

# PRESENTATION

19<sup>th</sup> PEP MEETING

DURBAN – SOUTH AFRICA

MAY 21 – 23, 2014

# SNAPSHOT OF SAINT LUCIA

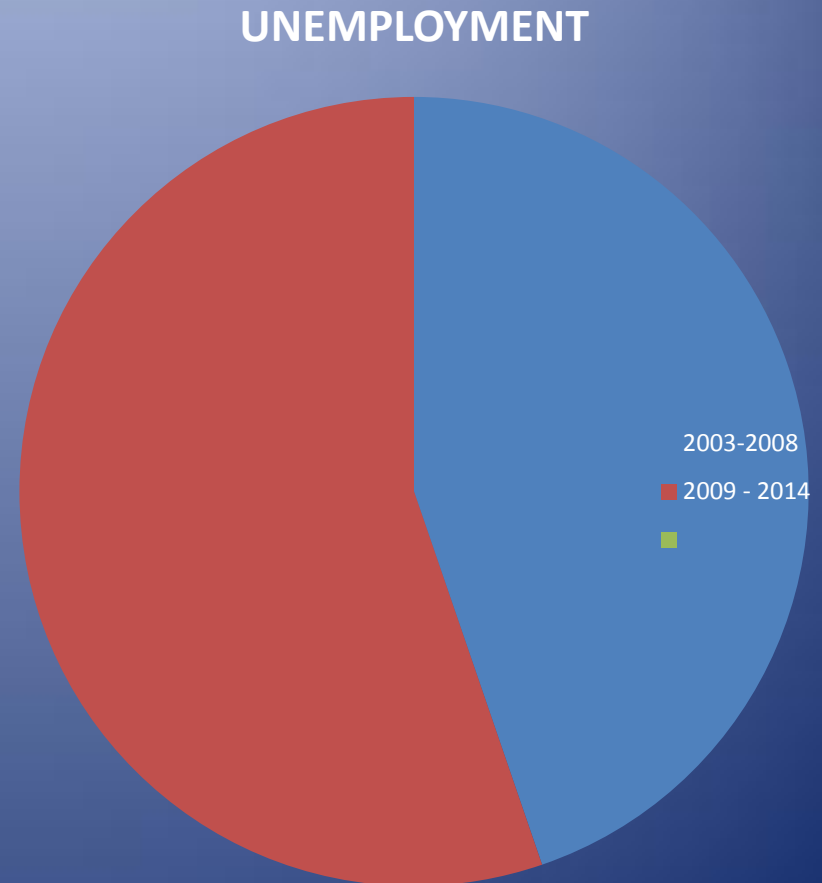
- **Low Economic Growth Rates**
- Buoyant growth in the 1980s (thriving banana industry)
- Loss of preferential access (UK Market)
- Decline in direct financial aid (Car'bean phenomenon)
- For the past fourteen (14) years economic growth has averaged a mere 1.2% per annum
- Growth has not been consistent – the nation has experienced tempered growth

# SNAP SHOT

- 
- **Persistently high unemployment**
- Expansion of the labour force since 1992
- Youthful labour force
- Economic shocks – major decline in the agricultural output – increased unemployment
- Persistently high unemployment – rural employment mostly affected
- **High vulnerability**
- Damage and loss - Hurricane Tomas 2010; Christmas Eve Trough 2013
- Combined losses/damage – 40% of Saint Lucia's current annual economic output
- Further damage to the agricultural and productive sectors
- Damage to infrastructure (intended to facilitate economic activity)
- Increased spending on Reconstruction and Recovery efforts; replacement of infrastructure, plant and equipment

