CARLTON HOUSE TREATMENT CENTRE TO BE REBUILT

A modern drug therapeutic centre, with patients living quarters and a multi-purpose recreational facility, has been earmarked for construction in the parish of St. Andrew’s Grenada.

The announcement has been made by a group of senior planning officials within the Ministry of Health. They say that the new Carlton House Drug Rehabilitation Centre is one of several capital projects to be implemented this year.

The former nurses’ hostel at Princess Alice Hospital in Mirabeau is the site chosen for the new multi-million dollar health facility. A team led by Senior Planning Officer in the Ministry of Health, Myrna Hagley, recently conducted a site visit of the area.

On completion of the visit, Senior Nursing Officer for Mental Health Services, Joanna Humphrey, said the construction of a new facility will be a milestone achievement for the Ministry of Health and the people of Grenada.

Nurse Humphrey explained that the previous facility in St. Paul’s, St. George’s, was severely damaged by Hurricane in September 2004.

Subsequently, the remains of the building were gutted by two fires, resulting in major disruption of services.

Humphrey said that the proposed new modern centre at Mirabeau will allow for a major transformation of the service that is provided to patients using the facility.

During the visit to Mirabeau two civil engineers from the Ministry of Works accompanied the health officials to conduct the necessary assessment and provide technical advice.

Statistics from the Drug Control Secretariat indicate that approximately one thousand and eighty-one (1,081) patients were admitted to Carlton House during the period 1988 to 2011; this number consisted of nine hundred and ninety-nine (999) males and eighty-two (82) females. Fifty-six (56) percent of these patients were admitted due to problems derived from the consumption of alcohol.

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OUR MISSION

The Drug Control Secretariat would endeavour to create an atmosphere of non-tolerance towards drugs, through the implementation of appropriate programmes, which would promote the well-being of all persons in the State of Grenada.
The donation of the US $2 million worth of two patrol interceptors and maritime support package by the United States of America to Grenada, in June 2012, would be a significant boost to Grenada’s anti-drug initiatives and the overall fight against crime. Given the extensive rugged coastline of Grenada, which consists of three islands, and the numerous bays, inlets, and coves, this timely donation would be a major asset to the Coast Guard unit of the Royal Grenada Police Force (RGPF), as they seek to secure our borders against maritime drug trafficking, and other illegal activities.

Maritime drug trafficking is one of the main methods used to move drugs around the region. Several Caribbean countries including Grenada, are used as a transshipment point for drugs. Statistics indicate that 1,941,430 kg of narcotics (cannabis and cocaine) were seized in the Caribbean during the period 2006 to 2010. One of the functions of the Regional Security System (RSS), is the prevention and interdiction of trafficking in illegal narcotics (Article 4(1) of the RSS Treaty 1996.)

Grenada’s improved maritime capabilities would not only contribute to the local drug interdiction, but also the overall regional drug interdiction exercises.

The establishment of the Regional Drug Information Network (DIN), was one of the significant outcomes of the first regional meeting of drug information networks held in Antigua and Barbuda 1 to 2 August 2012. This Network would be responsible for collating and disseminating statistical data on the drug situation in the Caribbean. The meeting provided a forum for the presentation and analysis of research studies, and information projects in drugs, which were conducted in the Caribbean during the past two years. It also served as a training exercise for regional Officials who were new to the methodology of regional drug information networks.

Discussions were also held on several issues including: Implementation of Regional Project on Improvement of Availability of Data Forms for Drug Treatment Centres; The Drug Situation in the Caribbean: Demand Reduction, and Supply Reduction; and the Status of the Caribbean Prevention and Treatment Training and Certification Program (PROCCER)

Dr. Cecilia Hegamin-Younger, Professor, St. George’s University, Grenada, delivered a presentation on the link between the Drug Information Network and Academia; the Grenada Experience, and Mrs. Elizabeth Japal, Officer, did a presentation on the structure and function of GRENDIN.
GRENADA PROVIDES TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO ST. LUCIA

Grenada, through the Drug Control Secretariat, will provide technical assistance to the Substance Abuse Advisory Council Secretariat (SAACS), St. Lucia, on strengthening its Drug Information Network; this, coming out of a training workshop held 29 June 2012, in St. Lucia, conducted by the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (OAS/CICAD), for Stakeholders, at which Drug Control Officer Dave Alexander was a co-facilitator.

