EVALUATION OF PROGRESS IN DRUG CONTROL IN GRENADA

The, ‘Evaluation of Progress in Drug Control, 2007 to 2009’, outlines Progress made by its member states in the area of drug control. The report which was published by the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), through the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM), and the Governmental Experts Group (GEG), was released in February 2010.

According to the Executive Summary of the report, “In the area of institutional strengthening, CICAD observes that Grenada has an authority to carry out anti-drug activities, but notes that its national anti-drug plan expired in 2008.

CICAD notes that the country has enacted new legislation in accordance with the Inter-American Convention against Corruption, 1996. However, CICAD notes with concern that the country has not acceded to the United Nations Convention Against Corruption, 2003.”

The Executive Summary also noted, “CICAD also notes that Grenada has regulations in place for the prevention of alcohol and drug-related traffic accidents.”

As regards to control mechanism on internet sale of drugs, the reported noted, “CICAD also observes that the country does not have specific laws or regulations for the control of sales of drugs over the Internet, but has general legislation to address these issues. CICAD also notes that the country does not have specific authorities in place to prevent the sale of drugs on the internet.

In the area of firearms control, the report stated, “CICAD recognizes the efforts made by the country to maintain an electronic database to monitor the movement of firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials. CICAD notes that the country has established mechanisms to issue licenses or permits for the shipment, registration, storage of firearms.”

(Cont’d on page 4)
The report, 'Evaluation of Progress in Drug Control, 2007 to 2009', as published by the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission, through the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM), and the Governmental Experts Group (GEG), is testament that the issue of evaluation is of paramount importance. The MEM, which was established in 1998, is a tool to evaluate the anti-drug efforts of Member States of the OAS. It should be noted that the MEM was also created to increase coordination, dialogue and cooperation among the Member states to deal with the drug issue with greater efficacy.

Since the establishment of the MEM, Grenada has actively participated in the process and has benefitted from this participation. Through the evaluation process, weaknesses and strengths in Grenada’s national drug control program have been identified, and measures taken to address these weaknesses.

MEM has also provided Grenada with the opportunity to network with other countries in the exchange of technical assistance and best practices in drug control. This has reaped benefits for all concerned. In this regard, Grenada wishes to congratulate the OAS on the establishment and successful implementation of the MEM.

Between 2001 and 2009, the arrests for males increased by 118%, while those of females increased by 23%. For both genders, the highest number of arrests occurred in 2009. Per year, the mean arrests for males was 432 and that of females, 35.

The number of arrests of males increased by 89% and those of females decreased 53% between 2001 and 2009. The average number of annual arrests was 80 for males and 10 for females.
The number of persons charged for cocaine trafficking decreased by 2%, possession of apparatus by 28% and by 25% for misuse of a controlled drug between 2001 and 2009. The number of people charged for trafficking, marijuana possession, possession with intent to sell, marijuana cultivation and trafficking increased by 10%, 54%, 104%, 108% and 142% respectively.

The number of people sentenced to prison for drug-related offences increased between 2001 and 2009, with the greatest increase being in males at 38%. The increase in females was 20% although their numbers were low (from 8-10). Annually, an average of 55 men and 4 women are sent to prison for drug-related offences.

Further information on the statistical analysis can be obtained from the Drug Control Secretariat, at dave.alexander@gov.gd, or ejapal@gov.gd
IN THE NEWS

The following recommendations were assigned to Grenada in the Fifth Round of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM), in order to assist the country in strengthening its policy to combat the problem of drugs and related activities and increase multilateral cooperation in the Hemisphere:

♦ Approve a national anti-drug plan that serves as the framework for all anti-drug activities.


♦ Carry out research and training activities related to the prevention and control of illicit traffic of pharmaceutical products and other drugs via the internet, which will enable the country to identify its regulatory and operative needs, a recommendation reiterated from the fourth evaluation round 2005-2006.

♦ Establish the requirement for firearms to be marked, in accordance with the Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and other related materials (CIFTA).

Officers of the Drug Control Secretariat participated in an Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)/Organization of American States (OAS) sponsored workshop held in St. Kitts and Nevis, February 9-10, 2011, on data collection. The primary objective of the workshop was to establish and or strengthen drug information networks in the participating countries.

The workshop focused on the following issues: Development of National Drug Information Networks; Roles and responsibilities of Network Coordinators; Drug information Network (DIN) implementation plans; Experiences of other countries as its relates to the present drug situation and current national response.

Officials from Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname, St. Kitts and Nevis, and Grenada, attended the workshop.

Elizabeth Japal, Coordinator of Grenada Drug Information Network (GRENDIN), represented Grenada at the Workshop.

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(Cont’d from page 1)

However, CICAD views with concern that Grenada’s legislation does not require the marking of firearms.”

The subject of money laundering was also addressed in the report. “CICAD notes that Grenada has a legislative framework that provides for the prevention of money laundering. However, CICAD notes with concern that the country does not permit special investigative techniques in money laundering investigations.”

The entire report can be obtained from the Drug Control Secretariat.