



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

POST-CABINET STATEMENT JUNE 30, 2008

Citizens and residents of St. Kitts and Nevis, good evening. This is the post-Cabinet briefing for Cabinet meeting held today Monday June 30, 2008.

INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS

Cabinet received an update on the work of the 25th anniversary Independence celebrations committee that has been installed to plan the silver jubilee independence celebrations. The committee commenced its work in December 2007 and has been organized into a number of distinct sub-committees responsible for a variety of events. Government has emphasized the centrality of our independence to the continued advancement of our society and believes that every citizen should be proud to take part in the celebrations.

The theme that has been chosen for the celebrations is "Pride, Development, Progress – Independence". At today's Cabinet meeting, it was agreed that five new denominations of postage stamp featuring agriculture, economic advancement, and our political evolution, be published to coincide with the celebrations. The designs chosen for the stamp collection were submitted by members of the public who responded to the invitation to participate in the stamp design competition.

LAUNCH OF HOUSING PROJECTS

Minister of Housing, Hon Cedric Liburd, updated Cabinet on the ongoing activities in the Government's low income housing programme. He reported that the project to upgrade the NEMA starter homes is well underway as phase 1 of that project should be fully completed by the end of July 2008. Around 60 homes are being upgraded under phase 1 while another 90 will be upgraded under phases 2 and 3 of the project. Phase 2 starts immediately after the completion of phase 1.

The Minister also reported on the Ex-SSMC Workers housing project. This project is geared towards assisting former sugar workers who do not yet own their own home, in acquiring homes. The project is in progress and is assisting those qualified persons who



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already have access to land. The other phase of the project will assist those who do not yet have access to land. Under this project, a number of persons have had existing homes upgraded with modern amenities.

Finally, the Minister revealed that a new low-income housing project will be launched on Thursday July 10, 2008 to commence the construction of 500 homes throughout St. Kitts by the end of the year. The launch begins at 3:00pm and will be held at Harry Phipps Housing Project in Halfway Tree village. Contractors, financial institutions, prospective home owners are all invited to attend the important ceremony as the housing project will meet the growing demand for housing in an expanding economy.

PROGRESS REPORT ON SSMC

A comprehensive update on the operations of the St. Kitts Sugar Manufacturing Corporation (SSMC) was presented by the Minister responsible for Agriculture. The report indicated that the SSMC is involved in land preparation as a support to local farmers, soil conservation and drainage control activities, securing assets at the factory and other locations, the operation of a fuel service station and the operation of the machine shop. Members of Cabinet were informed that the machine shop will be put into full commercialization over the next year.

The Minister of Agriculture, the Hon Cedric Liburd, in his report said that some of the assets of the SSMC have been put into productive use. He specified that SSMC land has been used in the expansion of the airport and the construction of the West Basseterre Bypass Road. Vehicles and spare parts have been sold, and factory space has leased for carpentry and window manufacturing. Members of the public are already aware of the use of the SSMC railway for the Scenic Railway operation.

The St. Kitts Sugar Manufacturing Corporation closed operations manufacturing operations in July 2005 and is being wound up as a corporate entity.

END

This brings to an end the post-cabinet briefing for Monday June 30, 2008. I thank you.