

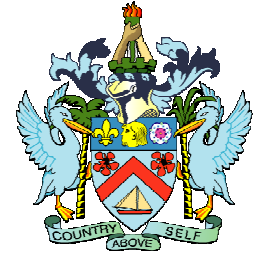
Post-Cabinet Statement May 14, 2007

Good evening to our citizens, residents and visitors of St. Kitts and Nevis. This evening I bring you the post cabinet briefing for cabinet meeting held today May 14th, 2007. You might have noticed that there was no presentation of the post-cabinet press briefing last Monday, Monday being the regular cabinet day for the Government. Last Monday May 7 was Labour Day and no cabinet meeting was held.

In its meeting earlier today, the Government engaged in detailed discussions about the remaining arrangements that must be made to finalise the planning phases of two of its three recently announced housing projects. These two housing projects are the project to expand the starter homes that were constructed a few years ago and the project providing homes for about 200 families of former sugar workers. The government believes that these two programmes which will be partly financed by the Government of Venezuela must be urgently undertaken and thus the Ministry of Housing, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Social Development have been mandated to conclude the arrangements to have these projects expedited. The ministries will be meeting with representatives of the government of Venezuela during the upcoming week. In its meeting today, Cabinet also discussed financing mechanisms for the low income housing programme which will result in the construction of about 1000 homes throughout the country. The government reflected on its record in providing housing solutions to low income and middle income housing over the past 11 years and hails its achievement in this area as proud and unprecedented.

The Frigate Bay Development Corporation public park development plan was a topic of indepth discussion at today's cabinet meeting. The Frigate Bay Development Corporation public park development plan foresees the development of public recreational and commercial space on lands surrounding the Frigate Bay salt pond and the beach. The master plan has been created to ensure that the future development of the area takes place in a planned manner and in the context of a clear policy which is compatible with government's vision for the evolving public space needs of local residents and visitors alike. The master plan ensures that users will enjoy the all-encompassing surroundings as well as the many entertaining and other commercial opportunities including a retail centre, two restaurants, landscaped parking, an outdoor amphitheatre, events lawn, pond fishing docks, an exercise trail, children's activity park, and a small boat pier.

During these discussions, Government expressed delight in the heightened economic activity that is now taking place on the beach and concluded that there is a need to move on the implementation of this plan with dispatch. This development will ensure the enhancement of social and economic activities on the beach, and help sustain the livelihood of local entrepreneurs and their families.



Finally, cabinet today approved the extending of duty concessions to a number of small local businesses in a variety of areas. Government recognizes the importance of small businesses in the creation of employment and in the driving of economic growth. This recognition is what has informed government's policy to extend this kind of support to a critical sector of the economy. The government wishes to encourage a spirit of entrepreneurship among our local people and would continue to provide relief and assistance in accordance with its standing policy.

This brings to an end the post cabinet briefing for cabinet meeting held today Monday May 4th, 2007. I Thank you.