PRESS RELEASE

CARPHA AND PANCAP ARE COMPLEMENTARY

Prime Minister Denzil Dr Douglas of St. Kitts and Nevis and CARICOM lead Head for Human Resources, Health and HIV endorsed the complementary roles of the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) and the Pan Caribbean Partnership against HIV/AIDS (PANCAP). The Prime Minister also fully supports the planning and organisation of National Consultations on the Accelerated Human Rights Agenda to eliminate stigma and discrimination to be held throughout the Caribbean on World AIDS Day 2012.

At a wrap up meeting in his office with Dr Edward Greene, UN Secretary General Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in the Caribbean and Ms Juliette Bynoe Sutherland, Director of PANCAP’s Coordinating Unit at the CARICOM Secretariat, the Prime Minister said “the establishment of CARPHA marks the fulfilment of the final element of the Nassau declaration 2001 which indentified the Caribbean Cooperation on Health and PANCAP as its two pillars”

The Prime Minister went on to say that “CARPHA’s emphasis on the public health response including NCDs and HIV means that PANCAP can concentrate on the human rights issues that involve programs to address behaviour change, enhanced access to prevention, care and treatment for at-risk populations and highlight social justice for vulnerable groups.” Speaking on the legal aspects of human rights, the Prime Minister said “I am pleased to note that the PANCAP model Legislation on stigma and discrimination is being discussed by CARICOM’s Attorneys General. This comes at a time when we in St. Kitts and Nevis are about to complete the review of our laws aimed at reducing stigma and discrimination. Hopefully, the National Consultation planned for World AIDS Day in the Caribbean will not only focus on legislative reform but also on implementing the laws and ensuring that there is equal access to justice for all.”

Office of the Prime Minister
St. Kitts and Nevis
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