



CAYMAN ISLANDS GOVERNMENT

**Statement by
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Update on Home Affairs: Reducing Crime

First Meeting of the 2018/2019 Session of the Cayman Islands Legislative Assembly
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Members will be aware that one of the key strategic objectives of this Government administration is the reduction of crime and the fear of crime. In doing its part to help to achieve this objective, the Ministry responsible for Home Affairs, and the relevant departments thereunder, continue to prioritise its work in this area. Efforts over the last two months have been twofold; first, in terms of building capacity and second, in terms of enhancing programmes.

HMCIPS

Within the last year, Her Majesty's Cayman Islands Prison Service (HMCIPS) has made great strides in its efforts to build capacity. Recently it graduated its newest group of 22 recruits, the largest recruitment class to ever join its ranks. Selected from a pool of 338 other applicants, the 18 men and four women began intensive training that extended over 12-weeks and included competency building in the classroom and on-the-job application. The recruits ranged in age from 21 to 44 and come from diverse backgrounds including the legal profession, law enforcement, the military as well as education and vocational training. Members of the group successfully passed rigorous recruitment assessments including literacy and numeracy tests, a fitness test and an intensive interview panel. The recruits completed their classroom-based

learning, which covered theory and practical application of prison craft and completed a four-week on the job training course which required them to work in the Prison shadowing seasoned prison officers. This increase in capacity for the Prison Service will better allow for a variety of rehabilitation programmes.

One of the flagship initiatives of the prison service is the Fresh Start Programme which is a partnership programme involving the Prison Service, and several private sector companies, including The Phoenix Group, Clan Construction Ltd. and Encompass Cayman. This initiative engages serving prisoners with these key partners as part of their preparation for release. This programme has shown to be extremely successful. All of the prisoners who have engaged with this programme and who have subsequently been released from prison have been able to sustain jobs; indeed 5 ex-prisoners are still employed by the Fresh Start partners. The prison service will seek to extend the range of partnerships with community-based employers so that those in custody can be exposed to real work training and skills development opportunities.

Most recently, a new partnership between Her Majesty's Cayman Islands Prison Service (HMCIPS) and the National Roads Authority (NRA) was announced. The recently established agreement between HMCIPS and the NRA will provide the Prison Community Work Party participants community service opportunities by working with the NRA to pick up debris, ahead of scheduled roadside maintenance. The collaborative efforts aim to effectively and efficiently keep local roadways clean and safe for all members of the public.

DCR

The Department of Community Rehabilitation (DCR) has also recently gone through a recruitment process to fill five (5) newly funded posts (3 Probation Officers, 1 Community Service Coordinator, and 1 Executive Officer). In early 2019, we expect to fill an additional three (3) new posts (2 Probation Officers and an Assistant Business Manager). These new posts will give the department the human capital necessary to drive key services forward such as

Intensive Supervision of High-Risk Offenders, Gender-Specific Services for Female Offenders, and an enhanced Community Payback Program.

With this much needed growth, the department has been reviewing and streamlining business processes to improve efficiency. DCR's staff is central to the success of its business plan developed during the course of the year, and they have implemented a standardized and comprehensive training program for new staff. Plans are in place for evidence-based training for Probation Officers on effective community supervision strategies in November 2018. This training will guide the way forward on improved and effective supervision strategies, with the goal of reducing offending behaviours in the persons the department supervises in the community, thus promoting overall public safety.

In terms of programs, since the beginning of the year the DCR has held several successful female-specific workshops offered both in the community and at Fairbanks. The remainder of 2018 and into 2019 will focus on the utilising its increased capacity to enhance public safety by prioritizing the high-risk individuals who require intensive supervision. The Government's strategic priority of reducing the fear of crime will be supported by DCR's efforts to enhance public awareness on the efforts being made within the criminal justice system to collaborate effectively to enhance offender management.

NATIONAL CCTV PROGRAM

Members will be aware that Phase I of the National CCTV Program began in May 2010 with approximately 170 cameras installed in Grand Cayman. Additional cameras were installed in Grand Cayman between 2012 and 2016, bringing the total number in Grand Cayman to 287 at 100 locations with the majority being installed during 2012.

During calendar year 2017, there were 277 requests for recorded Images from the National CCTV Program and the RCIPS was the main requestor. 60% of those requests for CCTV images

are associated with active investigations, have resulted in an offender being arrested / bailed, and assisted in obtaining sentencing results.

The Department of Public Safety Communications (DPSC) recently committed to adding 12 cameras in the Eastern districts. 4 locations with 3 cameras each have been identified and the planning, design and staging processes have begun. Camera installations are expected in the third quarter of 2018.

Additionally, the DPSC (in conjunction with the team at Central Procurement Office) has begun a new competitive RFP process for the planned upgrade of the National CCTV system headend hardware in 2018 and 2019, which is critical to support the continued operation and expansion of the program. The CCTV Administrator is reviewing the draft RFP along with the team and plan to have the tender issued by mid-September.

In addition to the planned National CCTV system headend upgrade, the National CCTV program expects to have the majority of the remaining, older and poor-quality images producing cameras upgraded by early October 2018. Several key existing camera locations have already been upgraded on the recommendations of the public safety partners using the system.

As should be clear from this brief update on Home Affairs activities, the Ministry and its agencies continue to make great strides in delivering on the Government's public safety objectives. Members of this Honourable House can look forward to further developments this year and more details will be released through various media as new programmes come on-stream.