



VAT Simplifying the collection of Tax.

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

SIR DWIGHT SITS ON TELEVISED VAT ROUND TABLE

Castries, May 22 2012; Commencing this week and continuing for a period of about five to six weeks, the VAT Implementation Project Office will raise the dialogue on issues surrounding the implementation of the Value Added Tax (VAT).

Using various formats, these will include face to face sector consultations, television guest appearances by the VAT Project Office technical team and community engagement forums.

Leading off the conversations on VAT will be the launch of a five part television round table discussion series called **THE VAT FORUM**. Of one hour duration, the discussions aim to exhaustively examine the genesis, purpose, policy considerations and regional experiences with the VAT in general, so as to provide factual information to the public through expert perspectives and case studies. It will also bring representatives from the business and trade sectors around the table with state agency facilitators to clarify the policies and the plans in respect of both the implementation and the refinement of systems post implementation.

The inaugural edition of THE VAT FORUM features Governor of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank Honourable Sir Dwight Venner, Finance and Accounting specialist Richard Peterkin, Trade Economist Dr. Claudius Preville, and recently appointed CEO of Invest Saint Lucia, Economist McHale Andrew. In the Moderator's seat will be Businessman and president of the Petroleum Dealers Association Everistus JnMarie.

THE VAT FORUM will be broadcast on a rotated schedule via the National Television Network, and as a once a week series on select commercial television systems to be determined.

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