

Response of the Minister of National Security to the Recommendations in the Seventh Report of the Joint Select Committee of Parliament (Group 2) of the National Drug Council

<i>Recommendations of the Committee</i>	<i>Response of Minister of National Security</i>
<p>Council Membership:- National Drug Council must ensure that all supporting Ministries form part of the Council and not just be represented at subcommittees. We recommend the inclusion of the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Community Development.</p>	<p>It is to be noted that the Ministry of Community Development is represented on the Committee by a Representative of the National Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Programme (NADAPP).</p> <p>Steps will now be taken to have representation from the Ministry of Education.</p>
<p>Inter-ministerial Structure/System/Policy:- A structure/system/policy is necessary to guide the efforts of those stakeholders involved in different aspects of drugs within Trinidad and Tobago. This would result in an improved and coordinated effort, especially in the area of communicating to the general public and structure their ability to report to National Drug Council.</p>	<p>The Anti-Drug Plan is in fact the Policy Document which is in place to guide the efforts of those stakeholders involved in different aspects of drug control in Trinidad and Tobago.</p> <p>The Plan is structured into a 4-year timeframe, the last of which is 2008 to 2012, to ensure a coordinated approach and mutual exchange of information between the National Drug Council and the relevant stakeholders, and between and among stakeholders.</p> <p>In the 2013-2017 Report, steps will be taken to improve communication issues with the general public and to structure the ability of the stakeholders to report to the National Drug Council.</p>
<p>Legislation:- Draft legislation should be tabled in the Parliament, early in the next session which will:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prohibit driving while being under the influence of a drug; - Give authority to police officers to arrest any person found to be driving while under the influence of drugs 	<p>This recommendation is acknowledged and action will be initiated with relevant stakeholders to introduce both items of Legislation.</p>
<p>Anti-Drug Plan:- A number of issues to be addressed should be included in the next Anti-Drug Plan beginning 2013:-</p> <p>Dual diagnosis workshops should be on-going.</p>	<p>The National Drug Policy 2013 and its Operational Plan 2013-2017 are being finalized for submission to Cabinet by the end of April 2013. The recommendation for the continuation of workshops on Dual Diagnoses is included in the Demand Reduction Pillar of the Operational Plan 2013-2017.</p>

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<p>Education:- There must be close partnership with the Ministry of Education through the Student Support Services until every child in every school throughout Trinidad and Tobago can become exposed to material and lessons on the importance of not using drugs, and the dangers that are associated with their use.</p>	<p>There is close collaboration with relevant agencies of the Ministry of Education including the National Parent Teacher Association (NPTA).</p> <p>The following initiatives are included in the plans for educating students on the dangers of drug use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Be Trinity-SMART”- Pre-School Education Programme • Primary School Survey • Secondary School Survey • Drug Education Presentations to schools and Universities on request (Primary, Secondary and Tertiary) • Proposed longitudinal study on the impact of the pre-school programme on drug use in secondary schools
<p>Survey:- Since information submitted suggests that the last school survey was conducted in 2002, we recommend that a survey be done at the beginning of the year 2013 to reflect more recent changes in drug abuse among school children.</p> <p>Additionally, a survey should be conducted in the Prison Service to reveal recent drug use levels.</p>	<p>School surveys have been undertaken in conjunction with the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) of the Organization of American States (OAS) in 2002 and 2006.</p> <p>Activities for a school survey in 2013 have begun and it is anticipated that it will be finalized by the end of this year.</p> <p>Arrangements are also being made to undertake an up to date Prison Survey in collaboration with CICAD, in 2013.</p>
<p>Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism:- All recommendations made by the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism with respect to executing National Drug Council plan should be implemented by mid-2013.</p>	<p>Attached is a status of implementation of the recommendations of the 5th Round of the MEM.</p>

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<p>CICAD Data Repository:- CICAD Data Repository should be updated to reflect figures until the current calendar year.</p>	<p>Checks with CICAD revealed that data on their Inter-American Observatory on Drugs (OID) reflects information on the most recent school survey in 2006. Additionally, information gathered from treatment and rehabilitation agencies for 2012 is also reflected on that site.</p> <p>Statistics submitted to the MEM are also provided to the OID. Trinidad and Tobago submitted statistics to the MEM Unit in 2011.</p> <p>The OAS recently initiated activities to establish a Crime Observatory in the Hemisphere. Should this become fully operational, Trinidad and Tobago will begin contributing to this system in 2013.</p>
<p>Continuous Monitoring:- A study should be commissioned to ascertain the current level of substance use among inmates and juveniles and the success rate of initiatives within the system.</p>	<p>The studies referred to in the section entitled "Surveys" will address the levels of substance use among inmates and juveniles. Discussions will be held with the Prison Service to ascertain whether an evaluation of their programmes has been undertaken. In the event that this has not been done, they will be encouraged to do so.</p>

March 18, 2013.

Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism

The following is the status of implementation of the recommendations from the 5th Round of the MEM.

Recommendation	Status
Establish official operation standards for specialized treatment facilities for problems associated with drug use, a recommendation reiterated from the Second Evaluation Round, 2001–2002.	The finalized document is with the PS Ministry of Community Development. A meeting is to be held with the PS Ministry of the People and Social Development during the month of March 2013 to finalize this document for submission to Cabinet. Completion Date : May, 2013
Develop an official licensing procedure to authorize the operation of facilities that provide treatment services for persons with problems associated with drug use.	The above action will address this recommendation. Completion date: May, 2013
Carry out a drug use survey among the secondary school population.	The activities for implementation of this Survey have already begun. Completion Date : December 2013
Integrate all of the relevant entities involved in the control of pharmaceutical products into the automated information management system.	SSA is working with PRELAC to fully implement the NDS within this year. One department of the Ministry of Health is to start integrating the use of the NDS into its operations by next month; with other stakeholders to soon follow within/thereafter. Completion Date : December 2013
Approve and implement the necessary legislation for the fulfilment of the provisions and proposals of article 12 of the UN Convention against the Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988, a recommendation reiterated from the fourth evaluation round, 2005–2006.	A meeting between the Minister of National Security and the Minister of Health (and their respective Teams) is to be convened in the month of April to decide, conclusively, on the way forward. Should no unexpected challenges arise, the Bill would return to the PRE-Legislative Review Committee (LRC) stage of deliberations Completion Date : Unknown
Integrate all of the relevant entities involved in the control of chemical substances into the automated information management system.	SSA is working with PRELAC to fully implement the NDS within this year. One department of the Ministry of Health is to start integrating the use of the NDS into its operations by next month; with other stakeholders to soon follow within/thereafter. Completion Date : Unknown

Recommendation	Status
Establish a national registry for the confiscation of firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials.	The Crime and Problem Analysis Unit (CAPA) of the TTPS currently has an integrated database which registers all the relevant information. Completed