



THE NEWSLETTER



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SALE OF DRUGS VIA THE INTERNET TO BE ADDRESSED

“The internet has spawned a new breed to drug men. These are not the traditional dealers in illicit drugs but new age pharmaceutical entrepreneurs who will sell any pharmaceutical online.” These sentiments were expressed by Mr. Darshan Ramdhani, Senior Crown Counsel in the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Grenada, during his address at the Fifth Annual General Meeting of the Grenada Drug Information Network (GRENDIN)/National Observatory on Drugs, held 11 December, 2008. In an address entitled, *“Legal Implications For The Prevention And Control Of Illicit Traffic Of Pharmaceutical Products And Other Drugs Via The Internet In Grenada”*.

One of the issues addressed in his presentation was whether the laws of Grenada such as the Drug Abuse (Prevention and Control) Act, CAP 3 and the Pharmacy Act Cap 241, govern the sale and distribution of pharmaceuticals and other drugs online. According to Mr. Ramdhani, “With regards the sale of illicit drugs, it would have been obvious from the

foregoing that wherever illicit drugs are sold, it would be unlawful. Whether you sell them on the street corner or online, the buying and selling and possession continue to be unlawful. With regards pharmaceuticals being sold by a locally based website, the position is as follows: The law states that the business of a pharmacy must be done at a place registered as a pharmacy. What it does not state is how sales and purchases may be done. It is open to any pharmacy, and to anyone for that matter to advertise the sale of drugs online. Of course, the drugs will have to be stored at a place (if they are stored in Grenada) which is registered as a pharmacy. As they stand, the laws appear to capture the errant pharmacist who sells his drugs online from someplace other than a proper registered pharmacy.

In the area of legislative control, he pointed out “The policy makers may decide that a start to control

unlawful behaviour via the internet is to legislate that all internet pharmacies be registered.”

Another area of concern raised by Mr. Randhani was local law enforcement. He noted, “Suggestions have been made that special task forces be set up to monitor the internet.”



*Mr. Darshan Ramdhani,
Senior Crown Counsel*

GANJA is illegal in Grenada,
Carriacou & Petite Martinique

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.

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



Dave Alexander, Drug Control Officer

The year 2008 witnessed a significant blow to the drug trade in Grenada. The diligent and exemplary work of the Royal Grenada Police Force (RGPF), contributed immensely to the dent in the drug trade. Notable examples of such work included: the prosecution and conviction of a local male for possession and trafficking 3,302 MDMA tablets (second seizure of MDMA in Grenada), three major drug traffickers who were successfully prosecuted in 2008, seizures of 29 kilos and 53 kilos of cocaine in separate operations, and a major seizure of 159 kg of marijuana. Reports also indicate that there was no notable increase in both cannabis and cocaine transiting the island in 2008.

The success of the RGPF can be attributed to several factors including: training, intelligence and information gathering, and diligence and hard work by the Officers. One of the units of the RGPF at the forefront of the interdiction campaign is the Drug Squad. The Officers which comprise this unit have consistently demonstrated over the years that they are dedicated to the cause to which they have been assigned.

The Drug Control Secretariat wishes to congratulate the RGPF for its sterling contribution in the area of drug interdiction. Be assured of our highest commendation for your work.

SALE OF DRUGS VIA THE INTERNET BEING ADDRESSED (cont'd from pg.1)

Such units should have an active relationship with the customs department, gatekeepers of imports and exports, and other important stakeholders.” He further explained, “By the very nature of these investigations, much of the evidence will be of the electronic kind. Under our present laws the police have powers to go after evidence either with or without warrants.”

The Senior Crown Counsel recognized the need for international law enforcement and cooperation to combat illicit traffic of pharmaceutical products and other drugs via the internet in Grenada. “In this regard, we would need the cooperation of foreign countries. Where the principals of a criminal website are located overseas we will need those governments to launch investigations and possibly institute criminal charges against those persons.”

In conclusion Mr. Randhani noted, “ Our old laws do have some bite. As the foregoing has hopefully shown, our laws as they exist will criminalise: The seller and buyer of illicit drugs; The rogue pharmacy in cyberspace who sells drugs in Grenada, and the consumer in Grenada who imports prescribed drugs without proper authority.”

Electronic copies of the presentation can be obtained from the Drug Control Secretariat.

GRENADA ATTENDS REGIONAL MEETINGS

Drug Control Officer in the Drug Control Secretariat Mr. Dave Alexander, attended the Regional Technical Advisory Body on Drugs (TAB), held 27 February to 2 March 2009, in Jamaica. Matters discussed at the TAB meeting included: Technical support in the area of drug control to Caribbean countries, and programme of work for the TAB in year three of the Regional Drug Demand Reduction Strategy.

