



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

POST-CABINET STATEMENT FEBRUARY 25, 2008

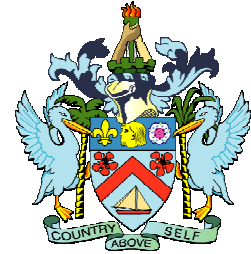
Citizens and residents of St. Kitts and Nevis, good evening. This is the post-Cabinet briefing for Cabinet meeting held today Monday February 25, 2008.

National Health Strategic Plan

At today's Cabinet meeting, Minister of Health, the Hon. Rupert Herbert, brought for approval, a new National Strategic Health Plan for the period 2008 to 2012. The new Health Plan was developed through support from the Pan-American Health Organisation (PAHO) and adopted a multi-sector approach involving government, the private sector, and civil society.

The Health Plan is designed to address the major health-care challenges facing our Federation, and it sets out strategies to achieve a healthier and more productive nation, building on seven (7) critical pillars:

- (i) Health Systems Development: focusing on sustainable financing mechanisms, diagnostic capacity; and continuous quality improvement
- (ii) Family Health: paying increased attention to immunization, men's health, and senior citizens' health
- (iii) Mental health and Substance Abuse: drawing on legislation and human rights; improved mental health team composition; service provision; and capacity management
- (iv) Chronic Non-Communicable Disease Management, Nutrition and Physical Activity: emphasizing re-orientation of public health services; improvement of public health policy; and research and surveillance
- (v) Environmental Health: stressing food safety and security; port surveillance; and water quality monitoring
- (vi) HIV/AIDS and Sexually-Transmitted Infections: emphasizing prevention; treatment, care and support of the infected; and research



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- (vii) Human Resource Development: improving recruitment, training and retention; performance and productivity; and occupational health and safety

Cabinet approved the new health plan and mandated its swift systematic implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

The new health plan also delivers on the government's commitment to four important imperatives:

1. Caribbean Cooperation in Health (CCH)
2. The Nassau Declaration of 2001
3. The United Nations Millennium Development Goals
4. The Declaration of Port of Spain: Uniting to stop the epidemic of chronic Non-communicable disease.

Strengthening the BNTF Programme Management Framework

The management framework of Basic Needs Trust Fund (BNTF), a programme financed by the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and whose objective is to meet basic community needs such as road improvement, educational infrastructure development, among other things, was reviewed by the Cabinet. This was done after careful analysis of the efficiency of the programme, and the changes are geared towards improving the success as well as timeliness in the implementation of BNTF projects.

In particular, the project steering committee for the BNTF has been revised to ensure that there is equal representation of the government and non-government sectors on the committee. A number of key government ministries, private sector organizations such as the CIC, and civil society organizations such as the St. Christopher Heritage Society, are to be represented on the project steering committee.

The ultimate goal of the new framework is to ensure that the BNTF delivers successful, gender-sensitive projects to communities and groups based upon objective criteria and genuine need.



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Duty Concessions

Consistent with its policy to empower local businesses to make them more robust in an increasingly hostile global economy; to provide sustainable employment opportunities; and grow the economy, cabinet approved duty concessions for a number of enterprises. The concessions given are in line with the fiscal incentives act.

Concessions were given on equipment and other capital assets.

This brings to an end the post-cabinet briefing for Monday February 25, 2008. I thank you.