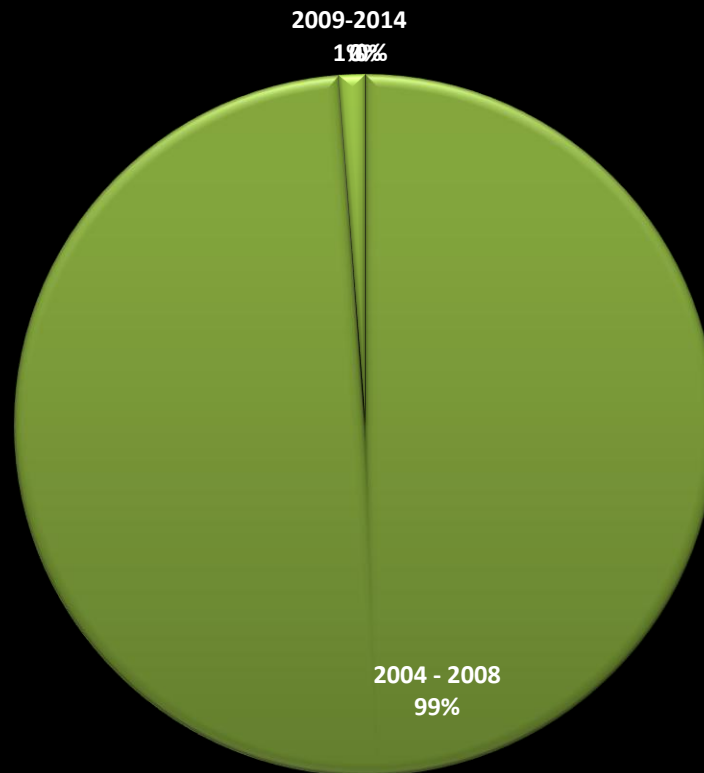
# SNAP SHOT

- **Fiscal deficits and high debt levels**
- High level of borrowing
- Government spending much more than it earns in revenue
- Increase in the debt burden
- More government revenue going towards debt repayments



# SNAP SHOT

## GROWTH RATE



## MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND POVERTY CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES:

- Articulating priorities given the existing realities and global challenges
- Competing interests
- Improvement in education campaigns at the grassroots level
- Enactment and enforcement of requisite policies; creating the legislative environment for the facilitation of green economy (for example, the employment policies that support green growth)

# MAJOR URBAN ENVIRONMENTAL AND POVERTY ISSUES:

Land tenure

Pollution (waste, water)

Emigration ( issues of overcrowding) - issues for Urban Planning

Demographic trends - growth of the ageing population

Labour force and productive sector

Rising unemployment (youth unemployment)

# EFFORTS IN ST. LUCIA FOR GREENING THE ECONOMY:

- Establishing the institutional framework
- Strengthening of the Sustainable Development Portfolio (Emergence of a Department specific to Energy)
- Engagement of the business sector in promoting alternative energy
- Advancement in the Water Sector
- Water Treatment (Treatment of waste water at one of the hotels in the south of the island which consumed on an average 14% of the water for a given region)
-

- New focus on the Energy Sector
- Reform the Energy sector to lessen our reliance on fossil fuels and to reduce the cost of electricity to consumers; creating alternative forms of energy particularly for the poor and vulnerable
- Vision 2020 – to achieve 35% of our generation of electricity from renewable sources - achieving the overarching goal of transitioning to a cleaner, more sustainable energy future
- Pilot legislation for the establishment of a multi-sector regulator for the energy and water sectors
- The establishment of a new National Utilities Regulatory Commission to replace the Water and Sewerage Commission (making it more inclusive, and to allow for the independent regulation of the electricity sector)
- Granting of licenses to independent power producers and consumer rights protection
- Amending the existing Electricity Supply Act ( currently gives LUCELEC an 80 year monopoly for the generation, transmission, distribution and sale of electricity)
- Conduct of energy audits of existing Government owned buildings (retrofitting of premises with energy efficient systems
- Replacement of all lights at the Government owned building to energy efficient LED fixtures

- Enactment of a National Social Protection Policy under the general umbrella of the Social Safety Net Reforms process
- Labour market strategies (focusing on income security, education and skills systems)
- Advancement in the Agricultural Sector
- Food Security as a priority
- Water Harvesting
- Exploration of alternative sources of energy
- Geothermal energy
- Hydro power
- Solar energy (incentives for solar water heaters/solar panels)
- Building Codes and structural imperatives/National Land Use Policy
- Photovoltaic systems
- LED lighting
- 
-

# LINKS BETWEEN GREENING OF ECONOMY AND POVERTY REDUCTION IN SAINT LUCIA

- Need for greater focus on the social dimensions of development;
- Need for synergies and collaboration amongst sectors to cement the concept of a green economy
- Agricultural Sector – Food Security
- Avoiding Risks – Climate Change, Eco-system (conservation) – effects on tourism sector
-

# MOVING FORWARD:

- Revisit the NPRS and Action Plan and focus on mainstreaming
- Collaborate with is the National Climate Change Committee to undertake a holistic analysis and plan of action for green economy
- Mainstreaming Green Economy into budgeting processes, Post 2015 Agenda, BNTF 7 – PRAP
- Draft National Development Plan ( now incorporating the mainstreaming of Climate Change; economic growth and environmental sustainability; social inclusion
- Draft National Social Protection Policy
- Draft Land Use Policy