

MESSAGE

Bruce Golding - Leader of the Opposition

DRUG AWARENESS MONTH 2006

Deteriorating economic and social conditions have forced many persons to seek solace and comfort in the “arms” of drugs. The escalation in their use, especially amongst our youths, is cause for great concern. I am disheartened by the havoc that drug abuse continues to wreak on the lives of its victims and their families. Regrettably, so many homes have been disrupted and destroyed as a result of this addiction.

I am therefore honoured to be given the opportunity of participating in a notable occasion, such as Drug Awareness Month. The National Council on Drug Abuse (NCDA) and the Drug Abuse Secretariat, are to be commended for their years of unstinting work, in attempting to lift this scourge of drug abuse that threatens to destroy our people and society.

Your theme for this year “***Drug Abuse Prevention: Engaging Communities.....Transforming Lives***” is indeed relevant. It clearly conveys to us, the fact that substance abuse prevention is a shared effort, involving all stakeholders of the society. It is through collaboration that we stand any chance of stemming this tide of drug abuse.

Many of us are under the false impression that drug abuse is an isolated problem, involving only the victims and their families. Therefore, there is apathy to the plight of such persons. There are also myths surrounding the use of drugs and persons fall into a false sense of security - confident that they cannot become hostage to its use.

I appeal to our people - if you have loved ones who have for whatever reason, fallen victims to drugs and have made the streets their home; I urge you to embrace them and assist in their rehabilitation and eventually reintegrate them into your lives and homes.

We must all avail ourselves of the information being disseminated by the NCDA and the Secretariat, on the dangers and preventative measures of drug abuse. I encourage the NCDA, Drug Abuse Secretariat, Ministry of Health and other relevant agencies, to be unrelenting in their fight against drug abuse.

I wish for you every success in your planned activities for Drug Awareness Month 2006.

Bruce Golding
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