

PRESS RELEASE FROM THE NIC/UHC
31st October, 2005

Head of the National Insurance Corporation, Ms Emma Hippolyte, is calling on St. Lucians to cooperate with enumerators from the Electoral Department who will be undertaking the registration of all St. Lucians starting tomorrow.

The Electoral Department and the NIC are collaborating in this exercise in preparation for the implementation of Universal Health Care (UHC). At the completion of the house-to-house registration, a national ID will be issued and will be used for voting, among other purposes.

“Everyone benefits,” noted Ms. Hippolyte. “Rather than undertake a completely new registration later of basically the same information, we would like to do this at the same time because it will fast-track the development of a UHC database, which requires registration of all citizens and also save time and cost,” She noted.

Enumerators from the Electoral Department have been receiving extensive training over the past month and will go into the field from November 1, 2005. Ms. Hippolyte says all enumerators have been provided with information as regards the UHC and the public should feel free to ask. The public may also get information by calling the office at 452-6756.

“I wish to assure all St. Lucians that no effort will be spared to maintain the high levels of confidentiality that are required of this exercise.”

When the Universal Health Care (UHC) is operational, all St. Lucians will be assigned a hospital which will be their designated health provider. UHC requires that all St. Lucians be registered in order to e gain the benefits of UHC and to receive emergency medical care when needed.

“I am appealing to all St. Lucians to cooperate with the enumerators as they visit your homes. Your cooperation will contribute greatly to completing the process in a timely fashion”, Ms. Hippolyte said.