Mr. Alexander and Ms. Tessa Chaderton-Shaw of Barbados are members of the TAB, with responsibility to give advice on the implementation of Prevention and Education programmes.

Meanwhile, Mr. Alexander and Nurse Brenda Scott, Head of Carlton House Treatment Centre, attended the Regional Workshop on Standards of Care for Treatment and Rehabilitation Facilities for Substance Abusers, held 3 to 4 March 2009, in Jamaica. Issues discussed included: Current and emerging information on Standards of Care and Treatment for Drug Rehabilitation facilities; Minimum Standards of Care to be used to guide the development of Treatment Standards at the country level.

**WAY FORWARD FOR
CARLTON HOUSE**

At a Consultation held 12 February 2009, representatives from various stakeholders and the Ministry of Health addressed the issues of the reconstruction of the Carlton House Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre.

Minister for Health, Honourable. Karl Hood explained that the issue of rebuilding must address the long-term benefits to the clients and to the country. "It should not only be about short term detoxification, but total long term detoxification and how best can we solve the problems that may be associated with drugs and alcoholism", he told delegates.

The Carlton House Treatment and Drug Rehabilitation Centre was located at Parade in St. George's. The building was damaged by Hurricane Ivan in 2004 and destroyed by fire the following year.



Honourable Karl Hood, Minister for Health Addressing Consultation, 12 February 2009

**COMPARISON OF DRUG-RELATED STATISTICS,
GRENADA**

The following is a comparison of some drug-related statistics, for the years 2007 and 2008.

1 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 2007	1 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 2008
<p>Persons Arrested For Drug-Related Offences</p> <p>Number of persons arrested for drug-related offences: 502 (Males: 471; Females: 31)</p>	<p>Persons Arrested For Drug-Related Offences</p> <p>Number of persons arrested for drug-related offences: 412 (Males: 324; Females: 29)</p>
<p>Types And Quantity Of Drugs Confiscated By The Royal Grenada Police Force</p> <p>Cocaine: 4.52 kg Cannabis Plants: 8,536 units Marijuana: 316.66 kg Marijuana cigarettes: 1,184 units</p>	<p>Types And Quantity Of Drugs Confiscated By The Royal Grenada Police Force</p> <p>Cocaine: 101.26 kg Cannabis Plants: 19,573 units Marijuana: 459.46 kg Marijuana cigarettes: 1,489units</p>
<p>Persons Sentenced to Prisons For Drug Related Offenses</p> <p>Number of persons: 63 (Males: 58; Females: 5)</p> <p>30 persons were 40 years and older</p>	<p>Persons Sentenced to Prisons For Drug Related Offenses</p> <p>Number of persons: 82 (Males: 77; Females: 5)</p> <p>31persons were 40 years and older</p>

The statistics presented above were compiled by the Drug Control Secretariat, under the Grenada Drug Information Network (GRENDIN). GRENDIN is the mechanism through which Grenada coordinates the collection and dissemination of drug-related statistical information from all institutions involved in the area of drug control, or related matters. It was established by Cabinet in December 2002.

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IN THE NEWS

Congratulations to Ms. Elizabeth Japal, who joined the Staff of the Drug Control Secretariat in January 2009. Ms. Japal was previously assigned to the UNESCO Secretariat, in the Ministry of Education.



Ms. Elizabeth Japal

Best wishes are extended to Mr. Arthur Pierre, who was transferred from the Drug Control Secretariat to head the HIV/AIDS programme in the Ministry of Education, in January 2009. Mr. Pierre joined the staff at the Secretariat in 2001, and was responsible for matters pertaining to statistical data collection and research.



Mr. Arthur Pierre

As part of its public education programmed, the Drug Control Secretariat presented a paper on, "Linkages Between Drugs and HIV/AIDS", at a workshop held 22 January 2009. Over twenty-five participants from the Public and Private Sectors attended the workshop.



Participants at the Workshop, 22 January 2009

A 34 year old male citizen of Antigua and Barbuda, was arrested in Grenada, on 25 January 2009, for doing an act preparatory to or for the purpose of drug trafficking of a controlled drug. He entered Grenada with US \$60,000.00. Meanwhile, a 22 year-old Trinidadian female was also arrested and charged for an act preparatory to or for the purpose of drug trafficking of a controlled drug. She was found with US\$67,800.00 in her possession, on 3 February 2009. Both persons were brought to Court and found guilty of the offences.



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Fourteen Pre-School Teachers were presented with copies of the, "*Manual of Lessons Plans for Teaching Drug Prevention to Pre-school and Kindergarten Children in Grenada*", at a workshop held 7 and 8 January 2009. The Manual was developed in 2006, as part of the Drug Control Secretariat's initiatives to include drug prevention education at the Preschool and Kindergarten levels. It consists of twenty-five lessons plans, poems and stories.



Teachers at Workshop, 7 & 8 January 2009

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