



### **CFL Staff observe May Day with a Difference**

Staff of Consolidated Foods Limited (operators of Super J Supermarkets and Big J's) gathered at the Castries Comprehensive School on May Day to celebrate and mark the achievements and successes of the company over the last year. The theme for the day's celebrations was *"Coming together is a beginning, keeping together is progress and working together is success"*.

Addressing the packed school auditorium Managing Director of the company Andre Chastanet noted the many successes and achievements of the company over the last year which included significant remodelling at some Super J stores, computerization of the point of sales systems at all Super J Supermarkets leading to more efficient and accurate data maintenance, as well as expansion of the company's cold storage facility at Choc to improve the perishable category in the supermarket.

The computerisation of the Cul de Sac warehouse was described as novel, given the fact that it is the only computerised warehouse in the sub region. Staff were also updated on the company's growth strategy, which includes the construction of Mega J's at Choc Estate. Once completed in October, Mega J's will be the largest retail outlet in Saint Lucia featuring 50,000 square feet of shopping space. While attributing much of the company's growth and success to the efforts of the team, the Managing Director expressed some concerns about complacency within the organisation. He encouraged team members to focus on fostering a "winning team mentality" throughout the organisation through increased efficiency and productivity.

The Chairman of the Board of Directors of CFL Mr. Michael Chastanet also had much praise for the staff and management of Consolidated Foods for their hard work and

dedication, especially given the many challenges facing the industry during the last year brought on by the global food crisis.

The May Day programme included an awards presentation during which staff were recognised and honoured for outstanding performance and completion of various training courses organised by the company's Supermarket Career Institute (SCI). This institute was set up by CFL in 2006 with the sole purpose of undertaking training and development programmes for staff, to ensure that they are able to take advantage of opportunities for upward mobility within the company. Some of the training courses are organised in collaboration with Cornell University and the Independent Grocers Alliance (IGA) Learning Institute.

The distribution of bonus cheques, in recognition of staff for their contribution to the profitability of the company was among the highlights of the day's activities. A very festive Mr. and Ms. CFL pageant completed the May Day programme with the title being captured by the Super J waterfront store.

**Photo Caption:** *Steven Solomon of Super J Blvd captured the 1st Place in the Top Trainee Award category, while Alicia Joseph of Super J S/Acres came in 2nd Place. They are both flanked by staff of the Supermarket Career Institute (SCI) and the Manager of Super J Waterfront Stacy O'Keiffe.*

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