

# PSOJ NEWS

March/April 2002

Volume 1, Issue 2

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

CRIME REPORT	2
CRIME STOP REPORT	2
CSME - James Moss-Solomon (Part 1)	3
HALL OF FAME	4

## PSOJ

### JOB CREATION AWARDS

Since the start of the year the PSOJ has hosted three Job Creation Award Ceremonies sponsored by Cable & Wireless (Ja.) Limited.

The companies listed hereunder, were recognized for their recent investment which led to the provision of additional employment amongst our labour force:

- ◆ BIG CITY BREWING
- ◆ CENTENNIAL
- ◆ ISLAND GRILL
- ◆ 925-JERK
- ◆ TERRA NOVA ALL-SUITE HOTEL
- ◆ SITEL COMMUNICATIONS
- ◆ FONTANA PHARMACY
- ◆ RESTAURANTS OF JAMAICA

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## THE CARICOM SINGLE MARKET AND ECONOMY (CSME)

The CSME is a plan for deepening the process of regional integration. The protocols amending the Treaty of Chaguaramas will provide the legislative framework for the establishment of the CSME. National laws, policies and programmes will have to be amended to reflect decisions taken at the regional level. However, it is important to note that the CSME will provide an economic – not political union. Full implementation of the CSME is expected by 2005.

The CARICOM Single Market will allow CARICOM goods, services, people and capital to move throughout the Caribbean Community without tariffs or other restrictions. It will be a means of achieving a single, large economic area with common economic and trade policies. Additionally, the CARICOM Single Market Economy will harmonize economic, monetary and fiscal policies and other measures across all member states and so place each member state in a more viable position in hemispheric and international negotiations.

The CSME is already in progress and the free movement of most CARICOM traded goods already takes place and non-tariff barriers (NTB's) where they exist are currently being studied to facilitate their removal.

Recently, at the Caribbean Transnational Conference, for the first time, the private and public sectors engaged in discussions on the CSME and the challenges surrounding the movement of goods, capital labour and other services, the role of the private sector in trade policy and mechanisms for managing the impact of the CSME on the public sector, the business community and society at large. It was felt by all participants at this conference that the CSME will help to overcome the vulnerability and volatility of CARICOM economies by:

- Allowing production on a regional basis;
- Creating larger and more competitive markets;
- Facilitating increase in size of CARICOM firms;
- Provide a gateway to the global market;
- Increase the visibility of the region;
- Provide a stronger base for external negotiations.

Given the benefits and importance of the CSME to the region an action plan was drawn up by the participants to move the CSME forward. This includes the following issues:

- Establishing a committee to make recommendations to COTED regarding NTB's;

- Private sector to facilitate legal capacity to assist with custom harmonization;
- Full implementation of the CSME must be completed before 2005;
- COTED to be modified to include greater private sector representation;
- CEO to be appointed with direct responsibility for CSME implementation;
- Public education programme to be put in place across the region;
- Mechanism for dispute settlement to be implemented.

## PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS EARLY FOR THE HALL OF FAME BANQUET

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# PSOJ NEWS CRIME REPORT



PAGE 2

March/April 2002

Volume 1, Issue 2

## 12-POINT CRIME PLAN UPDATE

In the 2 months since Minister Peter Phillips outlined his 12-point Crime Fighting Plan to the nation on January 16 the following have been accomplished:

### Border Control

Commitment of funds from the USA to assist with the purchase of 4 fast patrol boats and x-ray system for the ports.

### Drug Traffickers Scan

Assistance from the USA in the purchase of the IonScan Itemizer Contraband Detection systems for the airports.

### Money Laundering

In February, the Senate passed amendments to the Money Laundering Act to add money transfer companies to the list of financial institutions falling under its regulation. The amendments were made through the Money Laundering Financial Institutions, Money Transfer and Remittance Agents and Agencies) Order from the Minister of National Security.

### Intelligence

In February the Interception of Communications (Wire-tap) Bill was passed and Cabinet gave the approval for the tabling of amendments to the Fingerprint Act.

Britain and the USA offered assistance in the amount of J\$130m and US\$9.140m respectively for technical assistance towards the crime fighting measures.

JCF, Minister Peter Phillips and Mr. George Overton, President of the Jamaica Society of Industrial Security (JSIS) signed an agreement in February to share information regarding criminal activities.

### Manpower

Police recruitment drive commenced in late January and 700 recruits are to be trained in the next 6 months as part of the process to bring the Force closer to its full strength of 8,500.

### Re-Organization of the JCF

JCF to take over direct management control of its budget in April 2002.

## Firearm Penalties

Get the Guns campaign launched Sunday

Jan. 20. Reward includes:

- \$100,000 for information leading to a conviction for gun murder
- \$20,000 for the recovery of handguns
- \$40,000 for the recovery of semi-automatic weapons
- \$50,000 for the recovery of high-powered weapons

## Peace Management

□ Peace Management Initiative (PMI) headed by Bishop Hero Blair was launched to coordinate mediation activities and community action to avert violence and conflict in violence prone communities.

