



"Facing Opportunity and Taking Responsibility
for Our Country's Development"

Throne Speech by Her Excellency, the Governor General

Dame Calliopa Pearlette Louisy

*on the Occasion of the Formal Opening of the
Fourth Session of the Eighth Parliament of Saint Lucia,
April 20th, 2004*

THRONE SPEECH 2004

Mr. President and members of the Senate,
Mr. Speaker and members of the House of Assembly,

Every year at about this time, the nation looks forward with expectation and anticipation to the official opening of the new session of Parliament. Whether this translates into hope or despair, optimism or pessimism depends more on subjective factors than on the objective measurement of economic and social indices. Whether the proverbial glass of water is seen as half full or half empty is very often a reflection of the particular subjectivity through which the national reality is viewed.

Through the medium of this address My Government has repeatedly stressed the necessity of considering national imperatives with a dispassionate gravity. Every one of these addresses has called on the nation to look to the necessities that bind us, and beyond the differences that divide us. We may never resolve the dilemma of whether the glass is half full or half empty but we can achieve meaningful progress if we can in turn focus on the extent to which the nation's thirst can be quenched by the water available, and then focus on the extent to which the absence of additional water dehydrates the legitimate aspirations and expectations of our people.

Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, it is not given to politicians to repeat the miracle of the loaves but we can all come to a greater appreciation of the wisdom of the Chinese language in which the characters representing **opportunity** are the same as those representing **risk**. Opportunity and risk – two sides of the same coin; different angles of perception on the same reality.

Opportunity and risk are both related to responsibility and it is the intersection of the mindset that determines which will prevail. It is in that light that My Government – with input from the popular sectors – selected as the theme of our 25th Anniversary of Independence the notion of “Taking Responsibility for Our Country’s Development”.

A NEW VISTA IN OUR MENTAL GEOGRAPHY

Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, the future is upon us and in this final hour, when the old paradigms and preferential regimes make their exit, we are faced with a very different sunrise. Whether that sunrise will represent the dawn of new opportunity or preside over the erosion of all possibility is ours to decide. Old and persistent political mythologies that prevent us from actively embracing innovation, such as the belief that governments can and must solve all problems and must assume all responsibilities, will also fade into that sunset. In this the 25th year of our existence as an independent nation, we must all assume responsibility for our own and our nation’s development.

By January 2005 the entire Anglophone Caribbean will become a single market and economy signaling a new political geography that will usher in the free movement of people, goods and services. We may not have internalized the full import of that date with destiny but it will require a radical reviewing of the way we think, move and behave in that Caribbean space. We who have in many cases not yet gone beyond the parochial divide between Castries and “the countryside” must now create broader vistas in our mental geography that now makes St. Lucia no more than a parish in this new map of opportunity, this new Caribbean space.

By January 2005, regardless of our collective or individual degree of mental preparation, we will be challenged to adjust to this new reality. Governments, private sector, and civil society will all be equally challenged to make the inescapable adjustments. At the individual level, can we widen our sense of home so that that sense of belonging extends beyond the confining seas? As business persons, can our entrepreneurial capacity master the wider market and confront the competition that will present itself? As workers and professionals, can we re-define our notions of performance and productivity to excel in a wider arena of mobile skills and competencies? As nationalistic citizens, can we reconcile that just as an unemployed St. Lucian can freely travel to Barbados to seek work, so too an astute Jamaican business person can buy and own land here in St. Lucia? Above every twist in the accustomed channels of our thought and behavior, the most challenging is going to be the acceptance of that type of reciprocity, the acceptance that we can no longer expect to have our cake and eat it. We cannot be free to seek jobs abroad and not have others come here seeking work too. We cannot own land in their islands and not have them claim a piece of St. Lucia also. We cannot seek their investment but protect ourselves from their competition.

Our date with destiny has come. At the international level, the processes of globalization are accelerating. In 2006 our banana trading regime will change almost completely from what is left of preferential access to what is expected to be a tariff only system. The precise operation of that new regime is still uncertain, but what must clearly be anticipated and understood is that no-one is going to fight costly battles on our behalf to secure privileges that all global trends seek to reverse. The survival of the industry therefore will ultimately depend on the degree of competitiveness that it can attain. While Windward Island Governments have made deep commitments to create the most enabling environment,

using all available channels from the diplomatic to the technical, it is the effort of every farmer who still is and still wants to remain in the business to become internationally competitive that will make that final difference. In other words, Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, our farmers too must take responsibility for the development and survival of the industry.

