

New Jetport for Canouan

The Canouan Jetport was officially opened on Sunday May 11th, 2008. The construction of the new jetport included an addition of 2,700 ft to the existing runway, bringing it to a total of 5,900 ft, the installation of an air traffic control cabin, new airfield lighting, the extension of the terminal building, provision for more apron space, and improvement to the firefighting facilities.



There are also plans afoot to develop a first class marina in Canouan. The Glossy Bay Marina, Canouan a top of the line project is in the pipeline. The joint venture between the Canouan Developers and the Government for a top-end Marina and property development on the Southern end of Canouan. Construction is to start on this EC\$600 million project.

Canouan is located between Mustique and the Tobago Cays, and is home to Raffles Resort and the International Jim Fazio designed 18 hole golf course, which featured the Trump Million Dollar Invitational Golf Tournament earlier this year.

Opening of Canouan Jetport

The construction of an international airport in particular, and Airport development in general are issues that for decades have occupied the interest and aspirations of the people of St.Vincent and the Grenadines. On Sunday May 11, 2008, this dream of the nation was realized in part when after months of construction, the Canouan airport officially re-opened as the Canouan Jetport.

It was a proud moment for the people of the tiny Grenadines Island. The conversion of the airport into a jet air port means that this country can finally accommodate medium range jets at full capacity straight from international destinations such as the United States. Collaborating with Government to make this dream a reality is Antonio Saladino a major investor in the Grenadine Island of Canouan. Speaking at Sunday's opening Saladino pointed out that over the past 16 years his company has invested some 1.2 billion dollars in this country but noted that of all his investment nothing will single handedly have a greater impact on the residents of Canouan as the jet airport.

Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves said that this country has to put its house in order, if it is to face air travel in the 21st century while at the same time seeking to build a modern competitive, many sided post colonial economy. He highlighted the decision taken by American Eagle which services Canouan to phase out the ATR42 planes and replace them with bigger aircraft that the former Canouan Airport runway would have been unable to accommodate. With regard to the feasibility of the airport, Dr. Gonsalves said financial and economic studies have been conducted to ensure that the Canouan airport will be

economically feasible.

Noting that between 2003- 2007 there has been a 100% increase in passenger movement to and from the country, Dr. Gonsalves pointed out that with American Eagle to take the full complement of 72 passengers without having to stop over in St. Lucia and other planes coming in including private jets, there will further be a dramatic increase in the passengers and planes landing and leaving.

Director of Grenadines Affairs Edwin Snagg a resident of the Southern Grenadines said the opening of the Canouan Jetport Airport is a good day for the people of Canouan and for him is an accomplishment that brings pride and Euphoria, a sentiment echoed by the Parliamentary Representative of the Southern Grenadines Terrance Ollivierre.

When the Canouan Airport was first opened in the 1970's it was some 550 meters in length, and had an unpaved airstrip that was only capable of accommodating light aircraft. Today the expanded airport is 5,900 ft in length, comes equipped with distance measuring equipment that is based on recent technology, modern telecommunication equipment, automatic weather observation station and a terminal building that has three times its former floor space.

The expansion of the Canouan Airport was done at a cost of 58 million dollars. Some 70% of that cost was borne by Government.