



# ST. LUCIA NATIONAL TRUST

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*Patron: Her Excellency Dame Pearlette Louisy  
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## Press Release

### Sand Mining at the Piaye Beach – A Town Hall meeting organized by the Southern Branch of the Saint Lucia National Trust

Historically, the Piaye beach has been used as a resource by sand miners. Due to the destruction of the beach and the lost potential as a tourist attraction, a resident beach vendor took the initiative to rehabilitate the beach using his own resources.

There was a report in the media recently, featuring this same vendor, complaining that sand miners had returned to the beach which had started regaining its position as an income generating tourist attraction.

The sand miners claimed to have received permission from the relevant government department to extract sand from the beach, though verifiable proof of this has not been forthcoming.

The southern branch of the National Trust has decided to focus on this issue to achieve the following goals:

1. Understand the position of the Piaye community on the issue of sand mining;
2. Ensure awareness in the Piaye community of the relevant laws concerning sand mining;
3. Determine the best method to empower communities to protect their beaches and other natural resources from similar exploitation.

In order to gain a firm understanding of the issues around sand mining at the Piaye beach and to determine the best route for proceeding with an awareness and empowerment campaign to address those issues, we have organized a town hall meeting scheduled for 5<sup>th</sup> August at 6:00pm at the Piaye community center.

The meeting will be facilitated by SLNT's Director, Mr. Bishnu Tulsie and will be attended by relevant parties from the Piaye community as well as members of the Saint Lucia National Trust. All other interested individuals are invited to attend.