



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

POST-CABINET STATEMENT JANUARY 21, 2008

Citizens and residents of St. Kitts and Nevis, good evening. This is the post-Cabinet briefing for Cabinet meeting held today Monday January 21, 2008.

Discussing the Plan of the Police Force

At Cabinet meeting held earlier today, the long-term development of the police force occupied much of the discussion. In light of the recent successes of the police in the fight against crime, government considered it urgent to endorse and give its firmest support to the present strategic plan of the Police and therefore discussed how other specific aspects of the plan may be expedited in their implementation.

Cabinet discussed the long-term vision for the top tier leadership of the Police Force and, among other things, agreed in principle to the creation of an additional post of Assistant Commissioner of Police to lend even stronger support to the Police Strategic Plan.

The Hon Prime Minister and the Minister of National Security are scheduled to meet with the rank and file of the Police Force shortly to articulate their support for the strategic plan, to articulate the long-term vision of the government regarding the Police, and to signal their continuing strong support for the entire police body and the national security of the Federation.

At today's cabinet meeting, the Minister of National Security highlighted the need to continue to upgrade existing laws and enact new laws that strengthen the hand of the police and deter criminal activity at the same time. Further discussion surrounded a variety of programmes to be implemented, the new police regulations that the police are presently discussing, and the assessment of the prison facility in Basseterre.

Integrity in Public Life Act



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In planning the legislative agenda for the year 2008, Cabinet deliberated on need to engage the wider public in a debate on a number of important pieces of legislation, the Integrity in Public Life Act being one among them. Cabinet believes that under this Act, if it passes, all political party candidates, parliamentarians on both sides of the House, Ministers of Government, Senior Public Servants including Permanent Secretaries, Directors, Heads of Department, Senior Public Officers, Managers of Public Corporations, Members of Board of Directors of Public Corporations, other persons who make important high-level decisions and commit government's resources, and their spouses, should be required to declare all of their assets and interests. It is felt that without this comprehensive approach, surrogates and proxies could easily be used to circumvent the provisions of the law.

The public is invited to offer its suggestions on this important piece of legislation that may be enacted later in the current year. Thanks in advance for your feedback. Suggestions may be sent to the Office of the Prime Minister or to email address skninfo@sisterisles.kn.

Multi-Purpose Fishing Boat

In fisheries related matters, the Minister of Agriculture updated cabinet on his ministry's plan to build two large 40-foot multi-purpose commercial fishing boats for the fishermen in St. Kitts and Nevis, and to offer training in the operation of the boats. Cabinet approved the construction of the first of these boats, and a local company has been identified for the construction. The government is grateful to the ROC (Taiwan) for its financial assistance to this project for the empowerment of our local fishermen and boat builders. The boat will cost around EC\$620,000.

IPA

One month after the launching of the St. Kitts Investment Promotion Agency (SKIPA), cabinet has moved swiftly to consider staffing requirements as recommended by the Ministry of Finance. The SKIPA is geared towards the promotion of investment and the assistance of local and foreign investors in order to drive business success and



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consequently the economic growth of the country and the creation of opportunities for our people. The SKIPA will be in full operation at a new location in the first quarter of this New Year.

END

This brings to an end the post-cabinet briefing for Monday January 21, 2008. I thank you.