



**Ministry of Planning,
Lands, Agriculture,
Housing & Infrastructure**
Cayman Islands Government

**PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION ASKED BY
MR. ROY TATUM - ELECTED MEMBER FOR THE
CONSTITUENCY OF RED BAY
TO
THE HON. JOHANY S. EBANKS, MP - MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR
PLANNING, LANDS, AGRICULTURE, HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NO 12)

Can the Honourable Minister advise whether, considering the housing governance proposals contained in the Public and Affordable Housing Policy and 10-Year Strategic Plan, the Government intends for the National Housing Development Trust (NHDT) to:

- a) transition into a new housing authority; or**
- b) continue to operate alongside any such new authority, and if so, what if any changes may be proposed to the role, structure, or functions of the NHDT?**

ANSWER:

Mister Speaker,

The Cayman Islands Public and Affordable Policy and 10-Year Strategic Plan, which applies to all three islands, speaks to creating a new public housing authority to expand government efforts to provide affordable and social housing for ownership and rent, and to expand the types of government-supported social housing beyond the single-family home model used today.

Over the past five years, NHDT has delivered new homes, advanced several housing developments, and supported Caymanians in building on privately owned land. They have maintained their client and support services while also beginning reforms aimed at strengthening governance and enhancing future delivery capacity. However, they continue to face challenges due to increased demand, driven by various factors contributing to the housing crisis affecting many nations, including the Cayman Islands.

Despite constraints, NHDT retained an active role as the government's principal affordable-housing delivery body for Grand Cayman. It now has an expanded project pipeline, active developments across several districts, and a programme of governance and operational improvements intended to support a higher, more consistent rate of housing delivery.

However, Mister Speaker, the NHDT is a small organisation with a small team, doing what it can within its limited scope. As such, the policy recommends exploring the establishment of a housing authority to efficiently address the housing needs of the Cayman Islands.

Therefore, it is important for the government to establish a housing authority with a lending component that will meet demand, with a focus on good governance, improved efficiency, transparency, accountability, and resource requirements, to effectively address the housing crisis our country is facing.

Mister Speaker, I am pleased to inform this Honourable House that the Ministry of Planning, Lands, Agriculture, Housing, and Infrastructure is currently in consultation with relevant stakeholders to explore the recommendation of establishing a housing authority. We will seek Cabinet's approval for the most appropriate course of action.