



PARLIAMENT
OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS



PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NO. 57
Answered on 4th March, 2026
Fourth Meeting 2025-2026 Session – First Sitting

**PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION
ASKED BY**

**HON. DWAYNE S. SEYMOUR
ELECTED MEMBER FOR THE
CONSTITUENCY OF BODDEN TOWN EAST**

TO

**THE HON. GARY B. RUTTY, DEPUTY PREMIER
MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRADE DEVELOPMENT**

QUESTION:

Can the Honourable Minister say if the Department of Tourism or the Ministry of Tourism is involved in the annual development of new tourism offerings for our tourists and does this process involve local stakeholders?

ANSWER:

Both the Ministry and the Department of Tourism are involved in the development of new tourism offerings, particularly those involving local/Caymanian stakeholders.

The Ministry's involvement is provided through the **Visitor Experience Development Grant Programme**, also known as (VEDG) which was launched in 2024 to diversify the range of tourism experiences available to cruise and stayover visitors in the Cayman Islands. The programme is available to Caymanians only and provides grant funding of up to CI \$50,000 per successful applicant to support the development and accelerated growth of small and micro-tourism businesses.

In addition to financial assistance, successful applicants are afforded access to structured training and capacity-building initiatives delivered in collaboration with the Cayman Islands Centre for Business Development (CICBD) and other strategic partners. Participants also benefit from access to the Department of Tourism's market research data to inform business planning and strategic decision-making.

I would be pleased to provide the Member with details on how the programme is administered, along with the number of Caymanians that have received funding since the programme's inception.

The Department of Tourism also plays an active and ongoing role in the development and enhancement of tourism offerings throughout the year, and they work with a wide range of local stakeholders. These include eco-tourism initiatives, cultural tourism and festivals, facilitating partnerships between local operators and international travel trade and supporting Sister Islands initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, noting that product development is a year-round function involving structured engagement across government, private sector, and community partners, I would be happy to provide specific examples from each of those categories to the Member in writing.