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## SALCC STUDENTS JOIN THE PRODUCTIVITY DEBATE

The first round of the NCPC Productivity Awareness Week SALCC Debating Competition was held on Friday, October 3, 2014. The event was held in the lecture theatre of the Hunter J. Francois Library at the SALCC. The competition was attended by faculty members and students alike, who gave support to the debating teams. The debating competition is one of the scheduled activities that make up the NCPC Productivity Awareness Week.

The week will host a range of activities with expected participation from the private and public sectors, civil society and the youth. Each chosen activity holds its own appeal making it an attractive option for the respective audiences.

The debating competition which specifically targets the youth, was formulated as a way to get the younger generation to understand the concept of productivity and how it pertains to them individually and as members of society. The topic chosen for the debate 'I can be productive in a tough economic climate' had the teams vehemently arguing for and against.

Four teams took part in round one of the competition, those being the Division of Technical Education and Management Studies (Business), the Division of Arts, Science and General Studies, the Division of Technical Education and Management Studies (Hospitality) and the Division of Education and Educational Administration. After presentations by the leaders and seconders of each team and their rebuttals, the two winning teams comprised of Keith Isaac and Marknyl Thomas, of the Division of Arts, Science and General Studies, (DASGS) and Jamieson Edward and Emmanuel Osman, of the Division of Teacher Education and Educational Administration, (DTEEA). Both teams will be moving forward to the second round of the competition to be held

on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October at the Grace Augustin Auditorium, SALCC. Prizes for the winners include tablets, lunches and a helicopter ride.

NCPC Economist and organiser of the debating competition Ms. Sharma Mathurin indicated that she is very pleased with the way that the competition progressed so far.

‘The debating competition presented an avenue for the students to garner a greater understanding of the concept of productivity. Also, to see its importance not only to Saint Lucia’s socio-economic well-being but also to their personal development as young persons. The students were very enthusiastic in the competition and presented some very interesting points in their delivery. We are very satisfied with this event and the level of participation. The Council sees the youth as one of its key stakeholders and looks forward to continue engaging the youth in other activities in the future.’

Sponsors of the competition include Fastcash, Bay Gardens Hotel, Saint Lucia Helicopters, Digicel, Trade Export Promotion Agency, Thomar’s Driving School, Sandals Halcyon and ECFH.

**(To find out more about the SALCC Productivity Debating Competition and Productivity Awareness Week contact the National Competitiveness and Productivity Council on Second (2nd) floor, Financial Centre Building, Bridge Street, Castries. We can also be contacted at 468 -5576/5571 or visit the Council’s Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/stluciancpc> or email them at [stluciancpc@gmail.com](mailto:stluciancpc@gmail.com))**