Misyé Pwèzidan, Misyé Speaker, toulézanné, péyi-a ka atann lokasyon sala, koumansman yon sèsyon nèf Palman-an pou sondé twavay-la Gouvèdman ka pwoposé fè a diwan lanné-a ki douvan nou an. Nou ka swé plè ében déplè silon patizan nou, ében silon si nou satisfè ében désatisfè ki zafè nou ében lentéwé nou wisivyè latansyon-an nou té kay avoudwé wè a. Byen souvan, nou pa ka pwan an konsidéwasyon wéalité péyi-a, mé sèlman ki mannyè bagay ka afèkté nou pèsonnèlman.

Toulézanné, nou ka kwiyé asou jan péyi-a pou kité chikann dèyè, épi mété lidé nou ansanm pou pousé péyi-a douvan. Mé malèwèzman, plisyé pami nou ni labitid kasé bwa an zòwèy nou. Nou wifizé kouté; nou pa entéwésé. Silon nou, zafè dévlopman péyi-a sé zafè Gouvèdman sèlman. Mé lè-a ja wivé pou nou tout pwan wèsponsabilité pou dévlòpman kò nou épi dévlòpman péyi nou. Sé sa nou mandé tout pèp Sent Lisi fè lè nou té chwézi kon tèm pou sélébwasyon vennsenkyenm lannivèsè lendépandans péyi-a: “ **Annou tout pwan wèsponsabilité pou dévlòpman péyi nou**”. Nou ja sonné tout klòch pou anonsé koumansman tan nèf la ki ka vini an. Nou ka envité’w konsidiwé lanné 2004 kon ‘tenté lanmès’; kon dènyé son. Si nou misé, nou pé touvé tout lapòt fèmé asou nou. Epi nou tout sav ki i pli ézé pou antwé pa lapòt douvan an kay, pasé éséyé kasé finèt pou antwé.

An Janvyé 2005, tout sé péyi anglé Kawaib-la kay fè pati yon sèl lèspas, ki kay aksèpté mouvman lib, mouvman san anpèchman moun, podwi èk

sèvis. Nou pé pòkò kopwann signifkans gwan chanjman sala, mé ki nou vlé ou non, nou kay oblijé chanjé katjil nou, mouvman nou épi mannyè nou ka konpòte kò nou an lèspas nèf sala. Es nou pawé pou sa? Awanjman nèf sala ka mandé nou aksèpté ki menm mannyè-a nou kay sa alé chachay twavay lòt péyi, jan lòt péyi kay sa osi vini isi chachay twavay. Nou kay sa achtay tè ében popwiété an sé lòt péyi Kawaib-la si nou vlé, mé yo kay sa vini isi osi pou achtay tè. Jan biznis kay sa établi kò yo lòt péyi, mé jan lòt péyi kay sa vini isi établi kò yo épi biznis yo osi. Es nou pawé pou sa?

An 2006, sé awanjman-an nou té ni an plas pou vann fig nou an kay chanjé. Nou pòkò vini sav diwèkman ki mannyè bagay kay maché apwé sa, mé sa nou ni pou aksèptè a sé ki pèsonn lòt péyi kay goumen ban nou, ében mété lentéwé yo menm an danjé pou tjenn ban nou sé kalité pwivilèj-la tout lèzòt ka fè fòs kò yo pou kwasé. Misyé Pwézidan, Misyé Speaker, lè-a ja wivé pou nou pwan sèwèzman lison sé bètafé-a. An kalité lanviwonman mondyal la nou ka viv la, sé fo nou chak kléwé pou lam nou; sé fo nou chak pwan wèsponsabilité pou kò nou épi pou dévlòpman péyi nou.

The Priorities of Government in this Budget

Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, the annual budget is invariably an instrument for the expression of policy through the allocation of anticipated resources to governmental priorities.

My Government has consistently sought to address the fundamental issues affecting our country and society by prioritizing the allocation of our limited resources to these areas. Over the term of this Parliament, successive allocations have been approved for upgrading the resources of the Police and Fire Services, our hospitals, and our schools.

My Government has determined that in this fiscal year, its key priorities will involve health, internal security and youth.

