NATIONAL ANTI-DRUG STRATEGY TO BE READY SOON

Grenada’s Fourth National Anti-Drug Strategy, 2012 to 2017, is in the process of being finalized, and implementation is expected to commence in 2012. The National Anti-Drug Strategy 2012 to 2017 is the blueprint of the Government of Grenada’s responses to the drug phenomena. It articulates national policies, define priorities, and apportion responsibilities for drug control efforts. All national concerns in drug control are outlined in a comprehensive manner and structured in a logical framework by analyzing the country-specific drug problems through the use of statistical data, assessing the activities carried out until now, and identifying what needs to be undertaken during a specific period to attain the objectives agreed upon.

The National Anti-Drug Strategy seeks to achieve the following outcomes:
- Reduction in drug use among the general population.
- Reduction of the consequences of drug use.
- Reduction in availability and accessibility of drugs.

Components of the strategy are:
- Institutional Strengthening.
- Demand Reduction.
- Supply Reduction.
- Control Measures.
- Monitoring and Evaluation.

The Ministry of National Security is tasked with the responsibility for overall monitoring and supervision of the implementation of the National Anti-Drug Master Plan. The Drug Control Secretariat will assist the Ministry of National Security in this area.

The implementation of the National Anti-Drug Strategy would generate the following benefits:
- Co-ordination of all efforts of the national drug control programme into a joint approach.
- Inform all stakeholders and citizens about the national drug control programme, and

Grenada’s achievements in drug control.
- Forge international links with other drug prevention councils in the region and internationally.

The Third National Anti-Drug Strategy expired on 31 December 2008. Ninety-eight (98) percent of all programmes in the Master Plan were implemented. This rate of implementation can be characterized as successful, notwithstanding the challenges encountered in implementation. It has laid the basis for the implementation of the Fourth Anti-Drug Strategy.
The year 2012, would mark the twenty-third anniversary of the Drug Control Secretariat (established 4 September 1989). During those years, the Drug Control Secretariat has worked assiduously to coordinate the implementation of the national drug control programme. Undoubtedly, there were significant accomplishments in this area. Despite these achievements, there remain challenges.

Some of the initiatives to be undertaken in 2012 include inter alia:

- Commence implementation of the National Anti-Drug Strategy 2012 to 2017.

- Implementation of the Caribbean Prevention and Treatment Training and Certification Program.

- Research on the prevalence of drug use in secondary schools.

- Publication of the Pictorial Analysis of the Drug Situation in Grenada 2001 to 2009.

- Enactment of the Precursors Chemicals Act.

The Drug Control Secretariat looks forward to the support of the public in the implementation of these programmes in 2012.

**VIRTUAL INSTITUTE ESTABLISHED**

Grenada’s Prime Minister, Honourable Tillman Thomas, has welcomed the establishment of a Virtual Training Institute by the Regional Security System (RSS), to ensure the promotion of best practices, standardize training material and coordinate training for RSS members. Speaking at the inaugural meeting of the Practice Education Committee of the RSS Institute on 12 December 2011, in Grenada, the Prime Minister said he hoped that the programmes of the Institute will examine new concepts that will encourage “new attitudes and behaviours” that strengthen the relationship between the police and the community.

The Grenadian leader called for a re-engagement of the systems that strengthened the exchange of information among law enforcement agencies in the region, improved the protection of borders and tracked persons known to be involved in illegal activity. He also noted that trade in illicit drugs has provided an environment in which “unlawful elements use their ill gotten gains to create false hope in some communities, purchase power and build influence, to the detriment of our people and our islands,” adding that “the challenges are many, and collectively they continue to significantly impact the security environment in the region.”

**GRENADA'S COMMITMENT AGAINST MONEY LAUNDERING**

The Government of Grenada has reaffirmed its commitment to the fight against money laundering and the financing of terrorism. Accordingly, Grenada is also committed to the strict implementation of the forty-nine recommendations promulgated by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

This commitment which was made by the Government on 13 February 2012, also included: Exchange of information on request where it is “foreseeably relevant” to the administration and enforcement of the domestic laws of its treaty partners; and No restrictions on exchange of information caused by bank secrecy or domestic tax interest requirements.

The Government also issued a moratorium on the licensing of any financial institution under the existing international financial services legislation, until relevant pieces of legislation have been reviewed, assessed and benchmarked against the Global Forum and FATF standards.

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iii. Introduce Internet-based information management systems of institutional and patient records in the drug treatment centers.

iv. Develop and conduct national and regional progress and impact monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for prevention and treatment.

The Caribbean Region is the first recipient region of the combined initiative to incorporate prevention and treatment in the Training and Certification Program (PROCCER); the Training and Certification Program (PROCCER) in Central America and Mexico currently only include a focus on treatment.

Three regional meeting were conducted in 2011, to formulate plans for the implementation of PROCCER in the Caribbean. In addition, an Advisory Body meeting of the Caribbean Prevention and Treatment Training and Certification Program, was established in July 2011, to manage the implementation of PROCCER in the Caribbean. The body consists of experts in drug prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, education, and certification. Mr. Dave Alexander, Drug Control Officer, is a member of the Advisory Body.

PROCCER would be implemented by CICAD, together with the National Drug Commissions, Ministries of Health, academic institutions, and NGO prevention and treatment providers.
IN THE NEWS

The Annual Report of the Grenada Drug Information Network (GRENDIN), is now available. The report covers activities undertaken by GRENDIN, and presents an analysis of drug-related statistics data for the period 1 October 2010 to 30 September 2011. Special thanks to Dr. Cecilia Hegamin-Youger, Professor at St. George’s University, who co-authored the report, in collaboration with the Drug Control Secretariat.


Grenada now has a new Proceeds of Crime Act. This Act was gazetted on 27 January 2012. Meanwhile, the House of Representatives passed the Financial Intelligence Bill 2012 and the Terrorism Bill 2012. These Bills would be sent to the Senate for its consideration and appropriate action.

The Drug Control Secretariat extends congratulations to the Grenada Authority for the Regulation of Financial Institutions (GARFIN), on its fifth anniversary. The Grenada Authority for the Regulation of Financial Institutions Act No. 5 of 2006, consolidated supervision of the non bank financial sector under one Authority. Mr. Timothy Antoine, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance, is the Chairman of GARFIN, and Mr. Angus Smith is the Executive Director.

Mr. Rohan Phillip, Attorney General of Grenada, attended the Canadian Association of Drug Treatment Court Professionals of Canada / Organization of American States (CADTCP-OAS Study visit Exchange, held 27 February to 2 March 2012, in Canada. The event was organized under the umbrella of the OAS Drug Treatment Court Program for the Americas, in cooperation with CADTCP.

Rohan Phillip, Attorney General of Grenada

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