



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

POST-CABINET STATEMENT AUGUST 11, 2008

Citizens and residents of St. Kitts and Nevis, good evening. This is the post-Cabinet briefing for Cabinet meeting held today Monday August 11, 2008.

CABINET RESHUFFLE

Prime Minister and Chairman of the Cabinet, Dr. Hon. Denzil L Douglas, reflecting on his address to the nation on August 08, again expressed his gratitude for the service of former Minister, the Hon. Dwyer Astaphan, in Cabinet and to the people of the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis. The Prime Minister assured his colleagues that he would continue to seek the advice of Hon. Astaphan on matters that are of critical importance to the nation's progress.

The Prime Minister reiterated relationships among the newly adjusted Cabinet portfolios and expressed confidence in the view that each member of the Cabinet was given the opportunity to play to his strengths, having regard to the subject matters now under his charge.

By way of reminder, the new Cabinet portfolios are as follows:

Hon. Prime Minister, Dr Denzil Douglas: Minister of National Security and Immigration; Minister of Foreign Affairs; Minister of Sustainable Development; Minister of Tourism, Sports and Culture.

Hon. Deputy Prime Minister, Sam Condor: Minister of Education, Youth Affairs, Information and Technology; Minister of Labour and Social Security.

Dr. Hon. Timothy Harris: Minister of Finance; Minister of International Trade, Industry, Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

Hon. Rupert Herbert: Minister of Health, Social and Community development, and Gender Affairs.



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Hon. Nigel Carty: Minister of State in the Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs, Information and Technology; and in the Ministry of Labour and Social Security.

All other portfolios remain unchanged.

.KN DOMAIN NAME POLICY

In November of 2006, Cabinet approved a new National Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Strategic plan to guide the orderly development of the technology sector in the Federation. Since the approval of the strategic plan, significant advances have been made. These include the opening of the new National ICT Centre at the C. A Paul Southwell Industrial Park. The Centre houses a state of the art computer lab, an e-government application development and implementation lab, a video-conferencing centre, and a small business incubation centre.

At today's cabinet meeting, government affirmed its commitment to the continuous evolution of its own technology policy by approving a policy to bring greater uniformity to government's presence in cyberspace. The policy mandates that all government websites and email services including those operated by embassies and state missions abroad project a uniform naming system by using the gov.kn namespace.

The use of the single namespace gov.kn will help to enhance the image of the Federation and facilitate nationals living here and abroad, as well as potential investors, interfacing with government's agencies and departments. The naming of websites and other e-services will strictly follow international best practice.

DUTY CONCESSIONS

Three applications by small, local businesses for duty concessions were approved by the Cabinet. The duty concessions on imported equipment and materials are geared towards assisting local entrepreneurs in growing their businesses, and creating employment opportunities and wealth among our local population. Government is firm in the view that despite the large investments which will have huge impact on the economy, it is small businesses taken together that will continue to provide robustness and sustainability in the



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economy. Government therefore continues to encourage nationals at home and abroad to take note of the numerous assistance packages available to established local businesses.

END

The post-Cabinet briefing for Monday August 11, 2008. Thank you!