



Cayman Islands Government

STATEMENT TO
THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
BY
HONOURABLE OSBOURNE BODDEN
MINISTER FOR HEALTH, SPORTS,
YOUTH AND CULTURE

31ST JANUARY, 2014

Comprehensive Solid Waste Disposal Management System (CSWDMS)

31st January, 2014

Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to provide an update to the people of the Cayman Islands regarding the work that the Cayman Islands Government is doing toward arriving at a Comprehensive Solid Waste Disposal Management System for the Cayman Islands.

Madam Speaker, I am sure that the Members of this Honourable House will agree that a Comprehensive Waste Management System is needed as a matter of urgency. The question of what to do with our solid waste has been a long-standing area of concern for the Cayman Islands, and with each passing year the need to address it increases as we continue to use landfills as our primary method of solid waste management. Events such as the recent fire at the George Town landfill, in December 2013, only serve to underscore the fact that it is of critical importance to the country that we find a sustainable solution to waste management.

Madam Speaker, the urgency of this situation is not lost on us and I want to reassure the public that our Government has identified a

Comprehensive Waste Management System as a project of national importance for the Government, and we are committed to moving forward to see it come to fruition.

As Members will be aware, projects of this magnitude must go through a robust procurement process that includes careful and thorough evaluation in the early strategic stages of the project in order to maximize value for money and ensure a successful project delivery. These enhanced processes also ensure transparency and accountability – principles that this Government is steadfast in its commitment to uphold.

This enhanced procurement process was envisioned in the “Framework for Fiscal Responsibility”, or “FFR”, the key principles of which have been encapsulated in the Public Management Finance Law, or “PMFL.” These principles are: effective medium-term planning to ensure that the full impact of fiscal decisions is understood, putting value for money considerations at the heart of the decision making process, the effective management of risk and finally, delivering improved accountability in all public sector operations.

Madam Speaker, my Ministry has embarked on the process to procure a comprehensive waste management system for the Cayman Islands. In late 2013 Cabinet approved the Policy Guidance for the project, which sets out the Government's broad policy direction for the project. In addition to confirming our commitment to an open, transparent, and competitive procurement process, the policy guidance outlines that:

- We want to provide the people of the Cayman Islands with an environmentally sound and cost-effective means to manage the disposal of all solid waste generated in the Cayman Islands, and this must be at no greater costs to the Cayman Islands Government than currently experienced.
- We expect to achieve this through the integration of effective long-term management programmes for collection, processing, recycling, and disposal of the solid waste, and we anticipate that waste-to-energy will be a key technology in this strategy.
- We want to ensure public health and safety, protect our natural environment and natural resources for the near and long term.
- We want a solution in-situ, that is, at the current landfill site.
- We anticipate that we will undertake this project as a "Triple P" – or "Public – Private Partnership".

Madam Speaker, a multi-agency Steering Committee has been formed for the Comprehensive Waste Management System, and is being chaired by my Ministry. This group convened its first meeting on the 22nd of January, 2014, and will continue to meet on a regular basis to move this important initiative forward.

Madam Speaker, Cabinet is relying on this Steering Committee to provide government with their best technical advice, to take responsibility for the business issues associated with the project, to approve budgetary and procurement strategy, to define and realise benefits, and to monitor the risks, quality and timeliness of the Comprehensive Waste Management System. I am confident, Madam Speaker, that the Steering Committee will deliver the project in line with the Cabinet Policy Guidance that they were given.

Madam Speaker, in order to keep the work of the Steering Committee neutral and free from political involvement, I will not be a member of the Steering Committee. I will be getting regular updates on the Steering Committee's work and progress from my Ministry's Chief Officer.

Madam Speaker, our Government remains committed to a transparent and accountable process for arriving at a Comprehensive Waste Management System in line with the Framework for Fiscal Responsibility (FFR) and with the provisions of the Public Management and Finance Law (PMFL) respectively. The Steering Committee has been charged with ensuring that the five key stages will be carefully undertaken in the planning, development and execution of a Comprehensive Waste Management System. These are the appraisal and business case, procurement, contract management, delivery and evaluation.

This will mean, Madam Speaker, a fairly lengthy process. However, this process is crucial for prudent fiscal management and the integrity of the entire Comprehensive Waste Management System. In addition, undertaking a strategic and comprehensive approach to the process will result in a better defined project, with a greater chance of successful implementation.

The process we are embarking on now, Madam Speaker, will help us to define the Comprehensive Waste Management System and I believe it will also help us to identify other initiatives that we may

need to undertake in order to achieve our overall goal of a sustainable waste management solution.

I will provide regular updates to the Members as we move through this process.

Thank you Madam Speaker.