



Government of St. Kitts & Nevis  
Cabinet Secretariat, Government Headquarters  
Church Street, Basseterre  
St. Kitts & Nevis

## **Post-Cabinet Statement July 30, 2007**

Citizens and residents of St. Kitts and Nevis, good evening. I bring to you the post-Cabinet briefing for Cabinet meeting held today Monday July 30th, 2007.

### **Price Control**

In the post-Cabinet briefing for July 25th, 2007, you were informed that government had mandated the Ministry of Consumer Affairs and the Ministry of Finance to undertake a comprehensive review and analysis of the basket of basic food items and to make recommendations on how the cost of these basic items could be reduced. In taking this matter forward, cabinet today discussed in detail and approved a list of basic food and non-food items to comprise a basic basket of goods for price control. This is in response to the need to ensure that our poorer citizens are able to lead a life of improved quality through the ability to access basic food and non-food items at a reasonable cost.

The basket now approved and established consists of fruits and vegetables, chicken parts, frozen fish, corn meal, flour, milk, margarine, pasta products, cheese, sardines, crackers, cereals, toothpaste, cooking oil, peas and beans, rice, corned beef, toilet paper, disposable diapers, and medicines for allergy, hypertension, asthma, diabetes and eye conditions. The price of refrigerators, stoves and mattresses up to certain limited sizes will also be regulated.

Over the next two weeks, further work will be done by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs and the Ministry of Finance to determine the precise margins at which these goods can be sold. The Ministry of Finance will also advise on which of these goods, if any, should be exempt from import duty. It is envisaged that this new price control regime will take effect in September of this year.

In addition, the government has committed to the revision of a number of pieces of legislation to improve the consumer protection regime in the Federation, so that price control of basic items is only one facet of the exercise. The Sale of Goods Act, the



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Distribution and Pricing of Goods Act, the Bureau of Standards Act, the Weights and Measures Act, and the Food and Drugs Act will be revised shortly for this purpose. The government is determined to bring lasting relief to our poor citizens in particular.

### **The School Feeding Programme**

In discussing the limitations of the school feeding program, Cabinet appointed an inter-ministerial committee comprising the ministries of Education, Consumer Affairs, Agriculture and Health to conduct a full review of the menu of the school feeding programme and to recommend a more nutritious and more healthy programme. The new programme should be approved by the next school term and will impact about 4000 primary school children from all communities in St. Kitts.

### **Call Centre Operation Approved and Supported**

In response to the need to provide employment opportunities and to grow the economy, Cabinet gave approval for the establishment of a 150-seat call centre to be located at the Stanford building near the Airport roundabout. The call centre will be operated by International Market Access Ltd that also operates call center operations in Barbados and Antigua. The operation will offer a number of specialized services and over 100 young persons will receive special training to handle customer services issues in the following disciplines: internet service provision, financial services, airline reservations, telecoms, back office computing operations, and debt management.

Cabinet wishes to encourage young talented men and women to make use of the employment opportunities when they become available.

### **CFBC**

Cabinet today held broad discussions on the Clarence Fitzroy Bryant College Bill which had its first reading at the last sitting of the Parliament. The CFBC bill is intended to establish the college as a corporate body that will in effect be autonomous and controlled by its own board of directors who will make independent decisions about the



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development of the college. This plan of making the CFB College autonomous is consistent with government's long-term goal to develop the college into a full tertiary level institution that will offer full degree programmes to citizens and residents of the Federation at a cost affordable to most.

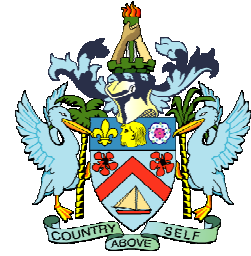
The College was established in the 1960s as a Technical College and Teachers College, to bring post-secondary education to the population. In 1988, the institution evolved into the College of Further Education through the amalgamation of the Teachers' College, the Technical College, the School of Nursing and the Sixth Form of the Basseterre High School. In 1997, ten years ago, the College of Further Education was renamed the Clarence Fitzroy Bryant College in honour of a former distinguished Minister of Education.

Cabinet believes that such a historic piece of legislation should benefit from the input of the wider community and therefore solicits feedback on the bill before its second and third readings in Parliament. A copy of the Clarence Fitzroy Bryant College Bill can be found at [www.gov.kn](http://www.gov.kn) under the Ministry of Education section.

### **Privacy and Personal Information Bill**

In an attempt to grapple with the challenges in a modern world and to pursue the public agenda in the fight against all forms of criminal activity, Cabinet reviewed the Privacy and Personal Information Bill, which had its first reading in October 2006. The purpose of the bill is to provide a legislative balance between the legitimate needs of public authorities in fulfilling their roles in the public's interest and the right to privacy of our citizens and residents. Essentially the bill seeks to protect the rights of individuals while taking account of the legitimate need of the police and other authorities to access information of a personal nature.

The general public is asked to take note that the section of the original bill dealing with the privacy commissioner has been replaced by a section that gives the authority to the Ombudsman to mediate in matters between public authorities and private citizens.



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Cabinet welcomes in the usual spirit of public consultation the input of the wider public on this extremely important bill which can be accessed on the government website at [www.gov.kn](http://www.gov.kn).

**The End**

This is the Cabinet briefing for Monday July 30, 2007.