In the sphere of health my Government proposes to create a new framework of health provision that will radically change access to health care for the vast majority of St. Lucians. Since my address to you on the occasion of the opening of the Third Session of this Parliament, I am pleased to announce that the Task Force on a National Health Insurance has completed its proposals for a universal health care program aimed at providing access to a basket of quality health care to all St. Lucians regardless of social status, and to allow the exercise of choice in the selection of caregiver. My Government has mandated this Task Force to commence the widest public discussion and sensitization so that all St. Lucians will be familiar with the advantages and responsibilities associated with this national imperative. In this endeavor Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, we must all face up to reality – universal health care is a necessity. No civilized country can allow the right to health care to be contingent on economic means. The right to health care is a human right. But there are costs associated with this and that is where the prescience of the theme of this independence year assumes a more profound dimension. If the system of universal health care is to deliver successfully the services that are envisaged by my government (general, psychiatric, and emergency care, diagnostic services, pharmaceuticals and overseas care), an annual amount of \$30 million will be required. If we all agree on its necessity; then we should also agree to assume collective and individual responsibility to make it possible. It cannot be the responsibility of government alone to make this a reality. My government expects that St. Lucians from all walks of life will recognize that this venture is a national koud main for extending health care and that, at the end of the day, we can only take out what we put in.

Internal Security

Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, the question of internal security has been a most vexing challenge for My Government. In spite of heavy investment in the Police and security forces, the battle against crime fluctuates. My Government is determined to win this war notwithstanding what battles might have been lost. To this end, a range of additional measures will be pursued that will complement the efforts and investments made to date. Taken collectively, My Government expects that the tipping point will soon be reached with the crime situation.

The capacity of the law enforcement agencies to solve crimes has been severely hampered by the inadequacy of the tools of crime detection. In the course of this financial year, My Government will establish a forensic laboratory that will provide the Police with a higher quality of investigative and analytic capability.

My Government also proposes the following additional measures to augment existing resources:

- The strengthening and increase in the Special Services Unit (SSU)
- Introduction of breathalysers for on-the-spot determination and apprehension of drunken drivers
- Introduction of full-time highway patrols in the most congested and dangerous roadways that include the Castries-Gros Islet Highway, the Millennium Highway and specific “trouble spots”
- Reintroduction of the duty free concessions on security equipment and its extension to cover households.

AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR YOUTH

My Government is acutely aware of the challenges that face our youth today and the severity of the distractions that continually assail the youth. In making youth a priority in this year's development agenda, My Government is re-asserting its commitment to providing an enabling environment.

My Government has always recognized that the two most important things that can be done for youth is to provide comprehensive access to educational opportunity particularly at the tertiary level and to provide jobs and employment opportunities. Among the new initiatives to be undertaken are:

- the establishment of a Human Resource Development Credit Facility providing grant support to loans for tertiary level training approved by the Ministry of Education;
- the establishment of a Loan Guarantee Facility to support the Cuba Scholarships Program;
- the establishment of a Youth Apprenticeship Programme to provide on-the-job training experience for young persons and complemented by tax credits;
- the provision of tax rebates for corporate sponsors providing support to sporting clubs and organizations recognized by the Minister of Sports.
- The establishment of a Youth Enterprise Development Fund to assist with the financing of youth entrepreneurial initiatives.

Misyé Pwézidan, Misyé Speaker, chak lanné Gouvèdman ka annalizé bizwen péyi-a pou désidé asou sèktè-a i kay twavay liplis. Lanné sala, Gouvèdman kay mété latansyon'y asou santé, sèkouwité péyi-a épi asou lajennès.

Sa ka fè mwen plézi pou anonsé ki démach ja an plas pou établi an Pwogwanm Asiwans Santé ki kay fè'y posib pou tout Sent Lisyen jwi an bon kalité sèvis santé. Mé, menm avan nou koumansé, sé fo nou kopwann ki pou Pwogwanm sala éwisi, nou tout ni pou pwan wèsponsabilité nou. Pwogwanm sala kay kouté \$30 milyon pa lanné. Konsa chak moun, silon kapabilité'y, kay ni pou fè kontwibusyon'y. Konsidiwé Pwogwanm sala kon yon gwan koudmen nasyonal pou bati sèvis santé péyi-a. Ala fin, sé sa nou simen, nou kay sa wékòlté.

