GRENADA’S NATIONAL COORDINATING ENTITY STRENGTHENED

Grenada’s National Coordinating Entity (NCE) of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM), has benefited from its participation in a two-day meeting convened by the Inter American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD). The meeting, which was held in Nassau, The Bahamas from 17 to 18 July 2008, involved representatives from the NCE’s of fourteen countries in the Caribbean and North America. Objectives of the meeting included: To review and improve the NCE’s capacity to achieve its role within the MEM evaluation cycle and carry out its responsibilities more effectively; and to hold discussions with the representatives of the NCE’s about the status of the MEM process in the respective countries.

The meeting served as a forum for NCE’s to discuss challenges relating to the MEM process and seek appropriate solutions, review and improve the NCE’s capacity to achieve its role within the MEM evaluation cycle and carry out its responsibilities more effectively, discuss the status of the MEM process in the respective countries and provide information on the status of the MEM in the hemisphere.

Countries represented at the meeting presented a report on the status of the MEM in that country and Officials from OAS/CICAD, MEM Section, gave presentations on key aspects of the MEM.

Some of the issues that were discussed included:

♦ The importance of the MEM introductory document for each country.
♦ Benefits of the MEM.
♦ Data collection.
♦ Relationship of the NCE’s with national institutions.
♦ Distribution and promotion of national reports.
♦ Challenges encountered during the evaluation process.
♦ Timely implementation of MEM recommendations.

Mr. Terence Walters, Assistant Drug Control Officer, Drug Control Secretariat, represented Grenada at the meeting. Mr. Walters has responsibility for matters pertaining to demand reduction.


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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 National Democratic Congress (NDC) which was victorious in the 8 July 2008 General Elections in Grenada, has committed itself to making the issue of national security a top priority. In its manifesto, the NDC said, “The protection of the Grenadian people and our national assets and interests is of paramount importance. NDC is committed to improving our national security systems to ensure a peaceful and safe environment for all our citizens, visitors and investors. As a result the NDC will focus on effective and efficient law enforcement; effective crime prevention; and accountability and service delivery by the institutions of safety and security.”

The Drug Control Secretariat congratulates the new Government on the above-stated measures, which would contribute immensely to the reduction of crime, violence, drug use and drug trafficking. These measures clearly indicate the commitment of the Government in the fight against crime and violence, which had increased in recent times. During the period, 1 January to 2 July 2008, there were fifteen murders in Grenada. This is unprecedented!

As these new and bold initiatives are implemented, the Drug Control Secretariat stands ready to do its part to promote a safe society, and recommits itself to the fight against drugs.

**SCHOOL-BASED DRUG PREVENTION PROGRAMS**

Drug prevention programs will be expanded in schools throughout the state of Grenada, during the new school year September 2008 to July 2009, by the Drug Control Secretariat. The objectives of these programmes include: To promote healthy lifestyles among students, free of drug use; and to provide support services to students with an identified substance abuse concern or problem.

One of the activities implemented in September 2008 was the distribution of educational materials to schools. These materials are:

- National Schools’ Policy on Drugs.
- Drug Prevention Posters.

These educational materials will provide both teachers and students with relevant information to address drug-related matters.

**NEW MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR DRUG CONTROL**

Senator the Honourable Franka Bernadine, is now the Minister with responsibility for matters pertaining to drug control.

Her career history is most exemplary. She pursued studies at the University of the West Indies, Mona Jamaica, 1972 to 1975, and obtained a B.Sc. General Degree, in Zoology, Chemistry and Botany. She then read at the University College, London, 1975 to 1978, and obtained a M.Sc. Degree in Zoology (Ethology).

She has served in numerous management, administrative and academic positions in Grenada and the Caribbean. In 2002, Senator Bernadine was appointed by the Government of Grenada as the National Liaison Officer to spearhead the production of Grenada’s Third National Anti-Drugs Master Plan, 2004 to 2008.
PHOTO EXHIBITION OF SUMMER PROGRAMS

Student receives Badge from Drug Control Officer

Ladies at Youth Camp

Students in Summer Program

Student in Summer Program

Students Display Their Craft Skills

THE NEWSLETTER

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IN THE NEWS

New Commissioner of Police

The Drug Control Secretariat extends congratulations to Mr. James Clarkson who was appointed as the new Commissioner of Police following the retirement of Commissioner Winston James on 31 July 2008. Commissioner Clarkson was enlisted in the Royal Grenada Police Force in 1967, and underwent his initial training at the Regional Police Training Centre in Barbados. His years of service have exposed him to extensive training in the areas of Intelligence, Criminal Investigation and Management, among others. He has worked in collaboration with the Drug Control Secretariat on various drug control matters.

Drug Seizures Continues

One thousand, one hundred (1,100) cannabis trees were manually eradicated by the Royal Grenada Police Force (RGPF) on 30 July 2008. On 14 August 2008, the Police destroyed 233 cannabis trees. On 15 August 2008, the Police seized 36 kg of cannabis. Meanwhile, 3,302 Ecstasy tablets, were seized by the RGPF. One person was arrested and charged for possession of a controlled drug and possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply.

Anti-Money Laundering and combating the financing of Terrorism Workshop

The Ministry of Finance, the Grenada Authority for the Regulation of Financial Institutions (GARFIN), and the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) conducted a workshop on anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism, on 20 August 2008. One of the issues discussed at the workshop was the mutual evaluation review to be conducted by the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF) in October 2008.

Meeting with Guidance & Counselling Officers

Guidance and Counselling Officers in all Secondary Schools in Grenada, were provided with educational materials to assist them in their counseling programs at schools. At a meeting held 3 September 2008, Mr. Dave Alexander, Drug Control Officer, addressed over thirty Guidance and Counselling Officers, and updated them on recent trends on drugs and violence among young people, and measures being taken to assist these persons.

THANKS

The Drug Control Secretariat wishes to thank Judge Monica Joseph, for her service as Chairman of the National Council On Drug Control (NCODC), during the period 2005 to 2008.

During her tenure, Judge Joseph served with distinction. Her legal background and her position as Chairman of the Public Service Commission, redounded to the benefit of the NCODC. She was supported by Lt, Col, Nestor Ogilvie who served as Deputy Chairman 2005 to 2007.

The Drug Control Secretariat extends its thanks to Judge Joseph for her service to the National Council On Drug Control.