



AN OUTLINE OF THE GOVERNMENT SYSTEM IN

# ST KITTS AND NEVIS



In 1998 there was a referendum on Nevis' secession from the federation. The referendum received 62% support, but fell short of the two-thirds required in the constitution to effect the break-up of the federation. In 2003 the Nevis Island Assembly again considered holding a referendum on this issue.

## 2.1 Position of local government

There is no local government on St Kitts. The 14 parishes are administrative structures of the federal government.

Nevis enjoys its own island-wide authority, the Nevis Island Assembly, comprising five members.

In 2005 it was estimated that there were 10,000 internet users, representing 25.5% of the population.<sup>2</sup>

## References

1&2 CIA World Factbook 2007.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

The Federation of St Kitts and Nevis is a two-island federal state in the Leeward Islands group of the eastern Caribbean. It has a population of 39,349<sup>1</sup> on a land area of 262 sq km.

St Kitts and Nevis is a constitutional monarchy. The head of state is HM Queen Elizabeth II represented by a governor-general. The head of government is the prime minister.

Cabinet is appointed by the governor-general on the advice of the prime minister.

The National Assembly is unicameral, comprising 11 members elected to represent single-member constituencies and three appointees – two on the advice of the prime minister and one on the advice of the leader of the opposition. The members are elected for terms of up to five years.

Nevis has a single island authority that is a

local government within the federation.

St Kitts has 14 parishes that are the administrative units, namely: Christ Church Nicholas Town, St Anne Sandy Point, St George Basseterre, St George Gingerland, St James Windward, St John Capesterre, St John Figtree, St Mary Cayon, St Paul Capesterre, St Paul Charlestown, St Peter Basseterre, St Thomas Lowland, St Thomas Middle Island, and Trinity Palmetto Point.

## 2 POLITICAL AND ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE OF ST KITTS AND NEVIS

The most recent general election was held in October 2004 and the next is due no later than December 2009. The St Kitts-Nevis Labour Party won seven seats, the Concerned Citizens Movement two, Nevis Reformation Party one, and the People's Action Movement one.