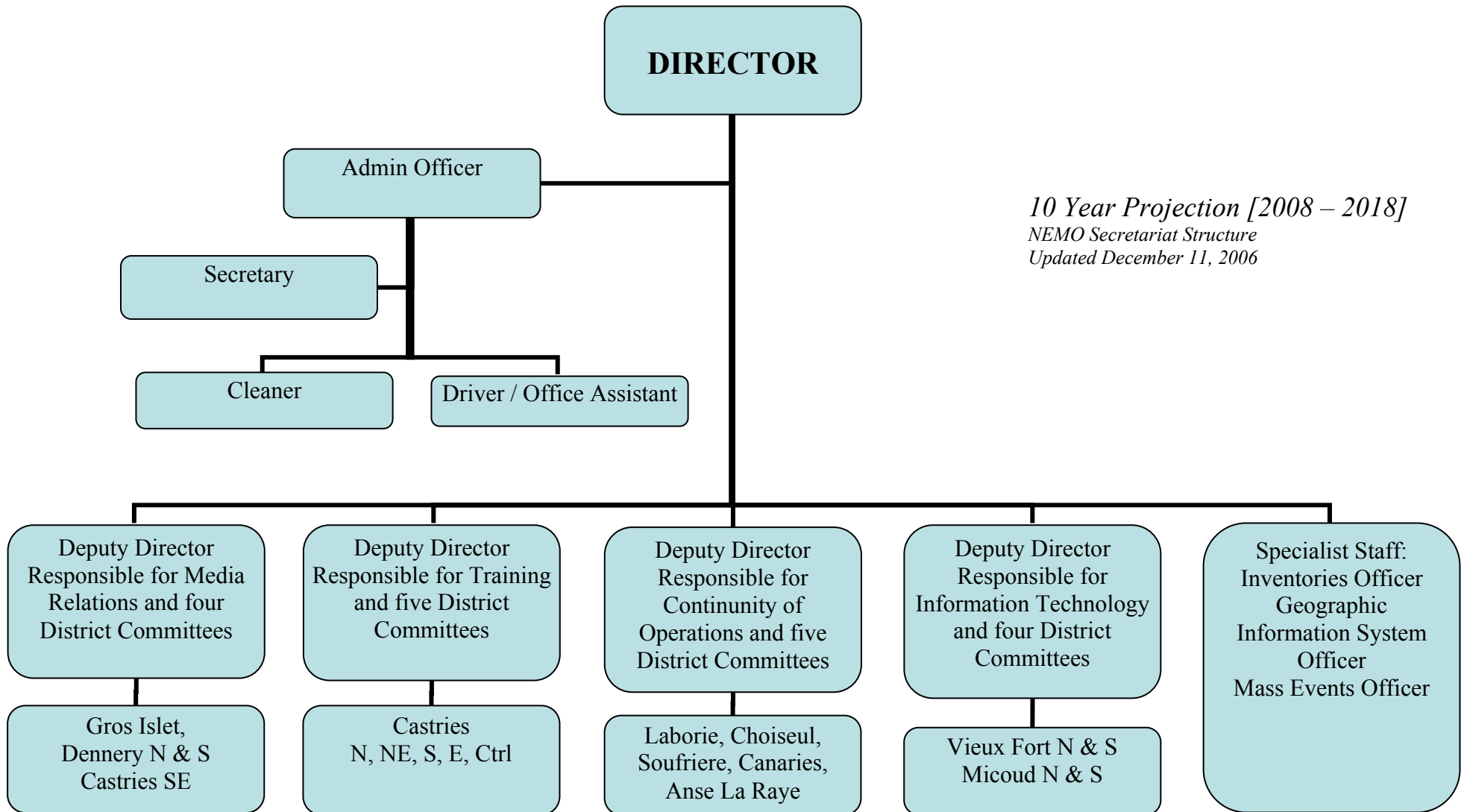


*NEMO Secretariat Structure  
Updated March 7, 2007*





*Saint Lucia National Hazard Mitigation Council Organisational Chart  
Updated November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2004*



# Saint Lucia

## National Emergency Management Organisation

### Mission Statement

*The role of the National Emergency Management Organisation [NEMO] is to develop, test and implement adequate measures to protect the population of Saint Lucia from the physical, social, environmental and economic effects of both natural and man-made disasters.*

*Its responsibility is to ensure the efficient functioning of preparedness, prevention, mitigation and response actions.*

<http://geocities.com/slunemo/>

# CWC 2007

Saint Lucia has been selected as one of the eight venues to host matches for the Cricket World Cup to be held in the West Indies in 2007.

On July 13th 2007 Saint Lucia was awarded the blue package of matches (Blue Group) which involves hosting of six first round matches in the group led by the English team and also hosting one of the two semifinal matches.

A fully equipped and staffed Incident Command Centre will be set up to ensure access and egress areas are properly manned, adequate signage is established, aisles remain clear and there is no overcrowding. Public Health agencies will perform pre and post match environment safety checks. The ICS will form part of the Venue Operations Centre (VOC) and will collaborate with NEMO.

To ensure a safe CWC 2007 a number of national response plans and protocols are required. As a set of stand alone documents, for the purposes of Cricket World Cup is the CWC Master Response Plan.

Saint Lucia presently holds the Chair for the CARICOM Sub Committee on Disaster Management for CWC 2007.

