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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SLASPA and Unions Sign an Agreement on Termination Benefits for Staff

Castries – Tuesday, June 10, 2008 - After several years of marathon discussions and negotiations, consensus has been reached on the termination benefits for employees of the Saint Lucia Air and Sea Ports Authority (SLASPA). The negotiations were carried out between representatives of SLASPA, the National Workers Union, the St. Lucia Civil Service Association and the Ports Police Welfare Association. A formal signing of the Agreement took place yesterday, June 09, 2008 at SLASPA's Headquarters.

Discussions on Termination Benefits started in the early nineties when SLASPA decided to commence a contributory Pension Plan, resulting in enquires from long serving employees about their past years of service. The years of discussions led to an agreement where approximately 179 employees would be recognized and compensated for their past years of service.

Speaking during the event, Mrs. Nadia Alcide, Manager - Employee Compensation for SLASPA said, "there were a wide diversity of opinions on this issue and the course that SLASPA should chart. However, there has also been a wide agreement on the need to offer a suitable package for the employees of SLASPA. It is therefore with a great sense of satisfaction that we at SLASPA conclude this agreement with the Unions. We take this opportunity to thank staff for their patience as we worked with the unions to finalize this very important agreement."

Mr. George Goddard – General Secretary of the National Workers Union stated, “the Termination Benefits road has been a long arduous journey that started over 12 years ago and we are finally there. We believe that this is a rather fair settlement so that the workers have something to look forward to either when they retire, when their services are terminated or by 2010, when the settlements are paid out, whichever comes first.”



Official Signing



SLASPA and Union Officials