Misyé Pwézidan, Misyé Speaker, nou ozabwa épi situasyon kwim an péyi-a. I sanm pli an pli sé pli, épi sé konsidiwé nou pa kay janmen genyen about twakasman sala. Mé Gouvèdman détèminè pou genyen ladjè sala menm si nou ja pèd anchay sé batay-la. Lanné sala, nou kay pwan sèten lòt démach:

- Nou kay établi an labowatwa medico-legale, sa kou ka kwiyé an anglé labowatwa “forensic” pou endé Polis adan lenvèstigasyon sèten kwim;
- Nou kay mennen antwé pli Polis SSU;
- Nou kay mété polis asou sé chimen péyi-a pou éséyé wabat asou aksidan machin épi pou anfòsé lwa twafik péyi-a sitou asou chimen Kastwi- Gozilé-a épi asou Millenium Highway-a;
- Nou kay entodwi systemm tès alcohol, sa nou ka kwiyé an anglé “breathalyser tests” pou détèminé sou plas si moun ka kondwi machin lè yo sou; épi si yo sou, pou awété yo lamenn

Pou sé jennès péyi-a, Gouvèdman kay mété démach an plas pou endé yo alé gwan lékòl épi lunivèsité; pou plasé plisyè di yo adan twavay kon apwanti, pou endé yo twapé twavay pli ta; épi pou établi an Pwogwanm ki kay endé yo épi finans pou établi tibiznis yo menm.

International Cricket

Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, periodically life and history present us with strategic opportunities which, to paraphrase Shakespeare, if taken at the flood, will lead on to fortune; but if ignored and dismissed will lead to nothing but stagnation, failure and miseries. It is for the leadership of this country in every era to discern such opportunities and to position us to ride that tide.

My Government constructed one of the most state of the art Cricketing Grounds in the world at Beausejour and it has done so in time for the cricketing flood. The ICC Cricket World Cup 2007 Bid Book is now in St. Lucia and my Government has the honor of submitting a formal bid to be included as a venue for this prestigious world event. The 2007 World Cricket Cup is the third largest sporting event in the world (after the Summer Olympics and FIFA World Cup) to be watched by an estimated 1.4 billion people over an eight week period! It requires no feat of the imagination to estimate what the selection of St. Lucia as a preferred venue would mean to our country, our economy and our national esteem. With an estimated 15,000 visitors attending the matches, our hotel capacity will be exceeded, thus opening lucrative possibilities for simple home stays and bed and breakfast packages. Government, The Tourist Board, Sports St. Lucia and the Ministry of Sports are working assiduously with the St. Lucia Cricket Association to ensure a winning bid.

Even while we are focused on this potential accomplishment at the world level, it would be highly remiss of us if we did not pay the highest tribute to the sterling performance of our women cricketers on the international wicket. The performance of the West Indies Women Cricket Team that includes Verena Felicien and Nadine George has reminded us that the West Indies can still be a formidable force in a sport that we have dominated for so long. Notwithstanding Lara's recent record, it is the century scored by Nadine – the first century to be scored by a West Indian woman in international cricket – that will illuminate the universe of sport.

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, this past session of Parliament was an especially active one, with thirty-six (36) Acts of Parliament being enacted. Eighteen (18) of those are new Acts and the other eighteen (18) amended already existing legislation.

Some of the new Acts include the St. Jude Hospital Act, the Firearms Act, the Caribbean Court of Justice (Agreement) Act and the Terrorism Act.

In addition, ninety-five (95) Statutory Instruments were tabled and these included the National Insurance Regulations, the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Fees) Regulations and the Co-operative Societies (Appeals Tribunal) Regulations.

My Government anticipates an equally active new Parliamentary session, as certain important pieces of legislation are currently being finalized.

Foremost among those is the much anticipated Labour Code. The size of this instrument does, indeed, reflect the size of the task undertaken to bring it to fruition, as well as, I must note, its value to our nation. The task of reviewing the arrangement of parts and sections, ensuring accurate cross references, reviewing of penalties and general proofing, among others, is near completion and I can confidently pronounce that the Code will be before Parliament for enactment by the third quarter of this new Parliamentary session.

During this new Session Parliament will be called upon to enact various laws designed to give effect to the Caricom Single Market and Economy (CSME) and to strengthen the integration of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS). As the region forges ahead in pursuit of the vital goal of economic integration, legislative adjustments will have to be made to facilitate the achievement of that goal. Saint Lucia stands ready to play its part and to this effect will work closely with both the OECS and Caricom Drafting Facilities to ensure the speedy enactment of the desirable legislation.

Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, given the present regional and international context, My Government has thought it necessary to focus its legislative agenda for this new session on the following areas, viz, commerce, agriculture, tourism and children.

Commerce

In recent years Saint Lucia has witnessed a dynamic upsurge in competition in all sectors of the economy. Whereas in the past one or two enterprises dominated a particular sector or sub-sector, today new businesses emerge rapidly and aggressively, challenging the former hegemony of old traditional enterprises. While this is good for general

economic development Government needs to ensure that the emerging commercial climate is characterized by fairness both between competing firms and between businesses and the consumer.

In this respect, My Government proposes to enact legislation to secure consumer protection and to ensure fair competition between rival businesses.

Chapter VIII of the **Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas Establishing the Caribbean Community including the Single Market and Economy** is entitled “*Competition Policy and Consumer Protection*”. The goal of the Community Competition policy as stated at Article 169, is “*to ensure that the benefits expected from the establishment of the CSME are not frustrated by anti-competitive business conduct*”.

Accordingly, Member States including Saint Lucia, have committed themselves to enacting harmonized legislation to ensure fair competition. A Fair Competition Bill has been completed and has been submitted to national Governments for enactment into law. During this session of Parliament, Saint Lucia will be considering this bill for enactment.

In relation to the protection of consumer interests in the Community, Member States bind themselves to enacting harmonized legislation to protect these interests. Saint Lucia has thus been engaged in reviewing its own draft Consumer Protection Bill to synchronize our domestic initiative in this regard with the broader regional agenda. This bill will be brought to Parliament for enactment during this session. Associated with the effort to protect consumers, my Government intends to repeal the provisions of the Hire Purchase Ordinance which was enacted as far back as 1962, and replace it with modernized legislation protecting consumers from exorbitant interest rates and price fixing.

To further strengthen the capacity for business development and to strategically position Saint Lucia to benefit from the burgeoning revolution in technology, my Government also intends to enact an Electronic Transactions Bill, a Computer Fraud and Misuse Bill and to provide authority for the admissibility of electronic evidence in our courts.

Legislation for Agriculture

My Government has made the diversification of agricultural production a major platform in its policy for that sector. A number of initiatives have taken place in this respect and My Government will continue to aggressively pursue its policy in the area of diversification.

Unfortunately, the commendable efforts of many farmers and farming communities in the area of diversification are severely undermined by the illegal practices of miscreants in our midst. I refer to the age old issue of praedial larceny. Not only are farmers disheartened by repeated theft of their crops and livestock but these acts impose on them a heavy financial cost, and they see their investments jeopardized by this illegality.

Discussions which have been ongoing between the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and the Attorney General's Chambers are now at the point of conclusion and my Government fully expects to be able during this parliamentary session to enact necessary changes to the Praedial Larceny Act, 1992 and to enact a Sale of Produce Bill to provide necessary support to the anti-praedial larceny initiative of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

Legislative Regime for Yachting and Sea-based Activities

The contribution of tourism to economic growth and, ultimately, the general development of our society cannot be denied except by the most foolhardy among us. Indeed, growth in this sector has played a significant part in sustaining the level of well-being which we now enjoy and my Government is satisfied that further developments in tourism will enhance the standard of living for all Saint Lucians.

In years past, legislative and other attention has been focused on land based tourism, specifically the hotel sector, and cruise tourism. During this session of Parliament, My Government intends to focus legislative attention on the yachting sub-sector, even while not disregarding the continuing needs of the other sub-sectors.

My Government views with interest fresh developments within this sub-sector which, if they realize their objectives, could portend well for yachting in Saint Lucia. One of these developments is the recent establishment of the Marine Industries Association of Saint Lucia (MIASL) a body dedicated to co-ordinating and representing marine interests locally.

It is My Government's fervent hope that this body, along with other existing yachting interests will work closely with the Ministry of Tourism to develop a comprehensive proposal for the creation of a holistic legislative regime for yachting and other sea-based touristic activities. If this hope is realized My Government intends to take to Parliament for enactment comprehensive legislation relating to yachting and sea-based pleasure craft activities.

Ongoing discussions on new regulations pertaining to other aspects of our tourism product including, marriages, standards and investment incentives will result in new legislation during this session as well.

