

**Statement in regards to Ministerial Memorandum of Understanding with China Harbour Engineering Co.**

**by the Hon. W. McKeeva Bush, OBE, JP**

**Presented in the Legislative Assembly on the**

**15 June, 2011**

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to advise this Honourable House that on Monday, June 13, 2011, on behalf of the Government of the Cayman Islands, I signed a Ministerial Memorandum of Understanding with China Harbour Engineering Company to undertake the construction of three projects of great importance to the development of our country.

These are:

- to design and build cruise ship docking and related facilities in George Town,
- to renovate and expand the Spotts Jetty; and
- to develop a cruise ship pier at The Cayman Turtle Farm.

Our joint objective, together with the Port Authority of the Cayman Islands, is to work towards signing a contract before the end of November this year.

China Harbour Engineering Co. will provide the financing and technical designs for these projects. They will work closely with the Government and the Port Authority on appropriate development plans for the reclaimed upland area in George Town. These large scale construction projects will provide a wide scope for local employment and delivery of services. There will also be opportunity for local investors to participate in the George Town Port enhancement project, which is the largest of the three (3) projects, subject to appropriate feasibility studies, including the financial review and engineering design. The financial review and engineering studies must and will take proper account of the pertinent social, business, and environmental considerations.

The Tourism and Development side of my Ministry, together with the Planning Department, has made good progress on the plans for Spotts.

This will facilitate an accelerated development, with a start expected to be made in July. A local firm, Office for Architecture and Design (OA&D), has already been retained as Project Managers for the Spotts Jetty rehabilitation and upgrading works.

The Government and Port Authority welcome China Harbour Engineering Co. to The Cayman Islands, and look forward to a sound and professional relationship with them, with outcomes that will be of lasting benefit to the people of the Cayman Islands.