Alexander was invited by CICAD to co-facilitate the workshop, based on his experiences in the establishment of the Grenada Drug Information Network (GRENDIN), in 2002. Four Officials from Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Jamaica, and St. Kitts and Nevis also attended the workshop, as part of CICAD’s initiative in establishing and strengthening drug information networks in the Caribbean.

Ms. Anne-Marie Blackman, OAS Representative, St. Lucia, delivered remarks at the commencement of the workshop and in her remarks, complimented Grenada on the success of GRENDIN.

In his presentations, Alexander shared the ‘Grenada Experience’ regarding the establishment of GRENDIN, its successes and challenges.

MESSAGE TO SCHOOLS

A congratulatory message was sent to all students on their return to school for the academic school year 2012 to 2013, by the Drug Control Secretariat. Congratulations were also extended to all the students who were successful in the CAPE and CXC exams.

The Drug Control Secretariat encouraged students to abstain from the possession, use, or sale of alcohol, marijuana and other drugs. The message noted, “We also wish to alert you that you should be on your guard against friends, relatives or other adults who would seek to influence you to use drugs or to transport drugs for them.”

The students were also encouraged to become involved in meaningful and healthy activities, and to make the best use of their education and the opportunities which they would receive, whether through music, athletics, Knowledge Bowl, essay-writing competitions, Cadet Corp, Scouts.
IN THE NEWS

Two patrol interceptor boats were donated to Grenada by the United States of America on 29 June 2012. The boats and a maritime support package, valued at US $2 million, were presented by US Ambassador Larry Palmer to Prime Minister Tillman Thomas. According to Palmer, the interceptive boats and communications systems would facilitate operational effectiveness and efficiency, reducing the risk of theft and diversion from government States. He added that the maritime package, which aims at combating illicit arms trafficking, is part of the US Government’s commitment to support Grenada’s ongoing capacity to increase its national security.

Prime Minister Tillman Thomas presents keys to patrol boats to Commissioner of Police Willan Thompson 29 June 2012

Grenada has received a set of hydraulic shears to be used to destroy obsolete and confiscated firearms. The donation was made by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC) on 23 May 2012. Delivery of the shears forms part of UNLIREC’s Firearms Destruction and Stockpile Management Assistance Package for Caribbean States, which aims to combat illicit arms trafficking by reducing the risk of theft and diversion from government holdings of operational, confiscated, surplus and obsolete firearms, ammunition and explosives.

In 2012, the Government of Grenada approved the Firearms destruction and Stockpile Management National Action Plan. The Plan calls for the destruction of such weapons which would facilitate the control and disposal of same.

The Royal Grenada Police Force continues to step up its fight against controlled drugs with several sting operations. On 26 July 2012, the Police confiscated 1.3 kg of cocaine, and arrested two British nationals for drug possession and trafficking. In an operation on 5 September 2012, one vehicle was seized and 45 kg of cannabis were confiscated. The driver of the vehicle escaped by jumping into the sea and boarding a waiting vessel. However, he was subsequently arrested. Meanwhile, in operations by Prison Officials over a six month period at Her Majesty’s Prisons, 7.2 kg of cannabis, and 108 mobile phones were confiscated. In a separate event, two Prison Officers were charged for drug possession and trafficking in July 2012; 1 kg of cannabis was confiscated from one of the Officer’s.

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THE NEWSLETTER is a quarterly publication of the Drug Control Secretariat, Ministry of Education & Human Resource Development, Botanical Gardens, St. George’s, Grenada. Telephone: 473-440-7911; Fax: 473-440-7701; E-mail: dave.alexander21@gmail.com, ejapal@gov.gd; Webpage: www.gov.gd/ncodc.html