

Sponsorship of the UWI Cricket Team **6/1/2002**

The Combined University of the West Indies Cricket team will have the support of The Mutual as it prepares to make its historic debut in the regional 2002 Red Stripe Bowl Cricket competition.

This sponsorship was announced during a press conference at The Mutual Financial Centre yesterday. In attendance were Executive Vice President, Mr. Ken Marshall, Vice President - Corporate Marketing, Michael Lashley, President of the West Indies Cricket Board, Rev. Wes Hall and UWI Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Principal Designate, Cave Hill Campus Professor Hilary Beckles.



Professor Beckles hailed the team's participation noting that it had been the dream of the late cricketing great Sir Frank Worrell to see a University team playing at the highest level in regional cricket. "Thirty-five years after his death, the dream has come to fruition," he said. In addition the University's Pro-Vice-Chancellor lauded The Mutual for its investment saying that the institution was extremely grateful for the support.

Stating that the sponsorship represented a major investment in UWI cricket and by extension the regional game, he said that it was a significant development bringing business, sports and education together. Professor Beckles observed that the synergies between UWI and The Mutual "were right" both characterized by the focus on the development of human potential. He also pointed to the new energies in the company noting, "The University wants to identify with this energy and to be part of it. The Mutual is a major player in all the markets where UWI recruits students. It is a corporate network that parallels UWI and should be our natural ally."

Ken Marshall thanked UWI for the opportunity to once again work together on a regional basis. "Cricket is one of the few sports in the world today that relies on individual skill and team cooperation. We want to participate in the development of both."

Professor Beckles indicated that The Mutual had not only provided sponsorship but that there will be ongoing discussions on ways to ensure its sustainability and mutual benefit. Within this context talks between the university and the company will focus on the possibilities of closer links between the students and The Mutual and also within their wider communities. Both organizations are committed to playing an even more significant role in improving the lives of the people of the region.

"Over the years The Mutual has supported UWI's Humanities Festival and currently offers a Social Science Scholarship and an Insurance Law prize on an annual basis. Our involvement with the UWI cricket team represents a

strengthening of the relationship between two successful, indigenous Caribbean organizations." explained Michael Lashley.

The top University official also revealed that building on the foundation of the Centre for Cricket Research set up at the Cave Hill Campus in 1994, a cricket school will be established at the institution in the next academic year. He also said the Campus was hopeful of hosting the next Vice-Chancellor's match between the Vice-Chancellor's eleven and Australia at the Cave Hill Campus. UWI played New Zealand at the Mona Campus earlier this year.

In this respect, over the next five months the University will be working towards bringing its cricket facility up to international standards as stipulated by the ICC.

