



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

POST-CABINET STATEMENT FEBRUARY 23, 2009

Citizens and residents of St. Kitts and Nevis, good evening. This is the post-Cabinet briefing for Cabinet meeting held today Monday February 23, 2009.

WORLD ECONOMIC ISSUES

Today's Cabinet meeting focused extensively on the World Economic Crisis and the possible ramifications this may have on our own local economy. Minister of Finance, Dr Timothy Harris, reminded the meeting that the world's largest economies were in recession and that even the fastest growing economies in Asia were expecting significant reductions in their economic growth rates.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Labour, the Hon Sam Condor, pointed out that the US economy was experiencing a severe loss of jobs, with the previous month recording the highest job loss rate in a quarter century. He also informed the Cabinet that he had been in contact with employers on the industrial estate who had advised that they were cutting some staff positions. One other employer had indicated that he was expanding his business because closure of plants in other parts of the world had resulted in increased manufacturing business for his plant.

Cabinet agreed that a special committee be formed to investigate the current state of the job market in the Federation. In particular, the committee will engage manufacturing employers on the industrial estate to glean as much information about the employment situation as possible, with a view to alleviating the concerns of the workers employed there.



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Government is of the view that the industrial estate workers represent a critical segment of the working population and that it should explore all means to provide assistance and support in this time of global economic setback.

The Committee formed consists of top government officials from the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, and the Ministry of Tourism, and it is expected to report to the Cabinet on a weekly basis so that government would have the opportunity to respond within the shortest possible timeframe to any adverse development.

LAND MATTERS

The Hon Prime Minister and Minister responsible for Lands updated the cabinet on the land committee meeting held the previous Friday. He emphasized that land distribution continues to be a top priority of the administration and that all bureaucratic red tape is being removed to ensure the expeditious settlement of requests for land for residential, farming and commercial activities. The Prime Minister emphasized that in these current economic times, land distribution must be used as a vehicle to keep the economy buoyant through agriculture, tourism and construction.

THE END

This brings to an end the post-cabinet meeting for Cabinet meeting held today Monday February 23, 2009.