



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

POST-CABINET STATEMENT JUNE 2, 2008

Citizens and residents of St. Kitts and Nevis, good evening. This is the post-Cabinet briefing for Cabinet meeting held today Monday June 2, 2008.

Increase in Passenger Bus Fares

The public has earlier been notified that as a consequence of the rapidly increasing cost of fuel, government has had ongoing negotiations with the passenger bus associations in St. Kitts with a view towards reaching an equitable settlement on new fares for public transportation.

Initially in these meetings, bus operators had proposed that bus fares be raised to as much \$5.00 for the farthest distances. Eventually, after several iterations of negotiation, it was proposed that all existing fares be increased by 50c except that for destinations between Tabernacle and Sandy Point traveling from Basseterre, it was proposed that the fare increase by \$1.00.

Two weeks ago Cabinet convened and discussed this proposal and agreed that although fuel prices had increased by about 90% since the last increase in bus fares, it would wish for passenger bus operators to consider reviewing their proposal with regard to the fares.

Over the past weeks since this decision, bus operators did not increase their fares but rather requested that government review its decision since even at the moment, fuel prices continued to increase.

At today's cabinet meeting, after intense deliberations on the matter of bus fares, Cabinet agreed to allow a 75c increase in the bus fare where a \$1.00 increase had been proposed. Subsequent to the taking of this decision, a sub-committee of the Cabinet met with bus association representatives to inform them of government's position. This meeting was convened at 3:15 pm today.



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The bus operators expressed their disappointment in the decision taken and engaged ministers in an in-depth discussion, particularly outlining the extent to which their businesses have been affected by the spiraling cost of fuel. However, the meeting was able to reach consensus as follows:

All existing bus fares will be increased by 50c except that for destinations between Tabernacle and Sandy Point, but not including Tabernacle and Sandy point, traveling from Basseterre, it was proposed that the fare be increased by 75c effective 4:30 pm today Monday June 2, 2008. Additionally, within a 24-hour period, government will consider the proposal for the application of \$1.00 where 75c is now applicable.

Hence, effective 4:30 pm today Monday June 2, 2008, until further notice, the new passenger bus fares operating in the island of St. Kitts are as follows:

- a. For all areas and distances for which \$2.00 was charged, \$2.50 will now be charged.
- b. For all areas and distances for which \$2.50 was charged, \$3.00 will now be charged.
- c. For all areas and distances for which \$3.00 was charged, \$3.50 will now be charged. However, for areas stretching from Newton ground to Belle Vue, fares to and from Basseterre will now be \$3.75.

Children under 12 years are required to pay half these fares.

Passengers are also asked to observe the 'Pay AS You Enter' notice posted on passenger buses.

This brings to an end the post-cabinet briefing for Monday June 2, 2008. I thank you.