



PARLIAMENT
OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS



PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NO. 120
Answered on 1 May, 2026
Fifth Meeting 2025-2026 Session – Third Sitting

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION
ASKED BY

MR. ROY TATUM
ELECTED MEMBER FOR THE CONSTITUENCY OF RED BAY

TO

HON. NICKOLAS DACOSTA
MINISTER OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION & HOME AFFAIRS

QUESTION:

Can the Honourable Minister advise:

- a) The current status and timeline for the development of the proposed purpose-built or updated Customs and Border Control Immigration Detention and Processing Centre at the Fairbanks Road site;
- b) The total funding approved to date for this project, including any amounts expended or committed; and
- c) Whether any land at or near the Fairbanks Road site has been identified, prepared, or designated for contingency use to accommodate migrants in the event of increased arrivals?

ANSWER:

a) Current Status and Timeline

The Immigration Detention and Processing Centre project is progressing as part of the Government's broader national preparedness strategy to manage the national risk of an influx of irregular migrants.

This risk, identified within the Government's Enterprise Risk Framework, highlights that a sudden influx of a few hundred irregular migrants will overwhelm Cayman's existing reception, shelter, and processing capacity if appropriate infrastructure is not in place in advance.

The project is now in its active development phase. Preliminary site preparation works have been completed, including land clearance and grading, and a formal business case has been established to guide delivery. Procurement and implementation planning are currently underway.

Given the unpredictable nature of migration flows, and the current geopolitical tensions affecting migration patterns within the region, the Government is adopting a phased and flexible delivery approach measured against this highly unpredictable risk.

In the immediate term, this includes the deployment of a modular, rapidly deployable accommodation solution comprising prefabricated, containerised units with integrated basic living, sanitation, and support facilities. These systems can be transported efficiently, assembled within a short timeframe, and operated either connected to existing utilities or independently where required.

This approach allows for the timely establishment of controlled, centralised accommodation capacity, while longer-term infrastructure solutions may be considered by Government in due course, as informed by the evolving risk environment.

At this stage, the Government is prioritising a modular and scalable infrastructure solution which provides the flexibility to respond to fluctuating migration patterns in a cost-effective and timely manner. This approach reduces the immediate need for large-scale permanent construction, while preserving the option for longer-term infrastructure should future demand require it.

Timelines for full delivery remain subject to procurement and statutory approvals. However, the modular accommodation solution being pursued allows for a significantly accelerated deployment timeframe, with an estimated delivery and installation period of 8 – 12 weeks from the point of procurement. This represents a substantial improvement over traditional construction timelines and is a key factor in strengthening the Cayman Islands' preparedness to respond to a potential surge event.

b) Funding Approved to Date

Based on the business case and project estimates, Cabinet has committed funding in the amount of \$5.6m for related capital expenditures that are expected to be incurred in 2026 to establish a dedicated migrant detention and processing site for multi-agency operations. Recognising the national significance of this risk, all necessary preparatory site work has been on-going and funded by the Ministry's existing 2026 capital budget. Together these funding streams are facilitating delivery of site preparation, enabling works, and the deployment of modular accommodation infrastructure, along with associated planning and implementation activities.

To date, expenditure has been limited to essential preparatory works, including land clearance, demolition, and early-stage project development activities required to advance the project.

Further financial commitments will be undertaken in accordance with procurement approvals and delivery milestones.

c) Contingency Land Identification and Preparation

Land at and near the Fairbanks Road site has already been identified, cleared, and prepared as part of the Government's contingency planning for potential increases in migrant arrivals.

Approximately five acres of Crown land at Fairbanks have been prepared to support the rapid deployment of temporary accommodation infrastructure. The site has been readied to enable scalable expansion as required.

In addition, contingency locations have been identified and prepared in Cayman Brac and Little Cayman, ensuring a coordinated, multi-island response capability.

These measures reflect the reality that migration patterns are inherently unpredictable. While arrivals may fluctuate, our national risk assessments confirm that a sudden influx of irregular migrants will rapidly exceed current capacity and place significant strain on public services and national security systems.

The current reliance on dispersed accommodations, including private rentals and civic centres, is neither sustainable nor cost-effective and places undue strain on communities, especially in the context of a mass influx. A centralised, properly managed facility will significantly enhance oversight, safety, and operational efficiency.

Importantly, the solution being advanced is designed as a multi-purpose national asset, capable of being reconfigured and redeployed for other Government uses, including emergency response, disaster relief, or accommodation for low-risk detainees, thereby ensuring long-term value.

This project forms part of a proactive and responsible approach to managing a clearly identified national risk in a structured, secure, and humane manner.

The Government remains committed to a balanced approach, one that protects our communities while ensuring that all individuals are managed lawfully, with dignity, and in accordance with our international obligations.