

Post-Cabinet Statement June 11, 2007

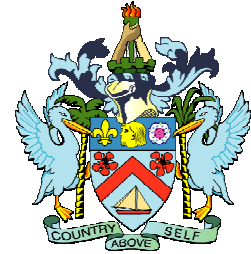
Good evening. This is the Post Cabinet Briefing for the Cabinet meeting held today, Monday, the 11th day of June, in the Cabinet Chambers in Government Headquarters here in Basseterre, St. Kitts. I must apologize for the absence of the Honourable Nigel Carty who has become accustomed to present this briefing to you; He is away on official duty.

The Cabinet today, reflected on the very sad news regarding the untimely passing earlier this morning of the Honourable Malcolm Guishard in Nevis. Malcolm, as he was affectionately called by us in the Federal Government and in the Federal Parliament, first was elected to the Federal Parliament in the elections of 1993 and since then has been re-elected in 1995, in 2000, and in 2004. Up to the time of his passing earlier this morning, he also served as the Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition in the Federal Parliament. He was Chairman or Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee and also was a member of the Electoral and Constitutional Reform Committee that is presently sitting during the Electoral Reform process.

He [Malcolm Guishard] also served in the Nevis Island Assembly, where he was first elected in 1992, and was the Deputy Premier in the Nevis Island Administration. In fact he served from 1992 to 2006 as the Deputy Premier under the former Premier, Vance Amory. We all deeply regret his untimely passing, and the Federal Government and the Federal Parliament expressed this through the Honourable Sam Condor, our Deputy Prime Minister and the Leader of government business in the National Assembly of the Federal Parliament, when he left Cabinet at midday today and traveled to Nevis, where he met the wife of the late Malcolm Guishard, his wife Yvonne, his parents, Mr. Claude and Myrtle Guishard, and a number of his children. He also met with members of the Nevis Island Administration Cabinet, which was also in session today.

The Federal Government and the Federal Parliament are continuing discussions with the Nevis Island Assembly and the Government on the arrangements to be made during the time of mourning and for the eventual burial of the remains of the late Malcolm Guishard, Leader of the Opposition in the Federal Parliament.

Of course today the Cabinet reflected on the Constitutional implications of the current circumstances and the Constitutional responsibilities of the Honourable Prime Minister, in determining the Constitutional procedures to be followed within a period of 90 days in filling the vacancy within the Federal Parliament and the subsequent appointment of a new Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition in the National Assembly, that is the Federal Parliament. We also reflected on the subsequent appointment of the Opposition Senator, but in the meantime however, I am advised that the current Senator sits.



The Federal Cabinet wishes to associate itself with the sentiments expressed by the Nevis Island Administration Cabinet, and calls on all parties that may have an interest in these matters at this time to respect this period of mourning and to demonstrate appropriate sensitivity to the family and to the friends of the late Honourable Malcolm Guishard, the Leader of the Opposition in the Federal Parliament.

The Cabinet also received today, a report from the Honourable Dwyer Astaphan, and the Ministry of National Security, on the current crime situation in the country, and endorsed the specific recommendations, that had been expressed by the Police High Command yesterday evening, and we also expressed our support to the Police and the Security Forces in general, in their efforts to stem the tide of criminal activity at this particular time. Cabinet reflected on the need for our citizens and for the community in general, to be true partners in fighting crime in the country, and called on the public to collaborate with the Police and the Security Forces and provide relevant timely information, that can assist in this current situation in preventing and in the detection of crime.

The Cabinet today also received a report from the Minister of Public Utilities, the Honourable Dr. Earle Asim Martin. We join the Minister and the Ministry in apologizing to the public, especially the business and the corporate community, for the disruption in business and regular, normal activities last week, and expressed our concerns regarding the possible damage that has been inflicted to appliances and equipment during the period of outage.

I am very pleased to announce that the Cabinet heard from the Minister, that the situation is now improved, but it will continue to take our efforts, our manpower and large financial investments by the Government in replacing the old system, the old generating system, which has generators manufactured since in the late 1940s and early 1950s. The Minister was assured of continued Cabinet support and Cabinet expressed profound thanks to the employees of the Ministry for the dedicated task of restoring the services, despite the inconvenience that has been suffered by our citizens and our customers of the electricity services.

Ladies and gentlemen, these are the matters that I brief you on today, for the Cabinet meeting of Monday, the 11th day of June, 2007; Thank you.