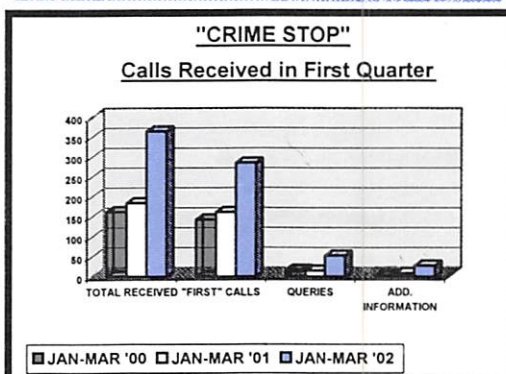
□ PMI had peace march in the Mountain View area of East Kingston on March 11

□ Three PMI meetings held with groups in the volatile communities of Brook Valley and Sherlock Crescent, in Duhaney Park, and Back Bush and Jarret Lane in the Mountain View area.

## 2002/2003 BUDGET

Government presented the 2002/2003 budget totaling \$210 billion in Parliament on April 4. The Ministry of National Security's allocation has been increased over that of last fiscal year by approximately \$1.3 billion. It is allocated a total of \$12.7 billion - \$11.7 for Recurrent and \$1 billion for Capital expenditures. Last year's first revised budget estimate totaled \$11.4 billion - \$11.2 billion for Recurrent and \$208.8 million for Capital Expenditures.

## "CRIME STOP" UNDER REVIEW JANUARY TO MARCH 2002 COMMUNITY'S SUPPORT FOR CRIME STOP GROWS



Crime Stop received a total of 364 calls during the first quarter of 2002. As can be seen in the previous graph, this represents an increase of 100% over last year's figures for the same period.

The graph shows that over one third of the calls received were in connection with illegal firearms. The table below shows the percentage increase in calls received in the first quarter of 2002 compared to the same period in 2001, for the top five categories of calls received.

TYPE OF CALL	2001	2002	+/- %
Illegal firearm	48	129	+170%
Murder	21	28	+ 32%
Drugs	22	33	+ 50%
Wanted Men	15	22	+ 50%
Gunmen	7	12	+ 70%

The tremendous increase in calls regarding illegal firearms coincides with the launching of the "Get the Guns" campaign in February 2002.

## 2. "GET THE GUNS" CAMPAIGN

At the request of the Minister of National Security, Minister Peter Phillips, Crime Stop initiated a "Get the Guns" Campaign on the February 14, 2002, with additional funds augmented by the Ministry of National Security. Since this campaign was launched, eleven illegal firearms have been recovered - these are broken down as follows:

Revolvers.....	3
Semi automatic Pistols...	5
High Powered Rifles.....	2
Homemade gun.....	1

Two persons were arrested and charged for possession of illegal firearms, which attracts an additional reward of \$25,000.

These successes have led to the payment of \$390,000 in rewards.



## THE EXPERIENCE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION IN THE FORMULATION OF TRADE POLICY

James Moss-Solomon, Chairman, PSOJ Trade Policy Committee

(First part of a two-part article presented at the  
Caribbean Transnational Conference 2002)

Finally, we have arrived at a crisis position, which is why we are all meeting here this weekend. The year 2002 is an unprecedented year of international negotiation, both in frequency, and importance. The CSME, FTAA, EU/ACP, and the WTO are all in full swing, and are all at critical stages, which will influence our lives from here onwards.

To quote my friend Michael Lee Chin of AIC Funds, "The Chinese word for crisis means two things - problems and opportunities".

My assertion this morning is to suggest that we have not considered and focused more on the opportunities, which accompanies these. I will also make a few recommendations as to what constitutes in my mind, a feasible way forward which can be acted upon now.

### A. PROBLEMS

#### i) CSME

- We have had severe difficulties arriving at final positions on which all of CARICOM can agree. Firstly, the negotiation required a consensus among countries, which proved difficult if not impossible to arrive at. Therefore, within the last two years we have had to abandon these principles and allow countries to move forward at their own pace.
- In the early stages there were limited calls from Government for Private Sector involvement prior to signing agreements, and when these came we of the Private Sector largely ignored the invitation. Therefore much of our activity has been targeted at overturning policy after the fact, rather than influencing it before.
- In 14 democratic countries, we are probably averaging 2 - 3 general elections, and 3 - 4 local Government elections per annum. The frequency of Government and Ministerial changes is not a factor, which speeds up our decision making ability or even lends itself to continuity.
- Therefore, the involvement of Opposition Parties in the process and some commitment to continuity of policy direction is extremely important.
- From the political point of view, many policy issues of the CSME manifest themselves during the electoral periods in various countries, and provide fodder for the platform pronouncements during the hustings. For example, issues such as the ownership of land, free movement of people, and foreign investment become highly politicized issues, which are quite contrary to the direction of CARICOM. No single issue has perhaps been more ventilated than the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ), and certainly here in Jamaica it is seemingly a major

point of political debate. However, the CSME hinges on having a Court of Final Jurisdiction in order to deal with matters of trade. We stymie ourselves with the belief that "hanging" is the be all and end all of this issue. Quite frankly, we need a means of resolving Single Market Trade concerns if we intend to make progress within a globalized world.

