

Statement by the Deputy Premier and Minister for Tourism and Ports on

The Red Spot Compulsory Acquisition

Third Meeting of Parliament 2024-2025

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to update this Honourable House on the most recent developments concerning the Red Spot Compulsory Acquisition, situated on the waterfront in George Town.

Members may recall from my previous statements in this House that this property has been discussed at length, in terms of its importance to the local community, particularly our local fishermen.

Mr. Speaker, on 17th January 2025 the notices required under Section 3 and 6 of the Land Acquisition Act were published in the Cayman Islands gazette. On 22nd January 2025, the Section 3 notice was placed on the land and photos were taken as proof of the placement.

Mr. Speaker, updated valuation reports from the previously appointed Valuers were requested on 28th January. One report has been completed and returned, while the other report is expected shortly. It is not anticipated that the numbers will change significantly. Additionally, Mr. Speaker, the Attorney General Chambers was instructed on 22nd January and legal counsel has been assigned to the matter.

Mr. Speaker, the next steps are as follows:

- 1. The Section 3 and 6 Gazette notices are to be emailed to the owner, as a courtesy, and revised offer be made for parcels 5 and 7. The revised offer will be at the average of the three valuation reports, including the Cayman Islands Government numbers. This action is to provide evidence to the court that we have made as many reasonable attempts as possible to settle this matter amicably.
- 2. Notwithstanding the negotiations, the section 6 notice will be posted on the land, following guidance by the Attorney General Chambers. It should be noted that this is not a requirement under the Act but it will be done to ensure that the Government has covered all bases.
- 3. In the event that the revised offer is not accepted, Mr. Speaker, an affidavit will be prepared setting out the reason why the Government wishes to acquire the land, the steps that have been

taken to date, and include evident of the steps that have been followed.

- 4. Following this, Mr. Speaker, the Attorney General Chambers will make an application to the Court, with a summons for a court date. A Public Notice will then be published, making persons aware of the court date and advise that all persons with an interest in the land may appear before the Magistrate with their claims for compensation and their objections. This notice will also be sent by post to the registered address of the land owners.
- 5. Mr. Speaker, after the previous step, the Government will prepare another Affidavit and additional evidence to the Court. The hearing will then take place and the Magistrate will make a decision.
- 6. Once a decision is made by the Court, the Government will pay the funds into the Court and the Court will issue an order for the Registrar of Lands to update the land register to reflect Crown ownership.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for your indulgence in allowing me to bring this brief but important update to the attention of Members of this Honourable House.