



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

POST-CABINET STATEMENT DECEMBER 17, 2007

Citizens and residents of St. Kitts and Nevis, good evening; this is the post-Cabinet briefing for Cabinet meeting held today, Monday December 17, 2007.

National Security

At today's cabinet meeting, matters of national security consumed much of the discussion. As happened at the previous meeting of the Cabinet, members of the recently activated Defence Council and members of the High Command of the Police and Defence Force were present and gave the Cabinet an overview of strategies currently in force to deal with the incidence in crime in the Federation.

In summarizing the level of criminal activity over the past week, the security chiefs indicated that a low level of activity was recorded and posited that their current strategy is working, even though they admitted that long-term, meaningful change would require more patience on the part of all stakeholders in civil society, and consistent application of strategy by the security forces.

The Police High command intimated its plan to increase the visibility of the police and to acquire more suitable weapons that would be required as part of the strategy going forward. It was reported that greater collaboration between all law enforcement agencies (i.e. Police and Customs) was being pursued. The existence of derelict buildings in the community was highlighted as a security concern and measures are being taken in this regard.

The dispensation of justice was identified as one of the critical areas for improvement as well. The Police provided an analysis of outstanding criminal cases and drew up schedules for the completion of the preliminary inquiry at the Criminal Investigation Department.



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

The security officials stressed the need for the increase in joint operational activities between the Police and Defence Force, effective immediately, and committed themselves to sustaining such operations in the future.

Cabinet received an update on the progress of the construction of the Dieppe Bay police station. The completion of the station would facilitate the reach of the police into the surrounding areas, and provide surveillance for the open beaches in Dieppe Bay and other nearby vulnerable coastal areas.

Business and Industry

Cabinet reflected on the favorable outlook for the growth of industry in St. Kitts and Nevis, and discussed how this projected growth can be greater facilitated and sustained in the future. Cabinet therefore agreed for the sale of land at the Conaree Industrial Park to a local business of long standing to expand its operations and to increase its employee base from 180 to about 300 employees in the not too distant future. Concessions were also extended to new and existing local manufacturing, storage and other businesses to stimulate investment, create employment opportunities, and improve the range of high quality services and products available to our citizens and residents.

Land Sales Agency

In reviewing the policy and procedures for land distribution for residential, agricultural and commercial development, Cabinet alluded to the need for the creation of a single land sales agency in the future. At present, there are some six agencies, some of them corporations, charged with the responsibility of land sales and distribution.

Cabinet approved a special plan to streamline the agencies over time and reduce their number to three, which include: The Ministry of Sustainable Development, the National Housing Corporation and a new Land Sales agency which, over time, will subsume the mandate of four existing agencies. The Ministry of Sustainable Development will focus on land policy, including the setting aside of land for agriculture, whereas the NHC will



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

focus on the distribution of land under subsidized government programmes. The Land Sales agency will be responsible for the sale of all other lands as set by policy.

The Land sales agency is intended to bring greater transparency and efficiency to the distribution of land for residential and commercial purposes, and will be established when all the necessary legal and other requirements will have been satisfied.

END

This brings to an end the post-cabinet briefing for today Monday December 17, 2007.