



CAYMAN ISLANDS GOVERNMENT

**Statement by
Honourable Tara Rivers, JP, MLA
Minister of Financial Services and Home Affairs**

Update on the National Public Safety Radio System Upgrade

Fourth Meeting of the 2018/2019 Session of the Cayman Islands Legislative Assembly
April 2019

Members of the Honourable House will recall that I made a statement during the First Meeting of the Legislative Assembly for 2018/ 2019 in September of last year to share details of work that was being done within the Ministry to strengthen the resilience of our communities in response to critical incidents.

I stand before you today to confirm that one of the projects mentioned at that time, namely the upgrade of the National Public Safety Communications Radio System, has been successfully completed, resulting in the deployment of state of the art infrastructure and accessories across all three Islands.

All public safety first responders have been issued with new hand held radios and base units and the Department of Public Safety Communications

(DPSC) is working with a small number of noncritical Departments and SAGC's to assess their needs for new equipment, which will be issued as necessary.

With the upgrade to the new P25 radio system 911 dispatchers now have state-of-the-art consoles and there is the capability to locate emergency services personnel with GPS and send SMS messages to radio hand helds. Air and maritime assets now have a much greater range to support search and rescue and other missions. The system can also be adapted easily to accommodate future changes in technology. This marks the achievement of the critical goal of enhanced capability and interoperability for all first responder agencies.

To ensure full coverage and seamless communication, three new radio transmitter sites were installed in West Bay, Frank Sound and in the West End of Cayman Brac. Testing and training exercises have been conducted with the radio system users and I am pleased to advise Honourable Members that the addition of these three sites has addressed long-standing gaps in coverage that are critical for robust public safety communications.

Members will be aware that reliable communication is crucial for effective public safety operations and for the safety of our first responders and those they serve. The successful completion of this project demonstrates this Government's ongoing commitment to invest in infrastructure improvements and the implementation of state of the art technology to support agencies in the delivery of critical services to the people of the Cayman Islands.