



**Statement by
the Honourable Minister for Commerce, Planning
Infrastructure on
the Reallocation of Funds within the 2018 Budget of the
Ministry of Commerce, Planning and Infrastructure**

**Section 11(5) of the Public Management and Finance
Law (2017 Revision)**

2018 November Session of the Legislative Assembly

Mr Speaker, I wish to make a statement as to the circumstances and reasons why the Ministry of Commerce, Planning and Infrastructure (CP& I) had to request a reallocation of funds from within **2018** Budget, under Section 11(5) of the Public Management and Finance Law (2017 Revision).

Mr. Speaker, it was requested that my Ministry take the lead on managing The 2018 National Community Enhancement Project (NICE); as you know this is the project that provides short-term employment for unemployed Caymanians. As such the Government has decided to run this programme twice a

year. Work teams are supervised by foremen from Public Works Department (PWD), Department of Environmental Health (DEH) and the National Roads Authority (NRA). The NICE committee is made of representatives from a number of Department & Agencies including Ministry of CPI (CPI), PWD, POCS, and Ministry of Finance (MOF), National Development Workforce Agencies (NDWA), NRA, DEH and Government Information Services (GIS).

When the 2018 Budget was prepared funding for this project was not allocated; therefore Mr. Speaker it was necessary for the Ministry to request additional funding. Ministry received an increased appropriation in the amount of CI\$700,000 to PAH4, Management of Public Recreational facilities and cemeteries, from the Ministry of Health, Environment, Culture & Housing (HECH) which decreases the appropriation HES 21 – Environmental Services and Research by CI\$700,000.

The (NiCE) summer programme ran for two weeks, August **20th to the 31st August 2018** and the winter programme is scheduled to run for three weeks starting on **26th November to the 14th December 2018.**

In addition to general clean-up work, the programme includes the following:-

- Cleaning beaches of trash and seaweed.
- Clearing Public Access to Beaches
- Cleaning Cemeteries
- Maintaining land based park areas
- Cleaning debris from roadside verges
- Cutting and clearing bush
- Beautifying Specified areas of the Cayman Island
- Painting roadside kerb sides
- Yard cleanup for the elderly
- Recycling

Mr. Speaker, I would like to advise the members of this Honourable House that, over the past few years, the NiCE programme has given many a second chance, including those with barriers to employment. Whist we, the Members of this House all know this is not the only answer to our unemployment situation, I stand here delighted to say that this initiative has its benefits, Mr. Speaker and continues to move in the right direction with helping our people gain access to long-term employment opportunities. The NICE (PWD) management team under guidance of my Ministry was able to train and refer some 56 unemployed Caymanians, previously

employed under the NICE "summer" programme to continue employment under the Iguana culling initiative. This Mr. Speaker is some of the additional employment assistance that I speak about and the second chance. The present Government & Members of this house supported funding for the Iguana culling programme, which is under the management of my colleague Minister Seymour, in the amount of 1.5m. With this funding, these individuals could potentially have work for at least Two (2) years if not more.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the house for their continued support and the committee for their dedication to making the programme a success. Finally Mr. Speaker, I would like to encourage the workers/participants in the programme to look at this as an opportunity to improving their current situation. It is never too late to turn your life around & start again.

Thank you Mr. Speaker & may God continue to bless these Cayman Islands.