



# St Kitts ~ Nevis Customs & Excise Department

*"To Protect and Collect"*

## COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE

### Tribute to Donald Cable

Donald Cable joined the St. Kitts and Nevis Customs & Excise Department in Oct 1970. He was then, very early identified as an exemplary officer, and as such was sent to Trinidad where he underwent formal customs training. This by itself was a rare achievement in those days as only one individual, who was identified as 'the cream of the crop' was selected to attend. The confidence demonstrated by the Department proved deserving as he returned to St. Kitts triumphant with distinction after the required 6 months of intense study. In later years, he would again have received further training, most notable when he took part in overseas training in both the United Kingdom and the USA.

His career was remarkable and his impact significant as he was charged with the introduction of automation in the department with the first implementation of UNCTAD's ASYCUDA. The current version of this system still sits as the cornerstone of Customs IT infrastructure.

In 1994, our ascension to the Caribbean Customs Law Enforcement Council (CCLEC) was secured with Mr. Cable himself signing the MOU which formally established and operationalize this institution. An institution to date with 38 Customs Authorities comprising its membership.

The signing of this agreement proved invaluable as Mr. Cable assigned two officers to the train the trainer program which facilitated the Customs to train our own officers based on international standards since 1997. This training titled "CCLEC JOB Course" has allowed us to not only train our officers, but also officers of Anguilla and Montserrat.

As a customs officer Mr. Cable's expertise was without question. He was our defacto Classification and Valuation Expert. This was fortunate, as in 1994 when the Federation ascended to the WTO and became a member, he provided leadership and critical direction in smoothly converting the valuation system from Brussel's Definition of Valuation (BVD) to the General Agreement GATT Customs Valuation System.

In the late 1990s he also reformed the Preventative Branch, and dubbed it Revenue Protection and Preventive Team (RPPT) now known as the Enforcement Unit. His reforms enhanced its investigative and patrol capability. His success in this lead him to be titled 'Man of the Year' in our local newspaper as a recognition for his efforts.

Though he was a firm person, he wasn't a harsh leader, preferring instead to mentor, guide and offer diplomacy rather than escalating matters and was deemed very judicious in his decisions.

In his younger years Mr. Donald Cable was an avid sports man, he particularly enjoyed and played football, cricket and tennis. He served as prefect for the Customs Sports Club until he retired from service and was a strong supporter, offering morale and fiscal support to its efforts.

As was stated by one of his earliest peers, Mr. Cable could have been anything, anywhere, with his sharp mind, photographic memory and his amazing mathematical ability. Instead he remained among us, taking care of his family and being a dutiful servant to his people and church. We who worked with him intimately, all share this view.



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Mr. Donald Cable served the Customs Department for 33 years. He was appointed as Clerk on October 1st, 1970 and promoted to Senior Clerk on April 1st, 1976 then later to Executive Officer on May 11th, 1979. An outstanding achievement in the service. Mr. Cable then went on to serve as Assistant Comptroller of Customs from April 1st, 1985. Upon his ultimate promotion as Comptroller of Customs in 1992 the Department celebrated and he still stands as the longest serving Comptroller to date from August 1992 until August 2003, an 11 year span.

Mr Cable then went to manage the St. Christopher Air and Seaport Authority (SCASPA), act as a consultant to the Ministry of Trade, Commerce and Consumer Affairs and finally worked as Manager for Port Services at Delisle Walwyn & Co. Ltd.

Mr. Donald Cable was called to grace on Monday 2nd of December 2019 and is mourned by his wife Sheila Cable, children, family, friends, colleagues and the Regional Customs Fraternity.

Kennedy De Silva  
Comptroller of Customs (Ag)  
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