



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

Post-Cabinet Statement August 1, 2007

Fellow citizens and residents of St. Kitts and Nevis, good evening. Today I bring to you the post-cabinet briefing for Cabinet meeting held today Wednesday 1st August, Emancipation Day, 2007.

ICT Centre Training Programme

Today, cabinet discussed the progress, which is being made in the implementation of the St. Kitts-Nevis and Taiwan IT Centre to be located at the CA Paul Industrial Estate. Cabinet was pleased to learn that the renovation of the Centre will be completed by the end of August and that all equipment should be installed by September.

The IT Centre will host a 35-seat training lab that will be used to offer training to workers on the industrial estate and members of the wider national community. Private sector institutions, Non-government organizations and community-based organizations will be able to access the training facilities for training programmes, which they wish to initiate. The Centre will also host an e-government development and implementation lab where important application programme solutions will be planned and developed. A video-conferencing lab and a media and research facility will also be installed.

Cabinet was pleased with the progress of the implementation of the IT Centre and approved the designation of a training programme coordinator to comprehensively plan and manage the training programmes to be offered. This decision advances the government's plan to offer computer training to the widest possible cross-section of the population and create a computer-literate society. This vision is consistent with the objective set out in our National IT Strategic Plan (NISP) to develop the human resources and e-readiness of the Federation.

Enhanced Communication in the Security Forces



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In further strengthening its support for the security forces in their fight against crime, Cabinet discussed and approved a new communication plan for the forces. Cabinet was satisfied that there was need for more timely and better coordinated communication among members of the Police and the Defence Force and approved a new plan which will result in about 150 Police and Defence Force officers getting access to mobile telephony equipment and services on the job.

The security forces have made a strong appeal for this support citing that this should greatly assist in the conduct of more reliable communication, particularly during coordinated exercises, which they have stepped up with the use of the Strike Force. The Strike Force is a joint team of Police and Defence Force officers whose mandate is to eradicate major criminal activity, including gun crimes, and dismantle gangs and drug rings. The Cabinet was assured that this would only serve to build on the success achieved to date in reducing crime in the Federation.

Integrated Circuits Bill

In accordance with its commitment under article 3 of the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property (TRIPS) of the WTO (or the World Trade Organisation), cabinet discussed and approved the 'Protection of Lay-out Designs or Topographies of integrated Circuits Bill' for its onward passage to Parliament for debate and final passage. An integrated circuit is a small electronic circuit or microchip that is used in the processors of modern computers and other electronic devices. The purpose of the bill is to protect the intellectual properties of persons who produce original creations that are the results of their own intellectual efforts. This legislation is intended encourage the development of circuit topographies that would help to advance computer technology to make them faster and more commonplace. This bill is intended to be introduced at the next sitting of the Parliament.

Precursor Chemicals Bill

Under the United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances to which St. Kitts and Nevis has acceded, the government is



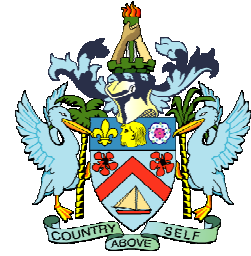
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committed to the introduction of laws to eliminate the diversion of precursor chemicals that can end up being used in the production or preparation of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. Many of the precursor substances to be controlled under the intended law are not in and of themselves illegal but because their use in the production and preparation of hard drugs is so prevalent, their trade will be monitored. Hydrochloric acid, sulphuric acid, ammonia, potassium hydroxide, sodium bicarbonate, and acetone are among approximately 24 substances whose trade will be monitored. This bill is as well intended to be introduced at the next sitting of the Parliament.

Procedure for Passage of Bills

Cabinet takes this opportunity to reaffirm its commitment to engage civil society and the wider public in consultation on important laws to be passed in the Federation and therefore encourages feedback on the two bills discussed above which can be found on the government's website at www.gov.kn. The public is hereby reminded that the procedure for the passage of a bill in parliament is as follows:

1. The relevant ministry brings to the attention of the ministry of Legal Affairs any legislation that it wishes to introduce.
2. The ministry of Legal Affairs drafts the law or reviews it if a draft already exists, to ensure that the new law will conform with the constitution and other existing laws in the federation.
3. Cabinet is then required to discuss the draft law and approve it for discussion at the Parliamentary group meeting where it is discussed in further detail and amended where necessary
4. The bill or draft law is made available to the public for wider consultation input. The Bill can be made available at different stages.
5. The Bill is introduced into the parliament for its first reading.



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6. Depending on the impact of the bill, the public is again given an opportunity to make its input.
7. Thereafter the second and third readings of the bill in Parliament are done whereupon the bill becomes an Act or a law. Note that amendments may be made to the bill before its final reading.

The End

This brings to an end the post-cabinet briefing for Cabinet meeting held today Wednesday 1st August 2007.