Protection of Children

In the year 2003, my Government proclaimed the year November 2003 to October 2004 as the Year of the Child. Since then a programme of activities has been developed by the Family Affairs Unit of the Ministry of Health. This programme of activities recognizes the need for urgent legislative attention to be focused on all aspects of the laws relating to children.

In furtherance of this objective, My Government intends during this parliamentary session, to introduce new legislation in the areas of adoption including international adoptions and foster care for children. More importantly, legislation designed to strengthen the substantive law for the protection of children as well as to authorize new institutional arrangements to facilitate such protection will be enacted.

My Government expects that these new measures will go a long way toward creating a new and more responsive framework within which we can care for and protect the children of our nation.

Misyé Pwézidan, Misyé Speaker, Gouvèdman kay kontinè twavay asou sé lwa péyi-a pou chanjé sa ki bizwen chanjé, épi pou entodwi lòt nèf. Lanné pasé, twantsis lwa touvé pasé. Lanné sala twavay kay kontinè asou plisyè lézòt, sitou sa ki ka konsènè biznis, agrikilti, épi manmay péyi-a.

Conclusion

Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, all of the initiatives announced here today and enunciated earlier in previous sessions of Parliament constitute different elements of an historical oeuvre whose final result is to create a modern infrastructure of laws and behaviour. The challenge from hereon is the enforcement of these new regulatory mores and their consistent application to shape new attitudes and postures in daily life.

In asserting this we again return to the theme of responsibility. Laws establish legislative intent; enforcement gives them life; but it is embrace by the citizens that establishes them as norms. Despite all of what has been done for the protection of children, for example, front line agencies such as the Ministry of Education report that the traditional “wanjman” is still being made to families of abused children by perpetrators thus allowing them to escape the legal consequences of their iniquity. There is no price for our children’s dignity, there is no compensation for abuse – that is why the wanjman is now a criminal offense under the new Criminal Code.

It is not enough for Government to pass laws; it is for the people to adhere to them. It is not enough for Government to create enabling environments; it is for the people to utilize it. It is not enough for Government to create opportunities; it is for us all to embrace them. Ultimately our survival as a nation and as a people will depend on the extent to which we individually and collectively assume responsibility for what has to be done. As the Guyanese poet Martin Carter reminds us, “all are involved; all are consumed” – we shall either advance together, fortified by our common purpose even while accommodating of our differences or we shall sink together, encumbered by dissonance and rendered helpless by the paralysis of indifference.

That choice is ours to make, and the future is ours to create. I pray that by the Grace of God Almighty we shall exercise wisdom in our choice, demonstrate commitment in our decisions and resolution in our actions.

Misyé Pwézidan, Misyé Speaker, sé demach sala mwen fini mansyonné an, menm kon tout sé lézòt-la tout sé Gouvèdman péyi-a ja antanmé épi mété an plas an tan pasé, sé pou fasilite dévlòpman péyi-a, pou asiwé ki bagay maché konm i fo. Mé si nou pa ka wèspèkté lwa péyi-a, si nou pa ka anfosé'y, si nou pa ka pofité lòpòtunité ki ka pwézanaté kò'y, si nou pa mélé épi sa ki ka fèt oliwon nou, si nou kontiné fè sa gou nou di nou lè nou vlé, koté nou vlé, sé vwéman lavé lanmen, swiyé atè. Nou pé mennen chouval lawivyè, mé si chouval wifisé bwè dlo, sé pèdi tan. Pou Sent Lisi alé douvan, sé fo nou tout pwan wèspansabilité pou sa ki ni pou fèt. Sé déjà twò ta pou nou pwan kont tan nou pou désidé si nou vlé ében si nou pa vlé, ében ki moun ki pou fè'y. Nou tout adan'y ansanm. Sè swé nou désidé najé ansanm, menm si nou ni diféwans nou, ében nou kay néyé ansanm épi tout chikann nou épi tout mannyè pamèlè nou-an. Sé pou nou chwézi ki lès i kay yé; sé pou nou désidé ki kalté lavi nou vlé viv. Mwen ka mandé Bondyé pou ban nou lasajès-la pou chwézi byen, épi pou ban nou lafòs-la épi kouway-la pou nou swiv sé disisyon-an nou pwan an.

And so, Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to formally declare open the Fourth Session of the Eighth Parliament of Saint Lucia