We need therefore to engage our Governments in discussions towards trade policies which offer continuity beyond their expected term of office so as to allow the necessary growth adjustments to take place in the goods and services sectors.

#### ii) FTAA

- The proposed date of January 2005 is quickly approaching and no clear direction for negotiation is yet apparent. I suggest that we are running out of time if we intend to negotiate as CARICOM. Our own CSME arrangements, as mentioned previously, have deadlines of removal of restrictions going up to 2005. Based on our previous implementation schedule, we will not meet this objective without serious effort.
- The recent trade actions by the United States with regard to Steel imports and Soft Wood products send a clear signal that anything which they deem damaging to their own local interest will be the subject of strong action, whether sanctioned under the WTO or not.

Therefore, in light of this possible action we need to align ourselves with as many countries as possible in the developing world in order to have a strong negotiating position. This has proved to be the strength of the EU when challenging the United States. We, as developing countries need to understand the strategic implications of trying to stand as a group or stand-alone. I suggest that stand-alone cannot be a viable alternative.

#### iii) ACP/EU AND WTO

- It is clear to see that many if not all preferential arrangements are being phased out. This has serious implications for primary agricultural products, which are highly politically sensitive in the small economies of CARICOM. It is obvious that change is essential, but this is often seen as something to be resisted, and also in many cases, a sure reason for political unpopularity.

We are approaching a new round of talks with the WTO, and we have yet to implement across CARICOM many of the agreements signed in 1996.

(Please see the next issue of the PSOJ News for Part 2 of this article)



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ "Join Up" Advertising Campaign - begins in May. The main objective of this campaign is to encourage Jamaicans to become involved by joining a business association.
- ◆ Annual Hall of Fame Banquet — Hilton Kingston Hotel on May 16, 2002. The inductee into the 2001 PSOJ Hall of Fame is Mr. Desmond Blades, Chairman — Musson Group.
- ◆ Annual Economic Seminar—May 21, 2002 to be held at the Jamaica Conference Centre. The theme for this year's seminar will be : "LIFE & DEBT: THE JAMAICAN EXPERIENCE". The Keynote address will be delivered by the Minister of Finance & Planning, Dr. the Hon. Omar Davies. The PSOJ Annual Economic Report for 2001 will be provided to all participants.
- ◆ The PSOJ in collaboration with the Commonwealth Association for Corporate Governance (CACG) will be hosting a Regional Workshop: "Effective Corporate Governance—A Certification Programme for Directors", to be held at the Grand Lido Sans Souci Hotel, on June 18-23, 2002. This event will be geared to representatives of Caribbean corporate entities at the following levels:

Directors	Company Secretaries	University Lecturers
CEOs	Attorneys-at-Law	Supervisors/Regulators

Registration limited to only 30 participants.
- ◆ Jamaica Exporters' Association (JEA) National Exporters Week — June 10-14, 2002

FOR FURTHER DETAILS ON ANY OF THESE ACTIVITIES, PLEASE CONTACT THE PSOJ COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT, TEL: 927-6238, FAX: 927-5137, EMAIL: [psoj@cwjamaica.com](mailto:psoj@cwjamaica.com)

## PSOJ HALL OF FAME

Desmond Blades, Chairman of Musson Group, will be inducted into the Private Sector Organization of Jamaica's (PSOJ) Hall of Fame on 16th May 2002, at the Grande Independence Ballroom of the Hilton Kingston Hotel.

The PSOJ Hall of Fame is designed to honour Jamaican businessmen who have made significant contributions to the development of the private sector and our country. The nominees should have served in Jamaica's private sector for at least twenty-five years and should also have in-depth knowledge of and commitment to his or her field and be of sound character and unquestionable integrity. High ethical standards should be the trade mark of his or her business deals and practices. In addition, the nominees' companies must be successful with above average growth.

Mr. Blades will be honoured at this event and our guest speaker will be Mr. Denis O'Brien, Chairman, Digicel, Ireland.

### ELECTION DAY VOLUNTEERS

The Electoral Advisory Committee is once again appealing to members from our association to volunteer as Election Day workers in the quest for a well run and fair Election Day.

Please contact the PSOJ Secretariat for application forms or call us at 927-6238, 978-6795-6 for more information. You may also call members of the Electoral Advisory Committee at 929-1310 or fax them at 926-4057 for application forms or for further information.

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